

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions  
Oral History Documentation Project  
**Joseph Jackson Holly, Jr.**  
Interviewed by Janice Walthour  
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at the USCT Interpretive Center  
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[this interview is not logged]  
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1 hour, 7 minutes, 0 seconds

Joseph Holly ([00:05](#)):

Name? Joseph Jackson Holly, Jr. and I live on Moll Dyer Road. If anybody knows where that place is. That's the place where they claimed old woman lived up in there.

Janice Walthour ([00:27](#)):

Yeah.

Joseph Holly ([00:32](#)):

But when there was when I moved there. The fella that tested the place, you know, tested the ground, he told me he wouldn't have it. I said, "Why?" He said Moll Dyer had this land, said I wouldn't be here. I said, "Well, I'm going here. If it'll pass."

([00:53](#)):

So, it passed and been there for a few years now. I never seen them. But they did... you remember now, you remember that stone they got up out of town? Where the claim come out of there. It goes right up there, back of my house. That's where they went up there and got it.

Janice Walthour ([01:18](#)):

Okay. Mr. Holly, I'm Janice Walthour and I'm going to be interviewing you today and asking you some questions. First we're going to talk about your childhood.

Joseph Holly ([01:30](#)):

Huh?

Janice Walthour ([01:31](#)):

We're going to talk about your childhood. Want you to say where were you born, your family...

Joseph Holly ([01:38](#)):

Well, I'm still living in the neighborhood. I was born one place, I live up from there, then I moved down where my daddy lived in 1922. We moved down there. And now I'm right back up there in the same corner where I was born.

Janice Walthour ([01:59](#)):

Okay. What part of Maryland is that? What town is it?

Joseph Holly ([02:02](#)):

Redgate, they call it.

Janice Walthour ([02:02](#)):

Redgate.

Joseph Holly ([02:02](#)):

Redgate, yeah.

Janice Walthour ([02:02](#)):

Okay.

Joseph Holly ([02:08](#)):

Use to be some stores in there, two little stores, country stores in there but both of them... old people died out, you know, and they left and the stores went out.

([02:15](#)):

I used to have a big day on Sunday because see, that was the only time we got ice cream was when they had it on a Sunday. She'd have one more big five-gallon can of ice cream. The people'd be around there and then you wasn't long getting rid of it.

Janice Walthour ([02:39](#)):

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Joseph Holly ([02:43](#)):

Huh?

Janice Walthour ([02:44](#)):

Did you tell us about your mother and father, your sisters and brothers?

Joseph Holly ([02:48](#)):

No, I didn't have any sisters or brothers.

Janice Walthour ([02:48](#)):

Oh, okay.

Joseph Holly ([02:52](#)):

I was the only little one running around. So. No, I didn't have any. My mother died in 1932. I was 14 years old.

Janice Walthour ([03:11](#)):

Where did you go from there after your mom passed?

Joseph Holly ([03:14](#)):

Me and my daddy kept house. You knew my daddy, didn't you? We kept house until I was 21, then after I got 21, I went look for somebody cook for me. [laughs]

([03:29](#)):

That was the best I could do.

Janice Walthour ([03:35](#)):

Did you play a lot? I heard you say you were by yourself, so how did you entertain yourself?

Joseph Holly ([03:40](#)):

There was children around the neighborhood. I be from house to house most time. One place or the other. You know, with them playing, go back to the house. My own house. It was houses wasn't too close, neither. Course, playing back through those woods you find a house here, a house somewhere else [inaudible 00:04:11]. I've said it wasn't too close together.

Janice Walthour ([04:14](#)):

You said your father brought you up from age 14, what was your dad's name?

Joseph Holly ([04:21](#)):

Jackson Holly.

Janice Walthour ([04:22](#)):

Jackson Holly too? Okay, all right. And your mom, what was her name?

Joseph Holly ([04:25](#)):

Emma, but she died in '32. After that, me and him took it over. We stayed in that house, and I cooked from then on until I left.

Janice Walthour ([04:41](#)):

Okay.

Joseph Holly ([04:44](#)):

I ain't going to starve, I can cook. No, I stayed there with him until I was 21. Then I got married at 21.

Janice Walthour ([05:04](#)):

So, you got married. What was married life like? How did you meet your wife?

Joseph Holly ([05:10](#)):

Huh?

Janice Walthour ([05:11](#)):

How'd you meet your wife? Mrs. Holly?

Joseph Holly ([05:16](#)):

Well, first on, she used to come over there... She lived down, what they call Medley's Neck. And she used to come out to her aunt's. Because the aunt lived out there close to where I lived. I don't know how it got started, but I ended up with her anyhow. I ended up with her 75 years.

Janice Walthour ([05:45](#)):

That's wonderful. 75 years. So, you all went through a lot together. You had children?

Joseph Holly ([05:54](#)):

Yes. We shared many days together. Had some hard moments but made out with... cause when I first got married, I was working on farm work. I didn't stay there very long after that. You know, in them days you didn't make no money, neither. If you made a dollar a day you were doing good. From then on, I worked... let's see, I worked on the farm there, and then when I got married, I think the place I was working I stayed there that summer. After that summer I had not left. I found me another job and that one was better, and I worked on that one for eleven years. That fellow used to raise chickens, he had a chicken farm. And I worked there eleven years. Then I went from there to town to the ice plant. And I stayed there twenty- thirty-two years.

Janice Walthour ([07:05](#)):

What did you do at the ice plant?

Joseph Holly ([07:08](#)):

Making ice. We made ice and then he got another business he had, he had an oil company. It was St. Mary's Ice and Fuel. I worked in that for thirty-two years.

Janice Walthour ([07:24](#)):

How did you make ice back then?

Joseph Holly ([07:27](#)):

Huh?

Janice Walthour ([07:27](#)):

How did you do that?

Joseph Holly ([07:30](#)):

The ice plant?

Janice Walthour ([07:30](#)):

Yes. What was that like?

Joseph Holly ([07:34](#)):

It was making them big blocks of ice. They were about that tall. See, they had a refrigerator that was in the floor. And you put them cans down in the floor, because they had a crane and all that raised them up. But they put them cans down in that floor in that brine. And they stayed for about three days. Take

them about three days to freeze them. But they had enough of them, each day you had so many, you could pull so many a day.

(08:13):

We did that for, I don't know how many years. And then he went out of that. Of course, the health department got in there and then they wanted this and wanted that, and this and that for the change things. And he said he couldn't do all that changing for what he was getting out of it. So he quit and he run the oil company for a few years and went out of that. 'Bout that time, that's when I come back home.

(08:52):

Truck around there as best I can but now I don't do much, now. But I did used to have a garden every year. I got a few little things now, but I ain't got what I want. No, I haven't got what I want. But I'm trying.

Janice Walthour (09:14):

You had the chance to make ice and work there, did you have a chance to go to school before you went to work?

Joseph Holly (09:21):

No, when I went to the ice plant I was married.

Janice Walthour (09:26):

Yeah, but before you got married, did you go to school? And how far did you go, and what was it like?

Joseph Holly (09:34):

Yeah. We had a Redgate school up there. One of the little, back in the woods, little one room school. Seven grades in there. I didn't graduate, but after my mother died I come home and went to work. I went through seventh grade but I didn't graduate. So, from then on I was on my own.

(10:10):

I had some rough days and some good days. But outside of that it wasn't too bad. And I ended up with eight children. Granted, those boys I had them around there, for the summer sometimes, most times I lived close to the water at first. And they would go crabbing because you could find some crabs then. And they would crab with soft crabs and they would sell soft crabs and try to help them get their clothes for school for the next fall. They would go out there, catch a bunch of crabs, but you can't find them now.

Janice Walthour (11:06):

So, you all ate a lot of crabs? Did a lot of crabbing, ate a lot of crabs? What else-

Joseph Holly (11:09):

Huh?

Janice Walthour (11:09):

I said, you ate a lot of crabs. What else did you all have to eat? You know, the favorite foods. And you said you like to cook a little bit, so I'm sure you were pulling things out of that garden.

Joseph Holly ([11:24](#)):

Well, we cooked things. I already told you I had my own meat, chickens. I had enough to keep living. Around there, it was, you know, it was like everybody else. Everybody was in there. Most had hogs and chickens. People come down from the city, they looking for a whole lot to eat. All they wanted was to eat, get clean, and go. [both laugh]

Janice Walthour ([12:04](#)):

What was Sunday dinner like?

Joseph Holly ([12:05](#)):

Well, we had dinner on average, vegetable and chicken. Just about whatever. Rest of them had a bunch of the same thing, at that time. Yes, we had Sunday dinner and all.

Janice Walthour ([12:23](#)):

What was your favorite?

Joseph Holly ([12:38](#)):

I ain't hard to suit. I eat mostly anything I could, is what I mean. I don't eat that much now because I don't eat that much. But I could eat most anything; chicken, meat. Course now, I don't eat too much pork now. I just don't bother, is what I mean. Nobody is stopping me but I just don't bother to eat a bunch now. That's how that- was goin' on.

([13:14](#)):

Course, now I'm my own cook. Most times. She cooks at night, I cooks in the morning. And lunchtime I fix my own breakfast and lunch.

Janice Walthour ([13:29](#)):

And that's good.

([13:32](#)):

What about when you were growing up, if you got sick, what kind of things did you do if you got a cold or you felt bad? Did you all have those remedies like people talk about, or do you remember any of that?

Joseph Holly ([13:50](#)):

Course, my grandmother had all kinds of remedies. They had Vic's salve and [inaudible 00:14:05] [laughs] All that stuff. I mean, she'd make, I don't know, onion syrup. You better not cough around her if you didn't want some of that. Course I didn't go to a doctor, I just lately here these last few years started going to a doctor. I never had no problems. I just went home. Only time, like when I was working, if I got a piece stuck in my eye you go to the doctor and you get that out. Things like that. But as far as going to a doctor for medicine and stuff, I ain't never had no problems until later years. But then when they come down, they come down. But, I've decided it ain't too bad.

Janice Walthour (15:06):

What about when you were working, did you have any difficulties at work and... you told us the kind of things you did to support yourself, so during your work time or in your community, how do you feel like you have contributed to the community and to working in St. Mary's County?

Joseph Holly (15:28):

I reckon some things we did help and we did just about the best we could. But I used to be around... I got to go to festivals and things. Trying to help support them. [inaudible 00:15:47] We used to have a little band. I played the music for a while.

Janice Walthour (15:55):

What did you play? What instrument?

Joseph Holly (15:57):

Guitar.

Janice Walthour (15:58):

Guitar. What was the name of the band?

Joseph Holly (16:03):

I don't know, we didn't have much name on it, but it was four of us. It was L.U. Mugg, you heard talk of him.

Janice Walthour (16:12):

Mm-hmm. [inaudible 00:16:13]

Joseph Holly (16:12):

Fred Wilson, and Bernard Bowman. Called Bumbum, we called him Bumbum. We had a little band, most time on Saturday we played around Morganza up there around them older people. They'd dance all night. [both laugh] They'd dance all night.

Janice Walthour (16:38):

So, what were the popular songs back then?

Joseph Holly (16:48):

Oh, I don't know, ah- There were plenty of them back then. They wasn't like they are now, I tell you. I think we did that for about seven, eight years. I used to have good fun out there. Wasn't nothing else to do on the weekends [inaudible 00:17:10], you could pick up a dollar or two.

Janice Walthour (17:17):

Some extra money.

Joseph Holly (17:17):

Yeah, we kept that up. For to buy a car, the first car I bought when I got married, because I didn't have anyone till I ever got married. It was a 1930 Chevrolet and I paid \$30 for it. [laughs]

Janice Walthour (18:03):

Wow.

Joseph Holly (18:05):

I paid \$30 for it. That last me, I don't know. Only last a few years and then the fellow I was working for, he bought a '36 or '37 Chevy Chevrolet and the one he had, then he gave me the car he had. [inaudible 00:18:09] that last me a few more years and then after I went to the ice plant, and I started making a little bit more change and if I see something that I wanted, I might try and, you know, get me something different after it was really long. And I stayed on them until I got going. I did buy two new cars in my life.

Janice Walthour (18:42):

What kinds of cars?

Joseph Holly (18:42):

Buicks.

Janice Walthour (18:42):

Okay.

Joseph Holly (18:42):

I bought two.

Janice Walthour (18:52):

How much were you making a day at that time? To buy those new cars?

Joseph Holly (19:00):

When I got to that, I was about making an average, mostly an average wage. What everyone else was back then. But, when I was down on the farm I couldn't get home. Couldn't get home much then. But after I got up there to the ice plant, I was making just about the average, you know, most of the people was making.

Janice Walthour (19:22):

Mm-hmm. You remember what that was? How much a day?

Joseph Holly (19:22):

I was making around two hundred, two hundred and some dollars a week.

Janice Walthour (19:22):

Okay.

Joseph Holly (19:23):



Course, I didn't make all that myself but my wife, she was working. Both of us was working then. She worked at a hospital for what, twenty-some years.

Janice Walthour ([20:00](#)):

Is there anything else you want to talk about?

Joseph Holly ([20:03](#)):

Huh?

Janice Walthour ([20:03](#)):

Anything else you want to tell me about your children, your grandchildren? Your family life?

Joseph Holly ([20:10](#)):

Grandchildren, I got to have a history with them. [all laugh] Grandchildren and the great-grandchildren and the great-great-grandchildren.

Janice Walthour ([20:19](#)):

Okay.

Joseph Holly ([20:20](#)):

I got a bunch of them.

([20:21](#)):

I don't know how many there is, if I'm telling you the truth.

([20:32](#)):

I had one grandson was up here from California on Sunday.

Janice Walthour ([20:37](#)):

Okay. What do they call you?

Joseph Holly ([20:37](#)):

Ornery. [Janice laughs]

([20:37](#)):

He was up here with me, him and his family... I didn't see the family, of course. I think they were going to the Y or to the zoo or something. He come to the house.

Janice Walthour ([20:44](#)):

Okay, what did they call you? They call you grandpa or pa?

Joseph Holly ([21:05](#)):

Got Pop-pop. Grandpop. Most of them call me Pop-pop.

Janice Walthour ([21:05](#)):

Okay.

Joseph Holly ([21:06](#)):

Yeah. When I get them together I got a house full. All sizes. [laughs] From that now on up.

Janice Walthour ([21:31](#)):

So, what's the proudest moment you've had with your children or your grandchildren? When you really were beaming with pride about your family, your children or grandchildren?

Joseph Holly ([21:46](#)):

Oh I guess. Used to have them all around. You know, used to have cookouts and all that there, but after they all got some here and some there... Sometimes we get together, but, most times nowadays just certain times. It's just certain times. Like maybe a birthday or something like that. But first you used to have them come in and Richard, cause Richard, he was always doing something. A cooking or fixing something, but then, you know, they all got grown and all moved this place and some, that place and for to get them together now is only once in a while. They had for me, Father's Day. They had a cookout and all for me. That was Father's Day and birthday all together. Because birthday was the next week.

Janice Walthour ([22:53](#)):

I know you went to their graduations, when they graduated from high school and some graduated college-

Joseph Holly ([23:03](#)):

Oh, most of all of them graduated from Banneker. And I think I had one, John, who graduated from Chaptico. But all the rest of them graduated from Banneker. And Ms. Young, used to be a teacher up there, Ms. Freeman Young.

Janice Walthour ([23:19](#)):

Yes.

Joseph Holly ([23:23](#)):

I think she went through the whole family. She even taught my wife. And she taught all the children. Taught all of them. They all graduated.

Janice Walthour ([23:41](#)):

Great.

Joseph Holly ([23:44](#)):

Got them through there. In the morning they'd be running, some of them didn't want to eat, bus be coming, and they in there trying to grab a biscuit or something. They were trying to leave. Though, I had one son, he wasn't going to leave until he got his eatin'. And he would carry the sausage sometime, halfway out to the road, still eating onto the bus. And set it down [inaudible 00:24:20] pick it up, bring it back out.

([24:23](#)):

I enjoyed them though. I enjoyed every minute of them. And now I still enjoy them when I get them all together now. But, of course me, I can't do nothing much, but they come along and do things, see something neat there and they go along and do it.

Janice Walthour ([24:48](#)):

That's good.

Joseph Holly ([24:48](#)):

Mm-hmm.

Janice Walthour ([24:54](#)):

What about church and religion?

Joseph Holly ([24:57](#)):

Hmm?

Janice Walthour ([24:57](#)):

Your church. How did you get along with the church?

Joseph Holly ([25:04](#)):

Church? I been going to that one church ever since I was born. I was born in that neighborhood, I was christened in that neighborhood, I made my first communion at that church, I got confirmed at that church, I got married at that church.

Janice Walthour ([25:22](#)):

So what's the name of your church?

Joseph Holly ([25:22](#)):

Our Lady's.

Janice Walthour ([25:22](#)):

Our Lady's.

Joseph Holly ([25:24](#)):

Our Lady's Chapel. Medleys Neck.

Janice Walthour ([25:27](#)):

Okay.

Joseph Holly ([25:28](#)):

Been there all the way through it.

Janice Walthour ([25:31](#)):

It's a Catholic Church?

Joseph Holly ([25:32](#)):

Mm-hmm. And the priest that's there now, he's... he's got a brother. I think he's down in your church. There's two of them here. One that at St. George's is the brother to the one that's at our church. [inaudible 00:25:59] priest.

Janice Walthour ([26:06](#)):

About how important has religion been in your life?

Joseph Holly ([26:10](#)):

Hmm?

Janice Walthour ([26:10](#)):

How important has religion been to you?

Joseph Holly ([26:12](#)):

Well. I think if I didn't think of something, I wouldn't be nothing. It's done helped me, I tell you. I prayed to the Lord for different things and I come up with them somewhere or other along the way. It helps.

Janice Walthour ([26:41](#)):

Mm-hmm.

Joseph Holly ([26:41](#)):

And I still pray to him. Cause if you don't believe in something, you ain't going to do nothing. You got to believe in something. And I say, there's only one Lord. That everybody who takes to him, that's the one. But some might say this one and that one. There's only one. That's the way I was taught to start it, and that's the way I've been all through.

Janice Walthour ([27:18](#)):

But what about life today? We've been talking about the past. What do you think about what's going on in the world today? How are things today?

Joseph Holly ([27:39](#)):

They're down the hill, I'll tell you that. And going down the hill. Some things just go right and some do not. It's a puzzle right now, it's a crossword puzzle to think which way it's going. I can't say because I don't know.

Janice Walthour ([28:08](#)):

You have concerns about it going down hill compared to when you were growing up, or... why do you say it's going down hill?

Joseph Holly ([28:19](#)):

Well, everything's going all right now, but if they cross it, we're going up. On a tough road back, I'll tell you that.

(28:32):

I been there long enough, I saw the first... one year we went to the White House. I saw the [inaudible 00:28:45]. I saw the Pope. I even got to shake hands with the Pope. See, I went with Mary, my wife, my granddaughter and her daughter. We all carried the gifts up to the Pope.

Janice Walthour (29:03):

Yeah, that's an honor.

Joseph Holly (29:08):

Then I saw the Pope, then I saw colored president. I done got that far. So what else? I don't know. I don't know what else, but I got that far. Saw the Pope. It was a great day for me, when I got to carry the gifts up to him and then I shook hands with him. It was a great day for me.

Janice Walthour (29:43):

What do you mean, you took the gifts up to him? What was that like? To the Pope, during the mass.

Joseph Holly (29:51):

During the mass we carried the gifts up, you know, like you do in church. Like you do for the children. Because we have most times it's children, it was children, but you got the children there now and none of them wants to do it. All they want to do it sit back and so, most time whoever takes up collection now, you know, carry the gifts up... but the priest that was there at that time, he asked my wife one morning, he told her he wants to see her after mass. And she said, "Now what he want to see me for after mass?"

(30:34):

When it got to after mass, we come in there and talk to him. Asked, would she like to go to Washington to carry the gifts up for the Pope? She said yeah, she wouldn't mind. She would like to go. So he got it all set up and everything that we handed up there.

Janice Walthour (30:55):

You got a lot of publicity for that, didn't you?

Joseph Holly (30:57):

There still is.

Janice Walthour (31:04):

Oh, good. Good. Sounds like a proud moment.

Joseph Holly (31:04):

Indeed, it was. It was a proud moment for me.

Janice Walthour (31:13):

Are people different from the way they used to be? In the way they're treating each other, and the way they treat you, at your age and stage. Are they different?

Joseph Holly ([31:24](#)):

What's that?

Janice Walthour ([31:25](#)):

Are people different than the way they used to be?

Joseph Holly ([31:26](#)):

Well, I can't say too much cause most times right now, it's... what I mean, it's been for a while, for a right good while to me. People have been good to me. Well, I mean both White and Colored. Well, I mean. All of them is... we got a bunch up there just as friendly and as nice as they can be. That church, you got a bunch of them in there. They just as nice as they can be.

Janice Walthour ([32:01](#)):

So you don't see a big difference in the way people-

Joseph Holly ([32:06](#)):

No, it's better now than it was when I was small. The people didn't associate with one another like they do now. But now they get in there and they come out in the morning, they talk with me, like when they're leaving. There's always somebody speaking in the hallway to you or going on talking to you and all that.

Janice Walthour ([32:40](#)):

Mm-hmm.

Joseph Holly ([32:40](#)):

Yeah, it's a whole lot different. But I don't know.

Janice Walthour ([32:44](#)):

What about the teenagers?

Joseph Holly ([32:45](#)):

Huh?

Janice Walthour ([32:46](#)):

Are teenagers different than they used to be? The young folks, the teenagers.

Joseph Holly ([32:50](#)):

Teenagers.

Janice Walthour ([32:53](#)):

You see a change from the way it used to be?

Joseph Holly ([33:01](#)):

I don't know. Can't say nothing about them too much. [both laugh] Well, again, they're all right. They treats me fine. I don't have no problem with none. I can't say they won't treat me not, but they treat me all right. So if they treat me all right, I don't have nothing to do with what they do to somebody else. But they treat me fine. I got enough of them grandchildren with their own teenagers. So I can't say nothing.

Janice Walthour ([33:28](#)):

You were saying how, at church, people are very friendly and they talk with you. But what about race relations, you said was different when you were growing up? You have anything else you want to say about how it was between the races when you were growing up? And what segregation was like?

Joseph Holly ([33:47](#)):

No, I don't want to go into that. Cause it was different. But now it's... well, I mean everybody gets along fine. There's people's come there, you know, different people move in and all. Just as friendly and all as they can be.

([34:19](#)):

That's like back in there where I lived. When I moved there, it was... one, two... I think it was Ms. Dan Mills and Ms. Ramone Maison was in that room. Now they must be about twelve or fourteen houses back... I don't know how many houses back. It's a bunch of cars goes in and out of there. Every day you watch them coming in and going out. Some of them go to work. Some of them ain't there. But there's a whole lot more in there that I don't know. It's right many families done built and moved in there.

Janice Walthour ([35:03](#)):

Mm-hmm. When we first started the interview, you were talking about living on Moll Dyer Road.

Joseph Holly ([35:14](#)):

Yes ma'am.

Janice Walthour ([35:15](#)):

And about Moll and the stories about Moll. And do you have anything else to add to that? Because that's quite the story in the history of St. Mary's county. You live on that road.

Joseph Holly ([35:27](#)):

I live on that road.

Janice Walthour ([35:29](#)):

You know the story?

Joseph Holly ([35:31](#)):

Nah, I don't... I know, but I don't know too much about the story. But every time you hear somebody they're always talking about Moll Dyer. I can't find it. My wife had got a book of it. But I can't find it,

because she would lend it to different people, you know. And I don't know what happened to it. But it was a book about that big. Had all them stories about Moll Dyer in there. But I don't know.

Janice Walthour (36:07):

Yeah. They thought she was a witch, so.

Joseph Holly (36:10):

That's what they said. Well, see, that stone what they got up there to that little jail now. It go right up there back of my house... right up, you know, the outhouse what I got built around there. It was right up on the hill, up on the hill from them. And of course, National Guard, I believe, comes in there and got it years ago.

Janice Walthour (36:36):

Interesting.

Joseph Holly (36:44):

It didn't bother me because I didn't... I saw it up edge of the jail, that's when I saw it. When it was up in those woods, I didn't see it. I wouldn't know that from none of the rest of the stones. Now they got it up there, sitting up there, but... Some say, "Oh, she was this," and "She was that." She don't bother me. I been here a right many years and I haven't seen her or heard her or nothing. And I don't want to see her. [laughs] No I don't want to see her. Every time you hear somebody, "Moll Dyer, Moll Dyer," you know. I don't know nobody. I can say she didn't do nothing for me. People told me she killed their crops and stuff. I don't know. I didn't know nothing back then. I don't know.

Janice Walthour (37:53):

A lot of things happen in St. Mary's county, did you have a chance to get out of the county? To travel, to go places and do things?

Joseph Holly (38:02):

Not much. I had to work. Wasn't making enough most times when first started. [giggles] In my later years, I go to Georgia to see my son, go to North Carolina to see my son. Like that. But first I wasn't getting nowhere.

Janice Walthour (38:30):

So you did get a chance to go out of the state.

Joseph Holly (38:33):

Huh?

Janice Walthour (38:33):

You did get a chance to leave the state.

Joseph Holly (38:35):



Yeah. One time I went to California to see one of my sons. Boss man, the one at the ice plant... I said something about it and he said, "Well, if you want to go, I'll send you." So he paid me a couple things for it and sent me on down the road. You go other places, the other ones we'd go, each time just some of the family, we'd be driving them places. So far so good.

Janice Walthour (39:23):

What are some things that really matter to you? That are real important to you?

Joseph Holly (39:34):

Well. I'm trying to say a whole lot of things. But I just don't talk about them, that's the main thing.

Janice Walthour (39:41):

Mm-hmm.

Joseph Holly (39:55):

Don't talk about them.

Janice Walthour (40:03):

What's something you think you could not have done without in your life?

Joseph Holly (40:06):

Hmm?

Janice Walthour (40:07):

What's something that you could not have done without in your lifetime?

Joseph Holly (40:11):

Well, I have insurance and had doctors trying to help the family when they got sick. Lord, trying to keep them together. I didn't have that much money. I had enough to keep them going. Some people say, "When your next child is born," they say "What you going to do about feeding that one?" I say, "Well, I'll add another cup of water to the soup." [laughs] Keep it going. Build it up, keep building it up, that's all I know. I got them all through.

(41:04):

John was the youngest one. You know Joe. Joe's one of my sons. He's the oldest one now, cause the oldest one died. He was in the service for 22 years, I think it was. And he come out, and I think he was home about, I don't know, three or four years. And they said he was fine, but there was something wrong somewhere over there when he come out. Finally, I lost him. He graduated out of school one day and went in the service the next. He come out of school on Friday, and I think he left home Monday. And stayed 22 years.

Janice Walthour (42:20):

Well, is there anything else you'd like to share with us about your life, and a word to the wise of things you would want other people to know about what's important in life?

Joseph Holly ([42:35](#)):

Well. I tell you, I had it hard. You just have to find them things. You just have to work up to them things. Because I can't say exactly what they should do. But I just worked and did the best I could with what I had and what I could do. And I figure if everyone else did that, then we'd be [inaudible 00:43:01]. I just shared what I had, and of course a lot of people around then, they had things. If they had something you didn't have they would share with you and see that you had some of what it was. But outside of that it wasn't the best, it was hard.

Janice Walthour ([43:34](#)):

Mr. Holly, how old are you now?

Joseph Holly ([43:37](#)):

98.

Janice Walthour ([43:42](#)):

98 years, that's wonderful. Wonderful.

Joseph Holly ([43:44](#)):

I was 98, not this Wednesday, but last Wednesday.

Janice Walthour ([43:53](#)):

Happy birthday.

Joseph Holly ([43:56](#)):

And the wife was 95 when she died.

Janice Walthour ([43:59](#)):

Long life, both of you.

([44:02](#)):

Well, we certainly appreciate the time-

Joseph Holly ([44:06](#)):

Huh?

Janice Walthour ([44:06](#)):

We appreciate the time you spent with us today. We learned a lot about Mr. Holly today, thank you for sharing. And just keep on keeping on.

Joseph Holly ([44:18](#)):

I'm going to try to do the best I can. [laughs]

Janice Walthour ([44:18](#)):

Thank you.

Class ([44:18](#)):

Thank you.

([44:18](#)):

Thank you.

([44:18](#)):

Thank you.

([44:18](#)):

Thank you.

([44:18](#)):

Appreciate you coming down.