

Interviewer 1: So, what is your name?

Speaker 1: My name is Dorothy Tucker.

Interviewer 1: And how old are you?

Speaker 1: I'm 48.

Interviewer 1: Do you have any children?

Speaker 1: Mm-hmm. I have six.

Interviewer 1: And their ages?

Speaker 1: I have two boys; one 24, one 23. I have four daughters; one is 32, one 31, one's 16, and one 15.

Interviewer 1: And how long did you live in Claybourne Homes?

Speaker 1: I lived in Claybourne Homes 14 years before I got old enough to be out on my own. I lived 14 years in the home with my mom and my sisters and brothers and I lived in the Claybourne Homes 9 years, me and my kids.

Interviewer 1: Okay and were you born there?

Speaker 1: Well, no I wasn't born – well when I – when we moved into the Claybourne Home develop, I was in the third grade.

Interviewer 1: Okay and do you remember why your mom took you to Claybourne? Like where you lived before there, or?

Speaker 1: Well we lived right here at, off East Moreland over here off of Union, we used to have a home and stuff, before they torn down Baptist and stuff, well we lived over there off East Moreland and Costner. We lived in like some duplex homes and they was gonna demolishing the stuff, tear down, so a lot of people that lived there, they moved into the public housing, so we were one of the families that moved to the public housing 'cause there was my mom and there was eight of us in the house.

Interviewer 1: Okay.

Speaker 1: Yep.

- Interviewer 1:* So it was your mom and you and then six other brothers and sisters?
- Speaker 1:* It was me and my mom, my four other sisters and my three brothers.
- Interviewer 1:* Wow.
- Speaker 1:* Mm-hmm, there was eight of us in the home.
- Interviewer 1:* Eight, good, yeah. That's a lot.
- Speaker 1:* Mm-hmm, we live in like a three bedroom duplex, it was like spaced, it was like shotgun housing like that, it was going straight through, but we had enough room in our room, like a three bedroom, living room, kitchen, and then we had something like a pantry to the back. Yeah, so we lived there when we was small and we started going to a Long Lots School, when I got in third grade, we moved from Costner to Claybourne Homes then.
- Interviewer 1:* You said they were tearing down that home on East Moreland?
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, they was getting ready to tear those apartments and homes and stuff down. A lot of people had moved and it was making a big old work that got the, they got the new Southwest sitting out, over there off of Union and it used to be an ice cream place, that called Sealtest, but now it's an Office Max, and still a hospital building on the side and they made them a tennis rack ground and all that.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah, yeah.
- Speaker 1:* So for the kids of the Cottage, but it was tore down before they made that, but there be a doctor's office there and a lot of restaurants. Yep.
- Interviewer 1:* Great. So did you, you lived there when you were from third grade until you were, like that was 14 years?
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, when we moved into the Claybourne Home, I had passed to the third grade.
- Interviewer 1:* Uh-huh and then when did you move out that first time?
- Speaker 1:* Well, we moved from 596 8th and Lydale, we had been living there, so I got 15, then moved from there to a bigger apartment,

'cause we had three bedrooms, we moved to a five bedroom, right across there, Orleans and McKinley, that's we moved to, into a five bedroom apartment.

Interviewer 1: And then how long were you in that one?

Speaker 1: Well, we stayed there seven years before I left and moved out on my own.

Interviewer 1: And where did you go when you moved out?

Speaker 1: Well, I moved to, they had some apartments right up here across from us on Tate, because we all had got grown, all of my sisters, and I moved up on Tate, where we stayed up there for about a year. So me and my mom, I was the last girl to stay home with my mom, so everybody mostly moved away and most of my sisters and them, two of my sisters had kids and I had two girls. Well, I most stayed, my momma they boot her out, I moved up here off of Tate, close to Countertop, I stayed about a year, then I went on Section 8. I didn't like where they put me at, so I asked 'em could they give me public housing, so I had to stay off a whole year and wait, so I moved back into the place with my mom, she still was staying at 641, so I stayed there about two more years, so altogether I got about 16, 17 years with my mom.

Interviewer 1: Uh-huh.

Interviewer 2: *[Too far away from microphone]*

Speaker 1: On this side over there and –

Interviewer 2: What she _____ *[too far away from microphone]*

Speaker 1: So we lived there and stuff and then when I got, payback and I work in, me and my girl, that's one of my daughter and you could tell she's one of my daughter, we moved to Claybourne Home. So for home, they moved me there 'cause it had an opening in Claybourne right there. I stayed there about three years, then I moved to the Claybourne Home, that's when I lived at 607 Canderbaum and I stayed there 12 years.

Interviewer 1: And then after you left there did you come here?

Speaker 1: No, no, no. I moved to Frazier.

Interviewer 1: Oh there's a lots of places.

Speaker 1: I moved to Frazier. I moved to Frazier, but I wanted to come back to the Claybourne Home, but I just moved out because all my kids had been grown and all my boys were leaving, so I moved to Frazier with my mom again. So I mostly –

Interviewer 1: Uh-huh. What year was that when you moved?

Speaker 1: Yeah, I mostly go where my mom is, when she go, I move with my mom. So I stayed there, I stayed at Claybourne Home about good 20 some years and all, maybe a little more, on my own, with my mom, then with my kids. So when they got big enough, they moved around and got their own houses, so I didn't go back to the develop, I kept going and going, somewhere else, somewhere else, because they was changing in the old area, there was something different every year.

Interviewer 1: Did you move to Frazier with a special need voucher, or?

Speaker 1: Yeah, I moved to the New Dunce and I had to transfer from the Section 8 back, I wanted to stay in the public housing, so it's just real far for me for my girls and so they gave me a transfer, but I had to go a whole year before I could move into the development, because I was on the Section 8, but I got it. They went on and transferred me, they put in me the Foot Homes first and my boys had got that lead poisoning, from a home that was burnt, apartment that were burnt and they, I guess they redid, they paint it, and it wasn't good enough, started making them sick and stuff, so they moved us from there back to the Claybourne Home, that's how I got back over in the Claybourne Home.

Interviewer 1: Your boys got lead poisoning from Foot Homes?

Speaker 1: Yeah. Yeah, when I live in Foot Home develop, because they had, they did something to the house, like repaint it, where it had been burned real bad, I don't know, the baseboard done like was tan and they said when the houses burn like that, that damage, it done gutted it and then they peel and scrap it and paint it, so a little asbestos coming through the walls and stuff, so that's really why I moved from it, gone on back to the Claybourne Home, but all my life I stayed in Claybourne Home and when we did live there, we had so many people live over there, was staying over there like we still living in the house there, 'cause we just visiting. We went everyday and the kids can't even keep them away from over there. I live over there now, see kids still wandering through the grass, going on through the drive, but you're not supposed to go over

there because it's still having the ground and stuff with, so a lot of people still go over there and staring, just like the apartments still up.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: I'd be going to work, I stare at them and I'm laughing. What is it now? They had a pretty good thing building back, a lot of people there, they just still going, people going, just standing there at the gate and look over in it. I see people do that all the time, just stand there looking there on the ground, it gonna be rebuilt, but it's not gonna be the public housing no more, it's gonna be those nice homes, but they're building now, they got up on the other end, they're gonna put them all over there, because once that is McKinley Park and I think somewhere over where a swimming pool and everything and all that, that gonna be another lane too for McCobb, the other parts on McKinley and it's down off Lydale and Orleans, Cycobb, so it might be called something else, but that's what that side over there called, when we lived there they called, up on Jordan, off of Jordan, they called that GA, they called them from Jordan Street, that's what side of the Claybourne Home they called that GA line, on our side we have them all side, Grand Mall, St. Paul, if you went down on St. Paul you'll have, in St. Paul area, yes, kids giving name, up where I was we would have the Mall Drive, that's had the mall area, the mall was Claybourne Home, that kid that got gutted, the intersection is his name, but people live, a lot of people are fine and trying, well there's something about the Claybourne Home, people was really trying to get into the Claybourne Home. Hell, people would come over there and move in the vacant houses. You're not a leaseholder, why you in the house, some people putting their stuff in 'em, just living there, till the people make 'em leave and stuff, but there's something about the Claybourne Home, boy, they attract a lot of people. It wasn't no bad develop to lay there through the years, like I, but 2004 it really begins to get bad. Kids got real bad, so but people still there and people, the old people stay in those apartments over there until they had started demolishing. A lot of people didn't really have anywhere to go because a lot of people letting their stuff expire, a lot of looking and stuff, but I told the old just people, they hate leave, you know they're gonna be told out, so you know you have to leave and they're were there last minute point and a lot of people were moving because they didn't have nowhere go. You let your thing expire, that mean that you got to get up on your own then, but they helped a lot of 'em, mission streets there, the Emanuel Center and North Health Club help a lot of the ladies do their paperwork and stuff over, try to

help 'em get some work, most of all of 'em had kids, so they helped them do that. A lot of 'em moved to Foot Home, a lot of 'em moved back down on Mississippi. It was nice when I lived in Claybourne Home over there and if they rebuild it, I'm going back, when they get the houses, they're supposed to let them know when they're gonna do that, on application and stuff on 'em, I'm trying to go back. I just like the area, you can get around more freely.

Interviewer 1: So do you remember what it was like when you first moved in?

Speaker 1: Well, yeah, when we moved in, I was old enough to know the swimming pool, and I was been, it was like five of, five sisters, three brothers, my mom, and one of my aunties, she'd have her kids, so when we moved there was a lot of kids, 'cause on the side where we were, we were a family big enough for a five bedroom, four bedroom, and we was on that side, like that three, there was a lot of one, two, well we was a bigger family and all lots of times we was there, we had fun. I mean, the swimming pool were here, the Elly Ground Park was right here, we'd come out our front door, on here we in the park, come out the back go far we had the swimming pool, so we mostly had it made because when my mom go to work she would tell us, "If you going to the park, go to the park, if you're not, stay in the yard. If you're not going to stay in the yard, you got the swimming pool in the back" well when my mom go to work, my auntie will be getting off, so she mostly come to watch us and she would let us go, but we, ever since then the Claybourne Home we be having fun. It never been bad for, I believe, they helped us, because my mom, she was a LDC Civil Service, we got food stamp stuff, when we got into the Claybourne Home, it was like a free-lit, you could do a lot, because a lot of things that I've come to know, and there were fun kids, we never had no problem about fights, there were a lot of kids that, we moved there like we already knew the people, everybody just come and sit on our porch, come down and play hopscotch, jump rope, jacks, played marbles, I mean, we had a lot of stuff, people like our house because my momma always bought a lot of stuff and our grandparents came some, they was in Arkansas, they came the summer here, so they would bring us a lot of stuff and baby we stayed there, we tried to stay longer 'cause we had the family, we'd get bigger, we had to keep moving on, so they moved us from there to the five bedroom, so home, a lot of that we really had fun, 'cause there was a lot of people that have 10, 11, 12 kids, 13 kids, and they would just, a lot of kids never fight, there was never no fight, you know how kids fight now, all this old mess, there were never that, the Claybourne Home was very good. I think Mr. Brown was our develop manager and we had ladies on the Board,

like Mitchem, Ms. Eschew, Ms. Docotow, and we had, the lady name is Blakely, we had a lot ladies that were running on the Board for the Claybourne Home, they helped out a whole lot with the kids and there was always some excited and we go to the community center and do, in the summertime they have programs, we would come, till the end of the program, they served lunches and all weekend they would all have little parties for the kids of the Claybourne Home and because a lot of people had adopted the Claybourne Home, so we had enough activity go on during the week to keep us going, but it was real fun, you hear when I said fun, it was fun and if I can go back and start over, I'll go again, because my kids over there and kids when I had them here, we all still live in the Claybourne Home, it just was nice, the people done so much for you back then, more than they do for the people that's in the public housing, it's not like it was back then, we had a lot of excitement when we first moved in there, grown up and when grown up and got grown, graduated from high school and stuff and kids, they still was having a nice, but all of sudden it just got a little bad. Some of the people started dropping from the Board, lot of people you put in the house, everybody don't do right, a lot little carry on and stuff, so but it got where the kids couldn't do a lot of things that we did when we moved into the Claybourne Home and fun stuff like we had, because it stopped halfway about when my kids, my girls come along with their tap, there about, say 11 or 12, going from elementary to junior high, from there that's when it get, everything start, it wasn't the same anymore. The develop, they wasn't doing a lot for the kids like they used to, so it still was nice, because they had good people's on the Board, they still watching those kids, keep them intact and stuff, but every year we go on it would get bad, it will, it would get bad, but I still go over there, I still went through that, go over there and sit in the yard with some of the ladies that still was there, because we had lots of friends and stuff.

Interviewer 1: That's good.

Speaker 1: It was really nice.

Interviewer 1: So, you kind of touched on this a little bit, but could you tell us how Claybourne changed while you lived there, such as the commissions of the buildings, your relationships with people, maybe your relationships with the police?

Speaker 1: Well, the polices that all we had kind, officer friendly, we had less night, now they was very good, because like the kids get in a fight, not police with them now hitting kids, it wasn't like that. Police

come up, pick ‘em up, “Stand up here, you come here, have ‘em, see what’s the problem, well you go, let me see you go home and tell your momma come to that door” the kids go, momma come and the police were very nice, they handled the kids good. The people at the other Claybourne Home, they weren’t no bad parents, like parents is now, some parents are bad, some are not. The parent will see after the kid, see what the problem and your kid can talk to smart to another wrong person, like they do now, you couldn’t do that, because this lady, like with that door, say “You go home baby, because you all ain’t gonna fight in this yard, you go home” and they get at home, telephone ring, so we know who it is, when you do get there, you’ll get a whipping.

Interviewer 1: In other ways, yeah. [Laughter]

Speaker 1: Yeah, well good officers of the develop where good neighbors, all that neighbors was concerned neighbors, like when kids that try to sneak out when they get down, “Where your momma, you all know they’re sitting on the porch over there, get on back up there in there before I call your momma” so yeah, slam the door, we caught like that, we already know you’ll get caught.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: But, all in that day –

Interviewer 1: You just didn’t even try. [Laughter]

Speaker 1: Yeah, we let alone, because we know what we’re gonna get when my momma come home. A lot of the neighbors was very nice neighbors, ‘cause they were set of age of neighbors that were concerned for the kids, kept them kids in line, wouldn’t let them peddle signs, because in the people in the other Claybourne Home, they were good people, because they was always out walking around in the develop, certain thing in the Claybourne Home, but there was something for the kids, some of them would get out on a pass, they know just where the resident lived and which apartment, because when there wasn’t that unit, and they know how many kids you have and if somebody like that come to your house and bring certain things for the kids, give ‘em a lot of stuff, that’s why our parents, but it was real good. I can remember, it was very nice when we’d come up, it didn’t get bad till the year 2000 something, because Claybourne Home never been a bad development. When they started remodeling, redoing it, it was moving us around, moving everybody around, because when they started remodeling, that’s the time I had moved to the Foot Homes, because they didn’t

have nowhere to put me at the time, when it was remodeling, it started on the homes on McKinley where me and my momma stayed, they started on that end first, we was out, they moved 'em down and as they was fixing them up there, they was putting me back, but you might not be in your same unit, but you'd been close to where you was. A lot of people went back to their same house, but when they did that, it was nice, and I mean, it was good, because they only did them like expand the kitchen, because we had a back pantry, in our home, we had a little pantry where you stock your canned goods, you put your bikes, lawn mower, stuff you can put away, but most people make their pantry like a little den, put a couch back there, two chairs. In ours we had a bed, a couch, two chairs, TV, would come back.

Interviewer 1: It was big?

Speaker 1: Huh?

Interviewer 1: It was big?

Speaker 1: It was big, yeah, because we was in a three bedroom, come out to the kitchen, more like when we have company, my mom would let the girls come in, sometimes we'd pop popcorn, we sit in the pantry, we called it the pantry, had a TV and we'd watch TV, sit down to see because when they leave, go out the back. My momma always let us have company, because we had nice friends and stuff, kids didn't fight, we didn't have to fight, because we was a family like, it was like a thousand of us, but there was just eight of us, you just pass 'em in a friend and people thought everybody was supposed to be in the development. Momma let us chill all day, every day I come home we got like 19 girls in here, 19 boys, sitting on my back porch, they was just friends now, they want to come to our yard, sit down with us, because we mostly sit all of us together, we was just really sit around a whole lot, sit on our back porch, pop popcorn, watch the people swim, because certain days that I tend to go, because my momma tell us when we go, when we couldn't go, there was certain day that we didn't go, there was enough of us to have a party ourselves, so we was popping popcorn, put our little stereo in the kitchen window, because it's so low into the ground, we stand it in the window, start it on and we dance. A lot of friends come, we just have fun.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: So when they start remodeling everything, everybody stopped moving around and getting better and better, it began to make the

Claybourne Home look good and I thought that was pretty and they started redoing on everything and it started different in our develop, so we all would leave Claybourne Home like the old Claybourne Home, make the new one look like some townhouses, that had a deal, so that's when I really believe they come back and demolished the Claybourne Home because they just only broke down like walls from the pantry to make the kitchen bigger. Yeah, so we couldn't sit down like we used to in it, but we had a little closet, where you could put your stuff, but in the early it was good. All the while I was there it was good and when I did move and went back and start hanging, because my nieces live over there, two of my sisters, so we always had somewhere to go over there and a lot of our friends was still there, they came back over and moved out some, they still stayed there, they moved, dropped down to a one bedroom, like that, go sit on the porch, talk to some of the ladies that we know that have been there awhile, but they remind, they still was pretty, it is, how the things start going on through the years, I got people tell me they're ready to go in it. So other than that, the people was good, we had friendly officers that always would patrol were good and our manager and the ladies of the Board, they all would make sure the kids were safe, that we didn't we have to be running from folks that people bringing in and out of their homes, there were never nothing like that. I told 'em, 20 years I stayed there and the years I went back to there, I enjoyed it, because it was a nice place to stay, you didn't have to worry about nobody hunting you down and they had this like program, I don't know what it really was, like if you need any help sometime with certain things in your home, they would help you get your lawn chair and if you lost your job, you'd come to the develop, find some papers and stuff, where they help you catch up on your Grant, maybe start from where you at, with what you got, but as the years going, they stopped that, because a lot of people were working and they didn't know they were working, just people doing, but other than that, Claybourne Home was a really nice development to live in, like people say you can't go in and find a home, I went everywhere.

Interviewer 1:

Yeah.

Speaker 1:

Because I went to Burger Washington, I went to Porter and back. Foot Homes, the more I got, find a home, all of us went to school together, Frontiers from Montell, but not too many because they had stayed over on the other side, but we went to school with all the development, so I went to all of 'em, I didn't wasn't scare of nobody, I hung out with a lot of girls and stuff, but there a lot of people you couldn't go different places, kids wanted to fight, you

didn't let it get bad ass and the years that go on, but other than that, it was very nice.

Interviewer 1: Yeah. Were you employed while you were fenced?

Speaker 1: Huh?

Interviewer 1: Were you employed?

Speaker 1: Well, when I stayed in, when I stayed out on my own, well when I moved from where my momma, that's when I told you I moved and well when I turned 17 I went to work.

Interviewer 1: Where at?

Speaker 1: I worked at a Jack Perry Chicken House. I worked at, I went to work on my own because I had to work, something that happened with my Medicaid, when we was getting Medicaid for me and my girls, well my Medicaid was being abused, somebody was using my Medicaid number and getting dentures and stuff like that, but without me knowing. I guess, when you take the PS up to the clinic, I took the kids up to the dentist, that's the only way they could've gotten the number, because I never released my paper with anybody, so I had a little problem about that, so that what made me get up and get me to find me something to do, because I had the two girls and my momma couldn't take care of me and them too, so I went to work when I was 17, but I turn, I think I turned 20, they wrote me a letter and discovered that the person that had been using my card wasn't me, but I had to work because I had to pay for my girls to go to the doctor, because they turned off everything, there was somebody using my stuff and had messed it up. It took it like two, three years before I could get it back, today get us from under the investigation and the people discovered that it wasn't me, but other than that, I got along real good.

Interviewer 1: And how did you get to work? Did you walk?

Speaker 1: Well I rode the bus.

Interviewer 1: Bus?

Speaker 1: Because I worked in that park in Havoc.

Interviewer 1: Okay.

Speaker 1: Yeah, I rode the bus, because like when I got out of school and my mom will keep my girls because I was working. I had enough money to get on the bus, come back home, so I only worked like from 4:00 in the evening till 10:00 at night.

Interviewer 1: So it was a part-time job?

Speaker 1: Yeah, till I turned 18, then I went full-time, like that.

Interviewer 1: Okay.

Speaker 1: So I worked in like the Jack Perry about four years, it was all but four years before I got my Ten Cast back, but I still lived in that 641 8th and McKinley, so that's where I lived. My momma moved out from over there, my momma moved to Frazier, I moved with my mother, I told you I moved to Frazier, but I come back, because I was trying to back into the development, so that's how I got the Section 8. Moved back there, I stayed right there for one year and the other two years, my mom live there, because I moved back into the Claybourne Home with my sister, went back there, I moved with her, me and my two girls and their Aunt Annabelle and so I stayed there. As long as my momma want to stay in that house, in Frazier, I stayed in the Claybourne Home, but she, my mom, she moved, she got her own house, so I got in and because I got transfer, I wanted transfer my Section 8 for public housing.

Interviewer 1: Public housing?

Speaker 1: Yeah, so they did it for me, but they told me I had to wait a year.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: So that's how I really, I really came back to the Claybourne Home then, because my mom, she took my girls to stay with her, they come on weekends, I keep them on weekends, because I work, so I stay with my sister, because I'm right there at Orleans, I go, I get on the bus, when the bus come back, let me out, I come right across the street on the Frazier, because I'm all the way to Frazier, trying to get off the bus here, so on Friday my momma would bring them to me and I kept them and then they called me and gave me my transfer, but they put me in the Foot Home, that got me above them. I stayed but like a year, almost two years when I had my boys, my boys kept getting sick and I didn't know what was making them sick and the lady at Washington Clinic, told me, she said, "Do you live in a home that's messed up?" and I told 'em, "No, I don't live in a home that's messed up" they go, "Kids take

clay, play in a lot of dirt” so I told ‘em, I said, “Well they played in dirt” but the dirt wasn’t what was causing it, it was the messed up house, they aren’t, but they had repainted it and I said they were burned real bad and then the lead was about in any room, the room, there must have been a room where the room was burnt the baddest, so that’s how I got back into Claybourne Home and I stayed there too.

Interviewer 2: Yeah. [Laughter]

Interviewer 1: Did they pay for the medical bills for your kids, or?

Speaker 1: Well, at clinic I had Ten Cast for my boys, I ain’t got it back for my girls, like four years later, I got it back for them and got my boys on Ten Cast, I kept having to take them to the clinic, when they go to daycare, the lady kept telling me, “They be so weak, they were just restless in the daytime, do they go to sleep” and I told her, she asked me, and they asked a lot of questions about how I cook and some lady told me, says, “Well we’re gonna need somebody, have an expert come to your house because I don’t know why these kids, they’re sick like that” I didn’t either, because they didn’t play with no lot of kids and when I go to work, my oldest daughter will watch ‘em. They stayed in most in the house, because they had a lot of stuff to keep them occupied, because I didn’t know as much about the Foot Home, like I did Claybourne Home, so still, when I got it together, the Health Department came out, where they turn off all the lights, helping me out, shut off the blinds, they got off the lights, it’ll be dark, turn on their blue light, she told me, “Anywhere you see a oil base, that’s lead there” so we went around and my living room was bad, my boys room was bad, and also was my bathroom, and two brushes and stuff were, that’s where the damage was real bad, it was making a week that their hands was starting to, they couldn’t do that good at writing, it would get bad on, so the Health Department came and did everything, they automatically moved me back to the Claybourne Home, they told me I no longer could stay there, so they had an opening in Claybourne, so they put me back over there. My house was messed up from the burn, so they got them better for kids that overcome lead, unless it get too bad on and that’s how I was doing my boys, it would work, doing some work on ‘em, because their room was the room that was messed up bad.

Interviewer 1: Right.

Interviewer 2: That’s why they tore it down?

- Speaker 1:* Now they're great. When I moved back into Claybourne Home, they had taken back and forth to clinic where they stick their finger, check their blood counts up, and they started getting better. The lady said she could see they start feeling better, whipping and running this daycare up. Kept like, you know how kids come home, they're looking for something now, they'd go upstairs, when you go upstairs, they'd be laying down, sometimes they be asleep, so I go to work and used to wake 'em up, come downstairs to eat and my son, but daughter told me, she said, "Mom they don't hardly ever eat, they don't have nothing drink or juice" go back upstairs, I said, "Well what they doing up there" "I don't know, I think they sleep" and I know that they'd be real, real tired, like the daycare woman show them, but it wasn't, it was their health. I got out of there too.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah, good.
- Speaker 1:* Never had those type of problems when I was in the Claybourne Home.
- Interviewer 1:* So, when you were living in Claybourne, did it feel like a community to you?
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, because they did for everybody. One family get there, for now the other family did.
- Interviewer 1:* Uh-huh.
- Speaker 1:* Mm-hmm. They had, they all had good stuff for the kids. I mean, all kinds of talent show, they all got contributions, somebody came through, DIA was the adoption of the Claybourne Home, but the DIA, but they always had something and the community, it stayed clean and on Saturdays the kids would clean, they would come out and they'd see what we had, what's bad on the shelf, we'd go back on mostly we would do like the park, because we had this big bayou, you could go down and the kids always throw a lot of missiles in it, grown men be around on side of the house, but they would wait till later in the evening and shoot dice, because we had a lot of kids, play around there before your momma, I'll tell your momma your coming around the corner and stuff like that, but they shot dice and drank the whole beer bottles, so we would clean up on weekends, we would always clean up around the community, I mean kids were putting in for their, like there be kids and get laid, the kids that wanted to do that. I don't get paid for what I do, you ain't doing it for you, you're doing it for the community, you hear about it a little bit, so you don't want to do it, you don't have to

come to the bay, but you picking up a lot of mess for you all, when you hang around this corner here, so they stopped them from hanging like that, but it wasn't no problem because they found somewhere else to go I guess and in the community it was nice, we kept it clean, even the people got out of work the night, and the men, they were bellowed then than they are now.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1 You would call on their phone and say their window got broken, they'll come fix their window. Call and say your knob fell off, they're gonna fix that knob. I mean, they were fancy about their job then than they is now and they did a lot of stuff for our community. We had so much stuff when we were growing up, here in the Claybourne Home, always was somebody had something for the kids from the Claybourne Home.

Interviewer 1: So besides your talent shows and stuff you talked about, what kind of other neighborhood traditions, like festivals or block parties, or holidays?

Speaker 1: Well we didn't have no block parties. I can't remember, well in our community we only had talent shows for the kids around the neighborhood, would get into stuff, make up dances with your guests, some sing, where my two sisters, they got on the cheerleading squad, my brothers they were drama, and we got a lot of stuff they had, but we most had like puppet shows, talent shows on weekends, because that was the best time, because the weekday they were working on a lot of stuff that people don't make to the Claybourne Home, to the parents and their kids and stuff like that, who kept a lot of stuff. It was good that people, when people give like that, a lot of people in Claybourne Home appreciate. Some people get inside, wait you gave up, they don't like that, whatever they gave those current ladies got it, carried it on and they're not gonna get help tainting your contributions today, would you like to come to the community center and pick up your order, you write your name on it, sign notes, now you leave, no, you go to the community center and you be already to pick up your stuff. They made nice contributions to the Claybourne Home, somebody always giving the kids and the parents something. We had puppet shows, like I said, we had talent show, we used to like, in this office where community center is very big, because they have dances for the girls on Saturdays, but Thursday we have a little things for the boys, because Sunday they have like a little service sometime, if you like to come and those times getting out a lot of stuff because shipment and stuff that came in for the kids of the

home and stuff, parents, we got little gift bags sometime, cologne, body lotions, and we would get like food come through there, we get canned goods, we got eggs, and that goods. They come like on Halloween, they have costumes for the kids. Thanksgiving we got a long basket furnished with the fruit. Christmas, every child of a family got two gifts and a bag with two oranges, two apples, unless a can in this one. We got cards, it was good, as it come on, everything changed through the year. I would say about 2004, Claybourne Home was just chucking, it just got a little bad, little kids fight with everyday and shooting and stuff and so a lot of people is really moving out on their own, because they don't want to get their kids hurt, a lot of people just coming in hanging in the Claybourne Home that didn't live there, a lot of things are going on, people shooting and all that. They were going like, before they did mine. Good, you all didn't appreciate this, no way. You all got over here with all this lead, they all destroyed the Claybourne Home. You don't want to go to, because you don't where a person's shooting at you from, so you try not to go there, but I told 'em, I say, "You all didn't do _____ [39:15] you gonna tear that mess down and put them somewhere else" and a lot of them they get over there, so you all sit down, because I'm sure I'm gonna be one to try to go back.

Interviewer 1: Yeah. Who were the people that you trusted while you live in Claybourne, and what kind of, who were the people that you trusted?

Speaker 1: Well, my mom, my auntie, well we didn't, we couldn't visit other people home, like people visited our home, but we got a chance to see a lot of our friends. My momma just stopped over there every night, but we, like if something happened, we would all have like a lot of, we had four officers we could call and talk with every night, that's something going on, you see stuff, but we mostly didn't go too far in peoples home, so my momma and I ain't into it, somebody we gonna talk to.

Interviewer 1: And what type of support did they offer you?

Speaker 1: Well they decent, patrolled the stuff for us, like when you get down and you always would walk, make sure you're on your porch, make sure your girls is not in an area where dogs or nobody could do, because you had Porter Junior High behind our house, that's the big lot there, but they had a fence around it, so most of them maybe they have to go through this stuff and made sure we didn't get in no trouble, no one try to hurt us or nothing.

- Interviewer 1:* Was there's stingy when the people in your community ever trade goods and services about using money, like would someone, did your mom cook for someone if they would like buy the food or do your hair, or your nails?
- Speaker 1:* Nah, we didn't do that.
- Interviewer 1:* No? No, okay and how would you get the community's news or gossip? The gossip of the community, how would you usually hear about what's going on?
- Speaker 1:* [Coughing] Like when we said now, kids always talking.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah.
- Speaker 1:* But the Claybourne Home would send papers to our door, letting us know what's giving away, what's coming, that's how we knew.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah?
- Speaker 1:* Yeah.
- Interviewer 1:* But people talk a lot about what's going on in people's lives, or?
- Speaker 1:* Well, they didn't start doing that till later.
- Interviewer 1:* Oh, okay.
- Speaker 1:* Now, staying off our business. I'm like on that they would do that.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah. Did you feel safe while you lived there?
- Speaker 1:* Mm-hmm.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah?
- Speaker 1:* Ain't never had to run from nobody. [Coughing] We never had to ask nobody for nothing.
- Interviewer 1:* If you need to get some water, we can just pause this, or?
- Speaker 1:* No. We don't have to do none of that.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah.

Speaker 1:

Yeah. We had good people, like some old people, cook for, they would give us some, send out, we didn't have to worry about all that. All the neighbors was good, like they cook from, they were telling other, apartments there was complex ducks, when there were no ducks sitting around, no kids around, so they would get up and cook a casserole and the ladies always sitting around and they chatting and stuff like that, but we had a ladies day, call from us, they didn't play around, there was Ms. Mary Earl, she would always walk the community and start, those kids gonna get another chicken leg, the kids get a hot dog once, we couldn't get nothing but a chicken leg, she always buy the kids something for the kids, but a lot of people were funny about that, their kids, a lot of people didn't want their kids eating something from another person's home and we was a family that was like, where our auntie would, our momma ain't never mind, but my momma was nice and she would do a lot of stuff, we would have popcorn days and then my grandfather, he gather me around, like he said, he would bring us bushels of peas and we get our corn, oranges, tomatoes, he would bring us watermelon, cantaloupe, so it was just eight of us, all of us couldn't eat all that, so we'd ask our friends, "Ask your momma can you all get a watermelon, go ask your momma does she want some beans" so my momma would go to Valley Spring where they have store up on Orleans and St. Paul, they called it Valley Spring, but it changed over to Willey Moore Grocery, about two or three years later and then momma used to go over there and get bags for them peas and stuff, but the neighbors always had something good to give the kids, but we just couldn't eat something another person had, but Ms. Mary Earl, when Mary bring that grill out, cook all them chicken, we'd be sitting on the porch, but our auntie wouldn't let us go, but our momma would because my auntie told us just as well as she cooking that chicken on that grill over there, we'd want to help and get some chicken out of the freezer and put it in some water and cook it on our stove, see that's how auntie was, why would you eat somebody else food, when you got food of your own in your house. She didn't believe in that, but my mom did, my auntie didn't like us to beg, which we didn't beg, because we was already brought up like that, because all of our sudden we said "No, thank you, because you come out with some grease on your face, like you was eating, and your clothes are messed up, you're gonna get a whipping, because I know you been out of this house" so it's just like we've been begging. So we wouldn't take a lot of things from people, but Ms. Mary said "We ate that chicken, but I ain't gonna get mad or nothing" but it was like, most of the people in one room, when I moved to Claybourne, they were like seven or eight people, most of the type people that keep you in line, keep you from fighting, always had something for the kids to do, ladies

bought jump ropes and stuff, because of a lot of girls, they had hula hoops, just a lot of stuff, they would go out, see mom and then started to come back, bring us a lot of stuff to play with, there was a lot of good people in the Claybourne Home. Not like now, so a lot of them crazy, if they moving to stay over there, those people when I was growing up and coming up, was some nice people. All the Claybourne Home community people and stuff who was on the Board, all those were good people and now almost every night, some families act, really know everybody, but we mostly knew all the folks around us, so we always going to community center and gonna get on their side, a few kids would always try to fight, so when the kids get started up like that, we already knew we had to leave, because if we was in something, like we went for, the kids now that's not so, we had to get out of the system, brother we had to go home, because we got a sister that's slow, she was born a little messed up, so we just take her everywhere we go, so keep her from getting hurt, my brother wouldn't have for anything, they were ready for anything, they didn't care, a lot of things we said before my house, four sisters had to keep our eye on our sister, we already would leave, so when the kids get to fight and everything, we don't want to be involved because we had my sister with us, we supposed to go back home, but we do, go in our kitchen, turn on the light, pop in the popcorn, we sit in our backyard, they say why didn't you all come to the house and get your all badge, my momma get on our back the next day, because we already know what the kids were going to do, they're fighting, we had to leave, but we knew, but everyone of those older, my brother left there, the boys get out, they don't care, so they always get a whooping for going back around on that other side and be over there fighting with some boys and stuff, but other than that, the people in the neighbor, the people in the other neighborhood were very nice, all the years that I lived around there, you hear, and I went all from St. Paul here in the Mall, grandma, we went around their generation, the people were nice, they was over there, so they go, sitting in the they're lounge chairs on the porch, pretty yard, then a lot of their kids are having kids and moving into the development where they call, where they lease, taking their own kids off their lease and putting them in their own apartment, now you on your own. So that's how it really start going, when it start going like that, I don't know what's gonna happen in _____ [31:34] but you still can go in the Claybourne Home and enjoy yourself and people, see a lot of new faces, see a lot of new kids, watch these kids, these kids grow up now they gonna, now they got kids, some of them momma's was still there, they just still leasing, not move and like that, but other than that, I really only we have about the Claybourne Home was the development developed, because we

didn't have no whole lot of bad things happening, till a little later, down through the years, but other than that, there was only was just kids that didn't even live there, and they start all that banging, banging, all of them about who in the gang, this is when it got bad. I told 'em, they're gonna down, and they went down, they tore it down, the FINNA took that down across the street.

Interviewer 1: So I've heard that living in Claybourne there's been a lot of responsibility for raising each other's children, like if one of your girls would do something wrong, it was okay with you that someone else would punish them and then come tell you. Was that how it was?

Speaker 1: Now that was when we were coming up.

Interviewer 1: That was you, okay.

Speaker 1: Yeah, like when we were coming up. If the neighbor, like we would be outside doing stuff you know you ain't suppose to be doing, just say that's where we didn't get in trouble, 'cause we knew. If we get in trouble and if one other person have to tell my momma something on us, we know what we're gonna get and we know what we have to do, we in the house, we got the, 'cause if momma have to come home and blast, you're gonna get another whooping, so we had feedback, we couldn't go outside, but we had enough stuff inside our house to keep us occupied, so we didn't mess with the courtesy of the others. If a grown person saying something to you, you all get sent to your room, she make me see, my momma won't say nothing, she no too mean, we didn't that, "Yes ma'am" I don't want them kids down here, you all momma up there won't come out, she got always trying to fight, they trying to run down here and sit down and talk, "Tell your momma come to the door" go get our momma, my momma go out the door and they all don't like my momma, my momma go ask them what they fighting and stuff, they tell, she say, "Well listen go up there and ask your momma, can you all come down and eat some popcorn and stuff, I'm popping" all them kids run, they was alright, they didn't want fight no more, because a lot of kids like to come in our yard anyway, because we had a lot of stuff, we didn't have to get out too fast, because my grandfather bought us a lot and our momma bought us a whole lot of stuff, but other than that, if a wrong person is on duty, you gotta move it, but now, like I had my kids, we still are like that because my kids lived in the house with us and whatever wrong they set it went, because you can't out talk a wrong person and you ain't gonna make this wrong lady look like a liar, when the lady telling me, what's you gonna be done,

you can't make this lady out of a liar, because she grown and you not, so we lived like that, we done give respect to other people, we didn't use that profanity like them kids and grown up, because we know we was gonna get it. Other kids try to slip and say this stuff, we couldn't, we try to do what they do, because we already know where our momma gonna beat us, we ain't aware of that child momma, so when the kids got to doing all that, we didn't deal with it. No, you can't come back down here in our yard, my mom says you can't come back, she heard you cursing. They won't leave, you know how kids are, they had to come up there and see you, they know, they know my momma didn't like their kid, that's when went back, but we had good people. I'm talking about good people, like when my kids got old enough and those girls started coming up and started "Hey kid" you couldn't tell the kids nothing, because you're not gonna go, "You're baby rather throw beer bottles in their yard" "Yeah, okay" shut the door.

Interviewer 1: They didn't care.

Speaker 1: No. So I learning this, keep my eyes on my own kids. I ain't worried about nobody else kids. I hate to see bad things happen to kids, but it got where you couldn't say nothing to a parent about their children. So I kept my eyes on my eyes on my mine. When mine got big enough they can handle themselves, then I'll be a, I ain't worried about nobody doing nothing to them, I ain't worried about nothing, sit down on my porch, that guy who I don't hardly know I do, they live like I know where mine gonna sit down and find out I got and never moved, ain't gonna move, because people think when you get obsessed with other kids, you're being mean to their kids. No, that's not being mean, they're trying to make them learn, because you ain't teaching them. Don't holler at my baby, don't send over, don't say I ain't aware of my baby, you ain't got no business talking to other child, no way, but you can see certain thing can kick in to make you flash on, because kids always got other stuff to come out their mouth, well now that's how people got their kids. So when you took the kid to that school, you should have left it, because anytime I gotta deal with some kids, eight, nine hours, Monday morning, you the moment they make it back to you. If they may do it to you, they gonna do it to me. If they whoop you, they ain't gonna whoop me and if they talk back, they ain't talking smart to me and if I can't deal with it, I know what to do, take them out of their class, I'm gonna let the principal or somebody else deal with you because I ain't got no time for this, but some people they sit there and fight with these kids and everything, you don't do that, because you gotta think about your child, you're a grown person fighting with children, then you

discipline your kids and learn them, they won't likely be in these school talking smart to a grown lady, somebody trying to learn them, most folks got their education, you can't do that to these kids, see that's what's bad for them kids, a grown momma don't want have about no say to these little kids, these little kids are cursing like some grownup, you understand, people just, it got out of hand a little while and I told 'em, they don't say that to me today, people can't send them, I told them when we were coming up, them ladies said "Go in that house, it's starting to get dark, lights gonna come on, you better go, get up on that porch, or go in your house" because them ladies had authority to get up off their porch, they didn't hear nobody tripping no shoes, no beer, they reach over there on their tree and got them those little thin switches, so they may tap you and spin you and you holler for days because it's gonna hurt, that's what they hit you with, they don't the kids with no belt, try to whoop your kids with switch, because they whoop theirs with switch, reach on their tree on got their little slim switch, peel the leaves off baby, tap the end by flap, because that hurt the bad, that's what kept a lot of kids and people saw that, you'll whoop your kids, you can discipline your kids, everybody does, you don't have to whoop your kids for everything they do, but listen, since you did all that, you go on back to your room and stay in your room, if you watch TV and lay down there and then or whatever you do, but you can't go outside that door, no. If that ain't a little punishment, what is? You don't have to hit him on the back of the head, no, no, no. I never like that, I never abused my kids like that and my daughters and I wouldn't abuse my grandkids like that. You ain't gonna whoop 'em, spank 'em right, leave 'em alone, you get tired of them doing their thing, that's what they got a room for, go in there, go on in there, shut that door behind you and sit down until you get yourself together, when you get yourself together come back out and talk to me, then we'll see what's on your head today, or what you wanna do, but you ain't gonna go back out here no attitude when you fighting with 15 children, now you have, I had to fight with 20 women, but some people just don't, they just don't, the younger girls come, they don't care, and their momma don't have no say because they kind of look at their lives messed up.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: No, we would just sit back and look at a lot of people just roam and what you do. If that's the type of guy you got for the little kids, you shouldn't do that like that. We learned when we were little, our grandpa always taught us, he say you all in a nice place, don't tear it up, he says you all got your own rooms, he says you

all girls can do, you all boys, he said, when your momma go to work shut these doors, don't open 'em up, he said if you need anything get on that phone, my granddad said call me, if something go on, if I gotta get to you, I'll get to you, don't call your momma and let her come, like that, and we did what our parents told us. Now, they don't do it like that, but Claybourne Home been good ever since I've been there and it's still good. When I moved out, was still going over there, we still had friends still there, people from everywhere, but I mostly went over there, sit down, like I said, I had a lot of nieces living over there, so I always go and then when they moved away, they move around different parts, I still went to the playroom, till they start tearing it down. I think I went over there about a month ago to Alverage over here on Vance and Orleans, they have revival class over there and I went over there to that and that man let me go through, he said, "I have no let you go" I said, "Willie, I didn't wanna walk through the drive, you can walk with me" I said, "You got, you and your truck" he said, "I'm eating my lunch" I said, "Well come around with your sandwich and drink" then we walked on up to the thing where I could go through the hallway ramp, because you go to Hanamaw Drive and come out right there to Alverage Center. Yeah, so he let me go through there. He said, "We got it down" and I said, "Yeah, you'll all got it leveled good too" everything was down on one side, they were still working on the side where the swimming pool is.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Yeah, so he walk me through there, let me go home through it. I know I ain't get a chance to go back through there, because they gotta keep the gate locked up and stuff.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Interviewer 2: Yeah.

Speaker 1: But on the other end, you come in through the drive, you come right to the gate, because they got the apartments right there, then they got this Alverage Center, on the rubber running now, Mike and all them, then they got some houses going down Orleans that lead to the drive, other Claybourne Home, but you still can go up and down the drive, but you can't get on the premises because they got, still got fences all around.

Interviewer 1: Right, right.

Speaker 1: Yep.

- Interviewer 1:* So what did you like best about living in Claybourne? You've given us a lot of memories. I don't know, if you could choose something?
- Speaker 1:* I like the homes, I like the housing, how the housing was made and it was spread out, I like that community center, and I like that everybody that worked in the Claybourne Home, up from '70 to '99, 1999, but that's a year ago, and a lot of people change and I really like Claybourne because the Claybourne Home was more popular than any development here in Memphis.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah?
- Speaker 1:* You all hear about that?
- Interviewer 1:* Why do you think that was?
- Speaker 1:* Because they said that Claybourne had the most intelligent people, they had the best people came from their develop, and a lot of their people wasn't no bad people, people be busted all the time with drugs, it wasn't bad like that and I go, when I went where, the time I grow up in Claybourne, I really like us as a fun, fun, they had all kinds of activities for us, bring you up the right way, then they helped out with our schools and stuff, it was just, it was fun. I can remember when I was little, when we was little, before I had my kids, they did good stuff for the kids and for the family. It was all about the family that had stayed in the units, they did good stuff. We got everything, always giving away stuff for us, somebody would always bring us some –
- [Third party interrupts]*
- Speaker 1:* There was a lot of stuff, we were here and I made, each of us were, the mountains they had for the Claybourne was a good mountain. They ladies that was on the Board, they was good ladies, people worked around the Claybourne Home, the management, they was good people. I only see a few of them now, a lot of 'em retired and stuff and they had the brothers, all the five brothers, they was on the unit where they did the spread, like the develop, there was five brothers, their momma lived in the Claybourne Home, the door, she see us, but she moved from the home now, they moved the front of Porter and she cooked for the housing part, she had five sons, but all them was on that patrol, they called it something, but they spray the houses all over the city for the development, for how they did, they did spray and they always come, on Sunday

they would have something in their backyard, like their momma have for the kids, just what they were putting in, they was giving back, all them men, there were five brothers, those men on Sunday, they would bring a lot of stuff for the kids and they had no hard time about getting the kids in line, to get it, because their mom had a beautiful yard, you don't want so many kids in your yard messing with the trees, flowers, they would give the kids stuff. All the people that was working for the Claybourne Home, that was good people. I mean, good people, we're here, always have something for the kids. From '71, '72, we moved into the Claybourne Home, till we moved away, it was nice, we had no trouble, when my kids come up, I had no trouble with nobody, like fight, no one trying to fight 'em and stuff like that, there was none of that and as the years go by, I sit down. 2004, they said it was a jungle. I went through there, I just didn't live on there no more, but I still went, because, like I said, I had nieces still over there and stuff and it getting bad, you'll turn the corner, there'll be 20 men standing on the building, trying to come over here, but the only thing about it, they didn't even live there, they're just friends to all the guys, hung out, they hanging on the other side, looking all there, like the police car coming through there. See at night it was not, you take something hit the light, blow it out, because they had the lights automatic come on. You hit them little stencil lights, hit that and it'll blow them out and they would do that at night, not with people, hitting people's lights, blowing 'em out, so when the next night they won't come on, so it make a job and police gonna sit out there before they start doing all their little stuff, shooting at the police, that really made it bad.

Interviewer 1: Yeah. So, you kind of touched on this just now. What were some of the challenges of living there?

Speaker 1: *[Coughing]* Well, we say, when we moved like, we always had something, they always have something like move you to the top, I don't know what this was called, you'd get yourself that, you would hear taunts, it was something, my momma didn't believe they were from grown people, it better you, like that's something my mom got in the wind program, the City program, because my mom started working for the City, but it was something they were doing, like to better your life, if you want to live better, become something better, I don't know what it was, but it was only for the parents and like they would go over to this program at the Claybourne Home, in the morning and they would send you out on a job, you would win a lot of stuff. This time we won this big stereo, my mom won this big stereo for us, but my momma got her own job, third job, my mom worked inside the City and one year

my mom was a truck driver and my mom been there ever since. It was a lot of stuff, but still there was a whole lot in the Claybourne Home, lot of people didn't take to her, but her husband and kids and her momma, we was a family of eight and we, there's a lot of stuff came in the mail, they would send the pearls and stuff, let you know what they had, what they were giving away, what they had, you could sign up on these program, you could join, get into, better helping yourself, get you a job and it was something good for a dozen. A lot of parents got into that because the City program, the Win program, something like that, it just do better and that's how a lot of them got the work and stuff, by getting good stuff and my mom went to work, and my momma ain't never stopped. My mom is 68 years old right now, will be 69, she a truck driver for the City and then like when we stayed, when we moved from McKinley back down, I moved on Hanamaw, they had another program, I can't think of the name of the program, where you go to class like two weeks, they will send you out different places, that's some teenage moms and girls that wanted a job, wanted to better yourself for you and your kids, stuff like that. It got a lot of people got in there, it was just something Claybourne always had something to do and to give for the parents to better their self, they said the develop was just to better you when you move out of the development, you move into something bigger and better, but I always thought where I was in Claybourne, I was in the better.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Interviewer 2: Yeah, that's it, yeah.

Speaker 1: You're in, I told 'em, I said, "You can make the best where you at, you don't got to live like somebody else live" you don't got to let your curse swing all out the blender, because then that ain't how you're supposed do it, you don't live because somebody else living, you live for yourself and a lot of things they were giving on prop, the lot of them better they self too, a lot of 'em moved on in nice houses and that, then they start off with the program for the young coming, people could get them houses, you want to get out of the Section 8, but a lot of people did not accept Section 8, a lot of 'em wouldn't accept that. All they said they're still, they're like public housing, when they moved from here, they want to be in something on their own, something they gonna buy, not nobody gonna be renting to them. They had a lot of stuff for you here, we didn't, we couldn't get into a lot of stuff out here, we were kids, but my momma did and when my momma got into it, she bought a home, so we could see it, so that's how we know how the Claybourne Home help the people start and we was gonna pass out

brochure stuff on it, going from door to door, those are the kids, know the kids, once the people are gonna pay what, *[Clapping]* well it was good stuff.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: And my momma used to tell us, “Don’t be owing no folk ever” but it’ll be looked down and set up, so you know you gonna read something and anybody, they have a workshop and stuff, they going to their job and I told ‘em, my sister say, “You think we can get them payment, we can go” she said, “That late at night we’re going” we followed her right down to the end of the road, we had so much fun, but I told her, I said, “My, a lot of people don’t know, you can better yourself, real better when you’re in the public housing” that’s what it’s for, you bring it down and scuffle it and it bring you a long way. Now if you’re gonna live somewhere free, you supposed to get up and try to help yourself, you’re gonna better yourself. This here’s for the person that scuffling, down, ain’t got no whole lot that want to come up on some night, a lot of ‘em of lazy, that’s why they moved away, old ladies, all those ladies like with the work, some of them had passed now, a lot of ‘em, we got them jobs and stuff through that Claybourne Home thing and old people moved out of their home, they own their home and stuff now, a lot of ‘em, so my mom, she live in her own home and stuff and they did have a lot of stuff. When we came up in Claybourne, they did, a lot of people doesn’t know because a lot of people didn’t get put in like we did, we participated in a lot of stuff, because we had a lot of talent, we were cheerleaders, we were majorettes, my brothers they were football players, there was drama, we did, we did have a lot in us and when you spunk kids, you can learn how to do it if they want half, they catch on the, the night my momma always told us, “Don’t ever let a person tell you what to do, you do what you supposed to do” see that’s how, that’s when you were no bad kid, we didn’t have to fight all the time, we didn’t fight as much, unless was messing with my slow sister, nobody know we had a slow sister, but we mostly kept here with us, so she wasn’t in no line of stuff and there wasn’t no lot of stuff going on, but we stayed in a lot of this stuff, we went everywhere. They used to take us to Disneyland, we used to go to the fairground, everyone in the Claybourne Home had coupon tickets up, would give up all kinds of chicken stuff where you could take your kids, give them a pass to a lot of stuff. We went to _____ *[11:14]* without, that’s how much stuff they used to have there at the Claybourne Home. Always got passes for your family and the kids, if you want to go, my momma used to go to the office and get a pass and we went, we went, when I first went

into the office, they gave us a pass for us to see the Nutcracker, we asked for a school bus, they were good, we could go to ride around and a bus was taking us and bringing us back, take us everywhere, they only had two charter to take the kids, if the kids wanted to go. We went to a lot of stuff. Our momma signed our papers and then we know how to act and we know how to stay together because folks, about all five us, all of us sit together, we didn't let one sister go way down there, because your friend's over there, we gotta stay together, because that's how momma signed it, we can't leave, we can't leave Barbara because the other may harbor by his self, my sister that was slow, so we all stayed together to help her, so that's how we did it, but we had a lot of good stuff when we grewed up.

[Third part interrupts]

Interviewer 1: Did you used to rent till they relocated with this Section 8 out there?

Speaker 1: Well at the, yeah, I stayed, I moved, they moved me to the Foot Home when they, but when they, when I got the Section 8, but my kids got the lead poisoning, that's what I tell you, they moved me back to the Claybourne Home.

Interviewer 1: Well I mean when they demolished Claybourne Home?

Speaker 1: See I went over there then.

Interviewer 1: Then you bought –

Speaker 1: When I told you, from 1972 to 1999, that's when I left the Claybourne Home, 1999, and all of us, yeah.

Interviewer 1: So do you remember any of the leaders of Claybourne Homes, like someone at, like for example, you were talking about people who were in gangs, but weren't living there. Was there like a community effort to try and get those people out?

Speaker 1: Well the police around there, they were like *[Third party talking over]* well they had none of that. Like I said, 2004, or '05, it got bad when police comes over there. I don't know what they had over there then, because they was calling.

Interviewer 1: Right. You were already gone?

Speaker 1: Then there was Iraq, and I wasn't going through that, because I won that war.

[Third party talking over everyone]

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: But we just got bad, like that, 2009 or something. [Third party talking over] 2008, '09, they done shut it down now, so it got bad through them four, five years behind that, I was gone, but I still visit, like I said, I still visit and stuff. [Third party talking over] but I told 'em tore it down now, it still over there standing at the gate, looking in the place, walking through the drive, like the Claybourne Home still built up, part of the College Street, standing up, sitting on cars like they still live there.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Because they took the wrong development away, but they said it got a little bad, so they're gonna do all of 'em like they did with them homes, like they do in the Claybourne Home, they gonna let two build, before home gonna go down.

Interviewer 1: Yeah, but do you feel like there were people who ever came in your community, like you said through the preachers that people from MHA or someone who like didn't belong there?

Speaker 1: Well we had one man, he's coming to preach every day, he wasn't no bother, because he just be preaching, but then nobody come through there like try to terrorize Claybourne, because you couldn't do that, you couldn't that, you couldn't come into the develop and play like you run it, no you couldn't do that. Nobody and you know faces, you know faces, if you were new in Claybourne they will stop anyways see who you're looking for.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: If you didn't know who you were looking for, you gonna turn around anyway, you see, they kept 'em, you won't be terrorizing the Claybourne Home, you won't be terrorizing, you won't be stealing nothing, you won't be doing nothing to it, if you didn't live over there.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: I don't care if you were social, everybody didn't know it, but they will ask you a lot of questions before you got in there.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Now we had no people like that, come over there and try to take over, run some game, no, no, no, no, you couldn't do that. I don't know where you could do it, but you couldn't do it in Claybourne Home.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Yep.

Interviewer 1: And how did you feel when you first learned about the plans to knock it down?

Speaker 1: Well I, well listen, when they said they were gonna demolish stuff, first they talking like they wasn't gonna be rebuild it back and I was thinking, now you all not gonna put it back when you got houses up there. See they already demolished one time when they expanded, opened up the pantry, but this time they demolished, they were tearing it down, the Claybourne Home would be gone for good. It's not gonna be gone for good, because they're gonna put the houses there, you got a lot of people that got the papers for those houses, but they gonna be moving to McKinley side, that's it, they don't come around by Georgia and Orleans side, then you got all that St. Paul headed around on that side to do and a lot of that and they don't come back and when they get through building them houses, I'm gonna try to get me one.

Interviewer 1: Yeah?

Speaker 1: Yeah, I'm gonna be putting up the, when they told me, let me know when they start taking applications for the other side, I'll go over there on Poach Street and McKinley, I'll stay on that side.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer 1: I kind of know the answer to this question, but are you still in contact with people who lived in Claybourne Homes?

Speaker 1: Yeah, but none that I associate with people, like I said, one lady now, well don't seem as young, that was the lady of all the develop, but she lived in Claybourne Home, I don't see here because she like to the side to the bed, I haven't seen her a lot, I haven't seen this Mary Earl, because she moved away, so no not in the develop, but I see Ms. Blakely, be riding around in her

wheelchair, but I be seeing them secretaries of the office, they moved across the street in the Foot Homes, because when the Claybourne Homes was together, their office got so, I would see them over there in the Foot Homes.

Interviewer 1: But not just the people who worked there, I mean like the people who lived there?

Interviewer 2: Like some of your friends and family?

Speaker 1: Yeah, I see them, I don't know where, we're down the street [*Third party talking over*] So I moved up there in the little houses and stuff, a lot of people moved in other nice developments, those little apartment complex up, but you see 'em, they still come to Claybourne, I told you, they be at the gate, parking their car, sitting on their car like the Claybourne gonna up, that Claybourne Home gonna open up. [*Laughter*] Whether or not, they gonna be there on it, sitting up, milling around. No folk didn't want the Claybourne Home be tore down, a lot of people didn't, but it's for the better, I think those houses they building, it's gonna be nice, they'll make it look nice, like it did the first time, it would've been different. Now all this is just down patch on up. The day somebody else will come a member, your other development got common member, we're still in the same project apartment, they just knocked down the pantry, like I said, opened the pantry up that make the kitchen bigger, other than that, it wasn't to go to see somebody from the Claybourne Home, you going to see somebody, I don't care where you go, walking, riding, I don't care, you're gonna see 'em.

Interviewer 1: Yeah.

Speaker 1: It was a whole lot of people there in them Claybourne Homes, I mean, a lot of people. If you got people still going to the Board meetings, but a lot of that stuff, you see a lot of people go over there, because a lot of them, a lot of the other people move into the high rise and stuff like that.

Interviewer 1: Oh yeah.

Speaker 1: And so we have to do public housing, so that's why you can see 'em most of the time, over there in the Haver Street, a lot of 'em be over there.

Interviewer 1: And then the last question for you is what are your hopes for yourself and your family now that you moved away from Claybourne?

Speaker 1: I may, I should stay, but where I'm at now, well I'm struggling a little bit now, because I only have one job, I have to get up a size of one more so I can better myself more. I learned a whole lot of living at Claybourne Home, we had to cook, we had good friends, we learned how to do things for ourselves, we learned to communicate and come together with other people, we learned a whole lot when we was in Claybourne but we had people's on the Board, such a Board that lived around that made it nice. I know people, the wheels going around, people get bad, some people get good, some people leave with us, some don't, but when we still over there, the year that I stayed over there and I left, they were good. When I left there, I still go, like I told you, I still going over there because we still can go sit down, talk to some of the ladies that live over there and still have the talent, like you still be around talking, that's how it is, because we came up in there and been there so long with it, you don't look like they had, it don't look like, you just see a lot of kids will be running, than there used to, but there was more kids when we were coming up, that got grown and had kids and kids and more kids, there were more kids when we were coming, than there are now. All the kids were, a lot of our kids roll with other football players, went to college, something like that, a lot of them gone, some passed us, they did a lot of stuff for their self, because Claybourne had a lot of organization you can get into, job fairs and a lot of people adopt the Claybourne, we had a lot of stuff when the special time come for kids, the talent shows for us, they had a squad team and all these little football stuff for kids, we had it good when we grow up in Claybourne Home, so we had it good through there and it's been good ever since I've known Claybourne Home, when Claybourne Home moved, because we still went over there, but other than that, it had good people work for it, they ran the develop, they had an excellent manager, people very good. Now all the ladies that sat on the Board for the Claybourne Home, they was top ladies that sat at the main office on Adams and all those people were good, but they go there and their kids, yeah.

Interviewer 1: Alright, do you know **Tenisa**?

Speaker 1: Tenisa?

[End of Audio]