

Speaker 1: What did you write?

Speaker 2: [inaudible 00:00:01] I did this, she did this. Now, these are some certificates that I done won too.

Speaker 1: For?

Speaker 2: Different things.

Speaker 1: Okay. Alright, well let's start by talking about the-

Speaker 2: This what I wrote, about my family.

Speaker 1: So you're a mother ... you have four children ... 12 grandchildren ... two great, grandchildren ... you're married to Gerald Washington. This says you got married May 26, 1974 ... you graduated-

Speaker 2: From Booker T. Washington.

Speaker 1: Booker T. Washington? Alright, in 1950 ... you went to the Church of Nazareth, you were an usher for ... Is that \$50?

Speaker 2: 50 years.

Speaker 1: 50 years. Okay, 50 years. You lost your house.

Speaker 2: Yeah and I moved to Montgomery.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: And that's where I stayed for a year, because I lost my house.

Speaker 1: For a year. Went to ...

Speaker 2: Bible waiting at this church. I joined the church there.

Speaker 1: Okay, can I put my money-

Speaker 2: Membership.

Speaker 1: Membership. Alright.

Speaker 2: Membership.

Speaker 1: To resign-

Speaker 2: [crosstalk 00:02:21]

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: And that's where I met Mary.

Speaker 1: Alright, member of the holy ... What's that say?

Speaker 2: Holly Grove-

Speaker 1: Oh, Holly Grove Center.

Speaker 2: Holly Grove Center.

Speaker 1: You sang in the choir.

Speaker 2: At the Holly Grove Center. I'm singing right now.

Speaker 1: Okay. Your song is ... Let-

Speaker 2: That's my song, Let Jesus Fix It For You. That's my favorite song.

Speaker 1: Oh, Let Jesus Fix It For You. Okay, alright. So in terms of the recipes that you chose ...

Speaker 2: Are here.

Speaker 1: Okay. So you chose the pork chop recipe, the Yaka mein, your mom's millitone, banana bread pudding or is it just banana bread?

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Okay. And then ... alright well let's talk about your food memories. So you have as number one, stew chicken with mother.

Speaker 2: My mother. Pam made the [inaudible 00:03:51]. See my daughter canning, and my uncle died, he used to love eggnog. My sister, she's deceased, she used to make some red velvet cake and my dad used to make cakes from scratch. And mother did the preserves. [inaudible 00:04:12] I tell you what mother did?

Speaker 1: You did, but remind me?

Speaker 2: Okay. Like I had fig preserves. What I tell you ...

Speaker 1: I think you told me [crosstalk 00:04:28] that she used to can and pickle things. Oh, she would pickle watermelon rind.

Speaker 2: Yeah, you remember I told you that. Do you remember using it at my house? I had fig preserves, watermelon, pears, something else. I was home doing something ... I considered it [inaudible 00:04:57] did you say your mom used it? What was the name of that?

Speaker 1: Yeah, what was the name ... my grandmother

Speaker 2: What was it? You told me, you forgot. You told me and I forgot. You remember you told me? She used to preserve it.

Speaker 1: Yeah, I mean she did different things, she would pickle like cucumbers or ... This one time that we went out and picked strawberries and she had a fig tree in the backyard. Stuff like that.

Speaker 2: Didn't you say about the strawberries, you used to can them and like the strawberry, didn't you ... didn't we help pick ... something. I can't remember what you ... All right after pears I had after pears ...

Speaker 1: So, when you were a child growing up did your mom teach you how to cook or did you learn from watching?

Speaker 2: No, my dad.

Speaker 1: Your dad taught you. Okay.

Speaker 2: He taught me. Then I taught my father. He did the cooking but, you see mother used to do ... See we used to, all them years ago, mother would raise chickens and what happened, she would take the chickens and you would put them out to thaw out ... I mean they'd be clean, and then mother would take them out and then she would cook them. You know how you have to clean them, the chickens. Okay, and she would ... And, I didn't want to do that now and mother, we hid a chicken and my brother he would go kick, not alligator what was it, some kind of thing he would kill. He'd go get a rabbit and he'd go get a coon. He'd go get a rabbit and fish because he loved, my brother he used to do that. Something else he used to get, not alligator, turtle. I'd be putting them in my tail gate, turtle, usually we'd have turtle. I remember you say people eat that now. Turtle.

Speaker 1: Turtle soup?

Speaker 2: Yeah. He would get the turtles. He would cut them turtles up and mother would fix. Mother would have rabbit. Then we would go, the little girls ... I can't remember now. I guess you might know that there used to be a flower, we used to pick them but you had ... It's something at Gran's. Used to pick them oh, what was the name

of that? It wasn't mellotone. You know you should pick them, a lady used to sell them to me. Always somebody trying to sell something. We used to pick those and it was very good. See, my these old people going to get all that stuff.

Speaker 1: Okay so, your dad was mostly the one who did the cooking? All right and what kind of things did he make on a regular basis?

Speaker 2: He loved cakes from scratch.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: He would do it on Christmas, they loved his cakes, like chocolate and cakes like that.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: He loved to make cakes.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: Then a long time ago, if she had a turkey, then mother would make her own biscuits. I never learned how to make a biscuit. Never learned how to make home-made biscuits, mother would make that. And, then she would make bread but somehow you put yeast on it with the rise like bread. See they believe in that old stuff. I ate chicken and just everybody ate turkey, they just thawed it out and put it up and the same with us. Old people, she would tell you to use them ducks. Mother loved that.

Speaker 1: Okay and, so did you feel like there was always an abundance of food? [crosstalk 00:10:04]

Speaker 2: Well, I learned it from them. It's just like I say, they had this [inaudible 00:10:10] and this stove in the house. Because, if mother would have a turkey, all night to heat the turkey. You don't have to do that no more. She'd kill one of the turkeys. If she'd get a chicken, put it on the line for the blood ... You know what I mean... The chickens and then it'd bleed the blood come out of it. You kill a chicken and they have to pick feathers out.

Speaker 1: Well so, was it like a farm?

Speaker 2: No, we had it out back behind the house.

Speaker 1: Just in your back yard?[crosstalk 00:10:48]

Speaker 2: We had this tree and she would have chickens back there and different, we had a big yard.

Speaker 1: Well, that's nice. You had access to fresh-

Speaker 2: Honey, we would go get us persimmon but we didn't eat them because the persimmon, you remember the persimmons?

Speaker 1: I don't think I've ever had one.

Speaker 2: And, she'd have that turkey and she would put it up and same with the chicken, till it thawed up and then we'd be screaming and hollering because she done killed the chicken.

Speaker 1: Oh, so you never had to do that?

Speaker 2: No, neither did I want to. One time my brother did it and he chopped it and he said I can't do that it's still jumping. When you kill them they be jumping and, he left it when he did it because he was scared. Because, he said the chicken went running behind him and he done killed the chicken. My brother would get the turtle and the other turtle running, child, the day they cut of the turtle and rabbit, he loved that. He loved fishing.

Speaker 1: So okay, in your own house did you do a lot of cooking?

Speaker 2: Right now?

Speaker 1: Not now but when you got married and once you had kids.

Speaker 2: When I got married, when I had to. Yeah we use to... You like bland berries? Mother had us picking blackberries but we was scared of snakes. They had us running. You know blackberries, you go in the tree and you pick the blackberries. They had us picking blackberries. It was something. They had us picking picones. So, right now, some things are different now since you're older and that's the way people used to do. And see, normal Christian and different things, them old people love that cooking. But now, it's the past.

Speaker 1: So, what kind of things did you cook for your kids?

Speaker 2: Oh I kept the grape, I like grape muffins for myself. I cook my own cabbage, red beans. Well, I don't cook Pam does the cooking. We used to cook okra. Going to get a brisk ham and then going... They used to put all that in the cone. I'd go get the cone and take it off the bush because we had [inaudible 00:13:48] Then we'd go to see about my grandmother and the children climbing up in the trees getting pears and stuff because mother used to like the pears, preserve the pears.

Speaker 1: Okay and so, did your husband cook at all?

Speaker 2: No honey, he didn't even know how to make a scrambled egg. His mother didn't let him learn that. See, he was adopted and his mother didn't learn him how to do anything.

Speaker 1: Okay and, did you teach your kids how to cook? Did you teach your kids how to cook? Your children, did you teach them how to cook?

Speaker 2: No, Suzy did not cook. When I say cook she say I have my arms tied up because the grease piper's on my arm and she going to have ... Suzy, what you doing that for? Because, my mom want to pack the piper on my arm, the grease. But, Pam would do it, Pam cooking. So, that's what she does the cooking now. Because, I'm not able to with this pacemaker I can't fool around fire. Because one day I cooked so many and it drove me in, see I have this pacemaker and it drew me in so I can't get around fire.

Speaker 1: Okay and then, around holidays do y'all do big family gatherings?

Speaker 2: Yeah, we don't do it no more, my oldest niece they come in ... Like you bring your dinner... I said [inaudible 00:15:29] what we having. She just went Auntie just bring yourself, like you wouldn't bring something.

Speaker 1: Yeah, with a potluck.

Speaker 2: Because, all my people did. Like sweet potatoes, like I say Pam make the gumbo. So they do the cooking because I'm the only one living now.

Speaker 1: So, do you have anything that you consider your specialty or-

Speaker 2: No because, with the children I cooked red beans and [inaudible 00:16:16] I just cooked for them.

Speaker 1: Whatever they wanted?

Speaker 2: I cooked for them because I raised them.

Speaker 1: Okay and how do you make your red beans.

Speaker 2: Well if you cook them overnight but, it doesn't matter. Pam, she cook red beans, mind you just cook them.

Speaker 1: You soaked your beans over night?

Speaker 2: Some but, she don't soak, she come in and cook them. She'll put the seasoning in, well she'll boil them, pick her meat, and she put that in there and, she put ham or something in there and, she put that in there and, cut up the grease and let it cook till it get soft.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: Now, we have to use some different oil, it's not a terrible oil ... I forget... like to cut up the hog, I didn't the scent of it so I can't ... My husband he don't want to be smelling that.

Speaker 1: Oh is it like the chitlins?

Speaker 2: Yeah. He don't like chitlins so, we don't cook it. He don't want to smell of it. And, he don't eat it. Yeah, I love it.

Speaker 1: Oh yeah?

Speaker 2: Oh, I love it.

Speaker 1: I've never had chitlins

Speaker 2: Oh you haven't?

Speaker 1: Never.

Speaker 2: Now, she made chili beans, she loved that. Chili beans.

Speaker 1: Who, Pam?

Speaker 2: Yeah, she could do her chili beans and make chili beans, she would put that in it. Like chili in your beans.

Speaker 1: Okay-

Speaker 1: Start recording now, and if you could just tell me a little bit about your background. Where your parents were from ...

Speaker 2: [crosstalk 00:00:10]

Speaker 1: Where you grew up.

Speaker 2: It's in here.

Speaker 1: Right, but for the sake of the interview, if we could talk about it.

Speaker 2: Okay. You want ... What you want to give me ... You want me start with [inaudible 00:00:33], or what?

Speaker 1: Yeah, and mostly, it's just supposed to be ... It's an unstructured conversation about

Speaker 2: Just, like my mother's name?

Speaker 1: Well, beyond their names and ages, you know ...

Speaker 2: Okay.

Speaker 1: Information about ... What do you remember about growing up. Where did you grow up? What was the neighborhood like? Those kinds of details.

Speaker 2: Well, it was very nice. I said I wanna ... I was so not sure. See, I have only [inaudible 00:01:13] here. Juanita Washington.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: Okay? And I grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana. I went to school at Booker T. Washington. I finished the 12th grade. I was a cheerleader for Booker T. Washington. I run track. I took up sewing at Booker T. I went to Rico [inaudible 00:01:52], but that's okay. Grammar school [inaudible 00:01:56] some of the areas. I'm not sure.

Speaker 1: How many brothers and sisters?

Speaker 2: Okay. As of now, I have ... They're deceased. It was Lloyd Scott, okay. Let me tell you, this is the funniest thing; my mother had him. He was 12 years older than me. He actually come with twins, and I was the twin.

Speaker 1: Oh yeah?

Speaker 2: Then she started having babies again.



Speaker 1: Oh, okay.

Speaker 2: So she had ...

Speaker 1: So your older brother ...

Speaker 2: Lloyd Scott.

Speaker 1: And then you were a twin?

Speaker 2: Yeah, that was my brother's ... It was ... I have his ... Lloyd Scott. Okay. And he was 12 years older, but he was in [inaudible 00:03:02]. And [inaudible 00:03:08].

So you're talking about me?

Speaker 1: Right.

Speaker 2: See, what I really did ... I'm gonna put his name on here on the mines, 'cause that was my oldest brother.

Speaker 1: Okay. And then came you and your sister?

Speaker 2: Yep. Margie Hudson.

Speaker 1: Margie. Okay.

Speaker 2: And then I came and she started have children again.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: So, she had me and Margie Hudson. Then she married again and she had Clara Dickson and Richard Dickson, and that's all.

Speaker 1: Okay. So two younger siblings.

Speaker 2: She started having children again.

Speaker 1: Okay. And, because of the age difference between you and your brother, was he kind of, like ...

Speaker 2: He was 12 years older than me.

Speaker 1: Right.

Speaker 2: Then she started having children. I came, and then Margie came. We was a year apart. And she started having children again. And she married, she had Richard Dickson and Clara Dickson.

Speaker 1: Do you remember what the house you grew up in ... What it was like?

Speaker 2: Yeah, well, as of this, they have on here ... it was nine when ... They have it on here where she ... on [Pritchett 00:05:12] Place ... but he gave it to me. It was on Pritchett Place. This ... When I was, it was 2830 [Talladonna 00:05:40] Street. That's where I grew up in, but I stayed on Pritchett. On here, 9125 Pritchett.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: That's where I is a child.

Speaker 1: Alright. Do you remember anything about the house?

Speaker 2: Well, it was like a ... Mother had ... we had a living room, a bedroom, and a kitchen.

Speaker 1: Okay. Everybody slept in one room?

Speaker 2: Well, there's a ... yes. It was me and Lloyd and then my brothers come along and, well, 'cause she expanded it.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: To another, when Clara came and Richard. But in the yard, mother would have a ... She would grow, like chickens in the back yard.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: So she had, like, another room in the back. In the back yard she started having children.

Speaker 1: Okay. And did either of your parents work?

Speaker 2: Mother took in ironing and my daddy was ... He was with the ... He was on the ... Here. He work on the ... He was working with the ... You wanna know my daddy's?

Speaker 1: Yeah, what did he do for a living?

Speaker 2: Okay. He work for the ... WP I think he told me [inaudible 00:08:02] This is his. My father. Where he was for the [inaudible 00:08:13].

Yeah he went on a WPA from [Granvue Streets 00:08:22]. That's where he ... on the WPA, so this is his. My dad's.

Speaker 1: He worked for the WPA?

Speaker 2: He did. Then he worked for the [time pick yoon 00:08:43] too. And he would feed the pigeons and they would go out and come back ... at [five pickayoon 00:08:49] my dad. But mother took in washing and ironing.

Speaker 1: Do you know if either of them went to school?

Speaker 2: Who?

Speaker 1: Your parents.

Speaker 2: No. It seemed as if they did not go to school.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: They did not go to school. He did not ... He was ... His home was in Jackson ... Louisiana. But he did not go to school. We were from Louisiana. We all were from Louisiana. But it seemed like my daddy, I didn't know he was in Jacks, East Jack, Louisiana. [inaudible 00:09:45]

Speaker 1: What about you? Did you enjoy school? Do you remember?

Speaker 2: I finished high school. Then I went ... like a trade school taking up different things. I got married when I was 20. And I had a son ... Jimmy Warner ... Okay, then I had another daughter, Linda ... I had another daughter ... Linda, count this ... You talking about what I had, the children or what?

Speaker 1: Right.

Speaker 2: My children now?

Speaker 1: Yes, but first where did you meet your husband?

Speaker 2: Well, I met him, I was young, I was 20. He got out the service, but he is deceased, so we had divor- His name was Jimmy Warner. I had a son for him.

Speaker 1: Jimmy ... Do you remember how you met? Do you remember how you met?

Speaker 2: Yeah, [inaudible 00:11:12] he was ugly.

Speaker 1: Oh no ... Alright.

Speaker 2: He was very mean to me. I had to leave him and I stayed with my mother.

Speaker 1: Oh, okay.

Speaker 2: He was nothing nice.

Speaker 1: You had the two kids?

Speaker 2: Yes, I have two living ...

Speaker 1: Well, with Jimmy.

Speaker 2: I had one with him, with Jimmy. He was named after his daddy. So he was a junior, his daddy was senior. So we got a divorce, okay.

Speaker 1: Then you stayed with your mom?

Speaker 2: Huh?

Speaker 1: You stayed with your mom?

Speaker 2: I was ... [inaudible 00:12:04] 'cause I was young and, you know, like you, young and he was much older than me and I just left and I stayed with my mom. He was so cruel to me. When I got out the hospital, I couldn't go in the house. He had the doors all locked up. I stayed with my aunts. He was just terrible, so I left and I stayed with my mom on Pritchett Place.

Speaker 1: Okay. And she helped you with the baby?

Speaker 2: She helped me with my kids and I come along with [inaudible 00:12:43]. My daughter, I had her. She [inaudible 00:12:49]. Then I had Pamela, she's with me. Then I have Elizabeth Hudson, they're with me.

Speaker 1: So afterwards you had daughters.

Speaker 2: Yeah, I have two living, but I have the boy and a girl, they're deceased. Lib we call her Suzy. I don't know why they call Elizabeth, Suzy. Why they call her Suzy?

Speaker 1: I don't know. People have strange nicknames.

Speaker 2: Yeah, they call ... and then so when she ... Suzy. But her name was Elizabeth, but they called her Suzy.

Speaker 1: I don't know.

Speaker 2: Why, huh?

Speaker 1: My brother has a nickname that has nothing to do with his name. His real name is Dennis, Jr.

Speaker 2: So when I put her in the paper, who is it? I had to put in there who it was. That was my baby girl.

Speaker 1: Alright, so-

Speaker 2: That was her nick ... Just like you said, that was her nickname. But the others, now Linda Fontaine and Pamela Hudson.

Speaker 1: So did you ever get remarried?

Speaker 2: Yes, I did. I met this guy. His name was Gerald Washington. He was adopted. He raised my children. So when I met him, Suzy was three, Pamela was five, six, and eight. That's the only daddy they knew. So [inaudible 00:14:23], the funniest thing, you're not gonna believe this ... He was adopted. I didn't know he was adopted. I married him, his name was Gerald Washington. We got married May the 26th, 1974 and this is the only daddy that they knew. We never had any children, so that goes against me for him.

Right now, we got married, so what happened is the funniest thing, you ain't gonna believe this. I was a member of my church and I was an usher. I ushered 50 years. So his wife came to the church. So I say, "What ..." Hey. I was in this church [inaudible 00:15:24] Baptist Church. So I say, "What do you want with him?" I said, tell me what she said ... She never had any children. He was, his mama adopted him, so she got adopted. She said, "I want to get on welfare." I said, "Get you a job and raise your children like I'm raising mine." [inaudible 00:15:49] So my pastor said, "Oh, Ms. Washington. You're a sweet person." Now he was a Catholic ... he joined my church. We got married. He married me and we been together ever since. He never had any children, but I the, it wasn't his.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: So we got a beautiful house and I raised all the children and it was unbelievable. She come to the church where we got married. And we together right now.

Speaker 1: That's how many years?

Speaker 2: We got married in 1974. That's how long we been married. [inaudible 00:16:43]

Speaker 1: So, let's see '74.

Speaker 2: So in other words, he was Catholic and he had to be baptized because Catholic does not ... so he joined, and he's a Deacon at his church.

Speaker 1: Okay. So where you live now?

Speaker 2: In [inaudible 00:17:05] Street. That's where I live now. But we lost our house and I had to move, so we moved to Montgomery and stayed there a year because the man took our house [inaudible 00:17:21] when I had Suzy. So what happened, we went, the funniest thing, [inaudible 00:17:32] very nice. We went two hours [inaudible 00:17:34] so the lady said, "I'm looking for you." I said, "What are you looking for me?" The most beautified [inaudible 00:17:40] see, she rented it to us. [inaudible 00:17:45] She was a [inaudible 00:17:46]. We stayed until we got our house.

Speaker 1: You lost it in Katrina?

Speaker 2: We had to leave, we didn't have nowhere to go. So we left, so that's when we went, at Katrina. I didn't have nowhere to go, so we stayed there.

Speaker 1: That was here in city or somewhere else?

Speaker 2: We had to leave. We didn't have nowhere to go 'cause Katrina took, you know, they told you to get out. So we had left.

Speaker 1: Where did y'all go?

Speaker 2: Montgomery, Alabama. That's where we stay at. We stayed at the most beautiful house and there wasn't any [inaudible 00:18:31] and she said she was looking for me. Say, "What are you ..." And she say, "Well, I have something for ..." And the most beautiful house, she raised her children. She was a minister. And that's where we stayed there, then after that, after we got it, we came and we got our house. So the man, if I wait for him, [inaudible 00:18:58], and I raise his children. When I went to his house, I tell you, I want another baby. And I raised his children, so that [inaudible 00:19:14] is a lawyer and he now [inaudible 00:19:16]. And it took me as ... we not supposed to use [inaudible 00:19:25] and nurse. That is my nurse. So I was their nurse. And they were beautiful people right now, that's who had my house. They gave me \$10,000. Bought and paid for.

Speaker 1: So is that what you ...

Speaker 2: I'm living right now.

Speaker 1: When you worked and [crosstalk 00:19:48] family?

Speaker 2: I just took care of a doctor and his, and they were both, I took care of his children. And I raised them as mine. Then went [inaudible 00:20:05] and I did it. High school and sit on the top end, but I taught them like I did and raised my children. And he could not believe it. And right now Christine, she's a lawyer and the [inaudible 00:20:18] by Google.

Speaker 1: Nice. So what did you and your husband do for work?

Speaker 2: I did houseke ... but he [inaudible 00:20:28] for remanufacturing 'cause he retired. I always was a housewife. I took care of children, [inaudible 00:20:37] of those children. I had one who I raised ten of them. Ten.

Speaker 1: And these were people in the neighborhood that you worked for or helped raise their kids?

Speaker 2: I had to take care of them. I was making \$50 a week. I had raised them too. Then after those are raised ...

Speaker 1: How many families did you help with the raising of their kids?

Speaker 2: They were white. [inaudible 00:21:22]

Speaker 1: Were they all [inaudible 00:21:29]?

Speaker 2: They were here, call kids and they all was here.

Speaker 1: And how did they ...

Speaker 2: They were beautiful, I raised them like they was my own. They never [inaudible 00:21:40], all I did was raise them as they was my own.

Speaker 1: Are you still in contact with any of them?

Speaker 2: Well, no. Some of them never did [inaudible 00:21:54] or anything but, the last one I had was Dr. [Daglin 00:21:59] and I raised his children. Dr. Daglin and his wife they stayed in the garden in a beautiful house and he had two. Kristin and [Nallsbay 00:22:19]. So they say we don't have, we have a [inaudible 00:22:28], we don't have a nurse, we have a [anueness 00:22:29]. Juanita Washington and that's how they addressed me.

Speaker 1: So other than sort of the period of time that spent in Alabama, have you done a lot of traveling?

Speaker 2: Oh yeah because I didn't have nowhere to go and after this house was, I just, it wasn't [inaudible 00:22:55] cause we didn't have trailers. We didn't have nowhere to go, so I stayed there until, I stayed with a friend of mine's name I don't tell you, in a six hour house and so I tried to [inaudible 00:23:14] with Dr. Daglin. I said, "Take this." And he took it and I got a gorgeous house, you wouldn't believe it.

Speaker 1: Have you and your husband traveled anywhere else?

Speaker 2: No, we never did travel. The only thing we, you know, we [inaudible 00:23:34] you know, with the Montgomery. It was shop and you and the house he wouldn't, it's like with the owner go in the backyard and pick the pecans, or we go shopping. So my daughter lives with me. She raised with special ed, so she was offered another job this week. Making more money, Pamela, she stays with us. There's just three of us.

Speaker 1: Okay. Do you have any grandchildren?

Speaker 2: Twelve.

Speaker 1: Wow.

Speaker 2: I have triplets, they're 23. Triplets. I was a twin, Linda she come up with twins, Linda's older, she come up with twins.

Speaker 1: It really runs in your family.

Speaker 2: But I didn't have any twins. I didn't have any twins. She come up with, fell on Linda. You probably could pick them up. Best thing ever.

Speaker 1: Oh yeah? Two girls and a boy?

Speaker 2: Yeah, there's the twins. This one, their daddy, he was twin. That's my oldest of those, that's my great-grandchildren.

Speaker 1: Do you and your family get together often?

Speaker 2: Well, [inaudible 00:25:29] I'm three years older than him, we don't go anywhere. Go to church, you know.

Speaker 1: Does everybody live here?

Speaker 2: Just me, Pamela, and my husband. Linda stays over the [inaudible 00:25:39]. She's 21 and Pam is 52. [inaudible 00:25:54]

Speaker 1: I guess, just if you could talk to me a little bit about your experience of the program.

Speaker 2: I'm at the center. I gotta do craft, and I learn how to decorate the center. If you come back, the pictures [inaudible 00:26:19]? I frame all that. Everybody that went to the center. That's what I do. Made a lot of things with the center. We go a lot [inaudible 00:26:39]. Then my grandson, he was [inaudible 00:26:42] same year as academy. But he left. Making more money, so that's where he's at ... he got a better job. He was [inaudible 00:26:59] in [Meera's 00:26:58] Academy as my daughter's son. So he goes to [Visindow 00:27:07] Houston. He got a better job. He left St.



Meera's Academy. So he got, then he took the test, and he's making, that's where he live at.

Speaker 1: So how long have you been going over to the center?

Speaker 2: Mainly a good long while. A couple years, two years they opened it, because when I used to go to the old, when I used to teach the [meeans 00:27:39] as a young girl. I taught a lot of them. Some of it's ministers in all. I just, a senior citizen now.

Speaker 1: What kind of activities do they do?

Speaker 2: Well, I been doing a lot of, I did crafts, and I did a lot of sewing. I learned how to do a lot.

Speaker 1: So you can take classes ...

Speaker 2: Well, they have classes, they have classes, but I haven't started taking them. I was taking craft, and that lady's supposed to come and give us craft. I learn a lot of things. She's coming back and learn us craft again. Like, [inaudible 00:28:35] she know how to kind of make different things.

Speaker 1: With wisdom of the elders, what made you want to participate?

Speaker 2: Where, there?

Speaker 1: Here.

Speaker 2: Oh, well he came in and asked anybody want to take the class so was me and Barbara they didn't want, not interested in coming now. So I had to really give you a name to tell us, about this. So I had to give them a report when I learn what you all taught me and I told them when I went on the thing. I told her, I said, gotta, so [inaudible 00:29:22] I told her by coming here, but I have a card I mean because I can come here and I join I said, "Well, in case I want to come, I can come here because they gave me a card. And I can come here anytime."

Speaker 1: Yes, you can.

Speaker 2: I enjoy the fellowship, you know. And the fills the church I belong to. I joined and then I just joined there with my family.

Speaker 1: Would you participate again if we did it again?

Speaker 2: Yeah I would, you know, I enjoy it. Because I got a lot of it and so I had to give them a report of what you all learned me. And I told them, you know, I said I enjoy it going back to school. I take yoga, I take exercise, and I won beautiful book [inaudible 00:30:43]. What happened, the lady came in, she said, "Oh, what y'all

doing here your first time?" I said, "I take yoga, I exercise, get on a..." They gave me a beautiful book that had dancers and I enjoy it. So they gave me a book. Anything. You that old? Why yes. And my little grandson from Suzy, I joined this group here like you get your children and you pay a penny or something? Gerber's? And I send him to school. They gave me \$10,000 the Gerber's baby. So I say, "You my Gerber's baby." She took sick. I said, "Oh, I'm gonna take this over." Insurance gave me \$10,000. I put it in his ... for his schooling. That's how he got to be in college. I sacrifice myself.

Speaker 1: Did you have anything you didn't enjoy?

Speaker 2: I enjoyed everything. It was the funniest thing at my church, this lady 'cause she was hanging outdoor, her granddaughter had cancer. So I said, "Oh, I'm gonna pray for you." I took this check for cancer and I gave it to her and I was like, "Put this on that baby." And I gave her a baby. She wrote me a beautiful letter, she say, "Ms. Washington, bless her." She three years old. She [inaudible 00:32:33] read the letter. She said, "Guess what. Your prayer's answered. She don't want to go to, she want to go with her teddy bear. And she want to wear this bracelet you gave her because she had cancer. She does not have cancer no more. You prayed and ..." And she wrote me a beautiful card. Thank you for your prayers. Her grandmother wrote me a letter how my ministry help. Appreciate it. She [inaudible 00:33:06]. She say your prayers answered and I took her hand and I gonna pray for that child. She doesn't have cancer three years old.

Speaker 1: My last question would be, is there anything that we could do better next time around?

Speaker 2: Well, not really, as so far as I go unless what you do, would you all go in a computer again, you know, like what would, I don't know.

Speaker 1: Well, there would still be the genealogy component and then the two workshops that followed would just depend ...

Speaker 2: See, the only thing what would you do if you want to go back, say, to your grandchildren of great ... would I have to get ... they, when they were born, like you want to put your grandchildren. 'Cause they didn't know they was slave. They didn't know that their great-grandmother, he was a white, remember you told me? And I found that my mama mom, remember you said, "What is white man," and was him Castro. But he sold them as a slave, but he showed them a marriage that came up. But he was white. I think you told me he was white. See, you told me he was white. You're the one who told me. See, he was white?

Speaker 1: Oh, right.

Speaker 2: I said, "Well, where does this white come?" Come to find, it was Castro, but he see the, he sold them as slaves. See, he was white? And I didn't know that. It pull out.

Speaker 1: So this was your great-grandfather?

Speaker 2: It was mama mama mom. And she married Castro. But he was white, but these was his children. See them? Housekeeper. And was erased. These was hers. But they was slaves. So he sold them as slaves. I wonder aunt, you know, and we had his family but I never knew it. But now you came, you said, "Who is that white?" And you, it come up, and it was him, Castro.

Speaker 1: That was so long ago, I forgot.

Speaker 2: Well, no you gave me this and you wrote, so I found out who it was. So that was my mama mama mama, this was him. I think I want to [inaudible 00:36:51] their marriage license. All that popped up.

Speaker 1: Like I said, if we do it again, then you guys are certainly welcome to participate again.

Speaker 2: So when ...

Interviewer: Alright, Juanita. Tell me a little bit about when you were born. Maybe why you got the name you did and-

Juanita: Okay. I was born December 5th, 1930. That's when I was born. Now what else you wanna ask?

Interviewer: Why Juanita? Was that a family name or?

Juanita: Yeah. That's what my mother name, Juanita Washington.

Interviewer: And does that name go back further?

Juanita: No.

Interviewer: You're second generation, Juanita Junior.

Juanita: Yeah, I am.

Interviewer: And you were born in New Orleans?

Juanita: Yes, at Charity Hospital.

Interviewer: At Charity? I wish they would do something with that building.

Juanita: I wish they would.

Interviewer: I had to take my son there one time when we were in town for Mardi Gras. We ended up over there and they did such a great service. I'm sad they're tearing it down.

Juanita: You know what happened, when I was there, was the Catholic nuns that did it, so when you had your baby, we had to go on the 10th floor to have your baby. So that's where I had my kids, up there on the ... You had a time to go and see them, but they would bring them to you to nurse them because I would breastfeed my ... One I didn't feed, Pam. She was a premature. She weighed four pounds.

Interviewer: Oh, wow.

Juanita: But I have two deceased. I have a boy deceased and a girl. But I didn't nurse her because she was a premature, and I couldn't nurse her. But they're very particular. So now she's 51, so then I have two deceased. My oldest girl. She's 62. I had my three baby, I was 20 years old when I got married. But I have a son that deceased.

Interviewer: And you were born in Charity, too, so-

Juanita: Yeah, and I bore my children there.

Interviewer: Nice continuity, I guess.

Juanita: It was nuns that would treat you, you know? And it was just something beautiful for nuns, it's just ... So I had them all there though, all of my kids there. I had them all at Charity. All of them were born there.

Interviewer: Where did you go to school growing up?

Juanita: I finished from Booker T. Washington, but I ... Well, I finished from Booker T. Washington. I'm trying to think ... I had it written down. I attended Lafone. That was the grammar, Lafone, and then I went to Booker T. Washington.

Interviewer: Lafone?

Juanita: Yeah.

Interviewer: L-A ...

Juanita: Lafone, that's on Magnolia. I think it's still there, I'm not sure.

Interviewer: I know the name is familiar.

Juanita: I think it is still there.

Interviewer: F-O-N-E?

Juanita: Uh huh.

Interviewer: Is that ...

Juanita: Yeah, I just finished, mm-hmm.

Interviewer: And you say you got married at 20?

Juanita: I was old.

Interviewer: You were old? No.

Juanita: Cause I was going to school and it just ...

Interviewer: And how ... What's your husband's name?

Juanita: That's my first husband. That's Jimmy Garner. That was my first husband. Then I got married again to Gerald Washington, I'm with him now. So we got married May the 26th, 1974.

Interviewer: Oh wow ... So y'all had a good run together.

Juanita: This is what happened. You wouldn't believe, which is something very strange. It's very strange about this. See I married him May the 26th.

Interviewer: 1974.

Juanita: I'm gonna tell you something you are not gonna believe this. I met him. He was adopted. That's right. He was adopted. You're gonna laugh, but I don't know what's ... I had four children out him, because he was adopted. I didn't have any children before him, and he never had any. So I'm in church. I was there 50 years. His wife steps up in the church and asks for him. I said, "What do you want with him?" She said, "I want to get on the welfare." I said, "Get you a job, and do it." She never had any, but he was adopted. These were not his children, but he raised me with four.

Interviewer: Wow.

Juanita: So when he was three, Pamela [inaudible 00:05:48] four. He'd never been married. His mother adopted him. And that's how long we've been married. We together right now.

Interviewer: Wow. Well, what's your secret?

Juanita: Well, I'm very happy. I am a Christian mother. I brought them in school, and they in school and they all ... My granddaughter graduated, so her plan was one zero. She stayed over there with my great-granddaughter. I did go to Dunbar school too. And they went to Dunbar, my kids, but he was an altar boy, so I could not live with him because I wasn't [inaudible 00:06:50]. My pastor told me I was living. I said, "Well I am divorced." He said, "Well, I think you will have to get remarried. So he's a deacon in his church, right that Baptist Church.

Now the church I joined, [inaudible 00:07:02], it's a beautiful church on [inaudible 00:07:02]. So after that, I had the house. Katrina comes along and takes my house. I don't know what I'm going to do now. I move out. Lord, where am I going to go now?

We left, so guess what? I was in the Dollar Store. The lady ... she was a mess ... I'm looking for you. I said, "What do you want with me?" She said, "You know like you have your name on the back? I had on Katrina. We all went together and went there, after Katrina and the most beautiful house you want to see. She was a minister. The house was ... she raised her kids and I moved. I said,

"In one solid year, the guy I had my house, he took my money I didn't have nothing. I said, "What is I going to do?"

I got a sick child. I said, "Show me the way, please." So now you're going to see my house just as beautiful. I wait for Dr. Beckmann. I go to this lady's home. So now what is I going to do, really? I'm going to raise my children. Here this lady is five months pregnant. I did not want her children. So what happened, it was a beautiful thing. They both was doctors.

Interviewer: Oh wow.

Juanita: What give me the baby. What I going to do with a baby? She was five months pregnant with Nells and Kristin was three ... these children. I done anything right, I Christened and ... wait for this computer. So the lady said, "Who raised you?" She said, "We're not allowed to use maid, I have a nurse and that's my nurse." I said, "Nells, if your little friends come here, they cannot come here ..." I raised up their toys ... if you come in my house my nurse said, "put my toys back on the shelf where you got them from." So that's what they did. And don't come in here.

They wanted to know how did I school them? And they stayed on the honor roll. Kristin is a [inaudible 00:09:53]. She works at City Hall. And they don't believe the wife come to the house, to the church, and asked for him. I cannot believe that. I never had any children with him, this is the only father that they know. They'll go against me now.

Interviewer: Wow!

Juanita: Because that's the only father they knew.

Interviewer: So he's a good father?

Juanita: We've been married that long. Well it's just two of them now. Pam, she's 52 soon ... She's not looking. She's got a dog name named Chanel. Chanel, the dog, is just like her baby. She's never been married.

Then they had children. She has two boys and two girls. I was a twin and then they had twins Shamaya and Shamyra, twins, here comes Shamaya with twins. Her come married her husband, married her man ... He was a twin, just the picture of him. They just alike but the girls are fraternal, one look like the daddy one look like the mama. They are very pretty girls. I have a picture somewhere here, I don't know if I can pick 'em up, I could pick 'em up. Somehow, I can pick 'em up over here. When I turn it, I can see a picture of them on here.

Interviewer: On your page?

Juanita: Yeah, I can pick 'em up on here. See I can have a picture of the twins.

Interviewer: Gotcha, on your home page.

Juanita: They took a picture of us 'cause they were homecoming at their school, they were Homecoming Queens.

Interviewer: Oh wow, they shared it, huh?

Juanita: Yeah, so her place [inaudible 00:12:30] there were one, here with Shamaya. So, right now, it's just. I enjoy it, so my house is gorgeous. You know, I just ... And I cannot believe it. It's one of those things. I cannot pick 'em up.

Interviewer: So, tell me. When you think back to your childhood, right?

Juanita: That's the picture of him.

Interviewer: Oh, there you go.

Juanita: Yeah, I took a picture with him. They are twins. That's me. See we have ... That's a picture of them.

Interviewer: Okay. They're cute! They're bigger now, huh?

Juanita: That's Shamara's girls.

Interviewer: So, think back to when you were seven. What's a typical kind of memory for you?

Juanita: My mother never was married but my father raised me. So, a little girl, you know, it was two other daughters, my sister, see? So he raised us. 'Cause it was just me and my ... Us two, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: So, having a dad for a dad and a mom ...

Juanita: He took ... My mother was a housewife. She used to take in pick-up to support us.

So, my father ... They were together, but ... Because he worked for the WPA. And at that time, they wasn't making much. You know, he wasn't making that much.

But he supported us and he saw that we were happy, we had what he wanted us to have. Because at the time, my mother couldn't read or write. And at the time, he didn't. He wait for time, pick young but ... What he did. He would feed



the pigeons. And they would go on and bring messages, like at the time picking my father.

Interviewer: Oh, like carrier pigeons?

Juanita: Yeah. Some kind of pigeons. My father was ... And they would come back and my father would feed them, and they would send ... put the messages, you know, on the pigeon, and they would go back. The way they would-

Interviewer: Wow, that's kind of a lost art, you know the-

Juanita: That's what I'm saying! My father did that.

Interviewer: So, he did that and he worked for the WPA.

Juanita: Yeah.

Interviewer: Do you ever feel proud that when you walk around and see something with that WPA stamp, to think that maybe he worked on it?

Juanita: Yeah, I think so, but you know ...

Interviewer: I know in City Park there are the bridges.

Juanita: Well, he used to work at City Park. So, what he did.

He used to bring us to it at the time. The white would get the toys, but the black would get them on [inaudible 00:16:06]. I'm just said I'm telling you what I know.

But he working there and he would bring us some of the little toys. But on Sundays the white would go, and the black would was because [inaudible 00:16:19]. And we were staying so he would bring toys to us. Me and my little sister. 'Cause he would put the toys out for Christmas.

Interviewer: Got you. Yeah.

Juanita: And mother did house where she took in iron-

Interviewer: Okay.

Juanita: You know, long years ago, people would take up ironing.

Interviewer: Right, so they would have a personal iron?

Juanita: Right. And they would bring the iron and mother would iron and he would come in, pick 'em up.

Interviewer: So was it important for your parents to ... That you and your sister learned how to read and?

Juanita: Yeah, we went to Booker Washington, we all finished the school and my children, school them and I used to wake up the 10, I raised them. They were doctors. So before I come to read to my children, I had to read the five and of the other five.

Interviewer: So you had a lot of-

Juanita: Nothing but children read in the last month. They are raised them, Nell's and Christian.

Interviewer: So you helped a lot of kids read?

Juanita: Yeah, and one of them said, "Well, how did you ... they asked, what did she do?" She said, she went, she say, "Well she must be very smart," she said, "What she doin' house?" She said, "She fixed up my lunch, that's what I wanna eat when I face my lunch and be over the table, Nell, she works so hard. She fixes my lunch 'cause I had to cook, bathe him, that's right.

Interviewer: And teach him how to read.

Juanita: Yeah, so, 'cause they were on, see, when she would bring that, they were even with the two children and now I'm walking up and down with two children and it was the funniest thing, I had to bring Nells in a stroller and I see this guy put a gun to the man head. Guess where I was? On all the house with the two children laying down and he said, "Would you put the son in the house?" And I said, "Shut your mouth up, shut your mouth up!" I didn't want them to see the blood, so when I got out and I see they left I went to see my friend, she was waiting. I called the police. They were [inaudible 00:18:56], I was with the two of 'em. And that's not bad. So I put Nells down here and I said, "Oh, Maria, what you think of it?" Coming down the street, the airplane ... I'm running again with the children! Scared. So they really, you know other woman right now, the other one got hid in the house, gorgeous. I don't have to work for nothing.

Interviewer: So those were the kids that you helped raise? The last ones?

Juanita: I raised them. Uh huh.

Interviewer: And they are ... You said one's a doctor?

Juanita: They both a doctor, but she's retired now. But he's still at the hospital. Dr. Beckmann, he's still there.

Interviewer: That's nice.

Juanita: And she ... Her mother died but they risk 'cause they in jewelry, so that's where I get all my jewelry from.

Interviewer: Oh, nice! So, when you were watching the kids-

Juanita: I had a [inaudible 00:20:05] when I went downstairs to go to their room and go to bed and they wouldn't come out until I tell them to come.

Interviewer: So they learned a lot of their discipline and their reading and their life skills from you!

Juanita: They did, that's what she tell us. She'll tell you. She said, "We didn't ... she raised them" she said. And after they walking, we went to church, we went to Sunday school. I said, "You're supposed to. I want you." So they uh, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: So, in addition to your-

Juanita: They went to Norman, he did, he went to Norman and she went to ... I'm not, I think at that time they went to Norman and he was playing basketball and it was on the top level and well I know, well she didn't go to high-school! But I taught them that. And when they come home, "Go in your room and get your lesson. Go in your room," and they would go to their room.

Interviewer: So they owe a lot of their success to you?

Juanita: That's what she say. She say, "When I was little [inaudible 00:21:12] but they was from Houston. And they didn't know nobody here and I walks in and started with the children and I would love them like mine. And they cannot believe it.

Interviewer: So, like you said, you've raised a lot of kids.

Juanita: I've raised a lot of them, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Yeah, I think that, you know, I raised my own kids but-

Juanita: I didn't have a husband and I just ... till I met him.

Interviewer: Yeah, it takes a special person to love other people's kids like that.

Juanita: Right, but they cannot believe it, you know what I mean? But I just make them get their lessons so when Dr. Beckmann there, I had to cook for them and wash and iron, and I used to [inaudible 00:22:11] so I could carry Kristen I could. They would go to their room and they wasn't supposed to come out until I tell 'em. They said they were beautiful children and right now, they cannot believe it.

Interviewer: Well, what about your childhood? When you think back to a particular memory, like a couple of memories that come up about things you remember, or being young and something-

Juanita: Well, what I did, I used to get them up early in the morning and I would go over their room and help them and I had to bring them to my mother. Some more children, had to be 8:00 in the morning, send them to school. Just with children, mm-hmm.

Interviewer: But when you think back to when you were, say seven years old, or five, do you have a memory that comes to your head of your childhood, growing up in the 30s and 40s?

Juanita: Well, I always was obedient, you know what I mean? That's all I remembered, we just had to be obedient.

Interviewer: Do you have a special memory? I know you talked about your dad bringing the toys. Is there another memory you have of a special day or?

Juanita: No, what happened, my dad used to cook. Make cakes and he loved ... And mother would cook 'cause we had a farm, you know like he'd go in there and long years ago people would raise turkey so we had this house next to ... And she would raise chickens and eggs and turkey and be up half of the night cooking so mostly we would have ... And like we would have at Christmas dinner and we would always sit down and eat 'cause mother would ... At that time, they were head or God. You know your parents? And one time, we be out there with blackberries, you know we'd pick them, you know like then.

Interviewer: How far was that from New Orleans?

Juanita: Well, I wasn't far 'cause we would go out there, I stayed in Carrollton all my life and we would go out there and the children would pick blackberries.

Interviewer: So, Carrollton you said?

Juanita: Yeah, and when I saw snakes I would run again! We were scared of snakes, I had the children running. "I ain't goin' to dinner," and mother said, "Yes, you are!" I said, "Mama, I'm not goin' and I'm scared of them snakes!"

Interviewer: Yeah. I think kids miss that a lot anymore, like being around nature and seeing things coming out from the ground.

Juanita: Yeah, and they were afraid, you know? So it just ... she's so beautiful woman. And see, my husband before he saw me he left me but still somebody sent me to him. Never had any children.

Interviewer: But helped you raise all the-

Juanita: I raised all the ones.

Interviewer: Thinking back to your school days-

Juanita: When I was cheerleader for Booker T. Washington. I used to run track.

Interviewer: Oh, what did you run? I ran the mile.

Juanita: Well, you know like you have baton, well that's what-

Interviewer: The relay.

Juanita: That's what I was on. That was me and my sister would lead on, but I would take it around and I played basketball.

Interviewer: Alright, so you were pretty active?

Juanita: Very, and right now I'm still active. 'Cause I take yoga.

Interviewer: Yoga's great.

Juanita: I take standing. I take, we have our hands, like we sit and the hand, you know? And I just sat and I have a rug, I lay on the floor with it and I cannot believe this. And I love that yoga.

Interviewer: Yeah, you feel like you're stretching out-

Juanita: It is. Uh-huh.

Interviewer: You feel a little taller when you're done with it?

Juanita: I feels much better, you know? And I love the yoga.

Interviewer: Yeah, it's a great practice. My dad does yoga too, he's a-

Juanita: We haves it at the center.

Interviewer: Yeah. He's an army vet, so he goes to the veteran's hospital and does it.

Juanita: My husband been in the navy. He can't go, but he goes, you know, but I love it. I sits there 'cause you know I love that yoga. And we have a chair and you know, you sit in the chair.

Interviewer: He's done chair yoga too, yeah.

Juanita: I like the one that's what we do, we do that on ... everyone want it. We sit in the chair, and this lady is ... I does that. And I tries to tell them, "Stop eating so much!" And I go and walk around the block. You walk too fast! We can't keep up with you! When I have these stretches, when you have these shoes for the stretches. So I wears them.

Interviewer: I got a pair of those when I went to Germany. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Juanita: Oh, I love 'em! I wanna get another pair too. I wanna black pair. But I ... they so comfortable. My [inaudible 00:27:26], she went to Sydney, you can dress up in 'em. But I didn't know that. But that I love ... they are comfortable.

Interviewer: So you've been pretty fit all your life. When you were running track and doing basketball, did you ever take any trophies home? Any prizes? Did you?

Juanita: Yeah, we took 'em to school. The school would give us, not us, but the school would give us trophies.

Interviewer: What was your favorite thing that you studied when you were in school?

Juanita: I was sewing. I liked to sew. So that's what I was studying, sewing.

Interviewer: Do you still sew?

Juanita: Not ... Pam does it. But at the center now, I does craft. If you come there, you're gonna see where I have the pictures on own, and I did the pictures with them in that. The pictures of all of 'em give me, so I sit down and I does the pictures and I does the decoration for Christmas, coming up and so I'm doing that.

Interviewer: So you have a good eye though-

Juanita: Yeah, because I just learn how to do it. The little girl I raised, she used to piano lesson, I should take her ballet, take 'em to basketball. Its just ... It was just wonderful. I had a wonderful life. To be 85.

Interviewer: Being born in 1930 and seeing the changes in New Orleans and the world over time, what's the biggest thing you've seen change? Either that's been positive or negative for you?

Juanita: Well, when I'm thinking about ... haste is killing me, it upsets me so much. And one day, I went to work and Pam said, "Mama, come here quick!" I said, "What's the matter Pam?" She said, "You gotta baby in your backyard!" I said, "What?" The girl threw the baby in my backyard under a fig tree. Here come look, and said everything you can name. She's living today. Why would you take my backyard and throw your baby in my backyard?

Interviewer: Well, I dunno, maybe there was a reason since you found her.

Juanita: Well, she living today. She a young woman. She didn't want it, don't bring it in my backyard. Go to the hospital!

Interviewer: Although, until recently you'd get in trouble if you just dropped a baby off, right?

Juanita: Yeah, but you see, what happened a long time ago, it had midwife but I went my ... we was at Charity. Mother had a midwife at that time. And so it was just ... and right now my daughter, she working, she's especially able with the children and they love her. They very special.

Interviewer: That's a tough job if you can do it, you know? It's so rewarding.

Juanita: I wait with the children. And my daughter when they see, she would the mama's boys home, she worked with them. She was a teacher too, but she passed now.

Interviewer: When you think back, and I remember one day I was here, I don't know if you were here that day, one of the last days before I went traveling ... when the librarian came in and she showed a scrapbook, I remember-

Juanita: Yeah, I did that. I finished mines today too there right. I finished mine ... well we had to do what you asked of me.

Interviewer: Right, the questions. When you think back, I remember her story about being in church on the day the bus segregation thing was overturned and she said everybody went out and rode the bus and jumped on the buses for joy. I think she was at a funeral and she said that her dad was like, "We're going to go ride the bus because we don't have to, you know-"

Juanita: Yeah, well here's was happened I did at that time, I was riding ... Ride the back, but at the time, I had to sit in the back. They would have the screen but we had to sit in the back.

Interviewer: They had an actual screen?

Juanita: The screen, in white. So, we had one seat.

Interviewer: And so it wasn't just ... That was the point of demarkation, an actual screen? I mean, what's that supposed to do?

Juanita: Sit in the back or go to jail.

Interviewer: Oh. I'm thinking about Mr. Leon's questions that for the tour, sort of about like, sort of pre and post segregation, right? You know, your school was segregated, right?

Juanita: We were.

Interviewer: And when you think about ... And I think about Ruby Bridges and the other kids who were the first to cross that line and to try to ... When they tried to integrate-

Juanita: I don't know 'cause I don't remember that of integration.

Interviewer: You just kinda remember before and then it was after?

Juanita: Yeah.

Interviewer: What about with the bus? The first day you didn't have that screen and-

Juanita: Well, I walked to school, you see. I could walk for miles to Booker T, you know, we would walk to school so we didn't have that problem.

Interviewer: Right, but what about when you were riding the bus to work, can you remember the first day when you didn't have to go past that screen?

Juanita: No, I don't remember ... when I used to walk to school, I ran my children, I never, mm-hmm (negative).

Interviewer: What other changes have you seen in New Orleans. A positive change and then a negative change?

Juanita: The only thing ... I'm against of abortion and killing. And babies killing, it upsets me. Because you see, when my children are come up, they had their little dolls and my son wasn't allowed to carry a gun, only the look, the little pop guns. My child, they wasn't allowed to carry that. And we wasn't allowed to carry guns.



Interviewer: So you were kinda taught from a position of peace?

Juanita: Yeah, right, I'm for peace.

Interviewer: Yeah, and it seems like ... I know there have been waves of violence in New Orleans, there's been highs and lows.

Juanita: I didn't have that with the people I worked for because I raised 'em and they didn't believe in that, segregation.

Interviewer: Right, yeah, so they were more inclusive already?

Juanita: Right, they are. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Let me try to think. What's your favorite memory with your sister? Like something that y'all did when you were kids?

Juanita: Well, me and Margie, we came up together, you know what I mean? We would ... we wasn't [inaudible 00:35:10] until deceased and 'cause they [inaudible 00:35:18] too.

Interviewer: I know you said you ran track together and so you did a lot of stuff.

Juanita: Yeah, we did. Me and her.

Interviewer: So you were very close?

Juanita: Very close.

Interviewer: What's your favorite memory-

Juanita: Now my brother died, he was 12 years older than me. He mother come with twins so now the boy's, he's deceased. He was 12 and I was born, so I was 12, he was 12 years older than me, it's just the way of having children. A long time.

Interviewer: Yeah, that's a big gap!

Juanita: It is a big gap, then she comes up with twins. My mother. Twins, but not 20 deceased.

Interviewer: Oh, okay. Your sister?

Juanita: Yeah. At that time, you know, you didn't have care of 'em or nothing.

Interviewer: What's your favorite memory with your mom?

Juanita: We were very close, mm-hmm (affirmative). After me and my husband separated, I stay with my mother and I raised my children til I got my own place, so that's what I had to do. 'Cause they had their own, you know, my sister Margie, she never got married but she stayed with my mother. But my mother was 98 when she died.

Interviewer: So you've got some longevity in your family?

Juanita: Yeah, right, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: And that yoga is keeping you going.

Juanita: Well, I wanna know why, but you know.

Interviewer: You feel good and everything is still working.

Juanita: I feel fine. I have a pacemaker, but you don't believe it.

Interviewer: Yeah, no, I don't believe it. Oh wow. I know, they hide them so well now, huh?

Juanita: Six years!

Interviewer: Yeah. Wow! It's just a little scar.

Juanita: I had another battery put in it. Yeah, so it's just something that um ... I don't even think about it.

Speaker 3: Hey! Sorry to interrupt but lunch is here if you guys wanna eat?

Interviewer: Yeah, I think-