

Interviewer: It's going to pick up the voice. Could I ask you to say hello?

CC: Hello.

Interviewer: Excellent. Today is February 8, 2005, and we're at the home of Mrs. Churchill. If you could say your full name and your date of birth.

CC: Charlotte Churchill, born October the 31st, 1925.

Interviewer: Excellent.

CC: Greencastle, Indiana.

Interviewer: Wonderful. We are working on this project for an exhibit on African American history. And so, I have a couple sort of background questions about your family and moving here and education. But mostly what I want to talk with you about is the church and its history here. But I've got a couple questions for you on kind of moving here and what your family did. And if there's anything you don't want to talk about, just let me know, and we can move on from there. When did your family come to Putnam County?

CC: Well, I was born here. I don't know what year.

Interviewer: Was it your parents that came or your grandparents?

CC: My grandparents came.

Interviewer: Came to Putnam County. So sometime in the 1800s.

CC: Yeah. 1900s. See, my mother was born in 1901, I think it was. It's about in the 1800s when they came.

Interviewer: Okay. And do you know why they chose to move to Putnam County or where they came from?

CC: They come from Tennessee.

Interviewer: Tennessee.

CC: They're from a little town. They came from Tennessee.

Interviewer: Let's move this a little closer here.

CC: My father came from Alabama. He came from, I think he lived in Louisiana, but he came here from there. He was born in Alabama. And they met here. I don't know exactly how, but

Interviewer: But he had moved here to Putnam County.

CC: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: And so your mother was born here.

CC: Of course. I know.

Interviewer: Okay. And do you have any idea why your father decided to come to the area?

CC: Just never talked about it. Back then people just kind of.

Interviewer: Looking for a place to be? See what they can find?

CC: Yeah.

Interviewer: And have you lived, you live here on Ohio Street now. And have you lived in Greencastle or in Putnam County?

CC: All my life.

Interviewer: All your life?

CC: I've lived here since 1962.

Interviewer: In this house?

CC: We built this house in 62.

Interviewer: Wow. A lot of memories then.

CC: The first house we lived in was further down the street. And the second house was where we lived on Crown Street. Sold the house on Crown Street. The first house we owned was on Crown Street. It was a house on corner of Crown and Berry.

Interviewer: Okay. I made myself a copy of the map so I could figure out where things were. And did you grow up in this area?

CC: This area. We lived down on corner of Howard and Main Street.

Interviewer: Main Street. Great. Was the neighborhood that you grew up in, do you feel like it was fairly segregated or not terribly segregated?

CC: It was always segregated.

Interviewer: Always segregated. Okay. Were there any white families that lived in the area at all?

CC: Quite a few, I'd say. Quite a few lived around us.

Interviewer: So the neighborhood itself was mixed, but this was the only neighborhood where African Americans were living?

CC: No. Some lived over on Indiana Street. Some lived down on Chestnut Street.

Interviewer: Okay.

CC: And a lady lived down by the sandpipe. That's, what's the name of that street? There's three, about three or four families lived down on, used to be Chestnut Street. It went in, where DePauw's bought all the houses from down.

Interviewer: Oh, okay.

CC: They used to live down, there used to be a whole, four of them lived down there. And then one lady lived on Indiana Street, down into Chestnut Street. That's all torn down.

Interviewer: Oh, okay. So that's all part of DePauw's now. DePauw's campus. So is there anything left of Chestnut Street?

CC: No, it's all gone.

Interviewer: Just all gone. Okay.

CC: It's all gone.

Interviewer: So you went to school then here in Greencastle. What elementary school did you go to?

CC: Used to be called, I can't think of it. It was Third Ward, but we used to call it the Ridpath.

Interviewer: Okay.

CC: Greencastle High School.

Interviewer: Greencastle High School then.

CC: I went one year at DePauw University. I was going to transfer to IU, but I didn't have enough credits. Had everything fixed out, but I didn't have enough credits to transfer, because I had to take geometry, I think it was, something in high school I didn't have, so I had to take that during that first year. So I didn't have enough credits to transfer to IU, so I just started working. At that point.

Interviewer: That's frustrating. And what was your first job?

CC: I used to do housework for the first time with my mother and everything.

Interviewer: That was when you were still in high school?

CC: Yeah, I used to, when I worked around in high school, I worked for a lady that used to be the Banner editor. Used to work for, had the Banner and I worked for her. After school, Saturdays, and sometimes on lunch hours, I'd go over and do homework. I was going to school. Then I worked at Handy's Dairy. I had a name for it, but I tested the milk, milk tester, for the butterfat content, and I bought and sold the milk from the farmers. I bought the weight in and I made out the checks and tested, and I got paid according to the butterfat. So I had to go to Indianapolis to take the test, and I did real good on it.

Interviewer: So that's what you did after you were at DePauw then? How long did you do that for?

CC: I can't remember. Back in the 40s. I think I probably did that about, I think I did that after I was married, that's important. Had to be in 1950 probably.

Interviewer: During the 40s. When did you get married?

CC: 1948.

Interviewer: What was your maiden name?

CC: Charlotte Brown.

Interviewer: Brown? Okay.

CC: I worked at RCA for six years in Bloomington.

Interviewer: In Bloomington?

CC: The plant, you know.

Interviewer: And what did you do there?

CC: I did assembly line and I got to be inspector. Go back and forth.

Interviewer: That's quite a drive.

CC: I used to have a curb roll then.

Interviewer: And what were they building at that plant?

CC: Televisions. But they put parts together, put the chassis together, internal stuff together. And finally I got upgraded to inspector and all I did was inspect the finished product.

Interviewer: Great.

CC: Then I had layoffs, so I could pick the layoff or go on a day shift. With kids being little, I took the layoff. Then I went to work over to Delta Chi Fraternity House as a cook, I never...

Interviewer: So that was something you could do in the evenings or just because you were close by?

CC: Close by. We lived down on the corner here on the Berry and Crown and I'd go over in the morning. I did breakfast and I'd come back home and get the kids ready for school and go back and do lunch. Then I worked on weekends. I had one day a week off, I think Thursday. I had a cook come in. I worked there for about six years. Then I got a job at IBM.

Interviewer: And what was your job at IBM?

CC: First I was assembly. I was assembly. I earned a speed clerk. It was a collator that put checks and money orders and carbon and all that stuff together. I called it a speed clerk, but it was a collated number. It had a sequence and stuff like that.

Interviewer: Very detailed.

CC: Everything had to match up. Checks, money orders, and driver's license. Then I got promoted to administrative assistant. Worked in an office working on a computer. And then it closed. I worked there 25 years.

Interviewer: 25 years? Wow. I didn't realize that. We've been talking with Charles Miles about IBM, but we should be talking with you.

CC: After 25 years I retired. My husband was sick. People had a chance to transfer, but since I already had a home here and he was ill, I stayed here. I'm glad I did. I haven't done anything since. I do a lot of yard work.

Interviewer: I can tell. You've got your butterflies out there.

CC: I was gone five weeks.

Interviewer: That'll do it. We had snow and wind and rain and all sorts of things.

CC: Trash in the yard. I didn't go out and pick stuff up.

Interviewer: Yeah. I've heard from a lot of different people that either they or their relatives or somebody worked at DePauw. That seems like it was a pretty common job to cook.

CC: My mother worked at DePauw when I was going to DePauw. That's why I got in a little bit cheaper. Of course then I think tuition was about \$350 or something.

Interviewer: You don't buy books for that these days.

CC: No. My grandson goes here. My granddaughter and my grandson both got scholarships on them. I've been going a year. I'm considered an alumni. Alumni appearance in 1948. They got the scholarship based on me being an alumni. You said that was your son or your grandson? Grandson. Grandson, granddaughter. Granddaughter graduated last year.

Interviewer: She graduated last year?

CC: Jason graduates this year.

Interviewer: Did your grandchildren grow up here in Greencastle?

CC: They got transferred when I'm in. They left him and his little bitty kids. Jason was probably about four. Angie was probably about six. In 1987 they moved. I've been close. They moved out of Greencastle. But they always came back every summer to stay with me. They kind of liked DePauw. For some reason they came back and used to go over there. She took dance lessons and they got a picture of her standing out in front of that arch they used to have on the street. And her costume. They said they want to come back and take a picture of her standing there again, she got big.

Interviewer: There you go.

CC: They had a dog and it ran off one day. They ran through a pond. Ran after it.

Interviewer: That's love for a dog. I bet that was not warm.

CC: I have three children. A son, Ray, he went to Iowa. Graduated from Iowa University, Iowa. Then he went to Southern Cal. Then he went to Davis. He became a CPA and then he went back to school to be a lawyer. So he's a lawyer right now in Fremont, California.

Interviewer: I understand he was quite a Greencastle High School sports figure.

CC: He played basketball, track, and football. He did real good in football and track too.

Interviewer: When he was in school and working in the sports, was that sort of what he enjoyed most in high school?

CC: He didn't have to work. He never carried paper or anything. Only he worked in the summertime. In the summertime, he always did hay. He picked hay where it was. He used to do that. That's how he got his first car. First car he bought.

Interviewer: That's backbreaking work.

CC: First car he bought, he bought. I forget somebody's name. What's the guy's name? Anyway, he was so proud. Now they drove him to Carpetsville. On the way back, he threw a rock.

Interviewer: Oh no.

CC: The guy that sold it to him, he went on half on the bill.

Interviewer: That's good of him.

CC: My daughter, oldest one, Carmen, she went to business school in Terre Haute. She went to Ivy Tech. First she went to Indiana Central. I don't think it's there anymore, is it?

Interviewer: I don't think so.

CC: She went to Ivy Tech.

Interviewer: For business. Where does she live now?

CC: She lives in Austin, Texas. She worked for IBM. They got transferred to Austin, Texas.

Interviewer: Okay. So that's the one who has your grandchildren who are here?

CC: No, the youngest.

Interviewer: Oh, okay.

CC: Rhonda. She graduated from Indiana State.

Interviewer: And then she moved out with IBM?

CC: Her husband... She moved with IBM.

Interviewer: Where did they move to?

CC: They first moved to Pennsylvania, Harrisburg. Then they moved to Austin, Texas. They lived in Austin, Texas for about 15 years.

Interviewer: That's where you went for your five weeks of warm weather?

CC: It wasn't that warm, but it was a lot better than it was here. There wasn't any snow.

Interviewer: You get some of it then, at least.

CC: Jason, as a senior, didn't have any winter term. So he wouldn't come back until the first of February. But he did come back a week early. It cost me to come back.

Interviewer: So did he drive back here with you then?

CC: No, he flew.

Interviewer: He flew. Just, flew together.

CC: We flew together. It was quite an ordeal. We had the gate. We lived in Houston. We had 35 gates from where we had to go.

Interviewer: A little jogging through the airport?

CC: No, we got the trolley. Last time he went, he wouldn't ride out. But this time he rode 35 gates. It was a long ride.

Interviewer: Yeah. The big airport. Let me ask you then about your high school experience. Did you do any sports or any other kind of extracurricular activities in high school?

CC: No, girls just played half-court basketball.

Interviewer: Half-court basketball. That counts. That counts. And that was at the high school?

CC: Mm-hmm. It was high school. We didn't have junior high then. It was just Greencastle High School.

Interviewer: It was the upper grades. And did you feel that you were welcome on the team and people?

CC: No, it was just girls. Just the girls.

Interviewer: Just the girls team. And did you play at other high schools around?

CC: No, no.

Interviewer: You just got to play?

CC: We didn't do any traveling. We just played.

Interviewer: Just for fun?

CC: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Yeah, only the boys got to get on the buses and go off and do their things.

CC: Yeah.

Interviewer: And then you worked after school?

CC: I worked after school.

Interviewer: And when you were at DePauw, were you involved in any organizations or clubs or sports there?

CC: No. I think maybe one or two black people there, but they were in ROTC or some kind of student government organization.

Interviewer: Oh, okay.

CC: I didn't have any social activities there at all. I was in the ball games sometimes, but not the clubs or anything.

Interviewer: Yeah. And was that your choice or was that you didn't think you were good there?

CC: Well, I don't think I would have wanted to do it anyway, but I never was asked. I never did hang around on campus. I went to class and back home. Everybody back then lived at home, but it was black. You couldn't stay in the dorms. I couldn't afford it anyway, but I couldn't afford it.

Interviewer: Yeah. Well, when it's this close. But yeah, I understand that a lot of the early black students until about 1960 would live with people around town and things like that. All right.

CC: I was looking to get a job at IBM. I know I took that job over cooking. My mother used to cook at one of the fraternity houses. Well, I was her helper sometimes. When I got the job, I told them I was going to get my notice and they said, well, you're going to be a cook. I said, no, I'm not cooking. I'm not cooking anymore.

Interviewer: I've had enough of that.

CC: But I did put the kids through school and do what you have to do.

Interviewer: Yeah. It sounds like you worked an awful lot to be able to do that. How many people did you cook for there?

CC: Probably about 50. Probably about 50.

Interviewer: Wow.

CC: I talk about it now and how I ever done it, but I was telling them the other day how I made rolls every Sunday and did hamburgers and I did the breakfast. Back when I was cooking, they would allow you to bring stuff home. I said I would go fix breakfast over there if we had French toast or whatever. Then I'd come home and I'd bring something to the kids for their breakfast, comb their hair and send them to school and go back. Of course, they ate school at lunch. Then at supper time, I'd bring something home for them. On Sunday, I'd always bring something home. Every Sunday, I made homemade rolls. I remember one time I used to make a roast pork and I made the gravy. The boys really liked the gravy, so they'd save the syrup bottles and they'd come down to the kitchen after dinner and fill the bottles up with gravy so they could eat that later on.

Interviewer: Oh, wow.

CC: I don't know how I ever done all that. I made everything from scratch. I had somebody that peeled potatoes, but I made mashed potatoes or whatever it was. I remember making some corn fritters. I just found anything. I made hamburgers for everybody. Chili, spaghetti.

Interviewer: That many people.

CC: Mac and cheese.

Interviewer: Yeah?

CC: I don't know how I did it, but I did it. Meatloaf. I had a roll recipe and I'd just make a doublet.

Interviewer: Over and over again. Ten times as much. Wow. So was getting the job at IBM the best job you had here in town?

CC: Mhmm.

Interviewer: It sounds like IBM was a real good employer.

CC: Into the office and doing the computer work. Transferring and transferring orders and stuff like that. And bouncing up the shipping at the end of the day and stuff like that.

Interviewer: I'm sure that was a big project, too.

CC: But a good job in the pant clothes. All you did was stand on your feet.

Interviewer: Yeah.

CC: Then you get a job where you can sit down.

Interviewer: Take a break.

CC: Take a break and dress pretty nice. So it was all over with. I got 25 years in.

Interviewer: So was there anywhere else in town that African Americans could do office work, that kind of work?

CC: Most of them worked out of town. In a state house. I don't think there was anywhere else in town anybody that didn't work in the office. I don't think they did anything in DePauw even. When Carl was going to school, he worked over at DePauw for Bing Davis.

Interviewer: Oh.

CC: And he had a place over there. I don't recall anybody else working in the office anywhere.

Interviewer: Actually, Bing Davis is going to come back and talk in April for our exhibit and also at DePauw. So he'll be back. What kinds of organizations have you participated in in the county? You're a member of the Mount Zion Church.

CC: I belong to the AARP. I belong to the senior citizen RSVP.

Interviewer: RSVP.

CC: RSVP.

Interviewer: Are you involved with NAACP at all?

CC: I used to attend years ago, but I haven't joined lately. My husband was the one that went to the guinea pig for the barbershop.

Interviewer: That's right, because we have that letter from you. The letter that was sent back.

CC: I used to work in that and do a lot. We used to have the dinners and we used to cook them then. We used to prepare the food ourselves.

Interviewer: And did they meet at the church, the NAACP meet at the church then?

CC: I can't remember when we did meet. It was a while ago.

Interviewer: Different people's houses?

CC: I really can't remember. I know Francis and Helen in my house. Helen used to be one of the main cooks when we fixed the food. Jasper Taylor, the guinea pig. I know it was back in the 1960s. About 1962, somewhere around in there. Because my husband went down to get his hair cut. People was talking about he was going to lose his job, he was going to lose his house.

Interviewer: Worried about it.

CC: I know when we got a new car, a lot of people wouldn't get a new car. They thought the white people would look down on them. I remember Chapman used to be like that, he would never buy a new car. He was one of the main ones that said he was going to lose their house and everything. Him going down to being a guinea pig. It never happened.

Interviewer: How did that work out? Did the NAACP decide, they kind of got together and decided that one person was going to go and be the guinea pig?

CC: Jasper Taylor took him down there. Jasper Taylor, I forget who else it was, went with him. I think they filed something against him or something.

Interviewer: Yeah, a lawsuit.

CC: A lawsuit against him and then they got the answer back that they had decided. I think he went to get his hair cut one time. Hartbeck, I think. I'm not sure. I think it was Hartbeck that finally cut his hair. But they said they would cut people's hair. Charlie Miles knew the barber's name. I think he knew the name of all the barbers.

CC: Charlie Miles, I think he wrote it down on the paper, I think.

Interviewer: I'll take a look.

CC: I think it was Johnson. He even had a black barber that didn't cut hair. Bernie Smith.

Interviewer: Vernon Smith?

CC: Bernie Smith.

Interviewer: Bernie Smith.

CC: He cut white people's hair, but he didn't cut black people's hair either. Because white people didn't want their hair cut with anything that...

Interviewer: Had been touched by black people's hair. It's amazing. It's amazing.

CC: I had a lot of white friends, school friends. I got a friend that was a friend of my sister's. Her name was Black. She told me one day we was together. She said, when the lady told her mother one time, you better watch because she's been around with a black girl all the time. My mother said, well, she's part black anyway because her name was Black.

Interviewer: I don't care what you think. Wow.

CC: We had a lot of white friends. We didn't go to any clubs or anything at school or anything. I guess they had clubs, but we didn't bunk any of them. We had a lot of friends. We lived down on the corner of Maple, I mean, Main and Howard. Black people lived. Colberts lived behind us. Sullivan lived in front, and Chads. All around us, the neighborhood was mixed around there, but it was a mix of white and black. It wasn't an all-black neighborhood. I never lived in an all-black neighborhood before.

Interviewer: Would you say that there was ever any point in time where Greencastle would have had an all-black neighborhood at all?

CC: It's always been...

Interviewer: It's always been at least somewhat mixed.

CC: Most of the time, there were black living in this end of town, not in the same street or anything. Well, I lived up on Crown Street. I think there's one thing that I knew that I lived up, was on this street, one or two. But there's always been a mix. There's always been an all, and there's always been a black. And they lived on the other side of town, down on Chestup. It's all pulled down. Some of them lived out in the country.

Interviewer: Were the barber shops that you were talking about, where they all up?

CC: All downtown.

Interviewer: All downtown by the courthouse.

CC: Mhmm.

Interviewer: Now, we talked about in the earlier meeting the south side stores and the downtown stores a little bit. Do you remember any of the names of the south side stores?

CC: Monette's Grocery.

Interviewer: Monette's Grocery.

CC: And Hedges Market.

Interviewer: And was that just another grocery store, Hedges?

CC: It was a grocery store. Long years ago, when I was a kid, there was a place down where the old topper is that was called Kelly's. The old man owned that. It was an all-together store. I can remember the smell in the store. It had a smell to it. The old man owned it.

Interviewer: When you talk about south side stores, what streets were they on?

CC: Down on Main Street.

Interviewer: Just down on Main.

CC: They had a second-hand store, Riley's. Riley had a second-hand store. And the coal, they had a coal, where he bought coal, Abrams. Abrams Coal Company down by the track. It was coal.

Interviewer: Abrams?

CC: Yeah, I think the name was Abrams. Sold coal. It used to be the ice house and all that stuff down there.

Interviewer: That's the Gardner Brothers?

CC: Mm, the Gardner Brothers. And there's the taverns.

Interviewer: Well, there's always taverns somewhere.

CC: Mendenhall's the main tavern, I think it was. Mendenhall Tavern, it's a big tavern. People would be out on a ferry night, and you'd all line up down the street, and you'd go out on Sunday morning. A lot of times you'd find money...

Interviewer: Just the leftover there? Wow. And was that down on Main Street?

CC: No, on Mainville.

Interviewer: Now, I've heard a little bit from folks about Charlie Brown's Barbecue.

CC: Yeah.

Interviewer: Where was that?

CC: First one was on Ohio Street. First one they opened up. That would be a nice place we used to go all the time. After hours, they'd have dancing and everything in there. And then they had the one over on Bloomington Street. It was a real big nice one.

Interviewer: Now, the one on Ohio Street, when was it there?

CC: About in the 50s.

Interviewer: 50s. And then moved over to Bloomington Street.

CC: Pardon?

Interviewer: And then he moved over to Bloomington Street sometime in the 60s probably, or?

CC: Probably in the 60s. Uh-huh. Dorothy would know more about that than I would, I think. And then he moved over there. No, no, Senator McNary didn't move over there. He barely lived down here. But he moved over on Bloomington Street until it closed.

Interviewer: And that was how long ago? When it closed?

CC: Five years ago, probably.

Interviewer: Five years.

CC: No, it wasn't that long. Probably about three years ago. Lawson would probably know because she worked there. She and Virginia, well, her son bought it. Dwayne bought it from Charlie Brown. And it closed, I guess. The business fell off and it closed when they had it. So I don't know.

Interviewer: A couple years ago?

CC: Because a lot of times people, a person's name, a person's character does a lot of business.

Interviewer: Attracts people in. Well, and that's an establishment if it's been around since the 50s, so. Let's see.

CC: I guess the only black business I know of was around town. Bernie Smith had a barbershop that was uptown. I don't know anybody else that had a business spot.

Interviewer: But Bernie Smith's barbershop, that was just his own barbershop?

CC: I think it was his barbershop. I couldn't be sure, but he was probably backed by somebody else, but I don't know who.

Interviewer: So you were saying that when your husband was the guinea pig for the NAACP barbershop test kind of thing, that people said that they were worried that you might lose your house or your cars.

CC: Black people.

Interviewer: Yeah, they said that to you and they were worried. Now, were they, do you think they were watching out for your best interests? Or they were just a little scared?

CC: A little scared probably. Yeah.

Interviewer: And was that because you would have like a house loan and they were worried that they would recall that house loan? Or how did they think people were going to take something?

CC: I had a friend who had a house in Minneapolis, but both of us were working. He was working at the post office and I was working at IBM. Some people got all ideas that, you know. They were just afraid. Afraid that white people would do something that would cause us problems, I guess.

Interviewer: Yeah. Do you remember anything, any other sort of major events like that with the NAACP? Sort of ways that they pushed is that the one...

CC: But the freedom dinner and I don't remember anything. I don't remember anything else they had. Most everything I've been through before, that was concerning the stuff of the church. We used to have a lot of conventions at the church.

CC: People from other churches would come to town. Well, you need a lot of friends. That way young kids can...stuff like that. But other than that, I can't think of anything else they had around town.

Interviewer: Now for those conventions, would that be churches coming in from Indianapolis or from other small areas?

CC: Evansville.

Interviewer: Evansville. Okay.

CC: Terre Haute. A lot of people from Evansville came to the Baptist convention.

Interviewer: And would it be more than one church that would come at a time?

CC: Yeah, more than one church.

Interviewer: You just sort of...

CC: And they stayed at different people's houses.

Interviewer: And would that be for like a weekend kind of thing? For a Sunday, for a church service?

CC: Sometimes. Probably four or five days.

Interviewer: Wow. Now, I was looking through. You had the pictures then of the Mount Zion church. The first church then...

CC: It's still there. It's still there.

Interviewer: And that is on... Apple and Maple. And that's from 1925.

CC: That's where it started at.

Interviewer: Okay. And then they bought the building that you're in now from St. Paul's Church. Was St. Paul's another Baptist church?

CC: It was a black Baptist.

Interviewer: Okay. And they moved on to another church then?

CC: I think this was under, I think.

Interviewer: Okay. So, kind of took over.

CC: We went through a lot of books and went to the courthouse. And I was with Jesse and Lisa. And Lisa, she did the printing for us. And then we went through a lot of old record books. And I got that information. Get that, please.

Interviewer: All right.

CC: Of course, the information down below is no longer secure. Okay.

What other kinds of events did the church hold? You had conventions where other churches came?

CC: Yeah. Like fish fries. Different things that raised money. Socials.

Interviewer: Different kind of fundraising. Ice cream.

CC: Ice cream. Soul food.

Interviewer: Good stuff. And would those be mostly during the summer then?

CC: Most of it. Well, sometime, probably around something in the fall. Soul food in the fall. Any time you wanted to. It really didn't matter then. Everybody lived around the same area.

Interviewer: So, that might be something that would happen every couple weeks?

CC: No.

Interviewer: Not as often as that?

CC: Probably every month or so. That's how they kept the church going, really. Because it used to be that it wasn't very much. You didn't have a quarter or fifty cents or something like that. And that's how they kept the church going. Paid taxes. This lot right here, my house is on. My parents bought it from the church.

Interviewer: From the Mount Zion Church?

CC: Yeah.

Interviewer: So, did they own a lot of property then? Or did they just happen to own this particular lot?

CC: They just happened to own this particular lot. I don't know how it come about they owned it. But I know they bought it from them. And I bought it from my dad. We bought it from my dad.

Interviewer: When did the church services meet?

CC: Pardon?

Interviewer: When did you have church services? Was it always Sunday morning or Sunday afternoon?

CC: In the afternoon. All the black people worked at the university cooked. And the church was always in the afternoon. Most of the majority of the church was in the afternoon. Once in a while they'd have it. In the summertime they'd have it in the morning. But you know, most of the church met. Everything was in the afternoon.

Interviewer: And would that be sort of in between so people would have time? Did they make Sunday dinners then over at DePauw? So it would be kind of in between lunch and dinner?

CC: I think more people at the Methodist church cooked and turned it into our church, Baptist church. But I can remember in later years they had church in the morning. But I used to have church in the afternoon, afternoon and night. We had Sunday school sometimes in the morning.

Interviewer: And was that Sunday school just for the kids? Or would there be Sunday school for different groups?

CC: Different groups. That's a social thing for the community then. Church was the only kind of community thing you could really, you know, can. You'd go to movies but you had to stay upstairs.

Interviewer: Now that was at the...

CC: Granada. I mean Chateau. Chateau and Granada. No, Vaughan Castle. Chateau you sat downstairs because they only had one level. But Granada and Vaughan Castle you had to sit upstairs.

Interviewer: Do you remember when that stopped?

CC: When the store closed. When they closed down the building. You couldn't eat in the restaurants.

Interviewer: Yeah.

CC: I mean I was grown and I used to be in school to ride the bus to Terre Haute to shop. I had it a little worse and I went to the counter and the lady said, we don't serve blacks here. It's kind of embarrassing, you know what I'm saying?

Interviewer: Yeah.

CC: But segregation had been a long time ago. Movies in the South had been a little later than that because my dad was sick and we went down to pick him up in Louisiana. And we didn't know exactly where he was going so we were just going to stop to see where, how to find the address he was looking for. We started going to a laundromat and on the window it said white only.

Interviewer: Really?

CC: That was up in the 60s.

Interviewer: Wow.

CC: I know Miles, went into Corn's Drugstore with some of her friends and he gave her ice cream cone to her to leave. Got one out in there when we were going in. It sold a fountain.

Interviewer: About when do you think that was? Was it the 50s?

CC: Well, after I was out of school, didn't know why. She was going to school. She's been out of school probably a long time too.

Interviewer: How do you think that changed in Greencastle? Do you think that the segregation in terms of not being able to go into the restaurants and the theaters, I mean you're saying that the theaters kind of closed and that sort of...

CC: I think probably when places like McDonald's and things come in probably.

Interviewer: Oh, just having the sort of national chains come in. So what about a place like, I don't know, the Monon Grill that's up there by the railroad tracks?

CC: I used to go to Monon Grill when we was younger, when we was older. We'd go somewhere to party or something and we'd go down to Monon Grill and we'd go eat breakfast and we could eat at Monon Grill.

Interviewer: So that wasn't segregated then?

CC: No, I don't think Monon Grill was. We used to eat at Monon Grill. I think you knew where you could go and where you couldn't go and you didn't go because you didn't want to be embarrassed. I know you couldn't go and restaurant uptown. I think it's a long thing now. Ms. Gurness, I think, had it. You couldn't go and eat in there. But I think the restaurant that Mungo's had uptown, you could get in there. But that was later years. Can't remember what the name of the restaurant was. I have no idea, but Mungo's had a restaurant uptown, across the miles there was a restaurant in there. And there was a... We used to go to the ice cream... Now I'll tell you the only place you could really go in was Carpets Hotel. Go in there and sit down and they had ice cream or something. And the Glover's ice cream parlor was over.

Interviewer: And where was the hotel?

CC: It was down right where the theater is.

Interviewer: The movie theater now? Like by the wall?

CC: Carpets Hotel.

Interviewer: Is that Indiana or the...

CC: That's the seminary, isn't it?

Interviewer: Yeah. Yeah. I know when the students did Dorothy Brown's interview, she said that coming from Tennessee, moving from Tennessee, where there were signs that said, you know, white only, that coming to Greencastle and trying to learn where you could go and where you couldn't go was really painful for her.

CC: You didn't know where you could go, but you could go to Carpets Hotel. And Glover's ice cream shop. Of course they didn't have anything to sit down, just go in there and get your stuff and come out. They served you in there. They used to have Lukey's Bakery down here in South End too. They're down here in the corner.

Interviewer: And that was open to everyone?

CC: Mm-hmm. They sold, there was a bunch of brown stores and you'd go in there and buy doughnuts and cookies and stuff.

Interviewer: Oh, it was a bunch of good things.

CC: Sell the bread and bake it at night.

Interviewer: Oh. That'd be dangerous for me. I love fresh bread. Alrighty. Let's see if there's anything else in particular. So, you attended Mount Zion for your entire life? Mm-hmm.

CC: Dawn 1933.

Interviewer: And my understanding is that sort of Mount Zion and the AME Church were sort of the two big churches for African Americans. But there were some mixed churches.

CC: Yeah, Pentecostal.

Interviewer: Okay.

CC: I had a Pentecostal at one time. It was mixed.

Interviewer: After Mount Zion moved out?

CC: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Now, I understand that the AME Church kind of faded and...

CC: Folded out. And... A lot of the members from the dark church actually, they folded. They lost it. I guess they belonged to some kind of a federation or something they belonged to. They had to pay... From what I hear, they had to pay tithes or whatever it was, fees for the people that died.

Interviewer: Oh.

CC: And if you had a husband or a sister or brother that died, the family had to pay their... I guess they had a fee or something they had to pay.

Interviewer: Huh. That's weird.

CC: It just kind of died out. Quite a few of them joined our church. You know, Francis and Ms. Roxy, Ms. Lawson. So, in terms of the churches, it was really just sort of Sunday school and church and sort of church events. The socials, the fundraisers, and then the conventions that would come in. Yeah, they had a vehicle, B-Y-P-U. That was a youth thing. At night at the messes, A.M.E. church, all the kids went there.

Interviewer: B-Y-P-U?

CC: Yeah. It was something about youth.

Interviewer: Now, Charlotte Kyle was saying that when she was growing up, most of the people with young kids seemed to go to the A.M.E. church because they had a pretty big Sunday school for the younger kids.

CC: I went to Sunday school up there, too.

Interviewer: Up there? Okay.

CC: You remember those Sunday school cards and stuff? I think the young kids went mostly to the Methodist church, but I joined it. They used to have me come up in front, you know, and join. On the sinner's bench and everything. Well, when it came time to join church, I joined the Methodist church. They had a revival at the Methodist church.

Interviewer: Oh, okay.

CC: There used to be a big crowd at the Methodist church.

Interviewer: So, it seems like people moved back and forth pretty freely between those churches. They weren't too worried about the Baptist-Methodist kind of divide.

CC: No. There was a lot of young kids up there. They used to have conventions. They went out of town to the conventions, Sunday school conventions and places they didn't go. They never did go to any of them. Most of ours was mostly adults. They'd have homecomings. Everybody would be up there. We had one social event called Heaven Bound. We had it down through the high school. Anybody ever mention that?

Interviewer: I think we actually got some programs that Charlotte Kyle has of that, of the Heaven Bound, and I think she's got a picture.

CC: She has all kinds of pictures. She pictures everything.

Interviewer: Yes, that's what she said. I'm a keeper.

CC: I forgot. After the war, I worked at the Mallory's in Indianapolis. Right after I got out of college. I went to Indianapolis and worked at P.R. Mallory's. I rode a bus over there. They made some little pellet things, something for the war. She worked the same time I did. She still got her badge. And the piece that we made.

Interviewer: Wow.

CC: She tore a piece. She worked at the Needlework Club one time. That was a big event too, the Needlework Club. She got a lot of stuff. Girl Scouts. We used to go on Girl Scouts. I forgot about that. I know she had a lot of Girl Scout pictures. She had some.

Interviewer: She's going to loan us her uniform. She still has. We're going to put that on display for the exhibit.

CC: She does everything.

Interviewer: Yes, yes she does. When I looked at it, she's got the pins on it still. Exact same pin I remember having when I went to Girl Scouts. Don't change anything.

CC: I don't think she throwed anything away. That's actually the only time she burned up Francis' ladder.

Interviewer: I've just got a couple of last questions for you.

CC: Okay.

Interviewer: I've been taking up a lot of your time here, I realize. You were talking a little bit about the Needlework Club. How long have you been a member of that group?

CC: Let's see. Probably only about 10 years.

Interviewer: Okay. And was anybody else in your family involved with that group?

CC: No. Marie, my sister. She's the only one I have. I lost them.

Interviewer: So you've been a member of that for about 10 years?

CC: Probably about 10 years.

Interviewer: How would you describe the things that you do with that group?

CC: Well, we don't do as much sewing as we used to.

Interviewer: Well, you know.

CC: I think everybody's complaining about their fingers and stuff getting stiff and can't see good enough. I think Charlotte does more. She can do a lot more than most of us can.

Interviewer: Do you ever work on projects together? Or is it more of a social group now?

CC: We have a... I don't know if this is my thing. Charlotte's one of ours is. But we make a lot of stuff. She always has something for us to do. And then Sharon Clark does a lot of craft-like stuff. She tells us how to do the... What's it called? P-latch?

Interviewer: Latch hook?

CC: Latch hook.

Interviewer: Like with the little yarn and you have the little thingy?

CC: Yeah, latch hook. We all did that together. We all bought bags. And then you bought this batch of stuff and you put it on your bag. Charlotte probably had hers.

Interviewer: She didn't talk about it. She said that they had done latch hook. She didn't bring it in.

CC: She probably finished hers up. And Sharon Clark, she does a lot of more crafty-like stuff. They made a... They took a thing like this. And they put holes in it. So many holes all the way around like that. And then you put... You use the same kind of latch hook thing. And you push the material through there. And it came out a real pretty, round basket. And you put a handle on it. We did that around Easter.

Interviewer: Oh, that makes sense.

CC: But we used stuff like that.

Interviewer: Kind of more craft projects. Don't take quite as much fine detail work.

CC: Let's talk about piecing a quilt. I pieced a quilt once. I didn't want to go back and piece a quilt again. But that's...

Interviewer: Yeah. Do you think there are any of those projects still around?

CC: Well, I pieced my quilt for my granddaughter's 16th birthday.

Interviewer: Wow.

CC: It was a queen-size quilt.

Interviewer: Oh, my goodness.

CC: It was pink and white. The white material then had the pink design. And then I appliqued hearts on every square.

Interviewer: Ah. Was that the last quilt you ever did? The first and last?

CC: The first and last. My fingers was about rocked up. But then the heart things were falling. So she still had it folded up.

Interviewer: That's good. My grandmother made me a quilt. My grandmother was a quilter. She did that. And she made quilts for everyone in the family. And whoa. It's a huge amount of work to do one of those.

CC: Because I did mine all the way through. Some people just tack them. But I did mine all the way through.

Interviewer: All the way bottom and top. Yeah. Yeah.

CC: I know my sister-in-law sent me a quilt that was made by somebody. I thought it was kind of ugly but...

Interviewer: So much work went into it.

CC: But it was a lot of work. Little bitty squares. Oh. A lot of work. Yeah. I got it somewhere. But I don't know exactly where it's at. But I was looking at that thing on the TV about that quilt. People made those quilts. What do you call it? It was a bee.

Interviewer: Oh. A quilting bee.

CC: Kind of. They had a group of African American women that made these quilts. They were really nice quilts. They had stripes. There were stripes of red and gold and black. They had a thing on PSB. I couldn't stick mine. I'd turn it on. And these women were on the bus going to this place with all these quilts. And it was worth a lot of money.

Interviewer: Wow.

CC: They sold whatever they had. Like if her husband died, they'd take his clothes and make a quilt out of it.

Interviewer: Wow.

CC: They had a quilt that they made out of shirts and work clothes and all that stuff. Yeah. The quilts were worth a lot of money.

Interviewer: That's a family heirloom, too.

CC: Huh?

Interviewer: It's a family heirloom, really.

CC: I saw quilt ones made entirely of ties opened up. So they were kind of funny shaped, but all worked together somehow. Those quilts they had on there, I can see how they were really nice. Some of the pieces weren't even the same cut. There may have been a long strip, another long strip. They all joined up. But they were sewn on a sewing machine.

Interviewer: That makes a difference. That really makes a difference.

CC: I tried, but I couldn't do it. I could do everything else on a sewing machine. I did a lot of towels. Before I got the computer, I did a lot of embroidery and stuff on the sewing machine. I did a lot of sewing. I made a lot of dolls. I used to make a whole lot. I used to have this whole house laid out with doll clothes for Barbie. And I'd take a picture of them. And I'd send them to my granddaughter. I used to do a lot of sewing. One year I made everybody towels with appliques on. And I still use them. I used to knit, but I haven't knit for years. That's what we were starting to do a couple of meetings ago at the needlework club. Teach Charlotte to sew. She knows everything. She's a good sewing man.

Interviewer: There you go. Alrighty. I think that's about it, actually. Yeah. Unless you have any other stories in particular that you can think of that you would want to see included in this exhibit in terms of growing up or the role of the church in the community or anything like that.

CC: Our church has got no changes on it. If you wanted a picture of the church, it would be different than the one I gave you.

Interviewer: So we've got, this is '96 there.

CC: '99.

Interviewer: Or 9. And then we've got, this is what you did in preparation for that, right? This is the old stuff. Let's see. It's got a date in here somewhere, I thought.

CC: A picture we just got done not very long ago. One for the church right now.

Interviewer: Okay. So you've got something with all this work.

CC: Yeah, we've got the new front, new steps.

Interviewer: Okay. Yeah, this looks like it's all in preparation for that. Um, who would have copies of those pictures, do you think? That I might be able to get?

CC: What pictures?

Interviewer: I thought you had...

CC: I meant the pictures, I mean the outside's the only thing that's done.

Interviewer: Okay.

CC: The outside. I'd probably get Lisa to maybe take a picture.

Interviewer: That would be great.

CC: See if I can get Lisa. You know Lisa, don't you? Miles?

Interviewer: At the paper, now? Yeah. Yeah, I've met her.

CC: Might ask her, see if she can take a picture.

Interviewer: Okay.

CC: The front of the church just changed. They had a new front put on it, new steps, a new sign made. Just recently. Just when I went on vacation they finished it. Haven't got the rail's paint yet but.

Interviewer: Alrighty. Well, we will do that.

CC: Would be 2005.

Interviewer: Great.

CC: Those were the things that were...

Interviewer: This was the beginning of that process? Looks like there were old steps that got replaced and things like that.

CC: Steps are done. Steps Galway Cross.

Interviewer: Okay. Well, I'm going to have to drive by there on my way back.

CC: Did a good job on that book. That's a very good book.

Interviewer: Yeah. Get this back into Pastor Wilson's hands. Oh that was my other question for you.

I was going to say, um, he comes over here from Plainfield.

CC: No, Indianapolis.

Interviewer: Indianapolis now. That's right. He grew up in Plainfield. Do you, has there ever been a pastor that lived here in town for the Baptist Church?

CC: Yeah, years back, I'm assuming.

Interviewer: Is it usually been somebody who came into town?

CC: Usually, somebody came in town, the only man I would think it ever be would be Houston Franklin. Everybody else...

Interviewer: Houston Franklin.

CC: Oh, yeah, Wade Smith.

Interviewer: Wade Smith.

CC: Wade lived there. Oh, and then he moved to the Plainfield. He lived there at one time.

Interviewer: Wade Smith.

CC: Wade Smith lived there.

Interviewer: Now, is that because they usually had to have other jobs?

CC: Yes, yes.

Interviewer: So they had to work, they couldn't pay to keep them here all week.

CC: Wade Smith and Franklin too, I knew it was in Greencastle.

Interviewer: Okay. Great. All righty. Well, thank you very much.

CC: Yeah, nice talking with you.