

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEW AGREEMENT

You have been asked for information to be used in connection with the Oral History Program at Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi. The purpose of this program is to gather and preserve information for historical and scholarly use.

A tape recording of your interview will be made by the interviewer, and a typescript of the tape will be made and submitted to you for editing. The final retyped and edited transcript, together with the tape of the interview will then be placed in the oral history collection at Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi. Other institutions or persons may obtain a copy. These materials may be used for purposes of research, for instructional use, for publication, or for other related purposes.

I, Carolyn Lindsey have read the above and, in view of the historical and scholarly value of this information, and in return for a final typed copy of the transcript, I knowingly and voluntarily permit Jackson State University, Jackson, the full use of this information. I hereby grant and assign all my rights of every kind whatever pertaining to this information, whether or not such rights are now known, recognized, or contemplated, to Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi.

Carolyn Lindsey  
Interviewee (Signature)

3/3/81  
Date



Interview with Mrs. Carolyn Cannon Lindsey

Interviewer: Kenneth Gipson

Transcriber: Kenneth Gipson

Date: March 3, 1981

Place: Internal Revenue Service, Jackson, MS, Room 605

Gipson: Good morning, Mrs. Lindsey.

Lindsey: Good Morning.

Gipson: I would like to ask you about your background before we get into your attending Smith-Robertson. Can you tell me anything about your background?

Lindsey: I was born, Carloyn Cannon, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Cannon, January 6, 1946. I have four brothers and one sister.

Gipson: What elementary schools did you attend?

Lindsey: I attended Smith-Robertson Elementary School, beginning in 1952 and I went first, second, third, fifth, and eighth after that.

Gipson: After Smith-Robertson did you attend any more schools?

Lindsey: I attended Rowan Junior High School, Lanier Senior High School and then I went to Alcorn A & M College, where I graduated from in 1967.

Gipson: And after Alcorn State?

Lindsey: I begin work for the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Worked there until October, 1973, transfered to Internal Revenue Service and I been here ever since.

Gipson: What did your job mainly consist of when you were Agriculture?

Lindsey: I was secretary to the District Manager.

Gipson: What was your duties:

Lindsey: Mainly answering the telephone, composing letters, typing, meeting visitors.

Gipson: So after that you are presently working for Internal Revenue Service?

Lindsey: My reason for leaving the Department of Agriculture is because having a B.S. degree in Business Education, I felt that I could do more than just type on a typewriter, so I applied for a position in the Internal Revenue Service, began as a Taxpayer Service Representative. I worked there for five years. Later transferred to a Tax Auditor position. I worked there for two years and presently I am Recruitment Coordinator for the Jackson District Internal Revenue Service.

Gipson: How do you like this job?

Lindsey: I love it! It gives me the opportunity to meet with college officials, community contact, high school officials and the main purpose of my job is as State Recruiter Coordinator, is recruit highly qualified applicants for the position with the Internal Revenue Service.

Gipson: Getting to now, your attending Smith-Robertson, can you recall the first impression you had of this school?

Lindsey: That was so long ago, I really can't remember that far back. I do remember my first grade teacher was Mrs. Caster. I can't remember her first name, but all my sisters and brothers except one was in Mrs. Caster's first grade class. In the fourth grade, I didn't mention that earlier is because I had a double promotion from the third to the fifth grade.

Gipson: Well, what about the time you attended Smith-Robertson, were there any particular problems, you had, that you felt was going on at that time?

Lindsey: Well, during that particular time you were in Mississippi (Jackson in particular), there were zone schools so everybody by area schools went to schools in their area. All blacks went to a particular school and all whites went to a particular school. I don't remember having any type of problem of what have you because that was away of life at that particular time. I do remember we always had every May Day May first. Flag wrapped around the May Pole, that was exciting; that still stands out in my mind but other than that I can't remember anything else but like I said that was far back.

Gipson: How were your teachers? What about the subjects you took? Did you like them?

Lindsey: I have been interested in school. My mother, always drilled in my head the importance of an education. She didn't finish high school neither did my father, but they always made sure that we understood the importance of getting an education. The teachers, once they found out that you had the potential to get ahead, they constantly worked with you and imagine that's how I skipped the fourth grade. Mrs. Slaughter constantly stayed on me to get my lesson and I did and she saw no



Lindsey: need for me to go the fourth grade. I was up to the level to work with the fifth grade level.

Gipson: Okay, what is the best thing that ever happened to you while you attended Smith-Robertson, do you remember anything?

Lindsey: I don't remember, other than I would say having to skip the fourth grade. I was so excited what happened there. I can remember that when I went to register my report card had the fourth grade, but when I went to register the lady told me that I was suppose to go to the fifth grade and there has been a mistake and they were intending for me to skip the fourth grade. So, they changed my report card and I entered the fifth grade that year, instead of the fourth grade. I felt a little bit out of place in that the other children were a little older than I. Other than that the most significant thing that happened to me.

Gipson: How big was your class?

Lindsey: I would imagine from twenty to thirty students. I can't remember.

Gipson: Did the school buy books? How were the books furnished to you?

Lindsey: We had textbooks and at the beginning of school you had a bookcard and parents filled out the bookcard and you were given books for the year. If you damaged or whatever you, of course, had to pay for them.

Gipson: You say that you are married now, right?

Lindsey: Yes, I am. I'm married to Douglas Lindsey, have two children, Tiffany, age 13, and Angela, age 5.

Gipson: Are they in school?

Lindsey: Tiffany is attending, Chastine Juniro High School, and Angela is five years old kindergarden at Holy Ghost Catholic Kindergarden School. I am a member of the Holy Ghost Catholic Church, also my family.

Gipson: What does your husband do?

Lindsey: He works at Milwaukee Electric Tools.

Gipson: His job consist of what?

Lindsey: Really, I don't know how to explain the type of work that he does, it is a plant and works in field department, his title is Set-up Man. All that means, he is responsible for seeing that all the machines on his shift are in working condition. He has to get up in the morning, turn on the machines and what have you.



Gipson: Was there a problem with the teachers you had?

Lindsey: Yes, my third grade teacher stands out because she got on me for talking so much in class. That seems to be one my problem areas in school, I would always run my mouth but other than that I can remember her because she would always whip me at that particular time teachers were allowed to whip you and they would send a note home to your parents and then you would get a whipping when you get home.

Gipson: Alright, presently a committee at Jackson State University is trying to preserve Smith-Robertson. What is your opinion about that?

Lindsey: I think it's a very good idea in that, as far that I can remember, is the earliest, the oldest, and I might be wrong on that, black school there is. I do know both my parents attended school there. I think, it should be preserved.

Gipson: Thank you, Mrs. Lindsey, and I appreciate taking time out giving me this interview. If it will be alright for this tape to be used for Oral History class purposes?

Lindsey: If it's going to be used for research and instructual use and to show cause why to give justification why the school should be preserved, I don't see no reason why it should be used for those purposes only.

Gipson: Thank you.

Lindsey: Thank you.

Gipson: Mrs. Lindsey, I would like to ask you another question that concerns your means of getting to school during the time you attended Smith-Robertson.

Lindsey: Yes, there were no buses so we would have to walk maybe a mile or two I would imagine to school everyday. I might add when I start attending Lanier High School, if I didn't walk then I would catch the regular city bus and we were charged a school fare amount. It wasn't the same amount as the regular bus fare.

Gipson: You mentioned earlier that your parents attended Smith-Robertson. Do they ever talk about the school?

Lindsey: I can't remember the times they talked about attending the school other than they wish a many days they had completed their education.

Gipson: Again, Mrs. Lindsey, thank you.

Lindsey: Thank you.