

Narrator: Sandi Abbo  
Interviewer: Kathryn Wall  
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**START OF INTERVIEW**

[START 21:46]

Kathryn Wall: “Did your mother continue to work at Lenoir throughout her career?”

Sandi Abbo: “Good question. No. Okay, so, by the time we came along—see, she was at Lenoir before she married. Then the church moved Macon to—I believe I’m saying High Point first. No, Salisbury, High Point, Winston-Salem, and then back to this area, and we landed in Chapel Hill then. But it was just a matter of years, because we were little kids when we landed back here. No. By the time she came back to Chapel Hill, she was not an employed person. She was a housewife. And when he left us here, she had to figure it out, because it was a while before she realized she was a single parent. Like, duh! So she began to clean houses. She had to find work. She had to get out and make some kind of money because we were looking at eviction notices. So she did that for many years. No car. Nobody came to pick her up. She walked miles and miles to get to the houses to clean them and then walked miles and miles back.”

KW: “What part of the community were y’all staying in at that point?”

SA: “We were in Knolls development, and from Knolls development we ended up in Tin Top. We were in Tin Top for a good long time. We left Tin Top, we moved over to Lindsay Street. What community is that?”

Pat Jackson: “Lindsay? Lindsay.”

SA: “Okay, Lindsay and Church Street. Those apartments right there at Lindsay and Church Street. We were one of the first families over there. From there, she bought her own house right up when you said Sunset. That was one of the most proud moments of my—well no, next to. She called me, I was up in Atlanta—by that time, I had graduated and went to Atlanta. And she told me she was gonna buy a house, and she needed me to come to closing with her. So I came here, and that was a wonderful day. George Tate was a Black real estate agent here at the time. And she went through George Tate and got her house right here on—it’s not Sunset, it’s off of Sunset. Must be—”

PJ: “Starlite?”

SA: “Starlite Drive. Starlite Drive. She was right here on Starlite Drive, she bought her house and before the Lord called her home, she paid for her house. That was the best day. Closing on the house was good, but the day she paid that last note, she had bought her house. And she did it by herself. By that time, even when I was in undergrad, she went back to school—we were on Lindsay Street—and she went to get CNA training so that she could come out of people’s houses. And with that CNA training, she called it ‘sitting with people.’ She would go to the homes of the patients and care for them in the home, and be there at night if the family needed it, but that’s what she did for years. Then, after that, I forget what was the name of the next class she got certified in, but then after that she went to the infirmary at UNC, and that’s

where she retired from. Doing CNA work there, triage and whatnot at UNC. That's where she retired from.”

KW: “Sounds like caregiving was a pretty big part of her life.”

SA: “It was. That was it.”

KW: “Taking care of other people.”

SA: “That’s it. Her whole life.”