

Pauline Bushnell
Calypso Music – Cobra

“Oh yes, Sparrow used to clash with, with Cobra. And Cobra sing song about Sparrow. Calypso. Oh yes. Oh my goodness. Cobra used, he used to, he used to clash with Sparrow. But I don’t [] music now, I really don’t remember anything about what my uncle used to tell us from, I would have to hear the record again to get refresh, refresh! *(Chuckles)* Ai ai ai. Because he and Sparrow sure used to have a duel.”

Pauline Bushnell
Family Relationships

“The first thing, we’re having a big conflict in our country today with the youth. Every day on the news you see killing and it’s youths that killing. And you know what is causing that? No family relationship. And God is not in the center of homes. If parents would leave a little dancing, drinking, having a good time and spare a little more time at home with your children to kneel and pray with them and study God’s word, there would be better youths in our Republic. Because that, that is it. I, I’m not boasting, but that’s one thing I tried to in, educate my children and my grandchildren that grew up with me because I only have, I have twenty-eight grandchildren, but only seven of them grew up with me that I would, which is my two daughter children. Imagine. And my son’s children, well, and they knows, they are very nice. They knows grandma, go to church and they’re just sweet, sweet children. I have a little grandson, my baby, my little son’s son [*inaudible*], and if you hear him, you’d see him outside there and the only thing he’s doing is singing like his grandmother. All day long he’s singing like his grandmother. (*Laughs*) Sometimes when I call him on the phone, we have to sing together, because he wants to sing. He likes to sing. Yes and that, that is it. That’s fine, that’s what family needs today, that relationship between children and you know, you know the parents do, most of them don’t get with their children like our day. And you think no. No. No. And that is it, every day when I see the news, boy it hurt me because that’s, that is the problem that is happening in Panama today.”

*****END OF TAPE*****

Pauline Bushnell
Ms. Bushnell Sings

*“He can turn the tides and calm the angry sea,
He alone decides who writes a symphony.
He alone knows where to find the rainbow’s end
He alone can see what lies beyond the bend.
He can touch a tree and turn the leaves to gold.
He knows every lie that you and I have told,
Though it makes Him sad to see the way we live,
He’ll always say, "I forgive."
He’ll always say, "I forgive!" ”*

[Loud applause]

*****END OF TAPE*****

Pauline Bushnell
Racism and Education

Bushnell: I'm a negro according to my son, my big son. He's darker than I. He says, "Momma, I'm a negro, I'm black, and I'm proud to be black." Yes my son I am proud to be a negro too cause the negro race is something special in the world. Something special. We are special. You know, that's the problem my son is having in that way because he is the only negro professor of English and they try to push him out, and they don't even want to pay him. He's upset, because he work for a college, a, a Catholic college for um four years and they wanted, want, they putting him off but they don't want to pay him. And then he went to the Ministry, the workplace there in that way and it look like they put money underneath and you know buy out so when he goes they just give him a six for a nine and this and that and they owe him a lot of money because they, they had months they weren't paying him [*inaudible*] tuition complete. He told me yesterday he say, "Momma they owe me more than \$5,000." And all they keep telling him is that they don't have no money, they don't have no money but the um the [*inaudible*] from the government, they had him working for three months last year and they have contract him to begin the 11th of next month to start a next three months.

Interviewer: Ok. Wow. That is something.

Bushnell: Mm hmm.

*****END OF TAPE*****

Pauline Louise Bushnell

- **Bilingual Grandchildren**

“...That’s the beauty. My daughter that is here, her three sons they left from home, they went to Panama and my son got them a job in the call center and they are shocked the way they speak English because many from Bocas go, but they speak broken English or some don’t speak English none at all. But God be praised my grandchildren, I grew them up learning the both language. The both language. My, all my children learn to speak the both language, Spanish and English, and perfectly. Because I couldn’t speak broken English with my mother and my father. Because my mother would just look at me.

“That’s not the way to speak or pronounce that!” (Chuckles) So, she was very, and my dad was the next side! And then my next daughter children, they speak English perfectly, just [*unclear*] me. They speak English perfectly.”

Pauline Louise Bushnell

- **Childhood Games**

(Interviewer talks in background)

“There’s a Brown Girl in the Ring. Yuh know, one, a person is stay, they make a circle and one person stay in and they will start singing “*There’s a brown girl in the ring, tra la la la la/ There’s a brown girl in the ring, tra la la la la, ah*” and then you’re going, going around and then the one, the one that staying in now, that one have to stay, that get catch inside there, that one have to stay.” *(Ms Bushnell chuckles)*

Pauline Louise Bushnell

- **Childhood Memories**

“When I was growing up, I started school, we started school in New Providence, it’s a little country place and we had to walk more than, almost 2 miles go to school, but you would never reach to school late, never reach to school late, not with that mother I had! And we had to get up at 5 in the morning and do our housework and my mother had a lot of chicken those days because she had around four heads of chicken, she used to raise a lot of chicken. We had our own home, she had a bus. She had, she had, after she and my father divorced she had married again. And then she and her new husband they had a nice home there in New Providence and had a bus where they used to take passengers from, from um, from New Providence to Colon the men them used to go to work and so on and when time to shop and so on. And then we used to go to school, all, but those days was lovely days. Oh my goodness. When the 3rd of November, oh my goodness what a happiness to march the 3rd of November, but don’t worry, rainy time is the worst time cause I was born in 4th of July and then now when 4th of July my mother always keep my birthday. And I can remember when I was eight years, how she made a big party! And that day it rained, it rained, and it rained. Then they didn’t have nice streets like what they have now. So pure red mud. And you can imagine the red mud. That red mud stink, my love. And then that Sunday in which we was celebrating birthday, it was, they were having some dedication of the Methodist church I think, yes, the Methodist church in New Providence. And then a lot of her friends came up to the dedication of the church and they were coming to the party. Oh my goodness. And the people deh fall dung in the mud, because the bus couldn’t take them because it was too muddy for the bus to ride, anyway the party went off and everything, everybody was happy as much as they were full of mud.”

Pauline Louise Bushnell

- **Rheumatic Fever**

“Because when she was 7 years she started to have rheumatic fever, and then the rheumatic fever damage her brain and everything so the doctors stop her from going to school and everything when she was in third year. But if you see her you don’t think she’s a rheumatic fever. A doctor ask me once what did I do to let her look like that. Because they have never seen no rheumatic fever person look like her. I told them this, the day I went to the doctor and he told me if I didn’t take care of her, she was ten years old, she would die at sixteen, that really, you can imagine when a doctor tell you that *(Laughs)* And I went home and I went to church, and I told my church brethren and they placed her in the center.”

*****TAPE ENDS ABRUPTLY*****

Pauline Louise Bushnell

- **West Indian Heritage**

Bushnell: My, my father mother was a, was from Trinidad and my grandfather my father's side was from Barbados. Well, my father never tell me much about them you know, he only said that all of them they used to make coucou. You know coucou? The Bajans love to make coucou. Yes, so all's what I know about de Bajans dem is the coucou. And then my father used to speak like them you know. But he was very, he, he, he English perfect, but you know how the Bajans they have a, a twang, so he used to speak to us like how his father and mother used to speak.

Interviewer: Can you say anything?

Bushnell: Oh my goodness! (*Chuckles*) Years I haven't (*continues to chuckle*). I, I um, let me see if I can remember what how the twang, um, because my dad they used to call him Bob. "*Bob, would you come here? Bob, would you come here?*" That's, that's all I can remember, cause my dad always you know telling me lil' jokes about them and so on and so forth.

*****END OF TRANSCRIPT*****