

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

Transcribed by DWH Services on April 30, 2002

Edited by Mel Endy on February 29, 2004

Logged by Tania Jordon on January 13, 2008

Original format is two cassette tapes

1 hour, 17 minutes, 0 seconds

CG: Lewis Whalen at your home here in Charlotte Hall, and today's date is November the 20th, 1996. And, the questions that we are interviewing for is -- it's up to you at any time that you feel you do not want to answer, there's no problem. We'll just continue with the question until they are completed.

The first question is: Where did you live? Describe location and reference points.

LCW: I was born on Smoot's Farm. That's located on Route 6 at Deforest Road in Charlotte Hall, and I was raised at the Smoot's Farm. And later on in years, we moved down Route 6 at New Market. I just recall the name of the farm at that time: Fowler's Farm. Where...Fowler lived there.

And, I went to school down there in --the White Marsh School, and it went from 4th to 7th Grade at the White Marsh School. And, we walked every day to school and from school. There was no -- were no transportation at that time and this was about three and a half or four miles each way. We walked. And after I got older, when I went to high school, I rode a bicycle to meet the bus...Then if I wasn't there at the time the bus

pulled from the home where the bus was kept at; the bus driver would not open the door.

You could beat on the side of the bus and he would keep right on going. And then, I'd have to go out on Route 5 and catch the Principal of the school at -- Banneker. His name was Mr. Smith. That's how I got back and forth to school at Banneker...

CG: Would those -- would those rules in those days that you a -- if you weren't right there you were just left behind? Who was your bus driver?

LCW: I just recall the man's name. We called him Humpback. Those were his rules. I don't think the School Board knew about that.

CG: Was he white or black?

LCW: He was black! [laughter]

CG: Black?

LCW: Yeah

CG: About how much money would -- I'm sorry. Where were you born?

LCW: I was born in Dubois, Maryland. Born on Smoot's Farm.

CG: How -- You was a tenant farmer?

LCW: Yeah.

CG: Okay.

LCW: My father was.

CG: Did your father own any land at that time?

LCW: No, he didn't.

CG: Okay.

LCW: Later on in the years, my father bought this Dyson farm here where we living in today, and it was approximately 160 acres.

CG: Alright. Is that where you live now?

LCW: That's where I live now.

CG: And, what year did you move? Well.

LCW: I don't know. Let me see. That was in the year of 1960.

CG: Alright. What were the times like when you were a child?

LCW: Times they was --So we have our chores to do, like getting the wood in the house, getting water out the well to drink and to wash the clothes with. We had to do everything, and milk the cows, feed the horses. That's was our chores that we had to do, and each one was assigned to do a different thing, different duty. Lots of time, we comet home, my mother would have sweet potatoes from the back of the ... We used to take the skin off and eat them and go on do our chores.

CG: [laughter]

LCW: We used to get up in the morning always -- my mother always had oatmeal that was all we ate before school. Sometimes it might be peanut butter and jelly, but it was good.

CG: Alright and how did you and your family live? Did they make a living? Did they farm?

LCW: They farmed.

CG: And did they make a living at farming?

LCW: Yes, they did. My mother used to work out so many days a week. And then when she didn't work out for different people-- used to do day work. And when she didn't work out, well, he used to help around the farm and with the children and Daddy, that's how you got the work done.

CG: Day's work: What was that like with your mama?

LCW: Clean house, wash for different people, do the laundry. She used to the laundry. She

used to have some people that she used to do the laundry with. And that was a great help to us. Bring a little bit of money in the house. And, my mother used to raise chickens, turkeys, ducks, and it was our job to wash the turkey's mess, to find out where the turkey would lay. Many times, I had to miss days out of school to wash the turkey she raised the turkeys. Thanksgiving and Christmas: That's when she sold them. They had somebody...

CG: Alright, and what did they eat?

LCW: Turkeys: Would -- well, used to give them corn and used to buy a little dairy feed to give them. And, the chickens was the same and the hogs was the same. Daddy used to raise a lot of feed on the farm to carry to the mill, grind it up, mix it up together and give them.

CG: And what did you eat as a family?

LCW: Well, we used to raise a lot of vegetables, and stuff like that. And Dad always killed hogs, always killed beef. And, we used to hang the beef up in the barn. It was so cold that when you want a piece of beef, you go in there and cut off of it and it stayed hard -- it stayed frozen all you want. That hog meat: Well, he took that and he salted it, and we ate that. And, a few turkeys and a few chickens. We didn't eat too much chicken because it was Sunday dinner. And, Daddy would always had a minister to come, to dinner on Sunday. But the children, most what we got was the gizzards, the feet and the neck, and the minister would eat the ham and the turkey -- and the chicken parts because that was what he was famous for, eating the ham.

CG: Is there any other occupation that your parents had other than--?

LCW: Well, they raise cattle and horses ... That was all that they had.

CG: Now, what is your earliest memory, as far as you can remember back?

LCW: Well, I could go back, of course, when I went to school. And then again, I know--least I was told--the day I born, an hour. So, I guess that's part of my memory, too. I was born on Smoot's Farm on November the 27th at 7:30 in the morning, 1927. My mother told me that. The house is still there, but it began to tumble in. I goes by there quite often and look.

CG: Alright. How about you? How far could you remember other than what your parents told, your mom told you?

LCW: Well, about being a child, you know, and about being around my older sisters and brothers. Wasn't too long -- my memory's in pretty good shape. It's hard to keep them from beating me up all the time.

CG: I see. Alright. What church did your family go to?

LCW: Mt. Calvert Church.

CG: Alright.

LCW: It was located up at Dubois Road, and the church caught on fire and burnt down. The church that we have now is up on Route 6. That land was given by the Smoot's family to built a church, and we paid one dollar and 25 cents for the land, and we have an acre of land. That's the church I goes to now. It's the same church.

CG: Alright. And, do you remember the year?

LCW: The church was built in 19 -- [pause]. The old Mt. Calvert Church was built in 1802.

CG: That's the one that burned down?

LCW: Burned down.

CG: How about the new one? The one that you attending now.

LCW: That's the one I'm attending now. .

NT: Okay. What trips did your family take?

LCW: Well, when I was small and growing up, we didn't take many trips. Lot of times, my daddy would go to Washington. But we children, we didn't go. And up until I got 21, I didn't know what a city was because I never been in Washington, DC. It was the nearest city here from Southern Maryland and after that -- after I grew up and got out of school, that's when I started going to the city.

CG: Alright. Were the times better or worse than they are now and why?

LCW: Times was better than what they is now. They didn't have all this killing in the city that they having now and people wasn't using dope like they doing now. They just drank a little whiskey. That was they drank until they sobered up. They'd beat us...the whiskey kept -- right on all the time. So, times is better now than it was then. The money was little. We didn't get any money because we wasn't making any money, but now people are making good money more so ...

We used to live in a house which didn't have any insulation in it; and when you get in bed, you had to cover your head up because the snow and the wind and the rain almost would come through the house. That's the way you slept like that, but we did do it. And, we used to get up in the morning and lots of times, the house would be so cold that we would have a bucket of water and dipper be done froze up in the bucket, and we had to put the bucket on the wood stove to warm it up so that you could wash your face or wash your teeth. So, we don't have that anymore. So, now you get up and the house all warm, so you're warm all through the night. So, that's another reason why times are much better now.

CG: Alright. What were your family's health concerns?

LCW: My mother...My mother had the TB and she was in the Henryton for three years. And then after she got out, whew! She did real good. She live until she was 89. I mean 98, and she died in December the 22nd and she lived until the 6th of February. She would not have.

My father's health was very good. He worked at a saw mill and he hurt his leg while he was at the saw mill and didn't bother him too much while he was young. But as he got older, that arthritis got into that leg he had a lot of problems. But up until then, he was...

CG: What were your families -- I'm sorry. How did you --I'm sorry. How did your parents deal with their health and illness?

LCW: Well, they went to the Dr. Southern. He was the only doctor here in Charlotte Hall. He had office here in Charlotte Hall. He give the same pill for everything, so that's the only way they dealt with anything. Then when I was going to school, I used to clean Dr. Southern's office every evening when I came from school. He paid me 10¢ a hour and I used to take that and buy my books to go to school with and my pencils and buy candy with the rest of it for the girls. [laughter] So, that was the only doctor we had 'round here. The later years, they did...doctor...Dr. Southern was the only family doctor.

CG: Were doctors, hospitals and public medical facilities available to you?

LCW: Yes, they had hospitals, but we weren't that sick to go to the doctor...Our mother's didn't make sassafras roots, and wild cherry balm and turpentine. Took a lot of that: turpentine with sugar...Yeah.

CG: Alright. How far did they have to travel to get to a doctor?

LCW: I'll say about three miles. But he would come to your house.

CG: Okay. Did your family rely on home remedies?

LCW: Home remedies?

CG: Do you remember any physical cures of the home remedies?

LCW: Yes, I do. Cold: That's mostly what we had. We used home remedies for that to really cure the cold. We used a little Epsom salt to work it out and we got along fine.

CG: How were senior citizens cared for? Were they, were they any nursing homes?

LCW: No, they didn't have nursing homes.

CG: How were they cared for?

LCW: Just one of us used take care of them. It was a family thing then, older people would come to your house and we kept older people. That's what was done.

CG: How did blacks get their news in the County when you were growing up?

LCW: By going to school, lot of books that we used in school were passed down from the white people. You know we didn't have no new books. All the books were used all the time. So, that's about the only way the news got around.

CG: Alright. When did they read? What radio or television did they listen to and watch? How did some countians get their news?

LCW: Radio. We use to have batteries back then.

CG: Alright. What types of things did you do as a child?

LCW: We had games, toys. We had horses -- rode horses. We do our duties and play at home in the evening, on Saturdays and Sundays. That's about it.

CG: How did you get along with your siblings?

LCW: Got along very good.

CG: And what did you do the most and why?

LCW: Well, spending five days in school. The other time, well, we helped around on the farm doing the different things like helping with the fence, helping with the tobacco and garden in the summertime. Watermelon was a great vegetable that we used to have, and we used to go from one watermelon patch to the other to get the man's watermelon...And the man used to get after us some time, run...

CG: Oh, okay! [laughter] What chores did you have to do?

LCW: Milk the cows, feed the hogs, water the horses, help put up the fence...

CG: How did your parents treat you?

LCW: Very nice! They need us to help to do these chores [laughter] so they were just very nice.

CG: Alright. What did they do with you--What did they do with you that you remember best?

LCW: They--I remember the whooping they used. I guess that's one time [laughter]--The thing is we--They give us a chore and we didn't do it, they got a hold of you. That's something that you don't forget. And when I was in 7th Grade, I remember that. My mother told me, "Go get some washing powder." For some reason, I wanted to go to school that day. I just stay at home to get the washing powder. And, I went down to a pond. They had a pond of water down there which used to have fish at. And I went down to the pond and played down there until the time it took to the store and come back. I went back and told my mother that the man didn't have no washing' powder. After Mama -- After my mother got done whooping me, then I went back to the store and got the washing powder, and I didn't go to school that day.

CG: Do you feel that your parents prepared you well for life?

LCW: Yes, I do.

CG: I'm sorry. Well, yes.

LCW: Yes, I do because I was able to go out and work 32 years for the federal government because work -- worked for the contractors until I got a government job. I decided one day when I was tired of working for the contractors. That when the job was over, you always had to go look for another one. So, I'm going to work for the federal government which I know I have a job all the time, and I know how much money I be getting which enabled me. So, I appreciate that.

CG: What was the classroom like? What was the classroom like?

LCW: It was very cold. We -- part time, we didn't have no wood to heat the school with, and we have to go out in the woods, pick up little twigs and anything that we thought we make a fire. And, the other thing we could have learned but we didn't because we was out in the woods picking up little wood to make a fire for getting warm. Some days, it take you practically all day to get warm so that you could really settle yourself down. It was very, very hard on the boys. But the girls didn't, but the boys would have to go out in the woods...get the wood. And when the school bought wood, the wood be green and it wouldn't burn. Very, very hard for us in the wintertime.

CG: What was your favorite and least favorite teacher?

LCW: Mrs. Mack. Miss Aggie Mack was my favorite teacher because anything you did that wasn't right, she would always whoop you for it. That way, you never forget the whooping so you [laughter], you learn. One lesson you could learn real fast, and she wouldn't just hold your hand out. She took your fingers and bent them back and hit you across the palm of your hand and that really hurt. So, you wouldn't forget. And, she always had told me, "The world goes round and round." And, I used to...I did sometimes...see lots of spinning. But look at the world today, they do look like it's goes

round and round. There's so many changes in the world today.

CG: Alright. What was your favorite and least favorite subject and why?

LCW: Math. I liked arithmetic. It was easy for me. I learned it. Catch on to it really fast.

CG: Okay. What school did you go to?

LCW: White Marsh.

CG: And where is White Marsh?

LCW: Here in New Market.

CG: New Market. Well, I think you answered: How did you get to school?

LCW: Walked.

CG: Alright.

LCW: And, now unless it was a real bad day and my father had a Model A Ford he use to carry us there.

CG: Okay, you stated that you went to White Marsh School, but where is it located?

LCW: White Marsh -- the old school was located down by the Ebenezer Church, and it was a two-room school: 1st to the 3rd and 4th to the 7th.

CG: How large was it?

LCW: It...

CG: You also attended Banneker.

LCW: Yes, I went to high school there.

CG: Where was that located?

LCW: At Loveville, Maryland. At that time I -- it was the closest high school for the colored people which in this area, and that was the only one for colored.

CG: And where were you located at that time? How far was it from your home?

LCW: I was located at Dubois, Maryland. It was about three and a half miles, and I rode a bicycle to meet the bus.

CG: Where did you meet the bus?

LCW: At New Market. Where the Beer Garden used to be. That's was on 230 -- 236.

CG: What was the name of your bus driver?

LCW: The bus driver's name was --

CG: After you walked to the bus, how was the bus driver?

LCW: The bus driver name was Robert Fader. If we wasn't on the bus, when he came out his house to go to school, when he once closed that door, that was it. He wouldn't open the door. You could beat on the side of the bus, but he would not open that door.

CG: Did you go to school that day or how did you get there?

LCW: Yes, some days I went out on Route 5 and caught -- the principal of the school at that time was Mr. Smith, and I caught him and went down to school and came back on the bus.

CG: We covered this. As a child, what did you dream of becoming and why? Did the dream change?

LCW: Yes, it did. I always wanted to be a carpenter and when I went out to work, I had to do kind of job I could find. And as I went through life, I went from job to job. When I end up at the Park Service, I give up the idea. That's what was coming. And when I got the foreman job was something I really did like. I really liked to tell people what to do. But after I got into it, I liked it. It was good, and now I made more money and I retired and I appreciate it.

CG: As a teenager, where did your parents approve of you going?

LCW: Okay, to church. My parents were very much in church, and I became a member of the church when I was 14, and I been in church ever since.

CG: Did your parents let you court?

LCW: No.

CG: Well, how would you go out? What would you do?

LCW: Well, we used to go to dances, associate with the boys. There was always some girls in town, and that's the way we court.

CG: What was it like when you first went out on your own?

LCW: It was something that I knew that I have to do one day and I said to myself, "If I go to work, I wasn't going to work but one job, but I'd do the best I could at that job and make all the money I possibly could." And, I never had but one time and I made the best of it...

CG: And, where did you move to? Why and what did you do? What did you for entertainment? What was your money situation like?

LCW: Well, when I started out, I worked with contractors. Then, I went and worked for the Board of Education, but the Board of Education only paid me once a month and it was hard to take that little money and make it go through the month. Then later on, I decided, I said, "I'll go work for the government." But then, I went to work at...

CG: Your entertainment. What did you do for entertainment?

LCW: Aw, we liked-

CG: What was your money situation like?

LCW: The money situation was very short and, as I said, we used to drink a little wine, Muscatel. And, that was our entertainment with the boys.

CG: Alright. What kind of work have you done to support yourself?

LCW: I have worked a little bit of, any type of work that I could find. Yeah. I worked at...until I found something that I really like to do. When I found something I really liked to do, then I stayed with that. It wasn't as much money as I was making, but I made myself. It was what I was making and it worked into more money than what I was doing through odd jobs. After years went by.

CG: How did you get to your work?

LCW: Always had a car. Always go. For 32 years, I worked in Washington. I go there. I had some riders and they retired, but the others continued on down. And, the last one retired, I drove for two years by myself. Then, I got tired of that and I got sleepy before I got back home in the evening and I say, "This is it. I'm gonna retire, too." But I had my time in, so...They told me I wouldn't, but I did.

CG: How much money did you make?

LCW: Well, I started off making 10¢ a hour when I started to work. When I end up, I end up making 18 dollars and 50¢.

CG: Describe a day's work, a typical day on the job.

LCW: Well, when I end up, I only had to tell people what to do and then go out and check to see if it was done. And then when any new equipment, anything new came out, they always sent me to look at it, pass off opinion and see whether the Park Service should buy it or not. And, I thought that it was needed because someone higher wrote a memo on it, and I asked them for money to buy it. Always got the money and I went and bought it. I enjoyed it. It was -- it was a very easy day. The last 10 years.

CG: How did you meet your spouse? How old were you? Why did you decide to get

married?

LCW: I was 16 --, 17 and I told her that I wanted to go into the Army, and I went into the Army and came out and she was still waiting for me. Then, I got married after I came out. I was just -- I just turned 21 on the 22nd day. I got married on the 27th. We having an anniversary and birthday this week. [laughter].

CG: How did you meet your wife?

LCW: I met her through --Oh boy! Me and some boys were going out and met somebody at the movies. And, we knew these girls and they asked them if they wanted to go to the movies. They said, "Yes," so we went to the movies. From then on we where seeing each other until we married.

CG: Alright. What do you remember about your wedding?

LCW: I remember that I wasn't quite ready to get married. I hadn't had my mind all made up and the day that it happened, it was -- I was sort of nervous because I wasn't too sure that's what I wanted, but I'm glad that everything worked out because I couldn't deal with too much fun! [laughter]

CG: When did you marry? The date, where, who was there?

LCW: I got married on -- could you wait just a minute?

CG: Sure.

LCW: I got married on the 11th month, 27th day in '48 at St. Mary's Catholic Church. By Father Christopher at that time.

CG: And who was there? The best man and--

LCW: My wife's brother, Earl, was the best man and my sister, Clarice, was the best...

CG: Alright. Any others emphasis on your marriage -- your wedding, sorry. What was your

honeymoon like?

LCW: Well, when we woke up the next morning after having the wedding reception, we had \$5.

[laughter] So, we took a few days and went on back to work...might have been shorter.

CG: Alright. What has your family life been like?

LCW: It's been very, very good. See each other Thanksgiving and I go to my wife's on

Thanksgiving and Christmas is with my people.

CG: Describe your marriage.

LCW: My marriage.

CG: I'm sorry. And your relationship with your spouse.

LCW: Well, my relationship with my spouse has been excellent. She looks out for me and I looks out for her, and we understand one another. And what we have worked for during our lifetime ...So I've been happy.

CG: Describe your relationship with your adopted son.

LCW: Don was very good. He went into the Army and came out. He went to college and he came out. But after that, it got real bad with the boys. Got hard-headed. Couldn't tell him anything. Right now, he's trying to make a better life for his self. But up until then, it was very good.

CG: Alright. What part has religion played in your life?

LCW: Well, we have always talked about one day that we both would go to one church. Right now, I'm still Methodist and she's still Catholic. And as we get older, those ideas are coming closer together...We enjoy our churches that we go to. I still say one day... I'm hoping.

CG: What church do you attend: Catholic, Methodist, Baptist or Holiness?

LCW: I attend Methodist church.

CG: Do you participate in your church's activities?

LCW: Yes, I do.

CG: Alright. Are you a member of your church committees?

LCW: Yes, I am. I'm the head of the Pastor Parents Relationship Board.

CG: What does your church mean to you?

LCW: It means a lot because God is the only father that I have. My real father is dead, and I've always looked to God each and every day. When I leave home in the morning, when I was working, always prayed to God that He would make that day good. Religion has played a good part of my life.

CG: Okay. What role does it play in your life, the church?

LCW: Well, like it says in the Bible. I like to know more about God and we have a Bible study every Sunday at my church: 8:30-11.

CG: Alright. Are you involved with the churches or religious organizations? In what way?

LCW: Yeah, I'm involved with the churches. We visit a lot of churches, and they come to visit us. So, we enjoy that relationship.

CG: What community activities do you participate in, both now and in the past? Clubs, bowling clubs, vacation clubs, whatever, church activities, baseball, County Fairs, family reunions, 4H, Little League ...

[End of Side 1, Tape 1 of 1, Copy 2]

CG: Baseball, County Fairs, family reunions, 4H, Little League, Bingo. Similar things like

that.

LCW: We have a family reunion every two years and I participate with the Masons...here in the County. That's about it.

CG: Alright. How do you feel about life in general today in St. Mary's County?

LCW: Well, when I came home from working National Park Service, we had white, colored all living together, and I went down to Hollywood one day to the Burch Oil Company.

They had 32 offices in there and I seen one colored person and all the rest in the office was white. The people that was working in the office was white, and I felt kind of funny about it because I know that it was the colored people that helped Burch. They buy oil.

They buy gas...Why aren't there more colored people working? And a lot of the offices I go where I see all these white compared to colored, and I see why now that colored people have to go through Washington or places away from here in order to get a high paying job, but they don't offer any here in St. Mary's County, as far as money concerned.

CG: In what ways is it different from the way it used to be?

LCW: Well, you see a few more colored people now working here in the County holding a few high-pay jobs, and it used not to be like that. Integration has helped us.

CG: Alright. Is the quality of life better or worse now and Why?

LCW: The quality of life is better now. And why? Because the jobs situation is better for the colored people. When I was small and come along, you didn't see any colored people working in buildings and they made very little money.

CG: Are people different from what they used to be in St. Mary's County?

LCW: Oh yes! Yeah. Much different now than they used to be. They welcome you, a lot of

them do. A lot of them don't because was spending time in my church...used to be part of the Mt. Zion Church down at Oraville and they used to...At first,...but as time went on, they changed...

CG: In what ways are these things...?

LCW: Well, they keep the colored people back all the time [laughter]is one way that makes it bad for us here in St. Mary's County. We never get into the position where, which you can make a good living. And anytime you go to church and they act funny towards you so you see it. It's bad right now.

CG: Alright. How are the teenagers different from when you was a teen? What has caused these changes?

LCW: Well, I guess a lot of things the parents didn't tell the teenagers and now, at that time, the only way you know it was you had to learn it from somebody about your age who heard it from someone else. Now, they teach it to them now in school. So, they learn faster now than they did...

CG: Are race relations different today in the County? How and why?

LCW: Yes, they different now from what they used to be. People beginning to realize that we are human beings and we are -- want to live a quality of life. And there are more opportunities.

CG: What was segregation like? Were you ever afraid of a group or a person practicing hate?

LCW: Yes, when I come along, all the white bars and things had sign up, "White only." The only space for the colored people was a little hole in the wall, and had to put your head through the wall [laughter] to order what you want. So, that did away with after years went on. I went to work at Indian Head. They had a "white only" toilet for white people,

and the colored people had their own toilet. It was the same when I went to work for the National Park Service. They had a white toilet for the white people, and the colored people had their toilet. And as time went on, they took that sign down and everybody use the same toilet. And the front office, that same time...go in the side office. But as time went on ...colored...

CG: Were you afraid of a group or person practicing hate?

LCW: No.

CG: Alright. How do you -- [cassette cuts off abruptly]

LCW: Right now, I feel good about it because I feel I done worked my time and I retired and come home, and I feel like this is my home. So, this is it!

CG: Are you a native of the County?

LCW: Yes.

CG: If you've lived in a city, which do you like best and why?

LCW: I don't like city life. I wouldn't want to live there. I went there to live and I didn't like it...sirens and fire departments: You hear that all day and all night. You never got used to it -- I never got used to it.

CG: Do you feel there is a difference between County people and outsiders?

LCW: Yes, I do.

CG: Alright. What makes the difference?

LCW: Their attitude towards you are different. As time went on, they a little more understanding than what they used to be. They know you now when you see them. Once upon a time, they used to call you "boy." They don't do that anymore. You's a man; you's a man. Got to call you by your name.

CG: How do you interact outsiders in the County?

LCW: I don't have any problem with that. We talk and we...There's no problem.

CG: And those are the people that was, not originally in the County, but come into the County?

LCW: Come into the County.

CG: Have you traveled or lived outside the County? How often, where and why?

LCW: I was in Army for five years, and while I was drafted, I didn't...It was a great life. I enjoyed it. And I know now that if I hadn't went into the Army, I would not have gotten to see the parts of the world.

CG: Alright. How do you travel to -- Oh, I'm sorry. Have you traveled or lived outside the County? Oh my goodness. Same thing!

LCW: Yes, I lived in Washington and I lived a short time in Baltimore. And I traveled different places outside the County, but this is the only two places I lived.

CG: Alright. Do you travel or interact with people in different sections of the County?

LCW: Yes. It's like I told you before: I was in the Masons and we have people from different sections of the County that belong to the organization and we get to meet twice a month...

CG: For what reason are people different in these sections?

LCW: I don't see too -- I don't see any difference.

CG: Alright. What do you think have been the biggest changes in the County in your lifetime?

LCW: Biggest changes? Well, I feel now that the County grown, getting very -- A lot of people have moved in the County. And as time goes on people, it'd be more...Get to see the point things going down there, and that's one of the biggest changes I've seen in St.

Mary's is it's growing. It can grow so large.

CG: Alright. What are your feelings about the Navy Base?

LCW: Well, I worked down there with on contracting work, and I think it's a good thing. Then, the people wouldn't have to go to the city to work, to make a salary so they could live, and it'd be more jobs for the people.

CG: Were countians hostile toward the government for taking their land to build the Navy Base?

LCW: No, I don't think to.

CG: Alright. Did any of the families have to move off their land because of the Base? Who? Where did they move to?

LCW: I can't answer that.

CG: Alright. What are the feelings about changes in the County because of the new growth of the Base?

LCW: Well, the feelings that I have: That'd be more money coming in to the County and probably our taxes will go down.

CG: Okay. Any other?

LCW: It'd more jobs so the people wouldn't have to go off to the city. There's more buildings being put up there'd more homes for the people in the County.

CG: What do you think of the direction that the County is going in today?

LCW: I feel like they going in a good direction because of the growth.

CG: Do you believe in St. Mary's may become an urban rather than a rural county?

LCW: [pause] I can't answer that.

CG: Okay. How have you contributed to the County?

LCW: I donated -- donated to different organizations in the County, different people running for high office here in the County. And also, to the Fire Department and the community.

CG: Through your work, both paid and volunteer, your family, your citizenship, your politics, your values. Okay. I'm sorry. Go ahead. Answer that again.

LCW: Want me to answer it?

CG: Yeah, go ahead.

LCW: I helped out. I give some time towards Mrs. Washington at becoming a member of the Board of Education here recently, but I have helped in other things here in the County.

CG: What do you consider to be the most valuable thing you have ever had? Something you could not have done without in your lifetime, and why?

LCW: The most valuable thing that I have would be a place to lay my head. I know that that was lifetime thing to have a Christian and a wife...very valuable to me because she helps me with everything, and I helped her. So, one has helped the other. So, that's about the valuable.

CG: Okay. Alright. Have you done everything in your lifetime that you wanted or planned to.

LCW: Yes, I have.

CG: Alright. If so, what were you not able to do and why?

LCW: I wasn't able to get the education that I wanted. Why? Because my parents didn't have the money to send me to school. I finished up my education when I got in the Army, but I didn't learn too much because the teacher in the Army was different than the teacher that was out here. I had to come out of school for my sister to go to college. My parents didn't have any money to send me. I had to work on the farm to help my daddy to make

the money for my sister go to college. Which is, nine of us, two did get to go to college, and I...was nice.

CG: Alright. If you could go back and live your life over, what would you change?

LCW: I would try to get all the education that I could get because I see where it's needed out here today. It'd be one of the main things I would change in my life is get more education because the work is much easier. You don't have education, you work hard and I did it to get where I'm at today. It was a hard thing to do.

CG: Alright. Can you share your old stories about what life was like in the County for your parents?

LCW: My parents didn't have much education. They just could write their name, and I felt that as children, they always said they want the children to have more education than they did. And, they tried to help us all they could help, and that's what they did for us. It was real hard on us. Had to come out of school some days to come home and help, but we had to do it in order to have a place to lay our head. This was one of the things I often thinks about: how it was.

CG: Alright. So, that concludes the questionnaire.

[pause in interview]

According to education, Mr. Whalen, I thought it was very important that the family was together, as far as knowing that was only two that could continue their education and the whole family was a part of this plan.

LCW: Yeah.

CG: That tells a little bit more about what, you know, education and how and why it turned out to be that, you know, you have to be at home to work to send the other children or

siblings to school.

LCW: Well, my father just worked...working the...and through that...that's what get to go to college and he didn't have too much help. So, he kept on after me to come out of school and help him, and probably saved the house to have a place to live. That's how come I came out of high school: to help my father to make money enough so he could send Celeste to college, and also probably saved the farm. And, we worked and worked.

But one year, got real bad and the crop didn't do so well, and he wasn't able to pay the mortgage. And then, the bank jumped right on him and next thing, they took the place and we were back renting again, and I thought that was awful bad. And, that went on for quite a few years and then again, he got opportunity to buy this place here. And during that time of course we just wanted to go to college. And you know how old people just say, "Well, if she didn't go to college, she wasn't gonna do nothing no way!" Farther she go to college, farther she'd go out and do something for herself. So then, I continue on being out of school to help them make more money so that he could buy this place and send Clarice to college. And, that's what's happened: I stayed out until I went in the Army and that's when I got my diploma. And, education is one the things that I feel is needed today.

When I went to school, we had a book that would hand-you-down when the white children. Some of them weren't even have no backs on them, and the teacher used to fuss with us and trying to keep the books together, which it was already apart. And, it was really hard to learn out of those books because a lot of the pages was missing, but that's all that I got when I went to school: those hand-you-down books until I got to high school. And, I found out that a lot of things we had learned, a lot of things I seen after I

got out here working for myself, that I should have know, but I didn't. And then, I had to go slow and watch all the people and learn a little bit as I went along. So, all that helped me to get where I'm at today.

But if I got to live my life over again, education be the first thing that would really make my life much better because you could make more money and you could move up faster because you got the know-how. If you don't got the know-how, you just stay right there. Everybody come in, just go on top of you. And a lot of time, you have to show the people what you are doing and they learn from you. Next thing, they way up the ladder and you still way down there. And, I've seen that happen a number of times...And up until the last 10 years, that's what I seen. If I had education, I wouldn't be out here living in this dinky apartment. Probably would health would have been better today than it is. Although I'm not grumbling, I feel good sometimes, but sometimes I get...but I know that's hard work out there in that cold weather. If I had the education, I wouldn't have...

Hope that I give you all that information that I can think of. I try to do my best.

CG: What do you think of the young people today and what?

LCW: They should stay in school and get their education. That's what I think. The young people today have growed up my faster, and they hear a lot of it on television and they hear a lot of it from the people; but yet, they don't know it. They don't. Here, it's the same thing...Lot of times, it makes it bad for some of them. Some of them survive, some of them don't. It's one of those kind of things.

CG: I think that ... I would like to thank you Mr. Whalen for having this interview.

LCW: And I hope that I have answered all the questions that you all wanted to know. I was a little nervous; but as we went along through it, I got better.

CG: Biographical Data Information on Lewis Clifton Whalen:

29535 Whalen Road, Charlotte Hall, Maryland 20622

Telephone: 301-884-3695

Date of Birth: November 22, 1927 in Davis, Maryland

He went to White Marsh Elementary School to the 7th Grade and Banneker High School to the 10th Grade. He received his GED in the Army.

He was with the National Park Service for 32 years and retired September 6, 1990.

His wife's name is Eleanor Mary Butler Whalen.

His paternal grandparents were George Whalen and Alberta Holly.

He does not know the names of his maternal grandparents.

His mother's name was Dora Elizabeth Jennifer Whalen.

His father was Edward Robert Whalen.

His sisters and brothers are Elizabeth W. Banks or Brooks—I can't read the last name,

John E. Whalen, Margaret W. Salbey, William Whalen, Celeste Whalen Mears, Louis C.

Whalen, Clarice W. Spears, Albert James Whalen, Spencer Whalen.

Lewis Whalen had one child. He's a foster child: Donald Clinton Whalen and he has no grandchildren.

That is the end of the biographical data information.

[End of Side 2, Tape 1 of 2, Copy 2]