

TAPE LOG - ELAINE NORWOOD

Interviewee: Elaine Norwood

Interviewer: Evangeline Mee

Interview Date: March 17th, 2011

Location: 100 McMaster's St., Elaine Norwood's Home

Comments: Ms. Elaine Norwood discusses her life-long residence in the Northside, relationships with neighbors, changes in the neighborhood, and race relations in Chapel Hill. The changes in the neighborhood are due to the elderly dying out, and the next generation not keeping the houses in the family. For Ms. Norwood, it all starts with respect. She believes all problems in the community are caused by the depreciation of respect.

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[Digital Recording, Starts at Beginning]

- 0:00 Ms. Norwood talks about growing up in the Northside, McMaster's St, keeping up with the house and land her parents and siblings have deceased.
- 1:21 Ms. Norwood talks about going to school in Chapel Hill and her teachers.
- 2:50 Father, mother, and brother worked at the University, being "watched by the neighborhood" as children
- 3:47 Ms. Norwood discusses money saving while growing up. Giving clothes to the less fortunate and receiving food from them.
- 4:47 All her family has died, and she has been retired for twelve years, living on social security, her "nest egg."
- 5:45 Ms. Norwood reflects on history of her home and neighborhood Her home was the first on McMaster's St. Her father rode down the road on his tractor. Her father built the house while she was in New York.
- 7:03 Ms. Norwood reflects on the Northside. The "close knit" is not there anymore.

- 7:44 Ms. Norwood discusses her downstairs apartment that she rents out.
- 9:04 "To me it's not a neighborhood anymore." Ms. Norwood talks about her relationship with the student renters. She does not mind their parties, but she does not want their trash on the street. They are, for the most part, respectful. The landlord is conscious of selecting good tenants.
- 11:07 Ms. Norwood talks about her connection/mother's relationship with Ms. Jackson. Ms. Annie Cate, Ms. Emma Mason were all close friends of the family. She could go visit them in the neighborhood and they would welcome her in.
- 12:06 "I don't know what the young people are going to do.." She worries about the young kids after her generation dies. People do not have respect for each other like they used too. She shares a story about when she used to live in New York, and people were not friendly like she was used to.
- 14:47 Ms. Norwood talks about working in New York and coming home after her father died. She then worked for at the Family Dollar in Carrboro.
- 15:57 After her mother passed, she had a lot to do regarding her mother. She is sure to have her affairs/will in order.
- 16:32 She does not complain, she remembers faces but not names.
- 17:09 Ms. Norwood asks about what the Jackson Center does, and Evangeline explains.
- 18:20 Ms. Norwood talks about integration of the schools and her opinion of it. She graduated before the schools integrated in Chapel Hill. She went to Virginia Seminary to play basketball and then New York to visit her brother. Talks about playing sports in high school.
- 20:28 Ms. Norwood discusses her teachers and how they cared about their students. The university sent over books and desks to her school. She discusses school fundraisers and sports games.
- 22:21 White school that was built on Franklin St., and black school was a "shack" in the Northside. The white school was soon torn down and rebuilt somewhere else. She is trying to find the cornerstone of the old black school. She has been to meetings about building a new elementary school.
- 24:15 Discussion of OCTS, Lincoln, Northside school reunions

27:35	Evangeline asks about when the neighborhood started changing. Ms. Norwood explains that "people die" and their children do not want the house, so they sell it, and students start moving in.	44:07	"I've never been prejudiced or anything." She talks about segregation of a service station on Franklin St. growing up. Tells a story about an interaction with a little girl at the segregated water fountains. She says that segregation did "not bother" her. She says that she just did not go in those places. She believes there is still a lot of prejudice in Chapel Hill. Most restaurants made allowed backs to order, but they were not allowed to sit and eat.
28:45	Ms. Norwood has gotten letters from realtors asking her to sell her house for student housing. "Like where I am going to <i>goT</i> " "Don't send no more letters here." She says students like black neighborhoods because they think they can get away with more. All the older families are gone. It is now 90% student.	49:19	Blacks used to own many of the business on Franklin, but the owners have all since died. She talks about how small social security is. Her parents had good jobs, but the salary still was not large. Her father did work a lot of work on her house.
30:35	Now one can not even afford to buy or rent a house. Students are the only ones who can afford it because they have five or six people in one house. They leave the houses in disrepair.	51:05	Her house is paid off, but she is having trouble keeping it because the taxes are so high. Many people are having to sell to survive. "My little nest egg is going down too."
31:48	She questions why the university is building big dorms and students are still living off campus. She thinks it is so they can have parties in their yards.	52:28	She knows that the neighborhood is desirable because of how close to the university it is. It used to be an all black neighborhood and now it is all white. "I guess when we die out over here, they'll have all of this. They'll probably tear all this down." She lists the remaining black residents in the neighborhood. "It all used to be black."
32:33	Ms. Norwood discusses pressure from realtors to sell her home. She got two or three letters a month to sell her house for student housing. "Where am I supposed to <i>goT</i> " People have also knocked on her door. " <i>Specified for the students</i> "	55:30	Ms. Robinson asks Evangeline where she is from.
34:40	She talks about how the money she has been offered for her house. Even though some may jump at the chance to get money, she know her house is worth more. "Don't send no more letters."	56:16	"Like I said, we used to own things." Up by McDonalds was all black but no more. Mama Dips is the only place that blacks can say they own and go have a nice meal. She eats at K&W fairly cheaply.
36:08	She talks about the business of real estate. She thinks many of the realtors are from out of town.	58:34	Evangeline talks about how many students do not know about the history that Ms. Norwood has discussed. Ms. Norwood recommends the Chapel Hill museum. Ms. Norwood is dubious about whether students would be interested in such things. She thinks more students are getting involved though.
37:17	University is building buildings, but say they have no money, cutting teachers. She talks about watching basketball games at the university.	101:23	"I think they're trying to make a city out of this town." Downtown is getting too expensive. Blacks used to own more, the milk dairy. Most of Rosemary was black owned. But the elderly die out, and the younger generation left.
38:26	Evangeline asks how long she has been living in her house. The house was built in the 1970's, but Ms. Norwood has lived in the neighborhood her entire life. She talks about her first house, dirt road, no bathroom.	1:04:58	Ms. Norwood talks about people coming through asking about history. Maybe Story Corps?
40:28	Ms. Norwood discusses her father building houses and working for the university. He put in two doors in her house so he could watch his TV away from the chatter in the kitchen.	1:06:24	The Caldwells owned a lot of property but they are even having a rough time.
42:42	"I've been in this neighborhood 74 years" She knows every path, but they are building so many houses on such small lots. "Some times its hard to even tlak about it."		

1:06:55	What is next for the neighborhood? Ms. Norwood does not think it will ever go back the way it was. She does not mind students moving in, but they need to "help the neighborhood." The students were supposedly given a list about how to behave, but they do not respect it. She wants a clean neighborhood. She talks about the UNC swim team girls next door. A can was thrown in her yard. She talks about developing weak ties with that house of girls.	1:37:50	Closing words. She talks about raising money for school uniforms. "It really didn't bother us." She did not think she was poor as a child, "we were happy kids." She talks about coming home from church and changing in order to keep her Sunday clothes nice. She talks about her brother growing up.
1:11:30	She talks about the landlord and some of the renters. They call her "grandma." She takes the girls' mail next door if it's accidentally left at her house. Small interactions like that. They keep things pretty straight. "They don't bother me, and I don't bother nobody." She talks about the men on her street.	1:43:00	"Oh, Northside, it is kind of sad." But she does not let it worry her, when she dies she does not care what happens. Her leg has been hurting her.
1:15:50	People have broken in to houses, but she is ready to call the cops if she ever sees anyone with a TV or bike. She thinks most of the black guys are going to jail. She describes an encounter with a young black man about this subject.		
1:18:32	There are more girls than boys and so the girls put up with more than they should. Times have changed, but the girls still need to respect themselves. She thinks that no one has respect for each other anymore. Men wear hats in church,		
1:21:30	Ms. Norwood discusses church etiquette. If she skipped church, she was not allowed to go to the movies. She blames all these changes with the parents. She shows Evangeline pictures of her nieces and nephews. She thinks parent spoil their children.		
1:24:28	"I didn't know I was poor." She talks about growing up. She shared and made their own toys and got along fine. She talks about growing up in Chapel Hill, after they paved the road,		
1:27:01	She talks about the "n word." She says she does not care because she has names for white people too. "I learned what the dictionary say, and I'm not one." Talks about black/white back and forth name-calling. Ms. Norwood asks if that exists in Tennessee. She discusses race issues.		
1:34:03	Talks about how kids get down the wrong path. She mentions that the murder of Eve Carson. She knows the boys parents, and that they were brought up well. She thinks drugs made them do the "stupid" things they did.		
1:35:37	"I just live with the change." It all starts with respect. She mentions again about people calling her. She does not let men come over, and she stays vigilant because she lives by herself.		