

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions  
Oral History Documentation Project

**CARRIE GLASCOE**

Interviewed by Brenda Coates  
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at her home in Mechanicsville Maryland  
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[Begin Side 1, Tape 1 of 2]

BC: ... 1996. I interviewing Mrs. Carrie Glascoe at her home in Mechanicville. This is a re-interview. Mrs. Glascoe, the first question I want to ask is: Where were you born?

CG: Baltimore, Maryland.

BC: Okay. When did you move down to St. Mary's – or when did you move to this part of this state?

CG: Well, I was born there and I stayed there for almost two months, but I lived in Maryland – in Hughesville, Maryland.

BC: Okay, exactly where in Hughesville, Maryland?

BC: It's now called Girl Scout Camp Road, and we owned that property where Girl Scout Camp is. And, it's like, about 100 acres or more.

CG: Is that on 231?

BC: That's off of 5, right opposite the Prison Camp Road or Carrico Road, which is Prison Camp Road in Hughesville.

CG: Oh, okay.

BC: Coming out of Hughesville, almost into St. Mary's.

CG: Okay.

BC: It's about, not even a 1/4 mile off of 5, but it's about five miles back on this farm where I was born.

CG: Okay. And, now you live in Mechanicsville. Exactly where do you live in Mechanicsville?

BC: It's five -- I would say, six miles south of the borderline of Charles County on Route 5 right off the Mechanicsville Post Office. Going south, it's on your right off of Route. 5. And also, opposite Tide Water. It's like a little village, Tide Water, Thompson Sea Food.

BC: And, about how far are you off of Route 5?

CG: About two city blocks, I would say.

BC: Two city blocks off of Route. 5?

CG: It could be about three city blocks.

BC: I just wanted to get a good idea of where you're living now. Okay. What were times like when you were a child when you lived in Charles County on the farm? What did you eat? And, things like that.

CG: Number one, times were, like, hard work. Hard work and good times, I would say. We were big farmers. My father was a jack-of-all-trades from shoeing horses to being a carpenter. He repaired shoes, as well as farm work. And, my mother was typical housewife. She really was generally in the home preparing for the winter, summer, which we all knew that people who work on the farm, it's year-round. It's not just seasonal work.

But, I would say it was nice because it was only two of us, and-- even though my brother

was five years older. And, I really enjoyed, even though I had a long, long way when I was old enough to go to school, at least five miles off of Route. 5, I had to walk. And, we only had one high school in the area when I was able to get back. Which -- I was out of high school almost two years before I was able to go to a nearby school. And prior to going to the school to where I had to walk which was in P.G. County, I went up to—It's now called Auth Road. Almost -- it was very close to Marlow Heights.

And, I had to even go there because we had no transportation for black people to ride buses. I lived very close to a white school in ... It was painted white and it was for white people. Just before you get to Hughesville, but naturally we didn't have privileges to go to that school. So after almost two years, my parents went to La Plata and signed a petition that this -- the bus, only at that time, went to Waldorf School and to pick up black children to Pomonkey. So, it took awhile, but they went, when the school first opened that fall, to sign these petition. It might [have been] eight or more parents went there to sign this petition. And way up in the season, I think it could have been November, going into two years that I was out of high school, and out of high school—I'm sorry, I was out of high school. When I graduated from Pomonkey, this one year and two months, then my uncle--my parents let me come up to Auth Road. And, that's where I went for a year and two or three months. And, after they signed the petition--They had to go over there several times, finally this bus was able to come down to Benedicts. Then from Waldorf to Benedict's school, which is still standing there. That's where I went to school and where I graduated.

It a -- We went from there--In fact, it would pick me up in Hughesville and it would be

dark in the morning when we leave to go to Pomonkey. We had one bus. The bus was then like trucks and it would take so much time on the road, and then we had so many stops to make. It was a lot of work. But then, that's all we knew. We knew we had to do these chores prior to going to school and then, same thing in the afternoon because we had cows, horses, chickens, guinea keets, ducks. You name it, we had it on that farm, and we had to work with it. Work with whatever was going on during the season.

Naturally, during the spring and summer months, we had to gather all the veggies and preserve, can. Killing the beef and the hogs and cows, storing them up for the winter. But, we did the things that the average child did in those days: getting the wood, the water. And, I hate to even think about killing the hogs. I never did know how to clean the chitterling's, but I learned how to bring all this water while my mother did clean the chitterling's. And naturally, we helped to grind the sausage meat. I mean, it was just a year-round job. And, we would look forward to this because we knew it had to be done.

BC: The hog killing time -- Was that a time when the neighbors came in? Okay, I know a lot of -- I know when we killed hogs, the neighbors, the rest of the family came in and seven-eight women be sitting around the table cleaning the meat, whatever, and getting it ready for sausage.

CG: Yes, yes. We did that. My uncle's farm joined ours. And then, the friends and the neighbors, you know, everybody pitched in because we had so many hogs. We did just that. We would be-- because you had to bring the water from a spring. It took all that time, the young people's time, to bring the water so they could clean the meat and the chitterling's. And also then, I remember very much, that we had so much meat until we

didn't have enough stuffing (casing) for the sausage meat, we would can the sausage meat. We would cook the sausage cages and cover them with the oil, and that would take a lot time because we had so many jars with the sausage meat. And, it was a nice time because everybody busy laughing and talking and just entertaining, but a lot of work was being done.

And, that also reminds me shucking the corn. We'd have these large acres of corn fields.

And then, the men would only do that, on our farms anyway. And, my uncle and his children and neighbors would come out -- not necessary blacks, but black and white neighbors would come out and help us to harvest, to shuck this corn -- called it Corn Shucking Feast. And, we would go--they would go from farm to farm, at night, because they had done their day's work. This would be done at night. And, it would be so many people. But, we would prepare food and whatever, we wanted for that particular night, and then we'd go to the next farm. Sometime it would take two or three -- at least two nights at each farm. And, we'd go to the next farm. And, they just enjoyed it, because they know they could have a nice meal, and then go out and enjoy the Shucking Feast. It was really good times, I would say. But, the people worked so hard that when they did have friends to come around, they enjoyed it. And, then relatives.

BC: Okay. You said you lived on a big farm. But now, how much did you all eat that you had to buy? What kind of things did you have to buy?

CG: That's a good question: sugar, salt, pepper, and things like that. Other than Christmas time -- that was I mean, that was Christmas then, they would start-- Easter, too, Thanksgiving. We started at Thanksgiving. We would have our own ham and turkey,

but my mother would always do all this cooking prior, like three weeks before Christmas, because then, you didn't need an icebox. I never will forget--you call it refrigerator now.

We bought this ice—I'll never forget it-- at Christmas time, and Easter, we still had ice in the icebox. They weren't air-tight, but it was just that cold. I'll never forget it.

Sometime near Easter. Could have been in March, but there was still some ice in there. I will never forget. We'd stretch that for years. That's how cold. A big, old house, as cold as it could be.

So anyway, my mother would be done--This is Christmas. She would start. She would do. I don't know whether it was I think it was two hams, but I know that it was two turkeys. She would bake at least a half a dozen chickens and naturally, we had our own sausage. And, she did all this canning, preserving, and jellies. She would make all that during the season.

And canning, I never will forget this either. We have these big, old metal cans that you get. Lard or something, I don't know what it was.

BC: The five gallons?

CG: Yes, with the top on it. But, most products in the store in those days came in those big cans. And, she would buy at least 10 or 12 different kinds of candies. She would make cookies, sugar cookies mostly, and I think peanut butter cookies. And, we always had these mill sacks that flours would come in. Very few things you got then in paper like you do now. And, she would bleach them out, make them nice and white. She would put these cookies into these bags and put them in these cans. And then, she would have another can, maybe two cans for the candy. And, she would start early buying these cans,

and it used to smell so good, and we always felt like we wanted to take some. But anyway, we just enjoyed those times.

And, when Christmas, for the whole two weeks of Christmas, from Christmas Day through New Year's, my mother never actually cooked anything other than bread because we had everything: the eggs, the jellies, the jams, and all the meats and everything.

And also, my father used to build something you call a kiln. And, he would put the turnips in this kiln and pull the cabbages up, and make a row in this kiln. But, the turnips, he would put them underground and put a top over them and a lot of shelter to keep the cold out of it. But the cabbage, he would pull them up and then plant them in the ground and put cedar trees all around them, real tight, close, like planted into this building like, and then, I think, he put dirt up against it. But, it would be facing the sun in the winter, and we would go out and cut those cabbages just like you cut them out of a field. And, you talked about 10 minutes, they were ready. Can you imagine how they would taste and he would have, maybe hundreds of cabbages up there. They were very well kept warm.

I'm trying to think: sweet potatoes like that? I don't think so, but it was turnips and cabbage.

BC: So, you have fresh vegetables all year long?

CG: Fresh vegetables, yes we did. And, I'll never forget the spot. It was way away from the house, but for some reason, it seemed like it was on a hillside, like, facing the sun. You see, it would get warm. Well, the kiln would get warm and everything around it, and then, they didn't freeze. I don't hear of anyone doing that today, but they were the best.

And you know, turnips, once they freeze, they're not good to eat. But when he -- but this kiln that he put these turnips in -- he'd dig -- build beyond freezing or something, and then he would put this, make this top and put over it, and then he would cover it. So, when you went out to get your turnips, make sure that you put this covering back over it. And, the cabbages, too. But, the cabbage reminds you-- I'll tell you what they looked like, if you've ever heard of people talking: they looked like a manger, the way (they) were covered and kilned so they wouldn't freeze. It did not freeze.

I mean, I think we lived very well, because, I mean, you have to because they--I don't know how they made it, but they did. Tobacco wasn't selling good and whatever a person farmed in those days, they're doing the same things now. Its likely black people just didn't get what they should have gotten per pound for the tobacco.

He used to also sell corn. One thing we -- he used to do was he had this gravel pit on the farm. And, he got the least amount per ton, or whatever, the trucks would come in. The state, now, was buying this gravel from my father, and that was a little money.

And, we also -- he used to sell fur, like fox and muskrat fur. And, he would--

BC: He used to trap them?

CG: Yes, he used to trap them and skin them. That's what it was called. And, he'd go out there every day and get these hides and then, they would stretch them on this board and let them dry, and he would sell them.

And also, he used to make wreaths for Christmas out of cedar, mistletoe we would gather, and holly. And, he would make these wreaths. He would also take the wire and shape it around. And, he would get burlap bags, wet them, and put them on each one. He put this

-- and he got what a beautiful shape. It was perfect, and it's different from what you see now because there was plenty of mistletoe, holly and holly berries. It was really beautiful.

I did that a few years, but it's a lot of work. You hurt your fingers with that holly. And, I cannot remember all the things he used to do. He was -- what you call a pair of shoes.

And, everybody's a cobbler?

BC: A cobbler.

CG: That's what it is? Okay. He would do that and he had these lathes. He had five or six different sizes. They're iron things. And he also did something you don't see too much now in shoe repair or cobbler. How do you spell that?

BC: Okay. [Laughter] I guess its c-o-b-b-l-e-r.

CG: And, he also-- you see, shoes that were leather were made of good leather in those days. And, he would even have people to come in and bring him shoes that had holes in them at the little toe, on the side, or on the bunion side and he would put a patch on. He could do the neatest work that I most ever seen.

And, he used to shoe horses. I never forgot how -- I used to always just hate seeing that because those horses would kick, some of them. And see when that horse, the back two legs or feet, he would have to turn them up and bang those nails into that horseshoe.

And, some of them was really furious. Those horses were, some of them. I just can't. I mean, he did a little bit of everything.

And, one other thing he did. Now, he bought my mother this brand new treadle sewing machine from Singer. And, she never bothered to learn to sew. So, my father would go

to the store and get this flannel and make me flannel underwear and flannel petticoats we called them then. And, that was every winter. And, he learned that from -- I think, from my grandmother. She used to quilt. They called it quilting bees. And, they would sit around the parlor and quilt. I didn't really remember her, but just listening to the old people. I think all old people or someone related quilted during the winter.

But, they never, I don't think there was too many lazy people in those days.

BC: They couldn't afford to be.

CG: That's right. We were some hard-working people.

BC: Okay. You have one brother. You had one brother. You tell me he died during the—  
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CG: World War I. I'm sorry, World War II.

BC: He died in 1945.

CG: Right.

BC: Okay. And, you said you had a good relationship with him.

CG: The only thing: He always thought that I was too young to go out with him. I used to beg him. I almost cried, because I didn't have anybody else. Or, "You're too young." Yes, but we had a good relationship. And, it seemed like he left home so early to go into the Service. Because, when Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941, he was there.

BC: Oh, he was in the Service before.

CG: He died in '45.

BC: Yeah, but he went in before 1941.

CG: Yes.

BC: Okay. Now, you said you go to Immaculate Conception Church.

CG: Yes.

BC: Up here in Mechanicsville.

CG: Right.

BC: Is that the church you've always gone to or?

CG: No. I went to Benedict, but Mechanicsville, even in those times, was our church, but Benedict was the closest. But, I would say that is my church, but I have gone to Benedict.

BC: As a child, did your family do much travelling?

CG: I would say they would call it a lot because I'll never forget it. My father had this car, and it was cold winter time. We came from this -- Hughesville, we drove from there, it's called now Auth Road. And, you talk about cold. We had blankets over. And, we did not have car heat or air conditioning.

BC: So, you remember taking trips with your father in this -- on cold winter days.

CG: Old car, I think it was a Model T. Model A or whatever? And, we would go up there to visit my mother's brother, Phillip Barnes. And, and we would -- it's a wonder we hadn't been froze to death. It was so cold. And, periodically, but other than that, even though in the summer, I used to stay with my cousin in Baltimore during the summer months a lot for a couple of weeks. And, her name was Carrie. So, that was a big outing for me to go to Baltimore. See, I was a baby when I was there first.

But other than that, okay. Then, we had a cousin who lived in Aquasco, the Banks', they are relatives of mine, of ours, rather. And, we would visit with that cousin, Caldwood

Lee Banks, and he used to visit with us. And, that was horse and buggy. I remember that.

But other than that, we didn't do a lot of travelling.

BC: So, you went to Aquasco in the horse and buggy. About how far was that?

CG: It's about six miles. I think its 13, something like that.

BC: To Aquasco in horse and buggy.

CG: Yeah.

BC: Okay, when you were coming up, were there any nursing facilities or anything like that for senior citizens? If not, how were they taken care of? Were they taken care of in the home or what?

CG: Yes. They had nursing home but not the facilities we have today. You know, when we would say nursing home that stuff was for the longest time. You knew these people were going there to die, really, because there wasn't real nursing care. They would just go there and that's it. And, I don't think I didn't have anyone to go into a nursing home because we took care of my grandfather until he died, and my mother, and my father right here. They, my father and mother, lived right here in this house. And other than when they had to go to the hospital for, maybe, a few days, none of them went to the nursing home.

BC: So, when you were coming up, the senior citizens were taken care of by family in their home.

CG: Most of them. One thing I can say, most of them. And, I mean, they would take care of them, which was a burden, it really was. Because some people was so bedridden because

my mother was the kind of person--She could always find something to put in a basket and make it daintily and take to the sick. She was -- if anybody went to heaven, I do think she did because she was a beautiful person. And, she just looked out for the dead, she always said, and took care of the sick and buried the dead. But, she was just that kind of person.

BC: How did your parents deal with health issues? Did they have any special cures and home remedies?

CG: Yes, yes. My mother. It felt like we didn't get sick. We would have the chicken pox, the measles. We got the shots, but most time we had them, we knew if one person in the family, well everybody had to have it. But, she used to make -- she used to do her own herbs, such as onion syrup: we would take that for colds. And then, she would make these teas, what you call sassafras tea. And then, she would gather these rosemary and different kinds of weeds and make it like a drink. And, I know there was one thing that she bought. If we had any problem with the stomach, she would always give us castor oil, which I hated. And in the spring— [Telephone rings and tape is cut off]

[End Side 1, Tape 1 of 2]

[Begin Side 2, Tape 1 of 2]

BC: You were talking about the cod liver oil, I mean the castor oil.

CG: And, one other thing. Did I tell you that in the spring, we would get this poke salad. My mother always used to get this poke salad, and she would save this old, old, good old ham

and cook with this poke salad. I did not like poke salad, but you would be surprised. It's a cleanser. It is really good. And, you get it when it's about, well, I would say, 8 inches tall because it grows up, like a bush. And, you scald it and then you drain it. And then, the ham is almost already done because it doesn't take long. But, I would not eat that poke salad. It had some kind of taste to it.

But, for the last 15 years, I've been getting it. I've been going out, like, one good place to get it, where they cut the grass on the side of the road and it comes up fresh. It comes up every spring. And, I would go out and get this. So, now I have it down my back, all down the back of my house. I've been growing all that the last two, three years, but it really makes you feel good. As he declared, it was a plant. This is the funniest thing.

They are not doctors. Those old people could come up with things. And, I mean it really helped because I guess they had to do something.

And, like doctors, the only time we would go to a doctor is when we were sick, and it seemed like we weren't sick.

BC: Where was the closest doctor to y'all?

CG: He was close. Dr. Griffin in Hughesville. He was close. And in those days, the doctors used to come to your house.

BC: Make house calls. Yeah.

CG: Even Dr. Gryther, Roy Gryther here in Mechanicsville. He--Okay, my mother died in Johns Hopkins Hospital, and he came, I never will forget. I was here at that time, and I had put the children, just walked out of the bedroom putting my youngest into bed, and he knocked at the door. Because, it didn't upset me. I just assumed that it was his

normal thing to do. And, my mother had passed and he came here and told us. And, I had just left from up there that evening. But, they were good. Dr. Gryther was making home visits until he retired here a few years ago. I guess his pet people, but all of them used to make them.

BC: Compared to today. Please. Okay. Were there other health facilities that y'all attended?

CG: Okay. Now, the Red Cross used to come to the house and give different kinds of injections to the children. Such as--

BC: Red Cross or home nurses?

CG: It might have been a home nurse. I guess so. I guess we had a home nurse. I'm sure we did. Yes. Used to come and give injections to children who needed, like--

BC: Inoculations and such?

CG: Flu, yes. And then, we'd also, in the later years we'd carry them to the clinics. I use to go to -- I think it was Mechanicsville. That was the only place I took my daughter was Mechanicsville Church Hall. Right here in Mechanicsville.

BC: So, that was with the Health Department, County Health Department□

CG: Yeah. Right.

BC: That used to come out to give these shots. Okay. What types of things did you do as a child? What kind of games? What kind of chores? What did you like to do the best?

CG: I used to like to play all kinds of ball which we used to go from—It's in Gladsville. We used to have Field Day. And, we'd look forward to that by practicing. Now, they got it for, like, a halfway house. It's right in Gladsville. You're on 301 going toward to the bridge.

But anyway, one year they would come to us, which was Pomonkey, and the next year, we would get to that school, which was a high school. And, I looked forward to that. And at home, wherever we had neighbors or friends to come out, we would play softball, dodge ball, trying to think. I guess we called it badminton then. We had this -- And, one thing we used to do a lot of is play marbles. On Sundays. I never will forget. We used to shoot those marbles that were way out ... It was just, whatever you did, was a lot of fun because you didn't have a lot of things for activities like we would in the later years. And, we would entertain because I was a doll--I used to have a lot of dolls. And, I was also into sewing. When I left home, I had this big box under the kitchen table where I had the dolls and the doll clothes that I used to make. I think it was five or six different dolls, but I was really good at making clothes for those babies. When the other children would come in, they would bring their dolls and we would just have a real good time. If they didn't, then they would play with mine.

As far as I can remember, we lived so far away from everybody, so it wasn't that easy. Then, I did have cousins that used to come on -- periodically, like every two weeks they would visit us, from the Brandywine area. I believe it was two girls. One was around my age and the other was a little bit younger. And, we would just have a good time with whatever.

BC: And, you said earlier that you did the kind of chores that all kids do: bringing in water, cutting up firewood, and feeding the animals before you went to school. Just a normal, regular chores that everyone did at that time.

CG: Right.

BC: Okay. How did your parents treat you? Did they have to discipline you? And if they did, for what kind of things?

CG: Well, I wasn't spoiled. I really don't think I was spoiled, but, naturally, they disciplined me for things that, you know, because then you couldn't. It seemed like everything that you did -- not everything. Some of the things you did, they would say -- "You shouldn't say that" or "You shouldn't do that." And, but, I don't ever, and during those days, children really got spanked. And, I don't recall the one time, and I remember that it hurt me so bad and I don't remember what it was. But, it had to be pretty bad that my father spanked me. And, but, my mother, I don't recall her ever actually spanking me. And, I think it was because I was the only one there for a long time after my brother left. So, they would tell me right from wrong. But as far as really spanking, I don't remember but one time.

BC: What do you remember best of how they treated you? Did they used to play games with you or read to you or anything like that? What did they do with you?

CG: Definitely, my mother used to read all the time. I remember I had about four, five books and they were wore out. And, as far as playing, I don't think there was too much playing done because, they were so busy all the time. But, they would share with me the things that they were doing because I really think they wanted me to really do what they were doing which was all this hard work. But other than reading, I mean, we had a record player. My father was Methodist and we used to sing and pray. And every morning we would have to have this blessing. Supposedly, blessing of the table before we ate. And, he would go into, I mean, a prayer meeting. And, we would just sit there and wait for

him to finish so we could eat. I never would forget that. Oh my goodness.

BC: Do you think that they prepared you well for life?

CG: I would say as well as they could. I really do because in those days -- I recall there was a store in Hughesville called Bowlding Store. And as soon as I graduated from elementary school, an old man, George Bowlding, I think it was, one of the Bodings, because they owned everything in Hughesville back in those days, wanted my father to let me come to their house and spend the weekends cook and clean. And, that, I give him all the credit in the world. He said, "No. My daughter's going to school." When I graduated from elementary school, I'd been there until now if he had not spoken up. And, I always said that my father didn't speak up to white folks. But, this was one time he did for me.

BC: So, the attitude of some people at this time was 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade education was enough for you as a black woman and that you should go into service.

CG: Yes. And, once they went into service, they stayed there and go from one generation to another. And most of -- a lot of my schoolmates, that's what they did. A lot of them. But, they start you young and train you and you're there for a lifetime. Go right on through the family, three or four generations.

BC: Okay. Now, you told me that you went to Benedict Elementary School and Ralph Butler was one of your teachers. And evidently, he couldn't have been that much older than you at the time.

CG: I never could understand it. I never could. And, he don't want to hear that. He do not because he knows he had to be older than what he say he is -- because he used to like my friend, the one that you said looked like somebody.

BC: Ann Thompson.

CG: Yes. And, I said something to him one time. We were out, and he was playing. And, I could just tell the look on his face that he didn't want to hear that--But I always question that. I mean, you can question it yourself right now because here I'll be 73 my birthday. And, he supposed to be in his 80s.

BC: Okay.

CG: But, he was a nice teacher and in those days, they got their degree once they started teaching, during the time they were teaching, I guess. And then, they didn't really -- well I guess all they wanted was the black person to teach the black children. And see, it was an all-black school in those days, and then their books were terrible. They were terrible. The quality, everything was just. We just made it and that's all. I don't know how.

BC: Okay. Now, to get you to Benedict Elementary School from where you were living in Hughesville at the time, you had to walk through the woods and over the hills. So, about how far did you have to walk?

CG: We talking about Hughesville. That's about five miles from here, but we would go out the back. It could have been six miles. Up the hills -- I never will forget. If there was a swamp, if it rained a lot -- and you see, I always was scared to cross a swamp because you'd have to have a log there. And, it seemed like the other children could walk that log, but I could not do it. But, I would get through it some kind of way. It was really bad. And, I mean bushes. It was just this little toe path that we would walk. And, it could have been six or seven miles. And, we left in the woods. We'd go in the back of my house, through our farm and my uncle's farm. Do you know where Curly Oaks is?

BC: No.

CG: This lady -- Well anyway, it's called now Curly Oaks. They entertain the Congressman, well I guess, any kind of activities, such as Congressman and whoever. Any organization, and she does that. And her and I went to school together.

Well, anyway, we went through her farm which was Coles, and the Estepps, and up the hill.

BC: Okay. I'm not really familiar with the Benedict area, but describe where the school was. Is it on that road, Benedict Road?

CG: Yes. I'm trying to think. What's the route in there? Okay. You turn right in Hughesville.

BC: Yes.

CG: And you pass 381. That's to your left, like you're going to Aquasco.

BC: Right.

CG: You know where Toys Inn is?

BC: Yes.

CG: Okay. It's before you get there on your right. You've got to look up now because it's nothing but woods. Now, people are living there. It's a house, a home.

BC: So, the school house, the Benedict Elementary School, was on 231.

CG: Yes. I believe it was.

BC: 231 just before you get to where Toys Inn is, and it was on the right side of the road on a hill.

CG: On a hill.

BC: Okay.

CG: I don't know whether you know, there used to be Windbushes Tavern, years ago.

BC: No, I guess. That's been a long time ago. I have a better idea where it is now. And, was this a one- or two-room school house?

CG: It was a one big room and a kitchen. And, we was taught in both of those rooms. But, when it was real cold, we all had to be in this one big room. One half of the time, the heating was very bad. We had this custodian there. He put this green wood into the fire, and it wouldn't burn.

[Telephone rings and tape cuts off]

BC: We were talking about the schoolhouse, and you set up where it was. And, you told me how conditions were at the schoolhouse.

CG: Yeah, it was cold.

BC: And how it was normal for a black school at that time.

CG: Set up at school all day with your heavy coat and hat. You had to wear a coat and hat because you had walked so far. I mean, all day long. Then had to go outside to the lavatory. It was terrible, but we made it somehow.

BC: As a young adult, what did you dream of becoming?

CG: Believe it or not at first, I wanted to be a teacher. And, when I went to DC, I think all that dream went away and I went right to work as soon as I came out of school and passed the tests, with the Bureau of Engraving. And, I also did some cosmetology. In fact, I went, almost finished the class for cosmetology, but I always had sinus -- and I do believe that's from cold, you know.

Because I never will forget, one time, I had this tooth, bad tooth. My father, he always making his cars, and his trucks and things. And this whole, I think the whole side of glass was out on the side where I was sitting. Went to this dentist, and I could tell, that something that happened. But I'm telling you, it was the worst. I had to have surgery when I was -- in 1944, I think it was. I had to have surgery, and I'm telling you it was just terrible.

BC: Sinus?

CG: Sinus! Yes, they took part of the bone in the sinus area and scraped another part of it that was infected. And, I mean, I could smell it. It was just bad. So anyway, that did it. I tell you.

Then, I had, the whole time I was in deep sleep. The doctor's said, in fact, even after I came here, said that Washington is the below sea level that I was in. But, I know what it was from. It was from, the cold or whatever. And, that riding in that truck, that what did it. That's when I felt the effects.

BC: Okay. You wanted to become a teacher for a short while and then, cosmetology. But, then you sort of had to do what you had to do and go to work--

CG: At the Bureau of Engraving. I said that to say that in cosmetology, I couldn't stand--See, most of the people then did pressing hair. And, I couldn't stand that smoke that, you know, that chemical. And, I knew that helped to set it off, too. So, I had almost finished, too. But in those days, most everybody was getting their hair pressed.

BC: Okay. Now, as a teenager, did your parents let you court? It's an old-fashioned word.

CG: Yes. Well, the first date, I'll never forget it. This guy told my parents that they were

going to take me to this festival. It was a festival. It was over in Gallant Green. I'm trying to recall that name. And, it was a big, big hall, and they would have this day festival and dance at night. I-- this guy, who's dead now, Woodland. Johnny Woodland came by. He was one of them sophisticated ones. You know how they do. With those kind, he looked good, I guess. In fact he was not too new a family. And, my mother, she asked my father and he said, "I guess so!"

So anyway, I went out with him and I was fine. So, sometime, along the way, a few days or something after that, he sent -- my father went out and found out that this wasn't a Church festival. What difference does it make? And, he, oh my goodness! I don't know when I ever had another date. I couldn't have been grown, I guess. I know I was 19, and, I always considered myself behind everybody, as far as things like that. And, those old people did everything they could do.

But anyhow, he, you know, he just--It was no lie because it was a festival, but it wasn't a Church festival. And, all they believed in was church. And, the reason I'm saying that is because, now, my brother was grown and he would go out and play cards. And, if he made a mistake and left those cards--Well, it wasn't a mistake, just left those cards in his pocket, and they knew, they were in there my father would burn them up. He was a good, old Methodist. And I guess that's what made me so far behind, as far as dating and all.

But, what would tickle me, in a way: When I got married, I'd been going with my husband about two, I guess six or eight months, before he left to go in the Service. And, I kept in touch with him the whole time before marriage. And in the meantime, after my

brother died, his friends used to write to me. I guess about eight or 10 of them, servicemen. Would write to me, and I spent most of my money in stamps. But, it was really a good relationship, because I thought it was real nice. And, what happened is some of them I kept up with for years. Then, just something happened and I guess after I got married, and that made a big difference.

BC: That sort of does make a difference.

CG: It does. All the time with me.

BC: So, I think I remember you telling me, the previous time, that even though you didn't go out on dates

CG: No.

BC: But groups of you would go to the church festivals as young adults.

CG: Yes, we did.

BC: But, it was only to church festivals.

CG: Yeah

BC: -- that you would go.

CG: And you know, you just looked forward to going to these things because they were seldom. And, we would go from one church festival, like St. Peters in Waldorf, and they had theirs. And, we'd come to Mechanicsville, St. Joseph's. And, the surrounding churches in the area, and just because you'd be going. And then, I think they were during the week.

BC: The church festivals?

CG: Yes. St. Peter's was. But, most of them were Saturdays, I think.

BC: Okay. When you first went out on your own, when you went to Washington and worked for the Department of Engraving, where did you go? What kinds of things did you do? How much money did you make? What was it like being out on your own?

CG: It was rough, in the beginning, because working for the government at that time was very low-pay, I would say. And then, I had to pay-- I was living with someone, renting a room that I knew very well, was a cousin, really. And, then I was really on my own. I would go out and date and you know, have a good time. I had nice friends, I thought, really nice friends. And, girlfriends and men friends. And, we would go to parties and the movie and the shows because they had some very good shows at Howard University, different. And, we used to also go out in Brentwood, called Brentwood Tavern. We used to have a very good time.

BC: When you first started working, do you remember how much you got paid?

CG: I was trying to say, and I hate to say, how many thousands it was in a year. I hate to say, but it was enough. And then, I believed in buying nice clothes. And every time I got paid, that's what I would buy, clothing. And, then I would send home money. I'm trying to think what it was. \$8,000 or something. I don't know. I really don't. But, I know it wasn't the best.

BC: Okay. What kind of work have you done to support yourself? You told me that you worked at the Department of Engraving, and I know you said that you were a senior youth counselor down in -- alcoholic counselor in St. Mary's. What other kind of jobs did you do?

CG: Okay. The youth counselor: It was at Tri-County Community Action. And, I worked up

to a senior counselor there. And, that's where I got a lot of my credit because they made sure that, you would keep up with what you were doing. And, I would go to Cape College, most of the time, to get these credits twice a year: in the spring, I think, and in the fall. And, I stayed there 10 years. And, the reason I left Tri-County was due to the insurance -- the insurance. And I was getting older. I just thought I should have something to cover. And, I loved the job because my supervisor, she believed in education. She was a very good supervisor. Thelma Adams, black lady.

BC: But you left it because of benefits?

CG: Benefits. Yes.

BC: No benefits.

CG: That -- then from there, I went to the Health Department in Lexington Park as an addictions counselor. And, I stayed there, moved up to taking care of the state's ...which I would have to go to D.C. to take the test. And, became higher in grade as far as an addictions counselor is concerned. And, I had a very good supervisors there. Because I was the only black one for seven or eight years, I guess.

BC: Well, how did you choose or why did you choose this type of work?

CG: Oh, you mean addictions counselor?

BC: Addictions counselor and with the Tri-County?

CG: Oh, I'll tell you about Tri-County. I had a lot of background working with youth. I organized a youth group which is Junior Auxiliary Knights at St. John's. I organized that group, I think it was 50 something, 56, and I'm sure it's hard to believe. We used to go places. We went to -- we went places, to different states to bowl, at least 9 to 10 different

states every year, to bowl. And, we had a youth bowling group and I would have a bus load to go to these states every year.

One year, I'll never forget it. In fact, we used to go to Hershey Park and the parks around here, like the one next to the Mobile. What you call it? There's two of them. We used to go to those two parks. It's very close here. Not close, but you go across Morgantown bridge. What's the name of those, they have all these rides and whatever? We used to go there. And one year, in fact, we went to Hershey Park every year until everything got so expensive. We preferred to carry our own food because I had five children. And, we would cook all this food and we could leave it outside. Not outside of the gate, but way out near the park ending and leave it— [tape ends abruptly]

[End Side 2, Tape 1 of 2]

[Begin Side 1, Tape 2 of 2]

BC: So, you had to organize this youth group. And because of your involvement with the youth group, you got into youth camps. This job with Tri-County for youth counseling. Okay.

[At this point, the recording becomes very quiet and staticky. Some dialogue was inaudible.]

CG: And, I must say, there was one year when we...And really, I could only depend on my co-, the counselor. I would say co-counselor because the parents just didn't come out...Some didn't, some did. I never will forget that.

BC: ...ask about a school bus.

CG: We got buses come over from Calvert County. We had buses...And, this man named Brooks. Got buses from him. And, with Keller, they always have a lot of buses. And 13 they didn't have parking spaces at the Knights of St. John, you had to park up and down side roads, and it was scary, too. Three men and two people, and all these children.

BC: And no parents.

CG: No parents. I could say five parents...So anyway, I did 21 years with that. I stepped down because I felt we needed some younger people to work with these children. And so now, when we go, when we have three or four children go..., they don't do anything together. And, I would -- I had children from St. Mary's County Junior Auxiliary. Naturally we had them from Prince Georges, that's where we had -- that's where the Knight's of St. John's Hall is. I had from St. Mary's, Calvert, and Charles. Because I would go around and interview them. The directors now

BC: And no parents.

CG: These directors we have now, she wasn't going around to interview. So, they had to come up in a car.

But, I was concerned about these children that didn't have anything to do and I think we made a big dent in helping children learn how to be with a group of young people. And, we did a lot of things. We gave parties. And like I said ... and bowl. Every two years, we'd have a convention

BC: So, this was through the Knights of at St. John's for the Juniors Auxiliary out of Aquasco. Okay.

CG: I still belong to that Ladies Auxiliary, and I organized the Ladies Auxiliary here in Mechanicsville. I organized it for 12 years...That's one of my favorites. That organization

BC: So, for 21 years, you were with the Junior Auxiliary of the Knights of St. John's. Okay. And, you organized, helped organize as a Director. Okay. In 1956

CG: No, it might have been 50...

BC: Now, I'll ask about your husband. You said you went with your, you were engaged, or you were with your husband about eight months before you got married?

CG: Yes.

BC: How did you meet him?

CG: In Douglas High School.

BC: Okay. So, you had known him for quite awhile (Yes.) before you officially got engaged? Okay. And, why did you decide to marry him?

CG: Well, he was, I thought, there was no one like him. He was the best person I knew. So anyway, but the funniest thing: My brother, being a man, he did not like my husband. But I do say, if my brother had not gone into the Service, I don't think I would have married him. But, I know, like, a lot of guys would see me later, and it was the only, because you didn't know about the John Glascoe and slurs. And, it hurt. It wasn't true. And, some of them were real nice people, but. I didn't go that much like other young girls. I didn't think that was the rule...He had an alcohol problem.

BC: Okay. What was your wedding day?

CG: It was December 23, 1940?

BC: Did you remember your wedding day?

CG: Yes, I do.

BC: Who you're--

CG: My cousin Edna Banks was the best woman and this man named Carl. It's a simple name, too. He was her friend.

BC: Did you get married at the church?

CG: No. Got married at St. Vincent DePaul, Washington, D.C. right off of M Street, near the Navy Yard.

BC: That's because you were living in Washington at the time?

CG: Yes.

BC: Okay. Did you have a honeymoon?

CG: No, ma'am. No, we didn't. Very small wedding, too. Very small, very few people.

BC: What was your family life like? Now, you described earlier your relationship with your husband. He had a drinking problem, and he was interested in divorce. Between those times, your household and your children.

CG: You know, I thought it was very nice. I really did because I was having babies every year or every 15 months, Arilea and Janice was my two oldest. And we weren't able to go out. The farthest I would go would be to church. And getting them ready for church, my day was fit. My oldest two were only 15 months apart. And, my boys was not a year apart. Now, my husband's birthday was the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Alonso's birthday is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. Osborn's birthday is the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. Cornel's is the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. Arilea's is the 28<sup>th</sup> of May. The only difference was Janice and her birthday. Her birthday was

September 23<sup>rd</sup> which would be the same date as my brother's birthday. Mine is the 7<sup>th</sup> of October. So, I made a cake every day for awhile.

And you know, the pediatrician used to say, "How do you get these children, remember a month like that?" I said, "Well, they were born so close together there wasn't nothing else for me to do but remember." He could just not believe how I could just remember everybody's birthdays linked together.

But as far as our relationship, I thought I was doing what I was supposed to. And, I recall I would go to my mother, and she would...And, I would tell her..."Mama, I think I'm having children too fast." "That's what you got married for." That's what they thought.

And, I just tried, as long as I could.

But, I tell you, he was a brick layer. Made big money. And, he would get paid on a Friday and I wouldn't see him anymore until Sunday, Monday morning.

So, one day, the men who gotten very – he wanted to come in and fight. And, I never will forget it. We had gone to church on Sunday morning -- then, the girls had always said, "Mama, look, if you don't leave him, we're going to live with our grandpapa."

BC: He was living where at that time?

CG: Aquasco. He was living in Aquasco. That's where he built a house. And, I kept saying, "Well, I'm not leaving this house." He said, "Well, a house is just a house" and what we needed was a home. This one particular morning he said, "If I didn't leave, ain't nobody leaving." I moved right here and have been here ever since.

BC: And, they were how old at that time?

CG: Oh my goodness. Arilea, she was a senior at Banneker and Janice...The two youngest

went to -- they opened up Mother Catherine Spaulding. The opened up that school --

And, Janice opened up Chopticon.

BC: So, they were teenagers when they threatened you.

CG: Yeah, right.

BC: And then, you made the decision to leave. Okay. How is your relationship with your children and grandchildren?

CG: I would say good....

BC: ...grandchildren. What kind of relationship do you have with them?

CG: Actually, I don't have too many. I have seven out of the five. And, we have a very good relationship with the children. They -- they're so far away and they are hard to keep up with work and whatever. And then, like, two of them right now I don't have. And then, you see, I only have four children because I lost my oldest one. And, my next son...And then, the girl's gone. So now, it's just the three of us. They're doing their own thing, too.

BC: Okay. What part has religion played in your life? I know you said you attend Immaculate Conception Church, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Mechanicville. But, sort of describe to me what religion means to you. What religion means to you.

CG: Now, I don't know what the church, but the religion. I like going to the service at church, but, many times. In fact, even now, because my father was a Methodist. I liked Methodist church almost better than I do Catholic church. But to leave your church and go to another church, seemly it's expensive, and I'm on a fixed income. I mean,

sometimes I have given a lot of thought. I hate to say this, but it's a fact. It's not keeping up with the times.

BC: The Catholic church?

CG: Yes. And, they don't offer, they make me feel guilty, but they don't offer the young people the feeling that they should be involved in church because nobody's there. We have a couple of people, but I know we have one that really interested me. And even white guys, which I'm sure you know...we went to...And, he's into everything...I didn't go, but I understand that he really nice.

So anyway, you know, I have a question. I don't like to say he did this, she did that and, because all of my children are out of the Catholic church. Janice goes to Stallings and Arilea goes to Rev. Muse church.

BC: Okay.

CG: But, then I have problems there, too, because it's a church with 2,000 people with one preacher. I mean, it seems like it's just a numbers. The other churches, not others, not all of them, some of the small churches like Love, down here at,

BC: Reverend Love?

CG: Yeah, down here at Zion. Now he's cousin to my husband's people. I think he's doing a good job. Don't forget over here Ebenezer, the Mc--. Have you ever met him?

BC: Yes. I have.

CG: Yes. So, you went here to the ribbon cutting?

BC: No.

CG: But, he is on the ball. That church has grown since he was there because he has the mind

of 10 people. And, he does everything to make that community what it should be. And, I was surprised that even during the...over there. They are doing everything to help people to help themselves.

BC: So, okay. You're saying that the church, in that fact that you belong to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, doesn't mean as much to you as the fact that you are a religious person?

CG: Yes.

BC: It really wouldn't matter which church you went to, which denomination, as long as they had. As long as they did what they should be doing (Right). And the youth, that you were talking about, if they did things to make the youth want to stay with the church. And, if they weren't concerned with numbers.

CG: Yes, exactly. You got it right. You can just see the youth is just moving away from the church. And, it seems like, the parents – you see them on the alter. They dress anyway they want to; they wear what they want to and their dirty tennis shoes. And because both of my young boys, the youngest two of the three boys, were alter boys. And I mean, sure, they didn't even wear tennis shoes then. They had shoes they had to wear to church. And, most of the time they were black or white. For Easter, they had black. Most of the time they had black. I made sure they shined those shoes because everybody was looking at them. They're up there with their dirty tennis shoes on, and some of them knocking off like they want to go to sleep. It's terrible. And even when Alonzo to church. Nothing stopping him from going to church. I say, "They recognize you more than anybody else, but you make sure you get..." I don't let him get by, but he said he

wants to ... He's always been a Catholic, but he don't attend church. But, I made sure when I got my burial spot down at Mother Catherine Spaulding, he got one, too. And, that was really amazing because I had mine for seven years before he decided. The rest of them, I don't know what they're going to do -- because I asked Janice is with Stalling. I said, "If anything happened, where you going to be buried?" "We'll cross that bridge when we get to it."

And, my son, my younger son is a preacher.

BC: In what church?

CG: What's the name of the church? It's in D.C. because I went to her first ceremony and I didn't go to his first ceremony because I had had surgery—hand surgery. But, both of my kids.

BC: What denomination?

CG: Baptist.

BC: Baptist. Okay.

CG: I went to my daughters wedding, I wish you could have gone. It was beautiful –my granddaughter, they had something...I don't know. You probably...He called Reverend ... to come up and do a family prayer. And, she had this one little girl, she was about three, and they had her husband and Cornel. They were calling out praise. He just sung them all together. And, it was so different. You don't see this in our church. And, then when, time for the bride to come up, these little girls all these beautiful white, and they-- You may have seen it, but I hadn't. They come in running. "Here comes the bride! Here comes the bride!" It was four on each side. One on the side, she was where the bride's

family was and the other one--that was so. It was a beautiful wedding. Big wedding.

BC: Do you--I know you said you worked for the church dinner at Immaculate Conception.

Do you do any other church activities of this size, like a church dinner?

CG: Other denomination or Catholic church?

BC: No. At the Catholic church, like the Alter Society or something like that.

CG: You mean our church?

BC: Yes, Immaculate Conception.

CG: Yes. Well, I was a member of the Church Council for two to four years. And, I did suggest to have a black saint in our church. So, instead of the four years, I went longer because I made my mind up to see that that statue got there. St. Paul, St. Pius, St. DePaul's -- St. Vincent DePaul. So, that was the one I chose and I mean it was a lot of hard work. I went to different places, and I think we ended up with this one from France. He still don't look white. He don't look too black because his mother was French and his father was black. And, but anyway, if you look at him real hard --because you got two on the right, and then Blessed Mother on the left, and St. Pius is on the other side of him. So, I stayed there till we got that squared away because I'm a... person. But, I don't have to pay for that because it was my idea, and everybody's thrilled. So, I guess I guess the church is paying for it.

BC: What kind of community activities do you participate in?

CG: Okay. They changed the name. It's the same one that we worked at in the fire house way back, and then they changed it. A couple of black folks. But anyway, I'm still with that. What we do is if someone is burned out or is ill, and come up with the bills -- come

up with bills, then we would give them. And, they have changed these bi-laws. But anyway, community? It's a community organization.

BC: Working with Tri-County?

CG: No. No. We just, at first it was John Moreland and I really started this. John, his daughter, so he used come. I lost my complete thought on that.

BC: Okay. Maybe it'll come back to you. So, this was an organization that you said started by you and John Moreland, who also lived in Mechanicsville who's dead now.

CG: And his daughter, Janice. That first year we had, I don't know why, but we took pictures outside of the main fire house...And then, we helped the community for-- I know I'll have to look for it because I don't work. I've worked, less, and I do anything that I can, but I don't, you know, really do as much as a I belong doing.

BC: About what year was that started? (Pause) Mechanicsville Firehouse?

CG: Yes.

BC: It was mostly for just the people up in this part of the county?

CG: No. People all over the county. Because we used to have, we have, every June, first Saturday in June, and we would send tickets out to people. But, I know I used to send to Joe Lee, and the Thomas', but they would always come because they would bring a crowd. He worked for the drug store. That was those families. And, there was a lady who used to -- it must have been 25 years or more. That's when it started because this lady, the Big Foot Club that use to be in Helen. This lady who was...

BC: Elizabeth Somerville?

CG: No, not her. Yes, she was one, but this lady don't live far from Mother Catherine

Spaulding. She had a little bar – a small bar. I don't know if it's still there or not. I think her name was Thomas. Her name was Thomas. I'll tell you what her name was.

BC: She use to work at Safeway. No, Okay.

CG: No, her name was Daniellene Thomas. She had 14 or 16 children. She was in the Service. And, she would empire ball games at --and she -- I mean, those were the good times. You just came up, 20, 25 people in one family. People would always say, save me a table. But, it got to the point that, and I would go around to the businesses and pick up door prizes...And, you know, they paid for the pictures and every so often...

...Somebody told me – because I stopped going. I didn't have a problem with for a long time. So, I hadn't been there in over six years, but I always pick up the door prizes for them. And, about 49 they had in there last year. This year was much better. Much better. But, you really needed things like were handy...

Arlene, she got sick...John Moreland and we decide to give him a give him a gift because this was what it was all about. Now they said that I said at a meeting that I attended... naturally people lie and I know that had to be some people. But I didn't hear. They would give money if the people would come up with receipts. So what I did was... we was going to give him a gift. So we went back to the meeting...Arlene... because she had said she had paid the guys gas or something. She didn't have any bills, but John had bills from every hospitals from Washington all the way down to Leonardtown. So it was almost \$1,000 a piece. So they were still holding her money... saying that they would have to use bills. She was very mad -- see that almost made me lose a friendship. See I

was the one who reach out and told them who was sick and who needed the money. The way I saw it, I definitely did not hear anything about a receipt. See, John didn't have no problem, but Arlene did. Almost \$1,000 -- I think we should have compromised and said well this time we'll put it -- and also have by-laws. It didn't help me at all. I just don't do that.

BC: Now you said that you belonged to the Knight's of St. John out of Aquasco and also the one in Mechanicville. What other kinds of activities do you belong too. You said the bowling from the bowling league. The Senior Citizens bowling league?

CG: Yes, the Senior Citizens Bowling League and the Knight's of St. John -- which I bowl on Sunday nights. Thursday during the day, I bowling on the Senior Citizen's. And then I go out of the state -- out of the area. I'm going to Towson on October on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of October with the Senior Olympics. And then I'm suppose to go to Virginia sometime in November. But I do go to.... There are two of them in different places, but I'm not going to but one. Oh, I also help people in the community, transporting them to and from the doctors. I have two right now that I am helping. They are really bad. I help them to the doctors. ....you know riding those buses -- those vans. I try to make myself useful. I checks with different ones on a regular basis by phone because so many of them live... and they are not able to get around like the should. If they don't answer the phone, then I go and check on them.

BC: Did you work with the 4-H, NAACP.

CG: Oh, yeah I'm a NAACP member and I also -- what's his name -- I got to check with him, Alonso Gaskin he came up and picked up the money when the ribbon was cut over here

at Ebenezer. I don't think -- I haven't received my card and that was three months ago or more.

BC: It's been a while, but it takes a while for them to –

CG: Yeah, I know it does but it bothers me about the other ladies. And then ... and different things. Lady ... Gaskins told me that he was going to ... it was like two years before I would ask her. I told him – I would be 26 this year for NAACP members. In fact he came here and I was able to give him the money... because that place was packed over in Ebenezer. So Rev McClen... said to me “Is Mr. Gaskins around.” I don't know why he left. He never said anything to me...

Oh, the food distribution -- also I worked with the Tri-County, no the Catholic Charities, which is the women and children's shelter. Oh by the way, I've got to do a ham for this first Wednesday in October.

BC: For the shelter?

CG: Yeah, I can carry up there and some of the other ladies will be serving the veggies and drinks. What else—

BC: What do you think about life in St. Mary's? Life in general. In ways is it different from how it use to be?

CG: Well, times have changed, number one. Things that people do today is much different I think then it was when I came along...It's a lot we need to do that we don't do for the community. I don't know, it—it – people are different. The older people were doing things that younger would be doing. The don't make to many ... A lot of parents are doing the same thing that the children are doing. Or saying that look -- I'm really afraid

to go out to a lot of place that I would have gone to years and years ago. Like for instance there is one person who deserves a lot of credit -- there are a lot of others and that is Ralph Butler. He's still playing for the seniors and that's at Chancellor's Run Road has a senior --

BC: Down to the Loffler Center

CG: Yeah, Loffler Center, it's really, really nice. He's buried Saturday—I mean he's going to play there.

BC: So, Okay besides the fact that you don't feel as safe in the county. Looking at other things, do you feel that it is better know then it use to be? Or is the quality of life better? Do you think that this is true or not true?

CG: Well, I think its better. And we can make it better, but it seems like we are not doing as much as we should. And I wish sometime that I'm not as active as I use to be... and all these good things. I like to get out and help people. Right know I do it as much as I can, but I'm not as active. So I guess that's what's going on there with me.

BC: What do you think about teenagers now as opposed to how they use to be?

CG: There's a big difference I'll tell you. I think this starts at home. When they get to preschool and children seem like their more -- well naturally be preschool.

BC: Kindergarten—

CG: Before, when they get out of diapers. They learn more. It seems like kids are much wiser and I think they should start right then when they are doing things.

BC: Oh, discipline and whatever?

CG: Yeah, right. I think somebody should be right there. Their parents naturally, number one

then all through school and kindergarten.

BC: So you believe that the problem is that kids are not discipline like they use to be?

CG: Definitely, they are not disciplined like they use to be.

BC: Now still looking at different things that happened in the county. Do you think that race relations are different then they use to be? How do you think it's changed? If it has changed?

CG: It has changed, but I really do think that some things that... some people. Sometimes I wonder if we have gone back to were we started from. Because really we haven't gotten that far or as far as we should have. As far a race or races are concerned. Number one ... the majority of people—the black people have to go into DC to get a decent job. And then the bases are different. I know a three people who left Lexington Park to go to Indian Head because they got better upgrades. ...so many have to go out of the county to get a decent job.

BC: Well, when you were coming along, what was segregation like at that time?

CG: It was really rough. Especially during that time when I was a teenager. You couldn't even find a bathroom for black people. And if you found one, they would show you around the back someplace. Most of them were "white only". I think there were a few that were really bad. Number one, you'd be dressed and had to go to these dirty places in the back. And as far as food service was concerned that was none. You couldn't go up to the nice clean restaurant. They would tell you right to your face that we don't serve black people. White only.

BC: Now you're talking about St. Mary's as well as in

CG: Charles County and Prince Georges

BC: Where you ever afraid of a group or person who practiced hate?

CG: Especially right now because you don't know who does it. I have a problem with – I particularly notice when I was walking, maybe 15 minutes later than I usually walk. There would be these kids looking like they would be going to school. Maybe four or five of them riding in a car... you could tell that this was the time that they would be going to school. Racist things they would say. It's just scary. I don't know if it's just my age or what. Even driving along they would stare at you and stuff like that. Fortunately, I haven't had any big problem.

BC: How do you feel about living in the county since you've lived in Washington for a period of time. Which did you like the best? I'm assuming that you like country living since you are back here. What were the big difference to you.

CG: Well, back there in the '40's Washington was a beautiful place to live, I thought. But I wouldn't go back there to live for nothing in this world. It was beautiful – I mean the parks – we didn't have air. We could go out and sit on a park bench. People use to carry blankets out in the park and really enjoy. Like I said, you really didn't have air other than fans in the house. We could go out there anytime. Now you don't even walk to a park. But I don't – I definitely would not like to live in DC because it's so abandon there.

BC: But if you – I guess this is hard to say because you haven't lived in any other city. But would you naturally just want to live down here in the country rather than St. Mary's—

CG: Yes. [Tape cut off]

[End Side 1, Tape 2 of 2]

[Begin Side 2, Tape 2 of 2]

[Sound is very low]

BC: Okay, we were talking about you interacting with outsiders. You were saying that...

CG: No I wouldn't. I find it interesting you can almost upon approaching a person, if you notice. I notice that when they look at you in their eye you can almost be ready to ... and whatever with some people you can see it before you get close enough if whether they want to be with you or not. And I – It just does me so much good. And then sometimes, I ... you can almost see... You have a few words and whatever, and naturally that person is a stranger, because I'm good at that. I'm learning that there is some much good from just chatting with people because you learn something. I enjoy it really.

BC: It doesn't matter who it is as long as you get the feeling that you speak with them no matter if they are outsiders or from the county. It doesn't matter.

CG: Yes, that's exactly right.

BC: Do you think that county people and outsiders are different?

CG: No.

BC: Besides Washington you haven't really travelled?

CG: And Baltimore ...

BC: Do you travel or interact with people from other sections of the county? People from like the 7<sup>th</sup> District or Piney Point—

CG: Yes, I met people ...

BC: People that you've always know. For what reasons do you travel or interact with these people?

CG: ... Lexington Park...Hermanville Road, Newkirk

BC: Do you feel that people are different in different sections of the county? Do you feel that maybe people in the 7<sup>th</sup> District are very closed mouth? Or do you feel that the people in Lexington Park are the kind that like to party [laughter]. I'm going to extreme here. But do you feel that people in the different sections –

CG: No, I've not a person that believes in a lot ...Charlotte Hall ...visiting and running off at the mouth. ....

BC: What do you think of the direction that the county is going in today?

CG: ...

BC: No the county, what direction – what are your feelings about the navy base. Where you as – even though you lived in Charles County at the time. Were you hostile towards the government for coming down or were you glad that the base came in to offer jobs to the people. What were your feelings?

CG: You know that was what I was about to say. Because they offer jobs. They could have closed down, but they did not. Jobs are very important. But I do think ... I do know one thing, they are going to have to do something about the roads. The cars – if I'm going north from here, sometimes I sit for five minutes trying to get across the southbound lane. And in that intersection the people coming from the northbound lane, Tidewater and the post office. And those big old 18 wheelers ... by the cars. But I find that it's easier to go down and come on back. It's really better...

BC: So, by you living up in this end of the county -- your family was not effected by the base coming down the county.

CG: I really don't think so.

BC: So none of your people had to move off the land when the based moved in.

CG: No.

BC: What do you think about the changes in the county because of the new growth of the base? What everybody is very concerned about is traffic because of the new growth on the base or whatever. New traffic lights need to be placed. The roads are so hazardous.

CG: They need to do some work in Hughesville. I don't know what they decide from the last meeting. What they are going to do -- an overpass or how there going to get around Hughesville. The traffic -- there's no median stripe so there going to have to go to somebody's property. And then when you get to that Hughesville light, you have to swerve to the left. And there's a many a accident there too.

BC: Okay, what do you think have been the biggest changes in the county in your lifetime?

CG: Well, probably ... the base and ...

BC: Not because of the base. The biggest changes in your lifetime. But you said housing because of the base.

CG: People have always had problems with housing. Jobs

BC: There are more jobs down here now. Is that what you mean?

CG: No, I think there has always been problems with getting jobs.

BC: Even after base came here because of the race problem.

CG: Then they are bringing in people, that's the biggest problem. I think a lot of people

thought there would be jobs for people in the county. But they bought in people. Every so often you see something about somebody in a higher field...

BC: So go back to the question earlier: What do you think about the direction the county's going in today? The direction the county is going in today. One thing probably – If the county would guarantee that these new businesses would hire the county people. So what else do you think about the direction.

CG: ... what's really happening is a lot of business is going out of business. You talk about a lot of people ...another thing they open up business and close it so quickly that people don't even get a chance to ...almost overnight.

BC: Yeah, I've heard a couple of stories about that. People would come to work and at the end of the day they would tell them that the business was closed. When you were coming up how did black folks get their news? Where there newspapers or whatever?

CG: They had county papers, battery radio ... then you heard the news.

BC: What kind of radio shows did you listen to.

CG: Shirley Temple and – it wasn't a whole lot. Whatever it was ... even just the news, I just couldn't understand. And finally we got this black and white TV and that was like a new... The whole family would gather around.

BC: Can you share any old stories about what life – growing up in the county ...

CG: Well... I would have thought that most of the old people ... communication ... they shared a lot. When we came in ... whatever...they had a nice wholesome conversation that the whole family ...

BC: It was a family affair thing, rather than individuals. How have you contributed to the

county through your work, whether paid or through volunteer work? How have you contributed through...? You were telling me that you worked a lot with James Moreland.

Do you remember the name of the organization yet?

CG: No. [laughter]. He change it too.

BC: And then you worked quite a few years with the Youth Auxiliary – the Knights of St. John’s Youth Auxiliary. You were very involved with the NAACP. You worked on – you have numerous certificates of appreciation for your work with youth organizations. In 1993 you received an award from the Governor. Maryland You are Beautiful Award for your effort. What else.

CG: ...

BC: Are you involved in politics?

CG: Well, I would say yes. Voter registration for one. ... I went up to DMV yesterday because they had signs up everywhere...I didn’t want to miss my number... sometimes you have to pick them up. And they were ... I have a couple of people... I knew at one time when Joe Lee was running, I registered people all over this area. Anyone I would see. Some of the them voted, not much...if some talks about...people have this problem anyway. I think that’s why a lot of people do not vote. I think it should be easier. I really do.

BC: I have a problem with trying to figure out how you get it closed.

CG: And you feel so guilty.

BC: That you are in there so long trying to figure out the stuff.

CG: And I worked the polls.

BC: So you have been a poll sitter.

CG: I worked there. You know you've got wait for a –

BC: Oh, you have to wait for a position to open?

CG: Yes, I worked in Hollywood and I liked that much better than Hughesville. In fact I worked 18 or 20 years. Now, I have worked since 19---. I picked up the book ... and you know that is \$20 more. But I liked it because I like people. I like to help people. Now ...

BC: What do you consider the most valuable thing that you have ever had? Something that you could not have done without?

CG: I don't know?

BC: What does that mean? It could mean – because I was asking somebody and it could mean: your children, your health, the idea that you learned to drive.

CG: ... I learned to drive, I was 25 years old. That was one of the best things. And then my children that --- what would I do without them, because I don't have anybody else. ... there's a lot of things ...

BC: The last question I want to ask is: Have you done everything in your life you wanted to or planned to do? If you haven't done everything, what is it that you want to do?

CG: You know ... in the late 50's ... that's why I've done these things. But I realized as you get older there are things you cannot do. That I'm happy to be part of the senior citizens. I think that I – that ... come a long way...

BC: Now if you could go back and live your life again, what would you change? Or would you change anything?

CG: I doubt it. I doubt it.

BC: A couple of things that I want to ask you about again. You were talking about when you were coming along and the question was: Did your parent let you court? You were talking about what his name was [John Woodland]. You told your parents that you were going to a festival. Okay, but it was not a church festival, but it was a festival. And then you said that you would go out with groups of friends to church festivals and that was about all you went to at that time. You said a lot of churches had these festivals but they don't now. What kinds of activities did they have at the church festivals.

CG: Well they had ball games, bingo and – well, the main thing was the association and then the ... the bands would start early... that's – I can't think of anything... It seems to mean that there were other activities other than bingo ... but it was worth a day out.

BC: It's not like now that they just have the dinners. Okay, you say that most of your life you've been involve with the youth. For quite few years you were with the Knight's of St. John's Auxiliary. You would get together bus trips to Hersey Park and Busch Garden's. You still can't remember the name of the other place that everybody knows what you're talking about. The big place down there near Busch Gardens. Because of that reason you move to be a youth counselor at Tri-County.

CG: ...I wasn't there long...

BC: About how many years did you work in Washington?

CG: .... Years...then

BC: Oh, you worked in Washington while you were married. You were working in Washington rather than down here. Well the base wasn't down here at that time.

CG: I lived in Washington

BC: Because I was going to ask you why did you go to Washington. Okay, for a number of years you worked with James Moreland and his family on a project that helped people who needed some help.

CG: Yes

BC: That organization is still going. Not as strongly, but it's still there.

CG: Yes

BC: They have different ... the Saturday of every June of every year. The answer to the last question that I asked. Would you go back and change anything? For a person who has done as much as you have and seen a lot of what's out there, your only answer is that you wouldn't go back and change anything. Because—

CG: ... something ... [laughter]. I feel that I'm living a pretty good life and that's why I wouldn't go back. I mean so many people do. I hear this all the time. I think that I have accomplished more as I got older than I did when I was young. I really did a lot of things that I wanted to do ... As a job you can't say... and this is volunteer and I like that.

BC: Okay, I think we will conclude this interview. Thank you

CG: Thank you too.

Biographical data on Carrie Jennifer Glascoe

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Mechanicsville, MD 20659

(301)884-3346

Date of Birth 10/7/1923

Place of Birth – Baltimore, MD

Education – Attended Benedict Elementary School in Benedict, MD; Douglas High School in Upper Marlboro, MD; and Pomonkey High School in Bryan's Road

Employment – Senior Youth Counselor, Alcoholic Counselor and Notary

She retired from St. Mary's Health Department in 1985

Husband – John Eugene Glascoe, Jr.

Maternal Grandparents – Annie Tibbs Barnes & John Barnes

Paternal Grandparents – Dolly Banks Jennifer & John Henry Jennifer

Mother – Daisy Carrie Barnes Jennifer

Father – Mason Edward Jennifer

Brother – John Mason Jennifer (died 1945)

Children (grandchildren)

Arilea Mae Glascoe Marshall (Holloway Terry Saunders & Reginald Saunders)

Janice Laverne Swann (Juan, Jerome, Twuan, Renee & Marie Swann)

Osborn Lee Glascoe (deceased)

Alonso Eugene Glascoe (Patrick James Glascoe)

Cornel Pedro Glascoe (Tammy Glascoe Davis & Justin Glascoe)

Addition information on Mrs. Glascoe is the Neighborhood Charity Organization was an organization she was involved with James Moreland and family.

That ends all of the information with the second interview with Mrs. Glascoe.

[the tape continues on with the end of the first interview (second interview was

recorded over the first interview), but the sound quality is extremely poor and this is not transcribed and is not included on the audio CDs]

[End of Side 2, Tape 2 of 2]