

Otharie Winfield Love

DINO ROBINSON: OK, this is Dino Robinson, December 15th, 2013, at the home of Otharie Winfield Love in Evanston, Illinois. I'm just going to place this right here. It'll pick up your voice pretty well.

OTHERIE WINFIELD LOVE: OK.

DR: And you don't have to worry about directing it (inaudible) [sound in there?], OK? So, if you can, first say your full name and spell it.

OWL: My full name is Otharie Antoinette Winfield Love. That's my full name.

DR: OK, and you spell your first name how?

OWL: O-T-H-E-R-I-E, Antoinette, A-N-T-O-I-N-E-T-T-E, Winfield, W-I-N-F-I-E-L-D, Love, L-O-V-E.

DR: OK. Now, this is one question that you don't have to answer if you don't want to: when were you born?

OWL: At this age, I don't mind telling it.

DR: OK. (laughter)

OWL: May 30th, 1920.

DR: And were you born here in Evanston?

OWL: No, I was born in Marshall, Texas.

DR: OK. So, (inaudible) by just talking about your parents, first. And if you say who your father is, full name, and

then your mother, full name.

OWL: My father's full name was [Furness?] Henry Eugene Winfield.

My mother was Rebecca Patterson Winfield.

DR: OK.

OWL: They met at Wiley College and both of them graduated from Wiley College. My father decided to -- after marriage, they came to -- when I was about four years old, they came to Chicago and I went to all the schools in Chicago: Burke Elementary, [and then?] Bloom High School. I went to Truman College and I went to Northwestern University. And I went -- well, that's all in this area that I went to. My father graduated from Garrett Biblical Institute and he pastored Sherman Methodist Church from 1936 to 1953. And I'm still a member of Sherman Methodist Church. My mother graduated -- was a housewife until she went to cosmetology school and learned to do hair. And so, she was a beautician here. I'm still meeting people who tell me that they came to my mother's and had their hair done. So, they came to Evanston here in about 1936 and we lived at 2004 Emerson Street during that time. And that was during the time that I -- in those days, you walked and I walked over to Northwestern every day. My parents had three children: [Prentiss?] Henry Eugene Winfield, Junior and Arnold Francis Winfield. They both remained in this area.

DR: OK.

OWL: I went over to teach in Chicago at DuSable High School. It was the day that -- if you didn't graduate from that normal school, you could only do sub work and -- but because I majored in mathematics at Northwestern, I went to the high schools teaching math. So, I taught math at DuSable.

[00:05:00] I met Samuel Milton Love at church conference in Gary, Indiana the year that I graduated from high school.

I met Sam Love. We got married in -- see, that was maybe when I was about maybe 16 or something like that. But we kept a correspondence. He lived in Detroit, Michigan. And in 1941, we got married. And he was in the Army. He was a first lieutenant, which -- I don't know, a first or second. I mean, whichever one is the higher lieutenant. Then he became an acting captain later on when he was in Italy. So, he went overseas and he didn't come back until 1943.

DR: OK.

OWL: Let me see now, no, what it is is that I got married in 1943 and he came -- no, I'm really just thinking -- which is it? Well, I probably got married in 1941 and then he came back in 1943 and I moved to Detroit. No, but I'm thinking it's 1943, probably, when I got married and then I went to -- he came home in 1946.

DR: OK.

OWL: And I went to Detroit to live in 1946. And I had a daughter born in 1946, in Detroit, Michigan. She graduated from University of Michigan, went on to medical school. After graduation, she was sent by the Smithsonian Institute to Ethiopia, working for the Smithsonian Institute. And while she was over there, she met a Swedish mathematician and they got married in Ethiopia. And she had been accepted by the University of Michigan Medical School, so she spent a year in medical school, then she joined him in Europe. And then, in 1971, when they were supposed to go back to Europe to -- they lived in Sweden and they were going back [through?] Africa and a sandstorm came up and he was hitting -- I guess the spark plugs or something, [anyway?], and he caught fire and she went to get help. And it was a holiday and there were no cars. And so, he rolled over into a ditch but she was found dead.

DR: Oh, wow.

OWL: So, the country that they were in -- I've forgotten offhand but -- the country that they were in, but she was, you know, buried there. And he is still living today, in Sweden. But we didn't bury -- the United States wasn't having diplomatic relations with this particular country and we couldn't bring the body back. So, she's still buried over there, but --

DR: [Horrible?].

OWL: Yeah. So, right now, I can't think of the city in Africa where she's buried. But she's buried over there.

DR: OK.

OWL: I had another daughter in 1953. Her name is Geraldine Lynette Love. Oh, I didn't give you the name of [00:10:00] my older daughter.

DR: I was going to ask you that.

OWL: Yeah, her name was [Cheryl?] Antoinette and it was Love-[Benowitz?], you know, when she died. The other daughter graduated from -- she went to U. of M. but she graduated from the University of California and she's a writer.

DR: OK.

OWL: And she is here in Evanston now.

DR: OK, that's really good overview.

OWL: OK.

DR: I'm going to go back now and start asking --

OWL: OK.

DR: -- some specifics. You mentioned that your father and your mother both went to Wiley College.

OWL: Right.

DR: Do you know what years, approximately, that was?

OWL: OK, if I'm born in 1920 -- you see, they were there, say, in 19-- you know, 1919, you know? Even before that, you

know, to graduate.

DR: Yeah.

OWL: Say four years. Now, my mother went to -- they had there a teaching program like a normal school. So, she went two years. My father went four years. So, you can just say four years.

DR: OK.

OWL: You know (inaudible)

DR: OK, and your father studied religion there? Or what did he study there at Wiley?

OWL: Well, he became a minister, so a theological --

DR: Theological, OK. And where were your mother and father from originally? Where were they born?

OWL: Well, my father was from Ore City, Texas. My mother, just say Marshall area.

DR: OK, and when they came to Chicago, what brought them to Chicago? Have they ever talked to you about that?

OWL: Well, because he -- because of the Garrett Biblical Institute.

DR: OK.

OWL: All right, now what I didn't say was that my father worked in the post office. He got a job in the post office and he retired from the post office. So, he was a person that worked and he never took any money from the church for his

upkeep or anything. He worked free all those years and he got his money from the post office.

DR: OK.

OWL: So --

DR: Tell me about that part of his professional career with pastoring Sherman Church. What was going on at that time, to your -- best of your recollection.

OWL: Well, first of all, when he got here, they were still in houses, you know? And so, he bought the first church, you know, building where they had -- it was on 2004 Emerson Street. It was a house and what they had was, on the first floor, they had the church and on the second floor, we lived.

DR: OK, so it was a house -- and 2004 Emerson, that would put it about where? Emerson and what?

OWL: Well, I don't know.

DR: OK, I'll look that up. And how long was the church at that location, approximately?

OWL: The reason I'm thinking is that I do not know exactly when they moved to Elmwood, you see? And they moved over there. And I know they were over there in 1992 because my father was buried from the church in 1992. They had bought a church on Elmwood Street. And, see -- and now they're on Noyes, you know, Street, but --

DR: OK, so 2004 Emerson, you and your family lived there on the second floor and church services were held on the first floor.

OWL: Yes. Now, I know -- see, my mother died in 1953, yeah. And [00:15:00] so, I know at that time he wasn't pastoring, you know, the church. And then -- what I'm thinking of -- I'm not sure exactly where the church was. Well, I know it was probably still on Emerson Street because the church was too small and one of the larger churches here was where they had the funeral. And the people were, you know, out in the streets because she was a person that -- you know, in that day, you had maids, and then Thursday off. And so, she made them always welcome. She was a very friendly person, a very helpful person. And they would, you know, come and do their hair. Now, I remember that we were living on Lyons Street when my mother died. And I know that some of those people that she had befriended were the people who fixed the dinner, you know, and so forth, you know, for them because she was just that kind of person, very, you know, warm and people really liked her. And I just remember all of those people couldn't get into that church that -- wherever we had it, because I remember people, you know, lined up and --

DR: Did your mother own the beauty shop or was it done from her

house --

OWL: No, no, no.

DR: -- or she worked for somebody --

OWL: In that day, you did it in your home.

DR: OK. Did she have a name for her business or was just --

OWL: No, no.

DR: -- people came to her and --

OWL: No, it was just -- in those days, people just did things in their home. They didn't --

DR: OK.

OWL: -- they didn't own a shop or anything.

DR: So, it became more of a, like, very personal family -- people come and they felt at home.

OWL: Well, also, you know, in those days, the church would be having dinner. So, they would be able to get their hair done and have some food.

DR: Makes sense.

OWL: Yeah, so -- but a lady, you know -- see, I belong to the Prime Time Players drama group and, you know, there was a lady who was -- know, telling me about how when she was in her twenties, you know, she used to come to our house and get her hair done, you know, and so forth, so on.

DR: That's wonderful. You said, too, now your father pastored Sherman Church for how many years? He's --

OWL: Well, I said 1936 to probably '53. You see, all of that pertinent information is now packed up.

DR: OK. (laughs) See, I wish I had done this earlier. We could have looked at photographs and things of that nature but --

OWL: Yeah.

DR: -- oh, well. (laughs) That's how things happen sometimes.

OWL: Yeah.

DR: I want to get back on you now. You taught at DuSable High School.

OWL: Yes.

DR: And how many years were you teaching at DuSable?

OWL: Well, I would say from '41 to '43.

DR: And did you continue teaching elsewhere from there?

OWL: No. See, no, I graduated from college in '41. For one year, I worked for the government and then, say, about '42, I got into the system. But you see, I stayed in that system to -- from '42 to '46 when I went to Detroit.

DR: OK.

OWL: And then, I was not teaching when I had my first child. And I got into the Detroit system and I spent 44 years in the Detroit school system. And I became a math demonstration teacher where -- and then, after a math demonstration teacher, I became a person who was a

supervisor -- and go around and check on teachers and so forth. And that's where I get my pension fund, from the supervisory -- you know, the -- and I -- 1989 is when I stopped teaching in Detroit, 1989.

DR: OK. In your time [00:20:00] in Detroit, were you involved in any social clubs or --

OWL: Yes, I belonged to a club called [Artisticrafts?]. And they were people who were making things. You know, crocheting, knitting, making jewelry, that type of thing. It was composed of teachers and all of that was -- I mean, my goodness, a long, long, long time of --

DR: So, what kind of stuff did you make?

OWL: Well, you know, jewelry. And I just gave away, like, some squares that -- you know, where I crocheted -- and I had a lot of squares left and I just gave them to a relative.

DR: OK.

OWL: But I don't have any jewelry, I don't think, that I made. But we would sit around, you know, and crochet and knit, do those kinds of things. And we met more than once a month. I guess we liked the, you know, the company. And today, there is one member left. And every time I go back to Detroit, I mean, I always see her. She's in her -- she's a year older than me, so she's 93. But we're the only two, basically, you know, left in the group and all of the

others are deceased, yeah.

DR: Do you have any group photographs of yourself in that group, or --

OWL: (laughs) No. I mean, you know, everything like that, you know, would be packed away.

DR: When you came back to Evanston, did you join any groups here? Social organizations here?

OWL: All right. When I came back here, what I did was I went over to Oakton College. And I got a degree -- I got a certificate in human services. And you have to do internship and I did internship at Great Opportunities. And, well, I guess one of the other things that I have had as a -- income tax. I worked for H&R Block.

DR: OK.

OWL: And I was a -- oh, what's it called?

DR: Was it tax preparer or --

OWL: No, I mean, I had a higher title than that. Enrolled agent.

DR: OK.

OWL: I passed, you know, national exams. And, see, I did that in Detroit and then when I came here, I just retired from working for H&R Block, I think, in 20-- maybe '07. And then, I went to the Levy Center and did taxes -- in my last year I was doing taxes for -- at Levy Center. And I worked

at Great Opportunities from -- guess from about 2007 up until just last -- this June. And the reason I got -- the Presbyterian Homes closed the place --

DR: Oh, OK.

OWL: -- and -- but what I would do is I prepared activities to keep the seniors' minds active. And I did that at Great Opportunities. So, I wouldn't go to Great Opportunities during the, you know, days I was doing taxes. And I worked it out that way.

DR: OK, it's wonderful.

OWL: And now, of course, I am -- Prime Time Players, you know? And then, the Senior Foster Club.

DR: Can you tell me a little bit about both Prime Time Players and Senior Foster Club?

OWL: The Prime -- Senior -- the Prime Time Players are a group by Tim Rose. And he's, I guess, the artistic director or something here in town. And he developed this group where the seniors meet. And last year -- not last year. The year before last, I was in a play, Kwanzaa play that they have ever year. I was the first person to -- you know, there was the first year that they did it and I had this flyer that said, you know, "Otherie Love and [Mayer?]." We were the two on the flyer, saying that, we were [kind of being there?], doing that, [00:25:00] so -- and I was able

to memorize my lines, and Tim -- I told them that I was leaving and he gave me, from the club, a hat, a scarf, and matching gloves and a big, huge pocketbook.

DR: Oh, nice.

OWL: You know, from the group, so -- and, you know, I'll miss these groups. But I'm going to be going to a -- it's called Oakwood Common and it's a place where they have grounds for -- you can do independent living, assisted living, or skilled care. And I was there just for the Thanksgiving holidays and I made up my mind since then to get out of here. So, in less than a month, you know --

DR: Wow.

OWL: -- we're moving out. But we were actually able to stay there. I had a friend, you know, that I had for umpteen years, maybe since my daughter was maybe 13, and her daughter is a lawyer in D.C. But she moved her mother from Detroit to this place and she said, "Well, why stay in a hotel? You can have an apartment here." And so, we got into -- apartment. And it has a front room, dining room, kitchen, and a den. And what sold me on the place was the people were so friendly. The entire staff and the people that you're passing. One of the things that I've observed about this area: people in these homes -- blacks are not happy. But you don't find that in this place. One lady

been there seven or eight years. It was a different feeling. You're going to have all of your food. Once you pay in, you're going to be taken care of the rest of your life.

DR: Right.

OWL: And so, I think I'm very fortunate to have made up my mind so soon because next week, you know, they're having a -- open house. And when my -- see, I have relatives there, of course.

DR: OK.

OWL: In-laws. And somebody died right after Thanksgiving. The next week, somebody dies. My daughter goes back and then she was able to really clinch it, you know what I mean? Then, you know, I had all the things to fill out and I passed all of those things. But I'm just saying they're going to have open house. And all they had left -- I mean, this is a huge building -- were three places like what I wanted. And, see, if the open house people -- I'm sure they would have taken it. I wouldn't have had -- then, you know, they had, say, maybe two rooms. But I don't need two rooms.

DR: And that sounds like a wonderful opportunity.

OWL: Well, yes. I mean -- and I'm sure it's less than what you'd be paying on the North Shore.

DR: Yeah, yeah.

OWL: But it's just unbelievable. You know, the food's good, free movies, free exercise. Plus, you know, they got the little groups there. It's so -- take you shopping.

DR: Can't ask -- what else can you ask for? (laughs)

OWL: Yeah! I mean, so this is why --

DR: You're almost convincing me to move there. No. (laughter)

OWL: Well, I mean, to do something like that, you know, when you get a -- when you have everything there, that's what makes it, to me, so wonderful. And then, you've got the atmosphere there.

DR: Right.

OWL: If it wasn't the atmosphere, I wouldn't -- you know, just -
- I wouldn't be jumping if I was going to be miserable there.

DR: Got it.

OWL: But they have, you know, people of all, you know, races there. And then, the staff is integrated, of course.

DR: OK, yeah.

OWL: So, I'm just really just sold on it. And my daughter, you know, has friends there. And they'll have -- my daughter always likes to go to the doctor with me. I joke and say, "You don't go to the dentist with me." (laughter) But she was able to check it out and the prices are just horrendous

for a person to go to the doctor with you. But, see, she has friends there. I mean, there's a friend that, you know, always sends me cards and things like that. And she is a former police officer and she lives near. And so, my daughter is going to -- and, like, when she [00:30:00] told I was coming, she's -- oh, she's going to -- meaning, you know, I was going to see a lot of her. And so, I'm sure she can take me to the doctor. And, see, [Jerry's?] going to be moving at the end of September when the lease is up.

DR: OK. Is he going to move into here or something or --

OWL: Oh, no, she's going up there.

DR: OK.

OWL: Where I am. No --

DR: So, are you selling the house then? Is that how it's happening?

OWL: Yeah, the house is up for sale.

DR: [You're going to furnish?], though, what --

OWL: The house is going to be up for sale. Want to sell my car, so -- but she'll take care of all of that.

DR: OK. I'm going to go back in time again, so --

OWL: OK. (laughter) No problem.

DR: When you and your parents first arrived into Evanston, you were, what, of college age?

OWL: Yes.

DR: OK, did --

OWL: And I was going to the Truman -- I was going back to Chicago to Truman. And then, I went to Northwestern.

DR: OK, OK.

OWL: So, I had to be college age.

DR: Gotcha. And so, when you were living in Evanston in those early years, were you involved in groups, organizations then, other than the church?

OWL: No, because by the time you go to school, you don't have time.

DR: Yeah.

OWL: Yeah.

DR: Did you have a part-time job at the time?

OWL: No. My father was one of these persons who didn't want his children working for -- in white homes. See, one of the things that my father did was -- I guess in those days, you'd leave the farm and go stay with the white people and, you know, do things, [probably?] high school, something like that. And I just figured that he was just -- that was his feeling. His wife nor me, you know, ever worked for the white people. I mean, that was just something that -- he never said why but he just said, "No." So, I never, you know, worked -- so, what I did was just go to school.

DR: OK. You lived pretty close to the Emerson Street YMCA at

the time. Did you ever go into Emerson Street --

OWL: Oh, yes, I remember -- his name began with a -- H, the person that directed the Y.

DR: [Hummens?].

OWL: Huh?

DR: Was it Hummens?

OWL: No.

DR: There's another one, too. I can't remember offhand now.

OWL: No, I mean, he was a -- what name did you say?

DR: Hummens?

OWL: No, I don't think it was Hummens.

DR: OK.

OWL: He had a wife that was very fair. She could pass for white.

DR: OK, I can't remember offhand now. There's [a couple of?] -
-

OWL: Well, see, you may have been too young to -- you're too young to know all that.

DR: Well, I wouldn't know anything about it but I did a lot of research on it.

OWL: Oh.

DR: So, that's why I'm thinking -- there's only seven directors over there.

OWL: Oh.

DR: Hummens was one of them. Talley was the first one.
Hummens was one of them. There was Boyd, and the last one
I cannot remember. There's a couple smaller ones that were
only there for a short period of time before that.

OWL: No, but he was there for, you know, for years.

DR: Yeah, [I think?] --

OWL: And his wife, oh, used to come have her -- my mother do her
hair. I remember that part.

DR: I think it was Hummens for some reason.

OWL: Hummens?

DR: Yeah.

OWL: I don't know. Well, I did say it begins with a -- H, so --

DR: Yeah.

OWL: But I can just really picture him.

DR: What kind of activities did you do there at the Y? Or what
did you go there for?

OWL: I don't remember, you know, anything --

DR: Go for meetings or --

OWL: -- in particular, but --

DR: -- engagements?

OWL: But, you know, by me having brothers, maybe they were over
there at -- because it was the YM.

DR: Right.

OWL: So, therefore would have been them over there --

DR: [Oh, I see?].

OWL: -- you know, participating more than me. But, OK, I was part of -- and I don't know of the people that were trying to break down things here at Evanston. And I remember going up on Howard Street and people spitting in your food because they didn't want you to sit there. And, of course, there was a Woolworth, you know, down there. So, I had to have been active in things to have done that. But I remember that -- wanting to eat in those places and going and sitting down. And what they did is they spit in such a way you could see it. And then, [00:35:00] you, you know, you'd get up and walk out, but -- so, I was, you know, active, you know, in that way.

DR: Yeah. I was -- no, I hear these events that happened and, you know, people spitting in your food. And I wonder, did you pay for the food first or --

OWL: I don't know. But, see, after all, you don't pay for food first.

DR: Right, usually pay afterwards. So, if you walked out --

OWL: Yeah, so you look at the food and you see the spit, you get up and walk out. So, it's -- you haven't lost any money but they just really -- just don't want you there. I mean, they would rather see the food go than to let you sit down and eat. But I, you know, remember that.

DR: OK, OK. Let's see --

OWL: Well, the reason I couldn't get into high schools in Detroit was that -- the times, you know? They didn't want blacks in their high schools. And what happened was I was working in the elementary school. And the principal liked me and he said to me, "Go down and just -- if they ask anything, you know, I'll recommend you." So, I went down but I didn't like the school. (laughter) So, I didn't go there. But what I'm saying is that, you know, he really wanted me to come back. But I didn't like the place and -- but he recommended me, you know, very highly. And as I was sitting there, they had people to interview me. And then, I guess when the lady found out about my high school, she took me into a man's office and he asked me a few questions. Then, later, when I went out, I heard him fussing at her: "You know we don't hire blacks. Why in the world you bring her in here for?" But, see, that was the atmosphere in -- they wouldn't let you get into the high school but you could work in the elementary. But, you see, there are a lot of times in those school systems -- they would have math as, you know, a separate subject --

DR: Right.

OWL: -- and -- but that was the way it was.

DR: OK, that's very telling. You know, during those times, you

know, '50s and '60s, the civil rights movement, did you get involved in that part? I mean, you talked a little bit about the sit-in that you did and --

OWL: Yes, but --

DR: -- but were you involved in bigger stuff?

OWL: I had the daughter by that time and she was at U. of M. and wanted to go. And we told her no because too much was happening to people. She didn't like it at all. But she didn't go. But, you know, she was one of these who wanted to go, take the bus ride South. But, you know, her father and I said, "No." But, you know, she wanted to be very active. And then, of course, my younger daughter, you know, has -- you know, participated, you know, in things. She's a, you know, one of these persons who, you know, has done those things. But she never, you know, went South because, you see, she's seven years younger. But even though the seven years -- you know, there were still things going on.

DR: Right, right. So, was it the fear that something would happen to your daughters? Yeah.

OWL: Oh, sure.

DR: And --

OWL: Oh, sure. I mean, things were happening to people who went. And so, you know, there was enough that she could do

around. She didn't have to go anywhere.

DR: Got it.

OWL: You know, to do something.

DR: All right, before we wrap this up, can you tell me: what are some of your finest memories, you know, with your life in the North Shore that you can share?

OWL: Well, I feel that working at Great Opportunities was a great opportunity to work with people that had dementia, Alzheimer's, as well as people whose children were working and they just needed to put them there. But that was a great experience to have worked there with those people.

DR: OK.

OWL: I also feel that the church work -- I mean, I was very active in the [00:40:00] church. (off-mike noises) That's just my mail coming in. Very active in the church. Whatever church I belonged to, I was -- took an active role. So, I have belonged to the Unity Church as well as the Methodist Church. And each time, you know, I was a leader there. And Sherman, I mean, the 20 years that I've been, you know, back here, I mean, I have been the lay leader. And it was under a woman -- it was a man that really appoint-- when I came back in '92, the minister -- oh, what's -- can't think of his name now. But anyway, he just came back and buried somebody. Anyway, but I've been

the lay leader, the worship leader, the person who distributed the [upper rooms?] and class leader, you know, in the 20 years that I've been back here. But, I mean, say I've been active all my life, you know? But I'm just saying that even in retirement, you know -- and I just, you know, gave it up myself because I felt that it was just time to do it. But I've always enjoyed, you know, working in the church and helping people. Now, I -- every Sunday, I visit a lady. And in 2007, 2009, and '11, I was over to her house. And this lady liked cats and I -- have 18 cats in her house, yeah. But I still -- you know, each Sunday, after church, go to see her because she doesn't have family. I mean, she has a cousin but they're not, you know --

DR: Right, right.

OWL: But when I went Sunday, there she was, really sick, because somebody told her about a death of a person that -- a white family. The man had come back and she says, "Where's -- how's your brother?" And he says, "Oh, my brother's dead." And it just shocked her so. So, I did not tell her I was leaving because, you know, you see a person sick in bed, throwing up --

DR: [That's right?].

OWL: -- you don't want to tell them any more bad news.

DR: Right, right.

OWL: And I'm sure she's going to consider it bad news, so -- but I got to tell her Sunday because I'm going to be leaving.

DR: So, this is going to be your last service this Sunday? Or next Sunday?

OWL: No, I'm not going to come back. I've [already?] said my goodbyes.

DR: OK.

OWL: Because, see, we're leaving Saturday morning and the movers will be here Friday, so -- but no, I shook hands and what have you. And they wanted to do something but I didn't want them to do something.

DR: OK.

OWL: So --

DR: What words of wisdom can you leave behind for future generations?

OWL: (laughs) The biblical saying, I think, that all things through Christ who -- strengthen, yeah. And I, you know, believe, you know, that he will really help you -- see you through because, see, one thing I didn't say was that in 1958, I was teaching school. And what they did was they came in and gave you all those polio shots. And I got sick from it, went to the hospital -- sick enough to go to the hospital. Went to the hospital and they hang me, like, an

emergency room, you know, just with the curtains. And finally, they let me go upstairs. And then they said -- I said, "What's wrong with me?" "Oh, we can't tell you. Doctor's got to tell you. Special doctor." They tell me that I got six months to live --

DR: Wow.

OWL: -- that I had some kind of kidney ailment and there was no cure for it. But I prayed every day because I had two girls and I did not want to leave my two children. And I prayed every day. And it was the kind of ailment you would get, you know, like, hot, like a fever. [00:45:00] And the doctor would say to me -- I continued working. The doctor would say to me, "Don't make an appointment. Just come" -- and he was a Ford doctor, Ford Hospital. I'd go over to Ford Hospital because you know, I've been driving all night. And I would go to Ford Hospital and stand outside his door. And then, they would go get my chart and then he would give me something, you know, new to take. But he says, you know, "You're going to die." My husband -- we had some friends in California, older couple. And my husband sent for them to take care of the kids. I mean, you know, the doctor says you're going to die, you're going to die.

DR: Right, yeah.

OWL: So, it's just really prayer, you know. And now, can't even tell I even had any trace of it. But, see, so that's really a testimony for what God can do.

DR: Yeah.

OWL: You know, it's possible to live this long, but 58, six months. So, that really makes me -- you know, I really believe in the, you know, the power and prayer because that's all that, you know, really saved me. Because I always forget the name of the ailment but something's going to kill you, has to do with your kidneys. And, you know, kidneys, you know, you're gone.

DR: Yeah.

OWL: But God is good, so --

DR: Yes.

OWL: -- so, this is why I -- you know, as long as I can, I will, you know, do what I can to help others and to continue. Because when I go there, I'm going to -- there's some church members, but I'm going back to the unity faith because after my daughter died, I left Methodism. But I could not come to Evanston and go to a Unity church. I had to come back to Methodism. I'd been gone for 20 years from it but I had to come back. And, you know, I've enjoyed the time. But I just know that -- and there's some people that I still, you know, know, visit, and [I've talked to through

nearly?] 20 years, so at least I know two people in the church. (laughter)

DR: Now, I know you packed everything away. But do you have any photographs in your albums that show your father at the pulpit at any of the churches?

OWL: Oh, no, we've never had anything of him in the pulpit.

DR: Or any church, where it was located -- on Emerson Street?

OWL: No. All I have is just that portrait. That's just a portrait of -- Edith [Lyons?] was a member of the church when I grew up and she was still there when I came back and she had that picture done. But my daughter has taken, you know, all of the pictures and so forth and put them, you know, in the boxes.

DR: OK. Well, if you think about any -- kind of go through one day and see something that might be of interest and help tell the story of, you know, life in Evanston, you know, think of Shorefront, we could always use a copy of that.

OWL: OK.

DR: OK?

OWL: Now, what are you -- tell me again exactly what you want.

DR: Any photographs, the -- you know, of, you know, family shots, activity shots that depict life in the Evanston area, you know? That's why I was asking about, you know, was there any photographs of your father at the pulpit or

in the church doing something or --

OWL: No, I --

DR: -- family activity or a shot outside of the church on Emerson Street.

OWL: Well, no, in those days, you just didn't --

DR: Didn't do it, a lot of the --

OWL: Oh, no.

DR: -- yeah.

OWL: No, was -- the only thing that I -- when I had a 90th birthday, we did, you know, pictures. But, see, all those things are, you know, packed.

DR: Right, right.

OWL: So --

DR: Well, just, in time, if you come across anything --

OWL: OK.

DR: -- just think of Shorefront. (laughs)

OWL: OK, all right. Well, then, let me ask you this: would you be interested in, say, like, the pictures from the 90th celebration I had?

DR: Sure!

OWL: OK, yeah, well, then --

DR: Most definitely.

OWL: -- I can, [00:50:00] you know, when I find one of those brochures and I can just, you know, send you, you know, the

brochure.

DR: Beautiful.

OWL: And --

DR: (inaudible)

OWL: -- because my daughter reminds me that when we were in Emerson, we did a 75th. And here, on my 90th, which was just two years ago, we had a -- it was in a hotel or a dining place, anyway, we -- somewhere, she gave a party for me.

DR: OK.

OWL: And she -- my picture's on the front of it with 90 -- you know, and I have a hat that says, "Growing" -- I don't know, it -- remember exactly what the hat says. But anyway, I'm wearing this hat. So, what I'll do is I'll find that -- you know, a copy of that brochure --

DR: OK.

OWL: -- [anyway?].

DR: Wonderful.

OWL: Yeah, so --

DR: Well --

OWL: -- you can tell me where you want me to send it to.

DR: -- yeah, I'll --

OWL: Is it on here?

DR: It's not on there, but I'll give you a card.

OWL: OK. I also want to give you a card, this card. There's a

lady in our church call-- [Jeanine Friedman?]. And she is a lawyer and she does such a beautiful job of estate planning.

DR: OK.

OWL: And --

DR: So, I'll give you a couple cards, just so you have them.

OWL: OK, so, I'm going to give you here card and --

DR: OK.

OWL: -- and I can just show you a minute -- I mean, give you an idea because she just [brought my?] -- but she's doing such a beautif--

DR: I'm going to stop the recording now, so that --

OWL: Good. (laughter)

DR: Thank you very much and we just spoke just under an hour.

OWL: Oh! [00:51:54]

END OF AUDIO FILE