

**Oral History:
Charles Turner Interview
with Scottdale Residents**

CHARLES TURNER: Today is February 27, 2020. My name is Charles Turner. I am working on my capstone program for Georgia State [University] Heritage Preservation program. Tonight I am going to interview Ms. Pinky Tyson of Phillips Towers, and Ms. Margaret Sterling, also of Phillips Towers, both who were raised in the Scottdale area of DeKalb County; and they will be helping me on my oral interview for my capstone program. Ladies, I wish for you to introduce yourselves here anytime you get ready.

MARGARET STERLING: I'm Margaret Sterling.

MR. TURNER: Tell me about yourself. [*Background laughter*] I've introduced you; now you've got to go. [*Mr. Turner laughs.*]

MS. STERLING: I'm born—born and raised in Scottdale. I attended Hamilton High School up until, I think 196_. [Year inaudible due to background noise; Ms. Sterling seems unsure of year.] Afterwards I attended Druid Hills High School, which I graduated 1972. I attended school for a nursing assistant. I worked in various hospitals and nursing homes. I later attended Gupton-Jones College.

MR. TURNER: What is that?

MS. STERLING: Gupton-Jones—

MR. TURNER: What is that?

MS. STERLING: --Mortuary College.

MR. TURNER: OK, that's here in Georgia?

MS. STERLING: Mm-hm.

MR. TURNER: OK.

MS. STERLING: It's in Decatur, Georgia--

MR. TURNER: Oh, OK.

MS. STERLING: --where I received my Associate's degree in Mortuary Science. I have two children—two adult children. I have a daughter and a son, and I have one granddaughter.

MR. TURNER: OK, were they raised in Scottdale?

MS. STERLING: Yes, they were. I had to think about it. [*Background laughter*] Yes, they were raised [there]. My son is Marcus, and my daughter is Lakeisha [spelling?]. I have one granddaughter. She was raised in Scottdale, too, for a short period of time; she moved.

Actually born at DeKalb General [Hospital]—well, DeKalb Medical [now Emory Decatur Hospital].

MR. TURNER: How was Scottdale, raising children back then?

MS. STERLING: Back when I was coming—well, when I was coming up, I can only speak for myself. Myself, I didn't get to do a lot of things what other kids did, because my parents were very strict, and I didn't get to go to football games and parties and stuff like that. So I didn't really start really venturing out until I got, like, in high school, like maybe tenth, eleventh grade. You know, I started working, making my own money. You know, that way I could, you know, buy my own clothes—

MR. TURNER: Couldn't nobody tell you nothing then. [*Laughs*]

MS. TYSON: Thought she was grown then.

MR. TURNER: Think you grown now. What was that word they used to call back then? It wasn't "sassy," but it was something else.

MS. STERLING: Mannish

MR. TURNER: That was for boys. But girls—

MS. STERLING: Girls were "mannish," too. [*Background laughter*]

MR. TURNER: So how was your parents? What was some of the main places— [*To the other interviewees*] you jump in, too, Ms. Pinky--that y'all—that was prominent here, like the church and the school? Did you ever hear of Avondale Colored School?

MS. STERLING: That's what they used to call it.

MR. TURNER: Hamilton High. Tell me about it, if you can remember anything.

MS. STERLING: I remember—I remember some of the teachers that used to teach there. Let's see, we had—

MS. TYSON: Mr. Gaines

MS. STERLING: Mr. Hatton was the principal. You had Mr. Gaines and Mr. Lowell [*Could be "Lowe"?*], Mr. Bridges—

MR. TURNER: Did they live in the community, or they lived outside of the community?

MS. TYSON and MS. STERLING: They lived outside.

MR. TURNER: So they came here to teach?

MS. TYSON and MS. STERLING: Uh-huh. Yeah.

MR. TURNER: [*To Ms. Pinky Tyson*] Go ahead, Ms. Pinky. You keep sitting over there.

MS. TYSON: My name is Pinky Tyson, and like Margaret I was born in Scottdale, but it was in a different section than what Margaret lived in. Like you said, there was a section like

Eskimo Heights, and the section that we lived in was like Roslyn [spelling?] Hill. It was the same community; but just like everywhere else, you know, the people are different. They have their own families and stuff like that. And on Roslyn Hill there I had a very large family, which was the Bixbys and the McMullens.

MR. TURNER: OK

MS. TYSON: And my grandfather was the kind of fellow that was, I guess you would call him not the mayor of the street, you know, but he was always involved in something.

MR. TURNER: He was the person you went to. One of them.

MS. TYSON: Yeah. He was Olan [spelling?] Bixby. And I remember there was nine children from that family, and it was mostly boys, and how some of the things that happened that sticks in my mind about how they at that particular time how they used to drink and fight and stuff like that, you know.

MR. TURNER, *laughing*: Was your dad a bootlegger?

MS. TYSON: No, no he was not. But it was one in the community that they called Mr. Hot Rock.

MR. TURNER: Mr. Hard Rock?

MS. TYSON: Hot Rock. [*To Ms. Sterling*] Did you know Mr. Hot Rock?

MS. STERLING: Mm-hm

MR. TURNER: You knew him? What do you remember, Ms. Margaret?

MS. STERLING: Well, I remember her family. I remember Miss Sally.

MR. TURNER: Who was Miss Sally?

MS. TYSON : That was my mother.

MS. STERLING: I remember Ms. Glennister? [spelling?]. They had the little store. We'd go to the store. I remember that.

MS. TYSON : They have retired. My brother, he had left Scottdale and moved to New York, and while he was up there, he got injured. And he was, like, paralyzed from the—

MR. TURNER: Neck--?

MS. TYSON: No, not from the neck, because he was able to use his arms and stuff. I'd say, you know, like, from the chest down.

MR. TURNER: OK

MS. TYSON: But they opened up this little store.

MR. TURNER: Right here in Scottdale?

MS. TYSON: Right there in Scottdale, over there where our church was. That was on Cedar Street then.

MR. TURNER: Is Cedar Street still here?

MS. TYSON: Cedar Street—they still call it Cedar Street?

MS. STERLING: Mm-hm, but if you go through Scottdale now, it's just so many houses they have—

MR. TURNER: Got rid of? Or built?

MS. TYSON: Built

MS. STERLING: It's just—Scottdale is beginning to look like coming through Avondale, because you've got these—it's just houses, big houses.

MS. TYSON: Big, big—

MS. STERLING: Big houses everywhere. Everywhere what used to be a vacant lot is house, house, house, house. I mean, it's just—

MR. TURNER: Was Scottdale like farmland at one time?

MS. TYSON: Oh, yeah, it was, it was, because I remember that my grandparents there, Olan and Pinky—that was my grandmother's name—

MR. TURNER: That's who you were named after?

MS. TYSON: I was named after her. They had this big garden. You know, it wasn't like a tractor or a mule or horse or anything that—they had these boys, you know, that they would dig. We had a big garden, and it would feed our family, you know, and the neighbors back then—

MR. TURNER: That was the way we lived a lot.

MS. TYSON: Yeah. Back then, you know, you shared what you grew.

MR. TURNER: Right.

MS. TYSON: And we used to grow pigs, you know, and—

MR. TURNER: And when did they kill them, during the fall?

MS. TYSON: Oh, yeah, killing--when it was pig-time, it was a community thing, you know. And they'd dig the hole and put this big old bathtub in it, you know, and make a fire under it. And they'd take the ham--

MS. STERLING: They had an old wood stove that my mom used to cook on—

MR. TURNER: In the kitchen or in the room—

MS. STERLING and MS. TYSON: Yeah

MS. STERLING: We had a—my dad had a big garden. And he had some of the most beautiful flowers.

MS. TYSON: Oh, he did.

MS. STERLING: And he could grow anything.

MR. TURNER: Have you ever noticed that a lot of African-American men back in those days were hard, but they always had a garden.

MS. STERLING and MS. TYSON: Mm-hmm. That's true.

MR. TURNER: They always had a garden, and a lot of times what they would go to keep from killing somebody to go work in the garden.

MS. TYSON: Well, like her dad and my dad, they was like deacons of the church.

MS. STERLING: Mm-hmm

MR. TURNER: OK. Which church?

MS. TYSON : And that church was—

MS. TYSON and MS. STERLING: Chapel First

MS. TYSON: Chapel First Baptist.

MR. TURNER: Is it still here?

MS. TYSON: Oh, yeah. It's still over there. Yeah, it's across from Hamilton High School.

MR. TURNER: That's on Glendale, right?

MS. TYSON: Yeah, it--

MS. STERLING: Well, Chapel—it's on Chapel Street.

MR. TURNER: Chapel Street?

MS. STERLING: Mm-hmm

MR. TURNER: OK

MS. TYSON: Glendale is right there. It runs into Glendale, Chapel Street does, yeah. But there was Chapel First, and then what was Willie Adams's church name?

MS. STERLING: You got St. Stephen's [A.M.E.]—

MS. TYSON: St. Stephen's, which is still there. All these little churches, they were small—

MR. TURNER: St.—I mean Traveler's Rest.

MS. TYSON: Traveler's Rest, yeah—

MS. STERLING: Traveler's Rest, Norman Grove. There used to be Bethlehem, but they're not there anymore.

MR. TURNER: I was reading that there was a lot of churches in Scottdale.

MS. STERLING: Mm-hm

MS. TYSON: Oh, yeah.

MR. TURNER: Not many clubs, but a lot of churches.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, a lot of churches and a lot of them now, all of them, like I say most of the members from my parents down, their children have moved out. Like Traveler's Rest, they've branched out into—

MR. TURNER: New Birth [Missionary Baptist Church, Lithonia/Stone Crest].

MS. TYSON: New Birth, yeah. And then a lot of them didn't go to New Birth, you know, because that was [row? rift? Inaudible] there in the church. I don't know why, you know, this happened. But they get a preacher to come in, and the preacher, some of these members get upset with him.

MS. STERLING: Mm-hm

MS. TYSON: So they leave, and they start another church, you know.

MS. STERLING: Yeah, mm-hm [*Continues to make similar affirmations in the background as Ms. Tyson speaks.*]

MR. TURNER: He take a group with him.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, he take a group with him. Yeah. So—but Traveler's Rest, like you said, they went to New Birth. And eventually, down through the years, you know, it just got where they didn't have enough peoples to maintain that church. And then the government moved in in that area over there where Traveler's Rest is. That was Tobie Grant.

MR. TURNER: OK, that's where Tobie Grant—

MS. TYSON: Tobie Grant was.

MR. TURNER: So all of that's Scottdale, too?

MS. TYSON: All of that is Scottdale.

MR. TURNER: OK

MS. TYSON: Yeah. The government moved in, and they—I mean, you know, it's like, sold. They bought the land. You know, so that put them in these houses that you call government houses and—

MR. TURNER: Projects?

MS. TYSON: Yeah.

MR. TURNER: They're projects.

MS. TYSON: Projects.

MR. TURNER: Yeah, that was like—was that around 1960 or something?

MS. TYSON: Yeah, around about then.

MR. TURNER: Because that's when they started doing a lot of Urban Renewal all over Atlanta.

MS. TYSON: Yeah.

MR. TURNER: OK

MS. TYSON: And that moved a lot of peoples on out of Scottdale, too, because by them opening and building them there projects, that meant peoples coming from other—

MR. TURNER: Parts of town?

MS. TYSON: Yeah, and other counties.

MR. TURNER: I was thinking about something the other day. They started moving a lot of people in Decatur out of the projects down there, downtown Decatur, around about 1950s, '60s, bout the same time.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, about 1960.

MR. TURNER: Yeah. And we used to live right there in Decatur. We lived right there on South Brook Court. Matter of fact, I went to Beacon [Beacon Hill School] for a couple of years.

MS. TYSON: Oh, yeah.

MR. TURNER: And I'm thinking now that might have been why my daddy and them moved to Edgewood.

MS. TYSON (?): Could be.

MR. TURNER: Because everybody was moving.

MS. TYSON: They moved out and built—they called themself "relocating in other places."

MR. TURNER: That's a big word they used to get rid of folks. [*Laughs*]

MS. TYSON: A big word, yeah. And the next thing you know, you know, they've got these government—

MR. TURNER: Houses? Projects.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, houses, projects, again, you know.

MR. TURNER: Are they taking those down now?

MS. TYSON: What they've got in Decatur now?

MR. TURNER: No, in Tobie Grant. What did they do—

MS. TYSON: They got—now they got, like, a senior place like this. I don't know how many floors they have on it, but—and they also built, like, multi-unit places, you know, where they build a single, but it be two or three together. What do you call that?

MR. TURNER: OK, like a multi-[inaudible] or--I don't know.

MS. TYSON: Yeah.

MR. TURNER: But it's like a—

MS. TYSON: A family—

MR. TURNER: Oh, OK.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, I say they're, like, multi-family, where it's a—you got a house—

MR. TURNER: Is it seniors, or any—

MS. TYSON: Anybody can—

MR. TURNER: OK, so that's why it's multi-family.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, so, but they got a place for seniors.

MR. TURNER: OK

MS. TYSON: Where Tobie Grant built over in that area, she had a great-big, fabulous house. Her son had a house, a big house across the street, you know. All that area over there was for Tobie Grant, you know. She was like a fortune-teller.

MR. TURNER: Yeah, I heard about that. And also the mother was one, too.

MS. TYSON: Now, I didn't know anything about her mother.

MR. TURNER: I was [Rest of comment inaudible]. So tell me what you know about her.

MS. TYSON: Well, I know that Tobie Grant was a rich—we used to consider her a rich lady, a lady that you could go to her with problems, you know. She was like a fortune-teller, a loan—you know, helping people by and stuff like that. [*Mr. Turner makes an inaudible comment that Ms. Tyson responds to.*] Yeah. [*Laughter and inaudible brief comments among several people.*] Is that the way you remember her, Margaret?

MR. TURNER: She had that stuff growing in her window in the kitchen and stuff? [*Laughter*] OK, so you know something about her, don't you, Ms. Margaret?

MS. STERLING: Well, mainly, I just knew, you know, what I hear.

MR. TURNER: Tell us what you heard.

MS. STERLING: Because my dad, you know, he was real familiar with her. But, you know.

MR. TURNER: What did your daddy—

MS. TYSON: She didn't get involved in the—

MR. TURNER: Right. But we heard a lot of stuff.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, we heard a lot of stuff.

MR. TURNER: They're gone now, so we can talk. [*Laughs*] This is what they said.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, they kind of, you know, [inaudible] don't meddle in [inaudible] business.

MR. TURNER: What's that they said? "Children should be—"

MR. TURNER and MS. TYSON, *in unison*: "--seen and not heard." [*Laughter*]

MS. TYSON: And I can't speak for Margaret's parents, but mine were like, you know, you go certain places in Scottdale, but certain places you didn't go. And the certain places that you didn't go was like on Cedar Street on down. There was a little place that they had a little juke [inaudible]—

MR. TURNER: Juke joint

MS. TYSON: --you call it. We wasn't allowed. Even when we got to be teenagers, we wasn't allowed to go there, because back then, you know, if your parents told you something, that's what you did. It wasn't a question of whether you're going to slip and do it. Of course, sometime we always did, you know.

MR. TURNER: You just prayed you didn't get caught.

[*Several people talk at once; conversations individually inaudible.*]

MS. STERLING: Because you're going to get caught, because somebody always sees you.

MS. TYSON: Oh, they would always see you. Back then, if they tell your parents they saw you someplace, it wasn't this here about, "Were you there?" They didn't question. I mean, you know, if somebody said--

MR. TURNER: They told—

MS. TYSON: You did it.

MR. TURNER: You did it. [*Laughs*]

MS. TYSON: It wasn't no if, and, or but about it. [*Laughs*]

MR. TURNER: How many people did y'all know that worked at the mill?

MS. TYSON: Oh, my father worked there for—till he got sick and died.

MR. TURNER: How did—and you know what I'm going for—what was the difference between black folks and white folks working at the mill that you know personally?

MS. TYSON: Personally? Well, now--

MR. TURNER: Yeah. Tell me about it.

MS. TYSON: OK, in there—where we lived at—the railroad track, we lived on one side of the track, and white lived on the other side of the track. They had a Scottdale Mill store where we used to go, for the people, you know, that worked at the mill, and they had, like, you know, they could just get stuff on the book, you know. That's how they--

MR. TURNER: You work for the company store.

MS. TYSON: --clothed their children and fed their children, you know, by working at the mill. And my father worked there until he couldn't work anymore because of the arthritis that had invaded his body, I mean, so—that's the only place that I can remember my daddy ever

working was Scottdale Mill. My mom didn't work. She was a stay-at-home mom. Yeah, but Daddy, he worked out there until, I mean, you know, he couldn't work anymore.

MR. TURNER: Was he a senior citizen at that time?

MS. TYSON: He was, he was a senior citizen when he left Scottdale.

MR. TURNER: So he, like, retired from Scottdale.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, could say that, yeah, retired. But I knew of other—like, Mr. Fred Dudley. That was a distant cousin of ours. And he worked at the mill, you know. His whole family, they—none of them live in Scottdale now. On that street that we lived in—what we called Roslyn Hill—it was more like family.

MR. TURNER: The whole family?

MS. TYSON: Yeah. More like family, yeah. And we had a preacher, Reverend Britt, him and his family lived on there, but everybody was such good friends, you know, it was still like family and all.

MR. TURNER: Right

MS. TYSON: So it was--

MR. TURNER: So how do you see it different, Scottdale and every African-American community today, as it was different when you were growing up?

MS. TYSON: Their difference is, I suppose, is how the peoples care for each other. And I guess you could say how they get along now. Back then, you know, we could go off and leave our door open. You wouldn't worry about anybody coming in. We were caring for each other.

MS. STERLING: People were warm. [Inaudible] You cared for each other. You helped each other. But now it's like it's everybody for theirself.

MS. TYSON: Yeah. I just—I don't visit Scottdale that often now. Just—I used to go to church there. But, like some of the other peoples, you know, I've move on when I got married, and I moved up in Atlanta. So I started going to church, you know, up here where this—not in Decatur, but Atlanta. But back then, you know, Sunday was the day of gathering for family.

MR. TURNER: Sunday dinner

MS. TYSON: Yeah. I remember every Sunday we would go to my mother for dinner, even after we got married, you know. Now, my children was not raised in Scottdale. They was raised up in Kirkwood, because I had moved—

MR. TURNER: I know Kirkwood.

MS. TYSON: There's where--

MR. TURNER: Used to live in Edgewood.

MS. TYSON: I lived for forty-something years there.

MR. TURNER: Oh, wow.

MS. TYSON: Yeah.

MR. TURNER: My daughter went to Coan [Middle School, now closed] for a minute.

MS. TYSON: My kids went to Coan for a time. But—

MR. TURNER: You know Kirkwood houses are now going for six and seven hundred thousand dollars?

MS. TYSON: I know. I hate I sold mine. [*Laughter*]

MR. TURNER: Well, you know, my story—that what I'm trying to do is, like, do it—what you want to pass on—what you want people to remember about Scottdale, because even though it's not the Scottdale you grew up in, it was home. It was—we—because I was reading somewhere that said when they closed Hamilton High, it was like they was closing a part of black history in Scottdale. Now, this is—how do y'all feel about that? Tell me about that.

MS. STERLING: Well, me, myself I—

MR. TURNER: How did you feel about it?

MS. STERLING: I didn't like it because it's just part of you, and it's like something being taken away. You've got—it's like you're moving [inaudible; interruption]. You're moving to a strange—going to a strange place. Like you're going to a different— Now, I went to Druid Hills. Some people were moved into Avondale. [*Ms. Sterling and Ms. Tyson talk at the same time, obscuring parts of each other's conversation.*]

MS. TYSON: And it was all white. It was all white at the time.

MS. STERLING: I couldn't—I never understood—I would have thought that I would have ended up going to Avondale, but I went to Druid Hills. I mean, and they were just—I don't know how they—

MR. TURNER: Figured it all out?

MS. STERLING: Yeah

MS. TYSON: Well, see, I had graduated by the time they—

MR. TURNER: What year was that?

MS. TYSON: I graduated in 1962. And I graduated as the queen of the—

MR. TURNER: Color guard? [*Laughter and inaudible comments*]

MS. TYSON: I was the homecoming--I was Miss Hamilton High.

MR. TURNER, *laughing*: Couldn't tell her nothing, could you? [*More laughter*]

MS. TYSON: But—so I, you know, I didn't have to be bused to another white school, because that's what they did, you know. For a while there, when we was, like, going to the elementary school that was called—

MR. TURNER: Which one was that?

MS. STERLING: Robert Shaw

MS. TYSON: Huh?

MR. TURNER: Robert Shaw?

MS. TYSON: Robert Shaw

MR. TURNER: Do y'all know anything about Robert Shaw?

MS. TYSON: Yeah, we both went to school there.

MR. TURNER: No, I'm talking about the man. Who was Robert Shaw?

MS. TYSON: Well, now, that I don't know. I don't know why—

MS. STERLING: I've heard of him.

MS. TYSON: Yeah—

MR. TURNER: They say he—was he black? Was he white?

MS. STERLING: I always heard—I always heard about him being black.

MS. TYSON: I don't know.

MR. TURNER: Because they say he owned the land that he--he gave the land to them to build the school.

MS. TYSON: That's why it was named after him.

MR. TURNER: After him, right. And then it was named Hamilton High after Maude Hamilton.

MS. TYSON: Robert Shaw was the elementary school.

MR. TURNER: Right

MS. TYSON: And Hamilton was the high school.

MR. TURNER: That used to be Avondale [Colored] School.

MS. TYSON: Used to be Avondale School, yeah. Then they named it Hamilton High, yeah. But I really don't know why or what Mr. Shaw was, whether he was black or white. I guess, you know.

MR. TURNER: And see, these are the things that was all a part of your life and stuff, but nobody knows anything about it.

MS. TYSON: Isn't that something? That is so true, because—and you brought this up, you know. I've thought about it. I've said, you know, like I've lived down there until I was, like,

seventeen or eighteen. That's when I got married, eighteen, and moved out. And in all that time it was just my place to live.

MR. TURNER: It was home.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, you know, I didn't get into history of it, even after I left. And the things that was going on down there, you know, you don't get—you didn't—I didn't get involved.

[*To Ms. Sterling*] Did you?

MS. STERLING: No

MR. TURNER: And you didn't ask no questions?

MS. TYSON: That's the thing about it. I mean, you accepted the way it was.

MS. STERLING: Mm-hm

MS. TYSON: It was a black-and-white thing.

MR. TURNER: Now, that we knew.

MS. TYSON: Yeah

MR. TURNER: Because that was the way of life back in those days.

MS. TYSON: Yeah. That was the way of life. But the history of it and finding out who did this and why they did it, you know, and why it was named this here, I never did go into that, you know. And you have made me thought about it, you know.

MR. TURNER: And these were some of the leaders of the black community that—they worked hard to put in--because they didn't have schools and stuff, like that really good schools. But somebody fought for to get those over there.

MS. TYSON: That's true. Yeah. I think about—I was thinking about some of the other families, you know, like Sam and—the one that stayed over there by the church. I recall Reverend Britton. They were the prominent family there. He was a preacher there. And Effie Cooper and them.

MR. TURNER: Effie?

MS. TYSON: Effie Cooper

MR. TURNER: Is that the—there's a store or a café—is that Effie or Essie? It's up there off of—

MS. TYSON: Glenwood?

MR. TURNER: Yeah. My grandmother's named Effie. That's why I like that name.

[*Laughter*] And my grand-aunt was named Essie.

MS. TYSON: Oh, yeah.

MS. STERLING: And you remember—what was his name? The [sounds like "Braymans"; not sure of spelling].

MS. TYSON: [Sounds like “Bree-man”]? Yeah.

MS. STERLING: Miss Florrie [Sounds like “Bree-man”]?

MS. TYSON: Yeah, Miss Florrie [Sounds like “Bree-man”], yeah, and Jack [“Bree-man”].

All them that—

MS. STERLING: And Harris?

MS. TYSON: --lived in that area behind Hamilton High School

MS. STERLING: Mm-hm

MR. TURNER: So did they have their own—so blacks had their own stores and stuff like that within the community?

MS. TYSON: Everybody went to Scottdale Mill store.

MR. TURNER: Oh, OK

MS. TYSON: Or else we went uptown to Kresge. I remember—

MR. TURNER: In Decatur--in Atlanta?

MS. TYSON: In Atlanta

MR. TURNER: On Whitehall Street

MS. TYSON: On Whitehall

MR. TURNER: Next to Kessler’s

MS. TYSON: Yeah, Kessler’s. Somewhere like that. I remember it was a treat for us to get in the car and go up to H. L. Green, you know, and shop in the basement, you know, stuff like that.

MR. TURNER: We might have seen each other.

MS. TYSON: Yeah. But it--I think about—that’s what’s happening to our black—young blacks now, they’re not involved in getting history about what is going on now. We kind of get complacent and just-- They take things as they are, and, you know, and just not getting involved, and that’s what make it die and not live.

MR. TURNER: See, this is one of the things that we’re trying to do at—public history is a new discipline for school. And it’s only really been in existence maybe twenty, thirty years. And it’s to me, it’s like telling the other part of the story. To me it’s beginning to give us the ability to tell our story and don’t worry about whether the university likes it or not or anybody. This is what we did. Yeah, we didn’t write it down, but my word is just as good as your word. Yeah. And memory is a huge part of it. And see, y’all telling little stuff that—it might be little right now, but if enough people talk and come together, you’re telling a whole story. So this is why as your voices are quiet voices now because you don’t talk about it, so I’m asking you now, wake up the voices for these few minutes of whatever time y’all going to talk to me. Tell me

about it. And another question I want to ask: Did your dad, when he was working in the mill, ever talk about the strike?

MS. TYSON: I never heard him say anything.

MR. TURNER: Did you know that there was a strike in 1934?

MS. TYSON: At the mill?

MR. TURNER: At the mill. They had—it was all over the country, and Scottdale Mill was a big part of it.

MS. TYSON: Really?

MR. TURNER: Yeah.

MS. TYSON: Did you know that, Margaret? [*If there is a response, it is inaudible.*] Your dad, where did he work?

MS. STERLING: My dad didn't—well, I remember he worked at—he worked at the post office, but it was what they call a—

MS. TYSON: Janitor

MS. STERLING: Yeah

MR. TURNER: Custodian

MS. STERLING: Yeah

MS. TYSON: Custodian

MS. STERLING: He was at—where is it? What did they call it? Little Five Points. In that area.

MR. TURNER: Little Five Points or Five Points?

MS. STERLING: No, it was Little Five Points.

MR. TURNER: OK. So he was over off Moreland Avenue.

MS. STERLING: It was Euclid Avenue.

MR. TURNER: OK, I know exactly. So he worked on Euclid?

MS. STERLING: It was a post office station [*rest of sentence inaudible*].

MR. TURNER: Right over there near Bass High School?

MS. STERLING: Twenty-five years, that's what he retired from. I remember he'd get up early in the morning and go to work, catch the bus and go to work.

MR. TURNER: OK, that was down there near Deacon Burton. You know what I'm talking about, don't you?

MS. STERLING: I've heard that name.

MR. TURNER: Yeah, he used to have a chicken shop or chicken place over there. [Deacon Burton's was at the corner of Elizabeth Street and DeKalb Avenue in Inman Park.]

[Inaudible comments from Ms. Sterling and/or Ms. Tyson] That's at Inman Park.

MS. STERLING: Yeah

MR. TURNER: Inman Park

MS. STERLING: Yeah, now I know who you talking about. Yeah, I know that name sounded familiar.

MR. TURNER: I met him [Deacon Burton] once. He cooked some chicken. I mean, that chicken was so good I used to buy a piece in the morning between two pieces of white bread, and I would crush it together to get all of the juices out of it, and I would eat the bread in the morning and eat the chicken at lunch. [*Laughter*]

MS. TYSON: I like that. Crush it together, huh?

MR. TURNER: Yeah.

MS. TYSON: [Inaudible] that greasy [inaudible].

MR. TURNER: Greasy, and I'll tell you what. When you went in there, if you're sitting down for twenty minutes, you smelt like chicken grease all day long. But it was good, though.

MS. STERLING: I remember they used to talk about it. He had the best chicken.

MR. TURNER: Yeah. And all the people—and I mean, half of downtown at the courthouse used to come down there, city hall, used to come eat chicken right there.

MS. TYSON: Oh, gracious.

MR. TURNER: Yeah. Now, let me see what else. Roslyn Hill—that's another thing. It was—why was it called Roslyn Hill?

MS. TYSON: I lived there, like I said, I left at age eighteen, but I—it was just Roslyn Hill.

MS. STERLING: I don't know was it named after somebody? It could have been. Nobody knows. Well, I don't. [*Mr. Turner laughs.*]

MS. TYSON: Isn't that something? Me and Margaret, we are—we grew up in Scottdale. We lived there—

MS. STERLING: There's a lot we don't know.

MR. TURNER: So what was the things that to y'all was important when y'all was growing up? What was important to y'all? That you talk about sometimes when you get together? When you get together and you say, "Pinky, you remember?" And then you go off on a conversation. And Margaret says, "No, you didn't." OK. [*Laughs*]

MS. STERLING: You—Miss Emma [inaudible—sounds like "and Reverend"?] that had the candy store.

MS. TYSON: That was over there by the church. They had—

MS. STERLING: And then Miss Dorothy—the pig ear house. She made them sandwiches.

MS. TYSON: Pig ear and splits. [*Both ladies laugh.*]

MS. STERLING: And splits

MS. TYSON: [*Making a sound to indicate that she enjoyed the food*]: Mmmm-mm!

MR. TURNER: Now, that was also—was that Tom Still or Bob Still down there in Decatur?

MS. TYSON: Bob Still?

MR. TURNER: Yeah, used to make them splits over there behind—I was baptized at Thankful [Baptist Church], so I know.

MS. TYSON, *laughing*: OK

MS. STERLING: Miss Dorothy, she made them rinds.

MR. TURNER: We loved them splits, didn't we?

MS. STERLING: County workers be coming up there.

MR. TURNER: But you know, that was a lot of—we didn't have buildings or storefronts like they have, but those was our businesses. They made money. They made a lot. And the candy lady? Every black neighborhood got a candy lady.

MS. TYSON: That was Miss Jones. [Street name inaudible; sounds like "Gower"] Street.

MR. TURNER: And that Pinky Tyson at Phillips Towers. [*Laughs*] Candy lady.

MS. TYSON: We had the candy lady, Miss Jones, that lived two houses up from us, and she had pears and grapes in her backyard, you know. And we used to go across the fence to get them, and we got more whoopings about them pears and them grapes.

MR. TURNER, *laughing*: But they were so good.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, I'll never forget. Miss Jones was the first lady to get a television in our—on our street. And she used to charge us five cents every Saturday morning, and we would go watch the cartoons. And she—

MR. TURNER: She charged y'all to go watch TV?

MS. TYSON: Yeah. She charged us five cents.

MR. TURNER: Wow!

MS. TYSON: Yeah, and then she had the store. We would buy them penny cookies, you know, them—

MR. TURNER: Did she make the Kool-Aid sticks?

MS. TYSON: No, we would buy drinks, that Topp-cola.

MR. TURNER: Topp-cola

MS. TYSON: Yeah

MR. TURNER: Ten cents. Them was the big ones.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, the big Topp-colas. Yeah. And that scrap cake and all that. You know, I was just thinking, you said what to talk about when you get there. It's always we talked about family.

MR. TURNER: Right

MS. TYSON: So what the family was doing and—

MR. TURNER: The family was a huge part—

MS. TYSON: Yeah.

MR. TURNER: Tell me about your family.

MS. TYSON: The family, like I was saying earlier, I had a big family—

MS. STERLING: Everybody knew everybody.

MS. TYSON: Everybody knew everybody, but like I said, they used to—my uncle and them, they used to drink on the weekend and fight, I mean, you know, and stuff like that.

MR. TURNER: Oh, really? Did they do that?

MS. TYSON: Yes, they did. I mean, you know [*laughing*]—but they never did hurt each other. Now, that's something.

[*Both Ms. Sterling and Ms. Tyson talk simultaneously, obscuring conversation.*]

MS. STERLING: Horseshoe Bend. You know Horseshoe Bend? You don't get caught up in there.

MR. TURNER: I've heard that name, Horseshoe Bend. Tell me about—

MS. TYSON: I forgot about Horseshoe Bend.

MS. STERLING: Mm-hmm. That was some kind of rough, rough area. You--

MS. TYSON: Yeah, that's where liquor was being sold.

MS. STERLING: --you stayed away from there.

MS. TYSON: The liquor houses over there.

MS. STERLING: They get drunk or get to shooting and acting crazy.

MR. TURNER: Oh, yeah. A lot of times, back in them days, they cut folks more than they shot folks. [*Laughter*] Because didn't too many people have guns.

MS. TYSON: No

MR. TURNER: But they'd cut you in a minute, yeah.

MS. TYSON: They'd cut you in a minute, yeah.

MR. TURNER: Straight razors and [*inaudible*].

MS. TYSON: I guess me and Margaret, we were, like, kind of sheltered like in our family, because, like I said, our parents were really strict.

MR. TURNER: How many brothers you have?

MS. TYSON: I had three brothers, and I had three sisters. It was seven of us.

MR. TURNER: OK, how many brothers did you have?

MS. STERLING: Five brothers and—

MR. TURNER: OK, so that was like, when you went out there—man, y'all have met my sister, don't you?

MS. STERLING, *laughing*: Yeah

MR. TURNER: I got to tell you anything else?

[Both ladies answer no, laughing.]

MR. TURNER, *laughing*: Don't [inaudible—could be "tell"?] my sister.

MS. TYSON, *laughing*: Don't mess with her! Yes, sir.

MR. TURNER: And that was basically how it went.

MS. TYSON: Like I said, my older brother, Ernest, he left, going to New York when I was about, I guess I was, like, maybe fifteen—fifteen or sixteen.

MR. TURNER: Did any of them go in the military?

MS. TYSON: I had my second brother, he went into the army. And my baby brother, he was what you would call the black sheep of the family. Now, he was a story in his self.

[Laughter] That was Jerry! *[laughs]* He was a story in his self. Everybody in that neighborhood knew Jerry. Because Jerry was the kind of fellow that he didn't care who you were or--he just didn't care, the way he talked, you know. And he liked to meddle with people, you know.

MR. TURNER: Always in somebody's business.

MS. TYSON: Oh, yeah. He got more whoopings, you know, and stuff like that.

MR. TURNER: But your mama loved him to death.

MS. TYSON: She did! She used to—got him an apartment because my daddy said he couldn't live there. We used to call him "retard," you know, but he wasn't retarded. He was just—

MR. TURNER: He was a--

MS. TYSON: --he was a [inaudible].

MR. TURNER: What was the word? He wanted to live his own life.

MS. TYSON: He did! That's one thing, he did. I'll never forget when he died, and they had his funeral. These people that we didn't know all was getting up, you know, saying words about him—saying things, not words, beautiful things.

MR. TURNER: And you said, "Who's them folks?"

MS. TYSON: I don't know how many people got up and said, "I almost killed that man."
[*Laughter*] Said, "He would come and get in front of my house and call my daughter out."

MR. TURNER: Oh, that's what he was—he was a playboy.

MS. TYSON: Yes, he called his self—well, whatever he called his self. But it was—we had this preacher that come to us, and he said, "And I've been to plenty of funerals, and I've officiated over funerals, but that was the finest [could be "funnest"?] funeral I ever been to."
[*Laughter*] It was.

MR. TURNER: In other words, it sounds like Jerry enjoyed his life.

MS. TYSON: Jerry was something else, Jerry was. But, like you said, my mama loved him to death. I mean, you know, that rascal, he would get a job and work a little bit. Mother made sure he had that rent for that apartment, though.

MR. TURNER: Your daddy said he wasn't going to stay there.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, he'd come around to eat. No, Daddy said he couldn't stay there, yeah.

MR. TURNER: How did y'all get with the police? Not the "po-LEECE," but the "PO-leece"?

MS. TYSON: Well, for one thing, the police in Scottdale, my uncle and them, they had a—I'm telling all the negative stuff, you know—

MR. TURNER: No, you tell the negative, it's true.

MS. TYSON, *laughs*: Well, they came--like I said, they used to drink, you know, and stuff like that, and police came down once, they was fighting, and them and the police got to fighting hard—it was a mess [inaudible]. [*Ms. Tyson and Mr. Turner laugh.*] And the police, they didn't come on our street that often. It's just—

MR. TURNER: I want to get this piece of paper—

MS. STERLING: There's certain areas they wouldn't—

MR. TURNER: I got this piece of paper that—it came out of the newspaper, where this one cop—it was Bixby or something—I'll bring it to you one day. And he was talking about how the police didn't come into Scottdale, because it was—they didn't know nothing about Scottdale. And the older folks was like—it was more black people in Scottdale than there was white—

MS. TYSON: Oh, yeah

MR. TURNER: --on this side. And he said that you just left it alone, because they took care of their own business.

MS. TYSON: They did.

MR. TURNER, *to Ms. Sterling*: So you keep shaking your head, but tell me something.

MS. STERLING: I mean, I'm just—I told you, I can only tell you what I remember or what I heard. But I--

MR. TURNER: But [inaudible—could be “What part of it?” or “What bothers you?”] Is this the way you remember and stuff?

MS. STERLING: I don't disagree, you know, but—

MR. TURNER: But I want to hear some of your stories, too, because I know you've got some good ones. You were running with Miss Pinky— [*All three speak at once, making individual comments difficult to distinguish.*]

MS. STERLING: --my family--

MS. TYSON: --we went to church together—

MS. STERLING: Yeah, we went to church, but it's a lot of things. Like I said, I didn't do what other people—my parents didn't let me do, so—

MR. TURNER: Right. But you heard a lot of stuff.

MS. STERLING: --you know, so.

MR. TURNER: You heard a lot of stuff. I want to hear some of—

MS. TYSON: At least we did go to football games, you know, and parties.

MS. STERLING: And I didn't do any of that, mm-mm. My parents didn't let me do that.

MR. TURNER: My dad wouldn't let me do a lot of things I did. [*Laughs*]

MS. STERLING: Like I said, until I got older is when I, you know, started—

MR. TURNER: And when you cut loose—

MS. STERLING: Well, I wasn't that wild—I wasn't [inaudible] like a lot of people. I ain't going to say that. I'm not going to say that.

MR. TURNER, *laughing*: I'm just trying to get you riled up [inaudible].

MS. STERLING: I'm not going to say that. I ain't going to lie on myself.

MR. TURNER, *laughing*: No, we don't want [inaudible].

[*Ms. Tyson makes inaudible comment.*]

MR. TURNER: So, you went to Hamilton High, too?

MS. STERLING: Mm-hm

MR. TURNER: You graduated from Hamilton High?

MS. STERLING: Mm-mm—I graduated from Druid Hills.

MR. TURNER: Oh, yeah, that's right, because we went over that. My stepsister—not my stepsister, my sister-in-law, she went—she's a lot younger than Margaret—but she went to Avondale. She was a couple of the last ones to go to Avondale. My baby sister-in-law and my

brother-in-law, they were the last ones to go to Avondale when they closed it down [inaudible]. And--because they came over there about '73. You left when?

MS. STERLING: I left Hamilton, I think, it was right about '68 or '69.

MR. TURNER: Oh, wow.

MS. TYSON: But she graduated what year?

MS. STERLING: I graduated in '72.

MR. TURNER: You're younger than I am. Yeah. [*Laughter*] She's the baby of the bunch.

MS. TYSON, *laughing*: Yeah, she's a baby.

MR. TURNER: So I'm trying to figure out what else. You know, like, y'all need to tell me some more stuff.

MS. TYSON, *laughing*: That's the thing about it. Me and Margaret don't know a whole lot of—I'm thinking now. You know, history-wise, you know—

MR. TURNER: But I don't know—history—I want to know about the community. I want to know how you lived your life. I want to know what was important to y'all back in them days. These are the things that we don't talk about to our family. My nephews and things they'll come to me now and say, "Uncle Charles, who did this? Who did that?" Like—you know, like you was telling me about the Bixbys. OK, where was your daddy born?

MS. TYSON: My daddy was born in Scottdale.

MR. TURNER: OK

MS. TYSON: Mm-hm

MR. TURNER: In Scottdale

MS. TYSON: Yeah, but the Bixbys came from Conyers, Georgia.

MR. TURNER: And see, that was a thing--that a lot of the folks from the mill, they came from somewhere else.

MS. TYSON: Yeah

MR. TURNER: After the sharecropping and everything else like that. Was he a sharecropper or some of his family sharecropping back in the day?

MS. TYSON: See, my daddy was an only child. His mom died when he was, like, eight years old, so he was raised by his uncle and aunt, which was Harveys. But they lived on that same street that we lived in. [*To Ms. Sterling*] Do you remember Aunt Jessie, Jessie Harvey?

MS. STERLING: Yeah

MS. TYSON: Yeah, that's who raised my dad, yeah. But he was a Flemister [spelling?]. That was his dad's name.

MR. TURNER: OK

MS. TYSON: His dad was a—I don't know where-- We used to call him "Papa Sugar." Papa Sugar was born in Atlanta. And after his mom died, you know, he got with other women, but he didn't ever remarry nobody.

MR. TURNER: Right

MS. TYSON: So he still lived in Atlanta, so we didn't get to see him a whole lot, because he didn't have anything to do with raising my dad.

MR. TURNER: OK. Because the Harveys raised your dad.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, the Harveys raised him.

MR. TURNER: And he came from Conyers?

MS. TYSON: Yeah. Aunt Jessie and them came from Conyers, yeah.

MR. TURNER: Because when I—you know, studying the mill, a lot of African-Americans came from down near Madison, Conyers—all of them came up I-20 east [west?].

MS. TYSON: Yeah, Lithonia and all—Conyers and Lithonia and all through there.

MR. TURNER: Covington

MS. STERLING: My dad was from Douglasville, and my mom was from Carrollton.

MR. TURNER: Well, that's all way back up that way [west of Atlanta].

MS. STERLING, *laughing*: Yeah

MR. TURNER: Yep.

MS. STERLING: [Inaudible] was born in Scottdale. I don't know how they came to Scottdale, but—

MR. TURNER: A lot of that—Douglasville, used to be a mill up in that way somewhere, too. And a lot of—during the '30s and during the Depression started coming to the mills, because that's where a lot of them could get a job. Even though it wasn't the best job, it was a job. Did your daddy ever talk about how he felt about working at the mill?

MS. TYSON: No, I don't remember him ever really talking about how he really felt about it. I'm sure he did talk about it, you know, but, like I said, we didn't sit around, you know, like, and—

MR. TURNER: You better not be. [*Laughs*]

MS. TYSON: No, so—I don't know. He had—one thing about it I can say about my dad was he was the sort of person that everybody liked. And when he did retire from the mill and was at home most of the time, they used to call him the "porch man," because he would sit on the porch, you know, like, from sunup to sundown, you know. And everybody that go by, you know, they'd stop and talk to him. "Hey! How you doing?" They would all stop and talk to him, you know, and—like a gathering place at my house where we lived, you know.

MR. TURNER: And he probably knew a lot of what was going on.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, he did. I'm sure he did. The neighbors, you know, and his friends would all come there, you know, and they'd sit out in the yard and sit on the porch. But we didn't hang around, you know, we had to be inside. [*Laughs*]

MR. TURNER: A lot of times, people like what I hear your daddy—the way you're describing your dad, it's like what a one the people talk to.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, he was.

MR. TURNER: And a lot of folks would come, you know, like—he's kind of like he was in everybody's business, but because they wanted him to be, not because he was a busybody. But you know, like he had something to offer. And I've met a lot of black men like that, you know. Kind of like, like they say the "mayor."

MS. TYSON, *laughing*: Yeah

MR. TURNER: Yeah

MS. TYSON: "Hot Rock" was the mayor of Scottdale.

MS. STERLING: I tell you who he needs to talk to. Who could probably tell him--give him a lot of information is Ann Talbert [spelling?]

MS. TYSON: Who is that?

MS. STERLING: Ann Talbert

MS. TYSON: Ann?

MS. STERLING: Yeah. That's who he needs to talk to.

MS. TYSON: Ann Talbert. Do I know her?

MS. STERLING: Mm-hm. You do know her. You know-- You can't place her now, but you see her, you'd know who I'm talking about.

MR. TURNER: She here?

MS. STERLING: She lives in Scottdale. She stays in Scottdale.

MR. TURNER: Any way you could get her to call me?

MS. STERLING: If I—

MR. TURNER: Miss Pinky's got my number—

MS. STERLING: I tell you what. Her brother goes to my church. I'll get her number.

MR. TURNER: And I've talked to him, too.

MS. STERLING: Now, he knows about Scottdale.

MR. TURNER: Yeah, because he knows a lot of stuff y'all don't know.

MS. STERLING: Yeah—what's his name?

MS. TYSON: [*Inaudible*] because I don't know Ann.

MS. STERLING: You know Ann Tal-- You—well, you—

MS. TYSON: If I see her, I'll probably know. Talbert. Where's he live at?

MS. STERLING: --because she talk, talk, talk all the time.

MR. TURNER: In other words, I'll need good batteries? [*Ms. Tyson laughs.*]

MS. STERLING: She's a talker. She'll talk to you [inaudible]. [*Laughter*]

MS. TYSON: That's good. I'm glad.

MR. TURNER: Don't knock it. Y'all have really given me some great stuff. But the thing of it is, is that I want to get a whole lot of Scottdale, and I've only got about two or three more weeks to pull all of this stuff together. And y'all have given me a start, and I'm going to put it together. And, OK, now, when I talk about silent voices, what do you think about?

MS. TYSON: I think when you say "silent voice," it's the one that's there but don't say nothing.

MR. TURNER: Thank you.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, that they just accept but never comment about it.

MR. TURNER: And it's that memory that's quiet and we've lost it—we're losing it.

MS. TYSON: Yeah. [*Begins inaudible comment.*]

MR. TURNER: We're losing that memory. Because when y'all leave, I leave this world, that memory is gone.

MS. TYSON: That's true. Well, you know, families don't get together—

MR. TURNER: Like they used to.

MS. TYSON: --like they used to. I know when my mom died, like I told you, we used to go to her house every Sunday for dinner. So after she died, everybody kind of just started, you know, apart--

MR. TURNER: Drifting

MS. TYSON: Yeah, different ways, you know.

MR. TURNER: I told my sisters and brothers that when Mama gone, [inaudible] ain't going to be here like it used to.

MS. TYSON: Ah, it won't never be the same when Mama gone. Never is the same.

MR. TURNER: But—

MS. TYSON: And she's like the glue—

MR. TURNER: --that holds—

MS. TYSON: --that keeps that family together.

MR. TURNER: She moved into a high-rise. And she moved into the high-rise, so she said, "I can put y'all out, because they ain't going to let you be here after eleven o'clock."

[*Laughter*] Excuse me. [*Mr. Turner rearranges papers and equipment. The sound is picked up on the microphone, obscuring Ms. Tyson's comment about the elderly moving into apartments, which are not the same as "home."*]

MS. TYSON: It's a limit—

MR. TURNER: It ain't home.

MS. TYSON: No, it's not. There's a limit as to how many can get in there, because the apartments are big enough for you, you know, and two or three more people, but it ain't big enough for your family to come.

MR. TURNER: Well, we could get in there, but I think it Mama had got to the point where she wanted some of her own time. [*Ms. Tyson laughs.*] And she wanted us to leave. [*Laughter*] You shaking your head. You wanted me to come visit.

MS. STERLING: Yeah, but that's who you need to talk to, Ann Talbert. She—ooh, she could give you a lot of information.

MS. TYSON: Ann Talbert

MS. STERLING: Her brother's name is J. T. They call him "Elder Jackson."

MS. TYSON: Mahalia Jackson?

MS. STERLING: Elder. Elder Jackson.

MS. TYSON: Oh

MR. TURNER: In the Holiness Church?

MS. STERLING: He goes to the same church I go to, the Baptist Church, Calvary Grove.

MS. TYSON: So you'll probably see him Sunday at service.

MS. STERLING: Mm-hm

MR. TURNER: So if you can get—if you can give him my number—you've got both of my numbers, right?

MS. STERLING: Yeah

MR. TURNER: OK. And he can call me and let me know if he want to talk.

MS. STERLING: I'm going to give her the number and let her talk to you.

MR. TURNER: They can meet over here again, if—yeah, we can do it here again if y'all like.

MS. TYSON: That would be fine.

MR. TURNER: Get them to turn this air off.

MS. TYSON: That's it. [*Mr. Turner laughs.*]

MS. STERLING: They ain't going to turn no air off.

MR. TURNER: They ain't going to turn no--

MS. STERLING: It's cold up here all the time.

MR. TURNER: Ms. Pierce used to say that. "They would not turn that air off." Did you know Ms. Pierce, too? Lemoine Pierce?

MS. TYSON, *to Ms. Sterling*: Lemoine? Don't you remember Lemoine Pierce? Oh, no—because she hadn't been living—she wasn't living here when Ms. Pierce was here.

MR. TURNER: Oh.

MS. TYSON: Yeah.

MR. TURNER: Yeah, she used to talk about this air-conditioning. OK, let me see.

MS. STERLING: Now, my daddy, he stayed up here [Phillips Towers].

MS. TYSON: Yeah.

MR. TURNER: Where?

MS. STERLING: He was on the ninth floor.

MR. TURNER: He's still here?

MS. STERLING: He's not here now, but he lived here.

MR. TURNER: Oh, wow.

MS. TYSON: He's dead now.

MR. TURNER: Oh, he's gone to that great cotton mill in the— [*Laughs*]

MS. STERLING: That's why—that's how I ended up coming here, because when he moved here, and he, you know, he was sick, and we would come and visit him. And I liked, you know—everybody was nice, and, well, when I get—

MR. TURNER: When you got to find something--

MS. STERLING: --that age— [*Interrupted by Mr. Turner's and Ms. Tyson's laughter*] I said, "I'm going to move up here." So here I am. That's how I ended up living here.

MR. TURNER: I'm still trying to build me a house.

MS. TYSON: Where?

MR. TURNER: Newton County

MS. TYSON: In Newton County?

MR. TURNER: Yep

MS. TYSON: Yeah

MR. TURNER: Matter of fact—

MS. TYSON: In Newton County. You trying to get out of the city, huh?

MR. TURNER: The city's killing me. The traffic—you talk about Moreland Avenue?

MS. TYSON: Oh, my gracious.

MR. TURNER: That traffic over there is unreal.

MS. TYSON, *laughing*: There's traffic over here on this street right out here.

MS. STERLING: Mm-hm

MS. TYSON: It's unreal.

MS. STERLING: Oh? OK.

MR. TURNER: Here [*Showing them house plans or pictures*]

MS. TYSON: Oh, all right!

MS. STERLING: You building it yourself or you--

MR. TURNER: I was doing most of the work until I had a stroke. After I had the stroke, I couldn't work the way I did. And my nephew—I got a nephew that loves me. I didn't know how much them children love me. [*Laughter*] They sent folks down there to help me and—

MS. TYSON: Oh, isn't that wonderful?

MR. TURNER: --and to build the roof, all of that stuff.

MS. TYSON: Now, that's really wonderful.

MR. TURNER: [*Inaudible comment*] be so mean—

MS. TYSON: When you get sick, you find out your family loves you. [*Laughter*] How about that? That's a good time to find out.

MR. TURNER, *laughing*: [*Inaudible*] Especially when you need some money.

MS. TYSON: That's right. That's a good time to find out.

MR. TURNER: OK, ladies. I'm getting ready to turn this thing off in a minute. Anything y'all want to tell me before I turn it off? Anything y'all want to reminisce about?

MS. TYSON: I'll say this. I wish that I had paid more attention to the history and the things that were going on so, you know, I could tell my children. Even now, their history is basically nothing about—you know, they grew up in Kirkwood, and they moved, you know. We'd go down to Scottdale to visit my mom and dad.

MR. TURNER: OK

MS. TYSON: Yeah, but they don't have a—I guess you might say a foundation like we did when we was growing up, you know.

MR. TURNER: Like, we had the church.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, we had the church.

MR. TURNER: We had the church, and we had the school. Because a lot of times the teachers and the preachers and everybody else were connected to the school, the church--

MS. TYSON: Right

MR. TURNER: --the playground. The whole community was connected.

MS. TYSON: It seemed like the history of blacks is not as important as the, you know—

MR. TURNER: It's not important to us, but they're making money off black history now in a lot of these different places. You get grants to tell about black history. And we don't know nothing about ourselves.

MS. TYSON: I know. That's bad. That's what I'm feeling bad about, that I can't give you specifics. I can't remember definite history stuff about it. I can tell you about my family, how we react, you know, and some of the church-going people, you know, that—that's what our life consisted of, church and work.

MR. TURNER: Yeah, but the church was the back—when we were kids, the church was one of the most political parts of the community. Because that's where you went to go see the preacher tell you who to vote for.

MS. TYSON: Yeah. And it was so many of them in Scottdale, I mean, you know, it wasn't a bad place. It was not a bad place to live at all. In fact, you know, it was a very safe place back when we were growing up, because we could stay outside and play in the yard. We knew that if we did something wrong, the neighbors were going to see, and they were going to tell it. I mean, you know, it was like, you know, everybody watched out for each other. You—

MS. STERLING: They did.

MS. TYSON: --knew if you did something you had no business doing, somebody was going to tell your parents about it. And people—and I grew up, you know, with the fear of my parents. I didn't want to disappoint them. I didn't want to be a bad child, you know, or nothing like that.

MR. TURNER: You just didn't want to get caught.

MS. TYSON: Yeah, that's it. [*Laughter*]

MR. TURNER: Yeah, because somebody always knew your parents. Somebody always knew at least one of your parents.

MS. TYSON: And they'd tell on each other. [*Ms. Sterling makes inaudible comment.*] And that was because of the church. That was because you just didn't go to your church. You'd go and visit all the churches in that neighborhood. I mean, you know, so—

MR. TURNER: It was—even with all the churches, too, like you was talking about Horseshoe Bend, it was a whole bunch of folks down there that knew folks in your family.

MS. TYSON: That's right.

MR. TURNER: And if they saw you—"Ain't you such-and-so-forth's child? What you doing around here?"

MS. TYSON: Yeah, and that's it. [*Laughs*]

MR. TURNER: Everybody knew somebody, and they knew if you're supposed to be or not supposed to be.

MS. TYSON: That's so true.

[Sounds of people milling around in background and Mr. Turner greeting them.]

MR. TURNER: Let me see what we've got on here.

END OF RECORDING

Transcribed by CS