

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions  
Oral History Documentation Project

**MARY MARGUERITE BARNES LANGLEY**

Interviewed by Brenda Coates  
December 18, 1996  
Loffler Center in Great Mills, Maryland  
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[Begin Tape 1 of 1, Side 1]

[0:00]

BRENDA COATES: -- at the Loffler Center in Great Mills, Maryland. Today's date is the 18th of December, 1996.

MARY LANGLEY: Mrs. Langley, I just want to remind you that if you are uncomfortable answering any of these questions, you don't need to answer them, okay? I'll start with asking you, where were you born?

ML: Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Now, I don't (inaudible).

BC: And you were only up there for --

ML: Just for awhile (inaudible). I've lived here all my life. I've lived other places, but this is really my home.

BC: And where do you live now?

ML: Lexington Park, Madison (phonetic) Trailer Park.

BC: Now, before you moved to the trailer park, where did you live?

ML: Oh, let's see, I lived at home.

BC: Okay. Where was that?

ML: Ridge. Ridge, down right next to St. Michael's Church.

BC: You lived next to St. Michael's Church. That was where you had lived most of your life?

ML: Most of my life with my grandmother.

BC: Okay.

ML: (Inaudible).

BC: Okay. What road was that on? That was --

ML: 235, 235.

BC: Okay. Give me some other landmarks right there where --

ML: Oh, let's see. Well, it's right over in front of St. Michael's Church in Ridge, the big church down at Ridge. That's a good landmark. Then there was a little store there, a (inaudible) little store. There's a store there.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: Um-hum. And I lived (inaudible) St. Michael's Church.

BC: Okay. So, you lived --

ML: In Ridge.

BC: -- between the store and the -- where the Rescue Squad is?

ML: (Inaudible) that was close. The Rescue Squad, that's over on 5, but it's directly in back of there (inaudible).

BC: No, the firehouse is on 5, the Rescue Squad is on 235.

ML: Oh, yes, it is.

BC: Where the old high school was.

ML: Yes, yes.

BC: So, you lived between the store and the old --

ML: I lived close to that. There's another piece of land in there now that we used to have our old store on right by (inaudible) store in front of the church.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: You have an idea now where it is?

BC: I have a better idea.

ML: Yeah.

BC: Okay, okay. And do you remember what year you moved into that house?

ML: Well, I came back as a baby.

BC: Oh, and you were living there --

ML: And I lived there, oh, an awful long time.

BC: Okay, okay.

ML: I lived there until I was a young woman (inaudible).

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

ML: Very hard, very hard. We had to -- for a while we had lamp lights. We cut wood. We went to school and we came home and we had all of our chores to do. We had to always get up by night for wood and (inaudible), and we had dishes to wash, all the cleaning we did, which was hard. (Inaudible).

BC: Okay. What were your parents' occupations?

ML: Waterman -- my daddy was a waterman because everybody (inaudible). My daddy was a waterman and my mom shucked oysters until she got in business.

BC: What business?

ML: She didn't -- my mom didn't -- she had the first bar in the family and my grandmother had it. It was an old country store. I guess you've seen lots of those.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: And then after that, she went to the (inaudible), she worked awhile. Then she moved up to this place where Francine is now, which is The Mixx, and that was all my mother's starting in the beginning of the business there. (Inaudible).

BC: Okay. What is your earliest memory?

ML: Oh, (inaudible). I really don't know. There weren't too many good ones in those days, I'll tell you.

BC: All right. Well, it doesn't have to necessarily be a good one.

ML: Yeah, yeah.

BC: Okay.

ML: Well, I loved to go to school. I was very smart in school.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: I liked to do my arts, and what else? Nothing much else, because I got married very young. After I finished school (inaudible) I got married.

[04:58]

BC: What church did your family go to?

ML: St. Peter's. As a child there I used to go to either one, the Methodist Church in Scotland with my grandmother, because she was Methodist. But my church was really the Catholic Church and we went on over to St. Peter's.

BC: Is that St. Luke's Methodist Church or --

ML: Yeah, that's Luke.

BC: St. Luke's Methodist Church, okay.

ML: Um-hum. I used to go down there once in awhile with her, but I'm really Catholic.

BC: Okay. Do you remember taking any trips with your family when you were young?

ML: Let's see, did I? Oh, no, I don't, not with my family. We used to go on bus trips with the school and things like that, but not with my family. We didn't used to (inaudible).

BC: Was your family involved in any community activities?

ML: Yeah (inaudible) with the church (inaudible) church (inaudible) donating and flowers and all the activities at church. (Inaudible).

BC: In the church?

ML: Uh-huh, yeah.

BC: And do you think times are better then or now?

ML: Well, you always hear that question, beginning on the bus in the morning and all (inaudible) dropped off. But I'll tell you, I'd rather have these times now, because you always hear them say, the good old days, but I didn't see anything that was so good about the old days.

BC: Okay.

ML: Oh, give me these days any time, and I wouldn't want my children to have to come up in those old days either.

BC: Okay. What were your family's health concerns? How did your parents deal with health and illness?

ML: Well, at that time, we didn't have many doctors. A lot of home remedies and things like that. Like we had rubbing medicine and stuff like -- alcohol and stuff like that.

BC: Do you remember any special home remedy your mother had?

ML: No, no, I don't.

BC: Do you remember any of the doctors that --

ML: Yes, how could I forget Dr. Dean.

BC: Okay.

ML: (Inaudible) he was a faithful old doctor. Yeah, I remember him. He would -- he was very nice. He would come out any hour or any time that you needed him. He was a

faithful old doctor, I'll tell you. We all liked him and we depended on him, too.

BC: Do you remember how senior citizens were cared for?

ML: Oh, well, at that time, senior citizens just had a hard run. If you were sick, you were just sick. You did your own remedies, because see, we didn't even have a hospital then. St. Mary's wasn't even open. It was years before that came (inaudible). And just -- we had these old home remedies, that's all.

BC: How did black folks get their news, do you remember?

ML: Oh, now, that's a good question. We didn't even have (inaudible) nor televisions nor anything. What did we have? I really can't remember that now.

BC: So, probably it was a lot of word-of-mouth?

ML: Word-of-mouth, of course it was that, yeah. It's always been that. Yeah.

BC: And you say you all didn't have radios?

ML: I don't think we did. I don't remember having a radio when I was a child.

BC: Okay.

ML: And you know we didn't have television.

BC: Right.

ML: I don't know --

BC: Okay.

ML: I don't remember whether we had (inaudible) radios or not, I just can't think of that.

BC: What types of things did you do as a child? What kind of games did you play?

ML: Oh, yeah. Well, mostly we played ball, hopscotch, checkers, dominos, some other games that we had now on this other side over here, and (inaudible). Mostly we played ball (inaudible).

BC: And what kind of chores did you have to do? You told me --

ML: Oh, we had -- we had hard chores, I'm telling you. I remember earlier times when we would have to take newspapers and stuff and just fill in the (inaudible) and all and we'd scrub and paint. We would scrub the floors, you know, the old wooden floors and stuff, until they were clean and (inaudible) and water. (Inaudible).

BC: Okay.

ML: And that was (inaudible).

BC: Did you have any kind of like chickens or anything like that?

ML: Oh, yeah. Oh, yes, my goodness. My grandmother had -- well, she was really sort of (inaudible) for those days. She had cows, chickens. She had a new car, the ones that you -- it's a plastic, you know, glass things in. Do you remember? Do you remember where you would just put the plastic windows in?

BC: Okay.

ML: She had a new -- I think it was -- well, she had a 1929 new Ford, I believe the thing was. And she had horses, cows, ducks, chickens and all that stuff.

BC: So, you all had to feed the livestock?

ML: Yes, yeah.

BC: Okay.

ML: That was fun in the evening.

[10:42]

BC: Okay. How did you get along with your brother and sister?

ML: Fine. We always got along. We were taught that. We always got along good.

BC: I guess it's different from now when you -- you know, when you had to work together --

ML: Oh, yeah.

BC: -- and you had to survive.

ML: Yeah. You had to work together then.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: Everybody had their chores and their things.

BC: How did your parents treat you?

ML: All right. We got along very well as a family.

BC: What do you remember that they did with you? What do you remember best that they did with you?

ML: Let's see. Well, like on the Saturday evenings, we got the little chairs together or any evening that they went and did the oystering and all and (inaudible) to Mr. Drury's and got the money and stuff, they'd bring us little nice -- nice little things, like a little toy or candy, something like that.

BC: How did they discipline you?

ML: They were very (inaudible). And you would have had your (inaudible), which is so different from now. And you didn't talk back or you just went along and did whatever they told you.

BC: Um-hum. So, what kind of things did you do that they had to discipline you?

ML: Nothing. None that (inaudible). I was always a good girl. We were really -- we always tried to obey.

BC: Okay.

ML: Because I knew that it wasn't easy for my mom and all at that time, and we just tried to be good.

BC: Okay. Do you think your parents prepared you well for life?

ML: Yes, I do. The best they could. (Inaudible) we all done real well. We all got the education (inaudible).

BC: Describe your formal schooling, you know, where you went to school.

ML: Oh, (inaudible) again. Ridge (inaudible).

BC: Okay. And the Ridge School was on Bennett Drive?

ML: Yeah.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: And then I went to (inaudible) for the schools there.

BC: St. Peter's School?

ML: (Inaudible) did close. Yeah, it did. And we went to (inaudible) and then from then on,

then after that, I got married.

BC: Now, the school that was on Bennett Drive, that was a one-room --

ML: One-room.

BC: Okay. And you went there until the what, second grade, third grade?

ML: Oh, maybe fifth.

BC: Oh, okay.

ML: Yeah, the fifth (inaudible). Fifth or sixth, something like that (inaudible).

BC: Okay. Do you remember any of your old teachers?

ML: Yes, I remember one. I remember Ms. -- I believe her name was Spriggs, S-P-R-I-G-G-S. I think that was her name.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: She was a little brown-skinned lady (inaudible), but she was real nice. Strict, my goodness, she was strict. She'd crack your fingers in a minute.

BC: Okay. Do you remember anybody else?

ML: What you mean, the teachers and all?

BC: Yeah.

ML: (Inaudible), yes, in high school, I had Ms. (inaudible), Mr. and Mrs. Waters. I had Ms. (inaudible).

BC: Um-hum. Okay. What was your favorite subject in school?

ML: (Inaudible).

BC: And how about your least favorite?

ML: (Inaudible). Well, you know, religion wasn't (inaudible) because we really had to get that anyway.

BC: Um-hum. Okay. As a child, what did you dream of becoming?

ML: Well, at that time (inaudible) there wasn't much of a dream, just to be a teacher. But now they can become more fields. But at that time, you just (inaudible) being a teacher (inaudible), and mama didn't want me to be a teacher.

BC: Um-hum. Why did that dream change?

ML: I don't know. I just went out and got married. Times were so hard and I just -- just from the get -- I could leave home, I guess, and be on my own. I guess.

BC: Okay. As a teenager, where did your parents approve of you going?

ML: Well, there wasn't many places to choose from. Golly, all (inaudible) like that pretty much.

BC: Did your parents let you date?

ML: No, not really. No.

BC: Okay. Well, when you did start dating, where did you go?

ML: To a friend's (inaudible).

BC: There wasn't much else to do, okay. What was it like when you first went out on your own?

ML: Oh, let's see. Well, it wasn't too hard because see I had married young. I just went and

got married. (Inaudible) do better, you know, with a husband taking care of me. I don't know.

BC: Okay. How did you meet your husband?

ML: Oh, he was a neighbor. He was close by (inaudible). They lived down on the water then. We lived up on the hill -- I mean, up land.

BC: Okay. So, you -- you had known him?

ML: I knew him, yes. I knew him. We went to school together.

BC: Okay. And how old were you when you got married?

ML: Let's see. I don't know. Oh, yes, I do, too. Twenty-two, maybe. Yeah, I remember that now, yeah.

BC: And you got --

ML: I got married in '41 and I'm 76.

BC: Okay. And you said you decided to get married because you thought that --

ML: Well, see, we were -- at home, there was just my mom there, see. And I figured that the guy worked (inaudible) my husband worked all the time in the water or oystering or doing something (inaudible) money. And my mom just -- at that time, which thank God it got better, but at that time, it was hard for her taking care of us three children. So, I just went on and got married.

BC: Okay. So, when you got married, that was the first time you left home?

ML: Yeah.

BC: Okay.

ML: Yeah.

**(Break in tape)**

ML: (Inaudible).

**(Break in tape)**

[18:27]

BC: What kind of work have you done to support yourself?

ML: (Inaudible) work, and I had very good people that I worked for.

BC: How did you get to work?

ML: Well --

BC: You had --

ML: Yeah. (Inaudible) I had (inaudible). See, I worked some Saturdays, too, for a long time, but that (inaudible) then they laid the girls off. Then I had to do something to keep myself occupied. My husband was gone overseas and everything. So, I just started doing some (inaudible). But, you know, I got in it with very wealthy people and they really helped me along good. So, I didn't have to work hard doing that.

BC: Okay.

ML: Very good people.

BC: Okay. And what did it mean to you to be doing this work, to be working?

ML: Oh, it was wonderful, because my husband was gone and I was lonely, and it just kept me

busy. And see with the children, they kept my days busy and all. Just like it does when we come here and stay for an hour, then when you go home, you're happy to go there and get (inaudible).

BC: Do you remember how much money you were making at that time?

ML: \$3 a week. \$3 a week. But see, Mr. (inaudible) was like this. He says, well, we came from Washington and we don't believe in paying that. So, they would give me maybe \$7 a day or something like that, and they would always give me all the time -- I've got the pictures now, I've got every picture in my living room when (inaudible) you know, those old frames (inaudible). And I'm keeping it. And I told my daughters, I said (inaudible) probably wanted me to take her out and put your pictures in. No, mama, they (inaudible).

BC: Okay.

ML: (Inaudible) was.

BC: What do you remember about your wedding? You told me you got married in 1941.

ML: (Inaudible).

BC: Okay. Do you remember who your best man and bridesmaids were?

ML: (Inaudible). Well, I had got this outfit for Easter. I was married after Easter in '41. And I had got this navy blue coat, you know, when they had the white collar (inaudible), and this big, big hat and all. And then I -- and I had a pink dress.

BC: (Inaudible).

ML: Right. And my mother said, well, Marguerite, I can't get you a wedding outfit at all and I

can't have you a wedding. I said, mama, I'm proud of my (inaudible). So, we just got together after the wedding and I asked Robinson, you know, the (inaudible).

BC: Um-hum.

ML: And they all four -- we four went away and just had a good time in D.C. (Inaudible) and just everywhere. We went shopping and did everything. We couldn't afford anymore, see. (Inaudible).

BC: Okay.

ML: But now, my granddaughter's had a wedding, so I tell you.

BC: Oh, okay. What has your family life been like?

ML: Well, let's see now. It's been kind of hard in a way. Because see, my husband got sick, you know, because he had to come out of the service. And it was something about his stomach (inaudible) and the food (inaudible). And then he had (inaudible). He got sick and he went to the Veteran's Hospital, and then he stayed there for five years (inaudible). So, you see, my life's been kind of (inaudible) I guess.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: (Inaudible). But it's much better now. I live alone and my two girls and Francine do everything for me, see. I'm never alone on the weekends or something. See, (inaudible) stay with me until Monday until about Thursday, Friday or some (inaudible) they come and get me.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: So, Francine sees about me while I'm -- I mean, while the other girls are out (inaudible) something else. But my life is just fine now. I'm having a good time.

BC: Okay. What part has religion played in your life? You told me you attend St. Peter Claver Church.

ML: Yeah, I pray, I pray a lot. I'm not a real, what you call, religious, religious woman, but I -  
- I am a good Catholic and I pray a lot.

BC: Okay. Do you participate in your church's activities?

ML: Yeah, as much as I can see. I have (inaudible).

BC: Okay.

ML: But I donate.

BC: Are you a member of any of their committees?

ML: Let's see, what am I in? Everything that they have, I've been -- I mean, (inaudible) active, but I'm in it. I go along for every (inaudible) my children. They don't expect me to do any work or anything like that because I can't.

BC: Okay.

ML: So, I can't even be (inaudible) in church, you know.

BC: Um-hum. Are you involved with other churches or other religious organizations?

ML: No.

BC: Okay.

ML: No.

BC: Okay. I know you're --

ML: I just can keep up with this one.

BC: I know you said when you were young you said you went sometimes to the Methodist Church.

ML: Oh, that's then. Oh, yeah, but I was young and active then. I was (inaudible) with my grandmother.

BC: Okay. But not now.

ML: Oh, no, no, not in the older days, not now. But I liked it. I liked that singing, especially the Methodist Men.

[24:14]

BC: Yes, yes. What community activities do you participate in?

ML: Well, I'm not active, like I said, but I'll just go when they have dinners, I'll go and eat and buy my dinner. I go to all the dances and things like that.

BC: Well, how about in the past?

ML: Oh, I did all -- oh, I did all of that.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: Because down at St. Peter's, I was always the president of all the committees and the parties and everything with Mr. Pitts and (inaudible) and all of them. But in the old days, I hadn't been able.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: Oh, yeah, I got on all the (inaudible).

BC: Okay. How do you feel about life, in general, in St. Mary's County?

ML: Fine. I just love it.

BC: In what ways is it different than what it used to be?

ML: Oh, my gracious, it's so much different. We have all these modern things and so forth, modern things to do and we have things that make it more convenient for us, even our daily living.

BC: Is the quality of life better than what it used to be?

ML: Oh, yes. My goodness, yes, by about 100 percent.

BC: Okay.

ML: God, we had rough lives, mmm, when we were young. I think most everybody that I've talked to think exactly the same thing. We all worked hard and struggled with (inaudible) the best we could, I guess.

**(Break in tape)**

BC: Okay. So, you think the quality of life is better now?

ML: Oh, it's so much better. I wouldn't change nothing. I'm so glad to see Marie, my granddaughter, (inaudible) coming up in this time. I'm so glad she didn't have to come up in mine.

BC: Okay. Are people different from what they used to be?

ML: Yes, in a way. People are not cooperative with people now like they were. For instance,

they'll pass you on the road now. They wouldn't do that then. And if they all would get together and one didn't have something, they would share what they had. They don't do that now. Maybe hospitality, I would say, is just not like it was.

BC: Okay. Are teenagers different than what they used to be when you were coming along?

ML: Oh, yeah, because now they're hard to -- I even hear the teachers say that. (Inaudible) to teach (inaudible), I mean, all of them. They have so many problems with children. In those days, you know, if the teacher didn't beat you, your parents would.

BC: Um-hum, okay. Are race relations different in the county?

ML: They're hard in some places. But it probably isn't as bad as it was because they don't go for it like they used to. This guy here, he doesn't have any -- he won't have it.

BC: He won't have the segregation (inaudible).

ML: No, sir. He'll tell you (inaudible). One time he came over to the church when we were over there and he said, I see all of one here and all of one over there, but we don't have it that way. So, he doesn't go for it.

BC: Okay. And when you're talking about this, you're talking about the administrator for this Loffler Center?

ML: Yeah. I'm talking about the man in there.

BC: Okay.

ML: Carter. His name's Carter.

BC: Carter, okay.

ML: Yeah.

BC: What was segregation like when you were coming along?

ML: Okay, let's see. Oh, it was rough when I was coming along, but I heard my grandparents say it was terrible, because you know it was.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: It was breaking some, I'll put it that way. It wasn't as bad (inaudible) when I was coming along.

BC: Were you ever afraid of any group or person practicing hate?

ML: Let's see, no, I wasn't. No, uh-uh. But it was going on then, especially up around Leonardtown (inaudible) and places like that, but I never ran into any of it.

[End of Side 1, Tape 1 of 1]

[Begin Side 2, Tape 1 of 1]

[28:50]

BC: How do you feel about living in the county? Did you ever live in the city or anyplace else?

ML: No, because I never liked it. I don't like the city.

BC: Okay.

ML: I like to visit the city. Oh, I've lived other places. I've lived in New Jersey and around, but it wasn't the city.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: It was (inaudible) just like we were out here. But I don't like to live in the city.

BC: You just love St. Mary's County.

ML: I'm just a country girl and I love St. Mary's County.

BC: Do you feel that there is a difference between the county people and outsiders?

ML: Oh, yes.

BC: Okay.

ML: Yes. They -- the outsiders seem to be warmer. I think they're warmer, I believe.

BC: Than the county people?

ML: Some -- most of them are, I think.

BC: Oh.

ML: I shouldn't say that.

BC: No, no.

ML: No, but I shouldn't say that.

**(Break in tape)**

BC: That's good that, you know, you said you feel that outsiders are warmer.

ML: Well, I don't know whether it's because they -- now, the ones in the county probably know you or something, or maybe they're trying to come in and they're trying to meet strangers and friends, you know, like that.

BC: Oh, so that's what makes them warmer.

ML: That's what makes me think they're a little warmer, yeah.

BC: They want to be friendly.

ML: Right.

BC: Okay.

ML: I don't know whether it's that or not, but I'm -- it's something.

BC: Okay.

ML: Most of these ladies in here where I am are real friendly.

BC: Okay. And all of them are -- none of them are natives of St. Mary's County?

ML: No.

BC: Okay.

ML: Most of them are just here with service people, with their sons or daughters.

BC: How do you interact with outsiders living in the county?

ML: It doesn't bother me at all. It doesn't bother me.

BC: Okay. Now, you told me you had lived in New Jersey for a little while.

ML: Yes, in the thirties, 1930. I went to school there awhile around 1930. There was no work here, the base hadn't come. We didn't have no work, and most everybody from Calvert County and St. Mary's County and all went down to New Jersey. I mean, lots of them (inaudible) and to shuck oysters.

BC: Oh, okay.

ML: Um-hum. We had no work here for (inaudible).

BC: Okay. Do you travel or interact with people in the different sections of this county, you know, like for instance, do you go to the Seventh District or up in Mechanicsville or --

ML: I'm all over (inaudible), but I don't have much to do with them myself. (Inaudible) the children or something, you know. I, myself (inaudible).

BC: Um-hum. Do you think people are different in the different sections of this county?

ML: Hmm, I don't know.

BC: What do you think has been the biggest changes in the county in your lifetime?

ML: In my lifetime, well, there's more work. People have progressed oh so much since the base came here. They all have homes. The children are in school. Most of the kids -- you might find a few that don't, but most of them are trying to get an education.

BC: What are your feelings about the Navy base?

ML: I love it.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: I love it because it's just made things so different. It's (inaudible). And it's got the different people here thinking different things, the different lifestyles. I mean, we just had those St. Mary's County people (inaudible).

BC: Okay.

ML: I've had people that I've worked for (inaudible) and I know (inaudible) names of lots of our local people and said, Lord, I don't know where they came from, but they don't know anything.

BC: Okay. Were Countians hostile toward the government for taking their land to build the Navy base?

ML: Oh, yes. Oh, my God, they (inaudible) several more of them now. I just can't think of them right now. But, I mean, they were (inaudible) when they took (inaudible) down there. They were terrible. They were so upset, they were just hostile almost to the people that worked there.

BC: Okay. Did any of your family have to move off of their land because of the base?

ML: No, we weren't up that far.

[34:03]

BC: Okay. Now, what are your feelings about the changes in the county because of the new growth on the base?

ML: What are my feelings?

BC: Um-hum.

ML: Well, I'm going to tell you, I like it. Like I said, it brings some different people (inaudible) now. There's just different people with different ideas (inaudible) we had here first.

BC: Okay.

ML: People have different ideas. (Inaudible) much better (inaudible).

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

ML: Hmm, (inaudible).

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

ML: What's that?

BC: It would become more citified?

ML: Citified, yeah.

BC: You think it will?

ML: Yeah.

BC: Does that scare you because you said you --

ML: No.

BC: Okay. Because you said you love the country life.

ML: Yeah, I did. (Inaudible) somehow. (Inaudible).

BC: Okay. How have you contributed to the county, you know, through your work, your family, your citizenship? You know, how do you think you've contributed to the county?

ML: Oh, my wonderful children. They've worked hard (inaudible). They live right.

BC: Okay. Have you ever received any kinds of recognition or awards or certificates?

ML: Uh-uh.

BC: What do you consider to be your most valuable thing that you have ever had?

ML: Oh, now that is a question. Well, my marriage life, and then -- my most valuable thing that I ever had was my home and my business and stuff, but I don't have that now.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: That was my most valuable thing. (Inaudible).

BC: Okay. Now, when you got married -- I didn't ask you this -- when you got married, where did you live then?

ML: Down -- down on St. Jerome's Creek, down in that -- off of 235. Well, on the water with the Langley Family.

BC: Okay.

ML: I went down with him when I got married.

BC: You lived with his family.

ML: With his family, yeah.

BC: Okay.

ML: A long time, a right good while till we got straightened out. And then -- yeah. And during that time, the base, you know, was built up there.

BC: Okay. And then --

ML: And then I moved up the road and got my own business and stuff, up on 235, close to Robinson Barnes' place.

BC: Okay. And you said you got your own business?

ML: I had -- my husband was a barber really, and I had a barbershop like the (inaudible).

BC: Oh, a barbershop.

ML: Yes, yeah.

BC: Oh, okay.

ML: My husband taught Sylvester and then they both got their license in March on

(inaudible), yeah.

BC: Okay.

ML: So, that started in my place, and now he's gone back down home.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: (Inaudible).

BC: Okay. So, you worked in the barbershop for awhile?

ML: No, I didn't. My husband wanted me to cut hair, but I said, I don't barber no hair. I

(inaudible) my own, I just don't like that. No, I didn't, my husband did.

BC: Oh, okay, okay. Have you done everything in your life that you ever wanted or planned to do?

ML: No.

BC: Okay. If not, what --

ML: Well, yeah, I knew you were going to ask me that. Oh, I don't want to be silly now. Let's see, what can you say. Have I done everything that I started out and planned to do? No. Because I had planned to be on my feet, you know, to progress more than what we did.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: I'm satisfied with my kids now (inaudible), but I wanted to do a little more myself.

BC: Um-hum. If you could go back and live your life again, what would you change?

ML: What would I change? Well, if I could go back and live my life again, I would really try to stay in school and get me some education, and that's it. Try to get a good job and just

get on my feet.

[38:44]

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

ML: Oh. To begin with, (inaudible) long, hard work and stuff being done and raising us as best they could, and they got in business and stuff. (Inaudible) my parents. But they just, you know (inaudible) and all and (inaudible).

BC: Okay.

ML: Life's trying for me right now because I'm just getting old and (inaudible). But it's hard for me. I'm just having a good time. My kids are really taking care of me good. I go everywhere all the time as far as I can go.

BC: Um-hum.

ML: And then I get tired and I have to stop. I have (inaudible).

BC: Okay. Now, The Mixx, as it is today --

ML: Um-hum.

BC: -- that was started by your -- your mother?

ML: My grandmother.

BC: Your grandmother, Melinda --

ML: No, Annie Lee.

BC: Annie Lee?

ML: Yes. (Inaudible) Lee.

BC: Right. She started the business where it is now?

ML: No.

BC: Okay.

ML: Oh, no. It was down there, like I told you, by St. Michael's Church, and the firehouse and stuff down there in that -- more in that area.

BC: Okay.

ML: Then they moved to Robinson's place, that's how Robinson got his place.

BC: (Inaudible) place.

ML: (Inaudible) all of them. Then Leonard -- did you know Leonard? (Inaudible).

BC: I knew of him.

ML: Oh (inaudible).

BC: Yes, uh-huh.

ML: But anyhow, he started down there in that old building down there, and then he went to Robinson's. They kept their place. Mama went up to The Mixx. It was two sisters, see. Two sisters, Nanette (phonetic) and Melinda. You know Bernard?

BC: Bernard Barnes, right.

ML: Yeah. See, he and I are first cousins. The two sisters' children were (inaudible) from my grandmother's place.

BC: Oh, okay.

ML: Uh-huh.

BC: Let me make sure I --

ML: But (inaudible).

BC: Let me sure I understand that. ML: Yeah.

BC: Your grandmother started the business --

ML: The business at the old (inaudible).

BC: -- which was a little south of where Bernard's place is now.

ML: That's right.

BC: Then your grandmother moved --

ML: She didn't move, she died. But (inaudible), now that's one sister. (Inaudible) moved up, her and Robinson, and started this place that they got up there like a little shop.

BC: Bernard's place.

ML: Bernard's place.

BC: Okay.

ML: Now, then the other sister, which was my mother, she went on up and got The Mixx, and brought that land from somebody up there and built up there.

BC: Okay. So, you --

ML: There's two sisters.

BC: Okay. So, the building where your grandmother had her original --

ML: Um-hum.

BC: That was no longer -- after the two sisters got their business --

ML: Right.

BC: -- that one just --

ML: It's gone. The house was falling down and the land could be up for sale (inaudible) it's been up for sale. The land is still there. (Inaudible) to the land. I think they're going to try to sell that.

BC: Oh, okay.

ML: But these two businesses -- two sisters gave him this old place and my grandmother's old country store and bar.

BC: Okay.

ML: Um-hum.

BC: Okay. I think -- do you have any more to add?

ML: No.

BC: This was a very interesting interview.

ML: Are you sure?

BC: Yeah. I've really enjoyed this.

ML: I'm glad you're satisfied then.

BC: Okay, thank you very much.

ML: Um-hum.

**(The interview was concluded.)**

[42:27]

BC: Biographical data information on Mary Marguerite Barnes Langley. Address, Box 27 or 37, Dameron, Maryland. Date of birth: February 28, 1920 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She attended Ridge Elementary School, St. Peter Claver Elementary School and Jarboesville [Schools]. She finished the 12th grade. She has done day work. Her husband's name is Joseph P. Langley. Her mother's parents were Annie Grenell, G-R-E-N-E-L-L, Lee, and Ignatius Lee. Her father's parents were Edward Barnes and Isabel Barnes. She believes Barnes was Isabel's maiden name, also. Her mother was Melinda Lee Barnes. Her father, Emory Barnes. Her sisters and brothers are herself, James Barnes and Helen Barnes Dowsey, D-O-W-S-E-Y. Her children are Loretta (inaudible) and Pamela Langley. Loretta's children are Francine, Frankie and Monique. Pamela's daughter is Tamika. Mrs. Langley's telephone number is 862-3744. That's the end of the biographical data information.

[44:28]

[End of Side 2, Tape 1 of 1]