

Olga Lindo

.... = Unintelligible

Italics = Sounds like

I: Interviewer

O: Olga Lindo

I: Olga Lindo, well thank you again for participating in the project. This project –

O: And you're welcome.

I: Yes, yes. Now this project is really set up to benefit the community, now and in the future. The goal of the questionnaire is to get a coherent and complete narrative of your life as possible.

O: Okay.

I: So you can feel free to answer as long as you need to get everything you want to say out.

O: Okay.

I: We want, we realize that even though you did sign our consent form, at any moment if you want to change something, you want to omit something, you can simply let us know, whether you decide now or later on after I leave. Okay.

O: All right, very good.

I: All right, and we will be using these interview materials for educational purposes, for exhibit purposes if possible if we can create packages for museums and things like that.

O: Okay.

I: That's what we really want to try and put together.

O:

I: Let's start with the first question. I'm going to put this over here...that's going and the first question. Okay tell me about your place of birth, where you were born, and what it was like growing up there.

O: Okay. I was born in a place in Panama that's now known as *Chariu* but that was not the name when I was a child. I left here when I was four years old, so I do not have

too much recollection. I do know that I think my mother was white because I was not have light, light to have lived there in my other years. Knowing what it was as I grew up because I became a...she'd show me exactly the house; I would not have liked to have been there after I reached maybe five years. But I left before that and then we went to what was called at that time La Boca Canal Zone and that's what I can remember from. I started school at 7 years in the Canal Zone public school system and I went through until the eighth grade. My childhood days there was very, very pleasant because I was a good student, I made high grades, and they used to have honor roll system, and therefore I was always on the honor roll, which meant a whole lot to me. So those were pleasant days. Only thing that now I realize is I was doing wrong to myself, I didn't realize it then. And that is I didn't take part in the sports activities. I just loved reading, and I'd read anything that my aunts would find and sometimes as I grew older, I read the wrong kind of material because when my mother spoke against it, I realized it was not right. But my years up until the eighth grade was to me profitable and enjoyable.

I: Okay, okay. Great. Tell me about your fondest memories from your childhood, friendships and things like that.

O: Yes, well my memories that as I mentioned is I was not a social person. I was very shy as I grew up and I tried to avoid lot of social activities and, partly due to my upbringing, my mother was very, very she was a strict disciplinarian. And my father used to threaten that if any of my two, my sister or I got pregnant, he was going to hang us from the ceiling and I took it literal. So I was afraid to have boyfriends. So my social life was kind of limited. I think the most, my fondest memories would have been social events at the church. But out in the neighborhood, no, I was very shy. I didn't want to displease my parents, so I went to sewing classes and crochet classes and those things, then what used to be what took up my, that was the, the major part of my life, church activities. I took part in several contests and I loved to recite and the concerts, and so at church that made up my social life.

I: Which church...

O: St. *David's* Church.

I: Great.

O: Yes.

I: You mentioned you liked to read. What kind of books would you read?

O: I used to read in the early days, like up to third and fourth grade, fairy tales. We had The Red Fairy Book and The Yellow Fairy Book and some other color fairy book. I loved to, I realize now that I lived in a dream world, but when I got older I liked biographies. I loved English class, literature. I just loved literature. I liked to memorize portions, when the teacher was giving literature classes, portions for us to, to memorize like from Byron's or from Longfellow and those things, that was nice....

I: Great. Great. Great. Do you have any friendships from when you were a kid that you still maintain today?

O: Yes. I have another lady, she's not young any more, she's like me, but we were friends from when I was in the third grade. She's retired now and we still, in spite of the distance, we still maintain our friendship. And we're going back to school days now, something unusual that I think that probably would be enlightening to the youth of today. Our, when we were taught English, we used the United States textbooks. We were taught everything about United States, nothing about Panama and when we, the language of course was English. So when we came out of the eighth grade, all that my mother and some others sent us to learn Spanish in the school system there. And you're now thirteen, fourteen, most of us were graduated from eighth grade at thirteen, some of us at fourteen, and then you have to go to town, to Panama in the city, where you go to a school to learn Spanish and they put you in third grade. I was in third grade, some people went to second and when the teacher would ask...and I just...I sure don't know what she said and then it was very it was *amusing*, it's amusing now but it was not amusing then. That part of my childhood was not pleasant because I so, luckily, I didn't understand what the children were saying and...as I learned and developed the language and things I realized that in some cases they were teasing me. And they were making mock and they, they laughed at the English because that sounded just as strange to them as Spanish sounded to me. So in that transition of trying to learn the language that was difficult. What helped me through that, I didn't, I didn't feel *integrated* because I memorized the classes. *Did not have*...any trouble with, with mathematics because the teacher was sent us to go to the blackboard and, and show them the other students and me, show them what she was trying to portray. In other words we were really teaching them at our level because we, this is something you want to be showing your *initial* grade and yet we end up showing them how to divide and how to multiply that was very easy. But the other subjects, I memorized it. And I'm not...Panama but I don't know that's saying and that's how...we have and things like that. And that's where I learned a little geography and history. But I memorized it, and so it was rote learning and not actually mean anything intellectual. That, that part of the, of the growing up wasn't pleasant. One time the teacher, I got a punishment because a child wrote a little note, I can't tell you what it said now, but I know what it means now, but it was, it was immoral. Gave me that note and told me take it to the teacher because *my teacher never admits she was* and so the practical jokes they played was not nice. And that, those used to be embarrassing things and we had to go through that, you find some very nice ones and you could exchange...and then they befriend me and try to explain as best as they could what was going on. And that was the way I learned Spanish.

I: Okay, *wow*, so there was some good friendships, there were some that were not so.

O: Yes. Yes.

I: Wow. Now for this next question I'd like to turn on the video camera.

O: Tell me what the question is first.

I: Exactly it's going to be about your parents and grandparents –

O: Okay. Right.

I: - what you remember and where they came from.

O: Very good. Yes.

I: Okay, so tell me about your parents and your grandparents, what were they like, where were they from, and how did they come to Panama?

O: My grandmother - I never knew my grandfather, he died before my mother got married - my grandmother, all of my grandparents and my parents, were from Barbados. And I used to like to hear the stories that they would tell me. My father came to the Isthmus I think in 1906 through 1900, something like that, and he worked as a young man in the Trenching Division, and as a matter of fact I think he worked there until he retired but I do think that prior to that he was working on the lots. And one of the things that I remember about him, of him telling us and showing us too is, was a big mark that he had on his leg in one of the explosions like they were using making the Canal, he had got injured. And I do remember him going to the hospital and he explained to us how they were digging the Canal in order for us to have the, what we have to dig and also my grandmother she was here. She came and brought my mother. My father did not come on contract. He came with a group of men that heard that they were having work in Panama and he left Barbados. The thing about my parents was that they never went back to their country. Take for instance, my mother. I took her back in about in the year '72 and that, at that time she was away from Barbados for over fifty years...basically...and that was her trip and I wanted to know the land of her birth and so we went. It was a real enjoyable trip. And I was very, very happy, not only to see where my parents were born, both of my parents were from Barbados. My father was from St. Peters; my mother was from St. John. And it was such a privilege for me to go and know that both parishes and to see them and when I say, I said then I can say now Barbados is a beautiful island. And the thing that impressed me the most was how courteous the people were, and my parents always told me that Barbados has a high percentage of, what's that word, of people that you know go to school and I forgot the word that they used for that.

I: High literacy maybe.

O: Literacy. Literacy. There was a high percentage of literacy and that, and so you find, too, that they're very nice people to talk to, very cooperative, very courteous and then they're learners you know. I really enjoyed that. And then coming back, my parents, my grandmother grew up on a slavery farm, and so she used to tell me what she could remember as a child from there. And you know at that time, even when I was

that small because my grandmother died when I was about 13, and so I can remember the stories that she would tell me and you know I used to think slavery is awful. I still think so, too. But they, I think that my parents were very influential in their lives, in working in bringing a certain culture to Panama because when they would tell me how things were, when they came here and how the native Panamanian lived and dressed and you know everything was really kind of primitive. People would not believe that today, and she would tell some, tell us some of the things and the customs that they had right here in the city because they had never been out of the city until after we were grown and we could take them. They lived there what I could never understand and I thought that was incredible. They did not, my parents did not know Spanish, nothing at all. After a while, my mother knew a few words, but my father never even tried. And yet how they were able to live in that city, a country where very few persons spoke English, not like today, and they were able to live and raise a family, and I think that that was incredible. I don't know if that answered my questions or not

I: Yes.

O: Had something else to really answer that.

I: That's very good. No, no, no, I think you answered quite a bit. Okay, I've stopped the video for now. We have a couple of other questions and then come back to video when I'm going to ask you about music, but that'll come in a little bit. So what sort of things do you remember eating or drinking with your parents, grandparents, what kind of food?

O: Yes. *Cocoo*. Let me tell you about the *cocoo*. My mother, that was her favorite dish. I sit down at times when our breakfast was coming around after I started to work and so my, my priority was really to make her happy. And I would think of what can I give her. Well one of things that always ended up after she became...do for herself and make sure that she has some *cocoo* because that was what was favorite for her. Our potato salad and all this she did too like, and fish. But I never did learn to fix the fish like how she liked it because she wanted it soft and went with her sauce and um but I did fix the *cocoo* and I remember what made me learn to do it was she always did it herself. And I watched her, but she would never let me do it. But one time she got sick and of course, no *cocoo* because she was sick. So when she was...oh I wish I could eat some *cocoo*, she mentioned a neighbor that she knows that neighbor would fix it for her, she was from Barbados like herself. And I went and got this neighbor to do it but that day I made up my mind that I was going to learn to fix this *cocoo* and I was going to make it like she would like it. So I did do that. And oh, she was elated to know that I had really conquered *cocoo*. And then the fish. She liked fish a whole lot, and, and we always like when she made fish and she was I never tasted nobody make soup taste as good as hers did. And you could put in, she was an expert in that she taught me how to do the *Yuko pudding* and what else she like to do. Oh my father he made *bates*, what I call *fortuas* but he called it *bates* and I never did like that. I didn't like that one but they um, the other thing my mother liked *vangogo peas* to make *gangogo rice*. Other than the

gangogo peas rice she was not so keen on that. But my father, he ate anything as long as it made food, but mama was a good cook. Yes and um what else did you say?

I: Oh drinking maybe.

O: Drinking. Well *sari*, they liked the *sari*. My father he liked liquor. So he used to do something that all of those Barbadian men called but I cannot remember that name. I really tried hard to remember and, but it, they made it with a lime and liquor and I don't know what else and that was a drink that my father liked. But the main drink that mama liked was *sari*.

I: Okay. Do you have any memories about school, teachers in particular you remember the most?

O: Yes. I remember that is where I decided to be a teacher because my first grade teacher, Mrs. Myers, and she was, I used to admire that lady. I adored her. And I always remember that there was another teacher and I always wished that I could have mentioned it to her, I never mentioned it to her when I was older, she was the kind I had lost my pencil, that was in the 1st grade, that was another thing that impressed me to be a teacher and I would say that Mrs. Myers that I like so much she put....in the classroom for about an hour or something because I lost my pencil and I....and I was standing there just crying my heart out. And Mrs. Butcher, she still alive at least as far as I know, she was the band director of music in later years and she passed...she was a student teacher in the room is the, the one that the *Normal* school, they had *Normal* school in La Boca, that's where they were training the teachers and she was a student then learning to be a teacher and she passed and she said little girl what's wrong. "I lost my pencil" and she says so your teacher put you out because you didn't have a pencil. I say yes. And here she handed that, handed me one. She said you can go to classroom now and I've never forgotten that. But I never had an opportunity to thank her and my mother has said to me after there was another, she said you know she tell Ms. Butcher about that. I thought I always wanted to, but I never, but that impressed me. And I said I, I mean Ms. Myers dropped a little in my explanation but I still wanted to be a teacher but I always remembered that kind after Ms. Butcher. And I went to the classroom and could smile again and everything and my face now. And another teacher that impressed me a whole lot and people my age and some younger ones to would remember him, teacher Martin, teacher Martin and we used to call him Purple Martin because he'd get very upset and very mad when you couldn't get your lessons or he taught English and literature in the seventh grade. And I used to admire teacher Martin so much, so then and there I decided any time I get the chance to choose a career, it's going to be teaching because those teachers made quite an impression on me. And of course when I was in the eighth grade, teacher Stuart, he taught literature, history and he was a very good teacher and I used to, I remember all of those. And of course when I went to college, there was this professor Bull, he taught modern history, and that he was a good professor. And I always remember him for that.

I: I've heard about Purple Martin.

O: Yes. Yes. But he was very light complexion and when he get....he get red. That's why we call him Purple Martin.

I: Yeah. Okay. Let's see. Let me ask you about music, this is the part I'm going to turn that on. I have a specific question I'll turn it on for. For now just what music do you remember hearing a lot when you were growing up, and is it the same as now or has it changed here?

O: Well I'm going to tell you, in the home, my mother was very particular about what books we read, what music we listened to, and we did, and when I was growing up, we didn't have any TV. And what we had was gramophone they used to call it back then, gramophone, it was a music box. And you wind with your, manually with the hand, and then you put on these disco....

I:

O: Just like this, like, what's it, album, we would say today. And my father used to and of course we weren't allowed to go it and I can't remember the music that papa used to play but I remember the only music that we had in that house was the things that I played after I learned to play piano. And even some times when we would put it...and mama would say you're going to listen to she says go and play your piano. And so I heard a lot of music that I would hear when I was in my 20's and things, I never knew them. Only when you're going on the bus that I would hear the radio playing certain songs and there were those, I like the romantic ones. And so what I cannot distinguish, or tell you the, that what music was being, was being played during the time because I was not exposed to it. And I didn't go to dances and things like that.

I: Okay. What do you listen to now? What kind of music do you listen to now?

O: Well now I like a southern; it's the Negro spirituals. I like classical, and the majority, the most of the music I listen to, is religious music. But on the secular, I like there are some...albums that I like that my husband had a lot of sentimental. And I like that. And apart from that mostly religious, this, this I did like too much Mahalia, so I kind of like some of the, that we had some of those there from this, and what was this man's name, Robertson, no not Robertson. There's the, I can't remember his name. My head is not good when it comes to those things. But they, those are the music that I like. I don't like reggae. I don't, I just cannot even take that, and some of the regular ones that they play now, those that are I always like to hear the words and if they're, they're uplifting and inspirational and things like that I like it, but a lot of the things what they call music today, I don't call it music. And so I don't, it really doesn't appeal to me.

I: What about sayings? Do you have any favorite sayings, the sayings that maybe your mother, your grandmother used to say to you or that you used to say to your children?

O: Yes. Everything I say....That's the first thing that comes....something happens and is undone usually. But my mother she didn't have too many things that she would say really. And they're not so, not that I can think of.

I: All right. Okay for this question, I did want to turn on the camera, the question is have you ever heard of Louise Bennett and The Mighty Sparrow, either one of the two, one or the other, or both?

O: Louise Bennett, here in Panama?

I: Hmm hmm.

O: Yes she was a teacher I think.

I: Well Louise Bennett was way before me. As I understand it, she was Jamaican, and I think she was a poet.

O: Oh that's the one that wrote Jamaican Readings.

I: Maybe so.

O: Yes. Yes. Jamaican Readings.

I: Okay.

O: Hmm hmm.

I: We'll start with Louise Bennett then. Okay, tell me what you know about Louise Bennett.

O: Yes. Louise Bennett, as far as I understand, tries to portray the life of the black man, or black woman for that matter, in Jamaica or any of the West Indies, and her poems used to be written in patois. We called it patois, but really it's broken English. But I remember when I was in high school, we had a young man who could really recite those things and you just...of course you had to understand uh what it was trying to say because some not all the time you probably get it at the first instance but he was very good. I remember when he used to talk about *when passing his church*. And this person preached. I don't remember the name of the guy, but what used to be very interesting and in those days and that was in the 40s, 49...of his days. And we'd have programs that what was the *Pacific Clubhouse* and this guy he was from Colon, he would recite it and the audience would just crackle. It was really good and that, at first they explained to us, I read an article that said what listening to the poems and reading them, you would think that she was just an ordinary person from the street. And then I was able to appreciate it when I went to college in Jamaica because I really heard the people, some of them speak just like all those poems did, and I remember once we were in a bus and the, what's the, the people, somebody was flagging the bus down,

stopping the bus and the chauffer said no, we not, we not got space for a whisper. And I said oh yeah just like what the lady said it. But what I was about to say is that she had her degree in either English or grammar or something. But she was an educated woman. It was only to show you that type of the life and so another thing that I learned and this is recently like in, like in 2000 or it could be before 2000, I went on a cruise. And we stop at Montego Bay. And on the bus, there were the, the bus, the chauffer and this lady that was the guide, they were talking. And some of the things they were saying, I didn't really didn't get it. But then when the lady spoke to us, she spoke perfect English. So then I realized that "Oh, this is a language by itself, her dialect." And you know they're talking, that, the, the way the person talks, I don't know exactly how they call it, but they are making things known and but that means that they can speak perfect English. Yes. So then I found out, then I was able to appreciate more Louise Bennett's literary work because of hearing the man on the street talking the *to* things.

I: You're only the third person we finally got that knows Louise Bennett, so that's really great.

O: Yes. Yes.

I: Did you ever hear anybody refer to her Auntie Roachie or something like that?

O: No.

I: No, cause one other person mentioned...

O: Yes.

I: Okay and now the other question I want to ask you about is about the Mighty Sparrow with, with video. Do you know?

O: Not much....

I: Okay.

O: Is what I said about your, your mother, not your father, not your mother....

I: Okay, tell me what you've heard about the Mighty Sparrow.

O: I guess that he would be in the same category; I'd put him in the same category like Bennett because he was in his not, that's not reggae this is um what's the word they call what he did: Calypsos. And his Calypso he portrayed the black man's role, but it was very humorous, and I don't know much about it, but I do know there was a song I used to like to hear and he says "Your father ain't your father but your mother don't know, and your mother not your mother but your father don't know, and something like

that. And I would put him in the category that...Bennett. Was educated and, and everything but I think that those calypsos were I don't know much more about calypsos.

I: Okay. Turn this off right now. Okay. Thank you. Good. Now you already told me what you said reggae so I won't to ask you about that. Okay. Okay. This is my next question: how would you classify yourself in terms of identity, and does the way you classify yourself depend on where you are, you know, identity, by that I mean cultural identity or so forth.

O: Yes. Well I think that when I started school and while I was in La Boca environment, I didn't have too much of any special way of thinking about myself. But when I went to learn Spanish and then I realize that oh these people classify us as if we are a category lower than most of the people. Then that made me think "oh no after all we have a heritage that you know people really don't think that is worth much." But it really does because I started to compare of what my parents had told me about their previous lives there in Panama and compared to what it was now, but so I have always been proud to be who I am. And I realize that as Panamanian, some of the younger generation were not very happy to be black. And I am saying that what, I always like to read these about some of these Negroes who have become one of my, one that I used to admire a whole lot was in, what is his name now, the one that was in the White House before Rice.

I: Colin.

O: Colin, Colin Powell. I used to admire him and I read books about him and I know that when you are black and you know who you are, and you know that you don't have to be feeling like you're inferior to another race, you can live happy. And then, one of the things that up to now...but I still, it still inspires some days and not every day because some days I feel lousy. But it still inspires me that what we should try, and that's what I've tried to put in the heads of my, my daughter and my nephew and niece, try to make a contribution to the world in which you live. Because after all, it's one life. And the important thing is for us to live some, live in a way then that if you when you are pass and gone, your contribution will be there. And there's something, there is a song that I came across the other day that I like so very much. I can't remember the name of the author, but it says that you know that...is I have enjoyed this and that and the other and I want to put something back into the world before I go. And I feel that young people with that kind of a vision become somebody in this world. They become they give a contribution because they have a perception of *dates* and like they have a program in one of the Canals that says, how the word is again, it says...oh it's gone from me but like it means to say making, doing something better. And that part is you mentioned that I could maybe change something I when I remembered that I like to put it in, making a difference...that's it, making a difference. And in this interview, one of the things that I would like to mention and I have not said it any of the questions that I have done, but I want to say that what has helped me to achieve some of the things that I wanted is the way that I view God. I don't view Jesus as a person that lives in Heaven. I view him as real. I view him as, I view the Lord as someone who has given me my life

and everything and whatever I do, wherever it is I go....I should do something to uplift him. And I do that just as how when I was younger I tell, I talking to people *when I was* so good was because I always had a vision of making my parents proud of me. I always feel that I want Jesus to be proud of me.

I:Okay. Tell me about, we talked about this a little bit but maybe, maybe there are other things you might want to say, what kind of things come to mind when someone says the word West Indian? What kind of objects, things, you know.

O: I usually feel that sometimes, not always, but sometimes when people say West Indians, I'm talking all right now about Panama, I sense that they're thinking you are some kind of a different species. Like the lady that's working with me, what we were talking about recently, a couple of days ago, I don't remember exactly what the conversation was but she said (*speaks in Spanish*) so I said *Mi Pueblo (continues speaking in Spanish)*. I said Marie (*speaking in Spanish*). I said that to....to say that there are, they look to me, I might be wrong but I get the impression that when they say West Indians most of the time, they're thinking you're some of kind of a race. The last thing I would ...Costa Ricans or Panamanians or Americans. It's just a place, a location on the map, you know. But I don't feel that people should differentiate on "Okay my parents are from Barbados" or "We have parents from Jamaica" or what, I don't think that they should look at us as if we are a species because it just where we're born, part of the globe. That's the way I look at this.

I: It's true. It's true. Um let's see um you are married or are you

O: Widowed.

I: Widowed....And you have how many children?

O: One. One daughter.

I: One daughter. Okay, she lives in Panama?

O: No. Florida.

I: Florida.

O: Yes.

I: Okay. Do your children and grandchildren, daughter and any grandchildren, do they all speak English and Spanish or how do they?

O: My daughter speaks English and Spanish, but her children they all speak English because they grew up, they were born in the United States and she keep promising, one boy especially, has shown interest in learning Spanish and so she wants him to come here. The plan was that he'd come on vacation, and as a matter of fact she had

planned that for last year and got me to talk to a Spanish teacher at university that gives English to, that gives Spanish to people that don't speak Spanish and make arrangements to help him out. Now my nieces and nephews, they're all born here. The niece, she takes pride in speaking English for grammatically. She, she's always admire her for that. She's always take pride in that. The boy, he speaks English...but now he's working at...I know this that he's brushing up on that. But both my sister and I, we always speak to them in English, even with my daughter what I used to do when she would talk to me in Spanish, I answered her in English and I taught her English from using the Bible. When we would have worship, we'd take a Psalms and we, when everybody else is finished, we'd read the whole that chapter, read it just like by verse too because and word by word and she thought she learned English like that. And I spoke English to her. And when she went to the states, she didn't have any problem. She was versed in all three languages.

I: How do your children and grandchildren define themselves culturally?

O: Well I think, take my daughter, she has adjusted nicely going to the States. She has adjusted herself, and I think that she is proud of heritage, as a matter of fact, when she came down here to take me up there in November and she brought her, brought *herself* outfit of um a...and things for her children when they have into America, they and the church that they were at *that time*, she likes to talk about Panama and she's all right. The one that I find that had a problem with having himself defined as, in English background, was my nephew. Up till now, he has, he has most of his friends are Latins, and he, as I mentioned, he had always, he never really got into speaking English like we wanted him to, but as he has matured, I think he's pretty comfortable with who he is.

I: How do you define your community? Who would you say is your community, which relates a little bit to the question you answered?

O: Well, yes I would say I *still I live in my communities* and my, in this street, I'm the only one that speaks English. And it's, I never have problem relating to my neighbors, and I think that they all know me as somebody that they can talk to when they have problems and if I have a problem I think that they are a few of them that would be there for me. And, well, one of the things that I've been an Adventist there's some things that I don't participate in, but I have been very grateful for the way that they accept my religion, for when they first moved in here back in '70, we had formed a community group like a club. And it was a, we would meet in different homes alternately and I noticed they would, they knew that I don't go to these functions on Friday nights or any time during the day Sabbath, Saturdays. And they'd always put it for Saturday nights. And when you said anything, they say...and I appreciated that. And I tried to be *very* neighborly with them and expect I don't try to push my religion on them after having anything at the church that I think they would enjoy, I'd tell them about it. And different ones would go with me at different times and I think that, what if, what ever like the one time we had a corporation that we hope would pay someone to for seguridad....in the community and to be participate *when I was in that* and anything that they have that they should have the clubhouse...everybody got so busy and someone had rented

it...that night or what and then other some neighbors moved away, other neighbors stay near. And I guess that the neighbors came in later were not as neighborly I might say as the first set. So we didn't have that bonding that we had so now we don't, we don't have that club any more. And we don't visit each other, but everything's....good and everything like that.

I: Yeah sounds like my street. My street we all grew up as little kids and now we're all gone cause we're all adults we, but when we see each other it's like –

O: Yes.

I: Almost near the end, what would you like to send a message to the younger people in the community? What, what would be a message?

O: A message, yes, well what I have noticed that I would really like to address to them is I would like for young people to value, to put more value on morals. More value on even life. And appreciate life for what it is. It hurts my heart when I see the lot of violence, and I think that if they knew that life is a gift that from God. And it's precious, so we should try to do the best that we can in living it to its fullest. Not just really, I'm having aiming, if you have an aim for life, what you would like to be, what you would like to accomplish, what you would like your children after you to become and of course they won't be better than you are, they will be maybe less but not better so aim for the best. And for those of the black origin, I would like to tell them don't be ashamed of your color. Don't be ashamed of your origin because lots of communities...not only to Panama but to the world and you can be anything you want to be, providing you have the right morals and the right view point, right perspective, and above all, have God in your life.

I: Great. Okay, now the last question...your year of birth?

O: 1922.

I: Okay. Last grade of school would be?

O: 14.

I: Age 14?

O: No, the grade. In other words, second year in college.

I: And what is your profession?

O: Teaching.

I: What level did you teach?

O: The primary.

I: Okay. Okay any last thing you'd like to add that we haven't mentioned yet?

O: I think you have covered quite thorough.

I: Quite a lot, huh?

O: Quite a lot.

I:

O: Yes. One of the things I wanted to have always mentioned and that was that this school system that we had back then and we covered that, yes, we covered that.

I: Thank you again for your time, and this is really going to contribute to a growing body of work.

O: I hope, I hope so.

I:

O: I should give you something cold to drink.

I: Oh sure. Yeah.