

Lorraine Hairston Morton

LORRAINE HAIRSTON MORTON: Lorraine Hairston Morton. I've been in Evanston -- living in Evanston -- since 1953.

DINO ROBINSON: OK. Why did you come to Evanston?

LHM: I came to Evanston originally to attend Northwestern and met my husband here. He was in school getting his doctorate and we had a summer romance, and we married in December, and then both of us came back just -- he was already staying -- he was here, yes -- continued in school. Then we married in December and in January we were both back in school. He got his PhD in August and I got my Master's in August. So that's basically how I got here. It was... At the time that we married, you might be interested in knowing that he was on a general education board fellowship, and he had been gift -- he had been offered a fellowship to go to Harvard, and a fellowship to Northwestern. But he chose the one at Northwestern, and I suppose no one had ever believed that we functioned for those nine months, or ten months, on his general education board salary, which was 100 dollars a month (laughs).

DR: What was your first-- I want to step back maybe when you came to Evanston. Where did you --

LHM: Where was I born?

DR: Yeah, where were you born?

LHM: I was born in Western Salem, North Carolina.

DR: And your parents, what did they do?

LHM: My father was in insurance in what was then the Western Mutual Life Insurance Company, which was really kind of... He was one of the old heads in the establishment that insurance company -- and then he was also in real estate. He and the man -- he and Hill, in Ashton, they were -- had offices together. By the way, I do have a book at home that my sister's going to take back on Western Salem, and it's telling the history of Western Salem that you might just be interested in the format of it to see how they incorporated stuff in there, and there happens to be a picture in there of my father at his rolled top desk [00:05:00] and my brother at a rolled top desk, but the rolled top desk where my brother is was Mr. Hill's desk; Poppa just had him sitting over there (laughs). And so that... I was -- my mother reared nine children, and I was the youngest of the nine. There were actually ten, but one child died. I think the third child died as an infant, Lois. And now in my family, everybody's gone of the

children, or the siblings, except three of us; The three girls. The last three girls. The other two are visiting me now. We're expecting to have a little family reunion over the fourth.

DR: That's great.

LHM: Yes.

DR: So, what was your parents -- did your parents ever discuss the reasons or what (inaudible) South Carolina and you came up (inaudible) --

LHM: Oh, yes. See, my father came to Western Salem when the town was young, and he grew with the town, contrary to what a lot of people don't seem to understand about growing up black in the south. It just depends on where you are or what point in time in history as to what your life is like; That may have an impact on you at later times. My father came there when they... You know, near the turn of the century, and it was at a time when other whites were coming in too, and tobacco was a thing. And my father -- and I always like to tell about this -- was a shipping clerk in a tobacco warehouse. You probably can imagine that the blood was all mixed up. Poppa knew about tobacco, and Western Salem was beginning to -- this is what my father told me -- was beginning to be a booming town in the tobacco industry,

and my mother had been a schoolteacher up in the hills of Virginia. My mother was from Stuart, Virginia and my father was from Spencer, Virginia. I have to say what a pleasure it was; I look back on it now more than ever and appreciate it more: Poppa used to take us up into Virginia to see where we came from -- he came from -- and Momma's little one room schoolhouse was still there at that time, and the log cabin where he was born. I remember Poppa telling us that he tried to buy it -- that land and that place -- but the man wouldn't sell it to him. But he promised him that he would never tear it down as long as Poppa lived. So, I guess that's why we could always go to see that little thing that was there. Poppa-- the first child was born and Poppa didn't want to stay up there in that little rural type of an area. I guess Momma either, so they came to Western Salem and the rest of the members of the family were born there. When Poppa came, his first job was as a sexton in a church; That meant cleaning the church. Later -- see he didn't go into the tobacco business at all (laughs) -- then later these guys got together with this insurance company. I guess that city was at a time when a lot of blacks were expanding because the insurance company took off well. My oldest sister came

in as a secretary and they had a man by the name of Mr. Bloom. He was the president of the company and Poppa was the director of agents. I'll always remember that, that's where he... That was very important because the agents were the ones that had to go out and sell the insurance and bring the money back into the organization. Later, Mr. Bloom passed and Mr. Hill, who was my father's partner in real estate, became the president [00:10:00] of the organization. Poppa became the treasurer of it. We always laugh and say my sister was always the boss because she knew the business, she knew the people, she knew everything, even though she didn't have that title at that time, but she was quite influential in the growth of the company. Then later... Back in the those days you didn't have employment benefits like you have now. So what the insurance company -- give you a pension like they have now -- and so Poppa became a vice president, which maintained his salary. My sister became the treasurer. My brother went to West Virginia State to take printing; He got his degree in printing so he could come back to Western Mutual to set up a printing shop so they could print their own policies, which they did. Now, I think that's unique. I really do. I think that's a unique thing, and Western

Mutual did do that. Mr. Hill had a son who was my brother's age and he went-- the both of them went to West Virginia state together and he came back and he worked in the office with all kinds of things -- I don't remember the detail -- dealing with finances, what not, and I can remember when computers came in they had those big boxes, high things, you know, all the insurance comp-- all this stuff, and we called in Boot; He was in charge of all that kind of stuff. We always thought that the plan, eventually, was that Boot would become president like his father had been, and my brother would be treasurer, and things would move on. But Boot died at a relatively young age, and my sister who, as I told you, had been treasurer... Low and behold she dies, and my brother comes out of the print shop and he becomes the treasurer, and he was that for I don't know how many years and then he ups and dies. It's really kind of a strange situation. And then... But Mr. Hill had had a grand-- a son, another son, who had been a school principle there and he became the president of the organization at the same time that my father was treasurer. He dies. Time brings about a change doesn't it? But he had two sons, and his oldest son became president of the organization. Well, as the time passes...

I don't really know because after my family, you know, came out of it, I don't know the inter-workings of it, but Golden Gate insurance company that's in Los Angeles -- I think headquarters are in Los Angeles -- bought Western Mutual Life Insurance Company. And the young man, the Hill, who was a president there, went out to California to -- with an executive position with Golden Gate. So that's what happened to West-- but they had... To my knowledge, Western Mutual's office was in downtown Western Salem and the insurance company's office was in one part of the building -- you had to go up some steps to get there -- and Poppa and Mr. Hill's office was in the front of the building, which they maintained. Then, the company grew so they bought a building that was in more of a residential area. Then it continued to grow and then they built a big building down in another section; You know, Western Salem has changed. So, the company was really doing well. Interestingly, there was also another black insurance company in Durham, North Carolina called North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. [00:15:00] While I was in San Francisco -- this is all black owned now -- also started by families. See that was a tradition; Different families start together. On the displays-- I pass a

display and I see North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. I said, "What? What?" And there was a young man like you there who is now one of the vice presidents in charge of marketing who had come there with his assistant to market their group insurance policies. And the insurance company is doing exceedingly well. They just branched all out. Now you know it must have been, for them to be at U.S. conference of mayors with a booth. You get what I mean? For them to spread the business. I brought back some material they had there because I knew the families of -- but interestingly too, there's nobody working in North Carolina Mutual either that was a member of either one of the families. So, you know, things (inaudible). Coming back again to Western Salem: At the same time that these insurance companies -- and that was in downtown Evans -- Western Salem, there was a trick store on the corner. I remember there was a black box shop in downtown Western Salem. The town was booming because there were so many workers in the tobacco factories. It wasn't a rural town it was a big city town. The raw tobacco was brought to the warehouses in Western -- and then they had these auctioneers there. They were selling, (mimics auctioneer). That's the only thing I knew. We'd pass by

there on Saturdays and the farmers would... And you'd hear all the "(mimics auctioneer). Sold." Yeah, that's what was going on there, and then after tobacco was brought there -- whatever they did with it -- and then manufacturing took place, and that's where all of these people were hiding. In the tobacco -- putting the cigarettes together or making... (phone ringing) Excuse me.

(break in audio)

LHM: Time again. I told you, the spirit of entrepreneurship and what not was booming, and a group of black men got together and started a bus route. I remember you had these people coming from all over. You know, the different sections, mainly black sections, going into the central city -- into the city to work. That bus company went through all the black neighborhoods and was highly successful. I never grew up riding in the back of the bus, because we had our own bus that came through the neighborhood. It costs five cents to ride it (laughs) at that time and then that bus company, they expanded it to have taxis. You know, I really think that you'll find that people who come from

communities that have seen that type of vitality, and have been with parents who put a premium on our education, and made all types of sacrifices to make sure that their children went to school. You know, just about everybody that you knew went to college because that was the era when blacks scarified every dime they had to make sure that their children received an education. And of course, it paid off. In my hometown, the statistics were printed; More black teachers had master's degrees than whites. And you know why that was? Now I know you (inaudible) want to take about something else, but I have to tell you all this. You might write a book one day and incorporate some of this stuff as a part of your make of the story. The reason why was because at one time there was a dual salary schedule. Whites and blacks did not receive the same salaries. So, in order for the blacks to receive a comparable salary, they had to get a Master's. So you had an influx of blacks out of Western Salem into universities of higher learning. And they came back to teach school, and that's why you had... North Carolina was kind of one of those states where doing that here, that was that movement for higher education, but let me come on back to my husband. You were telling me you wanted to talk about that. I see people

piling up out there to come to see me [00:20:00]. Now he, as a citizen here of Evanston. And, I have a scrapbook of him. My daughter has it because you know he passed away about 23 years ago. As a kid he liked sports, and the playground, Evanston's playground department, gave out all kinds of certificates to the kids for ice-skating and all these things, and even as a grown man he was very proud of that recognition from the rec department, (inaudible) idea that maybe all kids ought to get certificates for something. You know, when they excel. It might be a way of motivating them because he was very proud of that. When you had the Y -- you wrote about the old Y -- I went in there many a day, and with him to shoot pool, but the college kids went there. You know, you just meet there and when... In fact, I met him at the Y. The Y would host a part for black students there and we would -- that's where I met him, at the YMCA on Emerson's street. Later on -- I don't know what year it was -- he ran for the school board here, but he didn't make it. When he was inducted into the army, he already had his PhD degree and they took him in as a private. Again, a part of the system of segregation that went on for that time. They sent him, like they did so many brand-new black folks, to Tuskegee, to the army

airfield there, to work in this psychology department. His job was to test a number of those young men who became pilots. You know, doing that kind of data. So, they promoted him to a PFC and he continued, but the system was just something that he resented what they were doing to him and spouted off a little too much so they busted him back to a private. He told me that he was going to either get out of there or they're going to give him a direct commission. Sure enough, they gave him a direct -- you know what a direct commission is? That is, a direct commission means you don't have to go through officer's training school; on the basis of your qualifications, you receive a direct commission, and they did. That was in the Adjutant-General's department. We thought that he was the only black that was there that received a direct commission, certainly in that department. We don't know about the whole army. But we read an article some place about it and said that there were "X" number of people that were given a direct commission at the Adjutant-General's department, and one negro (laughs). So, we knew that he was it. So he had a nice career in the army and the president of Dillard University asked to have him come out of the services -- this is where it ended -- and to come to

Dillard because he needed him there for their psychology department and for a program where they were training veterans to get jobs and that type of thing. So, he came out and went to Dillard, and then went to Bennett College in Greensboro as dean. Then a lot of other personal circumstances with his mother and-so-forth created some changes in our existence and what not. So, he came back here. I want to tell you that he was... I think you know of -- you are given diplomate status; [00:25:00] As a doctor you are given a status. We call it a "recognition of excellence" in your area. You'll see in a doctor's office, "Certified by the American Board of Surgeons" or "American Board of Whatever." The American Psychological Association set up an American board of psychologists, and the first people who went into that board, who were certified in that board, came in on the basis of competence and merit in their field, and he was in that first group, which I thought was really quite an honor for him. I have information about all of that at home and who the people were and his certificate, and were you to see it, you would see names of very outstanding people in the country who were main members of that board. And he had a lot... I'd have to go back and look through all that other stuff that

he had of accolades that he had. He was just a smart guy really (laughs) you know, at that time. He'd had a good education and what not so that was basically it. And so, when I came here, I wanted to teach in a junior high school, but they told me there were no openings because I had never had any primary methods and I liked the junior high school aged kids. What they did instead, they sent me to Foster School to teach, which at that time, I'm sure you've been told, it was a predominantly black school. They might have one or two white kids in there, and the staff was mixed. Joe Hill was there. Joe Hill preceded me by half a year. [Nina McAvitt?] Jones was there, [Vera Brown-Lee?] was there, [Gladys Sally?] was there, Annalise Sutton was there. Her husband's still here. She was a speech therapist there. [Winda Lanton?], who's no longer here. Lawrence Poston. You had a (inaudible) black teachers were there. Alice Robinson came the second year I think I was here. After I'd been there for that year, I had been told that no black teachers had ever taught in the summer school of Evanston. I came from a background where you fought for civil rights. So, I went to the superintendent, who was Dr. Chute, who has really been a mentor of mine since I've been in town. I went to him and

I told him that I had heard that no negros -- that was the word you used then -- had ever worked in the summer school of Evanston, and I'd like to know whether it'd be presumptuous on my part to apply. Well, needless to say I got the job (laughs). I kept the job for two years just long enough to break the ice. I really wasn't interested in teaching summer school. I never... I questioned the value of them -- what we put in summer school. Really, kids don't want to be bothered with... have to... But I didn't think I was serving -- but I just wanted to break the ice. When I was teaching at Foster's (inaudible), a lot of visitors were coming in my classroom, but I didn't pay too much attention because I always had control of my kids and liked them and it was great, you know I always... And then when I went out on maternity leave, and when I came back, I was asked to come to the central office and was told that I was being assigned to Nichols School. Well I didn't really want to go-- that was my opportunity to break the color line, again, but I didn't really want to go because I'd had this baby and Foster School was just across-- I could walk to Foster from my house. I can remember telling the personnel director, I said, "Well I thought I'd like to go back to Foster." I said, "Nichols is

too far." He said, "No school in Evanston is too far away." I already remember his comment on that. Well... Also, [00:30:00] prior to that time, there was a beautiful teacher by the name of Virginia Dues who taught at Foster, and the administration, Dr. Chute, had planned to put her-- had arranged to place her at Willard School, and one of the teachers there who was a friend of mine -- it was a white teacher who was -- obviously she was white, she was at Willard at that time -- told me herself -- because she was in another group. She didn't like it -- that there had been a faculty meeting and that the teachers thought that the community would not accept her, and it would be cruel to have her come there as a teacher, so they decided not to send her there. So, when I heard that I was going over there to break this ice into the academic world of schools of Evanston, I just felt I could never allow a principle to have a meeting as to whether I was coming or not. So, I went over to see Mr. Ryan. His name was Michael Ryan, who was the principle. He was a fine gentleman. I went over to ask him if he planned to have a faculty meeting about my coming, and he said no indeed; He wouldn't do a thing like that. So, I went on over there and went to work. It was pleasant and nice, and I would get a group of kids in

seventh grade and keep them through eighth grade, which I loved because I had to whip them in shape the first year, you know, and then we could do creative things to get all these fundamentals out of the way and I loved that. And the next thing I knew, I had been appointed the chair of language arts for Nichols. Then the next thing I knew, I was made the chair of language arts for the school district of 65, and that was during the days that you didn't receive an extra salary for those kinds of jobs. Instead, you were given a track movement. So, while I was at Nichols, the school district decided to award teachers who were doing an excellent job by giving them merit pay, and -- I'll never forget it -- at this time Mr. Ryan had retired and Tom Sinks was the principle and he came to me and said, "Lorraine, I want you to apply for track movement." I said, "What is that?" And he told me what it was all about; A merit -- I said, "But I haven't done anything. I haven't done anything to merit all that," and he said, "oh yes you have." But see the things that I did I thought was just part of the work ethic. Not anything you know to... But anyway, and he showed me it wasn't, and I'm happy to say I was in the first group to get that on the basis of-- the first group of teachers who received a merit pay and it

was recorded in the Evanston review and what not. After that, the entire time that I was there, the merit system... If you had a BS degree, you're on track one automatically. If you had a master's degree you were automatically on track two. Then tracks three, four, and five were merit tracks, and the merit tracks were based on what you did in the classroom, what you did in the community, all kinds of extra committees that you might of worked on if you didn't receive any pay for them when you were doing them. You really had to show something of yourself to get track movement. I went on up to track five eventually. Got up, eventually, to the top. They changed that system later on and I heard they're going back and changing it again, to make it much more stringent. I won't get into that, but at the time that the first groups of us went through that you really had to put out; I want to put it that way and just leave it at that. And then, I was... I'm trying to capsule all of this education experience out of the head since I've been here. Later on, Dr. Chute... The school board was going to build Chute School, and some of us were asked to be on a teacher's committee to give input to the architects [00:35:00] as to types of things that should go into the building. And the building was to be a team-

taught school. Team-teaching was new at that time. And Lawrence Perkins, who's still alive and he lives out in the Presbyterian home, and the district, had sent me down into Chicago to a seminar to learn about team-teaching, so that I would be a team leader when Chute opened, which was designed for team-teaching. I've never forgotten that because I thought it was a wonderful thing for a business to cooperate with a school system in developing teachers, and they had the top people in team-teaching, which was relatively new -- I'm talking about at that time -- who taught us at that seminar. Then when Chute opened, I went there as a team leader and held that position as team leader. I taught classes for half a day and the rest of the day was team leader. Then the next thing I knew I was also the test coordinator for the school. Then my husband died, and I was -- during the summer. I was putting together a scrap book of things for him to give to my daughter and received this call from a school board member, Rachel Golden, that said, "Lorraine had you ever thought of being principle of Haven?" I said, "oh no." Haven had a lot of problems; They were having tremendous problems. In fact, I had said to one of the school board members, because I was always active, I said, "Why don't you close

Haven. Make it an administrative building and disperse the kids because there just so many problems over there?" I said that wasn't an attraction to me at all. So Rachel kept talking and I said, "Rachel, I'm a track five teacher, and as a beginning principle I'll lose money," because they didn't pay beginning principles the same salary; It wasn't as high as a track five teacher. That's hard for you to believe but that was true. She said, "Yes I know but in time you'd make it up." So we talked and we talked and we talked and we talked and we talked, and finally she said to me, "Lorraine, you're the only person I know who can go over there and shape up the kids, shape up the teachers, and shape up the parents too." Well you know that was kind of a challenge (laughs). That really was and she didn't know that's what really sold me, that, "Gee this might be kind of interesting to do this," so I said, "well tell me what I'm supposed to do, Rachel." And she said, "Well you just submit an application to the personnel office," which I did. Then when I got the job, Joe Hill was superintendent of schools at that time, and I'll never forget the day that he took me over there for that job. I walked down the halls. The halls were painted a dark blue. The entrance way was an orange. The colors looked like...

I thought I was walking through a tomb. I walked into the principal's office and there were two long bookcases with the doors hanging off. There was a nail in the wall. The carpeting in the outer office was black. Joe brought me into the office. I looked around; I didn't even sit down. He gave me the keys and all that. So, when Joe left, I left. I went home and I told my daughter I said, "You know one thing, your mother has made a serious mistake. I cannot go to work in a place like that." She says, "Well Momma, you're in it now. You just have to go back in there and you just have to stick with it." So, I came back the next day, took a tour of the building, and saw what a beautiful building it was but at that time they had taken... If a kid knocked down a inside door and broke the glass, they'd take the door down. That was the mentality. [00:40:00] Fortunately, those doors and things, all of them were kept in a storeroom. If you've been at Haven, you'll see some white, looks like friezes on the wall, you know what I'm saying? All of those are stored away because I guess the kids would get up and lock them; I don't know what they'd do. So, first thing that I did was to -- my first official act was to take the custodians, the room for the custodians, out of a windowless room and put them in a

room where it was built for the custodians. I'll never forget that because they were very happy to be out of that. They smoked at that time and by being in this room they were close to where the supplies would come in. It really was better. That was the first thing. Then I started with the district by painting that building. I just couldn't stand it, it just looked so bad then. The art teacher saw that I was restoring the building and found that someone had -- there were some [endives?] that were given to the school, and they came from Italy, because there was a fireplace on the third floor. I had the fireplace cleaned and somebody came in and whispered, "I know where the endives are." I wrote the young man who had them and said, "I understand you have the endives. I'd like to have them back." He brought them back. It was a matter of restoring -- and restored the building just to get it back pretty and like it was and what not. And that staff, people just joined right in with me. I felt that the teachers had been -- they were good teachers, but they didn't have the support of the administration there at that time because they had fired the administration in March and Betsy Rhodes was holding the school until a new principle was hired. Then things went on well. I immediately saw why they had a

discipline problem in the school. It was because they had had about nine hundred kids there then. They had all 900 kids moving at the same time. Can't do that. Imagine 900 junior high school kids in the hall at the same time. Now you know they're going to do some devilment. Somethings going to happen and it's just normal play that would be disruptive. So, I devised a new schedule that gave the teachers more planning time and some other things. Got that going and we had things turn out well. And the cafeteria, one of the teachers asked if it'd be alright to put a hanging basket in there, and I said that would be a great idea. She was a science teacher. So, when I bought the piece to (phone ringing) -- put in on... Excuse me.

(break in audio)

LHM: Oh, I was talking about a work-life at Haven and a new spirit sort of went through Haven. We entered all kinds of contests. We were very pleased that so many of our children came out in first place and many of the national competitions. Many in the area of language -- I mean language arts -- English I guess I should say. And while I was there, we had one young man to win the national math

competition; We're very proud of that. Our athletics improved and we had revived the cheerleading squads and got the kids involved and we were able to buy the sweaters and the skirts. Just everything seemed to expand because of the way that the teachers viewed their jobs and seemed to be pretty happy doing it. They weren't getting any extra money for it, they just went in there and did a wonderful job and I thought they turned the community's attitude completely around, 360 degrees, toward the school. That's kind of all of it in a nutshell. I might add, I have a daughter and two grandchildren whom I adore more than I should, and spoil more than I should, but I call it building memories (laughs). Yes. Now you were... In your history that you were developing, [00:45:00] have you heard of... I'm trying to talk fast because I see people; We can have another session if you'd like. Have you ever heard of Greenwood Inn? There is a Greenwood Inn in Evanston. And was it --

DR: (inaudible)

LHM: -- was... OK. Well Greenwood Inn was moved to McDaniel, in front of that park down from King Lab. In that house lived Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jones. They have rehabbed that house and it is gorgeous and I'm hoping that it will be

part of the house walk next year because it does have historical significance for the city of Evanston. Surely the Greenwood Inn was not a black institution but is owned by a black man now. I don't know who the original owners were but Mr.-- if you ever wanted to look at that, Mr. Jones has some pictures of it, and you might want to see because he told me that some of the neighbors could tell who had the house at that time, but it is something of historical significance.

DR: Sounds Great. I do know -- when you have more time, I have a few more questions --

LHM: Oh yes.

DR: Sounds Great. I do (inaudible) when you have more time (inaudible) I have a few more questions --

LHM: Oh yes.

DR: -- you do answer your questions very thoroughly --

LHM: (laughs).

DR: -- (inaudible).

LHM: Knocked out all the questions you had. Yeah.

DR: So, I mean most of these questions were just basically -- jumped off --

LHM: Let me see here. Hold on a minute. Oh, well Paul works for us. You want to take just a few more minutes and I'll

try to catch Paul. Paul was supposed to be here about 11 o'clock he said, I think. It's the other lady; I'm not sure. I can take - Yeah. Let's take five more minutes and then...

DR: OK. When you came to Evanston what was your first impression about this town?

LHM: Well, I... Remember what I told you about what my environment was. I came from -- coming from the south, we were so active in civil rights, and I saw so many people down there who were blacks who were professionals who were doing exceedingly well. I didn't see that in Evanston. I really didn't. There was Dr. Morrison who was here. You know about him? Or where they lived the last time? Last year? Do you know about that house? You do? You don't.

DR: I know about the name but I (inaudible).

LHM: Yeah well, he had a drug store here and they built a house on Ashland; On the corner of Ashland. It's a brick house. He eventually passed but he was part of the whole... He was here. Of course, Dr. Hill. Dr. [Gaplin?] came. Dr. Spencer. You know, over a period of time. Maine Spencer. You know Maine Spencer?

DR: I don't know her personally.

LHM: She's an attorney. And at one time -- it might be part of your histories -- I think she was -- I believe she was an attorney here at city hall. She had some position. She lives on Asbury. You should contact her. She could probably... And see the Spencer family was an old family here on Garnett, and husband was Mr. Spencer, but I would suggest you go talk to her about old Evanston people and things. Over on Garnett was a lady by the name of Mrs. Watkins, an aristocratic lady who served tea (laughs). I'm telling you. It was a... But I'm saying that there were a couple of... The [Portenoins?] had a funeral home here then. That was a part of Evanston's history too. Portenoins. Have you got that down or not? You might want to look up Portenoins. That was before the Thompson and... I don't know when the Haliburtons -- [00:50:00] there was a funeral home there, but I don't know that name -- what that name was before Halliburton. It was out of Chicago. It was a branch or something out of Chicago, wasn't it? There was a house. Have you some information on a house in the black community where Lincoln came and slept? Yeah. What street was that on? Do you remember that?

DR: I can't remember off hand, but I do remember seeing that street and remember seeing the house, knowing what happened

with the house used to be where they cut the house in half.  
Moved half of it to that area over on westside and the  
other south Evanston...

LHM: In South... That's right!

DR: When South Evanston was torn down (inaudible). That's in  
the Fifth Ward. That's the side with the bedroom that  
Lincoln slept in.

LHM: Oh, is that right? Oh, you've done a good job getting...  
Now do you know about this first black family? The first  
black child girl born in Evanston. Now that is worth  
digging into. Now you're going... What are they called,  
the Kings? Pings? Or.. You know how you might be able to  
get to the background of this? Now the reason I know this  
place is because when my father came to visit me. I'd  
heard about this family; This first family. And the house  
was -- it's on Crain, and I visited that house.

DR: Oh, that's Scott.

LHM: Was it Scott?

DR: Scott on Crain. [822?] Crain. Scott family --

LHM: It was the Scott Family. OK, OK, alright well they had  
some...

DR: His youngest child was married and renamed King, so yeah.

LHM: Is that what it was? Dave King. Alright. But they had a scrap book when I took my father there and the family still lived there and I just went to the door and knocked on the door and told them I was living here and my father was here and I'd heard about this family and I'd just like to bring him in let him see the house because the boards on the floor were wide, and in one of the rooms the original plaster was there. And then they showed --

DR: (inaudible).

LHM: -- yes, yes, but you see I'm very unhappy about it I'm going to tell you why. They should have kept that house as a historical site, and it should have been restored just like it was. So, I was going to take here a few years ago, I was going to take someone else by there. When I got by there I'm looking for the house I said, "No this isn't the house. (inaudible). There was wood on the outside." This had siding, and I stopped, and I said "I can't be wrong this has to be the spot." I went to do a (inaudible) and this man told me that he was the owner, and I told him why I was there, interested, and he said he had bought the house and he put siding on it. I really felt and still feel that that was a house that should have been maintained like these other structures, but I don't think anybody

ever-- I don't think the black community ever paid attention to it. I did because I'd heard about it. But I was going to say, that maybe downstairs in our statistics office, you might take that address and look in there and see if you have some information on that house. You know, sometimes they'll tell you who the original owner was and how many rooms you know that type of thing you might be able to get something about that. But I think that was a very significant family. In that scrap book was about the ones who went to war, and they had done a darn good job of keeping a scrap book. Now who has that scrap book? Who's left... I'm sure no one would throw that scrap book away. Somebody in that family has to have that scrapbook. Of course I understand [Kate Barret?] is not too well; She might not remember. I don't know whether Barbara Lee would remember about that family or not. You know Barbara Lee? Barbara Woods?

DR: No. I don't know her.

LHM: Well I'll tell you that the [Twigs?] lady might know.

Margret Walker might know. Ask Margret about that family; Who's here that might have that scrapbook. It would be invaluable information for you to have. And remember I'm not an old time (inaudible) but --

DR: (inaudible).

LHM: -- the moms... Huh?

DR: (inaudible) the development --

LHM: The development of it.

DR: (inaudible).

LHM: Now the Flemings... Mrs. Flemings died last year, that had the grocery store. Did you have a chance ever to talk with her?

DR: No, I did not.

LHM: Yeah well, she started a grocery store over on Clark.

DR: Next to -- just a few roads up to (inaudible).

LHM: Right, and that was something. That is the only black [00:55:00] grocery store that went on up and made it big. Now Mr. Watkins had a little grocery store right down the street but Mom's and Pop's -- when they built the store just across the street for me it was just a space on the corner, and that business was highly successful. And then they added on to it and made it the space that you see there today. Mom's and Pop's were highly respected in the community. They're business... They had the best meat. People would come from around Evanston. See, I know all that because I was always over in there, and they adopted me, you know. I'd go in there and buy my groceries. I ran

an account with Mom's, and she wouldn't even write up my groceries; "Here Lorraine, here's the book. Write up what you bought." Mom's and Pop's business; It was pretty nice, I thought. Pretty nice.

DR: OK. I don't want to hold you up anymore --

LHM: Oh well I'll tell you it was nice talking to you, Dino.

How are things going for you? OK?

DR: (inaudible).

END OF AUDIO FILE