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2

PSU Civil Rights in Oregon Oral History Project:

3

Pauline Bradford

4

5 Tasha Triplett: *This is an oral history presentation of Pauline Bradford at her home in Portland,*
6 *Oregon. This is an interview project for the Oral History Civil Rights in Oregon course at PSU.*
7 *The interviewers are Tasha Triplett and Patrice Mays. The date is March 9th, 2010. This is the*
8 *first interview.*

9 *Could you, Ms. Bradford, could you please give us your full name, date of birth, and*
10 *place of birth?*

11

12 Pauline Bradford: Okay, my name is Pauline Bradford and I was born in Greenville, Mississippi
13 in 1928. January the 31st 1928, okay. I was raised by my grandparents and I have one living
14 brother. There were two brothers that are dead and one sister that's dead. [door bell rings]
15 Pardon, see who's at the door, stop your interview.

16

17 Patrice Mays: *That might be my friend dropping off my laptop.*

18

19 PB: Check it out see.

20 [Pause]

21

22 PB: It's getting colder out there isn't it?

23

24 PM: *I apologize.*

25

26 PB: Oh, no problem. Okay, and then I came out this way to visit an aunt, she sent for me. And I
27 stayed. And then I met my future husband and waited until he returned from service. We got
28 married. And we had three children and we were married for 50 some years before he died. Now
29 I think I have eight, no seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren that I know of so far.

30 I've lived here in Eliot neighborhood association the entire time. I lived right next door when I
31 got married and I just moved over on Stanton and stayed there for 35 years and then moved here
32 and been here about 30 years. Now, okay and here, and then I went to school here to kinda
33 complete, you know, during the war- this was wartime.

34 [Phone rings] Oh no. Cut your deal off. Let's see who...reach me that phone over there.
35 [Tape recorder stopped so Ms. Bradford could answer the phone]

36

37 PM: *So are we recording again?*

38

39 PB: Yeah. Okay, so where were we? Okay, I was going to tell you about the schools I attended
40 and I attended them here in Portland. Okay, and...

41

42 PM: *Ms. Bradford? Do you mind if we interrupt you if we have questions or do you want us to*
43 *wait until the end?*

44

45 PB: No, you go ahead and interrupt.

46

47 PM: *Okay. I don't mean to pry into your personal business, but do you know why she was living*
48 *in Portland?*

49

50 PB: Oh, we had come out to the shipyards. This was back in the shipyard situation days and
51 that's where you had jobs. Cus' this was in the 40s, okay. And then the shipyard closed.

52 In fact, I should tell you an interesting story about my husband. It actually was... we
53 were in Vancouver. I came up on the bus from Mississippi. Thirty-five miles an hour. That was
54 six days and seven nights or something like that, you know traveling. Anyway, I got off the bus
55 in Vancouver and I was supposed to catch another bus to Bagley Downs, which was - I thought in
56 my mind, coming from the South, that Bagley Downs was an English village, I didn't know any
57 better. Anyway [laughs] um, when I got off, and then you had to just kinda catch another local
58 bus there, see. And uh, here is this soldier, and he heard me ask somebody where the bus was to
59 Bagley Downs, and he came over, "Well, hello young lady I... I can help you?" [chuckles]

60 Anyway, I say, "Well, I'm sure if I come all the way from Mississippi [laughing] I should be able
61 to find the way to Bagley Downs." Oh he said, "No, that's fine too, but I don't mind helping
62 you," cus' of course I had my suitcase- you know. And uh, he says, "Well, I have nothing to do,
63 so I'll just ride on the bus." Anyway, he did. We got there to my aunt's place, and there was a
64 note on the door that said if they weren't there or anything to just knock on the door of the people
65 the next door down of the apartments and, uh, they would be sure to be there. So, I knocked on
66 the door and they said, "Oh, they're there, they don't go anywhere. She and her husband would
67 be home." And I just went back to knock a little harder, okay. But, it was kinda embarrassing
68 'cus here was this young lady - young girl - coming up from the South... With a soldier! [gasp]
69 Oh, my God! [laughs] And my uncle said, "Okay, well thank you, young man." [laughs] But I'm
70 thinking that poor auntie, I'm thinking, oh my God, what is she thinking? You know how that
71 goes, after all I was just a teenager, you know. Anyway, it was so funny. But anyway, then he
72 says, "Well, can I stop by to see you?" And of course I'm dumb, you know, I like to talk to
73 people. "Yeah, no problem, come by." [laughs] Anyway, so as soon as he was off work every
74 evening, he would catch the bus and he was right there. Well, see auntie and uncle were there,
75 and it was one of those little project apartments where, you know, the housing. And you just had
76 um... it was like a little living room, kitchen area and a bedroom, right, and that was it, see. So
77 you kinda, a little short area. And um, we would talk and talk - I enjoy talking, this is the bad
78 part. He was a good talker too, so we could talk about all kinds of things, it was interesting, the
79 World Fairs and everything, you know, I mean, that was just the way it was. And of course, my
80 aunt and uncle were there, so there you are - this is the deal. But then I had to do the dishes -
81 they cooked and then I did the dishes, right. So, he would sit there and yak with me while we
82 were doin' the dishes and what-have-you. And then, uh, my uncle would say, "Now, soldier, it's
83 nine o'clock. We have to go to work," because right away I got a job.

84 And she got the job with me, made sure that I got the job working with her... so that she
85 could keep track, you know, of everything. And that was good, because that was a protection. So
86 that was the situation, and then when the shipyard closed, that's when we moved here. She
87 bought that place. They bought that. But that's kinda, you know, how that worked.

88 But he, in the meantime, he had to go over seas, so - I laughed, it was so funny because,
89 the night that he got his orders and he had to leave, and he came by and then he said, we wanted

90 to go outside the door. 'Cus, every night at nine o'clock it was just, "okay, bye-bye!" {laughter}
91 you know, and he wanted to give me a kiss! Cus' he'd be gone for that long, so, that's what went
92 on. And he, you know, worried about whether or not I was gonna, you know, wait. You know
93 what I mean, you know how that stuff goes. And, so that's what happened.

94 And I laughed because, one time he asked to take me to a dance and that was fine, except
95 my uncle had to chaperone us. [Ms. Bradford holds up her hand and raises three fingers and
96 laughs.] So there was three of us that was going to the dance at the Hudson House, which was
97 kinda... The dance was held at a place where, um, the single men lived, you know, that didn't
98 have the wives with them. But then they had the hall there, so they could have entertainment,
99 dances and things. So that was kinda [whispering] the interesting part.

100 But then I came and then I went to PCC [Portland Community College]. And um, PCC
101 in 1964 offered their first college transfer class, where you could take certain classes at PCC in
102 certain subjects, you know it was a college, and any Oregon state higher institution would
103 recognize the classes if you passed. That was in 1964. But I'm jumping ahead of myself. But
104 talking about the schools. So then, I did take that and got an associate degree, and then went on
105 over and got a bachelors at Portland State. And then I went into teaching.

106

107 TT: *So you got your bachelors in education?*

108

109 PB: Uh huh, in education at Portland State. And then, um, I left my government job and went to
110 education, which took a little cut in pay really. But then while I was there, a few years later I
111 went to Portland... University of Portland to get the masters in education. I was older then 'cus I
112 was forty by the time I went into education. So, that's a little bit of the schools.

113

114 TT: *Do you mind me asking how long it was for your husband to come back from overseas?*

115

116 PB: Oh, it was about a little over a year, because the war was over then in '45, you see, and then,
117 of course he came back soon because he what did is reenlisted, if you reenlisted you got a chance
118 to come back to the states sooner. You had to reenlist for a year, but you didn't stay, you had to
119 still do your time, you know, so he ended up doing his time in Virginia, but we got married.

120

121 TT: *So you got married as soon as he got back?*

122

123 PB: Yeah, shortly after he got back, yeah. So, that was kinda interesting, but that's it. And um,
124 then um... [mumbles quickly reading off of the biography form] School attended, location,
125 graduation, degrees, okay told you about that. Occupations. Okay.

126 Well, yes young lady, after the war there was not very much to do, so I did all kinds of
127 jobs. You know, I mean, I mopped floors at Emmanuel Hospital. I washed, uh, hair at beauty
128 shops, where you do just the hair stuff. You know, you did the cleaning, the hair stuff, cleaning
129 all that stuff to be ready for... Cus' I worked at one of the buildings downtown there, and they had
130 a lot of, you know, operators, and so they had enough where they could hire somebody just to,
131 that was their whole job - just cleaning the utensils for the people. Then I worked at a bag
132 factory, where you just put the bags there and the thing swooped it up [motions a swooping
133 gesture with her arms] and took all the dust out of the croquet sacks and bring it down. I worked
134 at a, uh, spring deal where they - you know when your making the springs and you just stand
135 there at the line and just kinda guide the springs so it goes to the next thing. [Ms. Bradford is
136 describing her occupation at a mattress factory.] Just anything for extra money. I was a
137 dishwasher at restaurants, you know, all those kinda things for a long time.

138 In the mean time, I took the federal exam. But, you know back in those days, they had
139 your race on them and... I never got a call, I got the report, you know, the grade back and it was
140 quite high, but I never heard anything. I wasn't by myself, I found out later, but at the time, you
141 know. Anyway. Then, I think there must have been something in the federal law that came along
142 that said that the federal agencies were supposed to - it went off on ya. The federal agencies were
143 supposed to kinda, you know, be civil rights type thing, you know, for people. Anyway... then
144 one time, I was still I guess working at Emmanuel as a maid 'cus - mopping floors there you
145 know - and I got a call to go down into revenue. And they were hiring people, that time of
146 season, you know. They needed a lot of people to file and to uh, people who typed, to type - 'cus
147 this was before, automation was, at the time. Anyway... I started there, but when we got there -
148 and there were several other black ladies working there - we found out that they had been doing
149 this all the time. Those people they've been hiring them every year, they weren't even...

150 hadn't even passed any kinda test. But they just, see this is the way it was, but you see your race
151 was on your application. See, later on in time, they took race off for a long time, but at that time
152 it was so, you didn't get called. They just looked at it, if it was Black... forget it. [Ms. Bradford
153 gestures her hands open palm toward me as if she was pushing the air away.]

154 But anyway, stayed there until I got pregnant with my youngest daughter, and at that
155 time, you could not continue to work if you were pregnant. And you had no rights. You know
156 how [unclear] we come back with it, that time you didn't, so that means I stayed there until I left,
157 oh, about a few months before she was born. And then, um, what did I do then? I didn't take any
158 other jobs in between.

159 But, later on I got a job with the market news- down in that old Washington Building - as
160 a fiscal clerk, where you worked on storage charges. In other words, the grain was stored in the
161 warehouses and as they loaded it out, you had to figure how much money they had coming and it
162 was like on several points, so many decimals across. And this had to be done on seven bank
163 machines, or when we first got there they were so far behind some of us had to try do this by
164 hand, which it was kinda cute until they got enough machines for everybody. But that was part of
165 the job, you know. I stayed there for quite a number of years until automation. So, here I am
166 right along with automation. Automation came along and what happened with automation,
167 automation you only had twelve spots in the card, so everything had to be reduced to twelve.
168 {inaudible question} Well, twelve slots period. In other words, and the rates that we were paying
169 for the storage was over decimal point, maybe five or six characters over. And we, a lot of us had
170 turned in - how do you call it? - suggestions, 'cus you could get- you know, they want suggestions
171 and sometimes if they accepted a suggestion, you got a recommendation, or you got a little
172 stipend for it if it was accepted. A lot of people had turned in these deals. "Well, why can't we
173 lower this and then it wouldn't have take so long to do it?" You know... It would take an act of
174 Congress. Well, guess what? When they decided they were gonna try automation an act of
175 Congress took over. {chuckling} And they were reduced to be the point three and about three
176 spaces, okay. Anyway, and the machines that would do this were about as big as this room.
177 {Wow.} You know, that was the first parts of it. And then they moved, then they had to make
178 use of this, and so they closed the office here and moved it to Kansas City, that way they could
179 take stuff from different parts of the country, not just the west coast. So that was a displacement

180 of people for automation at that time, you know. That was part of it, anyway. The other group
181 that worked there at the time they went to St. Paul, Minnesota, the ones that did dairy and poultry.
182 This was just vegetables and grain.

183

184 PM: *Okay.*

185

186 PB: Okay, then I was home for a while. And then, I got this little job down at the U.S.
187 Courthouse as a market news reporter, half day. But my children were up then, you know,
188 getting into high school. So, I didn't have to pay as much for babysitter, because when I worked
189 half of my salary went to the babysitter. We both, you know, the baby sitter and me, we shared
190 my income. Mine. [Ms. Bradford pats her chest.] Anyway. Then, uh, let's see okay... Worked
191 at market news there.

192 And that's when the- 1964, when community college did that college transfer class; I saw
193 that in the paper. And after all, I was right down on Broadway and Main at work, and Shattuck
194 School was Portland State at that time. And, um, so Portland Community College anyway was
195 there, then so I went up there and took classes there. And then, you know, that turned on into
196 Portland State, and so, um, then I decided, okay, I'd go on, take the classes at - go on and get an
197 education, get a teacher's certificate, you know, education. And I did it deliberately, because it
198 was either that or work full time. But since I didn't have to pay babysitting and childcare
199 anymore by that time, you know, 'cus my husband worked a swing shift type, so he kept an eye
200 on the kids, very much so. [laughs] Anyway, that way, with the half-day, financially we came out
201 about the same. So it was either to go into work full time and maybe buy a new house or
202 something, or just go a head and get the education, and I was a little mad at my husband because
203 he had the GI Bill and he would not go back to school.

204

205 PM: *Oh, my goodness.*

206

207 PB: And you know how that was - he would take a little part time job at the Portland Hotel or
208 something - this is extra work now - instead of going on. He was very talented and very
209 intelligent, but, you know, they have their own ideas, you know {chuckles} What, you know?

210 [Ms. Bradford throws her hands up grinning.] Anyway, so he had time to do all this stuff... But
211 anyway, so I said if you won't I will get mine then, and [laughing] so I did and it was something
212 I'd been wanting to do for a long time, so I did, and that's what happened; I went to college there.

213 And then, when I graduated in '70, then that was this big decision. The job I had - they
214 really liked my work as a reporter there, and um... Then, the professors said "Wait a minute,
215 now. You've gotten your degree, you need to go into education. You need to go ahead and do it,
216 since you've taken it," you know. Another thing, while I was there, when I did the student
217 teaching, I insisted that I get my student teaching in Beaverton 'cus I wanted to find out what they
218 - at that time Beaverton supposedly had the best school district in the state. They paid the most
219 money and their students were doing really well. And so I thought, oh okay, what are they doing
220 out there? You know, 'cus after I...

221

222 PM: *Is that okay?* [Patrice fixes the monitor on her computer that is recordering Ms. Bradford.]

223

224 PB: Oh yeah, no problem. Because, you know, when my kids were in school I was active with
225 the PTA and all that kinda stuff and 4H, you know, doing all those things with the kids and what
226 have you. But I kept thinking what is it that they're doing out there that's different.

227

228 TT: *Where did your children go to school in Portland?*

229

230 PB: They went to Magdalene Heart, 'cus it was right down the street [chuckles], for grade school,
231 and then one of the daughters went to North Catholic 'cus that opened up about that time, '64.

232 And the other one when she got up, she went to Mary Crest. They had moved, moved my school.

233 {laughter} Here I had the high school, grade school here and high school next door, right. And
234 anyway, she went out there and then my son, he went to North Catholic most of the time until he
235 went back to live with my brother. But it was so interesting, you know, thinking... My husband
236 he was active with all of them, transporting. In fact, we laugh because we said that one car we
237 had, all it did was haul children around, {laughter} ours and everybody else's. [chuckles] That's
238 true, you know! You go through that phase of life when that's it, you're practically living in... It
239 decided to die on you or didn't it.

240 [Short interruption Patrice had to fix her computer screen so that it could keep recording Ms.
241 Bradford.]

242

243 PM: *I have to keep it bright.*

244

245 PB: Oh, okay, that's fine, that's all right. It's still, you're still hearing me hopefully.

246

247 PM: *Yes.*

248

249 PB: Okay, so that was part of it and you know, you are trying to be involved in things, but not as
250 much as you would be involved if you didn't have that going on. See raising a family was quite a
251 deal, and I did - the kids all were involved in a lot of activities, and dancing was one of the
252 activities, and so gosh... And then putting on plays, you know, like Oklahoma, South Pacific and
253 Westside Story and all that stuff, they put on in the parks and up in Washington park. Well, see
254 my daughter, Patricia, she was doing this with Mildred [Shoes!] and also doing some of the
255 choreography for them, you see. And then she was teaching a class, a tap and modern jazz class
256 out in Oregon City. So, on Saturdays, you can see what I mean, here like the car was [Ms.
257 Bradford gestures driving steering a car quickly then moves her hand like a car in a z figure] -
258 zoom zoom zoom zoom! - {laughter} back and forth several times, so that kinda kept you pretty
259 busy. So there were other things going on in the city that you were not involved in cus' there's a
260 limit, limited as to what you were involved in, but you were aware of a lot of what's going on,
261 you see.

262

263 PM: *May I interject?*

264

265 PB: Sure.

266

267 PM: *Okay... so going back to being involved - your involvement with the Tubman Club, NACW...*

268

269 PB: Okay, okay well.

270

271 PM: *I know you're going to get there eventually, but was there a driving force? Where your*
272 *children a driving force for you to become involved in those organizations?*

273

274 PB: What happened was the lady lived next door to me belonged to the Harriet Tubman Club,
275 Mrs. Conway. And she invited both Angie Britton and myself - the neighbors on either side of
276 her - to come visit the Harriet Tubman Club. These were older ladies, they were more or less in
277 her age. She was a little older than we were and they were interested in getting some younger
278 women involved, right. Good. Okay, so we did. But then, that was during the time when Deltas
279 and things like that had Jabberwocksⁱⁱ and things, you've heard about those type of things going
280 on. And so that was there, all good. But then of course Harriet Tubman, you know, they want
281 someone and I have a picture somewhere of - they had our children to represent their club in the
282 Delta's Jabberwock, [chuckles] and of course they came in third or something like that, you
283 know, for the deal. But then, I was so impressed with those ladies. They were so concerned all
284 the time about each other, about the neighbors, you know. If someone was sick, they would make
285 sure that someone was gonna go over and maybe clean the house for them or fix some meals for
286 them, you know. That just seemed to be the concern they had for them, and I had... And meeting
287 with them, I didn't hear a lot of negative talk about things, you know, people. They would talk
288 about, you know, things in the community and what have you, but it was more or less an uplifting
289 type thing. And for me, that was something else, 'cus after all I hadn't been involved in any clubs
290 as a kid, except the little sodality, you know, your little church type thing, but as far as other type
291 clubs, I hadn't been involved in. They were just - I just admired them. Of course, they put you,
292 pardon me, they put you to work right away. {chuckling} As soon as you got in there. But that's
293 how I got involved with the Harriet Tubman Club and I did, um, I do have a picture here of the
294 Harriet Tubman Club and you can see what I said about the older ladies and you can tell right
295 there. [Ms. Bradford brings out an old black and white photo of the Harriet Tubman Club
296 members around the time she joined.]

297

298 TT: *Do you mind naming the women in the photo?*

299

300 PB: I can't name them all, but I can tell you this. This was Ms. Anna Sheppard, Mrs. Randolph,
301 Avel Gordly's grandmother. [naming bottom row to top row, left to right] {Oooo!} {laughter}
302 And this is me. And I'm trying to - this was Mrs. Johnson, I think, that - you know they always
303 talk about Tom Johnson - you know, he owned a lot of property and stuff years ago. Well, maybe
304 you never heard about him, anyway that was his sister. And this Mrs. Leftridge, Mrs. Britton,
305 Angie Britton, Viola Morgan [Martinⁱⁱⁱ], I can't remember these two ladies' name... Wait a
306 minute now, did I get her mixed up? You know, suddenly these two ladies look a lot alike, this
307 one [pointing to the woman second to last on the top row] is Johnson, and this lady [pointing to
308 the first woman on the top row], can't think of her name now, and this one [pointing to the last
309 women on the top row], she hadn't been there too long and she left around, at that particular time
310 and I don't know [Balsiger^{iv}] could have took that photograph, I don't know what year that was.

311

312

313 TT: *Wow, so this was the entire, this was the Portland chapter of the...*

314

315 PB: No, that was just Harriet Tubman. Now, wait a minute, remember Harriet Tubman Club was
316 just one, at that time there were sixteen clubs. It was the Oregon Association of Colored
317 Women's Clubs, okay. And during those times, that was the main issue going, you had all kinds,
318 you had the Altruistic, Literary Research, Multnomah Women, Kwanzans - just a whole group of
319 them, okay. Because with that, any group could get together and form a club around the interest
320 they were in, but then they would still join the state and then the region and then the national.
321 Now this national is a part of the National Association of Colored Woman's Clubs, that's the
322 oldest Black women's organization in the world really. 'Cus that started in 1896 after the call
323 came out in 1895. So there's a lot of history on that, you know, and you can look... Mary Church
324 Terrell^v was the first one. But here in Oregon, the first president was Gray, her name was Gray,
325 her last name. Katherine Gray. Those women were always active in doing all types of things, but
326 different groups had different things, you know.

327 Now the, let's see... [Ms. Bradford is reading quickly from the biography form]

328 Occupations, school attended, okay, occupations, positions held, I've given you little bit of that...

329 'Cus I did go to teach at Peninsula Elementary School in North Portland and I stayed there my

330 entire teaching time. I taught kindergarten for about eight years there. And then I told you then I
331 went to University of Portland took parts, was gonna take a whole year, didn't get the whole year,
332 cus' I couldn't get any body to take my classes at the school. But I took most of the time off for
333 that year and I got the masters. And then, I left that position and went into the position - it was
334 called special assignment, but what it was, it was like the assistant principal. So you had all of
335 the discipline and all of the, everything. So you know, the kids and the parents out there just
336 considered me the vice principal. 'Cus it had been a K-8 school before it went into year around.
337 Now it was year around the whole time, I was there when it started and it was still year around
338 when I left. This particular year, this year, they're not year around anymore - this new coming
339 year. But prior to that. And that's a long time, because I retired in what - was it 89'? I mean,
340 yeah. Yeah, twenty years ago.

341 [Pause]

342 [Ms. Bradford grins and throws her hands up, laughs] {laughter}

343 Anyway, yeah. Well, but that, uh... So that was what I did then. But see prior to that
344 you heard the all of the other jobs I had, you know, as a truck reporter when I was with the
345 Market News. In fact, during the first two or three summers, I still went back and relieve the
346 people at the Market News, 'cus they kept thinking that I was gonna change my mind and stop
347 teaching and come back out there. [laughs] Oh, golly, but it was kinda interesting. It was
348 worthwhile. I worked like a slave though, you know, 'cus I kept thinking... you know, we had to
349 somehow or another get things across to the kids.

350

351 TT: *Why did you choose Kindergarten?*

352

353 PB: That was what was - see in those days, they assigned you.

354

355 TT: *Okay.*

356

357 PM: *You had no choice?*

358

359 PB: Yeah. What would happen is, you didn't have to go - See nowadays, it's completely
360 different, because the teachers go to the different schools and the schools have committees and
361 things that interview and pick them. At that time, you got hired at the school district and you
362 were sent to a school. In other words, if a principal needed a primary teacher or what have you or
363 upper grade teacher, the school district administration did all of the hiring and they sent the
364 person and unless something was wrong with them, they stayed there. 'Cus principals change too,
365 you know, as teachers do and all of that. So, when I, okay that... So then when I retired, I just
366 didn't do anything else as far as, just spent more and more time with all this volunteer junk.

367

368 TT: *And that's when you got into it?*

369

370 PB: [chuckles] Oh, volunteer?

371

372 TT: *Oh, I was just checking.*

373

374 PB: Well, see, I got involved with neighborhood associations, you know, a little bit of that, and
375 some how another one thing leads to another, you know. You get put on this committee, you get
376 put on that committee and you get put on that committee, and the next thing you know you got
377 yourself spread out all over everywhere.

378 But you also, at the same time, fighting - you're making sure that when you are on these
379 committees that you were speaking up for fairness to people. And it was amazing because
380 sometimes, you know, just being a minority in the room when decisions are made would affect
381 what was said, believe it or not. Sometimes they'd forget it. And you have to remind them. see.
382 You know how it is, you get used to people being around, and you just forget that maybe they're
383 representing someone else, and let your hair down? They do that too. [chuckles] So what
384 happens is, that would be the thing and you try to get people involved, but you know how it is, it
385 is awful hard to get to get folks to come to things and I know why. What happens is, first we stay
386 busy and all that, and then other things, they feel like their voices are not being heard, you know
387 what I mean. And we have to remember to is - I laugh about it sometimes, in a way - I said, okay
388 so you have seven people there that has a voting power and you're one person a vote, your never

389 gonna get to win it. The only thing you can do is remind them of the issues, and sometimes when
390 you remind them of the issues, that slows them down. But if you sit there and be quiet, you can
391 forget it. You know what I mean? You do have to speak up sometimes, and you have to choose
392 the way to speak up. Sometimes you get it done by being very tactful, or hitting from a different
393 angle. Or, and you better know - it's best to know what the whole thing is based on. You know,
394 why they have you there in the first place. Sometimes you're there because they need you to say
395 they have minority representation! [chuckles] So you have to kinda use that to your advantage.
396 And it does help, but I don't know. Now, over time - I'm trying to think of what could be
397 relevant here...

398 You know, the urban renewal stuff that is going on. The first deal was - now the first
399 one, after all, was down there where Portland State is. But, I keep telling those people, there was
400 a difference, those people were Italians mainly. But Italians are Caucasians and they could still
401 move into any part of the city that they want to, and they could start a new business anywhere
402 they wanted to, and they would get support from that community. And they could get credit.

403 You see, the problem with African Americans here in Portland - 'cus after all, you know
404 they wanted to send everybody back anyway after the war, let's face it, that was no secret. Even
405 the, um, what do you call it - even officials and stuff, they were all into that, they wanted them all
406 to go home, you know. Well, you could not get credit, so the businesses that were started more or
407 less, most of them were started out of the people's own savings. It just happened that the wartime
408 allowed people to save because there was nothing to buy, you were working seven days a week,
409 and stuff was rationed. So unless you just threw your money away when you got through
410 working in the shipyard or one of those, whatever job you had, you had a chance to accumulate a
411 little wealth, moneywise, right. So, if you decide to start a business, you started with your own
412 and whatever business - if you was, how you say, a good businessperson, you accumulated some,
413 right. So, you ended up - and since it was so segregated with all these little signs, about "we cater
414 to white trade only" and all those things that were around, you know, and if you went to the
415 Egyptian Theatre^{vi} down there you had to go onto the second floor. You know, all that kind of
416 stuff see.

417 So... you ended up with the businesses down there where the Memorial Coliseum is, and
418 also all down Williams Avenue and Vancouver and all down there. You had all kinds of

419 businesses for everything you needed, from, um, hat shops to dress shops, shoe shops, people
420 who make, who repaired everything, dry cleaning. You had all that type of business, all kinds of
421 businesses, right. Grocery stores and what have you. But, you paid cash for it, because the banks
422 would not let you have credit. And of course, the grocery, the wholesale houses, they didn't give
423 you any credit either, you paid for it.

424 Well, when they moved everybody out of the Memorial, first place, it moved a lot of
425 customers away. Some people left the city. The businesses that were there had to close down,
426 and that type of deal, but where were they gonna go? First place, you go over to start a new
427 business, you gotta have some money and you need some credit, and your customers are gone.
428 You got to build up a whole new clientele. And that is one thing, I feel like the business, Black
429 business community has not recovered from any of that. See, and then to knock it off, the rest of
430 it - 'cus they were all mainly lined up, even though they lived all over the city, most of them were
431 in this area. And so, you ended up with constantly clients being moved away with the freeways,
432 and then even the school district. It was over here on 6th street in a little building and then
433 suddenly it moved over there and took those people - that's where the main headquarters are,
434 there. [Portland Public Schools District in now located on Dixon St.] Yeah, okay that area had
435 people in it, and a lot of black people and they owned their property, a lot of them. Okay. So,
436 that's um... There where the coliseum is, there were little restaurants and shops and stuff all the
437 way down, would be Weidler now, from the bridge on. And that's why, when they did that,
438 doing of the coliseum deal, they left that fifty feet there. You know, where the parking lot,
439 parking structure, between the parking structure and the street, they left fifty feet there -
440 theoretically, supposedly, that that was going to be rebuilt into a shopping areas and businesses
441 and stuff, 'cus after all, it had been at one time, right, you see. That never -they've never done
442 that, right. So that's kinda the way that part hit, okay.

443 Now in the meantime, you had the NAACP and Urban League. The Urban League more
444 or less worked toward getting jobs for people and a few things like that, because they were
445 considered less threatening to the power structure. The NAACP was the one that if something
446 was going wrong you would go to NAACP to get some relief, or even just the threat of the
447 NAACP was gonna be out there, whether it was picketing or whether it was filing a lawsuit or
448 what have you. Okay, so those were the things that kinda helped to do things.

449 But then it turned around, you ended up with the gangs coming in, see that kinda messed
450 up some things. And that came in, you know, we are on this highway between California and
451 Seattle. This town has always been an open type town in a way, if you think about it. Because
452 it's a seaport, in the seaport, and it was logging all around on the outside, so you had people
453 always - especially the men - coming into town to have a good time. Now Dorothy - one of our
454 mayors^{vii} - and now this is scandalous but I will say it {laughter} - she cleaned up the town. She
455 closed down all the houses that they had, you know. But guess what? There's unintended
456 consequences. They went to the street and that's what ended up messing up our neighborhoods.
457 Because here you still have these folks coming in from the country and the sea and from on the
458 highway, you still have these folks doing it, right. So, except the high class ones - you know the
459 one with money, they still have hotels and all that stuff, you know. That never bothered the ones
460 with the money, heavy money. But, then so they started street hustling, going on. And it was bad
461 enough with the hustlers, but it was rough on the regular people who were not interested. You
462 couldn't walk down the street without somebody pestering you or saying something to you or
463 looking for it. And this would happen to girls. So, those are just kinda some things that
464 happened, you know. You observe as you sit back and listen to some of this stuff.

465 And of course, we have always tried to be active with this. When Reverend Jackson [an
466 activist in the Black United Front] was cross the street over here at Mount Olive [Baptist Church.]
467 He was very active man and later Ron Herndon [an activist in the Black United Front], they tried
468 their best to try to improve things around. If something was happening they would go to city
469 council of wherever, you know, to do it. But we don't have quite that much activism going on
470 right now. And we retreated a little bit because, for one while we had two or three Black city
471 council people, you know. I don't know what all happened. The one just died, Dick Bogle^{viii}, but
472 you had Charles Jordan^{ix} and what have you. See, now there was another thing that went on
473 during this time that I don't know a lot about because, at the time this was going on I was busy
474 going to school, remember, and working and kids still. But they did a lot of work with the
475 poverty program, the one that they did in the Northeast.

476

477 PM: *Was it the Black Panthers?*

478

479 PB: No, the poverty. [Analog recorder tape stops.] It filled up, I've already filled up your tape.
480 See how much talking I've done? {laughter} Oh, girl!

481 I've just tried to be as honest as possible, so you... {more laughter} And this is my point
482 of view, there are people who have different ideas and different points of view, but my whole
483 deal is that sooner or later some day if you keep working at it, it will change. But it's not gonna
484 change by itself. I'll tell you that. And really the main way to get, for things to change is for a lot
485 of us to be involved in things and show up, even though you may feel like you have wasted your
486 time.

487

488 PM: *You said earlier even that sometimes just by being in the room you would influence the*
489 *decision making.*

490

491 PB: That's right, that's right. And see, you will be criticized for being there and they think - by
492 your own people - by saying that you're not doing nothing. You know what I mean? But the
493 idea is that if you can get as many, the more the better, that's the idea. Because everyone had
494 their own talents, you know. Some people can speak real well, some people can think real fast,
495 and some people have a sense of humor and say the right thing at the right time. [Giggling] You
496 know what I mean. And some people have contacts, you know, from the old time, when the
497 people would be sitting in the room and they knew everything that was going on downtown. But
498 nobody thought they did, because after all they were supposed to be just invisible people. It
499 didn't mean that that mind was blank, they thought just as well as the next person. Okay, now I
500 guess I'll listen to your questions. I've given you enough information.

501

502 PM: *Well, I had a question, just to focus a little bit on the Civil Rights era. So I'm talking about*
503 *the time form about to 1950 to 1967, between that time. You said you were going to work and*
504 *various jobs, you started in the shipyard post war but after that you were kinda doing odd jobs...*

505

506 PB: That's right because jobs were scarce. First place, jobs were scarce for everybody, that's true,
507 but especially jobs were scarce for African Americans, you know, minorities. Just let's just face
508 it. So and you still didn't have any credit, and even when you pay cash for something you think

509 you got credit 'cus you spend a lotta money at the store and they know who you are. Guess what?
510 You don't have any credit! I will have to tell you, this is funny. When my auntie and them
511 moved over there, they finished the whole house, right. [Cohn^x] Brothers was right on the corner
512 of MLK and Hancock there, right in that building. And we spent a lot of money, and I'd spent
513 two hundred and some dollars for my own bedroom set, 'cus I had to pay for my room, the set, the
514 furniture in my room. They bought the furniture for the rest of the house. And so, then I bought
515 a house and I went and I thought I'd like to open an account, 'cus I got a house and I need a little
516 furniture. [Ms. Bradford says rolling her eyes.] And they said, "Oh no, we don't have any account
517 here." I said, "Well, we spent all this money." "Nope, you don't have no account here." That
518 was the way it was.

519

520 PM: *Do you think that that forced a lot of people to have relationships with Korean or Oriental*
521 *storeowners or maybe Greek storeowners?*

522

523 PB: At that time, it depended on who – 'cus you know there's a tendency sometimes for minorities
524 to, for other minorities to look at us as a minority as not the thing to do, and the reason for that is
525 because when minorities come into this country from other places, even African Americans, I
526 mean Africans, they are looking to go where there is wealth. And if they don't think there's any
527 wealth in that community, the tendency is not - if they can make money there, that's fine, but they
528 still have that arms length thing. [PM: *Gotcha.*] If you see what I mean. And it's because it's the
529 basis for our country. You know, in other words, if you want to build wealth or you want to learn
530 how to do something real well, you go find the person who's done something real well. And
531 when they look at us... [PM: *What have you done?*] Yeah, no matter - sometimes it backfires on
532 them, but that's just the way it happens, you know.

533

534 PM: *So what was the climate around the city during that time? So people didn't have jobs, they*
535 *were doing odd jobs if they could get them. What was the climate like while things were going on*
536 *in the South - they were marching and having sit-ins, what was happening here?*

537

538 PB: Oh, during that time? Here, they weren't doing the marching or anything that I can recall,
539 they were just supporting the people down there. See, 'cus technically here, supposedly you were
540 free to go anywhere. Technically, you know what I mean, and there were a few people that
541 challenged some of these places that - how do you call it, that didn't serve or didn't wanna - but
542 they'd go in and sit for a long time and occupy the places, you know. And they did it, but it was
543 not dramatic, 'cus there weren't that many people here to do it, and it was a bigger city. And I
544 know one lady was talking about how they had gone down to a couple of places and just sat there.
545 The people didn't wait on them so they just sat there. See, they were very selective here, as I
546 recall, see. They didn't confront you, they just - in other words, if you came in for dinner or
547 something, and they served everybody else all around you and kinda ignored you. That type of a
548 thing.

549

550 TT: *So, at that time, do you know how did white people react? Because you described how the*
551 *NAACP and the NACW and other groups, when they started kind of helping the community, and*
552 *all of this displacement and different things were going on. How did white people react when*
553 *that social organizing kinda started to happen?*

554

555 PB: They were believing what was said to them by the realtors and, I imagine, banks, and
556 indirectly by what the city was doing in a way, because they kinda helped this mess along. They
557 were kind of, you know, just kinda ignoring you a little bit, but not doing anything for it. They
558 gave lip service to it. You know how you can say lip service to something, and then make
559 promises that don't get kept.

560

561 PM: *So, while somebody's watching, "Oh well we'll do this?"* [Chuckles]

562

563 PB: Oh yeah, but as I said now, the fact that we got to those city council members during that
564 little time, that was kind of a really, you know, a step up. For a while, it was thought that
565 Portland was kinda progressive in a lot of things. For instance, when it came around to wanting
566 to name Union MLK, that was all - well before when they wanted to name a street after Martin
567 Luther King, at first they were trying to do the one over town, but you know that went nowhere.

568 And then when they came over to do Union, there was all kinds of fighting up about that. Some
569 of the businesses changed their address to the side street because they didn't want that. It was
570 unreal. And they came up with all kinds of excuses about the historical name of Union.
571 [chuckles] And the thing about it is I recall, I was looking on an Albina plot from, you know from
572 way back when, and that street as far as I could see on there was Margareta. You know, but I
573 mean they came up with all kinds of stuff, you know. It was a fight just to get that. And some of
574 them they just never did - you know, they still talk about it. So that's why when they were
575 talking about Rosa Parks, it was a good thing he went through and did it right away, because if it
576 had gone through the other, it would have not have made it. Just like Chavez, you see what I
577 mean. You know, I was thinking, ugh, my goodness gracious... And then China town, I thought,
578 oh my God. [laughs] I thought, well wait a minute Chinatown, yeah you were down there, but
579 wait a minute, that is also where they had all those Blacks down there, you know. That is where
580 the railroad people came in and they had the hotels, and I remember Mom's Chilly Bowl being
581 down there on 3rd Avenue and all those kinda streets. There were [laughing,] that wasn't just
582 China... It's just that - see, there always was a problem with this whole thing.

583 African Americans were more American than anything else, really. So, you did not have
584 a country that you could say, okay, my home country is - what do you call it - Tanzania. Or my
585 home country is Ghana. And they have an Embassy or somebody that can check up on... Well,
586 we're the only - except for the Native Americans - we're the only ones that didn't have that. And
587 then, to tell you the truth, when you come from the South, let's face it, I would be hard pressed to
588 find one African American that is strictly African. There's no such thing. Through those years,
589 there were so much mixing going on. Definitely, see, all kinds of ways. It was just like in
590 wartime, you know, in wartime. The invaders always mix up a certain amount with the people
591 that are there. That's how come we got so many of these little Korean, we got so many of these
592 Vietnamese kids. Some of them came back, some of them didn't. Men are men. Even though
593 they gave them condoms, they left plenty of babies. No matter where they go. And the South
594 was no different.

595 You have to remember, when we think about America, we have to think about the fact,
596 now who settled America? Who did settle America? Some people came over because they were
597 adventurous, but when they were trying to colonize the Americas, remember they sent over a lot

598 of people out of prisons and things. They sent over all the misfits and things from Europe. So,
599 you had a variety of folks, good and bad mixed in. And that's why it was so bad up in the early
600 days, you know, with the witch-hunts and all that kinda stuff. And some of that stuff kinda
601 trickles down in some ways for some people.

602

603 TT: *What do you mean by that?*

604

605 PB: It all depends on what their family have told them. Because my feeling is this - the reason
606 that you don't get, sometimes the Caucasians have a hard time accepting black people as equals is
607 because they have been told or taught so well that they weren't, and so much of a effort was put
608 in to tell them that they were not. And it's awfully hard to feel like what your parent or your
609 respected person told you was wrong. That's awfully hard to accept. So, we have generations to
610 go before it's universally accepted. You see what I'm saying? [TT: *Yeah.*] And that, and so you
611 ran into all those kinds of people. But there's always a few that have a very good conscience and
612 are educated enough in their minds. Now, I mean, 'cus after all there are some real educated
613 people that are plain... {Laughter} Plain, plain, plain, plain... [laughing] You know how I mean?
614 [grinning] How should I say, they are completely off, but, you know what I am saying – so, that
615 all varies according to what they can think.

616

617 TT: *Who were those here, as far as allies, because there is such a small black population here.*
618 *You know, were there allies in the white community?*

619

620 PB: There always were some, you know like the Friends – what is it, that's that group that doesn't
621 believe in war, you know what I'm talking about.

622

623 TT: *The Amercian Friends Service Committee?*

624

625 PB: Pardon me?

626

627 TT: *The American Friends Service Committee.*

628

629 PB: Maybe that's what it is, but you know the Quakers, that group and some of those that were
630 always there to support you, you know. And then there were always some well thinking White
631 folks. There's always been. After all we wouldn't have made that Civil Rights thing if there
632 hadn't been. You know, I keep telling people that you know after all, there were a lot of white
633 folks that died in the Civil Rights Movement. And there were a lot of them that were kicked out
634 from their towns and cities because they sided with the Blacks. So you have... It has to be that,
635 'cus a small group could not do that. But it just depends. After all if... I don't know... See,
636 what had made it so rough was that people tried to - how do you call it - justify slavery from the
637 Bible. See, and that a distortion of Christianity. And I hope some day that somebody will have a
638 slavery museum in the Smithsonian. [Phone Rings]

639 You can stop that for a second if you want. [Tape recorder is paused. While Ms.
640 Bradford is talking on the phone, the digital recorder is left recording because Patrice was not
641 sure if stopping the recorder would erase the interview.]

642

643 PB: Where was I?

644

645 PM: *You were hoping that there was a slavery exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum.*

646

647 PB: Yeah. Yeah, because I think if they ever do it, and usually when they do something they do
648 it right, all the way through. Because the slavery that, my feeling, that the slavery that was in this
649 country was different than any slavery in history. Because most of the times, the slaves were
650 where you conquered a country and you made them slaves for a while, but you realized that they
651 were people you know. But there were things done in this country for slavery, the idea was to
652 dehumanize, break up families, do every thing that you could so that there would be no... no
653 recovery. No matter what. And I don't think that most people understand that. You know. I
654 don't think... Have you heard that before?

655

656 TT: *I... yeah... I feel that most people don't understand it as well, like today.*

657

658 PB: You see what I am saying. And I think, just like the Holocaust, you know, that's kept up on
659 all the time now. [chuckling] Slavery needs to be, because I think, because it will take something
660 deep like that to have people who still do not believe that their parents, their grandparents, their
661 great grandparents were wrong, to understand why. And it won't be coming from us. [Ms.
662 Bradford pats her chest several times.] It would be coming from an independent historical fact.
663 You see what I am saying. So that't, I won't live to ever see it but, anyway. Hopefully, you kids
664 will. [laughs]

665

666 PM: *Do you remember when Martin Luther, Dr. Martin Luther Kings came to town?*

667

668 PB: I remember when he came to town a couple of times, but I didn't get to see him.

669

670 PM: *Okay. Do you know what kind of impact that had on the city as far as maybe energizing*
671 *people?*

672

673 PB: It energized, it always energized the groups, the people who were bringing him here and the
674 people who he was speaking with. But now you know, that when he was pushing all of this stuff,
675 you've got to remember, you also had people who didn't feel like he was doing anything, you
676 know how I mean. {Laughter} You've got – [lauging] I'm sorry, you wanted me to be honest with
677 you – there was [inaudible] that wouldn't make any difference. After all, all those times the years
678 before - and then the non-violent part... That took a lot of discipline. That... Gandhi was his
679 idol, you know, that's who he patterned it after. But, there is that almost instinctive, want to fight
680 back, you know, but the idea to see that non-violently you can actually win. But, look at how
681 many people had to suffer and die, and see that's why I was saying that there were white people
682 that died then too. So, you know, you always have some good people, some awful people. And it
683 isn't that all black people are good, now remember. Look at Africa, they're fighting among
684 themselves all the time. But a lot of that is still the, um - some of it is the effects of colonialism,
685 but some of it was just natural. When there is a shortage of wealth, he who has the wealth attracts
686 those who don't have it. And different ways, to get some for themselves or to take it all, it
687 doesn't matter, you know, that's how come you have wars all the time, you still have wars, in

688 other words. 'Cus that was the way to do it. I go over and take all your gold and silver and stuff
689 and bring it, that's mine and my family. The heck with you.

690

691 TT: *Well, I wanna jump back a bit just 'cus you know being students from PSU we've learned a*
692 *lot about the history, you know, of Portland State as well as African American students at*
693 *Portland State. How was it for you being at PCC in Shattuck Hall in 1964?*

694

695 PB: Oh it was fine, 'cus let me tell ya - during that time, the kids in the class were, most of them
696 were um, what do you call it, trying to get out of the war. They probably, some at least at the
697 community college level, they were practically all young boys. Now, remember I was not a
698 young person then. I would have been in my thirties, see. So, I'm the old woman. And the old
699 woman is bringing up the grade curve. {Everybody laughs.} Now, you guys know what that's
700 like. But, you know, after all I'm there to go to school, get my work done. And after all, going
701 like I was, going from work and there and then to home, I didn't have a lot of any activities. I
702 wasn't on campus you know like you kids are, see. My deal would be to come, go to class, do
703 what I had to do, get back, and that was it. So, it was interesting. And see, it was kinda new 'cus,
704 think about, if you could kinda look back, there weren't too many older women going back to
705 school then. I think I was the, almost the first in this neighborhood that did that. Later on, there
706 were more starting, because then some of them started getting a little government help to do it,
707 you know. But, I remember having to speak a couple of times with some groups to try to tell
708 them, yeah, you can do it, you know, get back and go ahead. But, I was going, told you why I
709 was going.

710 And I always loved... Told you that my husband and I were yak, yak, yak, what were we
711 yakking about? We were yakking about everything going on in the world, we'd read newspapers
712 and stuff, we bringing everybody up to date [laughs]. And some people, I know my aunt and
713 uncle probably thought we were terrible. {Everybody laughs.} Oh, golly...

714

715 PM: *So, I remember speaking with you over the phone, you mentioned some things about the*
716 *changing neighborhood and what happened, and I have three questions that I'll ask that, you can*
717 *answer in any which way. How was the change in the race affected you neighborhood? What*

718 *would you liked to see changed within your community present day? And with all of the work*
719 *that you are doing with the Northeast redevelopment, do you see that as a vehicle for changing,*
720 *to bring about the change that's needed in the neighborhood? Because I know that they are*
721 *meeting with the MLK, Convention Center, Interstate, those are the main programs that they're*
722 *trying to make nice on?*

723

724 PB: Okay. [laughs] Let's see when I moved, we moved here, there were, pretty... It was a kind
725 of a mixed neighborhood when we first got in, you know. There were still white families around,
726 but they were mostly older families, older people, right. So either, some of them stayed until they
727 died, but a lot of them moved because the realtors, realtors make money when they sell property,
728 right. So they had a good way of saying, 'you better get rid of it now because these folks are
729 moving in and your property value is gonna go down! So you'd better hurry up and sell your
730 property.' Now, what they didn't say, which never came out of all this stuff, you didn't hear, they
731 were not giving their property away. They were selling their property for a good price, because,
732 guess what? They had a captive audience. The people couldn't buy anything anywhere else,
733 pretty much. So, whatever they asked, you had to pay if you wanted it. Right? So, here they
734 could sell an older place and go buy a newer place, probably with the same thing. You see? But
735 the realtors, their whole deal, you know, using that, and the banks, of course they are going to
736 loan them money to buy out there, right. So they were all making money. So pretty soon, if you
737 moved in, maybe two or three of you in there, give it a couple of years or so, almost everybody
738 would be black.

739 Now, all of a sudden, I think because of the land boundaries, you know, urban
740 boundaries, and land is scarce, and all of the sudden the property inside of the city is very
741 valuable. And they discovered the older houses are very valuable because they were built with
742 good wood and stuff, you know, and all of that. And thinking on the model of San Francisco,
743 alright, so people had came in and ah! Well, maybe they sold their property in California,
744 California was more expensive, right, and they come down here and they find the price is fairly
745 cheap considering. And 'oh, I can buy that and do it all over and still have money from what I did
746 back there.' So, that all helped the gentrification thing going on. But, and so what happens is,
747 some people that were renting - 'cus some people had rented these houses for twenty-five and

748 thirty years, stayed in the same place. Had no reason not to, because the people, they did their
749 own wallpapering and everything else in it, you know, and painted it, you know, kept it all inside
750 beautifully. Well, they first didn't know the, and don't let 'em - the person who owned it died,
751 then the family would say 'oh, well, I gotta to have my money now,' so they took the money. So,
752 you were gone, out the door. And then some people just decided, 'well, I can take this money and
753 I can go back South and I can buy more and have some money left.' So, all those things came in
754 to make a difference.

755 And now the people who sold out and left, most likely they couldn't come back here if
756 they wanted to, because they couldn't afford it. And that has been a pretty bad deal because so
757 many of the families that have a lot of children, you know, that really should be able to come
758 back and have a piece of the stake are gone. And that's the sad part about it, because I was just
759 thinking, if I look down the neighborhood now, who do I have here up on Hancock that's left?
760 [Ms. Bradford points toward the window] Sonia, the one lady right down the street here, and she
761 - her property, that was her parents' property. You go down that next block, there may be some
762 people renting there, but the owners, the owners is just, all completely, blacks gone. Dean's
763 Barber shop, and I think they own the house next door to it, but that's about it, see. There was a
764 Chase, those houses on the corner there down there, right down there. Gone. This is true even on
765 Stanton where I was. They've done a lot of building and what have you, but I think of ownership
766 there now - one, two people, two black people still own something over there. But the value of
767 the stuff is going up, up, up! And so, that's the way that is. Now, what was the other question?
768 [lightly chuckles] 'Cus I'm really rambling here.

769

770 PM: *What would you like to see change, because do you think that the meetings that they are*
771 *having at the Elks lodge^{xi} is a vehicle for that change?*

772

773 PB: [Laughs]

774

775 PM: [Laughs]

776

777 PB Hahaha! Not unless they are going to give them some money to buy some of this. Well, what
778 I'd like - for some of those people over there that have not been completely displaced, maybe it
779 might slow it down some so that a few stay. Or maybe a little education gets around to some of
780 them, that it's valuable and they put the effort and money into it. A few that's left. But you know
781 how it is when everything is gone and just a little bit left. That's the deal, see. But - well,
782 naturally I'd like to see the neighborhood more diverse, I just feel that way, you know.

783 And the other thing that I keep telling these folks - you know when people come in from
784 out of state, they think, 'oh, this was all run down and how those people didn't care and they
785 didn't take care of it.' See, I get upset when people do that, because they didn't realize what the
786 people were going through just to keep the property where it was, 'cus if they had left it vacant, it
787 would have been all rotted and it wouldn't have been there in the first place. But, first place,
788 couldn't get credit. Right? Okay. Didn't have the jobs to pay the high price of stuff, to do too
789 much, and did what they could to keep it up as best they could. So, now instead of, instead of
790 saying, 'well I'm glad that they kept it up so I could buy it,' they're 'all these people, I don't know
791 what they did. Oh they just, ugh, it was just a mess.' That's the part I don't like. And that's the
792 part I'd like to see change. I'd like the people coming in to recognize the struggle that the people
793 had keeping it up to where it was. And to recognize that if there hadn't of been for some of those
794 people in the neighborhood working on knocking out redlining, they would not have been able to
795 go to the bank and get a loan to buy there, in here now. But it was from - and it did not get done
796 by other people, it was done by the people in the neighborhood. The same ones that they would
797 look down on. And that's an educational situation and I don't know how it will ever get out, but
798 that's something that they need to know, because we did not get...

799 I worked with POP, Portland Organizing Project^{xii}, to get the redlining knocked out. And
800 that did not get done until we were able to use that Community Reinvestment Act^{xiii} to its fullest.
801 To threaten that we were going to file against the US Bank when they wanted a visa card. Now,
802 since then, they have changed in Washington the Community Reinvestment Act. See, every time
803 you move up a little bit, then something comes to snatch you back a little bit.

804

805 PM: *Whoa!* [Laughs]

806

807 PB: You see what I mean. And that's the thing that people have to be constantly fight and aware
808 of, you know, okay. But anyway, so that was one group that I did do a lot of volunteering with.
809 And that was a church group. Portland Organizing Project. It was made up of religious churches,
810 but they were using the model from Chicago, the South Shore type thing.

811

812 PM: *So, not to pry too much into your personal beliefs, but you mentioned that your children*
813 *went to Magdalene Heart; you guys are Catholic family.*

814

815 PB: Yeah, that's, well... Technically if you are Catholic and you have children, the old school
816 deal was that you were supposed to send your kids to Catholic School if it was financially
817 possible and that was.

818

819 PM: *Okay. But, were you familiar with the church that started out in the Vanport area and kinda*
820 *grew in its membership. I'm drawing a blank right now. We saw an exhibit on...*

821

822 TT: *Oh, Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church.*

823

824 PB: Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church, yeah that's just across - that lady that called me, one of
825 them was a very staunch member [Ms. Bradford grabs her shirt which muffles the microphone for
826 a second,] in that church there, girl. She even, they did that hundred year deal and she even
827 bought me one of these big books! You know, from Vancouver Avenue. Yeah.

828

829 PM: *Do you remember doing work with them? Because I know they did a lot of activist work*
830 *during the Civil Rights, you know, and had people coming in...*

831

832 PB: I'm trying to remember. Now, the Lutheran, I'm trying to think, remember whether... I think
833 maybe at the tale end of it they joined. They kinda came in with POP, but POP was strictly
834 religion at the time when it was operating. Now, it's called an area something, you know. They
835 kinda went outta business and there's another group that has replaced it. The one that goes -

836 pardon me - and fight for, oh umm, all kinds of rights, worker's rights and things like that. Area
837 Organizing, but I think they have the unions in it and everything else.

838

839 TT: *Jobs with Justice?*

840

841 PB: They are kinda out growth with that, from that you know. But it's that other group, what is
842 it... Oregon Area Organizing, oh shoot I can't think of... can't get the name together. But,
843 Portland Organizing Project was consisted of various churches and the churches ended up
844 financing it, because each church that joined it would assess a certain amount of money to pay the
845 cost of operating it. But then it was, you know, volunteers were the main people that were doing
846 the work, you know, and they had different committees. There was a jobs committee, then there
847 was a housing committee. I just spent my time with the housing committee at that time. So that's
848 how come I was deeply involved with that. But it was various churches, different groups -
849 Lutherans were heavy into it - to work on that one issue. But that other areas is doing the same
850 thing, except that they now have more than just churches. They have the unions and some other
851 groups involved. They're working on that Jobs with Justice and all that stuff.

852

853 PM: *I know there is a Jesuit Volunteer Corp that's further down on Williams.*

854

855 PB: [very softly] Probably.

856

857 PM: *I did work with them.*

858

859 PB: Yeah, see they do a lot of work too. You know there is an awful lot of deals, but this
860 particular deal was, came in at that particular time. You know how groups come in and get
861 started and then they kind of move on. You get some people working, you get some people
862 interested in delving into the problem and we delved...

863 'Cus you see what happens is, we didn't know we were being redlined. A lot of people
864 didn't. A lot of people were redlined, and if you ask them, were you ever redlined, they'd say no.

865 They don't know they were. The only time you'd find out is if you decided that you wanted to
866 borrow some money or you wanted them to loan you some money on your house.

867

868 TT: *And they would be denied?*

869

870 PB: Yeah and they'd tell you why. You'd say, "Well okay, come take a look." "Oh no, we can't
871 loan money over there." "What do you mean you can't loan money over there?" "No, we can't
872 loan money over there." Now, I actually confronted the head of uh, it was First National Bank at
873 one of these meetings that we had over at - I think it was Vernon Lutheran Church over on 18th or
874 somewhere over there - about the deal. 'Cus what had happened is, we had half way paid for the
875 house over there and we had a bank account there. We were making the payments through the
876 bank, right, the little slip. And we had a checking account there and we were both working and
877 we decided that we wanted to borrow some money on the house. We were gonna do some work
878 in the house and some other things, right? And they said no, they couldn't do it. "What do you
879 mean you can't do it? Well, why don't you come take a look at it?" 'Cus, you know, the house
880 was in good shape. "Oh no, we just can't loan money over there." "What do you mean you can't
881 loan money over there?" That's how we found out. My husband was so upset. We got the
882 money alright, but we got the money from, we had to go to a mortgage company, you see. But
883 that's how we found out. We took that check back there to them people and they said, "Well,
884 we'll cash it..." "All I want you to do is cash this check and take out what we owe you and that's
885 it." So, you know, those were the kinda things that happened. So, I know that there are many
886 people that thought, that did not know that they were being redlined.

887

888 PM: *You were talking about education and being educated about what's going on in your area.*

889

890 PB: Yeah, and you can, you know, think you're aware of everything and still not be aware of
891 everything. You see what I'm saying.

892

893 TT: *Well, I have a final question and then [Patrice] you can finish up with any questions you have*
894 *left.*

895

896 PM: Okay.

897

898 TT: *But, I was reading how to motto of the NACW was, you know, "Lifting as we climb" and I*
899 *thought that was really interesting, considering things I've read about you, about you being a*
900 *community historian, and the things you've discussed with us today, but what do you think, how*
901 *do you think that motto is important for today's generations with all that you've been telling us*
902 *about education and the importance of knowing?*

903

904 PB: Well, the whole thing about it is that, technically with that, you're supposed to be trying to
905 bring someone up with you, that's the reason for that. You know, you've seen the, what do you
906 call it? The pin, the picture of it – it's a picture of a lady climbing a rock. Because you're
907 supposed to try to pass your knowledge down, and you're supposed to encourage people to do the
908 best they can and try to help. In other words, the better, the more people know, the more they're
909 advanced, the better they improve themselves, the better it is for the race and the country as a
910 whole. Because it's not, we don't want it just to be us, we want it for everybody, 'cus we live in
911 the country. And you want the country to prosper. But you want everybody to be able to prosper
912 and you wanted everyone to be treated fairly. And that's kinda difficult sometimes for some
913 people to take in, you know. 'I wanna be treated fairly, but I don't care if you're treated fairly or
914 not,' you know. That's not a good deal, because it has to work for everyone. And it's just like,
915 decide well...

916 The homeless, now that's a deal that has to be dealt with. People need to have a place to
917 stay if it's anyways possible. Now. True, some people maybe don't want to, but if you – say that
918 you got a hundred people out there homeless, at least fifty percent of those people really want to
919 be in a house. You gonna have some people that are weird and, you know, got ideas that are
920 mentally messed up in all kinds of ways and full of drugs. But at least half of them will wanna be
921 in a house. And with this economy, the way it is now, you've got so many people that's
922 homeless, it isn't even funny. There's so many living in their cars, it's unreal. The kids, the
923 whole families are living in their cars. They're homeless. But there are people in the world,

924 don't want... 'Don't bring them to my neighborhood!' [PM: laughs] Not knowing that they could
925 be in the same boat.

926

927 TT: *Yeah, that's true.*

928 [Pause]

929

930 PB: Did I miss out on what else you said, did I answer that question right? What did you, what
931 did...

932

933 TT: *Well that's kinda getting into where I was going but also, you know, what would you say -*
934 *you kinda started, you've been addressing me and Patrice, but what would you say to today's*
935 *generations?*

936

937 PB: Ah, today's generations, ohhh... [Ms. Bradford makes a face and rolls her eyes jokingly.]
938 {laughter} My only problem, every generation, the generation before talks about how bad they
939 are. But my problem with this generation, the generation coming in, is that they've got it worse
940 than anyone has ever had, because the world has grown smaller. And they're having to, gonna
941 have to compete with people all other the world that are putting their nose to the grind. And
942 they're saying, "I don't wanna!" So my hope - the thing that worries me about the generation is,
943 when you start to think about economies all over the world, some people will be the ones that do
944 the thinking and make the - how do you call it - the high level stuff, right. And there will be those
945 that have to be the workers at one level. Then there'll have to be those that are the workers at the
946 bottom level. And my problem is that I think that too many of our kids are wanting to be there at
947 the bottom level. And they don't know that when you're at the bottom level, you're either gonna
948 be in bad shape or you're gonna be in jail or dead. {PM: *Yeah.*} [short pause] And their brain,
949 you learn better as you're younger. You can always learn, but you learn better, quicker and faster
950 when you're young and they're wasting that time.

951 I don't blame it all on the kids. I blame a lot of that on that parent level, 'cus I think that
952 there was a - I think there's that group in between who grew up too fast and did not get the
953 maturity and education they needed themselves, and then they're raising kids. So, they don't

954 have anything to pass down to their kids unless they get into it themselves. And sometimes by
955 the time you get it into the kids, get down to get it to the kids, it's almost too late. They've got all
956 kinds of bad habits, they got to get rid of this habit, they got to get rid of that habit. That's a
957 problem and that's what I worry about. Especially in America. When I think of India and China,
958 they got more architects, engineers, all over the place...

959 [tape recorder stops and I have to change the tape.]

960

961 TT: *You can continue.*

962

963 PB: And they don't have any, what do you call it - unless they're mentally, uh - dropouts. They
964 get that stuff.

965

966 PM: *At a national level.*

967

968 PB: Yeah, all of them. The poor, there's no such thing as being too poor to learn. You know
969 what I mean? And that's a value that they have, right. And all you have to do is look at the
970 people who come to our country. True enough, a lot of them that come to our country are really
971 from the upper class that came over, you know what I mean, or the business people. After all, we
972 didn't get a lot - except maybe the Hmongs - we didn't get a lot of the people that were at the
973 bottom of the line. Most of them that came, a lot of them had experience with being business
974 people and what have you... {PM: *Professionals.*} Uh-huh. And that, and they have their kids.
975 Most of them have kids, a lot of kids most likely. Their kids are right there to contribute to their
976 family well being, regardless. Regardless. Until they get up and get married. But you notice, so
977 therefore all of that wealth is being put together.

978 And you know what? Many years ago, Black people did that. But they stopped. They
979 became too Americanized. You know. But they did! So, that's my fear. Unless we can get all
980 the kids, all of a sudden - see, a star, if I'm a basketball or a football player and all that and make
981 a lot of money. Or if I'm not that, I can see that drug dealer coming up here with all that fancy
982 car and all that money and that looks good, too. [pause] But education will be the best thing.

983 Otherwise, they'll be the ones down there doing the dirty work. And my problem with this is that
984 the rest of the world is moving ahead and we're moving down.

985 And if it's gonna be this deal that, that you can make goods and services and like - I saw a
986 picture in the paper - or where was it, on television or something - about China. You know how
987 we're going to bicycles now, right? You remember, they've been on bicycles all the time. Guess
988 what they doing? They're going to cars! And building their houses, all out in the rural areas.
989 And they own them, they don't have a mortgage, right, 'cus whatever the little bit they did, you
990 know what it is... And it's not big children there, 'cus remember they have that rule, one child
991 only. {PM: *Yeah, the four, two, one rule.*} Yeah. That's what I'm talking about! Okay, so, but...
992 Well, wait a minute now... So, they will be the ones up there and who will be the ones doing the
993 dirty work across the world? Americans, if - right now, they say that they have to send to India
994 and those other countries to get the high level techs that they need out here at Intel and what have
995 you.

996

997 TT: *Yeah.*

998

999 PB: And we don't have nurses and doctors. How come we don't have nurses and doctors? Well,
1000 I think, number one, they did not want to create many. They made it so hard for people to get in
1001 the nursing and doctor's schools. You know, they only take so many, so many. They could have
1002 expanded that. {TT: *It's also really expensive.*} I know, but it don't have to be that expensive.
1003 Not if they had a lot of them. Sure, it's gonna be expensive. If you've only got a certain few, the
1004 scarcity brings the price up. Just like when they started off with the few things at community
1005 college for nursing, you know, the little nursing, that was much cheaper. Then when they go into
1006 a plain nursing school, you know, a four year nursing school. And they don't have the three year
1007 like they used to have, you know, like Emmanuel Hospital used to have the school of nursing,
1008 which was, you just went right there. They had, each hospital pretty much had their own nursing
1009 schools. But the doctors - and look at, talking about Cuba, they got doctors the send all over the
1010 world, they train doctors, you know. It isn't that they can't, that the brain power isn't there. It's
1011 the will power and the financing too, but that - when we decided we wanted to send a man to the
1012 moon, guess what? We did it. When Russia beat us there, the government - now wait a minute -

1013 they said the government shouldn't do it, the government did it, didn't it? It took the government
1014 to do it though. [pause]

1015

1016 TT: *That's true.*

1017

1018 PB: So, there's a lot to think about. And I know I went off that question with you. [Laughter]
1019 Now, what - you had another question. You gave me three questions and I know I only
1020 answered about two. Okay. I did, okay. [Patrice and Ms. Bradford are speaking at the same time.]

1021

1022 PM: *You answered them but, I was just going to go along the same vein. Kinda like what would
1023 you tell people today, I was gonna ask has civil rights for Blacks in Oregon or Portland
1024 specifically changed or improved by your standards or from your understanding?*

1025

1026 PB: Well, it has improved some, because after all, you're not gonna to be, you're not gonna see a
1027 restaurant that's gonna have a "We serve White only." [chuckling] You're not gonna have those.
1028 And chances are, the few places that are kinda, don't really want to you do come in, and give you
1029 poor service, you know, you can either stay and wait for the service and give them a bad time or
1030 you can say, 'forget it I'm not interested in it,' you know. But there's not that many that will do
1031 that nowadays, here. But there are always undercurrent ways of denying things. 'Cus I kinda
1032 often wonder, you know...

1033 Now, the internet is an interesting place. I don't use it for these folks, like the way that
1034 they like to do it, right. But there's so much stuff going on - what do you call it - plots and things.
1035 How should I say, planning and stuff that goes on that's being done, that's not being done toward
1036 the open public meetings law, you know. I don't think, because how are you gonna have an
1037 open; if you're gonna be emailing somebody something about this and they're emailing you and
1038 you guys are deciding what you're gonna do, and then you are ready to come and bring it to the
1039 deal and you've already decided. Does that mean that everybody has email and everybody is
1040 going to be listening to you? No. And the open meetings law was that you do it at an open
1041 meeting where everybody who happens to attend the meeting will hear it. So, there are some

1042 things that are still kind of interesting, but I guess everything will all - you don't expect it to be
1043 perfect. 'Cus after all, if we got it perfect, what would you guys have to do?

1044

1045 TT: *That's true.*

1046

1047 PM: *Sit back and...* {laughter}

1048

1049 PB: [Laughing] No way! You're gonna have to do some work, too.

1050

1051 TT: *That's true.*

1052

1053 PM: [Quietly] *That's true.*

1054 [Long pause]

1055

1056 PB: I guess you guys are done, but don't worry. This is, this is just me.

1057

1058 TT: *Oh, its great. We have a lot. This is, I am really excited to and looking forward to doing the*
1059 *transcribing [PB: Have fun...] and re-go through...*

1060

1061 PB: And knock out a whole lot of it, [chuckling] 'cus I tell you. I just thought, well this is good. I
1062 like to pass on to some, what I think. 'Cus I think it can be helpful. At least become aware that
1063 you need to be aware of everything that goes on. It isn't that, you don't want to be fearful. And
1064 take some stuff you get with a grain of salt.

1065

1066 TT: *Well, it's very helpful to me personally, because I am in the education program at Portland*
1067 *State and I want to be a high school teacher. And so to hear your story and then be able to pass*
1068 *it to people even younger than us who are gonna be the next generation coming up.*

1069

1070 PB: Yeah, it's gonna be interesting for them, but I tell you, at heart, teaching is hard work.

1071

1072 TT: *It is.*

1073

1074 PB: Some people put a lot more into it than others, but you know, it just depends. And it depends
1075 on, each subject is different, see. High school subject is a little bit different than grade school.
1076 You gotta do a lot of thinking, what have you, but I mean - in other words, you don't have to have
1077 a lesson plan for a ten minute presentation. [chuckles] That's the problem with the primaries and
1078 the kindergarten. You know, you gotta teach every subject. And half the time, it's the planning.
1079 And the planning is, you planned for a half hour to teach for ten minutes, see. So... But, it's still,
1080 everything's important. 'Cus it's important, better late than never. But I like, when I went to
1081 Europe, we had this deal when you get off the bus, they tell you, "Okay, better late than never,
1082 but better yet, but better ever... [trying to remember] but better yet, never late." [laughing] Oh
1083 golly...

1084

1085 PM: *So, I feel like with this generation, like my generation, Tasha's generation, we kinda have*
1086 *this charge to become involved and kinda take over some of the positions or kinda pass the baton,*
1087 *get the baton passed from leaders such as yourself. When you were at our age, what do you think*
1088 *that the charge was for you as a young person?*

1089

1090 PB: Well, see this is the thing, coming from the South. People who came from the South had
1091 different ideas. See, you thought you were coming to a land of milk and honey, [laughing] which
1092 it wasn't, but that was - you know what I mean, the idea was things are better up North and what
1093 have you, at least for jobs and for people treating - and then, you come and you find things were
1094 almost just the same, you know. You get these shocks on the way, you know. But you still felt
1095 that, well, you're gonna make it better, or you gonna fight for it. You couldn't feel like you were
1096 gonna make it better, but you were gonna get in a fight to try to make it better. And so, you do
1097 the best you can, you know, you do the best you can. And you realize, you're not going to be able
1098 to get it all right, but you hope that some other people will follow along and complete it, you
1099 know. And so, and that's my goal.

1100 My main goal, and I'm gonna talk about my Harriet Tubman Club now. Well, we're just
1101 old ladies now. Now they do work with a youth group, that's true. I mean, that's like

1102 young children. That's at the state level. But, my deal, like I was telling... [Ms. Bradford moves
1103 and her microphone is muffled.] we got to get some young women involved in Harriet Tubman so
1104 we can keep this club going. This club was organized in Portland in 1922. Now that's a long
1105 time. {PM: *Yeah!*} And I don't want this generation to be it! [points to herself] See, after all,
1106 there were sixteen clubs in Portland at the time and they're all down to four now. In '58, when
1107 integration came along, a lot things changed, because it opened up a lot of stuff for different
1108 people that got involved in things they couldn't get involved in before, okay. And then there was
1109 a while when we came along with this stuff, nobody wanted to be called colored. So, you see you
1110 have all of this, these little things going through. And there's just so much. But now I'm down to
1111 Avel, myself, Mrs. Ransom, and my daughter. I keep her in - the one that's not here, the horse
1112 daughter, she's out in Nevada. But, you know. And that's it see. And we have to get some more
1113 members, and I was telling Ms. Avel that we have to keep this club going. Now that's my one,
1114 you know, how you get a personal mission, my personal mission is this club has to keep going.
1115 'Cus it would be a shame, it's been here in Oregon going on all that long time and then it just die,
1116 when it can be whatever the group wants it to be, you know. The membership decides what they
1117 are interested in. They can meet as often as they want to. They don't have to have, gotta have a
1118 meeting this month, got to have - they can meet whenever they want. They just gotta organize
1119 around something.

1120 And the later years, when we were older, we would meet in - most of our deal, we would
1121 be bringing in - 'cus we didn't live in the same areas and what have you - we would be bringing in
1122 information about what's going on in our part of the town or the things that we knew about, and
1123 that was kind of interesting to share. It was kind of a sharing deal. And then of course, we ate,
1124 you know, visited. Maybe we wouldn't see each other until the next meeting. You know,
1125 because people lived in different parts and go to different churches, you know. But it was still a
1126 way of communicating.

1127 And then there's always something coming down from national that they would like to
1128 have you help them with or talk about, you know, 'cus their headquarters was Washington D.C.
1129 And they just renovated a building that their struggling to pay for, but when you think about it,
1130 that they've had their headquarters there all these years and their history.

1131 And maybe, you might check in the library just for curiosity, check and find out about the
1132 National Association of Colored Woman's Clubs. And see, because they put their minutes, that's
1133 the one organization that had the minutes from the beginning, and they put them on the universal
1134 press, recorded all their minutes and put it up. But they were not available unless the college
1135 bought the thing, you know, for the deal. But there is information about it, so a person could go,
1136 National Association of Colored Women. Not National Council, gotta remember that they keep
1137 that separate. National Association of Colored Women's Club. And so that's the one, that's the
1138 thing that I want to keep going. And we've done a lot. We used to present the... Well, when
1139 Reverend Jackson was there, we used the hall and basement over there and, like, we presented the
1140 first woman chief to the community, you know. The mayor would come, the governor would
1141 come, you know, to speak to the community. I don't hear about that anymore, now.

1142

1143 PM: *Do you think that there's a community for them to speak to?*

1144

1145 PB: Oh yeah, because after all - see that picture there? [She point's to a picture of a group of older
1146 women on the coffee table.] That's from Mount Olive and we just got through with out luncheon,
1147 and we were headed out and one of the ladies said, "Oh, this fella wants to take a picture," so he
1148 took it. We were all ready to go home. {PM: *Is that okay?*} Uh huh. You see what I mean?
1149 Those are just the women from the club, you know, the organization that were there. The guests
1150 and everything were gone, you know how you've cleaned up and everything. See, and so you
1151 probably know some of those ladies, 'cus they go to various churches.

1152 [long pause]

1153

1154 PM: [Chuckles] *Wow.* [Taps the photo.] *I can't think of her name.*

1155

1156 PB: Which name? Which one was it?

1157 [Patrice leans toward Ms. Bradford to show her the person she is pointing to in the photo]

1158

1159 PM: *And where I know her from, but she's in the back. She's in the back there, she's a larger*
1160 *bodied woman.*

1161

1162 PB: I think I probably know. Show me which one.

1163

1164 PM: *Right here.*

1165

1166 PB: Oh, yeah, that's Sally [Hearse^{xiv}], Ms. [Hearse].

1167

1168 PM: *Oh, well I don't know where I know her from but...*

1169

1170 PB: Oh well. She had a daughter here, but her daughter is in California now and she has

1171 brothers... Sally [Hearse]...

1172

1173 TT: *Do you mind if I take a picture of this with my camera?*

1174

1175 PB: Oh no, no problem. Would you think it'd be better to take it of a black and white one?

1176

1177 TT: *Do you have a black and white version of this?*

1178

1179 PB: Look on the side there and see if there is a black and white version. If you find dust, don't

1180 pay attention to it. [laughs] Look close to the deal and see if there is another picture in a frame.

1181 It'll be standing, sitting, should be sitting by the toward the...

1182

1183 TT: *Oh here? I see it.*

1184

1185 PB: Is that the same thing? Yeah. Might need to dust it, dear.

1186

1187 TT: *You know, it's actually not that dusty.*

1188

1189 PB: Okay.

1190

1191 PM: *Tasha, do you remember the date of our presentation?*

1192

1193 TT: *Oh, I have the flyer. It's the eighteenth.*

1194

1195 PM: *We have a presentation on what we learned, like the process of collecting oral history and a*
1196 *presentation of what we've learned. We would love to have you attend you have the time. [PB:*
1197 *chuckles] If you could join us?*

1198

1199 PB: Let me see, the eighteenth, what is going on? I'm trying to think... Thursday the
1200 eighteenth... I'll see if I can come, 'cus if I can I would love to. I'm one of these people that do
1201 show up at some of these things once in a while. Yeah, I was trying to think of where, what did I
1202 do with my calendar... I try to half way, but the calender doesn't tell me everything but it's um...
1203 Did you see it?

1204

1205 TT: *Do you mind it I take a picture of these as well?*

1206

1207 PB: No, no problem, honey. Hopefully you can get one of it. You know, almost you need a
1208 piece of - I found a white piece of material or something to put underneath it, and then it, let me
1209 find... [Patrice helps Ms. Bradford take the microphone off of her lapel and we officially end the
1210 interview at around 2:30 PM March 10th 2010.]

- i. The spelling of the last name here is uncertain. It is transcribed phonetically from the recording as “Shoes.”
- ii. Jabberwock was conceptualized in 1925 as a musical variety show for the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority that consisted of skits and dances, the Jabberwock has since evolved into a more diverse program that continues to raise funds for scholarships and other Delta sponsored public service projects.
- iii. Ms. Bradford says “Morgan,” but according to the 1957 National Association of Colored Women's tax report, her last name is Martin.
- iv. The spelling of this name is unclear. It is transcribed phonetically from the recording as “Balsiger.”
- v. Mary Church Terrell was the first President and one of the founding members of the National Association of Colored Women's clubs.
- vi. The Egyptian Theatre was built in 1924 and was located on Martin Luther King Boulevard, then Union Street. Before the passing of the Public Accommodations Law in 1953, African Americans had to sit in the second floor balcony.
- vii. Dorothy McCullough Lee, 1949-1953
- viii. Dick Bogle was the first African American television news anchor on the west coast, the second African American to be elected to the Portland city council and he was a police officer in Portland.
- ix. Charles Jordan was the first African American elected to the Portland City Council.
- x. The spelling of this business name is unclear. Ms. Bradford may be referring to Cohn Brother's Furniture, whose main store was located on SE Hawthorne Boulevard, but may have had a warehouse on what was Union Avenue, now Martin Luther King Boulevard. See <http://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/Record/4607242/>
- xi. The Elks Lodge is located on North Williams Avenue. It was originally built in 1926 and first served as the Colored YWCA. It has been the stable community meeting place for several clubs and organizations.
- xii. Portland Organizing Project started in 1985 was once an activist coalition of twenty Portland churches.
- xiii. The Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 is a United States federal law designed to encourage commercial banks and savings associations to meet the needs of borrowers in all segments of their communities, including low and moderate income neighborhoods.
- xiv. The spelling of this name is unclear. It is transcribed phonetically from the recording as “Hearse.”