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Interviewers: Hanna Wondmagegn and Excellence Perry

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Location: Chapel Hill, NC, Ms. Virginia's Home

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Length:

[38:22 - 39:33]

You get these things in the mail "We want to buy your house!"
Well did you see a for sale sign?
No
Well they call you on the phone
"This is as and so, do you want to

"This is so and so, do you want to sell...?"
I didn't say I want to sell my house
We're just inundated with all this
About buying the homes in the area

And it's not only this area

It's everywhere now

And I guess that's the way things are going So we have to make sure that we pay those taxes or you will be selling

You know what I did once?

I said, 'i'm not going to answer this phone."

I don't usually answer the phone if I don't recognize the number anyway But I heard him on the answering machine

"HI VIRGINIA"

I went wait a minute

For one thing you don't know me, so you don't call me Virginia

You don't know me

I got on that phone and I said

Listen

I don't know where you got this information from but there's no for sale sign in front of my home and don't

EVER

Call this phone again

"Well what about we want to buy the 505 property?"

Well that's not for sale either

[39:55 -

Scammers

That's another thing that's different

Scammers

They just call ALLL day long

And then they switch to these numbers,

the 919's

As if you're going to answer that number

[40:23 - 40:47]

They're not going to give you a fair market rate for your home

They're going to throw a few dollars at you

They think that because you are who you are

I think you know what I mean

You're going to accept that amount

Well that'ssss not the case

You need to purchase my property for what it's worth

But

Hey

I'm not ready to sell my property

I'm not going to sell my property.

I'm going to hang on to it as long as i can

And stay here as long as I can

[42:09 - 42:41]

Because you know, when you are a caretaker You can burnout real quick if you're not careful And that sometimes would happen But you just knew you had to keep going So i just kept going Kept going It was OK It was worth it It was well worth it To see her And to see my mom Until they left this world It was OK Just something for me I felt like I'm just the caretaker of the family But it was alright

[52:08 -- 43:31]

Well you know what
They don't even know
They don't even know my story
They have grown up where they went to the schools...
They didn't have to deal with what we had to deal with But

They grew up at a time when they would just go and have friends I kept them home that was the problem

I didn't allow them to go too many places, you know strict parents But they didn't go through that

I don't think it was there

But it was really subtle

That racism thing

Where they would get AP courses and you wouldn't get AP courses I had one professor to tell me at a parent teachers conference

He's in calculus, you sure he should be in calculus?
I said of course he should be in calculus
Is there any reason why he should not be
I think I went to the school so much they said 'here comes Ms. Jones!
So you just have to stay active in the schools now
You got to make an appearance
If you don't make an appearance I feel like your kids will be left behind because they don't care
All they do is go in there and teach what they teach

[11:06 - 11:37]

I didn't participate in the marches but I knew about it
I could hear them talking about it
And they would have it on TV so I could see it there
And you could see it
Feel it
When they didn't want you in certain stores
You weren't allowed in there
Or if you went in, you weren't allowed to sit in there
You could buy, spend your money but you can't stay in here
I can remember that

[11:50 - 13:47]

It's ongoing
I don't think it will ever go away
I think if people had their ways
I know what it would be like
If they had there ways
They don't like this affordable housing thing
They want this affluent stuff here in Chapel Hill
That's what it's all about
And

It's not many places that you could go if you were a minority or a certain income

Because where would you go?

They don't have places like that

That went out the window a long time ago

200,000

300.000

Now you're talking

Half a million

Million

Now you're talking

You can sort of hear the difference between chapel hill high school and east chapel hill high

You got East chapel hill over here and

$23:25 \rightarrow 23:57$

I remember the people that have gone on...

That used to live in these homes around here.

The house across the street.

Would be Mrs. Bodey

I always remember her

Because she used to play that piano real well.

And she could sing!

And beside to her was Mrs. Lumpey.

I still call it,

Ms. Lumpey's House

Mrs Body's house

But of course

Its not their house anymore

But to me

It is.

And that is just

The way I see it.

$26:50 \rightarrow 27:38$

What has kept me

Here in Northside?

Because my family lived here

And worked hard to keep what they had.

So I feel like

Its MY responsibility

To ensure

That their hard work...

Will not be in vain

I will continue

To keep it for as long as I can.

And that's

What has kept me here.

 $33:30 \rightarrow 34:00$

34:20→ 34:48

We would go

in the back

of the house

and crawl through the woods

and get the cherries!

It was so FUNNY!

We were just terrors!...

Just terrors

Back then

But we all stuck together.

If one got in a fight

We would all

Join in.

$35:10 \rightarrow 35:20$

I know one time.

When I was five.
He tried to catch me
Cause I ran away
from Nursery school
So I ran down the street
And he tried to catch me
But of course
He couldn't catch me

36:10→36:45

For us, Mom would come home She would cook Daddy would cook We would just, Have a good time. We didn't have A lot of money But We didn't know We were poor At all... We were The happiest lot It was fun Growing up Back then When things were... **Easy**

38:10→38:47

You cant fight it Its coming

And now

I guess everywhere

Now

You get these

Things everyday in the mail

-"We want to buy your house" Well,

-"Did you see a for sale sign?"

No.

Well then

They call you

"Did you want to

sell-"

No.

I don't want to sell

My

House

We are just

Inundated.

39:15→39:28

I don't know

Where you got

This information

From

But,

There is NO

For sale sign

In front of

My home

And don't ever

Call this number

Again.

 $40:20 \rightarrow 40:55$

They are not

Going to

Give you a fair

Market rate

For your home.

They are going

To throw a few

Dollars at you

They think that

Because of

Who you are

-I think you know what I mean-

You're going to

Accept that

Amount.

Well that's not the case.