

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions  
Oral History Documentation Project

**LEWIS CLIFTON WHALEN**

Interviewed by Carrie Glascoe  
November 20, 1996  
At his home in Charlotte Hall Maryland  
Logged by Tania Jordon on January 13, 2008  
A verbatim transcript is available  
Original format is two cassette tapes  
1 hour, 17 minutes, 0 seconds

**CD 1 of 1 (Tape 1, side 1)**

**Track 01**

**0:00 Introduction**

**0:54 Where did you live? Born on Smoothe Farm located on Route 6 in Charlotte Hall. Moved Thaltis Farm. Went to White Marsh School. Walked to school (3.5 to 4 miles). Caught bus to Banneker.**

**4:05 Father was a tenant farmer. Father later bought 160 acres of land. Moved from tenant farm in 1960.**

**Track 02**

**5:07 Chores – Hauled water from well, milked cows and feed horses.**

**6:36 Living – farming, raising chickens and turkeys. Mother would do day work a few days a week.**

**Track 03**

**10:00 Earliest memories – going back and forth to school.**

**11:05 Church – Mount Calvary Church (Dubois Road)**

**12:59 Family trips – Didn't go to any city until age 21.**

**13:43** Time better or worse – Did have as much murders or drugs. Less money, no insulation. Houses in better condition.

#### **Track 04**

**15:19** Family health concerns – Mother had TB but lived to age 98. Father had arthritis.

**16:40** Dealing with Health Concerns – Went to Dr. Sorbor who gave the same cure for everything.

**17:00** Cleaned office for Dr. Sorbor at \$0.10 per hour. Used money to buy school books.

**17:40** Doctors and medical facilities availability: Doctor would come to home. Mother would make home remedies, using Sassafras roots, turpentine and Epson salt.

**19:14** Senior Citizens care: Homecare only.

**19:51** News: Used books from school and radio.

#### **Track 05**

**20:50** Childhood activities: Played games and road horses.

**21:23** Siblings: got along well

**21:42** Help around the farm most of the time when he wasn't attending school.

**22:22** Chores: milk cows, feed hogs, water horses and put up fences.

**22:58** Parents: treated children very nicely

**23:20** Remembers whooping when he didn't do chores.

**24:31** Parents prepared him well for life.

#### **Track 06**

**25:24** Classroom was cold. Boys would go to woods to look for kindling.

**26:39** Favorite Teacher: Ms. Maggie Mackey

**27:38 Favorite Subject: Math**

**CD 1 of 1 (Tape 1, side 2)**

**Track 07**

**28:40 School: White Marsh (two room school) in New Market near Ebenezer Church. 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>. Attending Banneker**

**31:10 Bus driver would leave you if you weren't on time.**

**32:32 Childhood Aspirations: Wanted to be a carpenter.**

**34:03 Courting: Dances**

**Track 08**

**34:25 Out on Own: Work hard and did the best that he could. Starting working for contractors, Board of Education. Money was limited and did a little drinking with "the boys".**

**37:10 Work in Washington for 32 years. Starting out making \$0.10 per hour and retired at \$18.50 per hour. Became a supervisor at National Park Service.**

**Track 09**

**38:47 Meeting Spouse: Meet her at 17 through friends. Nervous about getting married but everything worked out. Married 11/27/48 at St. Mary's Catholic Church by Father Bruce. Best Man: Brother-In Vernon and Maid of Honor - Sister Clarice. They received \$5 dollars for wedding.**

**42:53 Life as good**

**43:08 Marriage and adopted son**

**Track 10**

**44:32 Religion: Baptist and Catholic Wife. May one day worship together. Active in Baptist Church.**

**47:30 Community Activity: Family Reunion**

**Track 11**

**48:04** Life in St. Mary's County: Still less opportunities for blacks in county but better than it used to be. Whites are friendlier towards blacks than they were. Still keep blacks from making a good living.

**51:45** Teens: Parents didn't use to tell their teens as much as they do now.

**Track 12**

**52:13** Race relations: Blacks are human beings.

**53:00** Segregation: Everything was white only. But it has changed.

**CD 1 of 1 (Tape 2, side 1)**

**Track 13**

**54:25** County is home.

**55:00** City living: Doesn't like the noise.

**55:25** Locals vs. outsiders: Attitude. No more calling men boys. Outsiders treat you with no problems.

**58:00** Travel/Living: Washington DC and Baltimore, MD

**Track 14**

**59:13** Biggest Changes in County: Increased population.

**1:00:05** Naval Base: More jobs for county residence. More money in the county to decrease property taxes.

**1:02:56** Contribution to County: Donations and helping Ms. Washington at the Board of Education.

**1:04:09** Most Valuable Thing: A place to lay my head and wife.

**Track 15**

**1:05:38** Was not able to get the education he wanted because his parents didn't have the money to send him to college.

**1:06:35** If you had to live life over again, what would you change: Get all the education possible.

**1:07:16** Parents didn't have much education. Wanted children to have more than they had.

**1:08:41** Education: Dropped out of high school to help father with farm to send his sisters Celeste and Clarice to college.

**Track 16**

**1:14:47** Biographic Information [ready by Brenda Coates]