

## **Transcript of a Recorded Interview with Allene Bomer, 13 Sep 1978**

EC: Mrs. Eulle Cambler with Adair County Library, September 13, 1978. Today, we are at home of Mr. and Mrs. Condi Bomer. They are going to tell us a little about their early life and whatever you want to talk about. Okay, you want to start talking? What do you want to talk about first? Have you always lived in Adair County?

AB: That's right. Except for about a year, I lived in Indianapolis.

EC: Would you like to tell us how many years young you are?

AB: No. I can't do that. I don't know what'll happen. I don't know what I'm going to have to do. (Laughter).

EC: You're past 39, aren't you?

AB: Yes. Yes. I done passed Jack Benny.

EC: You're done another Jack Benny?

AB: Hmm-Mmm.

EC: Do you have children?

AB: No, ma'am. I don't have any children.

EC: How long have you been married?

AB: Fifty years.

EC: Fifty years.

AB: Fifty-one on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November.

EC: Golden wedding. The 21<sup>st</sup> of November.

AB: Hmm-Mmm.

EC: Have you always lived in this area? What's this road out here?

AB: Seven-oh-four.

EC: Seven-oh-four. Have you always lived in this area?

AB: Yes, but I lived farther back down this way. I moved here in 1939, and I've been here ever

since. Had a little work done on the house. Got to have a little more done. Maybe keep from freezing this winter if it gets cold.

EC: Yeah, if it's cold again like it was last year. What's your husband, has he always farmed?

AB: Yes. He's always been a farmer, but for the last three or four years, he hasn't been able to farm. He has, you know, he's been in the hospital and had about three operations, and you know, when you go cutting on folks, that kind of takes a little of the strength away from you.

EC: Weakens you. It sure does.

AB: Yes. I raise chickens. Sell a few eggs.

EC: Did you ever raise chickens and sell eggs to, some people call them the rolling store or the huckster's truck, some people call them?

AB: Yes, I've sold them to the huckster's trucks that used to pass out here, but that don't pass any more. I've just got a few customers that I sell to, you know.

EC: Did you just take your eggs and trade them for whatever you needed from the truck or did they give you money for them?

AB: Money.

EC: They gave you money?

AB: Hmm-Mmm.

EC: Did you ever buy anything off the truck?

AB: Yes, I have. But that's water under the dam. That's been a long time. This lady that lives up here, her second husband, wasn't it?

CB: What in the heck are you talking about?

AB: \_\_\_\_\_.

CB: Oh, yeah.

AB: He used to travel up and down the road here and I'd buy a few things.

CB: A radio.

AB: A radio.

EC: Did you buy most of your stuff rather than go to the store or Columbia or did you go to the store?

AB: Yes. Yes. I bought it from him because well, there wasn't too many stores around here, you know. There was this one way down over there. I used to walk to Mr. Hardin, but he went on to bright and glory and, of course, that knocked that out.

EC: What did you have to buy? Did you raise most of your stuff or did you . . . ?

AB: Yes, I raised most of it. A little sugar and coffee. Sometimes salt and pepper and stuff like that. I don't buy too much. I didn't buy too much back then. I buy a little more now, but I didn't buy too much then.

EC: What about your meal and flour? Did you raise that and have it ground?

AB: He used to. He used to. Yes. He used to raise all that.

EC: Did you take it to a roller mill or something?

AB: Hmm-Mmm. Hmm-Mmm. I don't know what you call these here mill . . . What do you call them?

CB: Grist mill.

AB: Grist mill.

EC: Would you take your corn to that and have it ground?

AB: Hmm-Mmm.

EC: Who were your parents and where did they come from?

AB: Well, my mother was raised in Cumberland County and my father was raised in Adair.

EC: Have you ever pieced in quilts?

AB: Oh, yeah. Quilted, used to crochet, used to embroidery, but I've done got old now and I can't . . . I don't know, it seems like I just can't sit down and get it done.

EC: Did you have a straw bed? They'd call them.

AB: Hmm-Mmm. And you know what? I'd like to have one now. Yes.

EC: What about a feather bed?

AB: Well, I've got a little of them, you know. Some from my ancestors.

EC: You'd rather sleep on a straw stick than on a mattress, an inner spring mattress.

AB: Yes, yes, I believe I would.

EC: Do you think it would be more comfortable?

AB: Hmm-Mmm. It would be cooler, I think. What do you think?

Another voice: They smelled awful good and fresh. I slept on one before.

AB: Hmm-Mmm. And fill up your bed and you could go to bed that night and sleep so good, you know.

MM: Just wrap around.

AB: Yes. (Laughter).

EC: Well, that kind of . . . Especially with a feather bed on top, they kind of come up around you and keep you warm, wouldn't they?

AB: Oh, yes. In the wintertime, you'd never know it was cold.

EC: I was talking to a lady the other day and she said that they carded their cotton and . . .

AB: My grandmother did that.

EC: Sheared sheep and took it to a carding factory over at Greasy Creek and then made their blankets, you know, out of wool then.

AB: Hmm-Mmm.

EC: Then, they had linsey dresses, she called it.

AB: Hmm-Mmm. Hmm-Mmm. Yes.

EC: Did you all ever do that?

AB: My grandmother carded and she'd spin, and you know. I don't know whether you ever saw a spinning wheel or not.

EC: I saw them. I never saw them in use but I saw them.

AB: Well, I'd sit up at night and see her spin cotton and wool. They were little round things.

Did you ever see one? And then she'd put this on, I believe she called it a spindle.

MM: Probably.

AB: Well, I've just forgot. It's been so long. Then, she'd take her finger and turn that wheel and that there would come out a great long piece and she'd catch some more in there and it'd go on till you just had a great big ball. And yarn, that's what she quilted with. You know, she tack quilts and then, she'd quilt some.

EC: Where did you get your piece for quilts? Did you have them left over out of dress material?

AB: Yes, I did.

MM: And what was your grandmother's name?

AB: Amanda Bomer.

MM: How do you feel about the changes that have come along in the last 75 years, maybe? You've been here almost 75 years.

AB: Well, I don't know. I just can't tell you how I feel. It seems like I'm all messed up. I can't get myself together on it, but there's such a big change. I don't know whether I'm going or coming. I'm telling you, I just don't know that it's everything is . . .

EC: What do you think, things are going too fast for your or something?

AB: Yes, I think so. And they ain't going right.

EC: You'd rather be back . . . You'd like to go back a few years, maybe?

AB: I wouldn't mind it. My husband says he don't want to see the good old days. I told him that some parts of them that I would love to see. I would love to live in. That's way back, you know, they had neighbors. People cared for each other.

EC: Somebody told me that the other day.

AB: Hmm-Mmm. But now, everybody is for himself and they don't care about the other fellow too much. I don't know where you live at. I don't know how the people is there but they may be good kind of neighbors and everything, but you know, you don't have too many neighbors anymore.

EC: If we're really down and out, they usually come across, but as far as saying if you've got a field of tobacco cut out here and you need some help, it's hard to get it. When used they'd all come in and probably help.

AB: That's right. That's right. Yes. If the man was down and out and his corn needed to be planted, they come in and done that and seen up after it until he got back on his feet to see up after it himself. Why, everything has changed. Just changed so much.

EC: Do you all know anything about where they used to make bricks? Have you ever saw them around in this area or anywhere? They made their own bricks?

AB: Yeah, Mr. Garnis. Will Garnis. He lives over on . . .

EC: Can you tell us how they done it? Do you remember how they . . . ? You don't know nothing about it.

AB: No, I don't know nothing about it, but he said he hadn't never seen it. I'm just reminding him that he burnt the bricks and built his own. He fixed his own bricks and he built his house out of it. Do you know Allie Garnis? Allie?

EC: Hmm-Mmm.

AB: That is her father.

EC: How about camp meetings? Could you tell us something about that?

AB: No. I don't know nothing about that. There was one up there, I don't know how long it's been. About two years or so.

CB: What's that?

AB: Camp meeting. They had up there.

CB: Yea, it's been about two years or so.

EC: Do you go to church around here somewhere?

AB: Yes. My church is right up here. I guess you all passed it.

EC: We come the other way.

AB: Oh, you did? Well, but she has time and again. And you know the churches are not like they used to be. I think people is more pretending than they are . . . right.

EC: The real thing.

AB: Hmm-Mmm. And I don't think they . . . They think the church, this little earthly church is going to save them and it ain't. They go to church every Sunday, dress up, see who's looking the best and find out the news and everything. Most of them. Now, not all them. I'm not

putting them all in the same category. Now, don't get me wrong. But everyone of them, our church ain't nothing like it used to be. Nothing. There used to be some good Christians up there, but now they are salt and pepper.

EC: What do you call salt and pepper?

AB: They are self-pretending. Self-righteous. You know what I mean when I say self-righteous. They right and the other feller is wrong.

EC: That's what you call salt and pepper.

AB: Hmm-Mmm.

EC: Do you want to tell us how you put up your food for the winter a few years ago, say when you first got married?

AB: Well, I canned it.

EC: You didn't put it in stone jars?

AB: No. No. Only my smoked apples, that's the only thing I put in a stone jar.

EC: What'd you do, put it on a stove and what they call cold pack it?

AB: Yes. Yes. That's the way I done it. And I cold packed most of my beans and things this year, 'cause I put . . .

EC: I did too, what I fixed.

AB: At least twenty-four packages in the freezer. I'd rather have canned than to have them out of the freezer.

EC: What about smoking apples? Do you still do that?

AB: Hmm-Mmm.

EC: How do you do it?

AB: Well, I peel my apples, and I have water over them, you know, so they'd be clean. And I let them drain down. My grandmother always put them in a basket, but I put them in a sac and hang them over a stick in my barrel. I have a little barrel here and put my kettle down under there and an old pot. You know, the old time pots. Cast, I guess you'd call them. And I'd put my coals down in there and then I put me a tablespoon full of sulfur over it and let that burn out. It'll burn out in about 30 minutes or 35 somewhere along in there, and I put me a teaspoon full of sulfur and when that burns out, why, they're ready to take out.

EC: You put the sulfur over the coals? And then you've got the apples setting in the barrel, hanging in the barrel?

AB: Hmm-Mmm. And that's covered up. I've got a quilt that I put over it and a piece of paper. I put paper down over it and then I put that quilt over it. And all that smoke comes up in them apples.

EC: And you like the taste of it?

AB: Well, pretty well. Not too . . . I don't like it as well as I used to, but you know . . .

EC: Well, do you do it more for the taste or just to preserve them?

AB: Preserve them. I haven't canned any apples and I freeze some and put them in the freezer and froze them, but I didn't . . . I hadn't canned any.

EC: But the sulfur . . . To make sulfur apples, that is the closest you can have to keeping them just like they are, right? It'd be good if you just didn't get that sulfur taste, wouldn't it?

AB: Yes. I always put them in a little water to let them soak a bit.

EC: Do you? Does that kind of take the taste out of them?

AB: Hmm-Mmm. And they look just as pretty and white and nice looking.

EC: What do you . . . Do you fry them or make pies or whatever you do?

AB: Well, I can make pies out of them, fry them, just use them up . . .

EC: Any way you want to do?

AB: Uh-huh. Anyway you want to.

EC: What's the best way to take the sulfur out of them? The sulfur taste out of them, you know to make a pie or just fry or what?

AB: Just drop them down in a little salt and water and let them sit a few minutes.

MM: I really didn't understand, after you smoke them, what do you do with them?

AB: I put them in a jar.

EC: You don't have to seal them really, do you? Just so it's a tight lid on them. Is that right?

AB: Yes. Yes. Yes. I've got these that I've smoked this year in a churn jar that the top fits

down tight and I've got a place where the dasher come up through there, you know. I got that fastened up and everything.

EC: I think those gallon jugs, like baloney comes in, you can put that lid on them real tight. They will keep in those.

AB: Yes, they will.

EC: Did your husband ever go hunting? Are you a hunter or fisherman, either one?

CB: I used to hunt, but I've been disabled. My shoulder's out of shape. I ain't been hunting in a long while.

EC: I think the hunting season is in now. Right?

CB: Yes, it's in now.

EC: But you're not going to try it this time.

AB: He will if he gets able.

EC: Uh-huh.

CB: I've been doctoring my shoulder. A bone specialist.

EC: There's a lady that told me down at the nursing home this morning that she had squirrel dumplings the other day. Do you like them?

CB: Hmm-Mmm.

EC: Do you ever make them? You make them when you got the squirrel handy?

AB: Hmm-Mmm.

EC: Do you know anything about blacksmith shops in this area that used to be or was they all around Columbia?

AB: No, there used to be one right up here on top of the hill where they have some stores there. There used to be a blacksmith right up there.

EC: Who run it?

AB: Darnell's.

EC: I guess they did a lot of business.

AB: They shoed horses, fixed wagons, and so forth and so on.

EC: Can you remember the first time you went to town when you was a little girl?

AB: No.

EC: All the way to Columbia?

AB: No, I can't remember now. That's been so long ago.

EC: Did you ever go to the fair?

AB: Hmm-Mmm. I used to \_\_\_\_ .

EC: The county or the circus?

AB: I used to go two and three days. But, I hadn't been to the fair now. Not since 1946.

EC: You'll have to go back again. It may have changed a little bit since then.

AB: I guess it has. Since I've got so that I don't get about too well and can't walk, I don't, you know, take in these things that I used to.

EC: Hmm-Mmm. What did you all used to do? How did you meet your husband? Did you meet him at church?

AB: Well, I've known him all of his life.

EC: I see him a grinning.

AB: I've known him all of his life. He was raised in this community.

EC: Uh-huh. You knew him from a little girl on up. Did you go to school together?

AB: Hmm-Mmm. Yes.

EC: So, you just kinda had your eye on him, huh?

AB: No, I didn't.

EC: He had his eye on you?

AB: I don't know how it was. Well, it was a fortune teller who told me. She said, oh, she said, you fickle, you make the men folks that you talk to think that you're crazy about them. She said you ain't caring a thing enough about them. You just out for a good time, and she said that

you're not going to take never one of them. And I said, well, I don't know about that. She said, I know, who you going to get is somebody you've known all your life and he's lived close to you all of his life.

EC: This was a fortune teller?

AB: Fortune teller, and it was at the fair. Uh-huh. And I thought well now, she don't know nothing about my business. She don't know nothing about what I'm doing. I thought I had one half courted, but I didn't. (Laughter).

MM: You would've been a typical girl if you were fickle don't you think?

AB: Oh, Lord.

EC: Was you going with your husband at that time?

AB: No.

EC: No, he was going with somebody else?

AB: Hmm-Mmm.

EC: When did you discover later on then you discovered you was going with the wrong one?

AB: Well, I don't know. I just, you know, I'm changeable. I change a lot, change back, just like I am the rest of the day. I tell everybody my love is like a faucet, I can turn it off and on. Now, you don't, maybe don't know nothing about that, but I do.

MM: I don't believe that about you.

AB: Huh? You don't?

MM: No.

AB: Well, I can turn it off and on. I can turn it on and be just loving as a little chicken and then, again, I can turn around and . . .

EC: You're not talking about love. You're talking about your mood.

AB: Well, I don't know what it is. I thought that I can turn it off and on. Now, of course, let me see, I believe her name is Mary . . . Well, she don't know nothing about that. Hers stays the same.

MM: I don't believe that about you. (Laughter).

EC: She's not going to tell you about herself but she doesn't believe it about you.

AB: Uh-huh. Yeah. I guess you can turn her off and on too. Sometimes when things don't go just to suit her.

EC: Did you ever make . . .

MM: I guess I do. I never thought about it.

EC: You'll know its love from now on that you're turning on and off. Did you ever make hominy?

AB: Oh, yes.

EC: How did you do it? Did you have to have a certain kind of corn or a certain stage?

AB: Yes, I used white corn. And I haven't made no hominy, oh guess, it's been 10-15 years.

EC: Did it have to be a year old or something? Corn, it could be . . .

AB: No. No. You could just gather it this fall and when it . . .

EC: It don't have to be dried up or anything?

AB: Yes. You know, some moisture...

EC: Some of the moisture out of it?

AB: Uh-huh. And the last that I made, well, I got out of water and I washed it two or three times and I got it out of water and I had to go to the spring. And when I got to the spring and stepped down - my springs right down yonder. Do you see where them trees are?

EC: Hmm-Mmm. Yeah.

AB: There was a great big snake laying right there where I had to step down. I looked at it and it scared the fool out of me because I'm afraid of a snake.

EC: I am too.

AB: And I come back up there and got me a stick and he laid still. He had his mouth open and flicked his tongue out at me. But I had to have some water and \_\_\_\_\_. So, I fell afouled of him and liked to have thrown him around my neck. You know, I was aiming to get him out from where I had to step to get my water. When I raised him up and flipped him, he went back this way and if he fell on me, I wouldn't have been here today because I'd have died.

EC: You did kill him before you hooked him?

AB: I reckon I did. Thomas said he was killed and he'd take the horses to town at that time to have them shod and he come back down there. I told him to come up there. I needed him. I said there's an awful snake up here. And he come and said where's he at. I said here he is. You know I had to go to the doctor. That made me so nervous. I had to go to the doctor to get me to settle my mind. Now, you know I'm afraid of snakes.

EC: Hadn't you been seeing them around maybe?

AB: No. No. No. That was kinda . . . When was that? Was that in March or April? When was that?

CB: In April.

AB: They were just coming out, you know?

EC: Do you still go down there and use your water from down there?

AB: Yes. Yes.

EC: About a couple of city blocks you have to walk?

AB: Yes. So, that's the last hominy that I made.

EC: What did you do after you . . . Do you soak it in water or something? You said you ran out of water. Do you soak it?

AB: No, you know. You have to wash it to get the lye out of it, and then when you get it washed so many times, you put it on and then it comes up to a low simmer, and you pull that water off and you put some more water on and let it come to another little simmer to get the lye out of it.

EC: What do you do the first thing? What's the first thing you do with it after you take it off the cob? Do you soak it in lye water or something?

AB: No, you just put it on. I put ashes in a bag and put em down in the kettle and put that corn in there. Is that the way you do, Mary?

MM: I made hominy last winter in a crock pot during that snow.

AB: Oh, no.

MM: I sure did.

AB: What did you . . . Of course, I guess you got city water, ain't you?

MM: No, we have a well.

AB: Well. And put that down in and let it boil until that corn gets strutt out. You know, swelled out, I'll say. Swells out and then it stops . . . They call it eye, I think. You get them eyes real black, and you get them out. Scratch them out. But I . . . He's quit raising corn. I've got some out here in the garden now that I'm going to make me some hominy out of it if the Lord lets me live and the black birds don't get it.

MM: Save me some.

EC: Did you put up a lot this time? You did mention canning and cold packing beans. Did you put up a lot of beans?

AB: Yes, I put up right smart peaches, apples, beans, tomatoes, made preserves, made some jelly, and I didn't have much to make jelly out of. I had to buy my stuff to make some jelly out of it. And I wanted some berries. Did you all get any berries?

EC: Mmm. I didn't.

MM: I got like a gallon and a half.

AB: Oh, why didn't you bring me a cupful. I'd have been tickled to death.

MM: Maybe I'll bring you some jam.

AB: Well, that'll be alright. I bought a thing of jam but it ain't . . .

EC: It's not like your homemade, is it?

AB: Uh-uh. No, it isn't. And if you don't watch it, it sours on you. Sometimes, I forget to put it. When I use it for breakfast, I forget to put it in the Frigidaire and it sours on you and you have to throw it because it is. I don't know what's the matter with it. I reckon it ain't cooked enough.

EC: I don't know. Is your husband a big eater?

AB: No. No, he's not. He used to be, but since he's been kind of sick, he's not such a big eater.

EC: If he goes out hunting, he'll probably get his appetite back.

AB: Probably so.

EC: Did you want to . . .

AB: Oh, yes. She's got something in mind. Go ahead.

MM: You never did really tell the true feeling on the changes that have come about in your life. I'm sure you have some opinions and don't be embarrassed and go ahead and express them. Maybe we could talk about your thought as far as integration, as far as black and white being friends. Do you think we've made any move forward?

AB: In some respects, yes, and in others, no.

MM: We have a long ways to go, don't we?

AB: Yes, we've got a long ways to go. And I don't know whether they'll ever get to the end of it or not.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

BEGINNING OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

EC: This is side 2 of a tape with Mr. and Mrs. Bomer.

MM: I don't want to put words in your month. But, do you feel like there is our only hope as far as to become one or to become better friends?

AB: I think it would be nice if we could become better friends and be, you know, more together. Togetherness, you know. I think it would be nice, but I'm doubting it.

MM: I'm sorry that you feel that way.

AB: Yeah, I'm doubting it. But now, don't get me wrong. There has always been some nice white people and there's always been some nice colored people. But, you know, we've got a lot of other kinds. You know what I mean. Or do you know?

MM: In a way, but now, I have never been in your shoes and lived it?

AB: Well, you know, when the segregation come about, I was talking to one of my friends, a white lady. She said, Allene, I'll tell you. This sure is something terrible. She said I can't afford to let colored people come and stay all night with me and sit down to my table to eat. I said to her, well, I think you've got the wrong idea. I don't think it means that. I said it just means that they can get the qualifications to get a good job, they could get it just as good as a white person. I don't think it means that at all. Well, she said, that's what I thought. I just had to \_\_\_\_ see how some folks feels. And I've known that woman for years.

MM: Did you know her that well?

AB: I'd thought about it. I had saw things that I . . . you know, didn't approve of. So, you see, you have a doubt when somebody tells you something like that. You wonder whether it will ever be straightened out or not.

MM: I still think that's our only hope though.

AB: Well, I'll tell you what I think. People are not going to change it. If there's any changes to be made, God's going to make it. He's going to bring things around right but the people ain't going to bring it because there's too many straddling the fence.

MM: Well, then, how can He do it if everybody stays straddling the fence.

AB: You see, he's got all the power in his hands. He can do things that . . . He can hinder when no man can work and work when no man can hinder.

MM: I still feel like it's part of our responsibility too.

AB: Yes. Probably so, but I don't feel that way. If anything is going to be good, if there's ever change Miss Marshall, God's going to change it. It ain't going to be the people. They've tried everything. You know, they tried to settle the wars, there's still wars and things going on. I don't know, they just ain't close enough. What I think is the present now is that too many people are trying to play God. They are trying to take things out of His hands and use them for themselves. You know what I mean. Do themselves. Fix themselves. They can't do it. You've got to have God. You've got to let him go farther. If you don't, you ain't going nowhere. You ain't going to accomplish much. Now, that's all there is to it. I think if they would just turn the things . . . let things loose. Go back. Get in the old landmark. I believe everything would be alright. I could be thinking wrong, but that's what I think about it. Now, what do you think? You ain't said a word?

EC: I was just listening to you all.

AB: Well, you can tell us what you think?

EC: I think you're right about your Christian attitude. I really do.

AB: Well, now, Mary, give me your thoughts. I see you were thinking.

MM: I don't have anything else to say. You said how you feel and like I say, I'm sorry. And I truly mean that.

AB: Hmm-Mmm. Well, now, that's my feelings about it. But, I hope everything will work out.

MM: I do too. How far did you go in school?

AB: Eighth grade.

MM: Eighth grade. That's good. But, of course, it was an all black school?

AB: Yes. Yes. All black school right up there.

MM: What was the name of it?

AB: New Zion School.

MM: Who was one of your teachers? Do you remember?

AB: Oh, yes. I remember quite a few of my teachers. I went to all women teachers until I went to town to Jackmans High. I guess you heard tell of that.

MM: Hmm-Mmm.

AB: One of them was Mary Lou Todd, and another one was Cora Wade, and Maryann Henderson, Dula Roys, Alice Lashley and Bud Lashley.

EC: You said you went to Jackman High, did you go on to high school after the eighth grade?

AB: No, no, no. But I went out there, a spell, because they didn't have. You know, at one time, the children got so scarce up here. They just had three months of school. And when three months was out here, I would go to town and finish up the six months. You know they had six months school.

EC: Hmm-Mmm.

AB: And I would go there and finish up the six months.

MM: Did you feel like that was a little bit unfair? And I'm not pushing you?

AB: I understand.

MM: A little bit unfair that you was allowed three months of school and then you had to travel into town for the other three months.

AB: Hmm-Mmm. It was unfair. Yes. Yes. It was unfair.

MM: And was that like a school building or was that a church?

AB: A school building.

MM: It was a school building?

AB: Hmm-Mmm.

MM: Well, now, I know that the black school at Colberg was a church and it was used for a school building too.

AB: Well, before the school building was built up here, we used the church.

MM: And Jackman High was a black high school, in Columbia, out on the \_\_\_\_\_. Of course, it was there in my neighborhood.

AB: Hmm-Mmm. Hmm-Mmm.

EC: That was the one that burnt.

MM: Hmm-Mmm.

EC: Was it about 1955 or something like that?

AB: Now, I'm forgetting what year it was.

EC: Wasn't it about the time that they segregated the school when it burned?

MM: Now, we was away at that time. That could be right.

EC: I think it was. I think I was a sophomore in high school or something like that.

MM: But, now, in a way, we have come along pretty good in education as far as integration, don't you think?

AB: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

MM: Better than in the town.

AB: Yes. Yes, I think that's done good. I think that's wonderful that everything had turned out good for the education part of things for the children. The people . . . I'm just tickled to death with it.

MM: At least got themselves forward.

AB: Forward, yeah.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2.