

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions
Oral History Documentation Project

ALBERTINE THOMAS LANCASTER

Interviewed by Merideth Taylor

May 22, 2000

At her home in Wildwood Maryland.

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[Begin Tape 1 of 1, Side 1]

[0:00:00]

MT: I'm interviewing Tina Lancaster at her home in Wildewood. She is the wife of John Lancaster and it is May 22nd, year 2000. So, okay. Let's see. We were talking about when you came to the County. So, you came in 1971.

TL: '71. November.

MT: November 1971.

TL: 1971. Right.

MT: What brought you here?

TL: I came with John. We had just gotten married in New York. In fact, I was the one they had—Cook's funeral? You know, Archbishop's—

MT: Oh, oh. Archbishop.

TL: Yeah. Archbishop Cook in New York when he died just a few days ago, a week ago or so. I was saying that's where we got married—St. Patrick's Cathedral.

MT: Oh!

TL: But it took me at least three weeks to remember that I graduated from there also, from high school.

MT: Oh!

TL: St. Patrick's.

MT: At St. Patrick's.

TL: But I cannot remember who was the Cardinal in New York and I asked a friend of mine—because we met in high school, and she said she couldn't remember either. She called me the other day and we were talking, and I said, "What—? Who was the Cardinal in New York." And she said, "I don't remember." Isn't that awful?

MT: Well, I'm afraid— [laughter]

TL: Where you don't remember who, you know, in terms of your graduation, but then he didn't—he wasn't a speaker. Monsignor Sheen—. You remember Sheen?

MT: Yes, uh huh.

TL: Well, he was a speaker. He was just a Monsignor then and he subsequently, you know, went all the way up and became a Cardinal, but he was the Monsignor when we graduated.

MT: So obviously, you went to Catholic school.

TL: Yeah. Grammar school and high school.

MT: Well how did you meet John?

TL: I met John in New York.

MT: And what, was he living there then?

TL: His mother was living then.

MT: Oh.

TL: His sister had died and her husband started going round with a friend of mine and he met me and thought I was nice and said, "Oh, I want you to meet my brother in-law." And I said, "I'm not interested in meeting your brother in-law." [chuckle] And he said, "I'm not asking you to marry the man. I just said we should double-date sometime when he comes, you know." So, I said, "Okay" and we met and, you know, that started it all.

MT: And, he had come here to the County in 1951, you said?

TL: '57.

MT: Oh.

TL: '57 with his first wife.

MT: Okay.

TL: And she became ill. She taught in the system. She became ill and died.

MT: So, she was a public school teacher.

TL: Yes. Um hmm. [yes] And, they had two children.

MT: Okay. So, what were you doing at that time in New York?

TL: I was a clinical social worker. Well, I was a supervisor, but my training is clinical social work.

MT: So, how did you feel about leaving New York City to come and live in St. Mary's County?

TL: I guess it depends on your age and your goals and falling in love, and that would be the thing.

MT: [inaudible]

TL: Right, and I came down here. Had no idea. I saw buses, you know, riding along

235—Greyhound. I didn't know they were Greyhound at the time. I just looked at the buses, so I thought we had a transportation system, but we didn't. You know, there's no transportation system down here like I thought. You know, like the buses run in New York and Manhattan because I came from Manhattan and the buses, you know, run every three minutes or every five minutes, or sometimes every half-hour.

MT: What a difference! So, you grew up in Manhattan.

TL: I grew up in Manhattan.

MT: And moved to St. Mary's County.

TL: Yes, I did.

MT: What was that—? What were your biggest adjustments when you moved here?

TL: The fact that I had to learn how to drive.

MT: Ah! [laughter] Yeah!

TL: Never did like it, but I did because I learned how to drive. I had an accident the first time I went out.

MT: Oh no!

TL: By myself. Yes I did. Stupid accident, but one that was an accident. I was going to the beauty parlor and I was going to park my car in John's church parking lot. But I went too—I cut it too short and it had a gully, like, you know. So, I went into the gully. And instead of my asking somebody to take me out, I just thought I was going to get out so I went faster and it spun around. And then, it glided—it glided into a woman's house!
[laughter]

MT: Oh no!

TL: It just glided into her house. She was lucky because the insurance that she received, she fixed up a pretty nice house! [laughter]

MT: And this is your first drive out on your own! [laughter]

TL: And I didn't want to go, but she—. It was a Good Friday. She called me and said, "Could I today?" I was off. And I said, "No, I really don't." And then, John came in; he heard me. He said, "Oh, why don't you go?" So I called her back and I told her I'm coming, but I had it all planned in my mind that I was going out Saturday morning. There wasn't that much traffic and I was still relaxed, you know. But—.

MT: Wow! And, you had—

TL: But I wasn't hurt.

MT: And then somehow you got up your nerve to do it again. [laughter]

TL: Well, I had to get to work.

[0:06:09]

MT: So what did you do? What was your work?

TL: I worked for the Department of Social Services in Leonardtown, so I had to drive at least fourteen miles every day to work.

MT: So, did you continue to work as a social worker?

TL: I was the Supervisor of the Child Welfare Unit which covered child abuse, child neglect, foster care and adoption and home finance.

MT: And how long did you do that?

TL: Thirteen years before I retired.

MT: Wow. So, what were some of the other big differences in coming here and working with,

especially in your work situation—moving from New York to St. Mary's County?

TL: Well you see, when I went to the Department of Social Services here, they had just started a system of social work, really. Before it was just Public Welfare and the workers went out, in terms of making sure that they were abiding by the rules so you can save money. And, they had just separated the two and made it a different department altogether with agencies, I guess. All of the social—DW—Department of Social Services throughout Maryland, and I guess in New York, too because we had a Department of Social Services there, too, but I never worked for them. I always worked for private agencies where they did clinical social work.

MT: Did—Were the problems that people have that you dealt with—?

TL: The problems are the same all over. They're the same. But, it was the focus was difference. People came for service in Seattle. I worked for private agencies because they're the only ones that did social work, professional social work and I—. They came to us asking for the service whereas in the Department of Social Services here, most of them were on Public Assistance and they were more or less referred to the Social Services division. You know, they felt if they didn't, they might not get their money or something, you know, whatever goes on in their mind.

MT: So were they not as motivated, in a way, then?

TL: They were—they were motivated but to a lesser degree. Right. Like, they had to work up to being motivated to the degree that they wanted to change things. You know, for example, they expected the workers—or not the workers, the aides—to take them to the laundromat, the beauty shop. I said, "That's not your job. Your job is to help them to do

things for themselves, and you're not there to drive them, to be chauffeuring them around. You're there to help them with some of their problems—basic problems keeping them from being an intact family or whatever. And, it worked out.

MT: A lot of educating to do?

TL: Yes. And even to the workers because they—. You know, we have a tendency to feel that we're kind and giving and that's all we need to do to help people, you know, and—and that's not it at all because kindness can be killing. It can be and, you know, but you have to get them to be able to see this because they don't see it right away. They think, "Oh, she's just talking [inaudible]" But, it's not so. It's a fact. To help people to help themselves.

MT: So, would you say that you—. It seems, by the fact that you pursued your work right away, that your career was important to you in your life.

TL: Oh yes! I enjoy social work. I really do. Uh huh. [yes] I really enjoy it.

MT: Did you see much change over that time of your—that thirteen years, in terms of your workplace or—?

TL: When you say change?

MT: Yeah. I don't have a specific idea in mind, but just over those thirteen years, I mean, I know there have been a lot of changes in the County—

TL: Right.

MT: —which I'm going to ask you about.

TL: Right. Right.

MT: But I was just thinking about in terms of focusing with your work, how things—if there seemed to be more troubles or just a growth of population or a shift in population or anything particular changes that you've noticed?

TL: No, not since I settled. Not anymore. Not anymore problems. The problems are the same no matter where, but what you—what they didn't know, as far as I was concerned: They weren't aware of what social work was about—the clientele. I don't mean the agency itself. You know, the expectations of social work.

MT: The clientele.

TL: They expect them to be giving and “take care of me,” and that's not what social workers are about. Helping people take care of themselves.

MT: So, the clientele stayed fairly much the same?

TL: Yeah, the people right. But most of them in New York, they were independent. They were working people. They paid a fee to the agency.

MT: And most of the people—

TL: But here, you had most of the people on Public Assistance, which is different. They were more dependent. A lot of them didn't have transportation.

MT: And they were from all over the County?

TL: Yes, and they didn't have transportation.

MT: And, there is no public transportation so—

TL: And they didn't have cars, you know, so—. Yeah, it's kind of debilitating to be so dependent even to having to go to the doctor or going to the grocery store. You have to ask somebody to take you or whatever. It's not easy.

MT: No.

TL: Ever thought of it?

MT: No. I haven't thought of it. [chuckle]

TL: Okay.

MT: But, I am pretty new to living in this kind of area, too, and so it's still, you know—

TL: Where did you come from?

MT: —a challenging thought! [chuckle]

TL: Where did you come from?

MT: I grew up in Denver, Colorado.

TL: Oh! I've been out there. It's a nice place.

MT: And, I taught a lot of different places, but I've never lived in such a rural place—

TL: Right. Right.

MT: —without public transportation.

[12:52]

TL: Well, what helped a lot in my adjustment was the fact that when I first came here, John was the National President of his association so you had a lot of traveling to do, you know, and we went to Denver, Colorado twice.

MT: And you traveled a lot?

TL: I saw the United States that way. We traveled to Colorado and to Arkansas and to Kansas. And I went to California even before I came here, I went to California in '54 so that was a long time ago. Or, '64. I'm sorry.

MT: What age were his children when you got married?

TL: They were adults. They were out of college. They were adults and they were out of college.

MT: So, you didn't really have little kids to—

TL: No challenge there, except I—

MT: Did you have children?

TL: No, I didn't have any children and we had a grandson. He was little then, you know, but he's grown now and getting married.

MT: Oh, great!

TL: Getting married in September.

MT: Wow! That's exciting!

TL: Right. Right. Fine young man.

MT: Great grand babies coming along.

TL: Yeah, that's what he said. He's going to make up for what his uncle and his mother didn't do. They only had one, you know. That's what he said! [laughter] A nice young man, really, and he—the young lady, his fiancé, she's quite nice. They make a good match.

MT: That's good.

TL: Um hmm [yes].

MT: Well, let me look through these questions and see what would be relevant. Okay. Well, you're—Let's talk a little bit about—Where—Did you grow up with parents?

TL: Yeah: mother, father and two sisters. It was three of us, three girls was in the family.

MT: What did your parents— ? Did your parents work?

TL: Yeah. My mother didn't except after—. When we got older, she did. She did domestic work on Saturday mornings, you know, when we were off from school and she also went into the factory later on and worked. Dress factory.

MT: And—?

TL: My father was an accountant. He came here when he was nineteen and he worked as a longshoreman and he worked as a elevator operator and then he—not really an accountant, but a bookkeeper. You know, back in those days, they were called bookkeepers.

MT: And what—came from where?

TL: Oh, the West Indies.

MT: The West Indies.

TL: Uh huh, uh huh. [yes] St. Kitt's.

MT: St. Kitt's.

TL: Small island. Sixty-six square miles.

MT: There were a lot of people coming then from the West Indies.

TL: Yeah, he came back. He came through Ellis Island so I send them a contribution when they was fixing it. And of course, they thanked me, "Mr. Albertine!" [laughter] But, that reminded me when I was going to college, they—I went to Hunter in New York.

MT: Okay! Hunter.

TL: And, they wrote me back and said all my credentials were eligible, but they didn't take men. So I took the letter down there and, of course, everybody laughed."

MT: Oh my goodness! So they—

TL: So, they just saw the “Albert.”

MT: Funny, you know.

TL: You know what I mean?

MT: Oh, okay.

TL: They associated with the “Albert.” Albertine. A, L, B, E, R—

MT: They didn’t even check it out.

TL: They didn’t think. In terms of the data, they should have, but they didn’t.

MT: Okay. When did you go to Hunter?

TL: I went to Hunter in the 40’s. Came out 1949.

MT: Did you—by any chance, do you know who Holly Marshall is? Do you know who Polly Murray is?

TL: Um hmm. [no] Neither one.

MT: Okay.

TL: They went to Hunter at that time?

MT: Well, Polly Marshall’s father came from the West Indies about the same—

TL: Oh, Marshall!

MT: She’s a writer, but Polly Murray is also written, but she did go to Hunter.

TL: I know some Marshalls—the daughter—

MT: Polly Marshall is—

TL: No, but her name wasn’t Polly.

MT: Is a pretty well known writer. She writes fiction, but Polly Murray is a really incredible—I mean, Polly Murray. She went to Hunter.

TL: When did she go to Hunter?

MT: Well, that's what I'm trying to remember. In—

TL: I came out in '49.

MT: It might a been—oh, she was probably there earlier.

TL: Oh, okay.

MT: She was probably there earlier and she became—. She was very active and then she went to Howard and she was—became a lawyer and was very active in Civil Rights during the—Yeah, it was earlier because she was active during World War II.

TL: Was she a Marshall?

MT: This is Murray. This is Polly Murray.

TL: Oh, Murray.

MT: Yeah, I know. I used to get them confused. She was very active during the War and she continued to do Civil Rights law for awhile. And then, she actually became the first, one of the first women Episcopal priests. She lives in Baltimore.

TL: Oh!

MT: She's a really interesting person.

TL: Oh yeah!

MT: And, she's written a couple of books, but she went to Hunter; but, it would have been quite a bit earlier, I guess, then. So, yeah. She wrote an autobiographical book. She grew up in Durham, North Carolina. Called "The Proud Shoes," and then she wrote another autobiography later in her life. So, Hunter, yeah.

TL: Yeah, I went to Hunter.

MT: And then, did you have schooling beyond Hunter?

TL: Yeah.

MT: For social work?

TL: I went to graduate school—Fordham.

MT: Fordham. Okay.

TL: So, some people say Fordham University - Bronx. I said, “No. I went to Fordham University in Manhattan.” Same school, but they had different—yeah. So, I wasn’t in the Bronx. It was in Manhattan.

MT: Okay.

TL: In those days, you know, their School of Social Work in a brown-stone, two brown-stone houses on East 39th Street.

MT: Oh! Really?

TL: Um hmm. [yes] And of course they now have beat-up buildings down in New York in—what is it? 66? 62nd?

MT: I don’t know exactly.

TL: Yeah, in the 60's, you know, on the west side.

MT: Okay. You graduated in '49 from Hunter.

TL: Um hmm. [yes]

MT: And then went to Fordham.

TL: Right. Right.

[19:25]

MT: Let’s see. Did you have dreams of being—? Did you always want to be a social worker?

TL: No.

MT: Or, did you have—?

TL: It crept up on me. At first when I went to college, I thought I was going to be a History teacher. And then I said, “Well, maybe I’ll be a lawyer.” And then I said, “No. law school is three years,” and social was only two years for graduate school; so I picked Social Work.

MT: Smart idea! [chuckle]

TL: Simple as that.

MT: And obviously, it suited you because you kept doing it.

TL: Yes, I loved it.

MT: How many years, then, did you work as a social worker all together? Thirteen here?

TL: Let’s see: from ’54 when I started out was when I got my Masters. So from ’54 to—

MT: ’84?

TL: ’88.

MT: ’88. Okay.

TL: So that’s 30-something years.

MT: Wow! Yeah. It’s quite a career.

TL: Right. I enjoyed it. Really did. My sense of helping people—to helping young people, too. Some of the workers, you know, really training for them because I did help the Adjunct Professor at Columbia and Fordham and University of Maryland. The students, social work students, the students getting their Masters.

MT: And working with them.

TL: Right. I'd like that, too.

MT: Mentoring them.

TL: Right. They were in time in the agency where I worked.

MT: That's great. Was—did you have—. Were you married before?

TL: No. This is my first marriage.

MT: That was your first marriage.

TL: Right. Okay.

MT: Let's see. Well, we could talk a little bit about your wedding. You got married in the cathedral. Right?

TL: Right, but we're not going to talk about that! [laughter] We got married.

MT: You didn't have a big—you didn't have a big?

TL: No. I had a big enough, you know, as far as I was concerned. Some 25 people invited. Some people I, unfortunately, did and couldn't. I had a nice reception— sit-down dinner. Hors d'oeuvres before. It was very nice. The floor had two bartenders: one on one side, rolling bar, and one on the other side. They tell me they remembered the drinks that people had. The first one would come back and ask for another one. They were so well trained. Right. And when we were downstairs, kind of relaxing after the wedding before we went upstairs to the reception, I understood that everybody ran out of the reception room to see Jackie Kennedy.

MT: Oh!

TL: Onassis. She had come. She was at a wedding in the same place. They had a lot of them. They're like Cross— have you ever been to Cross weddings?

MT: Oh, no.

TL: Or the other one on Security Boulevard?

MT: I don't think so.

TL: In Baltimore? You would have different rooms.

MT: So a lot of people are—

TL: So a lot of people—yeah, they're big.

MT: Like suites.

TL: Yeah. And so that she was in one of them with a cousin of Onassis for the wedding, to their wedding, and so somebody her and they all ran out and see her. My girlfriend—.

One of my friends that I—met her when I was in high school. First day of high school, I

met her and we've remained friends. I was Maid of Honor and her first child's

godmother, and she was policewoman. She has gone to Nursing School and she was a

policewoman at this point, and so she was able to show her badge and they let her go in

the bathroom. She took a friend with her and then she saw Jackie. She was really thrilled about it.

MT: Thrilled. Yeah. I have a question. Let's see. Okay.

[23:55]

TL: My mother also came from St. Kitt's.

MT: Oh!

TL: Very romantic story. My mother and father met on the boat coming to Ellis Island.

MT: Oh!

TL: And they must have, you know, gotten around together because she was fifteen and he

was nineteen and he—she—they couldn't get married until she finished. She came to finish high school, and she finished and then they got married.

MT: That's actually what I was going to ask was: How long—? What about your courtship? How did you?

TL: About two years.

MT: About two years.

TL: Yeah, two years. Right. Right. About two years coming up. Came up to New York.

MT: So, you had some time to come down and see what it looked like down here?

TL: Yeah, right. When I came, oh, two or three times. You know, met his friends and so forth. They were—. Most of his friends were in the Jolly Gents and his co-workers and a few of them came up to the wedding. You know Florence Lanham?

MT: I know the name, but I don't know her.

TL: Yeah, she came. She came up to the wedding with her husband. Ben Simmons couldn't come because his wife's mother had a car accident so he canceled. Oh, I know. The [inaudible] came.

MT: Oh.

TL: You know [inaudible]?

MT: Yeah. Just barely.

TL: They came and they were able to. Ben's place.

MT: What was—? I don't know Mr. Lancaster—what years very well, but he was on the Board of Education or Commissioner?

TL: He was on the Board of Education, then he was Commissioner.

MT: And was that after you came down here?

TL: Yes.

MT: Yes.

TL: Yeah, right. Right, I was on the State Board of Education, too for ten years.

MT: For ten years?

TL: Um hmm. [yes] Two five-year terms.

MT: And when was that?

TL: It had to be '76 to '86.

MT: So you jumped right into, sort of, the political and social life here in the County.

TL: Everything. Everything. Everything. I joined AEW; I joined BPW; I joined—

MT: Let's see. BPW is?

TL: Business—Margaret Brent Business & Professional Women. You've heard of them And, they have a gazebo off—down at the college. They put a garden, right?

MT: Oh, right! Yeah.

TL: I joined the AEW, the League of Women Voters...President of AEW one time and President of BPW one time.

MT: Any other organizations that you can think of that you participated in?

TL: Yeah. It was—I'm a charter member of the—it was called the Tri-County Home For Boys, the Red House. You remember that? The Red House? No? Before they had problems?

MT: And is that still functioning or is—?

TL: It's called—not the Tri-County. It's two: Tri-County—. This was Tri-County Group

Home for Boys, but we called it the Red House. It was in Chaptico, and I was a charter member of that board for awhile. And, we did a really—We helped a lot of young, young adolescents who had problems. Remember one of the boys who killed a teacher in Chaptico High School?

MT: When was that?

TL: About 10 years ago, I guess. I wasn't with the group anymore because I couldn't keep up with that and the State Board of Education, too.

MT: I think that may have been before I got here.

TL: Which year did you get here?

MT: '91.

TL: Oh yes! It was before '91. Yeah. Had to be. Time goes so far.

MT: I know.

TL: [inaudible] and I was on the Library Board for ten years, Advisory Board, and I was on the Community College Board. Just came off. Just, at the time. My ten-year—I was on that for ten years also because, you know, in those days they, you know—. It was a five-year term; and then if you wanted to—

MT: Another term.

TL: You could have another term.

MT: So, how many of these were consecutive. I mean, it sounds like you were very, very busy. Did you do a lot of these at the same time?

TL: No, I wasn't on the Library Board when I was with the College Board. I just got off the College Board about a year ago. When they built, you know, Leonardtown, my term was

up then...[inaudible] ...part of the Board went to the groundbreaking, the opening of it.

MT: Oh, that's great.

TL: Then my time was up.

MT: Well, that's a big—there's some big developments there.

TL: Yeah. Right, right. And let's see, I was on the State Board, I said, the State Board of Education. I think it was '76 to '86.

MT: So that was an appointed board?

TL: Yeah, by the government before they became a—no. Still is an appointed board.

MT: Is it a state-appointed now as a local—

TL: Local is now an election. In fact, John was on it. When he was on the local board, it was appointed.

MT: It was appointed.

TL: Like Mr. Forrest who just got his—his father's on the Board. You know, Mr. Forrest who just got—

MT: Yes.

TL: Honorary Doctorate?

MT: Yes. Were there when he got his Honorary Doctorate?

TL: No, we were in the Hamptons. John's 60th.

MT: Did he go to Hampton?

TL: He went to Hampton.

MT: So that was his—

TL: That was his 60th. Emeritus. That was his 60th year so we went down there, so we didn't

get to the graduation. No.

MT: Well, it was nice, but it was—

TL: I'm sure it was nice.

MT: He didn't—. It would have been nice if he could have said something.

TL: Oh, they didn't let them say anything?

MT: They didn't.

TL: Oh. None of them?

[phone rings and tapes stops, then begins again]

MT: Okay.

TL: I was mentioning John Forrest.

MT: Yeah, Mr. Forrest.

TL: Right. Fine man. God bless him. He really is.

MT: Yes, I'm really—

TL: And his family.

MT: Have they been—? I think, have they been friends for a long time? Were they good friends?

TL: Who, John?

MT: Yeah. John and—

TL: Um hmm. [yes]

MT: He came to Fred Talbert's birthday party. Mr. Forrest did.

TL: Yeah, we couldn't get there.

MT: Okay. And they—and I heard that they had been good friends for a long time.

[31:24]

TL: Right. Mr. Talbert. Yeah. Well, Mr. Talbert and John used to belong to the same church.

MT: And, that was which church?

TL: First Missionary Baptist Church.

MT: First Missionary Baptist Church.

TL: John was the Deacon there—the Chairman of the Deacon Board for about 20 years.

MT: So, that's interesting. So—

TL: And Mr. Talbert was on the—I think it was the Trustees. So, they really talked a long time. We couldn't make the party.

MT: Did you continue to go to the Catholic Church, then?

TL: Yeah, I'm still a Catholic.

MT: So—

TL: Immaculate Heart of Mary.

MT: It was interesting that he was Baptist. And did that work out okay, in terms of your marriage? It didn't create any problems?

TL: Um hmm. [no] No problems. I know they say, "mixed marriages," but never interfered. I respect—I respected all religions anyway. You know, I guess I would consider myself a special kind of Catholic. I was not going to impose my beliefs on anybody else and I respect everybody's religion.

MT: That's great. I think, yeah, maybe problems, more problems come up with children.

TL: If you have children.

MT: Yeah, that can be more—

TL: But usually, if you're married, the child usually becomes a Catholic.

MT: Oh right. So, would you say for both of you religion was an important part of your life?

TL: Oh yes! And John, you know, is a devout Baptist. I consider myself a good Catholic.

MT: Well, what about—. Okay. And if you think of other activities or offices, you know, we can come back to that. Certainly, you might have forgotten something! [laughter]

TL: I'm sure I have.

MT: Have you gotten particular awards besides the offices that you've held?

TL: Yeah.

MT: Boards that you've sat on?

TL: Woman of the Year for Margaret Brent BPW.

MT: That's not surprising.

TL: Before I got here, I was in "Who's Who in America." Before I came to Maryland, and I have been on TV for Child Welfare with the Director of the Department of Social Services up in New York—myself and two other women. That was a long time ago, WPTX TV. They don't have it anymore, I don't guess, in New York, PTX. Anybody mention PTX. Scared to death!

MT: It's pretty nerve-racking being on television.

TL: Public relations person from my agency had—. We went into a Irish bar to have a drink before I went on that TV! [chuckle] Scared to death! But, when I saw that when it was over, it came out very nice. Um hmm. [yes]

MT: Yeah, it's a lot easier if you're taping something rather than doing something live, I

guess, but it's still—

TL: Right, it was live, you know, but I managed. In fact, it turned out very well because we were on TV with the State Board about some of the children in school [inaudible] and Ernie Bell said, "Well, you gave the best answer, Tina." Mr. Lancaster said, "I saw her on TV and you gave the best answer."

MT: That's great.

TL: Yeah! Course, I didn't think so, but he did so. You know, you never can tell, you know, how you project, you know.

MT: That's true.

TL: I'm in "Who's Who in Mental Health Professionals" and there's another "Who's Who," but I don't remember what it is.

MT: So considering that you've been here since, just since 1961, it sounds like you've had quite an impact on the community, really. It's a lot of very influential boards and groups that you've been a part of.

TL: Right. Right, and I've enjoyed it. I've learned from it and I hope I contributed something to it, to them.

MT: Well, I'm just thinking that you—with both of you so active in social and political life, you must have had a very busy lifestyle. Must have been gone a lot of evenings?

TL: Yeah, yeah. We did, but we managed to be together and, you know, we did a lot of things together, too.

MT: What sort of things did you do together?

TL: We traveled a great deal. We off to the Caribbean. Went out to California every, at least

every fifteen months. That's where his oldest, his son is—oldest child. We used to go out there at least every fifteen months if not to a conference, to see him. We belong to a social club. He belonged to it. You know, Jolly Gents.

MT: Jolly Gents. Does that have a Women's Auxiliary or anything?

TL: No.

MT: No.

TL: He started—I started the what we call the Merry Wives.

MT: Oh, the Merry Wives!

TL: Yes, and that went along for a good 25 years.

MT: Ah!

TL: And we just disbanded it recently. We all got old and got sick. You know, I have chronic bronchitis so it bothers me sometimes.

MT: Oh, I'm sorry.

TL: And, others have died and left and others felt that it was, you know: a time to be born and a time to die.

MT: The season.

TL: Yeah, right. So, it was 25 years we celebrated our anniversary. We had a nice affair and then we folded it.

MT: [chuckle] [inaudible]

TL: Right, right, right.

MT: What do you—? What sort of activities do you still do now, in terms of social activities or community activities?

TL: I'm on the Three Oaks Board. You know the Three Oaks Board for homeless, homeless men. I'm still active in the Links.

MT: Yeah, I don't think you mentioned the Links before.

TL: Oh, I didn't mention the Links?

MT: I don't think so.

TL: Oh yeah. I belonged to the Links. I started the Links here in the County.

MT: Oh, you started it?!

TL: Um hmm. [yes] I'm the organizer over there [inaudible] '80 to '2 and then it became a chapter of the Links. We fulfilled our requirements, but they demanded of us, you know, in order to be good Links. Right.

MT: Are there other things that you do for fun, for relaxation?

TL: I like cards.

MT: Cards. Okay.

TL: I like bridge and this other friend of mine, we were going to start to do chess but we—she got sick and hasn't been able to follow through and I—I haven't pushed it because I'm not, you know—. I really don't want it. I've been tied down to things all my life, in terms of commitments; and when you start playing chess and, you know, cards, and people want to do it every week. You know, I don't want anything that I have to—

MT: Do every week.

TL: Yeah.

MT: So, you like to have your more free time.

TL: Flexible, right. Particularly because some days I don't feel well, you know.

MT: So, that's—your health has had an effect on your social schedule lately.

TL: Yeah. I think so. Right, right. But, I manage. I manage to get around. John is very helpful, patient, so I manage to get dressed and get out and go.

[39:35]

MT: It seems like, that you've made quite a few changes yourself in the County, but that's certainly one of the big things that this project is about is looking at changes through time.

TL: Right. Right.

MT: So even from 1971, I think that you probably see a lot of changes.

TL: Yes, there's been a lot of changes. Right, right.

MT: And, I'd like to just talk about that a little bit. What are some, I guess, some of the—if you had to say the biggest changes that you've seen, what, you know, comes to your mind?

TL: The amount of participating the blacks do now—African Americans. I like the word “black.” I don't like African American. More, participation from us.

MT: And, do you think—in what ways?

TL: They're on Boards. They belong to mixed clubs like, for example, what was that group? Chamber of Commerce.

MT: Chamber of Commerce.

TL: You know. In general, they're really—that—Salt & Pepper. It's another example. So, I really feel there's more togetherness and less awkwardness within, among the groups.

MT: In terms of more, just, integrating socially—?

TL: Right, right.

MT: In groups.

TL: Right. Right. There's a big—. I remember when I first came here and there was a dress store around the corner from where I worked in Leonardtown, and someone said—I said I was going to that shop to see what they had in there because I like to buy clothes and, you know. One of my workers said, "Oh no. You can't go because they won't let you try on their clothes." I said, "Come on."

MT: This was in the 70's.

TL: Yeah. I said, "Come on." She said, "Oh no. My mother went in there and they told her she could take it home and try it on so—." " So come on with me." She said, "No. I would never go in that store to shop."

I went in the store and looked around and she said, "Can I help you?" I said, "You have some nice things in here." It was Janice. Used to be called Janice—that store. And I said, "You have some nice things here." "Yes, anything you see you can try on." "Well, let me see," and I looked around and I tried something on. And then, she said, "Oh, you don't look—I don't know your face" or whatever, you know. I said, "No, I'm a newcomer. I married John Lancaster." She said, "Oh, I know Mr. Lancaster. He brought my mother from the 4-H Club one day." You know, maybe—I don't know whether that was the entree or not, but I know that I went to a meeting that Jonathan Nelson chaired about integration and such. And, I gave that example: how people grow

and they change, and then I went back and I told them that I used them as an example.

I'm not sure if they really liked it, but you know. I went anyway.

MT: I wonder how long it was between the times that, you know, that that woman's mother had gone in there.

TL: Well, I understood that even while I was shopping in there—because I got most of my clothes from there—that a girl went there with her mother and they weren't very, you know, they weren't very polite or very—what do they call it? Customer friendly. So, I think it was based on the fact they didn't think had the money to buy their clothes. That's what I think because this other girl that was down here longer than I was came from Virginia. And when I started shopping and she went shopping and they got to be good friends. You know, so, you can't tell, you know, what—what's the defining—

MT: Have you seen other changes along that line or what seem—what people perceived as being changes?

TL: Well, I guess, in terms of restaurants, right?

MT: And how has that changed?

TL: Well you see it's very hard for me because I'm not very conscious of situations like that. If I go in a restaurant, I've never had any problems. Except in New York—what was the name of that restaurant? Child's?

MT: Child's?

TL: You're heard of Child's? Wasn't it a chain restaurant? Yeah, I think that was the name, and they never served blacks—African Americans, even in New York.

MT: Even in New York.

TL: Even in New York because I remember the day when we were all going to go to lunch there. The workers, they said, "Let's go to lunch." I said, "I can't go with you all." They said, "Why?" I said, "They would serve me if I went with you all, but if I went by myself or with another black person, they would not be—they would not serve me, and I don't think I want to give them my money." So that, that's the only one I know.

You had incidents where, of people being rude, you know. Like one time I was trying to get on the bus and the woman, the bus driver—it was kind of an unwritten rule. A black bus driver was trying to stop in front of a black person when they came up to the corner. That was their way of helping each other, you know. And this day, the driver was about eighteen. This—or seventeen—this driver stopped right in front of me and this woman was pushing me out of the way to get on first. So, she couldn't make it because it was right in front of me. All I had to do was go up there. Well, she was trying to get in. I just put my arm up and she couldn't get in. I just went on in. When I got in, I was getting change on the bus—that was the days when they, you know, changed money for you and all that. And she said, "You want to fight? You want to fight?"

MT: My goodness!

TL: "Want to fight?! I'm a lady and apparently, you're not," and I just went off back to my seat and I thought that I was tickled. That I thought some time you don't think of good answers, but I thought of a good answer and I was tickled. Tickled pink. I have never forgotten that story. And the bus driver looked at me, and he looked like he wanted to

shake my hand or give me a kiss on my cheek. And the other people on the bus just looked at her. She felt like two cents. [inaudible] But things did happen, you know.

MT: Well, so you— [tape ends mid sentence]

[End of Tape 1 of 1, Side 1]

[Begin Tape 1 of 1, Side 2]

[tape is quickly flipped over and the interview picks back up where it left off]

[47:27]

MT: Yeah. So you haven't really—

TL: Not really.

MT: Witnessed any incidents of overt racism in the County?

TL: Really overtly. Sometimes it's subtle. You know, some people are uncomfortable with you and sometimes it's based on their lack of experience with African Americans and sometimes they're downright prejudiced, but I don't take the time to stop to worry about which it is. That's their problem. I've never taken it upon myself. It's their problem.

MT: So—

TL: I know who I am.

MT: Especially since you've traveled a lot.

TL: Right.

MT: Do you feel—In terms of how you compare the Countians who are living, or in the County

compared to other parts of the country, do you feel that there's any differences in that, in terms of race relations or outlook?

TL: There has to be; but as I said before, I think that there's some changes throughout the years since I've been. As I said, there's more participation in activities, more participation in Democratic party, more participation in clubs, on Boards which was never done before. And, I think a lot of things came into play. First of all, you had the Afro-American not being afraid to venture out. They've grown, and you have the whites being a little more open, the ones that wanted to be open. I'm sure there's still some that's not open. You know, that still exists, but I think that went on all over.

MT: I guess—you know, one of the things that people always talk about who grew up here, as far as the big changes, is when the Base came.

TL: The Base.

MT: The Navy Base. That was because it brought so much more diversity.

TL: Right.

MT: Into the County.

TL: It sure did.

MT: But that, I mean, that was already in operation.

TL: They started that in '44, right? '43?

MT: The beginning of the War actually. Yeah. And so, I don't know that—I mean we have had an influx, just in the last few years, of more engineers and more people from outside the county—

TL: Right. Even coming—

MT: —than were already here. What about—?

TL: But I'm sure some of them come with their prejudices, too.

MT: Um hmm [yes]. I'm sure they do! [chuckle] What about other changes in the County since, since you moved here?

TL: Well, I know when I first came we lived on 235, right across from the Lord Calvert Motel.

MT: Oh.

TL: And I always said that helped my adjustment because there was a neon sign! [laughter]

MT: That's right. A little bit of New York.

TL: Yeah. New York sign! That helped and the fact that we did a lot traveling. He was the National President of his association. You know, that helped my adjustment, but I said that to say what? You asked me what?

MT: Oh, other changes. So, you lived down on 235.

TL: Then it was just the one lane, you know.

MT: It was one lane?

TL: Yeah. One car on one side; another car—two lanes.

MT: Two lanes, yeah.

TL: And, I could go across the street to buy cigarettes. You know, run across the street if I ran out of cigarettes, I could go on Lord Calvert Motel. They had a little nightclub there and I could get my cigarettes and go back across the street. You can't do that now.

MT: It's worth your life.

TL: That's right. You can't do it. You can't go through it. No way. That's a change.

MT: How do you feel about the development?

TL: Oh, I don't know. I think—I would like to see it stop as of this point. They could leave the Old Colony out.

MT: That First Colony! [laughter]

TL: First Colony, I'm sorry. I said old Colony. But, that's the times we live in.

MT: Some people call it Lost Colony.

TL: Oh, that's what they say? Lost?

MT: Some people.

TL: Didn't hear that one.

MT: But these are the times we live in.

TL: You know, I—The same old kinds of things come in here, like the Target, like the Waldorf—Wal-Mart. You know, they don't bring anything of quality down here. Same old story. So why?

MT: It's all the big box stores.

TL: Yeah. You know, why don't they—? Why don't they bring in a Macy's? Or a Lord & Taylor or a Sacks 5th? You know, they don't bring that in. It's still the same kind of store. I called JC Penney when they first opened to asked them something that they had and they didn't have it. And they said—you know, I said, "What do you mean you don't have it?" I don't know what it was, and they said, "Well, we're a 3rd line store for JC

Penney.” They’re not a first-class, you know. They’re not.

MT: Oh! Small.

TL: Who needs it?

MT: Do you do your shopping, a lot of your shopping outside of the County? Or are you able to find what you want pretty much or do you do your shopping elsewhere?

TL: I do a lot of shopping elsewhere. Sometime John gets everything he wants right here. He doesn’t know why I can’t find anything I want right here! [chuckle] But, I have a—. You see my wrist are so small.

MT: Yes! I did notice your hands are so delicate!

TL: Yeah. Right. Well, and my feet are the same way. I take a 6. When I came, I took a 6A. Nobody sold to 6A.

MT: Oh really!

TL: I couldn’t get shoe down here when I first came. I don’t know whether they do now or not.

MT: That’s interesting.

TL: But whenever I went to visit my niece, she died when I was seven—she was a lawyer in New York, I would buy my shoes. Things like that.

MT: Yeah. I know I think a lot of people felt like, “Oh, it will be great because we’ll get better. We’ll get more stores,” but we just get—

TL: The same kind of stores: Target and, you know. Wal-Mart was doing alright.

[54.39]

MT: Did you enjoy the, the rural atmosphere?

TL: I did.

MT: Is that something you—

TL: Yeah. And, I guess, you know, I didn't have a difficult time because John had been here so many years. He knew so many people.

MT: Oh yeah.

TL: It was different than if, maybe, if John and I had come down together, you know, in '71. It would have been a little different.

MT: Plenty of friends and social gatherings.

TL: Right. Right. Right.

MT: So if you had a choice, I mean, would you, at this point, I mean, do you like—? Would you choose to live in the city or do you really like living in the country?

TL: Oh, I like living here. Oh yes. I like living here. I like living here. In fact, I liked it from the very beginning. Used to meet people, said, "Oh, I can't stand this!" I never had that kind of [inaudible] even though I didn't know they didn't have transportation when I came! [chuckle]

MT: That's interesting to make that adjustment.

TL: Yeah. I think it depends on the point in life that you do things or, you know, your own individual needs at that point, and that makes a difference. I guess.

MT: True. I know. I'm not supposed to be talking, but I have to say that one of my friends—Iris Ford from the college—

TL: Oh, that's John coming.

MT: She complains about the noise of the birds. She couldn't sleep. She's from the city.

TL: Yeah, I know how it is.

MT: And I remember that when she first came, she couldn't sleep because of the birds!

TL: We didn't have any birds. I didn't have any birds. Oh, because she lived in that—

MT: That house by the bay, but I thought that was so funny. All that noise of the city. Hello,
Mr. Lancaster!

TL: Hi! You back early, huh?

JL: Huh?

TL: You're back early? Anybody won? Did you win any money?

MT: [long pause] Alright. Well, this actually the same question I was asking, just a little bit different. What do you think of the direction that the County is going in today? We were talking about development, but that could be any kind of answer. What do you think of the direction the County is going in today?

TL: Well, you know it's so many people come in, they have to offer more services. And you know, St. Mary's County—they do very well in the number of services they have.

MT: Do you think it measures up?

TL: More than you would think. Yes. I'm always learning about something new that's going on. They have a lot of, for example, agencies in helping children, groups helping children, groups helping adults, Helping Hands. I mean, they have a lot of caring about others in the County. They really do.

MT: Well, that's good to hear.

TL: They really do.

MT: You know, when the people, the native Countians talk about it, they talk about the really old days. If someone was sick, you went and visited them and to them, you know, they feel like there's a lot of loss of sense of community. So, this is very different though?

TL: Yeah, because this is coming from a big city, you know, you have all of these things. You don't have next-door—You have next-door neighbors because you're living in an apartment. Most people do in Manhattan. You have nice neighbors that come in, that would come in and help out if something happened to a mother or something like that. Like you had it down here. And you still have that down here. Not to the degree that they used to have it, I'm sure. Well, when John had his triple bypass, Miss Forrest brought us dinner twice. And when she brought it, she brought enough to last for a couple of days.

MT: I think there's a lot of that.

TL: It still happens. It still happens.

MT: Is there anything—? Okay. And, you said you'd be just as happy if the growth kind of stopped at this point?

TL: At this point in time, right. Right. After the Lost Colony. [laughter]

[59:27]

MT: What about—? Do you have any—? Another one of the questions about young people which—I mean, I don't know if you think young people in the County are any different

than anywhere else, but how do you feel about the young people—whether they're changing; whether they've changed; whether the problems?

TL: You know, my contact with young people has been limited here because I didn't have any children growing up. You know, if you ask John, he might give you a different answer, but I think they're—they're the same. I worked with some of them in the Agency. They came in with their parent because of problems or not getting along or interpersonal. You know, parent-child relationships and they were—they weren't much different.

MT: A lot of people think that violence in teenagers and younger—?

TL: Here? In St. Mary's?

MT: No, in general. Do you think that that's true or, in general, or do you think that's true at all in St. Mary's?

TL: Well, I don't think it's about the children in St. Mary's. They have in Washington and, you know. They don't have that much in Manhattan like they do in Washington.

MT: Yeah.

TL: In New York, they don't have that much.

MT: That's true.

TL: You know, the whole cliché of breakdown in family life, you know. So many of the folk—. One thing: There's a lot of acceptance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy here more than it was in New York, where I came from, which means women having to bring up children by themselves. And, they get involved with too many boyfriends which

endangers their children—girl or boy these days. They—they do a lot of this in front of their children and they don't see that going out of the bedroom saying, "Do as I say, don't do as I do." Children do as they—as you do. And some many times, the children get lost [inaudible] Very sad.

MT: Yeah. What about senior citizens, in terms of services: Do you think that there are good services for seniors here?

TL: That Commission, the County Commission on Aging, very good. They have a lot of services for the aged. In fact, when John had his triple bypass, we got the Meals On Wheels for a period of time. They have a lot of activities here. But this area right here is a retirement village. I told you that? Yeah, it's a retirement village.

MT: Very nice.

TL: And they have a lot of activities, and so does the Commission on Aging. They have the Chancellor's Run Road where they go. You know that?

MT: Um hmm [yes].

TL: And then, they have—what in Leonardtown? That church? St. Andrews's Church on this road.

MT: They used to. Yeah, they used to have the Ripple Center there, but that's no longer there; but, they have the, at the governmental center, they have a big facility there.

TL: Right, and they have it on Chancellor's Run Road, too.

MT: Yeah. The Loffler Center.

TL: Loffler Center. Yeah. That's very nice. The Ripple Center used to be further down,

wasn't it?

MT: Yeah. They closed that building. I don't know if it moved. Maybe they moved somewhere.

TL: Yeah, because Ms. Ripple and I, we worked together.

MT: Oh!

TL: She was the Supervisor there when I got there, when I came. Supervisor. And, Mrs. Loffler was one of the volunteers. She did so much, you know, for the County and for the agency and for the people needing help. Was a good woman.

MT: So you feel like the County is doing a pretty good job—

TL: I think so.

MT: —in taking care of its people?

TL: I think so. I really do.

[1:04:19]

MT: What about healthcare in the County? Has it changed any since you've been here?

TL: No.

MT: How do you feel about it?

TL: They have a standard. Like now, we get a newsletter every—

MT: Oh right.

TL: —every month from St. Mary's Hospital telling you all the clinics they have, all the groups that's meeting: asthmatic groups, bronchial asthma group, diabetes. You know, they've really expanded their services in terms of community, really community

education and awareness of what's in the County for them. And then, the health share.

That health share is very magnificent.

MT: Do you feel confident in the—

TL: The doctors?

MT: Yeah.

TL: Yeah, the doctors and so on. I've never been in St. Mary's Hospital. I don't want to either, but I got to the Bean Building. I'm satisfied with the care I get there. Those people are good to talk to. A few will have complaints. Sure, to them, the complaints are valid but it's not been my experience.

MT: So much, you know, for people who grew up here, again, such huge changes; but for you, you know, just, I mean, just being here in the '70s, you know, the hospital—being segregated—

TL: Right, because the hospital was expanded when I was here.

MT: Oh, that was while you were here?

TL: Yeah, I was here when it became a larger facility. I was here when it became—right, but they complained then that they don't get enough services.

MT: Well, this was—I mean, you know, in the old hospital. I mean, blacks had to go up the back stairs and they only had two rooms.

TL: Oh!

MT: Yeah, there was a lot of—and it was very difficult to get—. There were no—there were hardly any black doctors because—

TL: They didn't have any of those. They didn't have any when I first came.

MT: They had one for awhile, but they couldn't—they couldn't stay, you know.

TL: Why couldn't they stay?

MT: Well, I think because they couldn't get full privilege and so, I mean, it was just too—

TL: Oh, hospital privileges.

MT: —frustrating, you know, for a doctor to work here?

TL: Because in my time, when I was here, they were trying to recruit a black doctor down here and his wife didn't want to come.

MT: Oh!

TL: She didn't want to live down here. And then, Doctor Chase came, the dentist.

MT: Did he come since you've been here?

TL: Yeah.

MT: Wow! That's interesting.

TL: [inaudible]

MT: Yeah. So—I mean, when things were segregated which, you know, in this County was up into the 60's.

TL: Right, up until 60's.

MT: Schools. Yeah.

TL: Yeah, Chase came after I was here. They recruited him to come. In fact, when I retired, I told him to tell his wife to come and apply for my job. She was a clinical social worker. But wherever she was, she liked it so she stayed.

MT: And, I think it's been hard, too, for some of the African American nurses. Everlyn Holland? She's had, I think, some experiences of where you really truly integrating the system, you know, truly equality came very late.

TL: Right. She's a PN? A practical nurse, though, isn't she?

MT: I think so. I don't know.

TL: Yeah. She's a practical nurse. I'm sure she had a difficult time because she was—wasn't born here but raised here.

MT: She was raised here.

TL: Yeah. I mean, from like a year old.

MT: Yeah, I think she—yeah. I thought maybe she was born here.

TL: She was very, very young.

MT: I was trying to remember. Yeah, she grew up here.

TL: She's had a lot of experience. She worked at St. Mary's College, too, for a short time. I'm sure she has some stories about that, too.

[1:08:33]

MT: And I know—have you—I know in terms of housing, I've also heard some very recent kinds of—

TL: They couldn't find property.

MT: Yeah, property.

TL: They couldn't find property.

MT: Have you ever known about anybody having problems with, like, realtors not showing,

you know, black families certain houses?

TL: I'm sure they do. I'm sure they still do, but I know—what's the story somebody told me the other day? They—they were looking for a house and they couldn't—a medium-priced one, not a real expensive one—and they showed—she was shown by somebody, I don't know which real estate company it was, but a—. She said she couldn't believe it. She showed her, you know. She said it was just like it was a shack that she was showing her and she couldn't believe that somebody would show her that. To anybody! Even the poorest person, she wouldn't sell her a shack! And, this just happened.

MT: That's interesting. I hear from the other side, like a family: They said—well, they couldn't find anything they liked and said, "Well, I'll tell you what. This isn't listed, but go, you know, to the store at St. Inigoes—whatever—and ask them about this place." You know, and of course, so they went and they looked and they said, "Why isn't it listed?" You know, and they said, "Oh well, we want the right kind of people." So, there are ways of getting around, you know, listing it so that you can select, you know, the right colors, you know. [chuckle]

TL: Right. Right. Spending hard-earned money.

MT: Yeah. So, I think there's a ways to go—

TL: Right.

MT: —in housing.

TL: And you know, sometimes it may not be the owner of the house. It's maybe just the presence of the real estate person. That can happen, too.

MT: But it doesn't sound like you've felt like this is any more a problem in St. Mary's than other places in particular?

TL: No, not more of a problem than anyplace else. They do that in New York in apartment buildings and so forth. And, I'm sure in buying houses and, you know, in New Rochelle, or you know, maybe out there.

MT: I know that's true. Oh, do you—something I'm interested in. Do you go to any activities at the college?

TL: I used to. I used to go down to—we used to go down to the concert that they had. We used to go. We used to see at least one other person, one other black or African American person. Mrs. Smith—she would be there and we enjoyed them. You know, we went for many years to concerts. But as we got older, you know, we don't go out in the dark that much unless somebody is driving because John doesn't drive at night and I don't drive at all anymore, and John doesn't drive at night. So, we don't go as much to the concerts like we used to. But we used to go to St. Mary's College.

MT: Do you feel that—

TL: Ted Lewis was there, too.

MT: Ted Lewis. Do you think that the—the relationship between the college and the community has changed any over the time that you've been here?

TL: I don't know. I really don't. I really don't know.

MT: Not that you know of.

TL: I used to—but we used to get invited to dinners and so forth with Lewis when Lewis was

there, you know. He was the last one before this present one, right?

MT: Right. Right.

TL: And, he did a lot of reaching out in terms of incorporating, blending the two.

MT: And, that maybe has been a little bit less true, but you're not sure?

TL: No, I'm not sure. I don't know. I really don't know. [inaudible] I never met the other—I never met the new president.

MT: Maggie O'Brien. Everybody just calls her Maggie! [chuckle]

TL: O'Brien.

MT: Jane Margaret O'Brien.

TL: Right. Right. Right.

[1:13:49]

MT: Well, what about how you get your news? Do you read *The Enterprise*?

TL: Oh yes!

MT: Do you read other—?

TL: We have a subscription for that.

MT: Do you read other newspapers?

TL: Yeah. *Washington Post*.

MT: *Washington Post*.

TL: I love to love to subscribe to *The New York Times* and I just can't. You know, I won't read it.

MT: The time.

TL: The money, you know. If I do the jigsaw puzzles—the puzzles, not jigsaw puzzles, I would probably still get. I never did, you know.

MT: Yeah, they're great puzzles.

TL: Yeah, my niece loved it. She used to get it for the puzzles. She used to do them all, the whole thing! She loved it. Subway going down. She just loved it.

MT: Do you get any African American newspapers or publications?

TL: We used to get the *Afro American* out of Baltimore.

MT: Yeah, that's out of Baltimore.

TL: We used to get that. And then, we stopped. I just didn't renew the subscription and John still gets his *Farmville Herald* from Virginia where he's from. He still gets it in the mail. You know, it comes to us twice a week. And, we get *Black Enterprise* and *Ebony* and *Essence*. Never did get *Jet*, that little thing. Never got that because a friend of mine had an article about something. And I said, "How could you write that? That's not true!" She said, "Oh, they don't have no way of checking their news. Come out every week, how can they check anything?"

MT: You knew for sure.

TL: So, I couldn't waste my money on half—I couldn't believe half of the stories, so I never got *Jet*. I never got *Jet*. I guess that's the end. I used to read the [New York] *Times*, but I got so that I didn't have time to read it so I stopped. Then, I started again and I stopped because I liked *The Time Magazine*, and I like it. I never did read *Newsweek* except in the doctor's office, and I get PG—there's a paper out of PG. PG? What you call it?

MT: *The Eagle*?

TL: No. Not *The Eagle*. Out of PG. We know the editor so we get it.

MT: And do you watch the news on television?

TL: Oh yeah. 11:00 and “Tonight Show.” Not “Tonight.”

MT: So, you stay up late?

TL: Hmm?

MT: You stay up late?

TL: Yes, I do. [chuckle] It’s an awful habit. John said there should be a law about TV in the bedroom. [laughter] “Night Line.” “Night Line” with Ted Koppel. Listen to him every night. Saw him the other day coming out of a restaurant.

MT: Did you? Yeah, I knew he has this place.

TL: Coming out of Evans.

MT: I saw him there one time.

TL: Yeah, that’s where I saw him with another man. I didn’t recognize the other man. In fact, I didn’t—until he spoke, I didn’t even know, you know, that—give him a second look. But when he spoke, I looked at him and spoke back, and it was him. I like him. He’s a nice guy.

MT: I’ve never met him, but he seems like it.

TL: I mean, that’s how he comes through to me. I never met him. I’ve never been at anything where he was. Uh uhn. [no] And, I start with the six o’clock news, 7:00 ABC.

[1:18:01]

MT: Okay. Well, let's—you're probably getting tired. We'll do one more question, kind of the big philosophical [chuckle]. Well, how—. Have you done everything in your life that you wanted or planned to do? And if not, what would you—what were you not able to do and why? Is there something that you feel you weren't able to do that was really important?

TL: I've been really—I've been blessed. I've done most of the things that I wanted to do. I can't imagine what? I would still like to be able to travel, but I can't. But because I travel so much, I'm not missing the fact that I can't now. You know? Like, I would like to go to South Africa now. I went to Africa before but not to South Africa [inaudible]. I would love to go there.

MT: What parts of Africa?

TL: I went to Ghana and Senegal. Uh umm. [inaudible] I love it. I could live in London and I could live in Ghana. Uh umm. I liked it very much. And, I've been in Baltimore. I've traveled. I've always had a nice home growing up, you know, until now. Always had all the clothes I wanted. Always had friends. Every once in awhile I say now, when people talk about children—see the little children on TV. I said, "I should have had one of those though." That's the only thing I feel that I missed out on, but it's only now that I'm saying that because I see them so much on TV. You know, it's not a gnawing kind of wish.

MT: That's good.

TL: But, I don't think there's anything.

MT: So, if you had to—I was going to ask you: If you had your life to do it all over again, would you change anything?

TL: Nothing except I might be a lawyer instead of a social worker. I might.

MT: Ah! Do you think you could have more impact?

TL: I think so. I think so. Getting things done for people.

MT: Okay. Is there anything else you want to add right now?

TL: Uh uhn. [no]

MT: Okay.

[End of Side 2, Tape 1 of 1]