

## **Lucile Robinson Close**

### **Harford Living Treasure**

Hello, this is Doug Washburn for the Harford County Public Library. Today is the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2005, and I'm with a Harford Living Treasure, Lucile Robinson Close. Currently residing in Parkville, Mrs. Close was a resident of Harford County for more than eighty years. Anna Chrismar Housman submitted the Living Treasure nomination.

DW Mrs. Close, thank you for taking time with me today, we appreciate it.

LC I'm glad to.

DW So, I'll start with when you were born.

LC I was born in 1927, February 10, in Baltimore at Mercy Hospital.

DW In Baltimore.

LC And then my mother died, not long after I was born.

DW Not long after you were born. So, when did your... Did your dad bring you to Harford County?

LC Well, he lived in Harford County and he came and got me out of the hospital and took me back there.

DW Oh, o.k.

LC I stayed with my grandmother and grandfather, my mother's parents. I was raised by them.

DW So, your family was actually residing in Harford County and like they do today, you went to the hospital to be born.

LC Yes.

DW Ah, very good. So what did your mom and dad do to make a living?

LC Well, my father was a lawyer and he ran the *Bel Air Times* up in Harford County.

DW And his name was?

LC John Emanuel Robinson.

DW Emanuel, o.k. And he had a law practice in Bel Air?

LC Yes, and then he became a judge at the end before he died, Circuit Judge.

DW What's your earliest memories of your dad in the law business?

LC Well, I actually didn't live with him. I lived with my grandparents, his wife's, his in-laws.

DW O.k.

LC And I don't really remember. He was a lot older than I was and a lot older than my mother was.

DW Oh, o.k. I was reading a biography on him, and I see he fought in the Spanish-American War.

LC Yes, he did.

DW Did he ever tell you any stories about that?

LC No, but he did... He only went to Florida, I think.

DW Never left the country?

LC I don't think he ever got beyond Florida.

DW Now you said he owned the *Bel Air Times*?

LC Yes, and ran it and sold it to, I can't remember his name. [Someone else speaks] I guess he did sell it to him, yeah.

DW And is that...now the *Bel Air Times* was later renamed the *Harford Gazette*. Is that correct? Is that when your dad sold it?

LC Yes.

DW O.k., so was it the gentleman that he sold it to that changed the name?

LC I think so.

DW O.k. And then I guess eventually then *The Gazette* was bought out by *The Aegis*.

LC Yes.

DW You say he was a clerk at the Circuit Court?

LC He was, yes. And then he became a judge, later.

DW Then he became a judge. I see he was also a member of the draft board in World War I.

LC I think he was.

DW Do you know where that draft board was located in town? Do you remember that?

LC It was in \_\_\_\_\_ Store , I think. I'm not sure.

DW Was it on Main Street?

LC Yes.

DW It was on Main Street.

LC I think it was on Main Street in \_\_\_\_\_. Well that was about it, I guess. I don't remember him talking about it, but then I didn't see him day-in and day-out.

DW Now the *Bel Air Times* was known to be very pro-republican in its positions.

LC Right.

DW You were saying that you were raised by your mother's parents?

LC Yes. They also... Their name was Robinson, too. And my father was a Robinson. I mean there was no relation.

DW Right. And your grandfather's name was?

LC Thomas H. Robinson.

DW Thomas H. Robinson. And what did he do for a living?

LC Well, he was a lawyer and a \_\_\_\_\_ when I was little.

DW I've also seen a biography on Thomas Hall. I see that he was the Attorney General from 1923 to 1930.

LC That's right. He died in office.

DW Yes.

LC He was running again.

DW Running for the third time. He was also a State Senator.

LC Yes.

DW State Senator, but a Democrat.

LC Oh yes.

DW So, your father was a very pro-republican and your grandfather that raised you was very pro-democrat. [Laughs] That's interesting.

LC I don't know; that was the way it was.

DW I also saw that your grandfather, Thomas Hall attended the Bel Air Academy.

LC Yes he did. But he never went to law school or anything beyond the academy.

DW But yet he was able to pass the bar?

LC Well, I don't know what they did then. He read in people's offices, you know he read law in Mr. Fernandez, somebody named Fernandez' office.

DW Scott Fernandez?

LC What was his name?

DW Daniel, Scott and Henry Fernandez. Was that the law firm?

LC Well, I know it was Fernandez, but I don't know. [Someone else talking]

DW I see he was also a long-time president of the Second National Bank in Bel Air?

LC I guess he was, yes.

DW So you have some great genealogy. [Laughs] How about your mother's mother?

LC Her name was Clain, Clara Cain.

DW Clara Cain.

LC And she didn't work or anything. She lived up in Pylesville and what else did she do?

She went to Enosburg to college. No it wasn't college then, it was sort of a finishing school or what ever you call it. She went there and her sister went there. And in 1870 up in Enosburg.

DW In Western Maryland.

LC Right.

DW Since she was in the Forest Hill area there, I know that there's a Matthew Cain stain glass window in the St. Ignatius Church.

LC That's right.

DW Is that related to you?

LC Yes, that would be her great-grandfather, or something like that. She had a brother, Matthew, but I think it's further back then that.

DW Yes, I believe that was from the earlier 1800's. But that is the same family?

LC Yes.

DW Well, where did you go to school, yourself?

LC I went to St. Margaret's School. You know, parochial school, grade school. And then I went to Bel Air High School and then I went to Enosburg, too. And it's closed now, Enosburg, it's a college, and I was there. [Someone else talking] I went to St. Joseph's College.

DW Was St. Margaret's always where it is, there on Hickory Avenue next to the library, or close to the library?

LC Well, the money for that chapel, they called it a chapel for years, was given by one of the priest that was there, Father Frederick. Have you ever heard of him?

DW No mam. Father Frederick?

LC Father, I don't know \_\_\_\_\_. [Someone else talking] I think you're right. Alfonse Frederick.

DW Alfonse Frederick.

LC So anyway he gave them money for a chapel. It's still used now as a little, where they have parties, isn't it, or dances? [You didn't go to school where the school is now, where did you go to school?] Well, when I was little the school was up on the Wheeler property. Do you know where that is?

DW In town?

LC It's up the hill by St. Margaret's when you're going into Bel Air. There's a big house up there and they gave it and they gave money to run it and they were not Catholic priests. [They were \_\_\_\_\_]

DW Are you in the area of where the parking garage is now?

LC Yes, sort of.

DW Sort of where the parking garage is? O.k. Which would be right across the street from the Bel Air Academy, where your grandfather went.

LC That's right.

DW [Laughs] Well...

LC My mother went there too, I think, to the Bel Air Academy.

DW Oh, she did?

LC Mmm hmm.

DW What was your mother's name?

LC Her name was Mary Lucille Robinson.

DW Mary Lucille. Well, do you know any of the history of St. Margaret's Church? When was it established?

LC About 1911, or something. I don't know for sure.

DW Fairly new, compared to the history of St. Ignatius, it's a fairly new church.

LC Oh, yeah.

DW Now is it a...

LC Well Father Frederick had some money and he named the church after his mother, Margaret Frederick. That's all I know.

DW And what did you think of parochial education verses public?

LC Well, it was pretty good, really. I don't know, really.

DW How many grades was that?

LC It was eight grades.

DW Eight grades. Do you think you had an easier time when you got to high school then the children who had gone to public school?

LC I don't know, really. They did pretty well.

DW Well, let me see. Which church did you go to as a youngster? Was it St. Margaret's, where you attended school?

LC Yes.

DW O.k. And where, if you were going to St. Margaret's right here in Bel Air, where were you living at that time?

LC I lived on Broadway.

DW On Broadway. So your grandfather, your mother's father and mother were living on Broadway.

LC Yes.

DW O.k. That's still a very beautiful street. Was it much different that many years ago?

LC They had tall trees, and they almost met, you know over the street from one side to the other. It was a nice street.

DW Any... Do you remember the neighbors?

LC Yes.

DW Any famous names from Harford County history that were on there.

LC The Reeds lived there. Did you know Charlie Reed?

DW No, I didn't.

LC O.k. Well, I lived there, and he lived there, and the Cairnes'. People by the name of Cairnes. They were from Jarrettsville, really. But they lived next door to us.

DW Oh, George? George Cairnes?

LC No, related. They said Carns, but some people said Cairnes. [Higgenbottom, Beverly, or Harrisons, \_\_\_\_\_]. What are you talking about? [Some of your neighbors. You had Tommy Hall, and you had...] Oh yeah, the Halls, and the Higgenbottoms, Judge Higgenbottom who lived down the street. He was there. And the Halls, they go way back in the county. Thomas White Hall, have you ever heard of him?

DW Yes mam.



LC He lived down the street from me, Tommy did.

DW Did you know your grandparents on your father's side?

LC Not really. I met my grandfather once. He was in the Civil War.

DW And his name was?

LC Robert Kirkwood Robinson.

DW Robert Kirkwood Robinson. A doctor in the Civil War?

LC Mmm hmm.

DW Was he a...

LC Well, he was a Pharmacist, and what do you call it? I know he was a Pharmacist and he was a doctor there.

DW Did he ever talk about any famous battles?

LC I don't remember him. I only met him once.

DW Oh, o.k., sorry.

LC [I know where he was, though.] How do you know? [He was a \_\_\_\_\_, cause my brother has a medal that he had]. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ]. [He was a surgeon there.] He had a pharmacy down in Baltimore on Eutaw Street in town. I don't really... I just remember...I think he was down here once. When he came, I don't remember.

DW Did you know either of your great-grandparents? Were they still alive when you were growing up?

LC I remember my grandmother's mother. Somebody took me up there to see her, and she was sick in bed. I remember sitting on her bed.

DW So she would be a Cain.

LC Yes.

DW You were talking about Cains.

LC She was Elizabeth Kean, K E A N. The other is Cain.

DW Did you know Thomas Hall Robinson's father or mother?

LC No. They were gone about the time I came. I think they lived with my grandparents, both parents did.

DW Actually in part of doing the history of it, his name was Samuel?

LC That's right.

DW Samuel. I actually found him on Martinet's map, very close to Hickory in 1878. Looks like it would have been between Hickory and C. Milton Wright, right in that area.

LC Well, it was sort of... I think it was on Route 1.

DW O.k.

LC \_\_\_\_\_

DW That's not too far off from Route 1.

LC No. It was right on it, I thought.

DW Oh, was it? It must have been right in Hickory, then.

LC Well, up above.

DW Well the roads have changed a little bit over the years, too. Maybe Route 1 wasn't exactly where it is. The Old Forge Hill use to be the old Route 1, way back. [Laughs]

LC O.k.

DW Well let me see. How about memories of businesses in Bel Air?

LC I remember the old post office use to be down in the center of Bel Air.

DW Closer to the Court House?

LC Yes, in the brick building. It was a drug store at one time. Then \_\_\_\_\_ had a drugstore. [\_\_\_\_\_]

DW Do you remember what... Was it on Main Street or Bond Street?

LC What?

DW The post office you were referring to.

LC Oh, it was on Main Street.

DW It was on Main Street.

LC Main Street, yes.

DW Where in relative to the Court House? Do you remember?

LC Well, it was north of the Court House on the same side. You know, sort of caddie corner from the drug store, Richardson's Drug Store.

DW Oh, o.k. They just opened an Italian Restaurant there, I think.

LC I guess.

DW [Laughs] [I think it's up a little bit maybe closer to \_\_\_\_\_ office or closer to Georgetown North.]

DW Oh, o.k.

LC Well, I guess it was nearer to Georgetown North.

DW That's now a pub. So that was... Did they move from there on Main Street to where the Historical Society is today?

LC Did what?

DW The post office. The post office moved from...

LC Oh, yes I know where it is now. Well, it was there. I just... It was a big deal when they built the new post office, I know. [Dad's grandfather \_\_\_\_\_] That's right. Mr. Williams, Mr. F. O. Williams.

DW O.k. That would have been your paternal, his maternal grandfather?

LC Yes.

DW O.k. [Laughs] That would have been the father-in-law of Robert Kirkwood.

LC [No, it was my father. My father, Albert Close's, her husband's paternal.]

DW Oh, I'm sorry. [Laughs]

LC It's confusing.

DW Yes, you have a wonderful family tree. So, how did you meet your husband?

LC I went to high school with him.

DW Bel Air High School?

LC The first time I remember him, he was at a party at my house. I had a Fourth of July party, and he was there. [You told me you were ten years old and he was in a sailor suit.] [Laughter] He was.

DW And of course your husband was Albert P. Close, and he was the judge.

LC Yes.

DW In the end, but now from what I could find in the write-up, he wasn't a judge until 1967?

LC That's right.

DW So, before that he was a lawyer?

LC Yes.

DW Oh, o.k. And was his family also from Harford County?

LC Yes, the Williams's. His mother's family was. His father's, the Close's were actually from Ohio, Mr. Close. He worked Mr. William's office, I think. Studied law and all of that.

DW So he wasn't born in Harford County?

LC Not Mr. Close.

DW Not Mr. Close. [Remember we heard they met in South America buying cattle to bring back to Harford County and taking cattle back to Ohio. That's where they met.]

LC Who met? [\_\_\_\_\_ Williams and Earl Close.] Oh, I didn't know that. [I heard that]. O.k., I never heard that. [She came to Harford County and suggested that he come and set up shop here.] Right.

DW And did... Let me see now, your daughter was showing me a picture of Mr. Close in uniform, so he was in World War II?

LC My husband?

DW Your husband.

LC Oh yes.

DW He was in World War II, in what branch of the service?

LC Marine Corp.

DW Marine Corp. Did he see duty overseas?

LC He went to China.

DW China.

LC They had people there getting information for the Pacific fleet. And \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in China. [He also trained Chinese \_\_\_\_\_ in case of a Japanese

invasion. They had to get all the wire reports for the \_\_\_\_\_. It was an intelligence corp.]

DW How about other Bel Air memories? Things in town, blacksmiths, \_\_\_\_\_ houses.

LC There was a blacksmith, but I never paid any attention to him. [Laughs] I didn't know him.

DW O.k. Did you ever ride the train since you lived on Broadway?

LC I took her when she was a little girl \_\_\_\_\_ train \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_

DW So you got on the train fairly close to the Southern States? That's where the train station was in Bel Air, the Mill, that area. Of course the train, now that building is gone, is that correct? The train station is gone?

LC I don't know, I guess it is.

DW But you said you rode to Forest Hill. I think that one is still standing, isn't it?

LC It might be.

DW I believe that one is still standing. Yes, the original Klein's Supermarket, the father Klein.  
[Laughs]

LC Right.

DW Other businesses in town?

LC Oh, there were a lot of meat stores. I know my grandmother use to make me go shopping for her. I would go to one store and then another store, if one had something better than somebody else. [Laughter] But there were wonderful meat stores that I remember. Mr. Pyle, named Vernon Pyle.

DW How about...

LC And drugstores, Richardson's Drugstore.

DW Oh yes, that's a doctor's office now, I think, or professional building or something on the corner.

LC That's right.

DW Of course, Lloyd & Fulford is still there. The soda fountain is gone now.

LC I know.

DW [Laughs]

LC \_\_\_\_\_ [They didn't like us coming in there.]

DW How about Bel Air Race Track?

LC Yes.

DW You could go out there for entertainment?

LC Maybe one time I did. They had a beautiful tree in the middle of that racetrack, in the middle of the field.

DW \_\_\_\_\_

LC I always thought it was a shame they didn't keep it as a sign at Harford Mall. It was so pretty, really, and they took it down.

DW Now you were active in St. Margaret's in getting a library started?

LC Yes, because the children didn't have one and we did that.

DW And do they still have a parochial school at St. Margaret's today?

LC Mmm hmm.

DW It's still active? O.k., but not in the same place, obviously. It's where the parking garage used to be.

LC It wasn't where the parking garage was.

DW Oh, I thought that earlier we had talked about the original school was up towards there.

LC Oh yeah, it was up that way.

DW O.k. Do you know when the current school was built?

LC Do you know? [I don't know when the white stucco one was built, but I do know the other one \_\_\_\_\_ by 1954, but then a few years ago they put up a \_\_\_\_\_ Churchville or the Fountain Green area, the middle school.]

DW Any other recollections that would be of interest to our listeners?

LC I don't know, really. [Well who did you do the library with at St. Margaret's?] Who did I do the library with? [How did you start the library?] Oh, I was in the Mother's Club. They had a Mother's Club there before it got to be The Parent's Club.

DW Like for honors of the PTA?

LC Yes.

DW Similar kind of organization?

LC It was. [And who helped start the library? You started it and who else was doing it?] Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, Eleanor, and Francis Sedney. Do you know her?

DW No mam.

LC Well she had her Masters Degree, I guess, in Library Science. And she \_\_\_\_\_ after we got started the library. And she did a lot really. She knew everything how to do the library, she knew how to set it up and whatnot. You must have met her somewhere. You don't remember meeting her?

DW Not that I can recall, no mam. [O.k.] Well, you certainly would have seen a lot of changes in Harford County over the years.



LC Oh yes.

DW How about changes for the better?

LC Well, everything, I don't know, I guess it was for the better.

DW Well, was Broadway a dirt road when you were little?

LC Oh no.

DW It was always paved?

LC I don't remember it being a dirt road.

DW It was always paved.

LC As far I remember, now I might not remember right.

DW So, that should mean that Main Street and Bond Street were paved for as long as you can remember.

LC I think so.

DW How about changes that maybe you haven't agreed with so much.

LC Well, I don't know anything that's changed a lot. I wish I did.

DW [Laughs] Well, certainly houses have grown in Harford County. [Laughs]

LC You're right.

DW A lot of people mention that. So let's see, let's back up some. How about do you know any of the history of St. Ignatius since the Cain family was active there?

LC Well, Mr., what was the name of that man [Clarence \_\_\_\_\_] [Was it Clarence \_\_\_\_\_?] It might have been.

DW Jert? [I think it was Jueart.] J U E A R T.] [Was it Clarence Jueart?]

LC Jou, maybe.

DW And what did he do?

LC He wrote the history on St. Ignatius.

DW O.k.

LC He spent a lot of time on that.

DW And did you help with that?

LC No, I didn't. [I thought you supplied him with a lot of information]. Oh, maybe I did, with whatever I knew, but I didn't really help him on it. He knew a lot. I can't remember his name.

DW Well, are there any other topics that you would like to talk about?

LC I don't know. I can't think of things. [What did you all do for fun when you were in high school and college?] When I was in high school?

DW Well, did you always have electricity in town?

LC Oh, I never remember not having it.

DW O.k. So, did you always have a radio to listen to then?

LC I think maybe when I was little it started. I remember somebody saying Jean Graybeal was so small, but she could turn the radio on. They did say that. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

DW What kind of games did you play to pass the time?

LC I played after school every day. I had field hockey, not field hockey, they didn't play that yet, field ball.

DW How about the old movie theater in town?

LC Oh yeah, I remember that. Where was it, it was...

DW A couple doors away from Richardson's.

LC Yeah. [And what was it called?] *The Argone*.

DW    *The Argone*, yeah.

LC    From World War I.

DW    [Laughs]

LC    Mr. Berkley was in World War I. That's why he called it that. It was *The Argone*.

DW    Now was that there when you were a child as well as later when you were an adult?

LC    It was the only place I ever went to the movies. [\_\_\_\_\_] Right. I do remember one time being at the movies in Bel Air and they had some pictures of little children. I don't know where they got them, but I know one of them was me. And it was real nice. It was children on the street. But I don't know whatever happened to them.

DW    Were you doing something special in this picture?

LC    No, I just had a good photograph taken from somebody in Baltimore. And I remember it being on the screen.

DW    Was it all the kids from the town, or only certain kids?

LC    No, I don't know. I don't know how I was on it because I got it taken by a good photographer, I guess.

DW    What year was this?

LC    Oh Lord, it was a long time ago. I don't remember. [How old were you?]

DW    Well, I mean were you ten or fifteen, or were you twenty or thirty?

LC    Maybe ten.

DW    O.k., you were ten.

LC    Yeah.

DW    This would have been the late twenties. [Might have been.] [there were different properties in town with all different kinds of farm animals, didn't you, at your house?]

LC We had a cow.

DW In town?

LC Yes.

DW Oh yeah?

LC Well, we lived on Broadway and we would go up and Carl had to go in Franklin Street and into the garage, way down a little bit.

DW O.k.

LC I remember that.

DW Now is this a milk cow or a steak cow?

LC Oh, a what cow?

DW A cow that gave you milk or were you raising him for steaks, for meat?

LC I think we raised some for veal sometimes. That was nice.

DW Did you have other animals?

LC Well, I guess they had horses there before my time. See I had aunts who lived there before I did, because I lived with the grandparents. And I don't remember anything...

DW Did the majority of the folks who lived in Bel Air also have animals? Was that very common?

LC I don't know if anybody had one.

DW O.k., so you were rare, you were unusual.

LC [Laughs] I don't know. [Well, your property went all the way down to Franklin]. [Like where Charlie Michael lived, was that part of your property?] Where who lived? [Charlie Michael and \_\_\_\_\_]. [Is that part of the Cain property, or was it Robinson?] No, that wasn't part of the Cain. [Your grandparent's house had a lot more

property there then.] Well, it was. There was a big field behind us, I don't know how many acres there was. [Someone else talking] I don't remember that. Blanch Cox was one of the Living Treasures.

DW O.k.

LC She used to be my babysitter and she was a schoolteacher. She was a very bright, black lady. She lived... Charlestown, she lived there.

DW In Baltimore?

LC Well Charlestown is in Baltimore, yes.

DW You're talking about the Charlestown Retirement Community, not Charlestown in Cecil County. [Laughs]

LC Oh no. [She retired there, but she lived on Franklin Street.] Yes, she did.

DW And where did she teach?

LC She taught down in Churchville. What was the name of that school? [I thought she was Central Consolidated for a while.] Oh, she was later, but... [But you don't know where she was before.] Well in the beginning she was down in Churchville. [Isn't there a black school down there, Asbury area?] It was around Asbury.

DW Asbury Church and then there was a school down the road a half a mile.

LC She was a very bright person. [Her aunt had inherited money and that allowed her to go to school. [Remember her aunt, Pauline?] Well, I think she was allowed to get a house because her aunt Pauline who worked New York, and a lady left her some money and she bought a house and \_\_\_\_\_.

DW Did she ever convey any stories to you about the days of segregated schools?

LC About what?

DW The days of segregated schools. Did she convey any stories to you?

LC Not really. Do you remember that \_\_\_\_\_? [She helped herself through college somewhat, I think because she said she used to come up and serve dinner to your grandparents and try to make some extra money while she was going to school.] She went to Boyd, and she was very bright herself. [She was a good friend of yours.] Yes, she was a good friend. She became one of the Living Treasures. [Laughter] Blanche Cox.

DW Cox.

LC C O X.

DW Right.

LC [Well, how about Wes, he was a taxi driver, wasn't he?] Wes Collins, yes. Did you know him?

DW No mam.

LC Well, he was the only taxi driver in town.

DW What year is this now?

LC [He was there in the fifties]. Yes. [Early fifties.] He was sort half everything. He was half Indian, half black, and half white. He couldn't have been all those, but he was mixed color. And he was a good friend of \_\_\_\_\_. They were all good friends.

DW How many years did he have the taxi service in town there?

LC He was the only taxi in town. He was the only one I knew when I was growing up.

DW O.k. So it was from the time of your youth up until the 1950's even. That's quite a few years there.

LC Yes. And he had a side job of going to and taking his taxi and telling people if their sons were killed in World War II.

DW Two.

LC One.

DW One?

LC [You think it was World War II?] Yes, it was.

DW How about the old Poland Store and the old A&P? Do you remember those?

LC Yes.

DW Any memories of shopping there?

LC Well, I remember going to \_\_\_\_\_ and I remember going to meat stores. Mr. Pyle, Herman Pyle and Iva Hart was another one.

DW Ida Hart?

LC Iva Hart.

DW Iva Hart.

LC [Wasn't there a Joseph Coales?] And Coales Store, that was out towards the railroad tracks. Did you hear of that?

DW No.

LC Well, that was a good store, too. They were all meat stores. [But you used to go to A&P when it was down there near Coales.] Oh yes. [And how about what was there before Polands and all of that?] What? [What was there before Polands?] Oh, I don't know.

DW Well, there was a hotel there. Do you remember the hotel?

LC You mean the Inn?

DW O.k., Inn, hotel. [Laughs]

LC Yes, it was really a lovely place that got torn down. [It wasn't the Country Club Inn, was it?] Oh no. [Or the U-tree?] No the U-tree Inn is up farther up across from Kleins. [It was

by Harford Mutual, wasn't it?] Right. [It was like the Country Club Inn, or something.]

[What was it called?]

DW I can't remember. [Laughs]

LC Yes, Country Club Inn.

DW Country Club Inn?

LC Yes, I guess that's it. It was a lovely place and it got torn down.

DW And it got torn down to make room for the shopping center?

LC Well, I don't know for sure. [How about \_\_\_\_\_ Sales, was that always there next door?] They were there for a long time.

DW They were still there in the sixties, early sixties.

LC How long have you been around here?

DW All my life.

LC Oh, have you?

DW Yes mam. [Laughs]

LC [You remember when they took the fence at Kenmore Inn down, too, I remember that.]

[The Kenmore Inn?] Yes, I remember that.

DW That's down where Looney's Pub is now.

LC Down where?

DW Where Looney's Pub is, the old Safeway in town?

LC Yes, yes.

DW Right? It would have been right next to the Hay's House.

LC Yes.

DW That survived when moved across the street.



LC [Well, where was Bel Air High School when you went to school?] When I went to school, Bel Air High School was up, you know where the Post Office is now.

DW Gordon?

LC Gordon Street.

DW Gordon Street. Those are administrative offices now that they are getting ready to move out of.

LC I know there're awful old. [Laughs] [\_\_\_\_\_]

DW Any other...Did you graduate with anybody that made a big name in the County?

LC Well, we had a lot of good athletes. \_\_\_\_\_, did you ever hear of him?

DW No mam.

LC Well he was good at athletics. \_\_\_\_\_, he was a good runner and all that.

DW So this would have been in the mid 1930's?

LC Yes, he would have graduated back then. [And who all taught you how to run and stuff?] You said there was Hopkins guy that taught everybody how to run and do things.] Well, that was Doctor \_\_\_\_\_ Hopkins. Have you ever heard of him?

DW No mam.

LC Well, he was "the" doctor in Bel Air at that time. And he use to take kids at lunch time and teach them to run, and he got them in a league for good runners. He taught them right.

#### **END OF FIRST SIDE OF TAPE**

DW Do you remember any of the teachers that you had on Gordon Street?

LC I remember Mr. Earl C. Hawkins. Do you know him?

DW I believe I've heard the name.

LC Well, he became the head of Maryland, you know, the teacher's college down in Towson. And he was a very bright man and he taught us. He taught us English.

DW When you were talking about the parochial school, was that taught by nuns?

LC Yes.

DW It was? O.k. So things were very strict?

LC Yes.

DW [Laughs]

LC It wasn't that bad, but it was strict. And Doctor Hopkins was the main Doctor when I was growing up, and then even when you all were growing up, he was. We had some pretty good high school teachers, too. Earl \_\_\_\_\_, I guess did better than anybody, to be head at Towson State. [Who else?] [What other teachers did you have?] I had Gretchen Rouse.

DW Rouse, with an "R"?

LC Yes. She \_\_\_\_\_, I remember that.

DW And what did that mean?

LC Oh, I don't know. She spoke with a rather cultivated voice.

DW Oh, o.k. [Laughs]

LC She was a good teacher. She taught French. She could be real sarcastic. [What about your Home Ec?] Oh, yes, we had that. [Didn't you and \_\_\_\_\_ get in trouble in Home Ec?] No, Liz and I did. [Oh, you and Mary Liz.] I didn't like it. Mary Liz said there was no sense in us taking it. We wouldn't have to use it.

DW [Laughs]

LC [You went on strike, didn't you, sort of?] Me and Liz did that. [Well, Mary Liz, tell him where Mary Liz lived and what her grandfather did.] Mary Liz's last name was Robinson, too, but no relationship to me. And her grandfather, William E. Robinson had the canning house down in, down Vale Road. Her father was in canning, too. It was just then when people began to can foods. They had tomatoes in cans and all that.

DW And her grandfather got upset with her because she got in trouble?

LC Oh, not really. I don't think he knew it.

DW Oh, o.k. [Laughs]

LC [Tell him where she lived in that beautiful house.] Oh she lived on Broadway and she came in from Hickory. You start going around the corner there, there's a property there. It's now apartments. Mary Liz lived there, Alfonse Robinson's house. [Your aunt used to go buy moonshine in Darlington.] [Didn't you say you had to go buy, during prohibition, your aunt was sort of a flapper, and you were a little girl and didn't you ride to Darlington?] I remember going up there with Ross \_\_\_\_\_ to get whiskey. And I wasn't drinking then, I was little. I think that was exciting.

DW How about... What are your memories of the Depression? You would have been ten or twelve.

LC I don't remember much.

DW Your family didn't suffer extremely because they were lawyers and pretty well to do.

LC No, they did not seem to suffer. [You were what, ten when you went to Europe?] Ten.

DW How about memories of World War II and rationing? Any issues there? Or the fact that you lived in town, it wasn't a big deal.

LC My grandmother used to worry about \_\_\_\_\_ all the time. That's all I remember. We didn't have any awful trouble.

DW Because you were in town, did you usually walk every place or did you ride horses. Do you remember when your family got a car?

LC Well, I guess they always had a car when I was little. When my grandfather died, my grandmother sold the car because there wasn't anybody to drive it. [They had a chauffeur before that.] What? [Didn't they have a chauffeur?] Yes. My grandfather had to go to Baltimore every day, and he didn't drive very well, so he had a chauffeur.

DW That he paid, or the law firm paid?

LC No, he paid. He was an attorney general in Maryland.

DW Oh, o.k. This would have been the 1920's.

LC [What was his name? What was the chauffeur's name?] Walter. Walter \_\_\_\_\_. [Who was Brooks?] Charlie Brooks. He was the man that brought everything up. [Oh, o.k., never mind.] He did the furnace. He lived down the street from us.

DW Now did the chauffeur take your grandfather to work and come back and take your grandmother around town, and you?

LC Well, I didn't stay there until evening. Sometimes we went shopping on Saturdays. I didn't get to drive until I was twenty-one because we didn't have a car at that time. They sold it \_\_\_\_\_. I didn't have a license at that time.

DW Was the driving age sixteen even though you didn't get your license until you were twenty-one?

LC Yes.

DW O.k. Was it your choice or your parent's choice?

LC Well, I don't remember, but I didn't have a car. My grandmother sold it because she didn't have anybody to drive it. I guess I could have hurried up and gotten it \_\_\_\_\_ and I didn't.

DW Do you remember World War II?

LC Yes, like what?

DW Well, normally you would talk about gasoline, but since you didn't drive. Well actually by the time World War II came around, you would have been driving.

LC Oh yes.

DW So gasoline, was sugar rationed?

LC Well I remember sugar being rationed earlier. \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ told a story about it. [How about tomatoes in your grandmother's yard?] Tomatoes? [Didn't you eat tomatoes in your grandmother's yard?] Oh, yes. When she was little, they used to sit them on the mantel and call them red apples, they were afraid to eat them.

DW Because?

LC Because they thought they were forcing it. That's my grandmother. They didn't eat them until later on. \_\_\_\_\_ I'm sorry I can't think of good things.

DW [Laughs] You're doing fine. Well, is there anything else you'd like to offer? If not, I'll say "thank you".

LC [Did you say anything about the school programs, like the musical programs in the schools?]

DW St. Margaret's School, are you talking about?

LC [No, this was for the whole county.] [Mom, didn't you like to talk about the...] \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_. [Yes.] \_\_\_\_\_ [Right, but it was bringing quality  
 musical programs into the schools and did it include the public schools?] Yes. [And  
 private.]

DW What year was this?

LC Well, let me see. Well, Mrs. Collier, she lived down where the McGirks live. [Was she  
 Indian Springs Farm?] \_\_\_\_\_ Indian Springs Farm. Mrs.  
 Collier, I guess she must have been Italian and lived in Europe. And she kind of got that  
 started. \_\_\_\_\_, it was called.

DW So it was an acting \_\_\_\_\_?

LC No, it brought wonderful musicians to the public schools and every school.

DW O.k.

LC It was really high-class musicians. We all joined in on it, I know that. [And you helped  
 with that, too.] Yes. [\_\_\_\_\_. When I was young, they \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.] [It was really great stuff.] And Mrs. Collier had grown up  
 with all of that in Italy. You know, they had the people in their homes \_\_\_\_\_.  
 That's the kind \_\_\_\_\_. It was really nice. Do you teach?

DW No mam. Well, I appreciate your time.

LC I don't think I helped you much. I really didn't.

DW You talked about several things in Bel Air that I've never heard people talk about before,  
 so that was good.

LC What was that?

DW Well, just stuff like \_\_\_\_\_ and Broadway, and never thought about animals being in town. I never knew that there was another location for the parochial school, St. Margaret's. Never thought about there being so many butcher shops. [Laughs]

LC Well, we always had a refrigerator. [Right.] And I think we also had an ice box, you know, \_\_\_\_\_ ice in it for electricity. I had a good life, really.

DW You certainly have an interesting family with the politicians, and the judges, and the doctors and the Spanish-American War and the Civil War. [Laughs]

LC [We use to go to Atlantic City every year and Governor \_\_\_\_\_ was there and \_\_\_\_\_ as a child.] Well, he use to come up because... [Who did?] Governor \_\_\_\_\_. I think he still did and we'd all go, oh, what do you call it, the fair at Timonium at Labor Day. My grandfather would have them come up for dinner, all the people. [You worked.]

DW Where did you work?

LC I taught school a while.

DW At?

LC And I did social work.

DW Where did you teach?

LC Aberdeen High School.

DW And where did you do the social work?

LC In Baltimore City and also in Harford County. Do you have to interview a lot of people every week?

DW Oh no. Maybe two or three a month.

LC Oh.

DW It varies widely.

LC Well, I'm not going to talk to you.

DW [Laughs]

LC I know a lot of things, but I can't think of any.

DW Well we try to give you "food for thought", but not knowing what you know, I don't know how to tickle your memory.

LC Know what? [Know how to tickle your memory.] Oh. [\_\_\_\_\_ people when you were little, like Judy Bradford.] Well, do you know a \_\_\_\_\_ Bradford. Well, her daughter lived in Bel Air. They called her Judy, I don't know why. Miss Judy Bradford. I remember her, especially on New Year's Day, she went from house to house to get a little drink for the New Years, and she was something else. But that house, I guess is... Do you know where the barbershop was, that's now a, what is it, a restaurant? [\_\_\_\_\_] No, \_\_\_\_\_ behind it and near where the tire store is.

DW Well, the oldest barbershop I remember in town is where the old Courtland Hardware used to be. That's not where you're talking about.

LC I don't remember one there.

DW O.k. [laughs]

LC [Where did Miss \_\_\_\_\_ live? Did she live close to where maybe the High's and the liquor store was?] \_\_\_\_\_ but they had that property and it had a lot of trees and foliage there. It was like an old southern home with... [Was it on Churchville Road?] Well, it could have been, it was where all those cars are. [I know where you mean.] Miss Judy had a big sign on New Year's Day.



**[Someone knocks at the door and tape is turned off]**

DW    O.k., we're back but only to say goodbye and to say thank you very much for your time. I appreciate your memories of the county and Bel Air, and I wish you well.

LC    Thank you for your time.