

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions  
Oral History Documentation Project

Catherine Delores Thompson

Interviewed by Dorothy Waters  
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At her home in Valley Lee Maryland  
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[Begin Side 1, Tape 1 of 1]

DW: My name is Dorothy Waters and I'm doing an Oral History report with Catherine Thompson. What kind of information can you give me? I mean, your name, where you were born.

CT: I'm Catherine Thompson. I am one of seven children of John L. and Mary Henrietta Edelen Shelton. I was born in Langton, February 22, 1918. I am the middle child, which is the fourth, which is three older and three younger.

DW: How many brothers did you have?

CT: I have five brothers and one sister.

DW: Can you give me the names? Do you know their birthdates?

CT: John L. Jr. No, I can't give you the dates. First, I'll give you the names. John Robert Jr., John Louis and Gertrude were all older than me. Leonidas, Francis and Jimmy were younger. I don't remember the dates of their births.

DW: Okay. What were the times like when you were a child?

CT: Well, we didn't have to worry about what's going on in the world. We didn't know anything about the outside world. We just knew what was going on in our little group, at home, really, and at school. Those were the only places that we went in those days.

DW: How did you and your family live? What kind of foods did you eat? Did you raise your own food? Go to the grocery store?

CT: I guess most of our food was from the grocery store. We did raise chickens. I can -- We did have hogs years ago, but that, ah, in the later years, we didn't. But, I think we always had chickens and I guess, a garden. I really can't [chuckle]. I don't remember too much about, the food. All I could remember, I know every Sunday that we had, we had a picnic shoulder, cabbage and white potatoes. But then every Sunday, you didn't have to think about what you were going to have. You knew what you was going to have. You didn't have to [chuckle]. But, we were not hungry. We always had food.

DW: Were times better or worse than they are now?

CT: Well, children -- I think times were better because we didn't know -- we didn't have the pressure, the peer pressure that children have today. What we had, we were satisfied with. We didn't know how other children really lived. So, we didn't, we didn't have to keep up with the Jones'.

DW: Describe your relationship with your brothers and sister. You can do them individually or all together or how ever you wish.

CT: Well, I only have the one sister. She never liked to play. She always would sit and read, and she'd never go out and play with us. But John Louis -- well the older -- the John Jr. died when he was a baby. John Louis went out to work early, so he wasn't at home. But, Leonidas, Francis and myself, we used to have good times together. Of course, when we

were first born, Mama couldn't leave Leonidas and myself home together because we were, we were used to fight, you know, like any small children would, so she'd always have to take Francis, as the baby, and me, because Leonidas was between Francis and myself. So, she couldn't howl at two babies so she had to take [chuckle] me. So, of course, that wasn't, we didn't go many places. It was either to a funeral or to a church or -- the church or something like that. I t wasn't many places to go.

DW: What church did you go to?

CT: Well, we attend St. Aloysius which is the Catholic Church in Leonardtown.

DW: What trips did you take as a child?

CT: I can remember once going -- well, there was, in our town, there were a couple people that had cars. You know, in those days, there weren't many cars. Of course, the black people didn't own many cars. So, I can remember two people out in Leonardtown that owned cars. One was Parran Curtis, and I remember maybe twice that my parents -- my mother hiring Mr. Parran Curtis to take us for a ride. I don't remember whether we went to Point Lookout or where. Of course, all places in those days were beautiful to us because we didn't see many things, and just going for a ride anywhere was a -- something to be joyful about. So, those were the, you know, things that you did if you had money.

And then, my father -- I have gone buggy riding with my dad that the people he worked for, he used to use the book and horse. And to me, the horse's feet on the blacktop would sound so good. Be like music. [Chuckle] So, you know. But, it was just local things. Maybe going for two or three miles. That was like going from here to New York, I guess, now.

DW: How did your parents deal with health and illness?

CT: You know, I don't remember much about sickness those days. My younger brother that died when he was six. Had a [pause in recording], had a kidney. I don't know what they called it in those days, but he had something wrong with his kidneys that he couldn't pass -- get rid of the fluid on his body. So, I know they would take him to Baltimore every six months or so to draw the water off of his body. But, he died when he was six. But otherwise, I don't remember, you didn't get sickness in those days. [Chuckle]

DW: Well, when someone did get sick, what kind of special cures did you use? Did you go to a pharmacy and get medicine or was it homemade? And if it was, what type of ingredients did you use?

CT: As I say, I don't remember too much about being sick. We did have a family doctor -- doctors around. It was Dr. Camilar and Dr. Greenwell. Dr. Greenwell was our family doctor, but I remember being in a car accident one time and going to the doctor for a puncture, for a whole in my leg or something. But ordinarily, it wasn't too much sickness. I don't remember, you know, like you have colds and go to the doctor's now and stuff. And, I don't remember what we took if we had a cold.

DW: What types of things did you do when you were a child?

CT: Well, I guess our big day was on Sundays, some time my mother used to take us out, would take us out to the main highway off of Route. 5. Now, it's Point Lookout Road. Now, it's Point Lookout. Route 5, Point Lookout. We -- they had, what's the thing they used to have, you know, if it was some water running underneath and a little bridge or something they had, like, colbert it was called. We used to go out and sit on the colbert and watch the cars pass. And, that was about it. And of course, my brothers, we used to play -- well, there were so many ruts in roads in those days, when it rained [chuckle], all

you had to do was go break some sticks off and put them in the water and watch the little boats run down. We called them boats. They'd go down [chuckle] these ruts and things like that. Or, go out and play in the snow. Things like that.

DW: What chores did you have to do?

CT: We used to have to get wood and kindling and stuff. That was the, and I guess feed chickens. That was about all I can remember. Of course, clean, wash dishes.

DW: How did your parents treat you?

CT: Oh, we were treated good. I don't remember ever getting a beating.

DW: What did they do with you that you remember the best?

CT: Well, as I say, we used to go out and sit on the side of the road and watch the cars go by [chuckle] and I used to love to go cherry hunting with my father. Oh, and church dinners. We used to go to one church dinner and that was the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. So, we always go to this church center and I guess that was the highlight of the year.

DW: How did they discipline you and what were you disciplined for?

CT: I guess there wasn't too much discipline because when they told you what you wasn't supposed to do, you didn't do it. [Chuckle] We went out did things, but we wasn't going to go and say we did it. [chuckle]

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

CT: I don't because you was kept so in this closet, more or less. You were kept so close at home. You wasn't allowed to go any place and do anything. So once, you couldn't go any place until you got 18. And once you got 18, you went out and [chuckle]. So as I said, when you got 18, you really didn't know anything about the world, you know. If you survived in it, you survived.

DW: Describe your formal schooling, or informal schooling for that matter.

CT: We had two schools in Leonardtown. One was in a room in the back of a St. Aloysius Society Hall, which was the lower grades, I guess it was called. Maybe Grade 1 to 3. And on downhill, it was a school. I guess it was somewhere between the [pause]. It was somewhere between the top of the town hill and the bottom. [Chuckle] I guess, more or less, there's a plumbing place there now. Smith's Plumbing is located now, the school was somewhere off between that and the top of the hill, and that was Grades, I guess, from 4 to 7 because that was as high as elementary school went then. There were no high schools for blacks.

DW: How did you get to school?

CT: Walked.

DW: About how long did it take you?

CT: Half an hour.

DW: Half an hour.

CT: We'd better be there in half an hour and we'd better be home in a half an hour after school.

DW: What was your classroom like?

CT: Well, it was just the one room. We had all these grades in one room. Whatever grades it was, we didn't have different rooms for different grades. One teacher in school. She taught all the grades.

DW: Who was your favorite and who was your least favorite teacher?

CT: [long pause] I don't know. When I was in -- When I first started school, I used to cry so much. Every day at school I'd cry [chuckle] because I didn't want to be at school, I

guess. I didn't want to get the lessons. But after I got over that stage of crying, I guess, it was about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, I enjoyed school. I remember one teacher, Mrs. Thompson. I forget what her first name was. Miss Thompson. I enjoyed her very much. But, I guess you didn't get too close to teachers because it was just the one grade, one school, one teacher for all the grades so. Miss Edna Thompson, that's her name. I guess she was my favorite teacher in those days. And, my --What was the next question?

DW: Your least favorite teacher.

CT: Was Miss Henderson when I went to high school.

DW: And high school consisted of what grades?

CT: I guess, all four. We had two teachers in high school. So, that was for the four.

DW: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade?

CT: No, high school. I guess 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>.

DW: Where was that school?

CT: I was in Banneker High School in Loveville. I went for --I don't remember what year.

DW: Why was she your least favorite teacher?

CT: Because she'd pick on me. I couldn't sing. You know, each, every day, you opened your class with a song and a prayer in those days, and she knew I couldn't sing. And every morning, she called on me to lead the song. [Chuckle] Of course, we didn't get along very well.

DW: What was your favorite subject?

CT: I don't think I had a favorite subject because in those days, all you had was Reading, Arithmetic, Geography and History. Reading, Writing, Geography, History, English.

DW: So, you didn't have any particular one that was a favorite?

CT: No.

DW: Okay. What were your dreams of becoming as a young adult? What did you want to be when you grew up?

CT: I had no dreams. [Long pause]

DW: As a teenager, did your parents let you court?

CT: No. [Chuckle]

DW: Okay. What was it like when you first went out on your own? Where did you go? Tell us the things that you did.

CT: I guess I wasn't out on my own very long. You wasn't on your own until you got 18. I got married when I was 19. So [pause]. I really didn't. Went to a dance once in a while and had a ... bar garden to go to. At St. Aloysius Hall, we had dances. Some time get to go to some of those.

DW: What kinds of work have you done to support yourself?

CT: I guess mostly housework because in those days, it wasn't -- you couldn't say babysitting because when you worked, you did everything. There wasn't any such thing as babysitting. And, anything that was there to be done.

DW: How did you get to work?

CT: Walked. [Chuckle]

DW: Why did you choose this work?

CT: Didn't have a choice.

DW: Was it difficult?

CT: It was hard, but I can't say that you find it that difficult because you needed some money.

DW: How much money did you make?

CT: 50 cent a day. I used to make 50 cent a day. When I first was, went to work, I guess when I was about 13 or something, I think I got about a two dollar and half a week and that was less than 50 cent a day. Really, when I went to work, it was almost 50 cent a day.

DW: Describe a day on your job. What time did you get up? What time did you get off?

CT: You'd go to work at 7:00 or 7:30 and you wouldn't finish it was too dark to do anything else. You did whatever was there to do. You know, feed chickens, cook and wash dishes, and clean. And whatever was there to do, you did it.

DW: What do you remember about your wedding? Well, I guess, who you married and how you met your spouse?

CT: I don't know when I first met Leroy, but he used to drive a school bus when a Banneker School first opened. And of course, I fell head over heels in love with him.

DW: So, you met him when he was driving a school bus?

CT: I think so.

DW: When did you get married?

CT: Right on September 26, 1937.

DW: What was your honeymoon like? Where did you go?

CT: We went to New York to visit my husband's brother for our honeymoon. I guess three or four days. I don't even remember.

DW: What was it like?

CT: I enjoyed it because being with somebody you love is all that matters.

DW: How did you get there?

CT: We went by train.

DW: Where did you catch the train?

CT: Washington.

DW: What has your family life been like? Describe your marital relationship with your spouse.

CT: What was my married life like? It was a busy one. Of course, like all marriages, I guess you have your ups and downs. But in those days, when you married, you stayed married because -- well, your husband was your support. So, you know, if you was being treated nice and had a home, you stayed. [Chuckle]

DW: Describe your relationship with your children and your children and great-grandchildren.

CT: My children has always been my life. I always knew that they were mine. I had to take care of them. Did the best I could buy them. I loved them. I've been asked often, how did you take care of 13 children? My husband was very good to them. He really saw that they were taken care of. All I had to do was to be there for them. Of course, we ran a business, and I worked plenty. [Chuckle] But, the children always came first. But even though you worked these long hours, the children knew that I was there for them.

DW: What about grandchildren, great-grandchildren?

CT: I guess the grandchildren think the world of them, but you can always send them home. So, I guess, you know, that grandchildren you can spoil them because you know [chuckle] that their somebody else's. They're very nice. Been a joy.

DW: What part has religion played in your life? What church do you attend? What religious affiliation are you?

CT: Well, I'm still a Catholic. God has been a big help in my life. I know if it hadn't been for Him and the Blessed Mother that my marriage would never have made it. I have 13, I

was pregnant 13 times. All 13 of my children are still living, and I know it's due (to) prayers that we've done as well as we have.

DW: To what church do you attend now?

CT: I attend St. George's Catholic Church. I do always go for dinners and things. I do volunteer work for dinners, things like that. I still no take part in the ceremonies in, you know, within the church, though... Readers and things like that. And, I participate in the meetings and all.

DW: What community activities do you participate in?

CT: Well, I still do volunteer work. I belong to this volunteer, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Rescue Squad and the soup kitchen which is known Mary's Song. And, as I said, I help with the dinners at the church hall and we always -- If we have a death in our -- in our community, we usually serve brunch at the church. I volunteer for it.

DW: Describe any club activities you may be in, any clubs you may belong to now.

CT: I belong to the Big Foot Helpers Club which is the only club that I belong to. We -- They are very low profile. We try to have chicken raffles or pig raffles or something so we can give, always have money for donations for -- to -- at Christmas to give to something, for some benefit, either to hospitals or soup kitchens or someone who's in need. And I -- well I spend a lot of time going to adult education classes in the years that my children were growing up that I have certificates from 1961 to 1983 for the different classes I took. Adult education. I got my high school diploma in Adult Education in '76. Also used to volunteer at the nursing home which I got several certificates from them. Nursing homes. I took a Christian Care Givers program which I received a certificate from that. So, I continued going to classes until, oh, I guess, until I got too busy to go.

DW: What types of holiday activities, family reunions, things like that, do you participate in?  
What types of affairs?

CT: Well, we go to the different children's homes for different, different holidays. So -- and most of the holidays, we have pot luck. Everybody will carry a dish, will go to the different homes for the holidays, the different ones. I think Darlene has Mother's Day and Easter, and Dee has Thanksgiving. Dee has the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Joyce have Christmas breakfast. Christmas dinner is at home. Always the weekend after Christmas, the nieces and nephews all usually have a day that we attend. So, the family have a lot of getting together...

[CT's voice is cut off. The cassette is blank for a short time and then DW begins again.]

DW: What do you feel about life, in general, today? In what ways is it different than the ways it used to be? The quality of life how it was.

CT: I don't know. I think you expect too much. That, you know, that there [pause]. Cut it off.

[Tape player is turned off and then on again.]

I think now there's too much commercialism that everybody's for the buck. That before Halloweens is over, people has Christmas lights up. That we don't have time to think about the real meaning of things. It's just about what you can buy or what you can, can have. That we never think about Christmas as Christ's birthday, or anything. It's just how much we can buy for our children or where we can go or what you can do.

DW: So, do you think the quality of life is better or worse?

CT: I think it's worse because [pause], because we're not thinking for ourselves. We're letting everybody else do our thinking for us.

DW: Are people different from what they used to be?

CT: Some of them are because in the olden days, people didn't have to pretend. They didn't like you, they didn't like you. Whites didn't like you and they didn't have to pretend that they did. And now, I think it's a lot of people that's pretending.

DW: How are the teenagers in St. Mary's County today different from when you were a teen?

CT: As I say, when we were teens, we didn't get out and we didn't see. We didn't know what was going on. Now, the teens, there's so much peer pressure that it's, the teens -- the teens can't be teens anymore. They either babies or they're adults. There don't seem to be anymore children. They jump from babies to adults. Like they don't have time to enjoy being teenagers. There's so much out there for them to do and so much that they see and hear. That pressure that they have the pressure from the time they are 10 years old until they're grown that they really don't have time to be children anymore.

DW: Are race relations different today in the county?

CT: Yeah. They're different. I, as I say, I think it's a lot of pretending out here, but, it's much different. You know that you can go where you want to go and do what you want to do, but you don't know whether it's all make-believe. You can't tell what's real and what's not real.

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

CT: No. I didn't -- I was not in it. I, you know, we didn't [pause]. As I say, in those days, you were, you stayed very close to home. You -- When we were children, walking through Leonardtown to church, the little children used to come out and call you nigger.

You chase them to their door, but you couldn't chase them in their door. [Chuckle] So, and now, that's -- you don't have to deal with that now. But as far as being hurt by, being beat by police, or things like that, didn't deal with that.

DW: How do you feel about living in this county?

CT: I love St. Mary's County, and especially in Valley Lee, I think I'd rather live where I live than in most of the communities because I think that most people in the Valley Lee are people who came from other parts of different -- from different states or that we don't have too many of the natives in Valley Lee. So, I think that's why. Maybe if it's the wife that's the native, the husband is from somewhere else, and they have been, most of them are service people and they have dealt with integration. They not -- they've been dealing with integration long enough to respect you for who you are.

DW: Have you ever lived in the city?

CT: No.

DW: Do you feel there's a difference between county people and outsiders or non-natives? If so, what makes them different?

CT: I wouldn't say there's any difference because once they get to the country, they are country. [Chuckle]

DW: Have you traveled or lived outside the county?

CT: No.

DW: You've never traveled outside the county.

CT: Traveled outside of it. Never lived outside of it.

DW: Well, when you traveled, where did you go?

CT: I went to Ohio, Massachusetts, New York, California, Louisiana, Virginia, West Virginia

and Florida.

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

CT: I think the county is doing a good job, those that's willing to give their time because there are many of us that don't take time to really do our share. But, I think that those that's working and trying to change the county are doing a good job.

DW: What do you consider to be the most valuable thing you have ever had? Something you could not have done without in your lifetime.

CT: I'm trying to think. [Pause]

DW: Have you done everything in your life that you wanted or planned to?

CT: Well, as I say, I had no plans. I live life as it comes. So, I -- we've raised our 13 children to be. They're all grown. They all have jobs. They all own their own homes or got their name on it. [Chuckle] Some day, it going to be theirs. So, my ambition is to see the grandchildren grow up and do as well as the children have done.

DW: What do you think have been the biggest changes in the county in your life?

CT: Being able to go anywhere you wanted to and there's not a sign that says black or white. That the high school -- That we have schools that all children can go to, not just for white children. And, for the -- our children can stay in St. Mary's County, get decent jobs, and jobs that they can -- responsible jobs. Jobs that they can raise their families and have homes and things that they want.

DW: Can you share old stories about life, about what life was like in the county for your parents?

CT: Well, I guess, my parents -- my mother took in washing and all that for make -- to earn money. My father works in the banks in Leonardtown as a janitor and things. He had to

get up early in the morning, 4 and 5:00, to go to Leonardtown, regardless of snow or what to build the fires by the time that white people got ready to go to work.

[End of Side 1, Tape 1 of 1]

[Begin Side 2, Tape 1 of 1]

CT: ...that. So, I guess they were very difficult times, in a way, but I never felt that I missed anything. [Pause] I think we lived a good life. Didn't have everything you need. You had what you needed. You didn't have what you wanted, but you always had what was needed.

DW: How did black folks get their news in the county? What did they read? What radio, television stations did you listen to or watch?

CT: There weren't no television stations [chuckle]. We didn't -- we didn't -- I think we did have a radio. Yeah. Yeah, I think in the later years, maybe by the time I was 15 or 14 or maybe 13, we had a radio, perhaps. And then, I guess, it was, I don't know what station you got, but there were radios in those days. I don't remember that we had telephones.

DW: How did you get your news? Important news that was important to blacks. Things that were going on for blacks.

CT: Weren't too much going on for blacks. Only thing was the County Fair, and that wasn't when I was a child. That's when my children was children. There wasn't any news.

[Chuckle] You had a Society. You went to the St. Aloysius Society and had meetings on Sundays. And, I guess the older the people would sit around and talk then. And then, the children couldn't listen in.

DW: Well, you said you had a County Fair. Was that going on at the time when you were young?

CT: When I was with my children, my children were young. I don't remember of anything when I was a child, actually, that went on. As I say, the St. Aloysius Society dinner was every 15 of August and that was what we always looked forward to. We'd go out and pick blackberries and sell them to the buyers and get money to attend.

DW: How many homes have you lived in? Or, how many places have you lived?

CT: Since I was born?

DW: Yes.

CT: I was born in Leonardtown, on Hollywood Road, so -- Oh, about five.

DW: Five. Where were they?

CT: Well, three of them were in Leonardtown and two of them were in Valley Lee. When we first got married, we lived with Leroy's mother and father. We were married about four years when we went to Happyland Club. Then, we moved to our home where we live now on Happyland Road.

DW: What was you mother's maiden name? Where is she originally from?

CT: My mother's maiden name was Mary Henrietta Edelen. Mama was from Hollywood. She was a teacher. She got her formal education in Virginia, in Rock Castle. She went to Rock Castle, Virginia to school because in those days, you didn't have to have a degree to teach. I think she taught in California. California, Maryland.

My father was John Robert Shelton. He was from Abell, Maryland, and his parents came here from Virginia I think. I think his mother was an Indian maiden, as far as I know and what was told to me. I didn't knew either of my grandparents, any of my

grandparents. I understand that my father's mother was an Indian maiden that my grandfather brought from -- stole Virginia. [Chuckle] In those days, I hear, she was would say stole. Kidnapped is the right word..

DW: Do you know what year they were born?

CT: My mother was born in August the 21<sup>st</sup>, 1886 and my father was born August the 11<sup>th</sup>, 1884. My mother lived to 100 years old. She turned a hundred on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August and she died on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. [Pause]

DW: What about your husband family? What's your husband's name?

CT: Leroy Joseph Thompson was my husband. He was -- he was from Valley Lee and lived in Valley Lee all his life except when he was away in school. And, he graduated from Armstrong High School in Washington and attended Bowie Normal School. But, I understand he decided he didn't want to be a teacher so he didn't finish college, came back and he got into business. So, he ran the Happyland Club, I think. I think Happyland Club was started, I think, in 1934 -- 1934 I think he came back. I think he left Bowie and he came back to Valley Lee, and they were the, originally, Happyland Club which was then called -- It hasn't always been the Happyland Club. I don't remember what it was named.

DW: So, what did you do while he was going into business?

CT: I was working at the business. And, raising children [chuckle]. Yeah, I always worked, helped at Happyland Club.

DW: What was it like working there?

CT: It was nice. I mean, I enjoyed working there because in those days, every -- you trusted people. In fact, you knew most everybody that came. There were very few strangers in

those days because there were several taverns, and the people from the different districts would go to the, whatever bar was in their community. There were different bars in communities. It was, very seldom that the people out of the community would go to, out into them. So, you just knew most of the people that came to Happyland. And, there were people you knew and trusted and loved. So, it was nice.

DW: Do you think entertainment is different now in the county, types of entertainment: bars that people go to, lounges or whatever their names are that people use now? Do you think it's different now?

CT: I couldn't say because I don't go. But, I imagine there are people that enjoy going as much as we did when we, you know, when we had the business. I guess there are people now that feel the same about business and about the good times like we used to have, I guess. But, they enjoy what's out there now like we did.

DW: What type of entertainment did you have there?

CT: Well, we had music boxes. I guess they're called music boxes. I call them music boxes. What were they? Jukeboxes, I guess. So, we -- I guess, when we first started out, I guess you put a nickel or a dime in the jukebox and had music for two, three hours [chuckle]. And, we also had slot machines in those days. And then, mostly every weekend, you'd have a square dance or some kind of entertainment that would come in. Somebody with the fiddles and bows would play. And then, the old people, there were a lot of old people that used to come out. And when you had a square dance, the older people would join in and it would be, it would be so much fun.

So, there was never a weekend that Leroy's mother didn't go to Happyland.

They'd just sit there and she and a friend of hers, Miss Mary L. Cutchember, sit there and

talk and the younger people would treat them, to sodas or whatever it was there. And, candy bars and what not. People respect people. There wasn't a whole lot of -- you might find maybe out of two dozen people, you might find one that would say, use language that wasn't suitable. But, most of the youngsters then respected older people.

I always had a lot of respect for the young people because they always treated me nice. They had no problems with me, and they knew what I was and what I would accept and I never had any trouble with them.

DW: What types of hobbies do you have?

CT: My biggest hobby is crafts. I love to do crafts. And if I don't, I love to work outside in the spring, and flowers and things in the spring. But in the fall of the year, and when it get hot in the summer, I don't care for outside. Of course, if there's anything out there that I have to do, I will do it, but it's not a lot of fun working outside in the summertime, in the hot, in the heat of the day and in the fall, because in the fall everything is dying. It's not pretty anymore. So, in the fall, I love to do crafts. I think I started out doing quilts for my children. I'd use -- when my blankets wore out, I'd make them into quilts which you'd, -- small pieces of materials that I could find: either worn-out clothes or anywhere I could find material to piece together and make them quilts. So, I think I made all of the children, plus the grandchildren, plus the nieces and nephews [chuckle] quilts. And, I don't know. Anything, any pattern I see or any place I go that there are crafts and if I see something that I like, I will buy it. Not because I am going to put it on a shelf and let it sit there. I buy it because I want to make -- use it for a pattern. [Chuckle] So, that's really my hobbies is any kind of a craft that I can -- I can do. If you don't want something used, don't sit around me because it might turn out to be something else tomorrow.

DW: So, do you have any types of -- That's your hobby, doing crafts. Do you have items that you collect?

CT: Yes. I collect teapots. I started out collecting salt & pepper shakers, but they, I didn't want to dust them, so I got rid of them. So now, I collect teapots which they are larger, don't take that much time to dust. And, I guess I have about 50 mugs which I didn't start out collecting, but they were all given to me. So, now I have 50 mugs which I guess you would say that's a collection also.

And, my dolls [sigh]! I guess I always loved dolls and babies. So, I guess I have about 50 dolls. And, they're not expensive dolls because I don't like the expensive dolls that you go out and pay \$200 and \$300 for. I like the dolls that I can enjoy. I'm not afraid of them being broken. If it's anything that the children, grandchildren can't play around or be in the rooms with, it's no good to me. And every year, I usually get one for Christmas present from one of the children. And if I don't, I'll make one. [Chuckle]

DW: What's been your favorite craft to do, or your favorite craft of all which you've done, if you can remember? That you absolutely, you made it for someone and you just did not want to give it away.

CT: Oh, I don't know. Some of the quilts, I guess, because I have several of them I've made and I won't give them away. So, I guess I would say it's some of the quilts that I made.

[Dialogue stops. End of interview]

[End of Side 2, Tape 1 of 1]