

HB: Hello?

SK: Hello, Mrs. Burnett?

HB: Yeah.

SK: This is Stacy Klingler calling from the Putnam County Museum.

HB: Oh, yeah.

SK: Are you ready to do the phone interview we talked about?

HB: Oh, certainly.

SK: Okay. What I'm actually doing, I would like to record this using a tape recorder over the phone, if that's okay with you, to keep my details straight. And right now I'm going to turn on the tape recorder and do a little sound check. So if you could tell me your address.

HB: My address is 2565 North Grant Boulevard, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53210.

SK: 53210, Milwaukee. All right. Now I'm just going to talk about education, jobs you've had, organizations you've been involved in, and sort of general experiences of politics and protest in terms of the Civil Rights Movement in the 60s, and sort of where you are today. What I'll also be doing is sending you something called a deed of gift of an oral history interview, which is sort of a permission slip that you send back to us that lets us know that you've given copyright of the interview to the museum so that we can use it in our exhibits and keep it on file for research. So just so you know, that will be in the mail to you today. You should get that shortly. So that's all the cursory information. And if you wouldn't mind, I'd like to start out with, if you could tell me your full name and when and where you were born.

HB: My full name is Hazel Louise Miles. My maiden name is Miles. Burnett is my married name.

SK: And were you born in Putnam County?

HB: No, I was born in Troy, Ohio.

SK: Okay. And would you mind sharing your birth date with us?

HB: I was born April 25, 1933.

SK: Excellent. And you, then, your family moved to Putnam County?

HB: Yes. My father was originally from Putnam County, and he had gone to Ohio. And then there was an opportunity for him to get a job, a better job, in Greencastle after the Depression. And so he brought the six children back to my mother. My mother was from Troy, Ohio, that's where he came.

SK: Okay.

HB: We moved back to Greencastle, which is his home, and he raised then seven children there in Greencastle.

SK: And about when did you move back here to Greencastle then?

HB: I would imagine it was the late 30s.

SK: Late 30s.

HB: Maybe 39, something like that.

SK: Okay. And you said he moved here for a better job? What job was that?

HB: Well, he went to work at the Elks Club there in Greencastle.

SK: Okay. And do you have any idea how he got that job? \

HB: It was just two friends.

SK: Friends, okay. And how long did he work at the Elks Club?

HB: Oh, my. It was, I would say, 30 or 40 years. I really don't know. I really can't. I had never thought about that. I was just a little kid when he started working. That was the only job he had in Greencastle.

SK: Okay.

HB: And he was, oh, in his 50s when he died. He had worked there for quite, maybe my brother

Charles would be able to tell you.

SK: Okay.

HB: Some dates about that.

SK: Sure. And what was he responsible for there at the Elks Club?

HB: Well, they had a bar room there in the basement of the Elks. And he worked there and served drinks. And then he just kind of managed the Elks because I can remember my dad banking the money. He would, whatever money that they made down there, he would walk to the bank with that money and bank it for them. And then any kind of social activity that went on there, he would work with the officers there in the Elks. And, you know, dinners or any kind of social function, he would work with those people and he would help them plan it back in those days.

SK: Okay. Great. And he worked there until he was in his 50s.

HB: Mhmm.

SK: When you moved to Greencastle, did you move to town or were you out in the country?

HB: No, we were there in town.

Okay. Do you remember the first house you lived in?

HB: I think that at first we lived with my aunt Frances and Jimmy there at 710 Crown Street. And then we left there and we lived at 806, I think it was, Illinois Street.

SK: Yeah.

HB: That's where we lived.

SK: Okay. And that's the house that you grew up in?

HB: No, we lived there for a while. My dad bought 702 Illinois Street where my brother lives now.

SK: Okay. So you lived in both of those houses growing up.

SK: Okay. Do you have any idea what year it would have been about approximately when he bought that house on Illinois?

HB: It must have been in the 40s.

SK: Sometime in the 40s. Okay. Great. Can you tell me a little bit about the neighborhood that you grew up in? Do you have memories of the area?

HB: Well, right next door was a very elderly lady named Miss Fulford. And we were friends with her. And she was a Caucasian woman. And then down the street right next door to her was the Mary Davis. And Mary Davis was the beautician for the black people in Greencastle. And she was a marvelous cook and she was just quite a social person. Very fashionably dressed. She always kept up with the latest fashion. But she was an interesting person.

SK: And did she actually have a shop in town?

HB: In the back of her house.

SK: Okay.

HB: Her husband had built a little shop and I cleaned that shop for her in order for her to do, but she would do my hair. But I just kept that place clean for her as a kid.

SK: Oh, first job.

HB: Yeah, yeah.

SK: Neat.

HB: But the neighborhood was very friendly. We were friendly with all the people. We lived on the corner. And I can remember my parents sitting on the porch speaking to everybody who came by.

SK: Yes, yes. That's not a common event anymore. We don't spend that much time on our porches these days.

HB: No.

SK: So then you grew up in those two houses. And those were the only places you lived here in Greencastle?

HB: Yeah.

SK: Okay. And in our sort of discussions with folks trying to describe the community around Crown Street, nobody has said to us that Greencastle sort of had an African-American only neighborhood that it seemed like people lived around, but that that Crown Street area was where most folks were concentrated. Is that...

HB: That is not true. Farther, let's see, I think it would be south, or no, pardon me, maybe it would be west. There was Chestnut Street, and there were some families who lived down there. There was Flossie Townsend who lived, I can't remember the name of the street that ran across Chestnut, but on Chestnut there was Mrs. Woods and her husband, Charles. He worked at Duval. And then there was a Miss Hawkins. And I think Miss Hawkins and her husband worked at Duval.

SK: Who all lived on Chestnut?

HB: There were about three black families that lived on Chestnut Street.

SK: And about how many black families do you think were here when you were growing up? Approximately, would you guess?

HB: You know, I would say between 30 and 50 black families were here. Now, maybe I'm being a little bit generous, but it seems like there probably were about that many black families living here.

SK: Okay. And when did you move out of Greencastle?

HB: When I graduated from Indiana State in 1956, I took a job in Madison, Indiana, because they needed a teacher down there because that was a very small town and they had a black school.

And they wanted me to come down there and work, so I did. And that was 1956 when I took that job in Madison.

SK: Oh, neat. And how long were you there?

HB: I worked at that school. I graduated from Indiana State in mid-year, so college got me the

job.

SK: Okay.

HB: And I was down there for a half a year because the schools were segregated. And if I left Madison, Indiana, the schools would become integrated, which they were. And I wouldn't go back that next year because I thought the books were pretty out of date and the facilities weren't good for those kids down there. So they did indeed integrate the schools when I left.

SK: Okay. And was this a high school or an elementary school or both that you were teaching at?

HB: It was kind of a junior high and an elementary school.

SK: Okay. This is just interesting information I happen to have. I picked up there's a book called *All We Had Was Each Other* that's about the black community in Madison, Indiana.

HB: Oh, really?

SK: Yeah, and it talks quite a bit about the schools. And I was just thinking, I wonder if you're mentioned in it.

HB: I probably... because I was only there for a half a semester.

SK: But they do talk about when the schools were integrated and sort of that experience. But that is...

HB: There was a woman, is her name Anna O'Banion? Is the name O'Banion mentioned?

SK: Yes, yes.

HB: I thought it was her.

SK: She was kind of the figure of education there, it seems.

HB: Her family was very, well, they were very active in the community and they were, yeah, that's true. She graduated from Indiana State also.

SK: Okay, okay.

HB: Where did you find that book?

SK: It's out of the Indiana Historical Society, or no, I'm sorry, it's Indiana University Press out of Bloomington.

HB: I'd love to read that.

SK: I'll tell you what, I'll send you the information on it with your permission slip. All right. So let me make a little note there. It's a really neat sort of a collection of oral histories that have been worked around by an author. So it's just a whole collection of neat, neat stories. So, okay. Good. All righty. A little side note there.

SK: Well, let's go back then to your education, because we got all the way to your college. You went to school then, elementary through high school here in Greencastle.

HB: That's right.

SK: What elementary school did you go to?

HB: I went to Ridpath.

SK: And then...

HB: Greencastle. And then Greencastle High School.

SK: Do you have any particular memories of growing up, going to Ridpath or Greencastle High School that stick in your mind? Did you?

HB: Yeah, I do. I remember some of the teachers at Ms. Baughman was very kind to us. And, oh, I can't, I can see faces, but I can't remember all the names of the people. But when I went to high school, there was a Dorothy Compton who was a Home Ec. teacher, and she was just a super-duper person. And Minna Mae Bartley, I can remember those two teachers as being very caring. And there was a woman named Lela Walls that, you know, she reminded me all the time about how smart my dad was and how smart my aunts were. And I had an Aunt Frances who lived there, and she would always tell me how my father could speak so well. And I can remember I wasn't going to go to the high school picnic because I was the only black in the class, and I didn't have any real chum buddies. And Ms. Compton just told me I was going to go. She came and got me, and she was so wonderful to me at that picnic. I just, I can't ever forget Dorothy Compton. She was very personable. I think her brother-in-law was a friend to my dad.

And she was just, oh, gosh, she was just a wonderful, wonderful person to me.

SK: Do you know if she's related to Russell Compton?

HB: I don't know.

SK: Oh, okay. Just curious. He's still here in town. Somebody else we've interviewed. But so she taught Home Ec., was that at the high school? And she really encouraged you to go to that picnic and kind of be a part of it?

HB: Oh, yeah. She was great. And I can remember that she took me to a DAR picnic. Oh. And this was in the summertime, and she wanted me to go to this with her. So she was a very special, she was a very special person.

SK: Neat. Neat. Did you go then, like, four years' worth of classes with her, or she just was somebody who you had a good friendship with, and so she kept track of you?

HB: I was in classes with her.

SK: Okay.

HB: I took cooking and sewing with her, uh-huh.

SK: Neat. So all these, you said Miss Baughman?

HB: Baughman. I think it was B-A-U-G-H-M-A-N.

SK: M-A-N, uh-huh.

HB: Miss Baughman was my, I think she was my second grade teacher.

SK: And is there anything in particular about her that you remember that just?

HB: Well, she just, she liked the way I read in the second grade. She was a great reading teacher, and she liked the way I spelled, because I think I won 50 cents for being a speller. And those teachers were very interested in me, and they were very kind and thoughtful, because I was the only black kid for 12 years I went through the schools in my class. Uh-huh.

SK: Were there then other black children sort of above and below you in other classes?

HB: My sister and her friends were above me, one grade above me, and there were several kids below me.

SK: But nobody in your particular class, so your schooling didn't have that same kind of buddy friendships?

HB: No.

SK: Oh. In high school, did you participate in extracurricular activities?

HB: Yes, I was on, I worked on the school paper, and I was on a Red Cross staff, uh, club, and I sang in the choir. I can't think of some of the other things that I did, but yeah, I was active in some of the other things that went on in the school.

SK: And did you feel welcome in those groups, or were there any issues about you being black in terms of participation that you recall?

HB: I don't think so, no. The kids were comfortable. I didn't rebel or, you know, I wasn't, I'm a pretty quiet person, and I'm not a person who would, I just accepted life the way it was at that time. And so, you know, I just went from day to day. There were some kids who were very kind to me, but I didn't have any, really, I never went to a sleepover like my kids have gone to sleepovers in this town. And kids come here, have been here, when my children were young, there were kids of different races who would come here, and I, you know, we don't have that.

SK: Sure.

HB: I didn't have that in Greencastle.

SK: And do you think, was that true then for your brothers and sisters who had other African Americans in their classes?

HB: No, some of my brothers, some of my sisters had friends. I don't think they stayed overnight, but they were very close to some of the kids. My youngest sister still meets with kids that she went to school with, and she's 60 years old.

SK: Wow.

HB: And she still meets with some of the kids that she went to high school and grade school

with.

SK: That's amazing.

HB: She's even named her baby.

SK: Wow.

HB: So, no, there were some relationships there in Greencastle. Among all of this, you know, racial segregation, there were still some really strong feelings between people there.

SK: So some of these folks are black and some of them are white?

HB: Yeah.

SK: All right. Then you said you went on to Indiana State University?

HB: Yes, I did.

SK: And when you applied for schools, was that the school you were looking to go to, and were there teachers that encouraged you?

HB: The principal encouraged me. I asked him did he think I could go to college, and he said yes. He thought I could go down there to school. And, you know, it was difficult for me. But I was able to graduate, yes.

SK: And that's Indiana State, which is in?

HB: Terre Haute.

SK: In Terre Haute, okay. And who was the principal at the school at the time?

HB: I think his name was Mr. McCammon.

SK: Okay. So then you graduated. Well, let's get you through college in just two seconds. Did you go there to major then in education?

HB: Yes, uh-huh.

SK: And was that sort of your plan from the beginning, or were you looking around for other possibilities?

HB: No, that was the plan. You know, at that time, that was mostly what women did. They were teachers, secretaries, or nurses.

SK: Yes.

HB: So I had worked with children, so I went ahead and took the education.

SK: Okay. And you, were there any particular experiences there that sort of stick out in your mind in terms of good or bad classes or friendships you developed there?

HB: Well, I rode the bus back and forth for a couple years.

SK: Oh, wow.

HB: I made friends with a girl from Pleasant Gardens. And we sat together on the bus. We wrote every day back and forth. And after we left college, we still wrote back and forth to each other. And for quite a while, we wrote each other letters and Christmas cards. And then all of a sudden, I left Toledo, Ohio. That's where I went to teach school after I left Madison. And we lost contact with each other.

SK: Oh. So, what was her name?

HB: Martha Aker.

SK: How long was your bus ride back and forth?

HB: It was about an hour.

SK: And you rode it every day?

HB: Yeah.

SK: Wow. Yes, I could see that that would make life even more challenging for school to have that much of a commute. So, you said that after you graduated, you worked then for, I guess, the spring semester in Madison?

HB: Mm-hmm.

SK: And then how did you move on to your next job?

HB: Well, you know, just a little before I went to Madison, they let me be a substitute teacher in Greencastle.

SK: Oh.

HB: And it was just a short period of time. But they were very hesitant to let me be a substitute because they'd never had a black teacher in Greencastle before. But they told me that I could be. And then when I became a substitute, I was working with actually some of the teachers that had taught me in grade school.

SK: Oh.

HB: And, you know, I went to the different schools, not many, but I did. And that was a very challenging experience because some of the children who came from the country into Greencastle on the bus, their parents could not believe that there was actually a black teacher in the classroom. And one man came. I can remember him sitting in his bib overalls in the back of the room to see if I knew how to talk to those children. And that's why it's so sad to me.

SK: Wow. Yeah.

HB: It wasn't frightening, as it was sad, to think that this man didn't really believe I knew how to talk to those children.

SK: Wow. And that would have been in 1955? 1956. 1956. Wow. So you were able then to substitute teach for a little while.

HB: Yes. And they offered me a job with special education children. And I had never, prior to college, I didn't work with special education courses. So I didn't feel I was qualified to work with those children. I didn't think I could give special ed children the best education because I wasn't prepared for that. So I told them that I wouldn't take that job.

SK: And that was in Greencastle?

HB: Yes.

SK: Okay. And was it at that point that you then moved to Madison?

HB: Yes, uh-huh.

SK: Okay. And then from Madison you went to where?

HB: Toledo, Ohio.

SK: To Toledo. And where did you teach there? I'm assuming you're still teaching.

HB: Yes, I taught at Lincoln Avenue School in Toledo, Ohio.

SK: And is that a high school or an elementary?

HB: Elementary.

SK: Okay. And how long did you teach there?

HB: It was about six years I taught there.

SK: And do you have any particular memories of that school or working in that environment? What was it like to move to Toledo from having been in small towns?

HB: It was a very interesting experience because my husband had gone to DePauw. My husband graduated from DePauw. And he was five years older than I am, and I had always been attracted to him. But since he was five years older than I was, I couldn't date him or I could just admire him. And when I got to Toledo, Ohio, a woman had been kind of my mentor and kind of my pal. And I think after a while, she was a young woman. She got sort of tired of taking me around, so she said, You know, I'm going to take you down to the Y. And she said, There's some activities that are going on down there, and you'll probably like it. And she said, You might meet somebody down there. And I walked in the Y. There was my husband, who was a youth director. And I had no idea that he had, when he graduated, what happened to him.

HB: So we re-met in the YMCA. And then about two or three years later, we were married. So it was kind of nice that I moved to Toledo. But it was a very interesting thing for me because I went to Indiana State, and someone told me that was one of the best teacher's colleges in the United States. And I remember there were a lot of black teachers brought to Toledo, Ohio the year I went there. And it was a big integration time. And I remember that I was one of the only teachers that didn't have to take special courses to teach in the school system. And I thought that

was so interesting that the teachers who came from Virginia and Alabama, a lot of the southern states there, they all had to go to Toledo University and take special courses in order to teach in the public schools. And by my coming from Terre Haute, they said that everything was in order for me. And I thought that was kind of, well, it was unusual.

SK: Yeah, and a sign that you had a good education.

HB: Well, I said Terre Haute must have been a very, Indiana State must have been a very good school.

SK: Definitely. Out of curiosity, when you knew your husband here, he was a student at DePauw when you were in high school then?

HB: Yes.

SK: And his name is?

HB: Thomas.

SK: Thomas Burnett. And he would have been at DePauw in what years? That would have been?

HB: Probably 45, probably until 49.

SK: Okay. And how did you meet him while you were here?

HB: He came out of, well, he would come out of his little area. He lived on Chestnut Street. And then he would come over to the church there, Bethel AME Church, which is on Crown Street, and he would work with the kids there. Social work, he wanted to be a counselor. And he would come and work with the kids in the church. He was very active in the black community when he was in Greencastle.

SK: So did you meet him at the church then?

HB: Yes.

SK: Sort of saw him from afar?

HB: Yes. He was 17 and I was 12.

SK: Yeah, the difference in age at that age is a little more than later on. So, all right. And he lived with a family then on Chestnut Street when he was in school?

HB: You know, I was trying to think. I think he lived with Miss Hawkins on Chestnut Street because I have a letter that Dean Dirks wrote to him telling him that he could live in this area with one of these people until, you know, this is where he would have to stay. And then they integrated the dorms while my husband was there. And he was able, I think he moved into, is Longden Hall a men's?

SK: I think so. I think that's the name I've seen.

HB: Well, he was part of that, integrating the dorms. None of the black students, the male students, lived in the dormitory at that time.

SK: Right. Okay, yeah, I do believe we have a copy of that from your brother. Okay. Well, let's take you back to Ohio then. So you met your husband and got married while you were teaching at the Lincoln Avenue School then?

HB: Yes.

SK: And what happened after that?

HB: Well, I worked until I had my first child, and then I retired from teaching and I came home. I had two more children, and I just stayed home until they went into high school, and then I wanted to help them into college. So I, I did. I went back to school after that.

SK: Okay, so you would have retired around 1963 then?

HB: Yes, about that.

SK: Okay. And you started back to work then, when they were in high school?

HB: Yes.

SK: So about, around 1980 or so?

HB: I think it was, yes.

SK: Okay. And were you still in Toledo at that time?

HB: No, I came here to Milwaukee. Okay. My husband was transferred here with the YMCA. And then I came back and went, I went back to school myself to become, you know, prepared to teach. And I did that.

SK: Okay. And where were you taught in Milwaukee?

HB: When I first wanted a job, I went into a Spanish-speaking school to teach Spanish children to speak English. And it was a Catholic school. And I taught there for a little while. And I wasn't making very much money, and my children really were in need, because they didn't want to go to school here. So then I went into the public school system.

SK: Okay. And are you still teaching now?

HB: Oh, no. I retired in 1999.

SK: Okay. And you taught elementary school through that period? Okay. Did you teach any other sort of English classes for Spanish speakers, or just regular kinds of courses?

HB: Well, I opened a kindergarten. They wanted to have a kindergarten in the school. It was a Catholic school, so the nuns let me open that kindergarten there for them. So I taught there for, you know, quite a little while. I worked with those children.

SK: Okay. In your working experience, do you feel that you experienced any sorts of discrimination along the way?

HB: You know, I'm...

SK: Obviously, we talked about Greencastle and the discrimination there.

HB: No, I really, I can't think of anything that was discriminatory when I was teaching. I was always very well respected, and the teachers, most of the teachers were white in all of the schools where I taught. And sometimes, like when I was at Bruce Guadalupe, there were no black teachers except myself. But, no, I can't think of any racial discrimination when I was teaching school. I've had nothing that sticks out in my mind.

SK: Okay. All righty. If I can kind of take you back in time, then, to when you were here in Greencastle. You said that you participated in various activities in the schools, and I believe your family attended the AME Church?

HB: Yes.

SK: Could you tell me a little bit about the church?

HB: Well, there were some very dedicated people. I can remember a Lucy Howard, who was a Sunday school teacher, and a Charles Woods, who was the superintendent of Sunday school. And

these people were just extremely dedicated to making the children know God and to be good morally. That's, you know, that's something that they really wanted in children. And then they had a choir. That was the time for the children, young people, to all come together and sing. Because in Greencastle, the kids did feel different. They felt left out of a lot of things. So, in that church, we had a league. On Sunday evening, there was a religious gathering where the young kids would come and discuss certain things. And the church was really the heart of our lives, because there was no other social place for us to be.

SK: Mhmm.

HB: So, there was a little missionary group that we... That was all of our social activity. Everything centered around that church.

SK: Okay. And what sorts of things did the league do, that gathering for youth? Was it mostly an extension of Sunday school?

HB: It was.

SK: Okay.

HB: Sometimes they would have plays. You know, like at holiday time, they would have plays. And they would just have any kind of social function. Sometimes they would have picnics or dinners at the church, just to have something social to do.

SK: Sure. So, that was kind of the center of youth life then, was that league.

HB: It was. You know, I was going to tell you that when we walked from Greencastle High School to the south end of town, my sister and I would look at the marquee at Meharry Hall. The students who were in music would take lessons, music lessons. There would either be piano lessons or, you know, any kind of music lessons. And if we saw there was going to be a recital at Meharry Hall, we were made to feel welcome to come to those recitals. And I can remember many... It was safe for us to walk in the evening from our house on Illinois Street back to Meharry Hall. And that was a very big time in my sister and my life. We would walk back to those recitals at night, and it was such a pleasure to hear classical music. I mean, real people.

SK: Sure, sure.

HB: So my sister Joan and I really enjoyed that.

SK: Meharry Hall, that is on the DePauw campus?

HB: Yes.

SK: Okay. Okay. So that was an evening event that you felt you could go to, whereas walking downtown or some other part of town was not something that you felt comfortable with?

HB: Well, there wasn't too much going on downtown except sometimes a movie.

SK: Okay.

HB: And we did go to the movies. I don't know whether my brother told you or not, but we had to sit in the balcony at the lawn castle.

SK: Yes.

HB: We weren't allowed to sit downstairs. We didn't rebel. We just did it.

SK: Mm-hmm. In terms of going downtown to other places, did you spend much time in sort of the courthouse area? I know the lawn castle was there and the Granada Opera House sort of space.

HB: There was a drugstore called Cohen's Drugstore across from the lawn castle, and this Chet Cohen, he was a very, very bigoted man, and he didn't even want... if we bought an ice cream cone. He wanted us to leave the drugstore. He didn't want us to—I don't know whether my brother told you about him, but—

SK: A little bit, yeah.

HB: He was very bigoted, and I think he was from Indianapolis, and he had such a low estimation of black people, so he didn't really want us in the drugstore.

SK: Mm-hmm. Interestingly, your brother said that he actually worked for him, though, that he thought this was a really kind of strange way for the world to work, that this was a man who was so bigoted, but at the same time, he was sort of trusted as a good employee. It's amazing how people can kind of make generalizations in their head and then not really think about them later on. They don't generalize from their experience. They say, OK, I made my decision earlier. I've decided that I'm going to be bigoted, and then despite the fact that he might have had really positive experiences with your brother—

HB: He trusted my brother. I mean, he could—my brother could clean that drugstore, and he knew that nothing was going to be missing when he came back. I think my brother had keys that he could go in. I don't know whether my brother told you that.

SK: I think so.

HB: But he knew that there would be nothing missing, no drugs. Of course, drugs weren't as big back then. But he knew that nothing would be tampered with, that he would do just exactly what he was expected to do.

SK: Yeah. Do you have any other memories of restaurants or stores in that area that you felt uncomfortable or comfortable going into?

HB: Oh, I don't—right now, I can't think of any. Probably, if I had talked to my sister together, we could have probably thought of some things that were unpleasant or, you know, questionable. Because it was—Greencastle was a very prejudiced town, and it's so sad because there were some wonderful people there. There were some good—but they didn't realize that they were prejudiced. They just didn't realize it was just the way life was at that time. But as I'm telling you, there were friendships that were very— there were close friendships of some people.

HB: When my dad died, he was buried from Gobin Memorial Church, and the church was packed. You can imagine, with there being 50 black families in the town, they could not have packed the church. But it was really amazing, the people who turned out for his service.

SK: Now, I understand that your family went to the AME Church until it closed and then went to Gobin.

HB: Yes.

SK: Do you remember about when that was? Were you in elementary or high school?

HB: I think—see, I never attended Gobin Church because I moved.

SK: Okay, so it was after you had left.

HB: It was after I went there.

SK: Okay.

HB: That probably was back in the 60s or 70s. You know, they used to invite the children there for Bible school in the summer.

SK: At Gobin?

HB: At Gobin.

SK: Okay.

HB: We used to go there in the summertime. I think there was a Reverend Tenet there. Tenet?

SK: Okay.

HB: That name sounds familiar to me.

SK: Mm-hmm.

HB: But we did go there in the summertime, the Bible school. The summer Bible school.

SK: Okay. And your father's funeral was there.

HB: Yes.

SK: Okay. Were there any other organizations that you were a part of growing up in Greencastle? Or was it really—the church was the—

HB: The church was just about it. I can remember when they had special services for—I think it might have been a pharmacy. There was something that was happening at the graveyard there in Greencastle, and they would ask my sister to read certain things because she was a very articulate reader, and she was good at speaking. My sister Joan, Joan Freeland is her name, and I can remember her going out to the graveyard, the cemetery, and speaking out there as a kid. We were just young, but I can remember her being asked to do this. I don't know whether it was Flag Day. It was some special patriotic day that they would ask her to do this.

SK: For readings.

HB: Mm-hmm.

SK: Is she married to Russell Freeland by chance?

HB: Yes.

SK: Okay. We did interview him as well. And he was a DePauw student.

HB: Yes.

SK: Well, it seems like girls in your family like DePauw students.

SK: So I actually had been working on your family tree a little bit. I'm from a small family, and so when I find out I come to Putnam County and everyone's related to everybody in some way, it seems, just trying to keep track of folks. So you said there were seven children in your family?

HB: That's right.

SK: So Joan, Hazel, Charles, and Joe?

SK: Yes. What were the other children's names?

HB: Marsha was the oldest child. She's deceased. And then there was Priscilla. She lives in California. And Ann lives in Indianapolis.

SK: Is that Ann with an E or just without an E?

HB: Without an E.

SK: Okay. And Marsha was the oldest. And then Priscilla was named after your mother, I presume?

HB: Yes.

SK: Okay. Okay. Do you have any sense of... Do you get to come back here to Greencastle for homecomings or anything like that?

HB: No. I'm not a driver, and I don't come back there. I was back there a couple years ago, and we stayed at Walden Inn. What did we do? We just came back and visited and talked to people. There were so many new African American people there. I didn't know so many of the people because, see, I'm 72 years old, and the people who I knew, they are deceased. I think Mary Buckner, are you familiar with her?

SK: I've heard her name. I guess she lives out in Bloomington now in a retirement home, a nursing home.

HB: Well, yes. Now, I think she's one of the few persons still living because when I was there, there was Adam Wagner. Have you heard of him?

SK: A little bit, not very much.

HB: Well, he and his wife lived there. There were so many people who lived there, but all those people are deceased.

SK: Do you have a sense that it seems like a lot of people moved out as you did and your sister did when they, sort of after high school, they left Greencastle? Do you think that happened in a lot of other families?

HB: I think so. Now, those Buckner children, they've all gone, but there weren't really a lot of young people there. But so many of those people, like the Sly girls are still there. Alice, uh Virginia, those girls are still there.

SK: Sly?

HB: Maybe their names aren't Sly anymore.

SK: Okay. But that would be their maiden names possibly. Okay.

HB: And the Browns. Well, I do think they left. I think Dorothy Chatman Brown is one of the few people who moved back there.

SK: Yes.

HB: There was a young man named Bobby Taylor. He's a doctor, or he was a doctor. He's probably retired by now. But his dad worked with my father, and he moved. After he left Indiana University at DePauw, he left. So I can't think of anyone else who stayed there.

SK: Sure. And most people have mentioned that their sense is that there weren't good jobs to be had in Greencastle...

HB: No, no.

SK: Particularly for African Americans. And you had said that when you were trying to get a job here, that the special education job was offered to you and the substitute teaching was offered to you. But that was... do you think that they would have hired you for another position had one been open?

HB: You know, I don't know. I would like to think that that would have happened. However, I was really eager to leave and see another part of the world, a bigger city.

SK: Sure, sure.

HB: And after I, you know, I was successful in Toledo School. I just thought that I'll stay, and then I met my husband.

SK: Well, I think that takes me through most of my questions here. Unless you have anything else in particular that you wanted to share about your time in Greencastle or growing up in Putnam County.

HB: I can't think of anything. When I talk to my sisters, maybe I will have something else. If you send me, are you going to send me this interview?

SK: What I will do, I will definitely send you the permission slip. I'm going to see if I can get the interview transcribed here in the next couple weeks. I had a bunch of students doing these interviews in January, and they were doing their own transcriptions. And I'm going to have to see. It might be March before I'm able to get a transcript to you.

HB: All right. Well, that's fine.

SK: But if you'd like me to, I can send you a copy of the tape, if that would be...

HB: Oh, no. Don't do that. Okay. But, you know, when I talk to my sisters, let me think about it, and we can sort of remind each other of some things that happened.

SK: Sure.

HB: I will certainly write a paragraph or two and tell you something else.

SK: That would be great. That would be wonderful. I would very much appreciate that.

HB: And you'll have your address and everything available to me.

SK: Sure.

HB: I will send that all to you.

SK: I've got 2565 North Grant Boulevard, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53210.

HB: That's correct.

SK: Okay. Yes, I will send you the name of the book about Madison, Indiana, and the permission form, and I'll put a little bit more information about the museum in there for you. We are going to open up our exhibit on March 12th, and I think it's probably going to run through the end of June or maybe into July, just so you know that's when it's happening. And we're hoping to do a couple events. We're going to have an opening session with a living history person from the Freetown Village Museum in Indianapolis.

HB: Oh, that would be wonderful.

SK: Yeah. We're really looking forward to that. We're getting Reverend Strong as the character to talk a little bit about church life. And they're usually set around the turn of the century, a little bit earlier here in the area. And we're hoping to bring Bing Davis...

HB: Oh, that would be nice.

SK: In for a session, and we're going to have an NCAA meeting here at some point and maybe do a little history storytelling with that group since it's been around for a while and we're having trouble kind of reconstructing its history. We don't have a lot of records of it.

HB: Now, when is this going to be?

SK: The Freetown Village Museum performers coming on March 12th.

HB: Oh, I certainly wish I could be there. I think that would be so wonderful. I'll see if there's any way I can get down there for that.

SK: That would be great. That would be wonderful. We'd love to have you here for that opening. It'll be at 10 a.m., so it'll be that morning on March 12th.

HB: I certainly will try to. I'll have to look at my calendar. It seems like the 13th or something I'm supposed to... But I'll see if I can't come down there. It's so difficult for me to get there since I don't have a train that comes into Greencastle.

SK: No, so it makes it quite challenging. I know. I actually live in Crawfordsville, and there is a train from Chicago to Crawfordsville, but it comes through at like 3 in the morning.

HB: Isn't that awful?

SK: They just don't do trains the way they used to.

HB: No.

SK: Well, I might try to bug your brother. I'm giving a talk at his Kiwanis group, so I can say, you know, you really need to get your sister down here.

HB: Well, I certainly enjoyed it, and I hope I was helpful.

SK: Yes, very much. It's been a real challenge to put this exhibit together just because, you know, the historical organizations have been, you know, just as racist as everything else in the county, and so we just don't have very many records of the African-American community.

SK: So we've really been asking people to send in pictures and yearbooks or letterman sweaters or sort of things we can put on display as part of that community.

HB: If I can find my yearbook, I would be happy to share it with you.

SK: That would be wonderful if you would loan that to us for a couple months.

HB: I would be happy to send you my Greencastle High School yearbook. I'll see if I can't find that.

SK: Sure, that would be neat.

HB: The Minaret.

SK: Yes, yes. So it's an interesting sort of way of doing history to have it be more based on kind of these oral history interviews and pulling out good stories from that. It's been really neat.

HB: You know, I just left St. Paul, Minnesota, because we were celebrating Gordon Parks. He was from, you know, he lived up there, and it was such a marvelous, marvelous program Saturday night about his life. And no formal education did he have, but the man is a genius. And if you could, you know, if you could just realize if this man had been denied all of this, the world would not be what it is because he was such a man. He's still living. He's 92. Wow. He is such a fantastic musician and photographer.

SK: Oh.

HB: It's just, oh, he certainly added an awful lot to America.

SK: There's one thing I really like about working in a museum and working in history is there are always wonderful stories that you never knew about, and you can always discover something new and kind of get inspired by that. So, well, wonderful. Thank you so much for being a part of this. This has been great, and I will send you that stuff in the mail. And if you have any other stories or you find that yearbook or anything else you have, actually, if you had any, I don't know if you would, have any pictures of the church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church?

HB: I don't have that.

SK: Okay. We're just not finding much of anything.

HB: My wedding was held there. The only picture I have is the front of when I walked out with my dad. That's the only thing I have. Would you like that?

SK: That actually would be great.

HB: All right. Well, if I can get those pictures in an envelope very soon, if you want to see them.

SK: Yes, definitely. That would be wonderful. We just have one picture of the side of the church with the Sunday school group from the 30s, and that's the only picture we have. So that would be wonderful. That would be great. All right. Well, I will get this in the mail to you, and I will look forward to hearing from you.

HB: Now, to whom should I send the picture, or should I just send it to my brother?

SK: You can do it either way. Well, actually, probably best to send it to the museum. I'll get it quicker that way. It's the Putnam County Museum.

HB: All right. Let me get a piece of paper quickly.

SK: Sure.

HB: My pen won't work. Isn't that the way?

SK: Oh, yes. Without a doubt.

HB: All right. Now, let's see if this will work. Putnam County.

SK: Museum.

HB: All right. And what is the address?

SK: 209 West Liberty Street.

HB: Is that downtown?

SK: It's just north of downtown. We're in the old Jones School.

HB: Oh, all right. And then that's 46135?

SK: Yes.

HB: All right. Should I forward this to you?

SK: Yes. I'd be the person. It's Stacy, S-T-A-C-Y.

HB: S-T-A-C-Y.

SK: Okay. And last name is ugly. It's Klingler, K-L-I-N, as in November, G-L-E-R. All right.

HB: Well, I will get that, and you can see how the church, I think that Kenny Bennett more was focused on my husband and me, but actually the pictures were taken in the church.

SK: Well, interior shots would be great, too. If there's a picture of you at the altar and things like that, that would be a neat piece for people who remember that church and who haven't been inside it.

HB: Okay.

SK: Great.

HB: Well, Stacy, I certainly will get it to you, and it's been such a pleasure talking to you.

SK: Well, it's been great talking with you. Thank you for sharing your stories with us. Yes.

HB: Well, maybe sometime you'll be able to see each other in person.

SK: Well, I hope you'll be able to make it down on the 12th. That would be great.

HB: I will if I can. Is that on a weekend?

SK: It's a Saturday.

HB: Okay. All right.

SK: Great. Thank you so much.

HB: Okay, Stacy.

SK: Have a good day.

HB: I hope you do.

SK: Thank you. Bye-bye.

HB: Bye.