

Laura Calhoun with Brother Walter

LAURA CALHOUN: -- this was done because they were not predisposed to necessarily, at that time, point in time, it was the summer that Chet, Senator Percy, had lost his daughter. And the area is --

WALTER CALHOUN: I don't think that's right. I think he lost his daughter in '66.

LC: I think it was that year. Or well, it was either --

WC: No, we were there three years before the Percy murders.

LC: It was either -- three years? No, maybe two. All right, we'll have to check that. But it was a very -- do you know all how mother -- well, the thing about it is the home was owned by a lady by the name of Mrs. Polly Post, who had --

WC: He has that background case.

LC: OK. But did -- do you have the documentation about Mr. Linn Williams, the representative in Winnetka, and Dora Williams? You see, we could -- because of the Red Line, mother used to always say Chicago, Chicago, Mississippi. you know, Mom, I marked on the picket line with my mother. Please, Walter, don't (inaudible). You are usually the loose and the goosey one. Oh, honey, this is fun. I'm having fun.

WC: I love the sibling stuff.

DINO ROBINSON: The sibling stuff.

WC: I wish you could (inaudible) hold my hand.

LC: I hope to see you again. It was nice meeting you.

F1: I hope so.

LC: And you have to tell me what you think about H&L, our areas. That is -- have they had the verdict down yet?

F1: I don't know. Oh, God, it's really -- well, yeah, it's so much more complicated. They want -- it's tragic, very tragic. I don't ever want to go to Mesa from what, you know, sad place.

LC: Well, we don't go off on that tangent. Hello. This is called what is it.

F1: Nice meeting you.

WC: Nice meeting you.

DR: Nice to meet you.

LC: Nice meeting you.

F1: I'll speak with you later.

LC: OK. I feel like I need to go brush my hair or something. Well, anyways, we were in Hyde Park and my --

WC: Are you recording this?

DR: Yes. Hopefully this is recording now.

LC: My parents -- all right, let me see. Well, we'll just start where we'll start. Well, we were in a fantastic brick, oh, it was what, three floors? It was a huge

mansion with a salon for soccer. We were all at the University of Chicago Lab Schools. And it was, needless to say, very expensive, but it was beautiful. We were -- the Levy's, who were the provost of the University of Chicago, the Calvin's, the Meltzer's, my best -- well, I was best friends with the girl, Martha. Bonnie Foswell, who is a producer at NBC and just produced a program on Whitney Young, who -- and she was on Melissa Harris Perry's show. But anyway, it was very sort of safe. These families, I was in school with them. But all of sudden, it's just things happen, and it was awfully high. And mother was -- had gone back to work which was really hard because she was from a lovely family in Savannah. OK, this my sweet grandmother, who was my namesake. Now guess who that little boy is? Now that's your brother. He got such a kick out of that. Did you see that before?

WC: No.

LC: OK. That's actually cut from a larger picture. But our brother Harold, who lives in Holland, actually, came to visit. And I -- I had to show him that. All right. Now I brought this, and this is something to be xeroxed. It's something my mother and aunt put together. This is on my mother's side, her father, OK, and then inside here, all of us got it. I'm surprised I haven't lost mine. This is my

grandpa's mother, my grandpa, and his sister. But Savannah, Georgia, those memories, that's where my brother Harold's, Laura Harold Walter, we were -- he was born there. And although Georgia is supposedly the lynching capital of the south and momma, my grandmother used to go up to, where is it in Ohio, not C well, anyway, they went to school outside of, out of Savannah. But my grandfather's business, which was insurance, is in the Civil Rights Museum in Savannah. So you go and you'll see lots of pictures of him. He had the first theater, funeral parlor, all sorts of things. But [00:05:00] but also the Civil Rights progress. Now this is my mother's brother Walter, who my brother Walter Stuart is named after, and this is my mother. She was so pretty, Lillian Scott. He died very tragically in Savannah, and this is partially due to the segregated hospitals. OK, this is my namesake. This is my mother's sister, Laura. This is my grandpa, Walter, and this is my Aunt Gertrude, who is, I think she's about -- she's 100 now, I think. But it's an interesting --

DR: That's your Uncle Walter?

LC: Yeah.

DR: You said your grandpa Walter. That's your Uncle Walter.

LC: Wait a minute. Hold on, hold on, hold on. I'm getting confused. Yeah, I guess so. This is -- well, cause he's the son. Well yeah. Yeah, yeah.

WC: Well, we did have a Grandpa Walter cause that's who I was named after.

LC: I have been driving to get on that -- everybody's on Ancestry.com but us; however, one day on Angie's List, all these hip things, that's my grandmother. And I remember that house. I was about two years old when we -- cause I was born in West Virginia and then mom and daddy moved back down to Savannah and then Harold was born. But it's like I remember Savannah being so warm, the weeping willows in my grandmother's garden. It was so -- you know how you are as a child. Everything is magical.

WC: Can I just -- I teach English as a second language. I'm gonna have to leave at quarter of four. So I'm planning on leaving all my photographs with you. Are you planning on leaving all this with Dino, so we don't have -- cause if we're not --

LC: I really, was -- see, this is a problem because there has been a lot of photos that -- I hadn't wanted to do that, quite frankly.

DR: OK. So what we can do, I mean, I could scan these in right now and have them done. Maybe what's more important is to

grab the photographs and see what we should scan. Because that doesn't take too long, depending on how many there is.

LC: OK, this is something that is very bad now. I can come back. I don't want to put a rain in the parade here, I just am -- the photographs are like jewels, more than jewels to me. There are some that are so precious that I don't know, I don't want to get into where or what, I'm just very protective of them --

DR: Understandably.

LC: -- just because they're the only copies. This is my handsome brother. This is yours truly. I do not photo well. I got -- except my baby picture. That's my husband. OK, I can come back up next week.

[Inaudible due to overlapping dialogue]

LC: OK, but if you need more. I just get really weird about these things because there have been some important ones that have been lost. Or not -- I don't want to go there, but they're not --

WC: Let's scan.

DR: Let's scan them. We'll just process and scan them.

LC: OK. That's my father. I think this is shortly before he was married. He was an attorney in Charleston, West Virginia. This is a picture of -- this was up in the hills, the hills of West Virginia. This is my mother.

This is my Aunt Gertrude. That's little Laura, me, ha ha, and that's my grandma. And what I was trying to say before is that it took Kenilworth really by surprise because Linn Williams was the representative in Winnetka and his wife, Dora, was from -- I forget, but the East Coast. And she and a woman by the name of Mrs. Eleanor Parker or something, anyway, another friend of Mom's, got this civil rights, this fever. And so the home was -- they sold -- what it is, a realtor sold the home to them and then my parents bought the home from them, her friends. So that's why it was like shock and awe stuff and whatever. But the original owner, Mrs. Post, was this very nice lady. She had about six or seven children. She was a widower. She had just lost her husband and it was like time to go stuff, really bad.

DR: Who are these two in the picture here?

LC: OK, this my father. Do you know which -- and this is brother. Is that right? Isn't that right, Walter? I think this is in West Virginia. How old was he?

WC: I think that was dad.

LC: That's daddy?

WC: And that's his brother.

DR: I think it's the other way around, because wasn't he the younger? He was the younger, right?

WC: Yeah.

LC: OK.

DR: Is that right? I think he was. Yeah, he was -- your father was the younger.

LC: Let me look at this here. This is a shame. Our sister in Roanoke, see, my mother stayed with her briefly [00:10:00] and there are scrapbooks, there are more pictures. And there are definitely more pictures in scrapbooks.

WC: That's the one I have to find. She said she was going to send them, but I was thinking --

LC: Did she actually say that?

WC: Yeah, but I was waiting today I tried to call her again.

LC: Oh, you're joking? She said absolutely! Well, golly!

DR: You're spilling.

LC: Oh, dear. Oh, God. Well, OK. Not a problem. Oh, Jesus, this is a shocker. So Karen send she'd send those out. There are two of them, right, two scrapbooks? Because mom --

WC: She just said she'd send the pictures. She didn't tell me.

LC: Mom had, was very big, she had two -- and I know one I gave her was an oriental big and mother and daddy really took a lot of pictures. OK, yeah. Thank goodness. Oh, my God. I'm -- well, I can't.

DR: I think they'll dry out now.

LC: I guess I need a straw here. OK, very good. That's good. That's very good, Walter. Now, that is -- this is my mother's side of the family. My father's brother died tragically. I believe it was of appendicitis when he was not much older than this. And then -- and this is the mountains of West Virginia and it's a coal mining area. It's a very fascinating place. And then his mother had died around '53, '54. And in the mountains, the rain -- it's very treacherous and she had a car accident off the side of the road. Her name was Goldie. So my dad was pretty by himself. By grandpa was devoted. His -- Walter is named Walter Stuart after Grandpa. The nicest man.

DR: I want you to keep talking. I'm gonna scan at the same time so that way we can keep the conversation going.

WC: Why don't we give you all the pictures you want to scan and then we can just go from there.

LC: So here we go, there.

DR: This is similar to that, OK.

LC: All right and this is -- I'm sure -- maybe I don't know if Walter's shown you, this is one the original newspaper stories about us. But this is ostensibly what so infuriated, or I guess some of these residents felt blindsided because Linn Williams was in the Congress and the very elegant people in Winnetka.

WC: He was a committeeman, he wasn't in Congress.

LC: Oh, he wasn't, OK. Well, a beautiful estate in Winnetka.

WC: He lived on the corner, right around from me.

LC: I remember.

WC: Remember the estate?

LC: Linn and Dora Williams?

WC: They lived two houses from me in [Glencoe?].

LC: Walter, dear, all right, whatever. But -- well, I remember the home as being very palatial but maybe -- OK, OK.

WC: It wasn't.

LC: I want to be serene because I'm not out of the woods yet. OK, now this is a picture of it. I think my husband did this. This is my mother, her grand -- see, her mother was Laura, her sister was Laura, her sister has a son, Boles, who died -- she died in childbirth in Savannah. Once again it was the segregated hospitals and she was hemorrhaging and didn't have the right blood. And it's just everything was slow as molasses because she -- there are the white hospitals and the black hospitals and mother explained how outraged my grandpa was. So both my Uncle Walter and Aunt Laura passed away before 1945. Now my Aunt Gertrude is in California and she has five daughters, except Anita is in Bethesda, Maryland. But it was very hard for my grandmother because my dad is from the mountains and my

grandpa, he wanted to get back there with his father. And mother had just married and she had to leave. It was hard for my grandmother. My mother always told me. OK, now that's mom. There -- see the little cutie? You see yourself there in that picture with mama.

WC: Don't talk like a baby.

LC: No there's me.

WC: I can't believe you.

LC: There's me and once again, that is like oh, my God, I looked at that. And let me zoom over that quick. What did you say you had to do? You have to leave?

DR: Scan them. [00:15:00] No, I don't have to go anywhere. I'm scanning right here. The scanner is right behind us.

LC: Don't you have somewhere to be or something?

DR: Walter has to go.

WC: I'm leaving.

LC: You can't stay? What are you doing?

WC: I'm teaching English as a Second Language at quarter of four.

LC: Just say -- you haven't seen me since Christmas. That is such a lousy picture. Now Karen is very photogenic. That's my dad, that's Walter, and that's Harold down playing pool. But OK, that's my mother's sister who passed away. She died on -- in childbirth on the hospital

operating -- and that had a lot of effect to me because my grandmother -- mother always used to love to tell me that being named after grandma. Somehow it was very difficult. Anyhow, her son, however, did survive. He's a great guy, Boles, and he's living in Delaware, I think. He's married a beautiful lady in the FBI, Angela. But it was hard because his father remarried a woman by the name of Edwina. But he never knew his real mother. It was hard. So that's a little background on my mother's side of the family, and then dad. But dad's father was a prosecuting attorney in West Virginia. Everybody loved him. He was in the Kiwanis Club. He had a smile --

WC: A highlight to that, he was an assistant prosecuting attorney because in that day and age, a black man couldn't be the prosecuting attorney.

LC: I thought he was. Wow.

WC: No, so he was the number two guy for like 30 years.

DR: Got you.

LC: My grandpa, when he passed away, it was very untimely. He was actually in Chicago. His funeral was on a small church on a mountainside and it was raining. It was a ghastly day. I've never seen my father so distraught. But there were so many people because he didn't -- see, that's the thing about West Virginia and the mountains. It's down the

southern part of the state, the Appalachia's, people don't see color, you know. It's like lines, like you're little Harold and little Calhoun's. It's not -- it's very -- I had this small-town side of me that comes out. Kieran always says how hillbilly I am. I don't think it's hillbilly, but there is a nurturing. And I look at stuff that goes on with these kids in the schools and it's just beyond belief. OK, now this is my mother's cousin Susan. She is my grandfather's sister and she's passed away. She was a lovely artist. She did watercolors on china. And she's no longer with us. This is a better shot of, let's see here, that's grandpa, that's his mother, and his sister. And I was trying -- I was talking to my favorite cousin, which is Trudy, she's the eldest. Let me just say, OK, yeah, Trudy. This is a very dated picture and I have some more at home. I didn't get -- this is Trudy, the oldest. This is Anita. I'm sorry, Trudy, Tony, Anita anchored to Lisa, and I think it must be Linda. Well -- that doesn't look like her.

WC: Yeah, that's her.

LC: Anyway this is not -- this is maybe 20 years old. It's not that becoming but Trudy is in Los Angeles. She's married to a judge that Carter -- was it Carter, yeah, Carter appointed to the bench, a federal judge out there. But she

is great. She's an elementary teacher. She's just nice as pie, no attitude if you know what I mean. No bitch. I could tell you some stories, but we'll keep it light. Now this home is the front of Grandpa Scott -- hi are you happy?

WC: I've got to take care of some business.

LC: I think he's mad at me a little bit. You know, really, I've been out up since what, 6?

DR: I didn't think you slept at all last night, frankly.

LC: Really, it's not gout and I've been to four doctors, but it really took me by surprise. This is a picture of grandpa's house in Savannah and it looks kind of -- I don't want to say rinky dink, it looks kind of small. When I was growing, like little, my grandmother had this garden with rubber trees in the back. It just was awesome to me. But I never -- of course when you're real small, color I guess was when we -- see, we moved about 12 times and we went back to West Virginia because my father, this is not his. He wanted to be back with his dad. That's why he went into law. [00:20:00] But you couldn't have found a nice -- I have a picture of grandpa and it's -- well, anyway. So let's not diverge too much. This is a picture of myself and husband; this is before the marriage. I was in (inaudible) my senior year I decided to go Angela Davis.

That's my generation. I'm 61, 61 going on 16. Age to me is purely how you feel in the morning. Cause I want to be -- my aunt is, I think, 100. And I believe fully there's so much with brain plasticity. Well anyway, this picture is not one of my better ones. He takes a better picture than I do, although there are some doozies of Eugene. But this is up in Wisconsin which my folks -- I just got in the car. The first summer they'd got into Kenilworth, because just to get away from all this tension. You know, it's a small frame house and we'd moved from a home that was a private in Hyde Park. I researched this. It was a merchant's home, a sunken marble bath, three floors. My two brothers were on the third floor. A TV room and everybody played soccer on the lot next door. It was just a wonderful time. Home in Kenilworth -- see, Kenilworth is like the property, it's like Kenilworth, oh, my gosh. But the home itself was very small. And we got in there and immediately there were three families that -- and I remember one of the families was very red head. And they came by and the wife was embarrassed and she met with mom. They were moving because of us. But she was trying to be -- it was, I think, the husband she had -- they were very carrot top, red hair, freckles. I was just kind of blitzed at that time. This is a picture, OK, that's my husband

after marriage. This is, I don't know, this is a picture of himself and his sisters. And this one -- this I had to show you Walter, this is precious. That's Jane. Is that weird? Look at those knobby legs.

WC: It's weird that you're expecting us to get the same delight you're obviously getting. That is the only thing that I find weird.

LC: OK, it's fine. All right, now this is a picture of us out and this is at a relative of Eugene, summers we spent many years in Olympia fields. So all right, now the families move off the property. And then my mother, she was working at the Sun Times at the time and I think it was the time of the -- oh, she'd won an award, well, it was a little bit later, for the nurses, why didn't they screen. She kind of got --

WC: That was in the Spec, Richard Spec murders.

LC: Right, she got, Mom just got it. And she and dad put us in the car, a station wagon, and we went up into Wisconsin. We found just a magnificent, small glacier lake. And the people there, they were Scandinavians, but Walter, I look back, I don't remember, I sometimes go to the little town about 10 miles away.

WC: (inaudible).

LC: Yes. I'd go once in a while for groceries with mother. I don't remember any evil eye bigotry, any slams or anything. Kenilworth, there was a pharmacy on the corner of Bland. This is a wedding picture of one of Jean's -- his sister, and him and I. But that was very difficult, just going -- I had to go with a friend down the street, a girl Priscilla Parshaw, she would accompany me there because they didn't tell me in the pharmacy we don't want you to shop there. But it was so -- such an issue. Wow. And so for the first year, she'd come with me. This is a picture of my father, about a year or two, I think this is at -- I'm not exactly sure where that's taken. This is not such a hot picture of Jean and I, but that is a picture of my mother. That's a little bit of the lake. OK, this is a picture of my sister. It's really about a year or so. And this is her second husband, Kevin. All right, I'm gonna go through these quick. This is a good picture of my mother and aunt and father and they're out in California or Arizona or somewhere. And she's still with us now and both my parents have passed [00:25:00] away. So all right. That took a lot of pressure off, the fact that we just escaped up to Wisconsin, just left a lot, because it was this sense of, what do you call it? Just everyone was just aware of what was going on, what you were doing and all right, this is

Eugene and his mother and his brother. He's graduating, was at Northwestern, I think. I have a bigger, a better shot of this. This is the last picture of my parents, and I don't think you've seen this Walter. This is when mom and daddy were -- went down to Springfield. My mother had a PR firm and the client was -- I've blown these up, they're a little bit better. That was for Roland Burriss's inauguration. And dad had contracted pneumonia because he was found he had cancer. That was, I think, the last picture. This is when they first the home in Wisconsin. That's a happy picture. Carol will kill me but I couldn't help this. I put this in there. This is our second brother and this is at Antioch College. This is my mother and dad and he's at Antioch College and he's a vegetarian. He lives in New York. He tells me Harlem is settled. It's very much a lot of regentrification. But anyway that first year was tough. Yeah, OK. And then there's a private beach, of course. And I think I went maybe just a few times. And this was that first year, I don't think it was the second year because it's just this constant you're there and people are just being aware of you. And that's what made it so interesting. This is my sister, about a year after she was married. This is her little girl. This is -- Isabella is maybe 16 or 17 now. But that's a good

shot of her. This picture is me. I tell you, I don't do so good in the camera. It's me, Jean and his brother. This is a picture of us going to Wisconsin, oh, 30 years ago maybe. This is a picture of my niece. This is a picture of my Aunt Gertrude, before she was married. My mother used to always say she was the belle of the Savannah. She married a newspaper man, Louie Martin, who there's a book, *Walking with the Presidents*, that's published now, because he was involved in politics with Johnson and mother lived with my uncle and aunt in New York before she married Dad. Dad was practicing law in Washington. Anyway, it's very interesting. Mother was a reporter. That's why I'm kind of a news junkie. OK, now this picture was shortly -- yeah, this was the first year I think we were married and my husband was here. This is my mom, dad, Harold, Eugene and myself. Wally Pauly isn't in the picture. Well, it doesn't matter. That was a bad picture. It was just one of those kind. There are a few pictures, my baby picture, of me, that I don't know, I don't care. I have a few more here. But what I find interesting in hindsight is now this Scandinavian community and this is in Northern Wisconsin, I swear there were two restaurants and we loved, my sister and I would pick out the Ranch and Fosters, I never remember any kind of the

least bigotry. Now my freshman year in high school I made a friend. I don't remember her name. And at the time I was reading the book *Another Country* by James Baldwin, who is one of my favorite of all. He is a genius. And I was so impressed, and this was our first year in Kenilworth and I gave her -- I lent her the book. Two days later her mother came over and I -- and mom, thank God, was at home, because I went upstairs and she was raising hell because how dare you give my daughter a book like that. And that just utterly destroyed the little friendship. I don't remember her name. And mother was very -- mom was a member of the ACLU. She didn't throw the lady out or curse at her, but she looked at her like, you know. She handled it adroitly and I was just so grateful I wasn't there. I never had an incident with -- although there was one woman, actually the assistant principal at the Sears School. And it was [00:30:00] Christmas time. And I'm so nervous and there's a Christmas play and I remember her pushing at me to get by. It was very rude. But that was it. The principal, a man named Stanley something, was very gracious. Now, but OK as I say, Wisconsin, there were fishermen around the lake. The fact my father loved to go to the hardware store and buy this and that, they just -- there wasn't -- there's just wasn't any. And I believe he

would have wanted to retire up there. But anyway, so, then, well Sears school was just -- it was hard for everybody there. There was a group of girls and their boyfriends when we first came in there, that summer. It was a gorgeous summer. And I'm in the kitchen and mom said oh, you have some people there to meet you. And I'm like oh, I don't know. There was about five of the popular and they had their boyfriends and they're really big Toms, Dicks, swirls. They were very nice, and they were sitting in the living room and I was slightly mortified because you know, it was just like spontaneous. Basically they were very nice on a whole, the school kids. There was one girl in particular, Connie, who lived on the other side. The other side was, of course, was the side of Kenilworth by the lake. And like everything, it's still about the lake, the money. She was the only child. Her father was like Frank Lloyd Wright house. But mostly -- and Karen is like -- Karen didn't have many people. I didn't have -- I don't know -- well, part of it is, there was always a lot of mom and dad's relatives or friends or something. I never had like -- and the house was small. And girlfriends upstairs and stuff like that, it just didn't -- but I'm sort of like that anyway. This is a great shot of my mother. This is when they sold the property in Wisconsin and this is a

great shot of daddy before -- this is before he was ill. OK, and then he's helping my husband with the car. This is over at their -- they had a great condominium on 5901 North Sheridan. It's a nice, old building and they lucked out. They got the best parking spot. The building has a pool but it's also right on the lake, so you can pretend when you see the seagulls that oh, this is the Mediterranean, oh, my God. And he had a collection of cactuses. It was a very nice place. The living room had hand-painted Chinese wallpaper. It was just very, very nice. But it was predominantly older Jewish people and they were kind of into their selves. There wasn't a lot of -- this is one thing I've noticed about the Gold Coast. There's this back-biting and social what, what, what. At Kenilworth it's very -- when I was dating, first started dating, my dad had to tell the police commissioner because every time a guy would come in, would drive up, I wasn't dating that much, but on occasion, immediately the squad car would follow him and then he'd pick me up. And then we he came back, we'd come back. And my dad didn't like it. He told -- you know, stop. That -- because they didn't do it to anybody else. It was principally because I was dating -- these were fellows from principally Evanston and I think Chicago maybe. And this is another thing. We were talking

about somebody, that trial in Arizona with Jodie Arias and this guy. And Jean was telling me, that area there, she's Hispanic, and part of this, some things she's running into are not that it was a ghastly situation -- this is my handsome brother who is an attorney. Who is that? Hello! -- and part of it, I believe, I think she was treated really bad out there. But part of it was the ethnicity. It's always the family, the clan, the tribe, and the other. So I wasn't messing with any of the white boys, so I didn't catch the heat [00:35:00] that possibly I would've if I had have. But they didn't -- I didn't have a crush on any of these guys. I mean, they had -- I was trying to get through school, by God, and not -- and in high school, I think in my sophomore year, I really found a truth so big. And the lab school was such a nurturing little place. And I just -- mom and I, I'd cook up one reason after the other. This is his mother, who is a beautiful lady. She's not with us. But her garden, this is a couple summers ago. Her name is Ella and she's from Mississippi. And his dad was in the Navy, Eugene. But anywhere, where am I -- what was I talking about? Oh, yeah. My second year. So I really started doing truancy. I'd always cook up some reason one day a week not to be there. My homeroom teacher then called my mother and said if she doesn't get it

together, she won't graduate from her class. Nothing will get you going faster than there was a math teacher who helped tutor me that lived in Glencoe. But I really --

WC: (inaudible).

LC: I really, all of sudden, the enormity of the school and the snowy days and I just -- I'm always kind of a house cocoon person. Yeah, I had to force myself. And then I met my best friend and we'd smoke. Actually more of my issue sometimes was that at (inaudible) the cliques, Winnetka. But Kenilworth as itself, then, of course, the second year there was the Almighty cross burning. I was coming home from babysitting and I see this thing. It was about eight feet. The thing is, see, our home was framed. And I hadn't thought about this much later. This is a bad picture once again. This is me and this is Gene's family, his sister-in-law and his mother-in-law. I didn't think until recently and they never found the person who did this, who set the fire or the people. But the fact that's a frame -- it was a small frame house. And it could've -- and then there was a pine tree next to the front, where it was. I thought -- it just registered, my God, the whole place could have been torched. It's a frame house. It's not a brick house. It's not cement, you know. And I was coming home from babysitting and I'd babysit maybe -- and

this is when babysitting was God, we'll pay you big time if you babysit, \$10, \$15. Even though you'd just sit there and watch TV and there's anything -- I never could do that. I don't know if it was the suburb. So I got a job at -- there was a one-hour Martinizing dry cleaning for a little mad money and stuff. I just couldn't -- not only the responsibility of other children, but the whole Kenilworth -- because I did feel everyone was watching us. I felt that. But the lady and the book, OK. The cross burning was for all of us. I know my sister has talked about the graffiti on the sidewalk, which was very upsetting. I didn't experience that. She hates that picture. Let me see, this is, I think, her first year of marriage. It's maybe 15 years old. This is a picture of my dear, sweet husband at a barbeque or something like that. I don't think I was there. Oh, this picture I love. I don't know, have you seen this one, Walter? This is my mother's two -- well, this was her best friend, Joan Masacoy who is married to Hans Masacoy in [Ebony?] and Mrs. Jean Dibble, who is one of the most beautiful black women. She's a nurse. This was at, I think -- I think it was at my sister's bridal shower. But I love Mrs. Dibble. She's still in Hyde Park. Her husband's Eugene Dibble. I think in Wheeler; they live in Madison Park, I think. They have two

daughters. Kyla was married to Vince Evans, the football player. But the point is, though, this woman is no -- just wonderful. Joan was great when she and mom would pal around because she -- she'd get tickets for this or that. This was after my dad passed away in the condo, on Sheridan. And they'd go. They'd go out for dinner. And she was just really good for -- and also it was nice that mother didn't have to have the pressure of driving. Mom and my sister both loved driving cars. I myself, I've driven to the Bahamas -- [00:40:00] down to Florida and then I got to the Bahamas in college. I don't like driving. I have no problem with it when I was driving. That's why I say I've never had a parking ticket. It's true, because I don't drive much. And I guess it's something maybe -- OK, let me see what else do I have here. OK. There are some more pictures I couldn't get to but I think these are kind of -- these, well, of my parents the best, particularly the one in Springfield. Did you see this picture of my dad, Walter? This is in front of the courthouse in Charleston, West Virginia. I thought you might have that.

WC: I've seen that, but no, I don't have that.

LC: Oh, golly.

WC: How are you going to keep all these? How are you going to remember all these pictures?

DR: I'm not, but that's why we have this recording and I can start making correlations but then I'll probably call you back and talk to you.

LC: It occurred to me about putting some little label on the back of these.

DR: I'm going to scan these now and actually just put them in the folder called Calhoun family. And then when we have a better chance, we can go through and identify the pictures.

LC: Yeah, cause I can tell you just in my sleep, honestly.

DR: But it's good to get the story down because what you're doing is you're painting a picture and you're also painting an emotional correlation of your response and experience in Kenilworth.

LC: It's nice to meet you. Oh, she's messed up.

WC: Gina is nice to everybody.

LC: No.

WC: Dino has a similar story. He was one of the first minorities in his high school. He lived out west.

DR: In elementary school. In elementary school.

WC: Which was where?

DR: I lived in Glenview. I got to -- we moved there from the South side of Chicago. We considered Evanston but in '73, Evanston was still going through its school desegregation processes of sorts and my parents didn't want us to go

through that. They were watching this on the news, like we're not doing this. So instead we skipped a couple summers and go to a school where I am the first one. But they didn't know how to deal with that. So here we are. I had teachers that were -- some were supportive and some who were not supportive. I was fortunate to have a principal, though, that was very supportive of what was happening and understood the dynamics of what was happening to me at the time.

LC: Yeah, well Kenilworth is -- like Kenilworth is -- it's so big-headed. This is the most expensive property in the state and blah-blah-blah.

DR: I wonder do you have a photograph in this collection that you brought of today of you and your siblings together, a group shot of you and your siblings?

LC: I'm not sure. I did think it was important that maybe you'd want to do this. I thought my brother's put this together. The picture is not so great.

DR: Yeah, I have this. I have this.

LC: OK. I think we're winding down. I have more pictures in another place but I have to get that. And then Walter -- my sister's sending up some. This is a better shot of my grandpa, much younger. This is a picture, of course, I put my husband and his mother was so pretty, and his father.

And then this is where we also were staying because my husband acquired that property after his dad and mom passed away. It's a neat place out there. The Gold Coast is cramped and oh, my gosh. Now, this is a picture -- it's not his father, it's not a good picture of his dad, but his brother, it's a great picture of his brother. Let's see, OK, this is probably his sister -- his aunt, his mother and aunt. This lady, I don't know who she is. I was asking my oldest cousin and this is a better, these are the most recent. I thought this was when my parents went to Paris twice, but I don't think it is. But I love that picture of Dad. As I say, this is when he was in Springfield and then he had a real ordeal with -- and he came back. He had this pneumonia and oh, gosh, guess what, he had this situation with the cancer. That was for Roland Burres and mother was -- she'd done a lot of work for President John Stroder. She was very political. OK, this picture is in -- I'm sorry -- Michigan. And we had the photographer lighten it. This is my parents there.

DR: This is a better shot, excellent.

LC: But this, I thought this is a great shot. Wisconsin had the trees were just beautiful. [00:45:00] This is when they first bought that house up there, that little house. But as I said, OK, incidents, the one time with the

principal, this woman principal, otherwise the teachers at Sears were very tough, but tough on everybody. I never -- Steve McMullen whose father was Jay McMullen, married to Jane Burne, was in my class. The girls, one of the girls, Parr, who would walk me to the pharmacy, after the cross burning made it her mission, she'd walk me to school for I think it was about 6 or 7 months. Every time she'd leave and we'd go together. And it was about maybe a 10- or 15-minute walk. This is going to high school, I think, freshman year in high school. But actually let me see. I'm just trying to think.

DR: Do you have the actual photograph of this or is this the only one you could find?

LC: I don't know. I'm sure I do but yeah, I didn't have anything to do -- I think I do at home. This I'm speaking of 50 Scott Street. But I'll try to find that for you. These are pretty much the best pictures that I -- or most recent. I know my mother has a scrapbook. I'm trying to think of incidents. OK, the families.

DR: I want to keep talking because I know you guys are on a time schedule so I'm going to start scanning these.

WC: I'm just going to leave. She can -- I'll see if I can get you a ride to the L, so you don't have to walk.

LC: Well, well, well.

DR: Can we hail a taxi around here somewhere?

WC: I'll talk to Mike about getting you down.

DR: I can do that downstairs.

LC: You're still -- I don't have my -- you're still going to be with us for at least 15, 20 more minutes, right?

DR: I want to start scanning this now so we can start getting some things wrapping up a bit.

LC: I don't remember any that --

DR: But keep talking, please.

LC: The street it's on was -- OK.

WC: Try shutting her up!

LC: Isn't that what I'm supposed to do? I'm supposed to give some highlights. Oh, I forgot all these here. But these are not --

WC: Those are not very good.

LC: How is Karen doing as far as Claudia and stuff?

WC: She's not. That's why I can't get ahold of her. Claudia sent me another thing, another email yesterday suggesting that she redo the terms of the loan so she is out of default and makes timely payments. But Karen, unfortunately, doesn't conceptualize things that way. She just looks at it like well, now I'm down to \$950 and it's on my mind to pay quickly and you get your money when I can pay you.

LC: Yeah, well, I tell you I just --

WC: She falls off the face of the earth.

LC: Yeah, I know. It's, I think --

WC: She's got such a sense of entitlement.

LC: My problem is with this, is that this -- well, she did a heroic thing helping this guy, getting the attorney. But ultimately this was really something he --

WC: That doesn't give you the right to deal with this stuff.

LC: See, remember, Claudia's had two open heart surgeries, and Claudia's on the wagon. I mean when -- our happy go lucky Claudia --

WC: You're preaching to the choir. I don't want to hear about it.

LC: Well, I have not --

DR: Besides you're on tape.

LC: We were getting closer. She was asking me questions. She's very concerned about Adrian. And of course, Alison's issue is not finding work.

WC: Well, let's not talk about (inaudible; overlapping dialogue).

LC: Walter, listen, the thing is though, the only -- where we are, we're so isolated. And they're on the South Side. God, I'm like Jesus Christ, I get weirded out stir crazy. They're there and I do love Alison.

WC: What are you talking about?

LC: I wish this little thing wasn't there because I don't want it getting all --

WC: Obviously. It's not fun for anybody.

LC: No, but I don't want to bond with Claudia right now while there's this -- I mean closer while this -- cause I know Claudia likes me. She'll get talking about God knows what -- but I don't.

DR: Do you want me to stop recording?

WC: No, I want to stop my sister. The recording's fine.

LC: He just ate some -- what'd you eat for dinner.

WC: I haven't had dinner. [00:50:00]

LC: OK, you think I did pretty good.

WC: I think it's an improvement? From the four pictures I brought.

LC: Gene, darling, you're supposed to stick up for me. This was murder. I'm glad. But I have more. I've got to get over to Scott Street, for more reasons than one. I have a lot of pictures there. But the best ones really -- and this is what I gave Harold for Christmas.

WC: Do you know, are you gonna be able to make my collage from all these?

DR: I'm hoping to get one more big picture of the one (inaudible) point to in the article of your mother. I

think really a good -- that photograph is exactly what we're looking for, so really the same nature. This your father, perfect. We can work with this very well.

LC: Give me some timetables. When is this whole thing -- do you need this by? Because I will definitely go to another address, our condominium and go through I have a box or two there.

WC: That is an understatement, a box or two.

DR: It really is -- I try to formulate collages, so I know what I'm looking for. If I can get a shot of the family at that time, 1968-ish.

WC: I'm trying to think, I don't remember a family picture.

LC: I will see. I have about five scrapbooks. I will see. These, I thought, were -- especially -- well, but see, you're looking for the whole family.

DR: Even individual shots, if you have a class photograph of each of you maybe in one year. Just pick a year, an arbitrary year, like 1968, of all of you in a class picture.

WC: I think Laura's wedding picture there must be one.

LC: Well my wedding album, right.

WC: There'd be a family picture there.

LC: There are pictures up there. So when do you need this by? What's the deadline is what I'm driving at.

DR: We've been working on this how long? We've talked about this for years. But I don't want to wait more years.

LC: No, no. This is what, what's the date? May 8th, 10th, 9th?

DR: Seventh.

WC: Eighth.

LC: Oh, it's 7th. So, all right, cause I'm -- let me see, this is Tuesday. I want to get up there this weekend for sure, so I could go through my scrapbooks and my box of stuff up there. And come back in about a week, OK?

DR: OK.

LC: All right. Let me see --

WC: Dino, I'm just going to leave you my four pictures there.

DR: They'll be in good hands. I have a closet I put them in.

WC: I trust in.

LC: Dino, you know how the oldest are. We're kind of quirky, kind of weird. Nobody likes the oldest.

DR: You know what's good about this, is that I became a half-family member with a lot of families.

LC: I used to always wish I was the youngest or something but the oldest catches it. But we're kind of quirky in our habits. It's like the weight of the world, the responsibility. And then of course, at Mother's Day, you set the lead -- what'd she say? Oh well. Anyways, I wanted to look in that stuff you brought up Walter, cause I

want to see if I can find something for Samantha. Are you -- when are you coming back up here? Maybe we could coordinate it like that?

WC: What do you mean, here?

LC: Uh huh, because I'm gonna go to Scott Street and see, I have scrapbooks up there. And these are pictures that are more like high school. But anyway, I have scrapbooks and I have a box and I'm going to go through those, and my wedding album. Anyway, I told Dino.

WC: You just tell me, any day you can get up here, I'll come.

LC: OK, that'll be good. So then Eugene, when would be -- we're talking today is Tuesday. So how about if we -- I go to the doctor. Next week, how about next Wednesday, does next Wednesday sound good?

DR: Let's wait to -- next Wednesday is what date?

WC: It'd be the 15th.

EUGENE: The 15th. I have to check. I'm not sure. I don't know. I have to check.

LC: So there's no day that you know is open.

EUGENE: No.

DR: What is the better days for you Walter? Is it in the early part of the week or the end of the week, [00:55:00] like a Thursday or Friday or the head of the week?

WC: Any day. The earlier the better I like.

DR: The earlier during the day you mean? Earlier during the day. So you definitely want to do it next week?

LC: Yeah. I have to get into that condo.

DR: I'll see what day is good, or what days are good.

LC: And I'd just as soon go do it and get all this wrapped up.

EUGENE: When are you going to be able to do that?

LC: Why?

EUGENE: I'm asking you, when are you going to be able to do that?

LC: Today is Tuesday. I would say I'd like to go Thursday, go over there Thursday. And then let's project for Wednesday next week.

EUGENE: Well, let's not. No, no. I have to check.

LC: Oh, God. All right. It'll be one day next week, Walter.

WC: And that's fine. Just tell --

LC: But I still think that these are the best, although there's of the family --

WC: There's not a lot of group pictures. That's the problem.

LC: I love this picture. Doesn't dad look like a movie star. He looks like Marlon Brando. I'm gonna look at the -- that was so sweet of you, Amalgamated Bank. Well, cause I told you I wanted to look at something. Do I have time to give you something for Samantha or should I hold onto it for next week or what? When do you see her?

WC: You can give it to me. I'm just gonna say -- well, no, hold on to it cause I'm moving soon.

LC: Oh, is that going on. Are you doing that for sure?

WC: I'm trying.

LC: This is better. I think sometimes -- I feel better than I did. This has -- I have to get this resolved because this is not me. I'm not -- I don't like this. Shoot. Did she sound kind of happy? Did she say anything about me?

WC: No.

LC: You can tell her next time, there's no post office -- I've got a box of stuff for her and Isabella that just sits there. And I was like how am I going to get this downtown? But one other thing, Walter, I had this brainstorm about going through, when we were out in Roanoke, when I was out in Roanoke when mom was there, we spent, Karen, me and mother, going through those clothes. And there were pieces of jewelry in those boxes. And so I had the bright idea of telling her just open that up, take the jewelry, and put it -- take it to a pawn shop to get some quick -- and then I thought the next morning, I don't want to do that necessarily. She hasn't asked me and Karen gets sometimes so secretive like oh, my God, what, you're not supposed -- that whole big feud with Harold, and oh, God. I thought maybe -- well, for instance, Eugene had seen Bill and he

said this is a sweet little box -- he said to Bill, is this your box or is this (inaudible).

WC: How'd you hear about this.

LC: Now he's seen Bill shortly -- I left a message on her tape.

I always wait until I know everybody's -- she's out to work, Isabelle's at school, the guy isn't there, so there's no jawing. And then I said something about that I was a little concerned because Bill looked really, from what Eugene said, really not well. And I said, oh, God.

WC: Bill was saying very nice things about me the other day.

EUGENE: That's going a little far.

WC: So keep him in a very positive tone.

LC: Listen, I don't have a bone. I think he's great.

WC: OK, let's just leave it like that.

LC: But when that other guy moved in, I said something about Bill's bedroom and Jesus Christ, that started World War II. He's went who do you think the father of Isabella is? I mean, so immature. And then Karen got mad at me. He's barely here for one day. Oh God, I said I didn't want to talk to him in the first place. I was so sleepy, I was making small talk.

WC: You realize you're rambling.

LC: I'm trying to say so many things at once.

WC: You're rambling.

LC: Well, Bill is a good guy. You saw him recently?

WC: Yes.

LC: How'd that happen?

WC: We ran into each other on the street. In fact, Gene, he mentioned he had seen you.

EUGENE: Yeah, we saw each other maybe a month ago or six weeks ago.

LC: Oh, [01:00:00] dog gone, I've got to -- I totally -- I think I've had a stroke. I mean, I have forgotten about all this, all precious.

EUGENE: Where'd you see him, down in the loop?

WC: Right outside the Fidelity office.

LC: Give him our best.

WC: I did.

LC: Daddy was all about family and loyalty and he would not -- Bill was another brother. And Bill was a great guy. But I got chewed out, don't you get I'm married. Oh, God.

LC: I love these type of photographs.

EUGENE: That's an oldie.

LC: I swear, Walter, I think you're -- well, I'm gonna be 100. I'm gonna right my best seller or win the lottery. Let me see, how is Samantha?

WC: Great.

LC: Let me see what she would -- what your little girl would like. OK, this I liked a lot. I remember it well. This is not from mom but this is something I bought a long time ago, but I liked it quite a bit. I'd forgotten about this. Do you think she would like this cameo?

WC: I don't know.

LC: Well, you're her dad; what do you think? OK, let's not sweat the small stuff.

WC: Let's not worry about it.

LC: Didn't you -- I want to give you something.

WC: I don't really want to take anything now because I'm moving and it's just gonna get lost because I'm throwing out more than I'm keeping.

LC: This is a problem.

WC: See my front yard. So honey, you know (inaudible) I took out all the stuff out of the basement. It was wet, mildew. I come back four hours later and there's a picture face down on my -- that had blown away and it was by itself on my driveway. I pick up the picture and it's a picture of my old girlfriend, Hillary Clinton, and myself.

LC: Hillary is in trouble.

WC: I laughed.

LC: Are these books? I have a feeling I need to go up there Walter. Is there anything of value -- are these books?

WC: They're not your books.

LC: I know, but you're not throwing away books.

WC: I'm throwing away everything, Laura.

LC: Oh, Walter, God. Should I come up to Glencoe?

WC: No, you don't want them. I don't even want this stuff.

LC: This is where -- I'm the family hoard --

EUGENE: Hoarder, correct.

LC: I keep books that are like books.

WC: I love my mother dearly, but I think she planted a hoarder in this one. Bringing home four newspapers and multiple magazines every day just created bad habits.

LC: Yes. I have stacks. I'm doing better. To throw away a New York Times that's still wrapped in the plastic is sacrilegious, absolutely. But yeah, that's another thing. Mom was working when we were in Kenilworth. She was at the Sun Times. One of her good girl friends was -- not the -- she's related to the Pritzker family. But anyway, mom was out the door with my father. Most of the mothers there were at home. So it was interesting. But she -- it was exciting for her, getting out of that -- but Kenilworth is very beautiful. It's so over -- it's kind of grown. It's built up, like everything. I'm trying to think. By the time I think I was junior and it looked like I was going to graduate, I had girlfriends. Friends. Everything was OK.

I cut my hair off to wear my natural when I was graduating because I was identifying with the movement and whatever. But I don't remember -- but if you go to Sears School, there is a plaque honoring me because I don't know if Harold's in there, but the first black student I saw at Sears School. He thinks everything I say is --

WC: That's cause I was the student council president. I don't worry about a little attendance play. There, there. Gene, why don't you come downstairs and I'll introduce you to Mike. [01:05:00]

DR: You talked about other stuff that you were thinking about. What Shorefront does is we're organized hoarders. These boxes you see here, these three boxes you see here on the table? That's how we archive everything. We have them labeled. We have filing aids, so we have a filing system, how we file thigs, so that other scholars, can, if they want to do research, know how to find things as well.

LC: Is there a lady's room on this floor?

DR: Yes, there is. I'm going to stop the recording now cause I think we're wrapping up. I thank you so much.

END OF AUDIO FILE