

# **NOTICE**

**Materials in our digital Oral History collections are the products of research projects by several individuals. USF Libraries assume no responsibility for the views expressed by interviewers or interviewees. Some interviews include material that may be viewed as offensive or objectionable. Parents of minors are encouraged to supervise use of USF Libraries Oral Histories and Digital Collections. Additional oral histories may be available in Special Collections for use in the reading room. See individual collection descriptions for more information.**

**This oral history is provided for research and education within the bounds of U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). Copyright over Oral Histories hosted by the USF Libraries rests with the interviewee unless transferred to the interviewer in the course of the project. Interviewee views and information may also be protected by privacy and publicity laws. All patrons making use of it and other library content are individually accountable for their responsible and legal use of copyrighted material.**

Otis R. Anthony African Americans in Florida Oral History Project  
Oral History Program  
Florida Studies Center  
University of South Florida, Tampa Library

Digital Object Identifier: A31-00032  
Interviewee: Mrs. Jessie Jolliff (JJ)  
Interviewer: Two unknown men (Interviewers 1 and 3; one of those is Fred Beaton), one unknown woman (Interviewer 2)  
Interview date: March 23, 1978  
Interview location: Unknown  
Transcribed by: Unknown  
Transcription date: Unknown  
Interview changes by: Mary Beth Isaacson  
Interview changes date: December 9, 20008  
Final Edit by: Maria Kreiser  
Final Edit date: February 11, 2009

**Interviewer 1:** Can you give us a little background information about yourself, like where you was born, what school you attended, how long you've been in Tampa, etc?

**Mrs. Jessie Jolliff:** I was born in Woodbine, Georgia. And I come to Tampa in twenty-one, 1921. What else you want to know?

Interviewer 1: What were the conditions of blacks in Tampa when you came here? How do you—you know, how did—how were you living? How were most of the black people living, working-wise and stuff like that?

JJ: Um—well, we wasn't—jobs was kinda pretty hard to find up there in Georgia and he come down here on account of the boom. There was a boom down in here.

Interviewer 1: Now, what's the boom?

JJ: They called it “the boom,” “boom” in 1921 and twenty-two [1922]. There was a boom goin' on—plenty money, everywhere.

Interviewer 1: Oh. Oh.

JJ: I know that Tampa started to "boom" and my auntie sent the money and we come here to Tampa.

Interviewer 1: So did you have trouble in finding a job?

JJ: I wasn't old enough.

Interviewer 1: Right.

JJ: No. But my daddy, he used to cut cross-tie. And, see, along then the womens didn't work. They stayed and kept children. They didn't work period if they had a house full of children. The women just started workin' here lately. Because if a woman had a house full of children—and (inaudible) comin' home, she stayed home and kept children if there wasn't but nothin' but bread and meat there and raised 'em.

Interviewer 1: So what kind of things did you do as a child in Tampa? You know, like those children out there now, what sort of things did y'all like to do?

JJ: Well, pulled up weeds. We pulled up grass and washed it—the dirt out—the grass roots and then we pleat it and make dolls, out of 'em—and make grass dolls.

Interviewer 1: How would ya'll do that?

JJ: We pulled the grass out the ground, washed the root, (the sand out the root) then we would take that and pleat it and dress 'er up. And make a grass dolls. We used to have 'em. We'd take stockings and make balls to play with. We'd take stockin' and fill it full of rags. That was our ball. We even had (inaudible). We'd get us a needle and sew it up. And that's all we played ball with.

Interviewer 1: What would you use for a bat?

JJ: Any kind of board we could find. Just a piece of wood. Heh—heh—heh—

Interviewer 1: What about the boys, what type things did the boys do during that—?

JJ: They want to spin tops and shoot marbles.

Interviewer 1: So, when was it that you all started this baseball team?

JJ: During 1930. During the thirties [1930s], the first of the thirties [1930s].

Interviewer 1: And how was it organized?

JJ: There was a man here by the name of Mr. Howe and he (inaudible). Let's see, one, two, three—there was five black elementary schools here. And he used to go from one to the other and he had a special day out the week that he would be there. Like, he would be to West Tampa, then to Hyde Park and then Harlem and then back to Meacham. And he got a bunch of us girls and started us playin' against the boys, because there wasn't enough boys and there wasn't enough girls. And so the girls started to playin' ball against the boys. And—well, then he wanted to go into softball, for the schools, see, he had the recreation for after school. And this colored policeman, he seen—he wanted to play baseball, the women wanted to play baseball right on and we didn't have no way.

Interviewer 1: Can you think of his name?

JJ: What, the policeman?

Interviewer 1: Yes.

JJ: Yeah, never hear—(inaudible). And then he started us off playin' baseball, somethin' around about the thirties [1930s]. And then he had five—let me see—there was one, two, three—five different districts that we played baseball in. Down in the Garrison they a team. They had a team in the Scrugg. And one in Belmont Heights. And one right here. And one in (inaudible). And they used to call us the "bloomer girls" because we couldn't play in nothin' but bloomers. And they had to be below the knees, see.

Interviewer 1: Uh-huh.

JJ: Heh—We couldn't play in shorts, not like that there. We had black bloomers and a white middy blouse. And you had them bloomers, they had to be below your knees too. You couldn't wear 'em up above your knees. And so then, there's—this colored police, he got us all and made a baseball team out of us. Got all the stars out of the teams, see. Put one together. And then he started carryin' us all over Florida.

Interviewer 1: Did y'all ever win any championships or—?

JJ: Well—

Interviewer 1: —anything like that?

JJ: Win forty-one games and lost one game one year. We used to kind of—every year—Do he—If you know of the man what got robbed here, he used to be our announcer. But they called him "Mr. Democrat." But the man's name Dewey Richardson. Everybody here in Tampa knew him. He'd been to the county—down to the county courthouse all his life. And he used to be our announcer. He got a picture of us somewhere, if they didn't take it when they robbed him and beat him down.

Interviewer 1: Can you tell us anything else about the team?

JJ: About our team?

Interviewer 1: Yes. How was it—?

JJ: We started playin' on—on the corner—that's where our practicin' job—right on the corner of Nebraska [Avenue] and Scott [Street] where Mt. Moriah Church is now. That was our field. But then we started hittin' the ball so hard 'til they—we had to go over to another place called the white sand. But we didn't have nowhere to play, you know—big enough. You started hittin' the ball too hard. As being matured, see, we started hittin' the ball and it be goin' on Nebraska. And so then they had to move us—cross over on that

side of the railroad tracks, over there, a place they called white sands. That's where we used to practice. But we used to play out here to Plant Field.

**Interviewer 2:** What year was this?

JJ: From almost—all of the thirties [1930s], mostly. Well, I'd say from thirty [1930] to about thirty-eight [1938], something like that.

Interviewer 1: And so how old were you when you stopped playin' with the team?

JJ: Grown, a full grown woman. I started when I was around about thirteen and I played until after I was a woman.

Interviewer 1: Would a lot of people come out to see this—?

JJ: Yeah.

Interviewer 2: —see y'all play?

JJ: Sure.

Interviewer 1: Because you said you played every May twentieth in Plant City, what was this? Why was this done?

JJ: There was—But, see, a long time ago, before we knew anything about it we used to celebrate the twentieth of May, Emancipation Day.

Interviewer 1: Uh-huh.

JJ: And I think they done changed it now. I don't know or not, but we used to celebrate the twentieth of May just like everybody celeb—The coloreds used to celebrate the twentieth of May like—probably like white folk—celebrate the 4th of July now.

Interviewer 1: Oh.

JJ: That used to be a regular colored holiday that everybody celebrated and we would meet at Plant City and play ball every twentieth of May, the boys and the women. The mens and the women.

Interviewer 1: A lot of food would be out there and just everything.

JJ: Yeah.

Interviewer 1: Yeah, just a big time.

JJ: Yeah, a lot of people. Um-hm. All the food and everything else.

Interviewer 2: You played in the thirties [1930s], right?

JJ: Yeah.

Interviewer 2: The Depression was goin' on during this period.

JJ: Yeah.

Interviewer 2: How was it like—with the team, with you being a black woman? How was it here in Tampa?

JJ: They—one thing, they didn't have nowhere else to go but to our game. See, it—what made it—That's what—unless they went to the jug. They don't—They called the bars, then, jugs. And they would be glad for an outin' in an open field 'cause we didn't have nowhere. And we would have a big crowd all the time. And then we moved down to Port Tampa. They stayed up to the—mens, they moved to Port Tampa, we still played out here. But they'd be glad to get a chance to go to Port Tampa. Because, see, we didn't have all this excitement, parks and things, like that there to go around to.

And when somethin' like—we say, The Tampa All-Stars are gonna play today, would everybody in Tampa would go, what could get there. Did you see what I mean, 'cause that was the main attraction for that day. But now there's so many things happenin' till you can't get to just one thing. And they'll—You pick out what you want to go. But there wasn't but that one thing to go—

Interviewer 1: Okay. Also, like, during the Depression and y'all would have this festivity on the twentieth of May, would that put a bind on you as far as gettin' food—as far as havin' food, did that Depression hinder that any?

JJ: No.

Interviewer 1: They still had a lot of food.

JJ: They didn't care about nothin'—old Depression, there was gonna be a plenty food there, and plenty moonshine. Those two things was gonna be there.

Interviewer 1: Were they? So how did the Depression affect you? Say, just you, single. Like, you and your family?

JJ: Like, me and my family, well—

Interviewer 1: Was it hard, or—?

JJ: Yeah. Well, we moved every week. And, well—sometimes we moved out of one house and move back in it the next. We would skip week and move back in the next

week. But my mama, she carried us down on the muck in November and she would bring us back—and it was the last of April. That's what kept us here in the summertime. We didn't have nothin' to do. We'd work in the work winter and come back here in the summertime. We didn't have nothin' to do, that's why we played ball, you know, and like that there.

Interviewer 1: What was "the muck?"

JJ: Down on the farm.

Interviewer 1: Why did they call it "the muck?"

JJ: For it's black muck.

**Interviewer 3:** (inaudible)

JJ: Yeah. Not Belle Glade, (inaudible) city.

Interviewer 1: (inaudible), I forgot. Well, so in other words the Depression did affect you a great deal, both monetarily, and affect your housin'.

JJ: Yeah, and then, when I first come to Tampa we didn't have—you know what there was—we didn't have no water. Wasn't nothin' but a pump. And we didn't have no flushin' toilets. We went out in the yard. And then they had wagons used to come around and pick up your stuff. Out your—you go out there in the house and do your job in a bucket. And then they had a truck, a city truck, would come around, down the alleys, that's why they got alleys now, and pick up that bucket out the alley. And he didn't have no waterin' thing and that didn't—picked it but a—that's one thing they got during the thirties was that, sewers through here because they weren't not—first come here there wasn't no such thing as no sewers. There wasn't nothin' but a pump.

Interviewer 1: What did you do for entertainment other than the baseball games, per se?

JJ: Well, they had a—a Porter Hall, it's there on the corner of Central Avenue 'n Harrison [Street], they used to give dances there, for a dollar apiece, once a month.

Interviewer 1: Can you think of any other businesses on Central?

JJ: No, because that's the only time I've been over there was when they had a dance. Any other businesses on Central? Let me see. (inaudible) Joe Nash's (inaudible) right next door to the Elks. And, let me see, we used to go to the Central Theater.

Interviewer 1: Okay, now, it was two theaters on Central, right?

JJ: No. When I came here there wasn't but one.

Interviewer 1: One. The Lincoln Theater?

JJ: No. Cent—

Interviewer 1: Central Theater. Okay.

JJ: But we couldn't go much. See, I had—

Interviewer 1: Right.

JJ: There was seven of us children and we could go two for a nickel. Go to the show, two for a nickel.

Interviewer 1: What kind of movies were they showin' then, the silent movies?

JJ: When I first started to goin' they was—they was showin' silent and then they went to talkin'. But they didn't show nothin' but cowboys. I know what every cowboy in Tampa, in town. That's all they showed were cowboy pictures. Later on they started showin' funny pictures and things like that, but mostly they didn't show but shoot-'em-ups.

Interviewer 1: Well, pertaining to politics, did you ever come in contact with the voting procedure? Was you ever allowed to vote or—

JJ: No. This same man, Dewey—remember I tell you about him, was our announcer for the ball teams?

Interviewer 2: Um-hm.

JJ: Way back there in the fifties [1950s] I went to courthouse for somethin' and he carried me in there and made me register as a Democrat. And he used to do that. Everybody he could catch—every colored person he could catch down there, he would make 'em register. But we didn't have no privilege to vote. He didn't think—I think the first president I got interested in votin' about was in—when Kennedy was elected president.

Interviewer 1: So, what you're sayin' that—the reason why you didn't vote was because you couldn't or you just didn't want to? What?

JJ: Just like a lot of people think today, because I got a sister right down the street thinks the same way, I thought it didn't matter.

Interviewer 1: But there was blacks voting then in Tampa?

JJ: I don't know. I couldn't say that—because I didn't hear 'em—you know, it wasn't like it is now. They wouldn't bring it to you, in your neighborhood. They didn't care about the black votes along in there. They didn't care if you go vote or not. But see, now, I'd say along in the sixties [1960s] they started bringin' it to you—them fish fries to the



neighborhoods, see, and gettin' interested in—in the votes, after they passed a law that everybody could vote. Then they got interested in the vote.

But other than that I don't think nobody voted. It might have been one or two. But I know—Dewey used to hang around that county courthouse and he wanted everybody to be all col—colored folks to be Democrats. He didn't want no (inaudible). He'd get you by the hand and carry you on in here and then register you as a Democrat. He said, “Now, when they ask you what you want to be, you say Democrat.” And I said, “Democrat.”

Interviewer 1: So was Dewey—Dewey is a, he was the—was he a, some type of leader (inaudible) back then?

JJ: They just called him "Mr. Democrat." I wish you'd get his history caught before he die. 'Cause let me tell you somethin'—I don't even know how to Dewey lived. He ain't never done—He wasn't on no payroll down there.

Interviewer 1: Ha—ha—ha—

JJ: He just hung around there and in front of that county courthouse. And—

Interviewer 2: He still hang around now?

Interviewer 3: Yeah, he got robb—

JJ: No, he got robbed and they beat him.

Interviewer 1: They beat him?

JJ: Um-hm.

Interviewer 3: They beat him blind, I think.

JJ: But I wish you would get his history because he ain't never had a job there. He just was interested in colored folks votin'. And as many as he could get to put on their name down there, he know'd where to carry you, he would be around down there and he'd carry you on. But I never know'd him to work. Somebody robbed him. They don't know who ever done it. They never catch him.

Interviewer 2: After you got old enough to work, what type of work did you do?

JJ: In a laundry. I been in a laundry for almost forth-five years now.

Interviewer 2: What laundry was this?

JJ: Whiteway. The first one, I think, was The Whiteway.

Interviewer 1: And what was the salary? Starting salary?

JJ: Fifteen cent. But I worked for—a—two hours for a quarter after another one. I left that and went to Hyde Park. I went to Vogue and I was makin'—they was payin' twelve and a half cent an hour—quarter for two hours.

Interviewer 1: Okay. What year was that, Mrs. Jolliff?

Mrs. Jessie Jolliff: I don't know. I can't tell you exactly 'cause if I was 'round about—I'd say 'round about fifteen years old. And I was born in seventeen [1917]. About what year would that be?

Interviewer 1: What, you was fifteen?

JJ: Yeah.

Interviewer 1: And you were born in seventeen? About thirty, about thirty-one [1931], something like that.

JJ: But you wasn't makin' nothin'.

Interviewer 3: My mom was born in seventeen [1917].

Interviewer 1: What were some of the occupations of other blacks that was in the same area?

JJ: They didn't do nothin' but work for white people. They had a—busboys down to them cafeterias and the women worked in the kitchen because the men did the busin' of the dishes. And the women used to wash the dishes. And the mens used to do the cleaning up. And then they had the hotel; the women used to be maids in them, clean up the rooms in the hotel. Let me see what else was there—but most of it was domestic work, workin' in the white people's houses. And my mama used to cook to (inaudible) down to a little Quicketeria. She got her a job cookin'.

Interviewer 1: Who were some of the black people that you all would look up to? Like, today you have Alton White and stuff, you know, that most people are lookin' up to. Who were some of the blacks during that time that blacks looked up to—that, say, would have money or had, you know, powers or something like this?

JJ: Well, now, let me see—I have to think. I know—let me see. I can't think of a soul.

Interviewer 1: Lee Davis? Was he looked upon as a man—?

JJ: Um-hm. If I could think. No. He just come into power. Um—

Interviewer 3: Like (inaudible)—

JJ: No. See, them was *bolita* people. And they—And I'll try—I'm tryin' to think of, you know, somebody who was a decent leader.

Interviewer 1: What about Blythe Andrews?

JJ: No, he wasn't in our time. That would come later on, in later years. But now, Dr. Johnson—

Interviewer 1: What about Dr. [Edward O.] Archie? Was he here then?

JJ: Yeah, Dr. Archie, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Williams. Old Dr. Williams. And Dr. Johnson. There was two Dr. Johnsons. The people used to look up to them, but that's all we had to look to. Just them one or two doctors. Dr. Archie, yeah.

Interviewer 2: Did you ever go to Dr. Archie as a patient?

JJ: Yeah. I ain't gonna never forget that.

Interviewer 2: Tell us about it.

JJ: Ha—ha—ha—No, I'll make ya'll laugh. Ha—ha—ha—

Interviewer 2: Please tell us.

JJ: Well, I went there with my head all swolled up about that big and he give me a shot back here [indicates her buttocks]. And I wanted to know what he was doin' shootin' me back there with my head all swolled. Ha—ha—ha —

Interviewer 1: Did it help you any?

JJ: I don't know. Ha—ha—

Interviewer 1: Yeah, we just interviewed him.

JJ: Who?

Interviewer 1: Dr. Archie.

JJ: Yeah. Ha—

Interviewer 2: Did you attend public schools here in Tampa?

JJ: Yeah.

Interviewer 2: What school did you attend?

JJ: Harlem.

Interviewer 2: Tell me something about Harlem.

JJ: Dobeyville. And Dunbar before it was built, because Dunbar was in a little shack, in a little one room shack. Dobeyville was in a two little room shack. And then I went to Harlem.

Interviewer 1: Can you tell us about all these schools you went to, kind of describe 'em, if you could remember that far, especially Dobeyville, because I haven't ever heard of that one before.

Interviewer 2: I've heard of Dobey—

JJ: Yeah. That's—Dobeyville, it was—

Interviewer 3: Dobeyville, not Dobey.

Interviewer 1: Well, they had Dobe—

JJ: It was right on this—it's on Azele and South Dakota. 'Bout two wooden room house and it carried from the first through the sixth grade.

Interviewer 1: Can you remember the teacher there?

JJ: Miss—Miss Jessie Smith, the principal.

Interviewer 1: And now about what year was this?

JJ: I can't remember that now—heh—ha—that's been a long time ago.

Interviewer 2: Sure, because I can't remember when I was in first and second grade, I can't remember that—

JJ: But I can remember everyone of my teachers there, from my first grade teacher on through. I can remember Miss Flinanson, because she taught me from the first through the third. Miss Jones taught me in the fourth. Miss Martin taught me in the fifth. And Miss Smith got a hold of me in the sixth.

Interviewer 1: You want to tell us about the other schools?

JJ: Over at Harlem?

Interviewer 2: Yeah.

JJ: See, they sent me from Dobeyville to Harlem in the sixth grade. See, when you got in the sixth, you know, they keep you over there a year and then they send you over there in the sixth, because you didn't—if you didn't pass, you didn't go nowhere. They keep you right there. And see when you went to sixth you didn't go to Booker Washington until you got into 7A. They had 7B and 7A.

Interviewer 1: Okay. Now, Dobeyville, was that a elementary school?

JJ: Yeah.

Interviewer 1: And they were—were there any other elementary schools beside that one during this time?

JJ: There was one down—right down there on the corner, Green [Street] and Oregon [Avenue].

Interviewer 1: What was Harlem like? What was the school actually like? The school like—What did you all do? You know, how was—?

JJ: Play basketball, and—that's all.

Interviewer 1: Okay, what was the school like? You know, what did you do in the classrooms, and, you know, just regular little things, things that children do today, you know, just relating some of the things like that, that you all would do.

JJ: When you went there—from the time we got there we had reading—and then she'd start off with arithmetic in the morning and then she would go to readin', then she'd go to history and then sometime—the only recreation we'd have in, that room would be to a spellin' bee. (inaudible) like that there. Every evenin' she would have a spellin' bee. But you didn't play in that room, you got to listen. And every week you had to learn a poem. I mean, that was your weekend lesson, to learn a—I'd say about a five verse poem, you had to learn it before you come back that Monday morning. So that would keep you out the street on the weekend. Keep you there studyin'.

And you sit up in that classroom and look out the window and then she'll come around there and she'll stand right up behind you and she said, “We got y'all, we can't move no further,” we got to wait on her till she gets back 'cause she's gone out the room. She's not gonna say a word 'til you get back either—so you could get it too.

Interviewer 1: How was the dating things? You know, how did—how were you dating during those days?

JJ: Well, there weren't no datin'. We didn't know datin' 'til you got grown.

Interviewer 1: There was no datin's, like, between eleventh and twelfth graders, then?

JJ: No, sir. Um-hm. No, your mama beat you to death if you come home talkin' about a boy. Heh, heh—ha—ha—ha—You'd better not even mention that. Heh—heh—heh—ha—ha—

Interviewer 1: Ha—ha—

JJ: And no boy better not call and say, "I'm comin' down there," or my daddy—my daddy had six girls and that whole block, no boys couldn't come down there. That whole block where we stayed at, they didn't come down there.

Interviewer 1: So once you got grown and started dating it was all right—

JJ: Yeah.

Interviewer 1: —but you had to be grown—before you could do anything.

JJ: Yeah, I stayed with—My mama didn't consider me grown after I got grown.

Interviewer 1: She didn't?

JJ: Nope. 'Cause I got married, and—and I thought me and my husband were gonna stay there that night and so when I been on there I said, "Mama we ain't got nowhere to stay," I said, "But can we stay here tonight?" She said, "Sure, you can stay here tonight." When we got ready to go to bed she said, "Send Charlie in there with your daddy and you get into bed with me."

Interviewer 1: Oh, oh—

JJ: Heh—heh—heh—She said, "You ain't grown enough to sleep together in my house, not yet." Say, "You have to get you a house of your own before you can sleep together." So when he went to work the next day he borrowed some money so could we get—heh—heh—

Interviewer 1: Ha—ha—ha—That's somethin' else.

Interviewer 2: Did you have any kids?

JJ: Um-hm. I had a baby but it died. Two—when he got two, he had (inaudible).

Interviewer 1: Is your husband living?

JJ: Um-hm. First husband dead. I got a husband back there. He blind. I don't know why he ain't been out here. (inaudible) hear anybody talkin' he (inaudible) done—been out here. But he come from Mississippi, he didn't come from here. (inaudible), he could tell you somethin' about Mississippi though. 'Cause he come from way back yonder. He could tell you about how his people were sold into slavery and all that. How his mama

cried when they were carryin' his sisters and brothers and watchin' walk down the road—to sell 'em—puttin' on the sellin' block and all of that.

Interviewer 1: Did you get—did y'all have any harassments from white people during those days?

JJ: You know what, that's what I've often wondered, but they say—with segregation. Now, I stayed right over in there. And I was goin' to school. And there was some white children used to stay over there. And they used to come in our house and sleep with us. Their mama leave 'em there and sleep with us. And we was kids. We moved over there on Palm and we used to meet them white children comin' from school. They were comin' from their school and we would be comin' from Harlem. Yeah, I don't know what school they were goin' to up there, but we'd fight every evening. But they didn't—never—Doesn't nobody ever bother us. You know, have no riots and things like that there. We'd beat them white children's tail and go on 'bout our business.

But, you know what I mean, like—I don't where all this here come from 'cause a—I ain't never had no trouble with no white folks before. And I—sometime I wonder about it 'cause I know I was raised right up here with these Italians. But a long time ago, see, some white folks used think a 'Tali was a nigger too.

Interviewer 2: Um-hm.

JJ: And see the just got up so that they are recognized as white folks now. 'Cause these here—a cracker wouldn't even much let them Italians marry their girls. They called 'em—they just say—um—"nigger"—They said, (inaudible). 'Cause they used to sleep in the house with us. Stayed next door to us and all that. And they just got up here and got so they think theyself better than others. And now I wonder where it come from too since I got grown because we didn't have it when we was children.

Interviewer 1: What about the churches here? When you came here how was the church activities here?

JJ: Fine.

Interviewer 1: Are you a member of the church?

JJ: Um-hm.

Another Interviewer 1: What church is that?

JJ: I belong to the church of Christ. I belong to a mixed church, colored and white. But I have—When I came here I belonged to the New Salem Missionary Baptist Church. I first—I joined that church in 1929 because my mama was there.

Interviewer 1: We hate to keep jumpin' around, but we was talkin' about the schools, and

you say it was two elementary schools?

JJ: No, there's more than that.

Interviewer 1: I'm talking about during that time.

JJ: No, there's more—

Interviewer 3: (inaudible)

JJ: It wasn't—Harlem was op—

***Side 1 ends; side 2 begins***

JJ: —blind he—but he could tell to get 'round in (inaudible) no more. He's totally blind.

Interviewer 2: Reverend Anderson (inaudible) that's the only question.

Interviewer 1: Okay. You say that—

Interviewer 2: Tell 'im that's okay.

**Unknown Woman:** (to someone in the other room) He said that's all right.

Interviewer 1: You say eventually, though (inaudible) came into being, right?

JJ: Yeah.

Interviewer 1: Okay.

JJ: Yeah.

Interviewer 1: And that was located down by where the old jail is?

JJ: Yeah.

Interviewer 1: Right.

JJ: Um-hm. The old—big old building there sittin' up doin' nothin' so they give it to 'em for a school. It wasn't no school. It was just a old big buildin' they give 'em, and they made it out of that school. They didn't build 'em their school. The only high school they ever built 'em was a—Blake and Booker Washington—and Middleton. And they built three. Booker Washington was first, then Middleton, then Blake. But they—That wasn't no school. That wasn't nothin' but a great buildin'.

Interviewer 1: Okay. And during this time in sports, like, at Booker T. and Middleton and



everything, they had men and women's basketball teams also. Right?

JJ: Yeah. Um-hm.

Interviewer 1: All right.

JJ: Yeah, women been playing basketball, that ain't nothin' new.

Interviewer 1: Right.

Interviewer 2: Who were some of the girls that played on the team?

JJ: (inaudible) the names.

Interviewer 2: (inaudible)

JJ: I'm about to—We wasn't but two girls—three girls—the rest of 'em was (inaudible) mostly.

Interviewer 1: And you say some of them are still livin' now?

JJ: Yeah, my sister stays right down there, Miss Allie Green, she stay in Hyde Park.

Interviewer 1: Can you just give us the name of the members?

JJ: Miss Allie Green, Celestine Gucci, D.C. and Chi, I don't know what their last name. There's a woman named Bea, she was the pitcher. Buda, she was a pitcher. And Liz Patterson, she was a catcher. And I was a shortstop. My sis—Ruby was the leftfielder. My sister, Blanche, was the second baseman. Heh—I've forgotten now—

Interviewer 1: Mrs. Jolliff, do you think it would be possible the it would be possible that we could get together, you know, you say your sister's livin'—and there's—how many other ladies are livin' from—that was on the team?

JJ: I know Ms. Allie Green. And I think Liz is livin'. Liz is married and I don't know what her last name is. I don't—See she—Liz—Me and Liz and a girl next—Celestine Gucci, was the onl—the youngest three, we wasn't married.

Interviewer 1: Um-hm.

JJ: And her name was Patterson then, but what—She married since then and I don't know what her name is now.

Interviewer 1: But you think we can get a picture of this group?

JJ: And one girl name Patsy. She was our first baseman. We had Conchita Wazeel. She

stayed right down there too.

Interviewer 1: Um-hm.

JJ: On Green and Al (inaudible). She's old and blind now too.

Interviewer 2: Okay, I'm fixin' to jump around a little bit. Do you remember anything about Clara Frye Hospital?

JJ: Yeah.

Interviewer 2: Can you tell me something about it?

JJ: When I first needed the Clara Frye it was over on, was it Lamar—it was (inaudible) Governor—Lamar—I think it's Lamar. I know it was down in there..

Interviewer 1: (inaudible)

JJ: Hm?

Interviewer 1: Yes, you're right.

JJ: On Lamar? Yeah, I think. I know because my sister went there to have her baby—and they didn't have enough nurses there to get the afterbirth. My mama had to go there to get the afterbirth. And where it went from there—It went down there—I don't know—I don't know much about the hospital. I remember it down in there too.

Interviewer 1: Okay. The original site, was it—it wasn't a big building, was it?

JJ: No. Just a little—long—looked like it was about eighteen rooms. Long, white, a—wood building.

Interviewer 1: Now that's when it was up there on Lamar and—Lamar—

JJ: Lamar, back here.

Interviewer 1: Okay. And then they moved down fur—

JJ: Right down in there.

Interviewer 1: Yeah, toward the river.

JJ: Right down there.

Interviewer 1: Right.

Interviewer 2: Um-hm. It be—had a nice hospital down there too.

Interviewer 1: They did.

JJ: Um-hm. It was real nice. That Ms. Cass, she was a—be a nurse in that (inaudible). I think she was the head nurse at (inaudible). I don't know. They didn't have many doctors. They didn't allow the doctors to go over there and operate on people, nobody but Napachine and Dr. Johnson. They would let him operate every once in a while on somebody over there to Tampa General [Hospital]. But I don't think they had anyone over there to operate on no colored people. It's come a long ways.

Interviewer 1: (inaudible) Okay, Ms.—

*end of interview*