

Narrator: Zaina Alsous

Interviewer: Zaina Alsous

Interview Date: April 2nd, 2012

Location: Mrs. Webb's house

Length: 50:31

Interview Processor: Jacob Staimpel

START [11:47]

ZA: "Mrs. Webb when did you get married?"

GW: "I got married in... back in... I can't even remember... its been so long! But it was in '57."

ZA: "Would you and your husband cook together?"

GW: "Uh huh. Every night. He had work on the weekend and he would cook. So when I would get home he would have everything done and I'd get in my bath and he would say eat and lets go on the weekends. But during the week we would be doing things around the house, but on Sundays he would always be ready to go after I would eat my 'sup, get my bath, and change my clothes.

ZA: "Did he have a favorite dish that he liked you to make?"

GW: "Well, I can't think of what... oh he liked stewed beets. I would stew him some beets and he loved fish.

ZA: "Did you go fishing?"

GW: "I loved to fish, but he didn't care nothing about fishing. He cared nothing about fishing."

ZA: "Was he a good cook?"

GW: "Yes mam. He was a good cook."

ZA: "What was your favorite dish that he would make for you?"

GW: "He could cook some of the best cabbage. Pork chops, chicken whatever. Whatever he wanted to fix for dinner. Didn't matter with me as long as I didn't have to do it"

ZA: "Did your family have large Sunday dinners? I know a lot of families have."

GW: "Mhmm. We used to do it all the time here. I would fry some chicken and fix potato salad, and make banana pudding. And we just had children come every Sunday and we would get together. But here lately, everybody going this way and going that way so we don't get together like we used to. Now sometimes we go out to Lois' house, Chelsea's grandma, she was a good cook. So we would go out there and have dinner. She would always invite me out there."

ZA: "Why do you think everyone liked to get together for big dinners on Sunday?"

GW: "Huh?"

ZA: "Why do you think people like to get together for big dinners on Sunday?"

GW: "That's when everybody is off from work and they can get together and mingle and just sit down and laugh and talk. That's the way we usually do it. And I think that most people is off on Sunday and that's the best time to get together I think"

ZA: "Do you think that food played a big part in people getting together at the church?"

GW: "Food... what? Like they give away food up there?"

ZA: "Um, no. I mean like if the church was having events. Did you feel like food was an important part when the church would put on events?"

GW: “No, I think whatever the program is. If they are having a good program then I think that is the best. Food is second and I think that’s the way peoples take it. You know, if they are having a good program or something. And then after the program they always have a little snack or something. But I do not think food is the honest reason why they are there.”

ZA: “When you were growing up or maybe even when you first got married were there places that you liked to go out to eat in Chapel Hill?”

GW: “Oh well we would always go to... over in Durham at the Fish House. My husband loved fish, but I didn't care nothing about fish. But I would eat shrimp. I would eat that. He would love the fried food and I would get fried shrimp. He would just love fish. That was our name and place on Fridays when he would come home from work.”

ZA: “I have been doing some research on Bill’s Barbecue that was here. Do you remember Bill’s Barbecue? What kind of food did they have there?”

GW: “Well they had some of the best hushpuppies and barbecue and cold slaw. Everything was good from Bill and Emma’s cooking. Man that place was awesome. Mama Dipp’s husband used to... that was his mother and father.

ZA: “Oh wow.”

GW: “And um. Dipp used to work up there with him. But then after they passed, she took over and you know started working. You know, Joe, her husband, he worked there until he got disabled. Then Dipp bought that place where they at now.”

ZA: “Do you ever go to Mama Dipp’s?”

GW: “Hmm?”

Zaina Alsous and Khristian Curry

TRANSCRIPT

ZA: “Did you ever go to Mama Dipp’s?”

GW: “Mhmm.”

ZA: “Do you know her personally?”

GW: “Mhmm, we some kin.”

END [17:46]

START [34:49]

ZW: “Where do you get most of your groceries today?”

GW: “Hmm?”

ZA: “Where do you get most of your groceries now?”

GW: “I go to Food Lion and Harris Teeter sometimes when they having specials.”

ZA: “Where did you shop for your family?”

GW: “Well you know they used to had an A&P here. That’s where I used to do all my shopping. The A&P store”

ZA: “It was a drug store, right?”

GW: “Thats right above where [???] is. That’s where the A&P store is. I think it’s a bicycle shop or something now. But that was an A&P... and then the [???] store up there with where the paper place is. I used to go over there... and down that street there where Gates Motor Company that was the drug store on that side, Big John, would run that store there. And then uphill was Riggs & Henderson that was on the corner there. It was a deep hole where that service station sits right next by First Baptist Church. There was a deep hole and they filled that in and put that service

Zaina Alsous and Khristian Curry

TRANSCRIPT

station there. Then... down below there where the cab stand is now, all on that side, on the left hand side when you are going down Franklin it was nothing but black people’s families. All the

way down until you get down there by kinda close to [???] it was black. And Fanny, she lived back in there on Franklin. And.. who else was there? Anny lived back.. it was a road and it was a pass right between Big John and [???] and Henderson. You could go to Aunt Anny's house and that be... you could come through there and be back there on Rosemary Street. And then on the other side of the street by [???] it was a black family... I cannot think of the name but they lived there. Up there by Chapel Hill Tire Company that was a black family that lived there. Up further where they got the Pizza Hut coming on back, like coming to Carrboro, that was a black family that lived there. And then [???] store on the opposite side of where that used car lot is. My Uncle White and his wife lived in an apartment right there where they got that new used car... I don't know if they fix cars there or what? But right at Cook's corner that's where their house was sitting beyond that bicycle shop... or whatever shop that is. Follow around and you get to Saint Paul's Church and out there where Kentucky Fried Chicken, the Brown's lived there. Over there where they got the cleaners and where they got the theater... not the theater but the art place all around on the right hand side? That's where Kenny Jones and... where his wife lived there. All of Franklin Street was black and now there is not a black person up there. They done made it where it got... where its commercial now."

ZA: "Were there any black owned businesses or restaurants that you remember?"

GW: "Yeah, [???]. Down on Franklin Street there was a black autotaker shop and what else was down there? All of Franklin Street up this way was black cause we used to live up behind Yates

Zaina Alsous and Khristian Curry

TRANSCRIPT

Motor Company, that's where my mama moved to. We would... there was a lot of people that lived up there. My Aunt Claude, Mrs. Janie, and Tazzy Smith, it was nothing but blacks all up in this area. But now there ain't no blacks nowhere down there."

ZA: “Were you close with all the people that lived around here?”

GW: “Mhmm. That’s where I grew up. Everybody was everybody’s mother or father. If they seen you doing something wrong, they didn’t care they would get on you or tell you that they would whoop you or go and tell your mama or something like that. Everybody... you could tell your children something then but you couldn't talk to them now like we used to. They gonna turn around and cuss you out.”

Zw: “How do you feel about how things have changed?”

MW: “How I feel about what?”

ZA: “How things have changed around here?”

MW: “How things changed?”

ZA: “How do you feel about it? Like how things have changed?”

MW “Nothing that I can do about it so I have to... I don't like to accept it but I guess I have to. Because this is a change I don't care what we say or do, its always a big change. That’s just like this neighborhood, this was all black. Now I got a white couple here and a white couple there. But they are nice people. They don’t bother me and I don’t bother them. But I am just saying that in all this, right there, all around its white. It used to, they wouldn’t even dare come into black neighborhoods. But now, you know, they are living all around. So, as long... you know they’re nice. I don’t bother them and they don’t bother me. We speak and that’s it. But I don’t have any

Zaina Alsous and Khristian Curry

TRANSCRIPT

thought about them being here as long as they are nice and they don’t bother me and I don’t bother them.

END [42:56]