

DeWitt Jackson

Interviewee: DeWitt Jackson

Interviewer: Courtney L. Tollison, Ph.D.

Date: February 2, 2005

Transcript

PART 1 – 00:00:00

Dr. Tollison: Okay, my name is Courtney Tollison and today is February 2nd, 2005. It's about 2:15 in the afternoon, 2:20, maybe [laughing], and I'm sitting here in the chapel with Mr. DeWitt Jackson, and we're going to have a conversation today about your life, some of your life experiences and how they relate to Furman, so, let me run down some of this information that I have about you and then I'll start asking questions, and we can start our conversation. You were born in Fountain Inn, South Carolina, on June 21st, 1920, and you were the fourth of ten children.

Jackson: Right.

Dr. Tollison: Born into a sharecropping family, and you mentioned that your mother also worked as a domestic laborer.

Jackson: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: You enrolled in a community college.

Jackson: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: Bettis Junior College?

Jackson: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: And that was around Edgefield, South Carolina?

Jackson: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, and we'll talk about that in a little bit. You were drafted into World War II in June of 1942.

Jackson: Right.

Dr. Tollison: And assigned to the Interior Guard Unit. You were assigned to New York City. Is that correct?

Jackson: That's right. Correct.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. Later on, you were assigned to the 92nd Infantry.

Jackson: Right.

Dr. Tollison: And you left for Italy on September 26, 1944?

Jackson: Correct.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. Let's see. You were in Italy from November to you think December of 1945?

Jackson: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, and you returned, um, you came back into Newport News on January 31st of 1946.

Jackson: Correct.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. You earned two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart?

Jackson: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: And went to Indiana at some point after this and you were a barber for several years, and you also went to culinary school on the G.I. Bill?

Jackson: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: Is that correct?

Jackson: Mm-hm.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. You lived in Indiana until about 1974?

Jackson: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, and then you came back to this part of South Carolina?

Jackson: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: And got a job at Furman, here?

Jackson: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: And you worked in the dining hall...

Jackson: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: From about September, October...

Jackson: To, it was spring, I don't know, probably February or March.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, so about October, 1974, to March maybe...

Jackson: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Of 1975?

Jackson: Yeah, mm-hmm.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, yeah, that's great, and now we can go ahead and start talking, so why don't you tell me a little bit about growing up in Fountain Inn (SC), and your life growing up, your family.

Jackson: Well I, like I said, we were sharecroppers. My father had a one-horse acre farm at that time when I was born in 1920, and uh, my memory, it really, what I really remember is from 1926, because I was six years old. I have a real good memory from when I was six years old. At that time my two older sisters and my brother went to school. We called it Rock Hill School. It was a log cabin one room school. Had one teacher, and had a fireplace, and the little boys had to go out in the woods and get wood to keep the fire warm for the whole school. I'm thinking it was 1927, about a year later, I was what they called "prima school," and now I think they call it...

Dr. Tollison Elementary?

Jackson: Preschool, or whatever.

Dr. Tollison: Preschool. [Nodding her head in agreement]

Jackson: Okay, but I was seven years old and some philanthropist from uh..., I think he was from Pennsylvania. His name was Julius Rosenwald.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, Rosenwald schools, uh-huh.

Jackson: Yeah, yeah. He learned the plight of the South, and so he donated money to buy material, so the Blacks could have better schools. He also donated money to get teachers. So, the real school that I went to, it was the second grade then, two room school, the parents of the students built the school, under the supervision of maybe two or three real carpenters, and I went to school there for two years. In third grade, in 1929, my daddy moved ten miles away and I went to a school called Hopewell School, Hopewell. We had to walk about five miles to school.

00:05:03

Dr. Tollison: Wow.

Jackson: And that was common when we was, then, but we saw the differences because the Whites would pass us in [inaudible]. We had to walk. We wondered, but you know, we just wondered, and we just kept on going. Finally, I graduated from that school where I went to seventh grade, and after got to go in to the eighth grade. This school I went to seventh grade, then the next school I went to was St. Albans Training School, which was a high school, and I went there. I graduated there from..., I graduated there in 1939. After I graduated, my mother got introduced to Bettis Academy School, a Junior College down in Edgefield County, South Carolina, and she went to this school and made arrangements for me to work my way through school, and my sister under me, she worked on what we call down the road, the NYA, National Youth Administration. She worked so much after school. They had, what it would be now, your tuition, or whatever, and I worked in the kitchen. I worked there for the first year, then I got promoted to a sophomore, and then I was taken out of college to go into the Army. Well, I saw I was going to go into the Army so I came out of school before school was out. And I went into the Army in June of..., well I was inducted June the tenth, of Forty-two, but I actually went into active service in June the twenty third of Forty-two. I went to Fort Benning, no Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm, Columbia?

Jackson: Yeah, yeah, Columbia. I was inducted there, and they gave us thirteen days to come back home, like a furlough, to come back to visit, and then to report again on the 23rd of June to go to the reception center in Fort Benning, Georgia. So, forty-three guys and I met at the induction center at Simpsonville (SC) and went to Fort Benning, Georgia, and we were there about two weeks. There was an old outfit, a machine gun outfit that needed, needed to bring it, bring the outfit up [inaudible] regiment, Second Infantry Regiment, all Black, including Regimental Commander. They sent five hundred of us recruits from Fort Benning, Georgia, to New York City, and dispersed us amongst the regiment to bring the company up to strength. I trained at Fort Dix, New Jersey, for thirteen weeks of basic training, and then we rejoined our old outfits. We did Interior Guard duty from Forty-three to early Forty-four, and then my outfit was broken up into three separate sections. Infantry regiment was deactivated and we were dispersed among the Ninety Second Division.

PART 2 – 00:09:13

Jackson: Three thousand, approximately three thousand in the regiment, so we went to different, three regiments in the Division, and so we had to bring them back up to standard. We left and went to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, in August, and we had to train and create our significant outfits that we were going into. We did three or four weeks. I trained with the outfits that we were going to be with. We learned each other, and what we were going to do, going to be a rifleman, or turret man, or a machine gun man, or engineer...

Dr. Tollison: What did you do?

Jackson: I was a rifleman.

Dr. Tollison: So, what were your responsibilities?

Jackson: To..., when we attack the enemy, my duty was to close and destroy the enemy. In order to attack we would go into enemy territory, which was in Northern Italy, Northwest territory, North Africa was to the East. The Germans dug in, and we had to root them out. We would attack the German line. On the attack we had a fixed bayonet because, I'd say, two-thirds of the time that we attacked the enemy we had to do hand-to-hand combat, because they did not want to be rooted out, so all of us were getting wounded or killed, so we had to use our bayonets and the butt of our rifles to try to take over their territory and move the enemy out. We did that until March the 23rd, but before March the 23rd, General E. M. Almond, he was Division Commander of the Ninety-second Division, before he had all of his Company Commanders to get all of his sharp shooters, expert riflemen, and to go back to Pisa, that was right across the Arno River, to train and take up demolition, and train extensively back there, and improve our marksmanship, because they were going to send a reconnaissance patrol on the night of the 23rd of March, 1945, to see what our enemy had done, what they'd done and where they were. That's when I stepped on a land mine, and got shot up. They thought I was dead, and they left me there, but I had the sense to crawl back to ..., probably about a hundred yards, and my medics picked me up and took me to the field hospital back at Lucca, a walled city back there. I think it's about ten miles northeast of Pisa. I stayed there about three weeks until they got me patched up. I wanted to go back to the front. I begged them to get my clothes. I wanted to go back to the front, although I was hurt real bad. That was all I had on my mind, was to go back to where my buddies were, but they wouldn't let me go, so then they shipped me from Lucca, the field hospital, they shipped me to Rome, Italy, where I recuperated, and after [inaudible] they sent me to Leghorn (Livorno, Italy). I stayed there about five..., I was, all total, I was in the hospital about ninety days. When I got able to get around, didn't need medication..., I still took medication, but I was able to get around so they put me in a [inaudible] battalion, and I stayed in this [inaudible] battalion until December Forty-five. That's when I was sent home. I arrived..., I left Naples, Italy, I think it was December, it may have been..., don't remember

the day, but December, and I arrived at Newport News, Virginia, Hampton Roads, Virginia, January the thirty-first, Nineteen Forty-six, and I was [inaudible] two or three weeks later. I didn't mean [inaudible], but anyway.

Dr. Tollison: How did you feel about coming back?

Jackson: I had mixed feelings, because after the war was over and everything, and I was able to get about, I didn't have to do any duty, because I was hurt, you know? I was uh, what they call uh, limited duty, which was really nothing. I could go about and visit the villages, and what not, and I kind of fell in love with Italian pizzas out there. I remember I was happy to be free to go back home, I had mixed feelings. I could have re-enlisted, but the only reason I couldn't re-enlist was because I wasn't able to..., my medical situation wouldn't let me. I couldn't re-enlist because my medical situation. I missed two shipments to come back home because I really didn't want to come back home.

00:15:03

Dr. Tollison: And tell me specifically why you didn't want to come back home

Jackson: Huh?

Dr. Tollison: Tell me specifically why you didn't want to come back home.

Jackson: Because I was treated so well over there in Italy. I had to live with the fact that when I came back home, although we were told how it would be better when we got back, it was worse when we came back, and I kind of figured that anyway.

Dr. Tollison: Tell me about the difference between life before you..., you mentioned that you were treated badly here. Tell me, specifically, how you were treated badly here, and then how it was, you said it was worse here when you came back, so tell me the difference.

Jackson: Well, uh, say for instance the first day I entered the service, June 10th, Forty-two, I was going to be inducted at Columbia, Fort Jackson. Forty-three guys and myself boarded the Greyhound buses at the recruiting center in Simpsonville, and we were supposed to eat breakfast at the Greenville Bus Station, at a restaurant there. We pull up to the parking lot at the Greyhound Bus Station, and we debarked to go into the restaurant. We knew that was unusual, but we said, well now maybe things are better. The manager came running out there. That's the bus driver, the Greyhound bus driver, and I remember, it was the Greyhound bus station, and we'd be riding the Greyhound bus, and the

government's paying the Greyhound company to carry us, transport us, but we could not eat in that place. He told him, "Exit." He said, "they can't eat in here." He (bus driver) said, "well I have vouchers for them, forty-three men here to eat." He said, "No, I don't care what you got." He said "take them, they know where they're supposed to go." A bunch of us said where are y'all supposed to go? Everybody looked at each other, and one guy said, "Back there on Broad Street, I guess that's where he's talking about." So, we went back, they gave him directions and we had to swing around and come through town, and go back there where there was a Black restaurant. He took us there and pulled up, and the driver asked could they feed us. He showed him the vouchers, the government vouchers, and he said, "Yes, but how many you got?" He said, "Forty-three." He said, "Well, I'll have to send for and get some more food because I don't have that much in here." So, we debarked and went on in there and waited and waited and waited. He had to send..., there was a packing company right back of the restaurant, in downtown, Valentine Packing Company. It used to sit there. I remember. I knew one of the guys that worked there. They had sausage and bacon, and I saw a bunch of eggs and things come in. It took, it was 11:00 before we got breakfast. Consequently, we were late getting to Fort Benning, Georgia. When we got to Fort Benning, Georgia, it was too late to be processed, so we had to sleep in our civilian clothes, on the floor, at Fort Benning, Georgia. But that was my first encounter. I had some more. The second encounter was we left Newport News. I patched into Virginia to go to Newport News on the ..., I said the 26th of September. Well, the 25th day of September was on a Sunday. We knew we were going because we had to get the Italian pamphlets to learn how to ask for water, bread, or if I'm hurt, whatever, just so you know the [inaudible] of the Italian language. I asked [inaudible] where I could get me a beer. There's a Greyhound bus station right outside the campus, [inaudible] Virginia. And I said I'm going to get me a Pabst Blue Ribbon. I knew we were going to sail the next day. And I walked in, anybody here want to go get a beer? Everybody shook their head [no]. I walked on out of there. I walked inside the place there, where there were German prisoners, Italian prisoners, sitting there having a big time, drinking beer. A German had on a gray prison uniform. Italians had on green. So, I walked to the counter and this waitress came over [and said], "What do you want?" "What did you want?" That's what she said. I remember distinctly what she said. I said, "I'd like to get a Pabst Blue Ribbon beer." "You know we can't serve you nothing in here." So, I looked around at the prisoners there, and they're drinking beer, spending our money. And I'm getting ready to go to, you know, where they just came, the prisoners, from. That was hurting. And I felt like ..., I felt like deserting the army. But something told me to go ahead, so, I'm proud I went. But that was lesson two. Then the next time ..., it's sort of ironic, the next time, when I came back to Fort Bragg, North Carolina to be separated. I was separated..., I was separated on the 21st of January, so I got back, I got back to the states, I believe, the 26th of December [1945].

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Jackson: That's a change we got to make.

Dr. Tollison: The 26th of December?

Jackson: Actually, actually, I said I got back on the 31st, but I was discharged on the 31st at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, so when did you get back into this country?

Jackson: Well, that's what I'm thinking now, it must have been the 26th of December.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, we can change it.

Jackson: Okay. Okay.

Dr. Tollison: Nineteen Forty-five?

Jackson: Yes. Yes.

PART 3 – 00:20:55

Jackson: So, on the morning of January the 31st, probably 6:00, we got paid the rest of our pay. I think it was a hundred dollars then, plus what they already owed you, so I had about three hundred dollars in money I had already taken out. I already had that paid. So, there's always an army bus waiting to take you to the, you know, to catch a bus to come home, so I had, along with about five other guys, came into the Fayetteville, North Carolina, to the bus station there. It was a Trailways Bus, but they were affiliated with Greyhound Bus, because you could buy a Greyhound bus ticket and go so far, and maybe a Trailways bus would pick you up, or vice versa, but this was Trailways Bus I got on, and the other guys got on different buses. They were going somewhere, New York, different places. I was the only one that got on there, the Trailways bus. I got on it. I had been away from here so long, three years or something, I had forgotten about, you know, it didn't cross my mind, I was so eager to get home. I was happy to go home to my mother. I just got on the bus. I had a magazine. I had bought a magazine at the PX. There was a bunch at the PX that were cheap. I was eating a candy bar and reading my magazine. Then it was Scream Magazine, and you could see all the movie stars, Betty Grable, Jane Russell, all the... Back then, that's when we had pin-up girls. We had them in our foxholes over there, anyway, you know I'm just...

Dr. Tollison: [Laughing]

Jackson: You know, I'm getting up to date on the new stars.

Dr. Tollison: You're catching up. [laughing]

Jackson: Yeah, I'm catching up. And so, then I looked up front there and I saw the bus driver. He was looking in the rearview mirror, looking at me, because I'm sitting about midway on the bus, and so I went on back reading. About a minute later the bus driver came back to where I was. He said, "I see you got a bunch of medals on. How did you get those medals?" I didn't answer, because it was going back to being the same. So, there was a White guy sitting in front. He said, "He probably got them driving a truck, because all they did was drive patrol trucks and vehicles over bridges and roads." I said, "You don't..." I cursed. I got so angry. I said, "You don't know what you're talking about." I said, "Everyone one of these medals are from up on the front lines, somewhere you've never been and you probably never would go." He said "On the front? I didn't know." I said, "Yes." I didn't fight him. That's all I did. He was just ignorant. Anyway, the bus driver said, "Son, I tell you what, there's the rules and laws that never change. You see that sign over there that says colored in the back and White in the front?" I said, "Yeah, I see it." [Inaudible] I kept my cool. I took my time and went on back. I got on the very back seat. It's just ironic. The different times I was being transferred with, or for, the army, that's when I got the most insulted. But you know, there were plenty of other, with the army, good things that happened to me. We trained in New Jersey. It was wonderful people up in Jersey, and New York. You know, I was up there from Forty-two to Forty-four.

00:24:53

Dr. Tollison: You were treated much better up there?

Jackson: Oh yeah. Oh Lord, yeah. I mean we couldn't wait to get, to get up and go on leave. People there, before you ask, they want to take us home, to Philly and different places, Trenton, New Jersey. They'd come and pick us up and take us for the weekend. We didn't have to spend a penny, and then we'd get free passes and go to the movies, or anywhere we wanted to go. In New York I'd go see the Yankees play, go to Radio City, anywhere we, we would..., if we weren't on duty. If we were on duty, it was twenty-four hours, or forty-eight hours, so if we had a Class-A pass we could go anywhere we wanted to go. We didn't have to pay a penny. It saved us so much. I heard someone, they told me that training in the South, sometimes they didn't allow them to go into town. If you did, you had a certain general area you had to go in. If you happened to be in another area the MP would take you and lock you up. You're an American soldier and you couldn't go to certain towns.

Dr. Tollison: So, the Military Police enforced segregation?

Jackson: Hmm?

Dr. Tollison: The Military Police enforced the segregation...

Jackson: Well yeah, yeah...

Dr. Tollison: In the South?

Jackson: Well, uh, yes. I didn't tell you this. I came home one time. We were getting ready to go, see? We left from Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. That's close to Henderson, Kentucky. Not far from Evansville, anyway, northern Kentucky. I got a three-day pass to come home just before we got ready to go overseas. I was late catching the bus to get the train to come back to camp. I got picked up in Atlanta, Georgia. MP's were standing at the top of these steps. I walked up, and they looked at my pass and said, "Are you supposed to be in camp?" I said, "Yessir, I'm on my way to camp right now." They said, "No you ain't. You're on your way to the brig," and they took me to Fort McPherson, Georgia. That's somewhere close, downtown, close. It wasn't too far from the train station. I can remember that. They kept me there for seven days, and then my [inaudible] came and got me. But guess what I did while I was there?

Dr. Tollison: What's that?

Jackson: They had German prisoners there..., they had some paratroopers there from North Africa. [Inaudible], and uh, my job everyday was I would get my breakfast meal, and then I would have to go clean up all the bedrooms, and the club, officer's club, and guess who's guarding me?

Dr. Tollison: Who's that?

Jackson: German prisoners. German prisoners drove the trucks. I'd load the trucks and put the trash on them, and they brought me back..., that's in Fort McPherson, Georgia. They'd bring me back, and let me out, and the MPS's would pat me down, and the Germans would park the truck and come on in laughing. Prisoners! Can you believe that? It's the truth.

Dr. Tollison: Let me back up a little bit. I want to ask you...

Jackson: I didn't mean to talk that much about that...

Dr. Tollison: Oh no, it was great. Thank you very much. I appreciate you sharing that stuff. Let me back up a little bit and ask you a few questions about some of the things you mentioned. Tell me a little bit more about what it was like to be part of a sharecropping family.

Jackson: Well, you just worked. During the year you raised the cotton, or corn, or what not. You were supposed to get half of it. What sharecropping was, was that half

go to the sharecropper, but most landlords, especially back in the Thirties ..., all that I just really remember was late Twenties and early Thirties, they would take ... What they would do is each month you would get so much money, or either sometimes they would have like a smokehouse. You could go get groceries out of the store, the smokehouse, they would buy it themselves, and they would charge you probably twice as much as they paid for it. Then come fall of the year when they were getting the crop, especially the cotton crop, we would pick, bale, and bale the cotton, take it to the gin, or what not ..., whatever the price of cotton was, they would uh, what we called settling up, you know, you settle on. After you get so much, you think it's time to get paid off, you had done enough to settle and see where you're standing, if you got some money coming. But most times, I don't care how much you made, and sometimes you would still be in debt. And that way the landlord had to buy us winter clothes, food, and different things there, and of course, you couldn't move. If you tried to move somewhere, the next landlord would find out where you came from, and he would come back and check whether there's credit on that loan and ask him does he owe you any money or anything, so he could lie and say yeah, and you couldn't move any place else. Every now and then you'd find a decent landlord that would be fair, but most of them just took advantage. They'd just expect interest and interest on top of interest, and so, that's the key to that word. It's like a slave. That's what it is. I look back over it. That's all it was really.

PART 4 – 00:30:34

Dr. Tollison: ... slavery perpetually.

Jackson: Yeah, yeah. Maybe, another couple of years, might that you'd come out even, you might have a few dollars to owe, and then if you're free then. That's what I'm saying. I'm saying free then. Actually, that's what he meant. If you were going to try and rent somewhere else. Well, Twenty-nine I was nine years old. I could plow, so daddy got a three-acre farm that time, and we got some decent people to live with, and we made good. It was in 1929. That's when the stocks..., but before the stocks, whatever, fell, we had still cleared quite a bit of money. Daddy bought a car. He bought mamma, you know, she wanted a [inaudible] and a new bedroom suit, because my sisters, they were teenagers at the time, and sort of... But that's the best year we had, Twenty-nine, before the Stock Market fell. I think in October, I believe it was. I believe it was October, you see, we'd given so much by October, we'd done that, and had money too. We never made any money [inaudible] we'd been any place else.

Dr. Tollison: So, the entire family, all the children, participated?

Jackson: Yeah, had to. And then on clear days, the boys had to stay home and work in the

fields, or the landlord, he'd find [inaudible], but the girls could go to school. Most days I went to school, because it was rainy weather, or cold weather, or something like that, and I would be [inaudible]. We had to go to school. Boys, still then, after [inaudible] 8:30, had to go into the woods and cut wood. Get people to get wood. There was a time when all the White schools, they had buses, we had to walk. In the White schools they had stuff for heat. I did some work when I was in an agriculture class. Our professor took us to do some work at the..., remember I told you something about St. Albans School, the training school I went to?

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: Well, they had a White St. Albans school too, on [inaudible] Road, about two miles from our school. And we went up there and did work for them, and we found out they had a stove for heating. They had a gym inside the building. When we played basketball, we had to play outside. The parents built poles and things outside, you know, on the school grounds. They would take, what do you call, a line and mark it off. You know, what'd I say, the center, then they had about ten foot ...

Dr. Tollison: The boundaries?

Jackson: The boundaries, yeah, and you see, all that stuff...

Dr. Tollison: So, you said as part of your..., you took an agricultural class?

Jackson: Yes, I took an agricultural...

Dr. Tollison: As part of this agricultural class, you went over to the White school?

Jackson: Mm-hmm, we did work for them.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Jackson: They had, they had..., we did like the dirty work. If they were going to build a building, another building, or something, our class would go over and dig the footing. You know, for the footing. What's that you...

Dr. Tollison: I'm not really...

Jackson: For the foundation.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, the foundation. Okay.

Jackson: Make it about two feet wide, and two feet deep here. We did that by hand, and then sometimes we come back and mix up the cement and put it down for the foundation, and then have the carpenters come and build the building. But see,

you still got to learn how to be farmers, but we was doing the dirty work, during my high school years.

Dr. Tollison: So how did it..., do you remember how you felt watching the bus with the white children on it passing you?

Jackson: Uh, you felt bad, but it was a way of life. Well, what you felt..., you weren't as good as they were. You weren't worth it. My mamma instilled in us that we were as good as anybody else because... I'll tell you another little secret. You wouldn't know it by looking at me, but my mother..., my great grandfather was from Dublin, Ireland, and my grandmother was almost as white as you. But, my great granddaddy [inaudible]. So, I have some people now that are real fair skin, and I have some that are real dark skin. [Inaudible] Sullivan, he uh, came from Dublin, Ireland, back in probably the early Eighteen-hundreds, and he, and my great great-grandmamma, which was the nanny, he raised his children. He had nine kids by my great grandmother, eight girls and one boy, and they stayed right on the same premises that they did. He built a cottage for them, and they didn't have to work on the farm either. They worked around the house, and he sent about three of my great aunties to school. Some of them went to, I don't know, went to England or somewhere. Became school teachers. That's right down here, right down here in the southern part of the county. Have you ever heard of the Donaldson Center?

00:36:02

Dr. Tollison: Oh yes.

Jackson: Well, there's a road on the east side of the Donaldson Center called Fork Shoals Road. After you go on down to, to probably Georgia Road, and keep on going to [inaudible], there's three thousand acres of land on, go all the way to the Harrison, to the river there, the Harrison Bridge, the Jenkins Bridge...

Dr. Tollison: What's the river?

Jackson: It's the uh, Reedy River.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, the Reedy down there? Okay.

Jackson: Yeah, and it was three thousand acres of land, and before he died, he willed all that to his line of children. And so, my mamma, she was different to my daddy because she, she was [inaudible]... all ten of them got at least a high school education. Had two sisters that taught school. I would have and could have if I wouldn't have gone in the army. I guess that's what... Wasn't nothing else we

could do then. Teach, Blacks teaching Blacks. But you know uh, these schools, they were kind of hurting, say inferior, because half the teachers didn't know [inaudible]. They didn't even have a high school education. Might have been a summer school or something, and have potential to be a school teacher. This little cabin I went to, [inaudible] she got a teacher from Ohio, Pennsylvania, whatever. I could have learned more there but I was in the kitchen half the time, you know?

Dr. Tollison: So, this was Bettis Junior College, and the philanthropist that uh..., you said she was from..., before we turned the tapes on you said she was from New York?

Jackson: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: And she came down once a year for about a week?

Jackson: She'd come in the spring of the year. Whatever hadn't been donated by churches and what not. There were some students there whose parents were able to pay. You know, there's always been some, at least middle-class Blacks through all the time. I remember a book in South Carolina history where some Blacks owned slaves around Charleston. Black owned ninety-nine slaves at one time. He worked with uh, he worked his freedom out, and he was free. In other words, you could work their time..., like if there was so much work you had to do a day, but if you would do twice as much, it would give you some time off. If you wanted to just lay around ...If you worked for him, you could work out your freedom. I got the book now, uh, history of South Carolina. And this particular guy, I can't think of his name right now, he worked his freedom out, and then he was an apprentice with this uh, I guess this slave owner, and he taught him how to make a cotton gin. This guy made it. He got his freedom. He made a cotton gin. Bought hundreds of acres of land. Had ninety slaves, and uh, when the Revolutionary War came, I think he owned as many slaves as any White man around Charleston, South Carolina. You wouldn't believe that, would you?

Dr. Tollison: I've heard of similar things.

Jackson: A lot of Blacks, several Blacks owned slaves themselves. They worked out their freedom and, ... thrifty, ... it didn't take much...you get started, and you get started...I said, "boy oh boy." I was reading that book last night. I was reading about Mr. Strom Thurmond. I seen his daughters in the paper yesterday. Did you see?

Dr. Tollison: Mmhmm.

Dr. Tollison: Bettis Junior College, tell me a little bit more about this. You called this woman ..., that she came down from New York, "Mother Angel."

Jackson: Mother Angel, that's all I knew.

Dr. Tollison: Mother Angel, you don't know her name? Just you all called her Mother Angel?

Jackson: That's all we, ...that's all I knew. Mm-hmm. I don't believe I know what nationality she was, where she was from, or what she was, or could've been. Just don't know. I know she had dark hair, and dark complexion, pretty dark complexion. So, she could've been Italian, or a Jew, or you know, whatever. I don't know.

Dr. Tollison: Do you know much about the history of the Junior College?

Jackson: Not a whole lot because...

Dr. Tollison: There's not a whole lot about the history that has been preserved. I've tried to look throughout the years...

Jackson: It had been in operation several years but I don't know how long. The president then was a Professor Nicholson. That's all I can remember. He came from ..., he was real fair skin too. So, I remember, his lineage, I remember he came from slave owners. He had long, straight hair. Not dark. He wasn't as dark as me but he wasn't, you know, white, but you know, that's where he got that straight hair from ..., and he had been there for years and years.

Dr. Tollison: You said some of your teachers had come from...

Jackson: Ohio, and Pennsylvania... That's where, of course Mother Angel [inaudible], and our music teacher [inaudible] came from Ohio, and our science teacher, I know she came from Pennsylvania. And our psychology teacher, Ms. [inaudible], I think she may have come from D.C. Our math teacher came from ..., she graduated Hampton, Virginia, so that's where..., she came from Virginia. She had some..., half of our teachers I know were up to date, but some of them weren't. But I learned something there, you know. I learned as much as I could have and should have, because we had to cook on a wooden stove, wooden ranges. You'd have three of them side by side, and they would reach from probably here to the wall. We had to make, I had to make ..., I had to take a hundred pounds of flour and make bread. That's what I did mostly. I made bread, for the students and the teachers. We had big old pans this long for the big ovens. I'd make the dough out and roll it, and cut it into strips like this, and then cut it into blocks. But it was good because we had plenty of milk and butter and shortening to put in there. I'd put extra because I had a key to the [inaudible] shelf, and I made it good too. Mm-hmm.

Dr. Tollison: [Laughing] Let's jump forward to after World War II, and you came ..., you came

back and went to ..., is that when you went to Indiana?

Jackson: Mm-hmm.

Dr. Tollison: And...

Jackson: Well, I stayed for a year.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Jackson: Trying to get disability and what not, and I did go to school until [inaudible], a small barber college for six months. But when I went to get my license in Indiana [inaudible]. That's not an accredited school, but I could still go on the G.I. Bill. I went back there. Went twelve more months there. I learned the trade real good. [Inaudible]. I cut, at that time, shortly thereafter, I cut Dick Lugar ..., he, Richard Lugar, he's a senator now.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: I cut his hair because I got a job in the Greyhound bus station. You see I cut straight hair, curly hair, wavy hair. There are four basic hairs: straight, curly, wavy, and kinky. You got brunette, auburn, blonde, and red. That's basic. You got some in-between. I had to cut it all, and I was real fast, and real good. I'm bragging on myself. That's what ..., about myself. I could always learn. I could learn anything. I didn't tell you [inaudible]. I didn't have all my books when I went to college. I never had all my books. Momma couldn't afford to buy them. The books we had were second hand books. Some of the pages were out. You'd get to something very important, and start to read it, and this leaf was torn out. You couldn't connect. I'd say it to my high school. The teachers weren't all that good anyway, so I was disadvantaged all the time. [Inaudible], if I had all my books and could've gone to school every day, ain't no telling what I might be. I could learn anything quicker than [snapping his fingers] [inaudible].

Dr. Tollison: I can tell [laughing]. I'm impressed.

00:45:26

Jackson: I could remember, Lord. I'd hear it one time and I could ... My teachers have told me. My music teacher told me [inaudible]. I didn't take her for about two weeks. She passed when we were in high school. [Inaudible]. I played the harmonica, and I learned quickly to read the notes. She'd ask each one to play this, play "Old Black Joe," "Swanee River," or what not. I'd play it and she'd say, "this boy has a very broad mind." She'd say, "he has a very broad memory."

She'd say, "You going to go places." [Inaudible]. You know, I thought I could, you know, but I didn't have more books. I didn't have all my books. I was brought up with some of my friends sometimes, and I'd go to school early and borrow some of the books. [Inaudible] and I'd wrap them up. I made still pretty good grades because I didn't go to school every day because I couldn't go.

Dr. Tollison: And this had been a problem in terms of the books that ..., with the pages torn out of them. This had been a problem since you were very young?

Jackson: Yeah, never had a ..., yeah...

Dr. Tollison: Did you all ever receive new books?

Jackson: No. If you had the money, but you see, we were limited as far as the funds were concerned. I expect now those books might have cost almost as much as new books. They charged us more for buying them than the White people. Even if it was new books, I'm pretty sure. I don't know if the White people didn't get free books. They got free transportation. I don't know what they did get, but uh, they were second hand. But now, I'm pretty sure now, in retrospect, I'd expect it might have cost as much as new books would have. Some kids, sometimes, who actually had money, they bought new books. Some of my friends had real new books.

Dr. Tollison: You had to pay for your books. Did you have to pay to be in the class?

Jackson: Hmm?

Dr. Tollison: Did you have to pay to be in the class?

Jackson: No.

Dr. Tollison: That was free?

Jackson: That was free, yes.

Dr. Tollison: But you did have to pay for your books?

Jackson: Mm-hmm. Sure did.

Dr. Tollison: Was there ..., tell me about what Indiana was like. This was um, the late Forties?

Jackson: Indiana. You see, I went there in Forty-eight. I mean it wasn't all that, but it was a whole lot better than here. There were places in Indianapolis that I couldn't go in that time.

Dr. Tollison: Is that where you lived in Indiana? In Indianapolis?

Jackson: In Indianapolis, yeah. In fact, I worked at Indiana University. I worked in Indiana about, off and on, about twenty-something years.

Dr. Tollison: What did you do there?

Jackson: I was a cook. I was a good cook. I cooked and then I got tired of working there, in Bloomington. You see that's a good ways from Indianapolis, and I was married then, so I told them I couldn't work anymore, so they got me a job at the law school ..., dental school, in Indianapolis. In reality it was the hospital, but at the law school and the dental school, right there on Michigan Street, and they had like their student union building. I worked, I cooked in that place for..., we had thousand, five hundred, a thousand five hundred students there. In Forty-nine at Bloomington, you had twenty-five to thirty thousand students.

Dr. Tollison: Was the university desegregated then?

Jackson: Yes, yes, but...

Dr. Tollison: In Forty-eight?

Jackson: Yeah, yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Do you know how long Black students had been going to school?

Jackson: Well, I never found out, but I know there were ..., they were, they were going then. Yeah, they were going then, because, let's see, I'm trying to think of someone you would know that went there. Somebody up in North Carolina, he was there in the early Fifties. [Inaudible] he was from somewhere up in North Carolina, but I can't think of his name

Dr. Tollison: Maybe you can think of it and fill it in on the transcript.

PART 6 – 00:49:57

Dr. Tollison: Let's talk about when you decided to come back to this part of South Carolina.

Jackson: I didn't really decide. I had to decide because I lost my mother in Seventy-two. My father was living down in my old home place. He was an old man. Everybody else had gone, so I came back to take care of him. That's when I was living down there off Forks River Road. It was called Jackson Estates. I was living there when I worked here. That's twenty miles from here.

Dr. Tollison: So, you had been a cook in Bloomington, and then in Indianapolis, so you

decided you would do the same thing here at Furman?

Jackson: Yes, mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, so what ..., tell me about that experience, about taking a job here.

Jackson: Well, I came here and I had a job at the ..., they were opening up a Holiday Inn. I come on Monday and I went there on Friday. I saw the ad in the paper. It was down there at the, on South 25, of course the Donaldson Center, and my wife told me. She said, "You say you want a cooking job? They have on here. They want a chef." I looked at it. So, I went out there. They had everything, you know, and I answered all the questions. It wasn't necessary because I knew everything he ask me because [inaudible]. I could do it. I could answer. So, he gave me a key and got me a uniform. I was supposed to be at work on Monday morning. It was Friday about eleven o'clock. He said "well, you're hired." He was Polynesian. He was the sous-chef. He said, "I guess you can work pretty fast, can't you?" I heard what he said. I get insulted real easy. I said, "hell no." I said, "here's your keys." I had also heard, I knew a boy that worked up here, was the head cook up here at Furman, and he had told me some time ago. I said, "man, I can't go, I can't travel twenty miles. We have to be there at six o'clock." Had to be here at six o'clock to cook their breakfast. He said, "well, uh, I reckon I can arrange for you to be here at six-thirty." I said, "no," but then I thought about what L.B. had told me. L.B., I didn't know his last name. Black boy. So, I just got in my van and come straight on up here ..., my station wagon, and come straight on up to Furman. I walk in there, in the office there. Mr. Gray was uh, he was over the kitchen. He was the manager, the kitchen manager, Mr. Gray. I don't remember his first name, and Mr. [inaudible] was a sous-chef. So uh, I walked in the office and he said "Good morning, have a seat." I told him, I said, "I'm looking for a job." He said, "what kind?" I said, "a cook, this is a kitchen." He said, "Well we need a cook. We need somebody that can uh ..., can you butcher?" I said, "Yeah, all cooks have to butcher. Yeah, I can butcher. I can bake. I can wash dishes too." Just like that. I was a smart aleck. He said, "well, [inaudible]." He pulled out and asked me some questions. He was a real nice man. He said, "Well where do you come from? You don't talk like these people around here." I said, "What people are you talking about, these Black people, these colored people?" These Black people. We were saying Black then. We don't know what we want to be called, Afro-American, Colored, and what not. That's true. We don't. We ain't worried. He said, "Where you from?" Well, I had already told him where I was from. [Inaudible] Well I don't know if you can get along with us or not. He said, "we got our ways." I said, "I know that. I was born and raised here [inaudible]." He said, "Well you'll have to work at least every other weekend." I said, "I don't have to work any of that time." I said, "I don't have to work at all. I just want to do it." I said, "I don't work on Sundays." [Inaudible]. I said, "I don't work on Sunday." I was kind of arrogant. I mean, because they made me like that.

Dr. Tollison: Who made you like that?

Jackson: Ah the..., different White men. Just like the, just like the guy down there that asked me, "you pretty fast, ain't you?" It's like, you know what, you don't ask me..., I'm a cook, you know? I'm as fast as I want to be. But you don't ask nobody that, so I through the keys back at him. And uh..., what did I just say?

Dr. Tollison: You said that you were arrogant. You said, "I don't work on weekends." "I don't work on Sundays."

Jackson: No..., and I didn't at that time. [Inaudible]. He said "oh, well." I said "okay then, I'll see you." He said, "Well wait, maybe we can work out something." He said, "Can you butcher?" I said, "Yeah, I can butcher. I can bake. I can wash dishes, [inaudible]" I said, "I was a dishwashing machine operator. I can do anything in the kitchen," just like that. He said, "well you saying that you want to give it a try?" I said, "yeah, if you want me to," just like that. He said, "well, can you come in Monday morning?" I said, "yeah." He said, "Be here at six o'clock." I said, "I know that." So, I came in and did real well. Christmas came, and everybody got a big Christmas basket, turkey and everything. Got paid and everything. The day before Christmas eve..., well, they closed down a week before Christmas, but they had everybody come back. Paid me the day before Christmas eve. They gave us a big box of turkey and food. We cleaned the kitchen out, general cleaning, everybody did, just cleaned everything. So, after Christmas I did real well.

00:55:44

Dr. Tollison: And you were not working on weekends at this point.

Jackson: I didn't..., I never did work on weekends. But then another thing that happened. They had a policy that all the Blacks worked the weekends. All the Whites, but maybe one or two, might work this weekend and then they would be off the next one, but no Blacks were off on the weekends.

Dr. Tollison: Except you.

Jackson: And I didn't like that. Except me. So, I asked someone that, you know ..., I didn't stop to eat. I didn't take breaks or nothing. I kept working. I don't like to eat that much anyway, and so I just kept working. I never sat down, and so I went in there one day, and there were people in there eating, [inaudible]. They had a place to eat in there. I said, "I want to ask you folks something." I said, "Why is it that all the Blacks work on weekends and all the Whites are off on weekends?" As a ..., to start, we went to church. I said, "Do y'all want to work all weekend? Y'all like that?" They said, "Yeah, we like it alright." I said, "Hadn't you rather be off one or two?" They said, "Yeah, but they won't let us. They won't let us off on

weekends." I said, "well, it's what you let them, it ain't what they let you do." I said, "I don't work on weekends. If you would demand it, you could go on weekends too, at least once a month, or every other week, or something like that. The Whites are off all the time on weekends." And guess what? It was like in slavery times. Somebody slipped in there and told Mr. Gray what I said. I was out there working one day, minding my own business, and Mr. Gray walked up and said, "Jackson, I need to talk to you." I said, "As soon as I can get to it, I'll talk with you." I thought, you know, somebody has said something wrong, because I knew I had done my work. I went in there, he said, "Have a seat, Jackson." He said, "We like you working here. You're a damn good worker. We like your work." I said, "I hope you do. If you don't like my work, it's time for me to leave, isn't it?" He said, "No, but we're having a problem. You're telling these Black folks, these colored folks, that they shouldn't work on Sundays." I said, "No, I didn't tell them that. I tell you what I told them. I asked them why are all the Blacks working on the weekends and all the Whites off on the weekends. That's not tradition for us. We like to go to church and what not. That's what I said. I didn't tell them that. That's their business if they want to work at that time." He said, "We get along fine. We don't want somebody coming in here starting trouble." I said, "Mr. Gray, if you think I'm starting trouble, I can leave here just like I came here. I was looking for a job when I came in here. I can go look for another one. As a matter of fact, I got a job waiting on me right now." He knew that, because I said..., I'm not trying to say something like I'm bragging, or something like that, but I know my job. I take pride in what I do, and if I can't do it the best, if I can't do it to please me, and I don't want to work for you anyway. I want to please me too. I want to please you, but if I don't do my very best, I don't need, I don't touch it. He said, "Okay, well, let's kind of slow down on that, we need [inaudible]" I told him I didn't have no more to say. I told them what I told them back there, and I'm telling you what I told them. I said, "there ain't no difference." I didn't tell them they shouldn't work on Sunday. I told him, "I told you what I said." "Okay Jackson, well, keep up the good work." That's what Mr. Gray told me.

PART 7 – 00:59:38

Jackson: ...and uh, we built a little church down there, between the Reedy Fork Road, that's where [inaudible] give my Auntie all that land. That's the same, some of the same land out on the Fork Shoals Road. We built a little church, and we were going to have open, like Open House, we were going to call it, on a certain Sunday. So, some of the waitresses in there..., I get friendly with ladies, girls, or women. I don't with men too often. So, there was two Black girls from Columbia, and there's a White girl from Charlotte, North Carolina, there was a Hawaiian girl, and she was from Hawaii. There was six of them all together, so I told them, I said, "We're having an...", I talked with them, [inaudible] I told them waitresses, I said, "My church is having an Open House," on whatever, Sunday.

"I told you I was going to go to church with you." The Black girl said, "yes, we'd love to go." So, Cindy, that was her name, the Hawaiian girl, said, "could I go?" I said, "Yeah, you can go. She said, "well we'll have to, we have to ..." They had to ..., all of them were working on a ..., like ..., they were working in the kitchen, so I guess that helped them pay their tuition. Do they do that now?

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: Well anyway, they said, "We can't go until after we serve the breakfast," or what not. I said, "That's okay." I said, "I'll come and pick you up." They said, "Pick us up about ten o'clock." They met me on the ramp out there where the kitchen is, on the back there. I pulled up there, they came out, and boy, did it stir up something. The next morning, I came in there. I came in and went to work, and I saw everyone talking, and they were looking at me, and I said why you guys look like that. So, uh, it was about, uh, the lunch was over, a guy named Bob, he was from Minnesota, and he was a supervisor too. He said, "Mr. Jackson I heard you ..., I heard you took some girls home with you yesterday." I said, "You heard the wrong thing. I took them to church." He said, "Oh, you just went to church." He said, "Do you think that was wise?" I said, "Why?" He said, "Do you think that was wise of you?" I said, "Oh, because I took that White girl?" I said, "That's what you're talking about." He heard everything I said. I said, "Listen, those girls are not as old as my girl. I got a girl older than them. Them girls are eighteen, nineteen, maybe twenty. I got a daughter thirty years old." I said, "I don't want those girls." I said "If I did, I guess I could probably get one of them if I wanted her." I said something, I won't, anyway. He said, "well, I don't know, some people ain't going to like that." I said, "who in here, who cares about that. I brought them back." He said, "Yeah, I know that." But they kept ..., one, somebody kept picking at me all the time, except Mr. Gray. Even Mr. Bussard, I couldn't get enough work done for him. Like I worked at the butcher shop on Wednesday, because [inaudible], he was the butcher, and his day was off on Wednesday. The days off were Monday, Wednesday through Friday, I believe. I said, "yeah, I'll work on Wednesdays." I worked at the butcher shop, and this would take a day. I had to clean ..., you see I had to wear boots when I got ready to wash the shop down. I had to wash those machines down. You know, I would get up to two hundred pounds of chickens, and quarter them chickens. We'd have chicken in a basket on Wednesday night, and that was Wednesday. I got through with that. Washed all my [inaudible]. Washed all my knives and everything. And he watched me. I saw him watching me and I wasn't giving him no attention. They all watched me. So, when I got everything cleaned up and I looked at my watch, and it was time for me to get out, and he said, "Thanks, but before you go home I want you to cut a few steaks for Ms. Hill." Ms. Hill ran the bakery. White lady. I said, "Bob, you saw me clean this place up. You saw me wash those knives." I said, "If you want Ms. Hill to have some steaks, I tell you what you do." I threw that butcher knife down and it jumped to the sky. I said, "You take that knife and you cut them your so-and-so self." I walked out of there and Mr. Gray was standing at the door looking at me. I went on ahead. He said, "What's the matter Jackson?" I said "Nothing, I'm going to put on my coat on and go on home." Before I got home Mr. Gray had called my wife. As soon as

I got home ..., it's takes me twenty miles, I got home. Barbara said, "the phone's been ringing, and Mr. Gray wants to talk to you." I said, "he doesn't want to talk to me," so I wouldn't answer the phone [inaudible]. Mr. Gray came down to my house and literally begged me to come back to work, but I knew it was going to be trouble, so I didn't listen to [inaudible]. He said "well your pay ..., your check will be waiting for you to come and get it" He said, "We could straighten that out." I said, "That's okay." So, I left there and I went on to work for the South Carolina State Group Homes, the Group Homes over on Perry Avenue [inaudible]. I got a job working there. I worked there for like two seasons, and my wife and daughters, they ran it for about a year. After that I didn't have a bit of work for nobody, particularly since ..., you know, I'd do a little job here and there, but that's ..., that's about it.

01:05:39

Dr. Tollison: So that's your memory of working here at Furman, huh?

Jackson: Yeah, mainly, yeah. I didn't tell you. I use to fix the meals, the pre-game meals, for the boys when Clyde Mayes was here. Yeah, they would play like Methodist, Spartanburg Methodist. I don't remember any big teams coming and playing here, like four years. This is four years isn't it?

Dr. Tollison: Four year school?

Jackson: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: But I don't remember like Clemson. Do they play Clemson?

Dr. Tollison: Now they do.

Jackson: I don't think they did then. It seemed to be like ...

Dr. Tollison: Smaller places?

Jackson: Smaller schools, yeah. They played Methodist, and I think maybe uh..., couple of schools down here, below uh, going down towards Columbia, you know, ...Presbyterian, something like ...

Dr. Tollison: Presbyterian College?

Jackson: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Probably played Wofford. Do you remember that?

Jackson: Yeah, yeah, yeah. They played, but anyway, so, ...that's mainly...

Dr. Tollison: So, Mr. Gray, you got along pretty well with him?

Jackson: I got along fine with him. He was the only one.

Dr. Tollison: And he, would you say that he was very respectful?

Jackson: He was. He was considerate and everything else. Yeah ..., but he was the only one.

Dr. Tollison: Uh, and you mentioned

Jackson: Do you have his ... Well, now it's been ... we was talking about Seventy-five. I know you got his name there.

Dr. Tollison: Well, I just wrote down Mr. Gray. I don't know anything else about Mr. Gray

Jackson: Mr. Gray and Mr. Bussard, they were ...

Dr. Tollison: Mr. Bussard?

Jackson: Bussard, he was like the floor manager, and Mr. Gray was the head of the whole kitchen.

Dr. Tollison: Now was Mr. Bussard's name Bob? Is that the Bob you were talking about?

Jackson: No, no, no. Bob was a guy from Minnesota. He was just a, you know, just kind of a supervisor, ...it's a big kitchen. You needed somebody to keep everything ..., you talking fifty to seventy-five people working in that kitchen.

Dr. Tollison: I've been back there.

Jackson: Have you?

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: Well okay. They had different departments. They had the salad department, the bakery, the dairy department, and uh, a lot of people. Might have been ..., had two or three dishwasher operators. I know Furman is a rich school. They got a lot of alumni who are millionaires. I know that. I knew that then. Daniel was one of the biggest, ...Daniel.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm, did you ever meet him?.

Jackson: I worked for him before I went ..., I told you I came out of school before I went into the service. I came out a month or two early, and I worked at ..., I helped build the Donaldson Air Base down there. I worked a while down there at the Air Base ...

Dr. Tollison: So, you ran into Mr. Daniel then?

Jackson: He came, yeah, he came down there. As a matter of fact, I believe he got that general contract to build that air base, I think that's the biggest job he had ever seen at that time.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm, and what was your ...

Jackson: He grew from then on.

Dr. Tollison: And what do you remember about him?

Jackson: Oh not a whole lot, but you know, there, Mr. Daniel, he'd come down like on payday. We got paid every Friday. I remember he had put "Daniel Construction Company" there [pointing to his left chest pocket area]. He come in, and he brought the money. I don't know what ..., but he was driving a Fleetwood Chevrolet, a 1942 Chevrolet. That thing, it looked as long as this building then. That's Charles Daniel there. He's the boss too. Then after I got through, we got to building those buildings, I was just an assistant, like in the ..., I helped a carpenter, for example. Bring me something yonder, bring me something here. And we got through that, and so I was recommended to a Mr. Smith from North Carolina. He did all the painting. So, I would mix the paint, and they had a machine, and they would spray paint. I worked there until I got..., I just quit [inaudible] because I was going into the service anyway. I just quit. I didn't do anything but went around and had a little fun until it was time to go in the service. I should have stayed on in school, because I could have stayed at school [inaudible].

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm. Did you ever meet Mr. Daniel?

Jackson: Not, not, you know, I just saw him. I saw him coming here and they said ..., you know, he got out of that Chevrolet car, about from here to there. I guess maybe he brought the checks down there. I don't know. There were hundreds of men working down there, building those barracks, [inaudible] those houses and what not, [inaudible]. It was something else going on down there.

PART 8 – 01:10:27

Dr. Tollison: In your opinion, in the early Nineteen Seventies when you were working here, how did Furman compare with other places where you could've worked, in terms of the way that Whites and Blacks related to each other, the treatment of the Black staff members? Was it better, relatively speaking, or pretty bad, or right in the middle?

Jackson: I think it was pretty good. Only thing, they all was ..., well, segregation is segregation, but the higher-ups, the cooks like L.P., that's all I know of his name. He was the head cook. He was treated good. And there was some lady named Ms. Ethel. There was two Ethels. On was real black, and one was light skin. They had been here for years, because they came from down there from the County Square [old downtown campus location] up here. They had been there for years and years. And I'd say they didn't ..., I would guess, considering the time, it was as good as you could have expected.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm. So, there wasn't a lot of complaining or discontentment?

Jackson: Nah, they weren't complaining. You know what? I was just a little different, and I was just uh ... I think when I came here, they knew I came from someplace else. I didn't talk exactly like other people. I didn't act like other people, and I think it was more that. It was just me. It might've have been my attitude [inaudible]. I don't know. Like before, I said that I got along fine with Mr. Gray, and even Mr. Bussard, I got along good with him, but they ... not as good as I got with Mr. Gray. I say, looking back over the whole thing, I guess, like I said, I was treated pretty good, considering ...

Dr. Tollison: The other options?

Jackson: Uh-huh, yeah. Now I would have stayed on here. I would've stayed on, because I mean, I did the work. They had the best equipment. They had good equipment to work with. Those Dexter knives, made in Germany, those butcher knives, because I'd say this is a rich school. I guess it still is. And they bought ..., if I wanted anything, I'd tell Mr. Bussard that I want so-in-so, and the next day it would be there, a brand-new package, so I could use in the butcher shop. [Inaudible], I might want a slicing knife, or I might want a boning knife, because sometimes we'd bake those hams, and I'd debone the ham. Take the bone out of the ham. But they had been using those butcher knives, and you can't make it neat. You see, you know, a bone, a boning knife, they small, and you can just go around that bone, and go all the way up that bone. [Inaudible], and I could pull that bone out, and then we had like a horseshoe, and you slice it. It would be like a horseshoe, the piece of ham. I wanted it to be neat like what you see up in Indiana. So, like in any particular culinary arts school, you learn the instruments you need to do certain jobs. Like to make salad, you need a different knife to make pretty salad. Take a, like a radish, you know, and make it look ..., make rosettes out of different things. Let's make it pretty. So, they didn't have this. They had regular, general things, so they bought a lot of stuff for me. I didn't have probably no more than what I told you.

Dr. Tollison: Were you very angry when you left?

Jackson: Nah.

Dr. Tollison: No?

Jackson: No, I wasn't. I wasn't angry. I was just uh, just that it had to have been you know. And when I reckon, as I realized what that was all about, because I took them girls [inaudible]. I don't like to mention Black and White, but sometimes you have to do it to make your point, and I know that's what ... I know that's what it was all about.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: But, you know, I respect, I respect those girls. I respect everybody. But some White men can't see it like that. They think anytime they see a Black man talking to a White woman, there's something up. There's something up. There's something on his mind. There ain't nothing on my mind. Just like you, just like I'm talking to one of my daughters, or something like that, you know?

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

01:15:23

Jackson: You know, that's the way I consider you, just a nice person. Even if I was a younger man, I wasn't going to do to you nothing but what we're doing here, you know? I don't think they felt the same.

Dr. Tollison: So, when you sort of think back, do you think about ..., do you have any resentment of Furman, or is it just a few individuals that you came across here?

Jackson: No, not about Furman. Only thing I regret is that I couldn't go to school at Furman. But you know, the ones that work here, they had nothing to do with that. State laws. No, no. I really like it up here. I've come to Homecoming two or three times since I left here.

Dr. Tollison: Have you?

Jackson: Mm-hmm.

Dr. Tollison: You come to see some football?

Jackson: Yeah, mm-hmm. I remember some of the stars and what they played, yeah, but I

don't remember their names now. We'd come out here and eat, and be down with them. Yeah, uh-huh. I wouldn't resent them, or nothing like that.

Dr. Tollison: Are you proud to say that you worked here?

Jackson: Uh ..., yeah, because it's a prestigious place to have worked, yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Thinking back on it, are you proud to have that experience or can you remember it as being negative and very upsetting to you?

Jackson: Hardly a thing can happen, you know, there's going to be some negatives somewhere along the line, but my momma always told me [inaudible]. A lot of things that happen are going to happen because of ignorance, and we got to credit ..., all that stuff means to you, it causes [inaudible] to keep things from happening that could happen for the good of everybody. That's the way it's always been, and it's always going to be to some degree. It's a whole lot better now. You know it's a whole lot better than the time I told you about, but it's still, it's still..., it's still alive. I bet you see it here don't you, or do you?

Dr. Tollison: Yeah ..., mmhmm, but it's a process, you know? It's a process, but things are changing.

Jackson: Mm-hmm. [Inaudible] Where you from?

Dr. Tollison: I'm from here. I'm from Greenville.

Jackson: I don't believe it. I don't believe it.

Dr. Tollison: [Laughing] Why is that unbelievable?

Jackson: Well, your, your, your..., your attitude, your mannerisms, the way you talk. You're outgoing, and uh, a lot of things [inaudible].

Dr. Tollison: Well thanks.

Jackson: What's your last name?

Dr. Tollison: Tollison. My dad's family is from Easley.

Jackson: Did you go to school here? You didn't go to school here, did you?

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: Have you lived any place besides here?

Dr. Tollison: I lived in Atlanta and I lived um, for just a few months, for two, at two different time periods, in Washington D.C.

Jackson: Well, I just wanted to be sure.

Dr. Tollison: [Laughing]

Jackson: I had to ask because I told my ..., I said to my wife, "she's not from Greenville."

Dr. Tollison: [Laughing]

Jackson: It's the way you ..., South Carolinians, they just don't talk like other people. They don't talk ..., they don't act. I don't talk like anything now. I was all messed up when I came down here. New Jersey, New York, Italy, and everything, when I came back, people thought I was Chinese. I couldn't say a thing. To me it didn't even sound quite right, but you know, three and a half years you've been in other cultures and ...

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: Like I said before, I told my wife, "she's not from Greenville," but you are?

Dr. Tollison: [Laughing] I am, mm-hmm. Well, what did ..., let's talk a little bit about the differences in Greenville in 1974, 1975, from the way things had been in Indiana. What was the relation, what was going on here in terms of race relations in Greenville in the mid-Seventies?

Jackson: Ah, it had come, it had improved. You know what? Sometimes I get mad at myself. I should have, I say I should have stayed on here. I just didn't [inaudible].

Dr. Tollison: Instead of going to Indiana?

Jackson: Yeah, had I ..., because, the bad thing, I could've done ... It makes me feel like, not exactly like, I felt when I didn't get killed, and a lot of my friends got killed. When I was in the hospital over there in Lucca, Italy, I wanted to just ..., I didn't even want to live, because they were in the same general area that I was. They lost their lives, and I felt like if I could get back up there, I'm going to protect somebody, you know? So, I guess it's something like that. I think if I had stayed here, and my mother being a..., what you want to call it, not militant, but she was outspoken, and I could have gone with her on marches and different things, like when Jackie Robinson came here. She and A. J. Whittenburg, and C., C. O. Jackson, and Jesse Jackson, they went and marched out there at the airport, and uh, you know, way back, when Jackie, Jackie [inaudible]. Forty-seven, Forty-eight. And I would have been right there, and uh, I just, I might have made a difference if I could and would have stayed.

PART 9 – 01:21:13

Dr. Tollison: Do you consider this your home?

Jackson: Yes, it is my home.

Dr. Tollison: And you wish that you'd been part of that change here?

Jackson: Yes, yes, uh-uh, because when I came back here, I came down Main Street. I came in on a Saturday morning. They had two or three theaters downtown at that time. I forget now the names of them. My wife, you know, was scared, see. I brought her down from Indiana. They were scared of the South. I said, "it's okay." I knew it was better, but I didn't know it was this..., well the Civil Rights had passed. But I saw Black boys..., talking about Martin Luther King, I saw Black boys, White boys, standing side by side, laughing, talking, waiting to go in the theater together. I said to Barbara, "I told you so." And uh, you know, a lot of things, a lot of places I went, places weren't integrated, and I couldn't dare, I couldn't dare go. Like you know when Furman was over there near the Health Department? Furman University was over there?

Dr. Tollison: At downtown?

Jackson: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: County Square now.

Dr. Tollison: Right, mm-hmm.

Jackson: Well, if you didn't work there, or wasn't going there on some kind of official business, to take something out of there, or whether it was to deliver something, no, you wouldn't be caught on that campus. You'd get locked up.

Dr. Tollison: Is this because of the Furman people would call the police or the police would...

Jackson: No, you had guards out there. You had uh ..., I'd get to a security guard, they asked you, what did you want. What did, you know.

Dr. Tollison: Would they ask the same thing of White visitors?

Jackson: Nah, I'm sure they wouldn't have. I couldn't swear to it, but I'm just, I'm just, I'm almost sure.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm. Because I remember when I first started going to school here, at certain hours in the evenings the back gates over here, that go on Duncan Chapel Road, I guess that's it, they'd close at a certain time in the evenings, and

the front gate over here near the front fountain off of Poinsett Highway, those gates would close too, and there would be guards. And even those of us that were students had to show our ID to get on campus after a certain time of night.

Jackson: Mm-hmm, well, and that's okay.

Dr. Tollison: So, I'm just wondering if um, if, I mean certainly, probably the treatment may have been a little bit, or very different even, but I'm wondering if it, if there were guards on the old campus as well. I haven't heard anyone talk about that.

Jackson: There were. They were. They uh...

Dr. Tollison: And if they asked all visitors what their business was.

Jackson: I don't know. Couldn't say that I know...

Dr. Tollison: But you know that the guards...

Jackson: I know that actually you couldn't just walk across that campus there, just be carrying, you had to be some kind of business, or...

Dr. Tollison: So, the guards that were there were not very friendly?

Jackson: No, good Lord, no.

Dr. Tollison: Did they look at you with suspicion?

Jackson: Yeah, uh-huh. They always had Black cooks there. Always had. But uh, you may be going to pick up your mother, or you brother, or something. Something like if you had some business, but other than that, you had to get off of there.

Dr. Tollison: So, they wouldn't let you just drive around the campus?

Jackson: Lord God, no. No.

Dr. Tollison: Do you..., what's your first ..., what's your earliest memory about hearing about Furman, growing up in Fountain Inn?

01:24:56

Jackson: I use to hear the uh..., hear on the radio when Banks McFadden was a..., I don't know if he was a running back, or what not. I use to listen to the ball games and [inaudible], some school in Tennessee, a double name...

Dr. Tollison: Carson-Newman?

Jackson: No. They played them a lot. Let me think.

Dr. Tollison: Southwestern?

Jackson: No, but they're from Tennessee. I just knew about Furman University, Furman University, and I loved the school because they won back then. You had Frank Selvy. He was a basketball player, and he went on to the Boston Celtics. I use to listen to them. I grew up..., that's my team, you know what I'm saying? They're from Greenville. I'm from Greenville. Frank Selvy, Banks McFadden, he was a running back, and they played at Sistine Stadium back then in them days.

Dr. Tollison: Did you ever go to any of the games?

Jackson: Nah.

Dr. Tollison: None?

Jackson: I just listened to the radio.

Dr. Tollison: But you still felt like it was your team?

Jackson: Mm-hmm. I wanted them to win so bad, and they did. They won.

Dr. Tollison: And what year was this? How old were you?

Jackson: Ah it was somewhere in the Thirties.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, so you were pretty young, a teenager.

Jackson: I was a teenager. A teenager, yeah, before I went off to college.

Dr. Tollison: Did your family members feel the same way? Your friends? Did they feel like Furman was their team as well?

Jackson: Yes, yes, yeah.

Dr. Tollison: So, everyone from this part of the state?

Jackson: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Although we couldn't participate [inaudible].

Dr. Tollison: You still felt like you were...

Jackson: Mm-hmm, yeah, they were my team.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm. What about Clemson?

Jackson: Clemson? Somewhat different.

Dr. Tollison: How's that?

Jackson: I don't know, because of Strom Thurmond that's probably so. I always thought he was such a hypocrite. That's what I thought. You know, he was one of the ones preaching segregation. You're not great, you're doing [inaudible] what else, but you aren't like us, and things like that. And I knew he was a [inaudible] from Clemson. I knew that, because when he went in service they had [inaudible] Strom Thurmond. I guess he might have volunteered because he must have been forty-something years old...

Dr. Tollison: He was older.

Jackson: I don't think he had to go anywhere. He got in the uh, I don't know, I think paratroopers, and all his name and everything. You see, we didn't know about, about these other activities and everything, but we knew also when he was a judge down there in Edgefield, and one time in Columbia when two boys..., they did kill a highway man, but the highway man went down off the highway. Like they were having a New Year's, a New Year's Eve party, and two guys, Herbert Luster [Cornell Luster], and Harry Hill, they got out of hand down there. One of the deacons, or somebody, went up the road and got the closest highway man down there. They drove motorcycles at that time. So, he came down there, and uh, I heard that he started beating one of the boys, Herbert Luster [Cornell Luster] and Harry Hill, and then they both turned on him and ended up they killed him. Well, some of the people at the church wanted to go and testify that the man come down there off the road [inaudible] and started beating them. They beat him. They killed him, but uh, Strom Thurmond, from where I learned, I couldn't just say, but you know, you just learn things, because I learned that way back in the Thirties, and his name came right up here. He wouldn't allow those witnesses to testify, and they executed those two boys, which you know, they killed that man. They deserved it, but uh, at least some of the people could have testified that that man came in and started beating them, beating up them boys, and they had a right to defend themselves, but they took it too far. And I think his name always stuck in my craw, and anything he had affiliation with..., I guess that's why I didn't. I don't know, but maybe. I guess that's it because I don't think, I can't think of anything else.

Dr. Tollison: So even in the Thirties...

Jackson: Huh?

Dr. Tollison: Even in the Thirties you knew that Strom Thurmond had gone to Clemson, and you knew a little bit about what he was about?

Jackson: Yeah, I knew. Yeah, because he was a man they knew. My mother would, when I would write home sometimes, write Strom Thurmond, they invaded France, he

was in the invasion of France, and D-Day, and all that kind of stuff. She'd write and tell us about that. Why, I don't know. I don't know, he was a lieutenant, he became a lieutenant colonel because, you know, when you leave..., he left them, but that was an agriculture college at that time.

01:30:09

Dr. Tollison: Right.

Jackson: I don't think Furman was that at that time.

Dr. Tollison: No.

Jackson: Were they?

Dr. Tollison: No.

Jackson: And then he would've ended up coming to Furman [inaudible].

Dr. Tollison: [Laughing]

Jackson: Anyway, all the guys..., I had a good friend from down there, to where I lived down there off the Reedy Fork Road, to the Huffs, right across where the bridge was, Jim Huff, he and I were in the same [inaudible]. He, he went to Furman. Bill [inaudible], a boy I use to play with, he went to Furman. And boy, he'd come home, come home on weekends, he'd have a pretty gray uniform with that [inaudible]. I said, I said Bill, I said uh, will you get me one of those uniforms. We lived, in the area we lived in, after we got off the sharecropping, we got along with those people. Just like momma brought a flower for Miss Martinville, Martinburger [inaudible]. And uh, she brought us salt. We had neighbors. We got along good after we got out of the sharecropping business.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: My mother met some people from Massachusetts and worked with them. You know where Memorial Garden is now? It's right down...

Dr. Tollison: The cemetery?

Jackson: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: Well that big white house down there, if you ever notice it. That's where the office is now for the cemetery. My momma worked there thirty-five years.

PART 10 – 01:31:36

Jackson: Those people, they owned that then, but they lived in Brockton, Massachusetts. Miss Frances, the woman that, she kept the household. Pepper, it was a pepper farm. Well, until the..., they're dead. They're all dead now. Anyway uh, she got in with those people. They were rich people, and they gave her money, and I think they paid the down payment on the land that we own down there, Jackson Estates, down there. Twenty acres down there where the Donaldson Center, off of Reedy Fork Road, we own that. They bought..., they gave the down payment for mother. [Inaudible] and the money [inaudible] we were sent home, my three brothers and I. When we came home my mother had paid for that twenty acres of land, the house and everything. I'm just drifting around.

Dr. Tollison: Were these people that you guys were friendly with, these White people, were they landlords?

Jackson: Yeah, they were landlords, but see...

Dr. Tollison: But once you guys...

Jackson: They had bought us land. We had our own land, and we lived, uh-huh...

Dr. Tollison: So, they started to be a little friendlier?

Jackson: Yeah, uh-huh. Look here, they'd borrow, send to get stuff from my mother, and mother would send to get stuff from them. We all got along good.

Dr. Tollison: Just neighbors.

Jackson: Yeah, yeah. I got some pictures. When I see you again, I'm going to bring a picture of my father when he had..., use to pick those girls up, White girls up, and go to Piedmont to sell watermelons. I got their pictures now. They grown girls now. I guess that oldest girl, Good Lord, she's fifty years, fifty-something years old. Older than my baby sister. She's [inaudible] years old. And uh, coming into my house and take my momma..., my momma's a nurse. She was a midwife, early on, and she took care of rich people's babies. You know at that time, like your mother would be having a baby, she didn't do anything. She'd stay in the bed a month back in those days. She'd have somebody take care of the baby, wash the clothes. So that's what my momma did. She always worked for people that had a lot of money. She did such a good job she worked for J. C.

Penney, and the Coca-Cola people down in Atlanta, Georgia. She'd ride down there. After we all got grown, she went to the general hospital there and took up nursing. Not RN, but what's the other thing, nurse, she's a nurse. She knew how to take care of..., the RN, that's...

Dr. Tollison: Registered nurse.

Jackson: The registered nurse, but what's the other one, ...prac, p ...

Dr. Tollison: Oh, nurse practitioner?

Jackson: Practical Nurse.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Jackson: So, momma, I told you, worked for rich people. The McAlisters over on McDaniel Avenue, she took care of all of them babies, and they paid her to deliver.

Dr. Tollison: So, she delivered the baby?

Jackson: She delivered. She could do it. Mm-hmm.

Dr. Tollison: Wow.

Jackson: She was a midwife.

Dr. Tollison: Were there a lot of midwives in South Carolina?

Jackson: Yeah, there were, there were. You see, hospitals, and way back, people didn't have transportation, and when it come time for your baby to be born, you couldn't get to town, so they had midwives around there. You could get to them quicker than, because they'd be in touch anyway, you know, or sooner. [Inaudible], so momma would stay in touch. She'd be standing by. Sometimes she'd go a day or two early and stay on there until they have the baby.

01:35:05

Dr. Tollison: Was it primarily African American women that were midwives?

Jackson: Huh?

Dr. Tollison: Primarily African American women that were midwives? Did you have a lot of

White women who were?

Jackson: Actually, I didn't know a whole lot [inaudible] Black women did it. Mm-hmm.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: And so, when momma go to stay, she stayed sometime three or four weeks. Wouldn't even come home. If she come home, she'd go back to care of them, but that's how she got things that..., like when I was in college, I had these same people send..., shoot, I'd get a letter with five dollars. That was a lot of money back then..., what, the Thirties and Forties. That was a lot of money to send me. Socks, they'd send me things. Two ladies, the Burr sisters in Piedmont, they use to stay down there where momma worked at that big, tall building I told you about, and they would say Suzie, how did you and Claud [inaudible]. We're going to get five dollars and put that in there. We, we lived good.

Dr. Tollison: Tell me your parents' names.

Jackson: Claud Jackson and Suzie Jackson.

Dr. Tollison: Suzie?

Jackson: Suzie Jackson, mm-hmm.

Dr. Tollison: Do you spell it "ie?"

Jackson: Mm-hmm.

Dr. Tollison: And where are they from? Are they from this part of...

Jackson: They're from [inaudible].

Dr. Tollison: The lower part of the state?

Jackson: Down there where I told you, the Fountain Inn area.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, Fountain Inn, okay. So not the lower part of the state, but sort of, Southern Greenville County?

Jackson: Yeah, right. Uh-huh.

Dr. Tollison: Okay...Alrighty, I don't know if I have anything else I wanted to ask you.

Jackson: That's some good people [inaudible]. They tried to raise us.

Dr. Tollison: Did they tell you stories about their parents?

Jackson: Mm-hmm.

Dr. Tollison: What do you remember about them?

Jackson: Oh, about things were harder for them than they were for us because they did just come out of slavery then. I think my daddy's father was born into slavery. He and Aunt Jackie, I think, was born into slavery. I know my grandfather's grandmother was.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm. Did you know them?

Jackson: Who?

Dr. Tollison: Your grandparents.

Jackson: Yeah, I knew them.

Dr. Tollison: Did they tell you stories?

Jackson: I knew my uncles on my momma's side, but I never knew them on my daddy's side. My granddaddy, his daddy came from Nigeria. My granddaddy [inaudible]. My grandmother's father, I told you her, her father came from Dublin, Ireland. You see my grandmother had because he [inaudible], but consequently my granddaddy, he ended up, he ended up marrying into it, like [inaudible]. You see, they had two hundred acres of land off of Fork Shoals, uh Cedar Falls. They had that. They had their own place. Had nine rooms. Quiet, [inaudible]. They had [inaudible]. My daddy [inaudible] my granddaddy, but he couldn't get along. [Inaudible].

Dr. Tollison: When did..., which of your relatives came from Dublin and...

Jackson: My mother's people.

Dr. Tollison: And when would this, when would they have come over?

Jackson: Uh..., early, I..., before the Eighteen-hundreds.

Dr. Tollison: So late Seventeen-hundreds?

Jackson: Maybe right after the uh...

Dr. Tollison: Mid Seventeen-hundreds?

Jackson: Mm-hmm, I think so, as I count back. In fact, I got some [inaudible] at home. I could tell you a lot of things. My granddaddy's picture, he had two sets of twins. Got a lot of pictures of him, and they got dates on the back, and the paper has turned yellow. It's the color of that there [pointing]. You see that yellow?

Dr. Tollison: Let's talk a little but about how you feel the situation, sort of, how race relations are today in Greenville, um, in your opinion.

Jackson: I think generally good.

Dr. Tollison: Generally good?

Jackson: Mm-hmm, yeah.

Dr. Tollison: And, good compared to how they've been?

Jackson: Oh yes.

Dr. Tollison: What else, in your opinion, needs to be improved?

Jackson: Well, let's stay the course. Let's keep on doing what they doing. Everything seems to be improving day by day.

Dr. Tollison: Was it important to you that Greenville County grant a Martin Luther King Day?

Jackson: Yes, it was, yes.

Dr. Tollison: Holiday, that's important to you?

Jackson: Yes, Mm-hmm.

Dr. Tollison: So, you were pleased to see that?

01:40:04

Jackson: Yes, uh, he was criticized of some things that we don't, I don't know if they were true or not, but I knew J. Edgar Hoover had a thing against him. And some things about him being unfaithful and what not. If he were, it wouldn't void it because he did so many good things. He sacrificed his life to try to make everything come, make us all be as one, and uh, that's why I am proud to see that. He was a good [inaudible]. He was an intelligent man. I didn't like the "inequitability" [inequity], or whatever you call it. He wanted equal rights, and that's what he fought for, and he gave his life for that. So, I commend that. If I would have been a councilman, I would have voted for it the first time. Great God said what, you know? Immorality is one thing, and it's not right, but whoever out there..., I got to tell you, my pastor, he, my pastor didn't like Martin Luther King, especially after he was older. I said to him, well, the other people think he should have a holiday. He said, well I wouldn't vote for it. He went on Fox News,

and my kids sat there and said, Daddy, I saw Pastor Craig up there. He was on Fox News dot com, said he would never vote for Martin Luther King, blah, blah, blah. When I come home, I don't want to go to his church no more. Choice Hills Baptist, up here, where is it, right back here somewhere. Well, anyway, I told him, I said, [inaudible] we have Jefferson Day. I said do you know about Thomas Jefferson and his kids by his Black nanny? Do you know about George Washington? I said, well I do. In most sermons you talk about Bill Clinton, President, or what not, at least he did stay with his own race [smiling], but some more of them didn't, I said, to prove it, Strom Thurmond. "Well, that's hearsay," that's what my pastor said. He said "well, they got monuments of Strom Thurmond, and all the buildings, and Clemson and Strom Thurmond." I said, "I don't say he didn't deserve it, but he, his morals ain't been up to date either," you know?

PART 11 – 01:42:45

Jackson: Now what comes of Earle Morris. I seen in the paper this morning where some people would take his name off that road, and I'm saying something like that, that's different tomorrow, that's uh, if he knew about that at the time when he was supposed to have, I think they should take his name off that road down there.

Dr. Tollison: The Carolina Investors scandal...

Jackson: He hurt a lot of people. But I don't need to talk about that. You ask me a question. [smiling]

Dr. Tollison: [Laughing]

Jackson: You think his name should stay up, don't you? [laughing]

Dr. Tollison: [Laughing] I'm not on the..., I'm interviewing you.

Jackson: [Laughing] [inaudible].

Dr. Tollison: So, what's the name of your minister?

Jackson: Stan Craig.

Dr. Tollison: And he's the one that...

Jackson: Choice Hills Baptist Church.

Dr. Tollison: Is opposed?

Jackson: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Jackson: Oh, he raised Cane down here at the council thing a year ago.

Dr. Tollison: Did he know King? Did he know Dr. King?

Jackson: No, he didn't know King. He knew of him. Like I said, [inaudible]. It might have been true. I'm not saying it wasn't. Men go away, women go away, sometimes they get involved in things, you know, but I haven't seen any proof of it. I know Hoover would have said anything to degrade King, because he hated King. Like a lot of other people hated him. People hated Kennedy because of the way he [inaudible]. They all were killed because of trying to uphold what is right. That's in my mind.

Dr. Tollison: Um, just another quick question or two that I have before I want to wrap things up, but you mentioned Clyde Mayes. Who were some of the other..., did you get to know any of the students that were here?

Jackson: {Shaking his head no}

Dr. Tollison: Black or White?

Jackson: I really didn't. I just saw them and..., I'd say the ones that I met was mostly the sports ones, the sports people, and I forget their names, truthfully. I told you, I knew one girl named Cindy. I don't even know those other five girls' names. You know it, it wasn't important, but I guess it should have been.

Dr. Tollison: You remember Clyde Mayes.

Jackson: Hmm?

Dr. Tollison: You remember Clyde Mayes.

Jackson: Oh yeah, I use to feed them for, for the pre-meal. Big ole, a lot bigger guy, big as that door there. He was good. They won the State Championship that year that I was here. Then he went on to play with the Milwaukee Bucks, but I don't remember how long he played. I don't think he played very long, but he was good.

Dr. Tollison: I guess that was probably a few years before Ron Smith was playing? Do you remember him? I think Ron Smith played in Seventy-something.

Jackson: I don't remember Ron Smith.

Dr. Tollison: You do?

Jackson: I don't.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, you do not.

Jackson: I don't.

Dr. Tollison: Do you remember Ruth Mayes, Clyde Mayes' sister?

Jackson: No. She went to school here too?

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm, in the early Seventies. Did you ever hear anything about Joe Vaughn? Does that name ring a bell at all?

Jackson: Who?

Dr. Tollison: Joe Vaughn, Joseph Vaughn.

Jackson: What did he do?

Dr. Tollison: He was the first Black student to come to Furman.

Jackson: Hmm, should have.

Dr. Tollison: In 1965.

Jackson: Mm, reckon I should have came here...

Dr. Tollison: Well, you weren't here.

Jackson: No, I wasn't.

Dr. Tollison: You weren't here.

Jackson: Nah, I never heard of that. Well, that was before Civil Rights stuff.

Dr. Tollison: Um, you know, kind of in the middle of it.

Jackson: Really?

Dr. Tollison: On the tail end.

Jackson: Joe Vaughn.

Dr. Tollison: Mm-hmm.

Jackson: Was he from Greenville?

Dr. Tollison: He was. He grew up here in Greenville and went to Sterling High School.

Jackson: What did he end up doing?

Dr. Tollison: He became a teacher. He became an English teacher.

Jackson: Here? [Furman].

Dr. Tollison: No, in the public schools, and I think he got his master's degree at the University of Georgia, and I believe he was Teacher of the Year in South Carolina one year.

Jackson: Really? Mm mmm.

Dr. Tollison: Yeah. I'm sure he did a lot.

Jackson: I sure try to keep a pretty good view of history, but...

Dr. Tollison: Well, you weren't here when he first came. You were in Indiana, so...

Jackson: No, no, Sixty-five. Yeah, I wasn't. There's some things I don't remember. I guess I should have..., since I came back here, but I just don't, you know.

Dr. Tollison: Well, thank you very much for talking with me today. I really enjoyed our conversation.

Jackson: Well, did we, did we..., did I do what you expected me to do?

Dr. Tollison: Absolutely. [laughing]

Jackson: Really?

Dr. Tollison: You gave me a lot of great information.

Jackson: Some crazy stuff too, didn't I? [laughing]

Dr. Tollison: I appreciate it. Well, it's fascinating to hear about it.

Jackson: Really? [laughing]

Dr. Tollison: It really is. I appreciate you sharing it with me.

Jackson: Well, I hope it has some meaning, so...

Dr. Tollison: It has a lot of meaning, I assure you. [laughing]

01:47:44

