

## Transcript of a Recorded Interview with Christine Cole

*Interviewer:* Mark Mefford  
*Date:* 1 Aug 1994  
*Place:* Clinton, Mrs. Cole's home  
*Project:* Small Town

*This transcript represents the nearly verbatim record of an unrehearsed conversation. The reader, therefore, should bear in mind that he is reading a text of the spoken rather than the written word.*

This interview was conducted by Mark Mefford for the Small Town Oral History Project in Clinton. The interview was conducted in Ms. Cole's home on August 1, 1994 at 4 p.m.

MM: Why don't you start by telling me your name for the machine?

CC: My name is Fannie Christine Emerson Cole and I use Christine E. Cole because E. is my maiden name.

MM: How long have you been living in Clinton?

CC: I've lived in Clinton . . . I've been in this house 60 some years, but I came from out in the country, you know, in . . . in the Spring Hill community, and I was born in Cairo, Illinois on 19<sup>th</sup> Street, 1910, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

MM: What were your parents' names?

CC: My mother's name was Della Johnson and my father's name was Fred Emerson. My father died, and I never did see him, when I was 2. He got separated in a \_\_\_ and he died when I was 2. So, we lived in Carbondale, Illinois after we lived in Cairo, Illinois. And we stayed in Carbondale, Illinois on Willis Street until my grandfather, in the Spring Hill community was ill and needed us to come home to take care of him. His name was Dick Johnson.

MM: When were you born?

CC: I was born March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1910.

MM: And you're retired now, but was your occupation?

CC: I taught school from 1932 to 1971. I taught school, elementary schools. One room school at first. I taught out at Spring Hill where our farm is. I was there for one year, and after that, the people that . . . After I taught school for one year, the people at Western Kentucky Industrial College in Paducah, Kentucky had overstaffed the faculty, so they took one of the college professors and asked me to give up my school and they would pay my way for another year in high school. The black folks couldn't go to this high school, so we had to go to Paducah,

Kentucky or some other place to get a high school education. So, that made me go to Western Kentucky after I taught school for one year. Of course, I gave it up because they had overstaffed at Western Kentucky Industrial College.

MM: Where were you, uh, . . . where'd you start your own education?

CC: I started going to school in Spring Hill out here where this farm is now. Spring Hill, Kentucky is 8 miles from here. When I was in the . . . About 6, I think, and they had the school, one-room school, about 9 miles from here down in the Bottom. There was a little building they called the schoolhouse, and I had to walk to school. These other bunch of kids that were coming . . . going in the same direction, we walked to school for miles.

MM: Everyday? Um, was that school . . . all blacks had to go to that school? You all had . . . All the blacks had to go to this school?

CC: All blacks, uh-huh. Yes. It was a black school. Elementary. And we only had six months of school. Six months. That's all we got.

MM: A year?

CC: A year. But not mother. Later years, she decided six months wasn't enough. If the white people were getting more, then I needed more, so she . . . she would bring me here to Clinton, Kentucky to stay with my aunt, Jaxie Dublin that lived over here behind the Jiffy Mart. That was her lot right across from the Jiffy Mart in Clinton, Kentucky and I finished out the year at Cane School on the hill on Cane Street. The street still has the same name, Cane Street, and the professor that they named it for, his name was George Washington Cane. And, uh, later on, I taught school at Oakland, Kentucky for years, and then the high water come up. The '37 flood, I believe you call it, and I lacked a few months finishing, but the superintendent had, you know, I had to wade it out. I waded out the water here trying to get . . . the flood came up and I was . . . the . . .the . . . I had come through a low place, and when they dismissed me, I didn't get back to teach any more at that school in Oakland, Kentucky.

MM: Hmm-Mmm.

CC: Oh, when I was able to, somebody come and pick me up from Oakland School . . . from Oakland while I was boarding from Mrs. Anna Mabor. I mean, from Mrs. Barnes. She was a Mrs. Barnes at that room there. And then, the next year, they had me to teach in . . . I believe it was Clinton, Kentucky. I believe I came here then. I've been . . . I taught school here in Clinton, but I taught at Spring Hill first and then to Oakland, and then back to Clinton, which is Cane School on Cane Street. And that Cane Street has the same old building that we had years ago that had been remodeled and had more added to it, and it started out with just a few teachers and finally, we had as many as six. And my . . . I was the principal of the school, of that school for a while, until they decided to move the high school part. It was two years high school and elementary . . . eight grades of elementary school. And my husband finished school at Kentucky State University before I got my degree and they made him principal and then I began teaching

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>, and there were other teachers there teaching 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and he was teaching 8<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

MM: Uh, were these classes you taught only black children?

CC: Yes, only blacks. Segregated.

MM: Uh, where'd you go to college?

CC: I went to college at Western Kentucky Industrial College in Paducah, Kentucky. And the president was President B. H. Anderson. After I finished . . . See, I went to Western Kentucky Industrial College and had two years of college, but they had four years of high school, because blacks couldn't go to these schools. So, I went . . . My mother had me go . . . one of my teachers, my teachers, came and got me on the Emancipation Proclamation celebration in Columbus, that we have every August, and she told me she would pick me up in her car and take me to Paducah in my few rags that I had. I didn't have clothing. I just had rags. She . . . She did as she promised, carried me to the school, introduced me to Professor B.H. Anderson and told him that I wanted an education, but I didn't have any money. He said, well, that was before school opened up that fall. And he said, well, does she know how to work? She said, not too much. He said, well, we'll teach her.

So, I went two weeks before the school opened regularly and worked to get the building in order and such things that I could do, being a woman. And I made enough money to pay my intuition . . . tuition, I believe it is. And it was \$14 a month and then, finally, the superintendent, Ms. Beckham, I believe . . . They found out I really wanted an education, so they worked some kind of plan that Hickman County, uh, paid most, \$9 or \$14. I had to work off. They paid the \$14 and I paid the \$9. Oh, that was a blessing. I went to school and finished high school there. I finished high school in 1932, the same year that I started teaching. I started teaching the same year after finishing high school. I didn't have any college at all, but they were using people just who had an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education in the blacks, you know. I came and started teaching at Spring Hill, Kentucky, and I told you about . . . they had overhired at the same school and they had me to quit. After that year, I don't know if I had to quit during the year. But anyway, instead of me having to pay for my board, room and board, they took it out of his salary, what he would've gotten if he had been teaching at the college and let me go on scholarship. They told me that I . . . they'd just see that I got all my bills paid, and my mother didn't have to pay that. Now, you want to know about the Oakland school. There's something special I wanted you to know about that.

MM: Well, I want you to tell me.

CC: Well, as I told you, I taught at Spring Hill and then I got the job at Oakland, Kentucky. Well, it was a one room school, and in this school, I had to go in ice, sleet, and snow to make a fire early in the morning. Walk all the way to school from where I was boarding, and make the fire, and we had a big old pot belly stove and wood that we'd burn in the stove, and some coal. I'd make the fire, and get set up for the children. We had a big container that had water in it for

the children to drink water, and a place that you could wash your hands - water would drop out of this big thing into the little one - before we got ready to feed the children, and the government was furnishing white beans, eggs - they would freeze and burst open - but we ate them just the same. White beans, eggs, bacon. We could put the beans on that pot belly stove and the bacon that they furnished and they would furnish some bread and we would eat. That would be the cafeteria. It would be the classroom, the . . . the washing hand room and they had the privies on the outside. Do you know what a privy is? You'd go to a wooden little building that had holes cut in the seats and the flies come all up on the . . . But, anyway, you use it for a toilet. They had a boys and a girls. And what I wanted you to know that we've come a long way, baby. Just look at us know. I didn't know what a flush toilet was.

MM: What year was that?

CC: Well, I don't know what year I started, but I'm telling you that when the '37 flood came, I waded out from that school, which was two or three months before it was over, but I didn't go back because they just paid me for the rest of the year, is what I'm trying to say. The 1937 flood. That's the flood that make the flood refugees, I believe they called them, in Paducah. They had to carry people out of Paducah and send them to different parts of the state of Kentucky until the flood went down.

MM: When was that?

CC: And, oh, yes, sir, the Board of Education says that they ran out of money. I was getting \$2 a day teaching school, and we would teach . . . we would teach from early in the morning until around 3, and then, we'd have to go home and cook, you know. That's when I was up at Spring Hill. But, now at Spring Hill, the school wasn't but about a quarter of a mile from my house. In other words, our farm almost ran right in front of the school and all I had to do was go down the road, make the 90 degree angle on the corner of our farm, and go on in the door.

MM: Was that your parents' farm?

CC: It's the farm that the Johnson's, Russell Johnson, uh Dodson . . . let me see now, he was a Johnson. I still have the farm. The Johnson . . . The white people didn't own us, but they just saw that we needed help and they went and got him a black woman that was a slave that had . . . Her name was Tempie Jones. They went over to Melbourne and got her. They found out that she didn't have a home. So, they went and got Tempie Jones to come and stay and they built us a brand-new house. Brand-new. Everything was perfect. When it burned down, they built us another one. I still have the farm. There are still the . . . the different generations from the ones that gave it to my parents. Some of them are still living and one of them is a lawyer/attorney, Joe Johnson in Frankfort, Kentucky. And he is ill, himself, now, but we talk on the telephone and he made me a tape and sent it here, but somebody put it in there and I'm so afraid I've erased it, I don't know what to do. He said he heard me talking on the AOK line, and I'd mention their names, you know, what his white family had done for me and how proud I was of them, because if everybody had the same attitude that the Johnson's had, black people would've been able to do more in this world than what they've done. And they taught us, if you didn't

have anybody to teach us, they'd teach us. If my mother needed her hair combed, they combed it. Her name was Della Johnson. My mother's name. See, my mother and her uncle were left without a mother. My mother was only . . . I don't know how many months . . . just a few months old, and Uncle D, her brother, that was left by her mother dying, you know. Left with my grandfather, Dick Johnson. That's my grandfather's name, Dick Johnson, and that's who the farm was given to. And, of course, I lived in that same house until I was able to get out and come out here and start teaching school. But, now, formerly, I was born in Cairo, Illinois. We didn't stay there long and then went to Carbondale, Illinois, and then finally back because he got ill with the dropsey and we had to come back home to the farm, and this aunt Tempie Jones I was telling you about, was a black slave that had all these scars on her back where she had been beaten by different owners and everything. I saw that with these two eyes. She never complained. Never. Sweetest woman. And she was over 100 when she died. Died in our house.

MM: Do you think she was angry inside?

CC: No. No. That's what I said, she never complained. She'd just tell us how it happened. That was all. She didn't have prejudice.

MM: How did it happen?

CC: You mean all the scars on her back?

MM: Well, do you know any specific circumstances?

CC: Well, basically, she was sold. She was sold from one owner to another and if he . . . maybe this owner would have feelings for a human being, but the other one beat her. I'm so glad I got to see that. I'm sorry that it happened, but I saw that with my two eyes. She was a slave, you know. And we were slaves. And we are to a certain extent, yet. 'Cause we don't have the privileges.

MM: You mean today?

CC: Today, uh-huh. Now, for myself, I'm a person that is forward and I push. No matter what it is I want, I push for it. And they hardly can say no. Whatever it is that the Lord puts on my heart that I deserve, I go after it with all of them in the fight that I have. I'd go to the . . . Whenever some black people didn't work up here at this plant, and I knew it . . . I knew it wasn't right. So, I've always been a praying person. And by the way, my motto, I have a motto, that's what I've got written down here. My motto is "count that day lost whose low descending sun sees from my hands no worthy action done." I'm a firm believer that everyday I'm supposed to do something good for somebody and it's founded on the two commandments. The first one is in the Bible, Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy mind, strength, body, and so forth, and the second is, and I can do it, Love thy neighbor as thyself. Well, I've come to the conclusion, if I love my neighbors as myself, and every time I get ready to do something for myself, I want to be sure if I know somebody that needs that, I will share it with them. I've done

that all my life, and now since I have shared, I've got hundreds and thousands and thousands of dollars to give away. Because I never could feel like what I had was mine, because in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of John, God says the earth is mine and everything in it's mine. Nothing belongs to the individual and I just let you use it. He says in the Bible that he has a plan with everybody's life and I believe that and I go by the plan, wherever I sitting, I have a plan with me.

I usually have a telephone, so if I think of something, I'm a counselor, too. If they call me, I have my telephone right there so I won't miss being available. That word means so much to me, being available. I have met people that are always so busy . . . so busy trying to get another dollar. I never was busy trying to get another dollar. I've been . . . I'm not bragging now, but I'm going by the commandments. I was busy. I've been busy all these years trying to help somebody. I run a store called a flea market. That's why all them boxes are sitting around, because I used to keep things for everybody but me. I wish you'd just get up and look in that a minute while I'm talking. Just get that . . . I believe that some people have challenges that just reaches farther than others. Just stop right there and look in. I believe that God gives some people more challenges than others and that some have to bear the affirmative belief. All through this house, there is nothing but stuff that is prepared for other people. Every closet is full. All my banks are full. I'm not bragging. They are full. All my deep freeze is full because people give it to me to help somebody. My motto is helping somebody. And did you ever know Kipling's "If"? It's a poem.

MM: No, ma'am.

CC: By Kipling. Well, I . . . I brought it so I could let you see it. That just tells everything about me. It says, "If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run --". . . That means there's sixty seconds in a minute and if you can feel every one of those minutes of those hours of doing something tangible that would help somebody, it pays off, and I'm here living . . . right now, I'm getting ready to will what I have left, my son died. I don't have one heir. And his wife is not . . . very much . . . you can't turn loose a lot of money to her. I don't want the money. I live on an annuity, you know, from teaching. And I put it in there for people after I'm gone. So, my son died and he had just plenty. He was rich. He was married to a white Italian, and that killed me because we have been taught that "birds of a feather flock together", but he finally told me you can love her, you have to forget it. I'm going to marry Margie. So, he did. And he left Margie everything he had, thousands of dollars, house on the lake, swimming pools, four cars, an old Lincoln Continental, just to look at, and two other small cars, a 1994 Cadillac, and he had a massive heart attack on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April and he was dead by 5 o'clock on May, the 1<sup>st</sup>.

So, that left all the business to me, all the farm, all the business that I had turned over to him and he was the one that helped me, and he was the one telling when to put stuff in banks and put this, that, and, uh, to make it go and I did it, because he was a financier. And as if she has plenty and I do too, but now, that's their business the way they fixed . . . I had one child and that was Richard R. Hayes, who died . . . who was born in . . . in . . . on December 7, 1926. He had a child. He was born January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1956. His name is Reggie Arnelle Grunde. That's my grandson that lives in Paducah and works at Ruby Tuesday. It's a restaurant. He's been a cook there for

years. A fine restaurant, Ruby Tuesday, but he's married and the lady has children, but the deed on this thing said that the property, the farm is supposed to be passed down from one generation to the next, and that's what I'm trying to do. And the money goes to Christianity, Humanity, and my grandson. It would be a three part split. I don't need it I get annuity and I use my annuity because I'm st\_\_\_ by the neighbor. Now, somebody said, why don't you buy a new car. Well, that was driving alright. It's old, 1987. It was driving alright. And if somebody needs to go to the hospital, I've always been available and I didn't want anything back, and the Lord blessed me with those things. He blessed me bountifully. So many blessings, I can't give an account for all of them. Food, everything, everything, and I still live in this old house, everybody else has a finer house, but . . .but this is alright with me. You can ask Gretchen because I'm liable to fly off on any kind of angle. Anything you want to know, I'll tell you.

MM: When was the first time you ever taught white children?

CC: The black school was closed in 1966, which was in, you know, in the spring. That same fall, 1966, my husband and me were transferred to Central Elementary, the white school. I did special education. Of course, they trained me for it. I had to take a trainer course, a quick trainer course, because I did most of my teaching by overhead projectors. Of course, I didn't know what an overhead projector was until I got that job. But, they thought I was the one to put on it, and they trained me, and in two weeks, I was ready, and I did teaching, and I had black and whites, the slower children.

MM: Did any of the white parents object?

CC: Oh, Lord, I had one come in and want to kill me.

MM: What year was that, about?

CC: Well, here comes this training with my people. My grandfather, Dick Johnson, always said "A man is not any better than his word." My grandfather could buy anything on credit. I could buy. Just like I called that man and told him that he could bring that car. He knows that I'm going to pay him back \$25. I don't owe anybody anything anywhere. I owe my light box bill, telephone, you know, monthly stuff, but all of that begging and getting things for other people. I knew it was found in the book that Jesus wrote. And I read it and found it out and that's what I teach. Biblical economics. Anybody knows how to handle money, how to handle anything, it's in this book. And therefore, in second Timothy 2 and 15, it said if you want to know it, study it, to show thou self approved unto God, not unto people. When you study and get it into your head, then you are approved by the One that made everything that owns everything, and I firmly believe it. And since I believe it, I teach it. Oh, yeah.

When 1971 came, near the end of the term, I told the principal that I wouldn't be teaching at Central anymore. He said why, you'd get \$100 raise. I said, Mr. Clark, he was principal, I said if you gave me \$1,000, I wouldn't teach here anymore. I said I'm not able to give you a day's work for a good day's pay, and they were paying well. That wasn't like \$20, I was getting I don't know what all, when I went before and stopped all that. But, you see, I had a message from on

high. They say I'm crazy, but the Lord told me he had a special job for me to do and that was to lift him up and He would teach me how. He would teach me how. Well, I didn't teach the next year. My husband did. He taught until he died. He had cancer. I got out of the classroom and I meditated on it, and I said, now what is it that You want me to do that's so important.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1.

BEGINNING OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2.

MM: Go ahead.

CC: Well, I happened to face it. And that you see right there is what I go by. I found that in a flea market. And if you'd have told me it was \$15, I would've paid him, but he said it was 15 cents. So, I had that in my life, "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean not unto your own understanding, and in all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall or will direct thy path." When I saw that, I screamed and the people though I'd lost it, and said what's the matter, lady?. I said, honey, this is what I live by, and I want this. I just had it holding it. How much is it? Fifteen cents. And I bought it and I had it right here. No matter what goal or cause, I'm thinking about that.

MM: Proverbs 3 and 2.

CC: Three, five, and six. Proverbs 3, 5, and 6. Trust in the Lord with all thy heart, that means everything you do. Tell Him about it 'cause he's head of everything. He made everything, therefore, he knows everything. So, I found out so much in those two verses, and "Lean not unto your own understanding", and now, here I am making my mind up and doing things the Lord told me. That I was supposed to get out of the classroom and I'm trying to run his business. I'm going to have to stop meaning to my understanding, and I just started to read it and I meditated with the Lord and praying and telling him that I wanted him to show me so that I wouldn't be forward and be doing things because I wanted to do them. And, oh, boy, you know where I've been, I've had four cancers. I've been in a nursing home because some of the time I didn't do it. I'm not saying that God punished me, but I opened the door for Satan to come in because I didn't do what the Lord told me to do. So, finally, I saw that it must be done and I started and for years now, I have been trying to lift him up in my conversation, in my life, in everything I do, and then, the Devil gets me off on the wrong track sometimes. See, nobody's perfect, everybody sins. And then, I have to pray. I mean pray to get Satan to stop bothering me. And if I decide that I don't want to go to church this morning, I'm just . . . I don't feel too good, and then, I think about all that He's done for me and then I go to tell him, give me Your strength, and I hop up and I go on to church, and I shut that door before Satan gets in. See, that . . . that's why people's lives are in the shape they're in. They let Satan rule. See, there's two powers. Satan is always there. He never quits. No matter what good you are trying to do in life, he never lets you do it without having a problem with him. Never. I don't care what . . .

You hear those children playing out there? I'm working on my prayers for them. The little things, their legs are so poor. They play all day and all night. Just running theirs and they running . . . all kind of weird stuff going on over there. And the children, when the parents, um,

they don't even look at them. They're so busy trying to make a sale or trying to do this or that, and I cried over here, and I said now Lord, what must I do? And I said, now, a lot of times they come to me. I keep ice cream, candy, and lemonade available to them. Whatever it is I have three or four things always available, but I'm not available sometimes. Sometimes, I'm just hurting so bad, and they'll knock on that door, and there I am. But I found out if I wasn't believing what God was doing, no matter what is wrong with me, I've got to go out there and do something to answer their call. They don't have anybody . . . adults. If you just go out there and see them, how they just playing with all of them, and their little legs are just about that big around. I never see them eating, but the adults are eating and drinking. See, that party they have out there, that's day and night. That's the reason I keep the doors and shades down, because they're working every hour for Satan. They don't even go to church. Don't believe in God and all that kind of stuff. But now, that's their business. Mine is to try to tell people that he really exists because he exists in me and if serving the Lord has paid off for me, I am able to help. Everybody that I come in contact, someway, somehow, with nothing but a smile. I couldn't be like if God hadn't said it. He promised it in the book. He said if you'll do this, I'll do so and so. Ask Him what you want. That's what I do. I don't want much, but I want something for my neighbor, and I've had everything that I knew that I could help. I bought three or four cars for three or four different people that couldn't buy cars. Some of them borrowed the money. Some, they just didn't have it and I just went on and bought it for them. But, now, I found out through my son that I'm not obligated to be doing that because they have their five senses and they ought to be able to do without some of that their throwing away and buy them a car. So, I found he got that over to me before he died. But, I don't know. I just feel I'm trying to help. It's just in me. That's the commandment, Love your neighbor as yourself. You never question.

MM: Has this type of thing been going on, say, back in the 20s with prohibition? Do they . .

CC: Oh, yeah, you were talking about prohibition. You know, it may have. It's pro- . . . you mean alcohol, liquor, and dope . . . It's prohibited here. It's supposed to be. But you see, maybe I shouldn't say that on the tape. But, you see, all the people that are supposed to prohibit, they're on Drummond. They don't hardly come on this street at all and they know it's going on. I've even called them when they was having a round, almost fighting, wanting to kill each other. They wouldn't come. The law won't. So, I am under the impression. I hate to say it, but I'm under the impression that something's going down. I have to put up with it night and day and all of their paper blows over here. And my mother taught me don't have any paper in the yard, have flowers. And I was raised to have paper, not have paper in the yard, have pretty flowers and a pretty yard. I haven't been able to keep a yard since those people have lived here. Just so much going on and, uh, you can not keep flowers in the yard and people just running in it and the children playing ball, coming and get the ball and all that. And it's just hard for me to get my work \_\_\_\_\_. So, I just pray and wait.

Now, I was talking before I quit talking about them factories up there that black people couldn't work in. So, I went to the . . . That was a dirt alley out there. That was supposed to be Cole Alley. Lesley Cole, that's my husband's name. They were supposed to have named it Lesley Cole Alley. And this is Anglar Street. So, there was a girl, uh, uh, girl that had finished school at Western Kentucky Industrial College, the place where I told you I got my four years of high

school and two years, they called it normal in this college. Well, a black girl went up here and got her two years of college, I guess. Four years of high school and two years of college I believe it was. But, anyhow, her husband died the other day, but at the night of that graduation, her mother picked me up in her car and took me to Paducah because the speaker was a classmate of mine and she was on President Kennedy's committee. I'm talking about John F. Well, we almost died when John F. got killed because we could see that if he loved his neighbor as himself and he was going to try to do something for the country, but I noticed that everybody who wants to do it, they get killed. They either don't get elected anymore. So, um, I went up that night and her name was Alice Duncan, the principle speaker at that graduation. She is a woman and former schoolmate of mine, when we went to the same school, which she got up and . . . she was up there with the committee on the president's committee, she's making good money and everything, but I told her about it. She said that can't, that's not supposed to be. I said, well, it's being. She said, well, I'll tell you what. All you have to do is leave your address and I'm going to send you some material. She sent me stacks of stuff about . . . not segregation, I guess it would be . . . under that term, and when I got it, and she sent me a personal letter, and said now, I want you to do one thing. You go and get the number on that outside. There's got to be a number out there on that brick like we call the churches. You know, churches got a number everything. But, anyway, I went and I got it. And she told me, she said you send it to me and I'm going to tell President Kennedy about it. And, I got it all together, everything she asked me about, just like you asked me, Did they do this?, Did they do that? So, I sent it to Washington, D.C., and I don't know what they did, but black folks have been working there just about ever since. Of course, it took them a while to get all of it together, but whatever they did, they are still working there.

MM: What's the name of the factory?

CC: Uh, Garan's. G-A-R-A-R-N. It's G-A-R-A-N, I believe that's it. And it's still working. Basically working both white and blacks. Garan. Now, maybe it allowed black folks to work at that factory. Now, the other thing was, this was a dirt alley, right here. They named it Lesley Cole Alley and I got to thinking, I said, now, they have to name it to make me, just maybe pat me on the shoulders to keep my mouth shut. So, I went to the city council. I met it every Monday. It was Monday that they met. They got sick of me coming up there. Telling me I'm high every time I do my teeth like this. I would chew dust. See, that was the pure dirt that day. Well, you couldn't let your windows up. If you did, you just . . . when you do like this. You could feel the sand between your teeth. And I said, uh, I've come . . . I have a peeve. They said, well, state your peeve. I always could talk of it. The back alley over there where I live, which you all are calling by my husband's name, Lesley Cole Alley, I said I think a lot of Lesley Cole. He was a fine man. One of the finest that you'd meet anywhere. They finally decided he was one of the finest. That's him up there, laying right up there, but he's dead now. I said, I don't feel that we need to live on that alley and it not black-topped. That's my opinion. I said, now, I'll make a survey before I ask you all anything. I'll go around all over town to see who's got black top alleys and all that. See, I don't just come out and say it until I know what I'm talking about. I said I know there are people here that had the same problem, but they have gotten their alleys black-topped. I want the Lesley Cole Alley black-topped. Well, I don't know how your going to do it in your city block. I don't know how you are going to do it because the people

that have them pay for it. I said no, they didn't because they told me they didn't. See, some white people would be honest about they didn't pay for. It was all in the deal. So, one morning . . . one day, I got up and I prayed and the Lord said now, you go up there and you go up there with your sword in your hand. That is the word. I got on my knees and I prayed and in my prayer, I told the Lord that I knew who he was and I know you own all the black top and all the asphalt, and I know you're not partial to color, and you know that I want that alley to be black-topped so I won't be chewing all that dust, and I'm asking you in the presence of these officers to get a black-topped alley named Lesley Cole Alley. I walked out of there with tears in my eyes, walked on . . . I bet I don't know how many times trying to get it done.

My husband took sick with cancer, and he was in the John Cochran Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri and they had told him he had to have cobalt. So, they went and they examined him and they found out that he probably wouldn't live even if he had it and he was to make a choice, whether he would take it or go back to Marion VA Hospital in Marion, Illinois and stay there until he died, but he wanted to come home first. So, they said you have your wish. You don't want to take the cobalt. I called this son of mine, that died on May 1, he and his wife, that was when he was with the black wife. I called them and told them that they were going to let him . . . carry him back to Marion VA Hospital, and for them to be here in time to rest so they could drive me home. He's going with me and stay a few days. What they were saying, they were going to let him stay as long as he could and when he couldn't stay any longer, they would come and get him in the ambulance. That's what they really did.

So, they were in their Lincoln Continental, that same one that I was telling you about that my son was keeping, and I was in some kind of car, but it was a nice new car. Oh, yeah, a Bonneville. So, we went to the hospital that night. They came in the night. They got there around 3 o'clock. My son, Richard Hayes, and Aida Hayes, his wife, got into St. Louis, Missouri, uh, they rang the bell where I told them I'd be, at Virgil Witherspoon's house. They came in and said they'd go and find them a motel and stay until . . . and have their breakfast and then they'd come . . . I mean, they would go to the hospital from where they were and I could come to the hospital and meet them. So, I got in my car, when I was at the time, and went to this hospital, and it took us nearly all day to get him out of the hospital and all those papers. And I said, Lord a mercy. So we drove and we drove and we drove. And when we got here, I smelled something, and it was tar. It had just been black topped, and we got out on the black top and I started screaming and thanking the Lord for answering my prayer. I have never paid a penny for it.

See, I know the man that has everything and I'm . . . that's my job now. Just to get out of the classroom. I've got other classrooms, to tell people about him. See, I know, you'll do what he says. Obeying his book has almost come to pass except just maybe one thing the other day I thought of that I didn't have that I wanted. I said Lord, you know I want a cabbage. It's out \_\_\_ to you. But I'd like a fresh cabbage out of the garden. I've got money, hundreds and hundreds, and thousands of dollars to buy cabbage at the store, but I'm going to give that money away. I want a cabbage out of a garden. Oh, the Devil made me think that I couldn't trust on the Lord. Uh-uh, he wasn't messing with me. I just kept waiting for my cabbage. Finally, somebody said, Ms. Cole, so and so gave me three cabbages, do you want one? I said, thank you, Jesus, for everything else. And she . . . Ms. Betsy Robertson appeared, my neighbor, she came and

brought it to me and said, I hope you enjoy. I said I know I will because I've asked the Lord for it. Now, did I tell you my motto. My motto is to "count that day lost whose low descending sun sees from these hands no worthy action done."

My neighbors . . . If a day comes and I didn't . . . There used to be people living on that side. Nice people. Out back where they'd sit there having a party. There've been white people but they were nice neighbors, and they knew I loved to eat. Their names were Klapp. Hampton Klapp and his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Klapp. And when they'd fry fish, they'd have maybe hush puppies, fish, uh, slaw, and whatever else goes with fish, and they'd probably have two or three pieces, and I'd been seeing them put things in that dish. And my mother taught me that a willful waste makes a willful want. And I thought about that scripture. So, I said Ms. Klapp, what are you throwing in that thing. She said well, we try to cook just what we eat but says, you know, the dogs have to have something and I said I understand that. I said but maybe they might get a time when this dog would want. And she said, what do you mean? Do you mean you'd want it after it got cold? I said sure. I said I was taught not to waste anything. Do you see all these people starving? Do you know some of these people starving all over the world? That's why. People don't know that. A willful waste makes a willful want. Somebody's got to want when you waste. Somebody. It may not be you, but somebody has to. Now, this country right here is the cause for starvation of the land. I can see the big garbage . . . having the garbage people coming around picking up. I don't even have a garbage man. I might ought to have, but I have got sense enough to know God made the bread, the slice of bread and if I decide to take two slices and I don't get through the whole two, I take that half, thinking about my neighbor, and wrap it up. That's the reason I have so much of everything. Money and everything. I wrap it up until the next meal comes. Now, one woman says, you know one thing, Ms. Cole, I just don't like this turkey. I cooked it but it didn't . . . and I . . . I threw it out. Then, I told that lady, the same woman that brought me cabbage. I'm trying to teach her, you don't waste like that. There's somebody who can use it. So, now, she had a turkey the other day and she calls me. I said you don't want it, give it to somebody. You don't miss a meal. I can buy my own turkey when I want to. But if you have . . . The one time she had a turkey about half left. Miss Bessie Robertson's her name. So, she drove down here with the turkey. It was over half. You know what I did, I put that turkey in my freezer. I cut it up into small pieces, and I had that turkey for a week or two in the freezer. I humbled myself to know that somebody needs the doctor. And if I froze the turkey, then, I wouldn't have to buy me a turkey. Then, I'd have the money left in the bank so when somebody needs to go get medicine, I'd have the money. That's my reasoning for doing these things. So, they say it's funny. But I found it in the book.

MM: Is it all in there?

CC: I found it in the book. I found my answer to all this stuff in the book. Anything else?

MM: Nuh-uh. Not unless you got the . . .

CC: Oh, yeah, I've got the black jobs and the people got to work at the factory. And I've never had to pay a penny for that . . . but it might needs doing again. But it has been a . . .

MM: When . . . when was that with the black top? When was the black top? What year?

CC: My husband died on September the 28<sup>th</sup> . . . September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1974, and he came . . . he was coming from John Cochran, and he stayed here around a week, I guess, and then, he went back and he lived about a week. You know, he died on . . . I know when he died definitely, the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, but I don't know exactly when we brought him from John Cochran Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri and we stepped out into the tar. We had to lead him. He was too weak to walk by himself. But it was close to that date. He didn't live, I'd say, three weeks after that, he died. And his tongue was going back to stone. It was like you'd touch a piece of stone. He wasn't eating anything. It was stone just like (knocks on table) and he was a 220-some pound man and he weighed 60-some pounds. When they picked him up in the ambulance here and told me this was it, they said, Now, Ms. Cole, you get your stuff together because it won't be long until . . . you going to have to, you know, he's going to die. Because he refused the cobalt, of course, he didn't have much chance anyway. I said, well, what you need me do? He said you stay here and let us take him out in the ambulance, get him situated, and you take your time. His sister was here and her husband. He's a minister. Reverend and Mrs. Beverly. He was a minister and she was a beautician. Um, and they had come here to help me bury my sorrows, you know. So, they drove up with us . . . with him. I stayed here, prayed, and asked the Lord to tell me exactly what to take and what to do, 'cause I knew I would have to stay more than a week, maybe. And I . . . after I stayed here a while . . . he was on a hospital bed . . . the undertaker here had brought me a hospital bed. And he was a . . . a metal bed where I could lay him up and down because I couldn't handle him without a hospital bed. And I wanted that hospital bed out of my house the day he died. So, some friends came home with me from Marion, Illinois and they took it out and set it out on the carport. 'Cause I just didn't want to sleep in that. See, we had twin beds. We slept in twin beds in that room right now. Of course, now we got a big bed in that room. And it me alone.

Oh, I'm trying to think of some other run-in that I've had. Oh, yeah, about what you said about the past, if they . . . Well, I had been taught that if you thought that you wronged anybody . . . My mother taught me, you all decide to forgive each other and shake hands. That was just what I had been taught. Well, since I've been taught that I thought it'd work with the black boy and the white girl. There was a little white girl and a black boy got into some kind of mischief, I don't know what it was. When her father came here and told me he didn't want these black hands on these white hands of his. I prayed Lord, to heal my heart and let him hold my mouth together, but I stood there and waited for God's power to shut my mouth so I wouldn't say the wrong thing. And finally, I come to my self. I said, Mr. Thommy Bassett. Now, the people that own this . . . The people that own that over there that's got all these people that were giving me all this trouble. There's a Bassett that owns it. Do you notice that? Therefore, they do what they want. See, I've never lived anywhere like this before. I used to have my yard perfect, because I paid for it to be that way. And they had their's nice. Everybody on this street had a nice yard. So, now where am I? I was talking about . . . oh, yeah. And I said, well, I was taught that to settle a dispute when the children already . . . they had decided it was alright. The children were doing okay. The little white girl and the black boy. They didn't have anything against each other. But, see the parents did. So, he came and stood right here in this living room . . . in this den. That's my living room, right there, and he said I just don't like what's going on over there.

I said what is it? You know, you had my daughter shaking that black boy's hand. Lord, hold me now. And I told him what I'd been taught and it had worked with me all my life. And he told me it wasn't going to work much longer. And now, since that's been over, the principal that was across the street from me. I'm not going to call his name because he might . . . He tells me that the man had a gun and he had asked him to have my husband to come down to the office. He was going to settle things, but somehow or another, he had an old man, he says, and I told him that he could go up there. We'd go up together. So, it was the principal, the white principal, and this man was so mad, he went up to my husband's room together. And, of course, I guess he must've cooled off a little bit. He didn't do anything to him but he came here, you see. And I telling the Lord to cool him off, 'cause see, I talked to the Lord about it. And I didn't show any resentment or anything. I just told him and he left. Then, another man. His name was . . . well, I won't call his name because he's still \_\_\_\_\_. But, anyway, he came and he wanted to kill my husband right in this room, and he came in the front door. He didn't like something he'd done about something my husband was doing in his room, you understand? This other one was what was going on in my room. My husband's room was right up above mine and my room was right across the hall from the principal's room. In other words, if he wanted to spy me, he knew what was going on all day long. So, one of the things that was going on, he told me that I couldn't pray in the classroom. And I said, well, I've decided I don't need your job. I said, of course, that's to where I've come, a long way. From starvation now to where I am today. Through prayer, supplication, and trusting in the Lord with all my heart and not leaning onto my own understanding. And I have to pray Mr. Clark, and I said now, you maybe can do without it, but I have it. He said, well, don't make the children pray. I said well, I'll let that go, but for me and my house . . . I'm going to pray. And I'll tell anybody anywhere that you might sour through the mouth but you can't sour through the mind. And I made a point to keep my mouth shut. So, it made me feel bad. Now, I don't know the things I've gone through, you know, prejudice, and all that kind of stuff, but now, I didn't . . . I know that right on this courthouse square, they hung a black man. Right up here on that courthouse square.

MM: Who did? A . . . a lynch mob?

CC: Yeah. Huh?

MM: Officers?

CC: You know, whoever does them. I know that they did the Ku Klux Klan. Drew out one of the deacons of our church out and beat him. See, I know that. I saw that with my eyes.

MM: What for? Anything in particular?

CC: Just anything they thought of. I'm saying they, I'm not putting it on your race, but anything that didn't suit them . . .

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2.

BEGINNING OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1.

MM: Okay.

CC: When I was teaching in Cane School, I had some bright children and I had some dull ones.

MM: What about this hanging? Uh, what . . . what year did this hanging occur?

CC: Oh, Lord. It was before my time, and I'm 86, and my mother, she would be 100 if she was living now. It was during her time. But you know how it is. You learn these things. History is passed down with us. It's like . . . It's in the record somewhere back there.

Oh, now what was I going to talk about . . . I had in my mind. I'd already started it. When I was teaching at Central . . . Oh, yeah. When we were teaching at Central, uh, I remember now, this is another thing that happened. When we had Cane Elementary School, which is our church now. That has become New Old Bible Missionary Baptist Church, and I'm a member of it. We own the building now. When we were at Cane Elementary School, our boys played basketball on the bare ground. We had two poles with a goal on it. My husband was coach and principal. Playing outdoors. So, finally, my husband thought he would ask them. I'm talking about the elementary school, where I finally got to be a teacher. Why couldn't we use some of the time that they weren't using the floor and let our boys be in comfort? Mr. Phelps is still living, but he didn't want it done. I sit right by him every time I have a meeting. And now, well, I'm not as quick to get up and he's the first one that helps me up. Do you understand? I think he's changed a little bit. But, I mean, he acts like I'm not dirt, you know, now. He knows I'm crippled so somebody has to help me if I'm not in a lift chair. Mr. Phelps does it, and I smile because I'm thinking about how he kept us off of that floor and my . . . my husband was training the boys to play basketball 'cause he was a . . . he was an athletic man. In other words they'd take him from one college and put him in another.

That's how I met him. They took him from Tuskegee and carried him to Western Kentucky, and I met him there, and he fell in love with me, but I didn't fall in love with him. But finally, we did get together. My . . . So, finally, they decided that they were going to have a tournament up here at Fulton, that's another all white school. Ours was all black. So, they went on . . . my husband had a station wagon. He transported part of them in the station wagon. A great big old yellow station wagon and I had a car so we could carry the boys. We didn't have busses then and all that, you know. But we were determined we were going to get the job done. So, we went on up to Fulton, and won the tournament.

And before this started, I remember my husband got on his knees and I wondered why he was on his knees. He said . . . I said what are you doing? He said I was praying 'cause I knew we had to win that game. That's what he told me. This man right there. The best man I ever knew in my life. He said we HAD to do it, Christine. And what do you mean by that? He said, well, we've been the underdog long enough. We've got to show that we have something in us. And that we had dreams. And then we went from there to Louisville. Louisville was where the Sweet 16 goes, you know? We got to go back and they transported us in busses. My husband and me stayed with his brother, which is a fine person and his wife, a fine person. And we went to every game, and whatever was going on, we got to go to it, because the state saw to it we got

there because, you see, the white boys were in it too, you know. So, things just worked out fine, through prayer and education. Uh, I was telling you about them being out there where the . . . what you call them? The places you put the ball in. So, they were outdoors in the weather and that's where we got our training on hard, on gravel. But, we finally got to go to Central. We finally did, and then, we finally got to go and play the tournament. That was when we went to playing schools, and then we won it. Now, you talking about rejoicing. They have . . . they had never done it but one time before in all the history. You know, we were proud. And more . . . There were blacks on the team than there were whites. I'm going to tell you that too. So, we won.

Uh, there was some very unusual that happened. Oh, yeah, that building that we are in called Cane School is now New Old Bible Church and I'm a member of it. Mr. Brown, Mr. Brown, the undertaker here, after we were integrated with Central, that building was being . . . I guess you call it . . . razed or whatever it was. Boys were just knocking the windows out . . . mostly whites, they were destroying the building. Now, how you'd know. We would fine out who was doing it. Well, Mr. Brown came to me, and he said, Christine, 'cause I know you love the Lord. I said, I sure do. And he says, I know that you don't like the way that building is being destroyed. I've decided to ask you all, would you want to buy it for little or nothing. I'll almost, . . . I'll almost give you that Cane School. It belonged to the undertaker. I said I'm sure we would. I said because we are going to have to get on high ground. Our church was way out here at Spring Hill now, and the water had gotten up once and we had to hire white people with their tractors to get us out. We got stuck down there and I got a brand-new 19- something, uh, it wasn't a Bonneville, but the same company made it. Pontiac. It was a brand-new one, and I had parked between two trees and the mud was getting that deep. So, they had to get a tractor to pull me out and every time they pulled me, it looked like my brand-new Pontiac was going to hit one of those trees. But they finally got it out without a scratch. So, we made up our mind that day, the pastor did. We getting out of here. We can find some place. See, Mr. Brown had it already. The Lord done put it in his mind and we bought that whole building.

It had all those teachers up there. Two bathrooms, a storage room. My husband had an office. They had a book place, a library, and I think five classrooms and all black teachers, and they were sent . . . One woman lost her job because she didn't have a degree. Her name was Letuella Stone but the rest of them had degrees, and so they sent one black teacher down to Columbus and had her degree and they sent my husband and me and Susie Carnes to Central. Susie worked in the library. She had to take a special course. Susie Carnes. She lives right next door to me now. And I . . . the stuff that was in the building was a good thing to happen to us. Like the Frigidaire and the deep freeze and all of that. They gave the black teachers the first choice, just pay anything you want to pay, but we have to have it on record that we didn't give it to you. So, I got the whole freezer, 7 foot freezer, in my house on my . . . its not the same one. I got it for \$50. They had just bought it about three months before. What they were doing to try to do all the buying and all the remodeling . . . They just remodeled it . . . to keep us out of Central. But they got word from Frankfort or somewhere, the state, Washington, D.C., I don't care what you do, they got to go. Them black folks got to go up there. So, they lost all of that paraphernalia that they fought to keep off of them. So, then I got the deep freeze. Susie Carnes got the refrigerator. I had some shelves that I had put up there. I don't know what they did with those.

I had other properties up there. We lost all that. We had a stage built, but whatever, we had, they just wrecked it and tore it. The people just did it. They'd go up there and have drinking parties and all that kind of thing, and Mr. Brown said I'll let you have it for little or nothing. And the little or nothing was \$2,000. The whole building now and all the lot for \$2,000. Here, we . . . They didn't have the \$2,000 and I didn't either, but I'd been saving something for my church. I have a bank account, and at that time, I had \$500 in it, that I had in the name of the church. Because tithing wasn't taking care of the church and I decided I'd open . . . start a bank account, and I asked my cousin, Willie L. Dunaway, would he help me so we can build up some funds to pay for something that we had to have at the church since we moved from Spring Hill. So, he didn't want to do it. But, I got it up to \$500 and when the time comes and Mr. Brown wanted his \$2,000, Mr. Brown told us. He said, well, I'll tell you what, if you can find a member in the church and I have in my hand a \$1,000 and a little more. I spent it on that church, and we got that church really for \$1,000 and all of that parking space near it. The Lord blessed us. I have a letter here where Mr. Brown told us. It's hurt him to see the way the people have done the building and maybe, since he heard we had to move out from where we were, they would be interested in this. So, we were interested, but we didn't have much money, but we got it. And it's paid for.

I don't know. Some many things that have happened in my life. So many things. Anything else you want to . . . any area?

MM: That's about all I can think of.

CC: Huh? Well, now all the preachers . . . you know, black folks don't have much money to pay preachers, so the Lord made me believe that he had anointed me. And, uh, in the second . . . first Kings, about the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter, it went on to tell about Elijah. There was a widow that he told . . . Elijah was hiding. He was hiding. Somebody was trying to kill him, in this book, the Bible, and the Lord told him to hide in that cave, and he would prepare a widow and for him, when he got a chance to get out of that cave and make it to this widow's house and tell her that I said to make me some food. Two little . . . a cake, a bread, and whatever she had, but when he got there, she told him that it was down to the bottom. She didn't have a thing. Was getting ready to cook the last meal and die. I'm going to show you how the Lord works with it. He said, but the Lord told me to tell you, and I'm thinking you'd do it. Of course, she went on out and cooked it and when she came back, she did what the Lord told her to do, and her . . . her bins . . . her flour bin never was empty anymore. So, I'm under the impression when I read that and the Lord had told me in my mind, now you are that widow. Every time that you know that these preachers are under pressure, they are needing something that the members can't do it. Well, why don't we do it? And the Lord just kept blessing me. He just kept blessing me. And I said, I guess I am one of the chosen widows.

So, then, I went to church one Sunday at Arlington, Kentucky, and there was a minister called Reverend W.G. Harvey, and he preached on that chapter and he had me to stand up. Stand up, Sister Cole. I didn't know what he was having me stand up for. Now, Sister Cole, I want your pastor to stand up. My pastor was there too. Now, Reverend Hayes, Sister Cole is the chosen widow. See, I had already read it and thought maybe I must have been. So, he said, whatever

that is needed with the ministers, God is going to tell her and so then, if she would obey, if everything she touches will prosper. I said, well. So, one night, the Lord woke me up. He said Christine, you've had three cars and your pastor's around here fixing tires and I don't want it like that. I want you to tell your pastor to go and pick him out a car and find out what the down payment is going to be. Together, we are turning his old one in. He wouldn't do it. His wife had cancer. He didn't want to do that. So, I told his wife. I said, I've got so I can't sleep over it. I said I've got to do it because the Lord said so. Finally, they got together on it, and when I knew everything, one day, he drove up in a Crown Victoria. The prettiest car I have ever laid my eyes on. I said I wonder who this is coming here to my house. Oh, it was a Crown Victoria, a Ford. It's one of the finest. And Reverend Hayes got out. He said Sister Cole, this is the man that the sent down here and had me to drive down here. He wants the woman that belongs to your church to see this car and ride in it before she sends that down payment up there. Do you understand what I'm saying?

MM: Yes, ma'am.

CC: That day, I got my little self together, and I was sitting in that beautiful car and I looked. I said where are going to the bank. He told me what he had to have. He had to have \$500. Do you understand?

MM: Hmm-Mmm.

CC: So, he didn't need to buy that highly expensive car. But see, that's what he had asked the Lord. Trust in the Lord with all your might. So, he got the car. I went up there and I had to talk to Mr. Black, was one of the men in the bank, Clinton Bank. I said, Mr. Black, my pastor's bought this car and I promised him that I would pay him whatever it took for the down payment to get this car.

MM: Is that your car right there?

CC: Huh? It might be. They're going to put mine where it belongs.

MM: I think its \_\_\_\_.

CC: They wouldn't dare put . . . They put mine right there on it.

MM: Okay.

CC: They . . . They going to put it there. You see, I have to worry about . . . just keep on talking to you, they said. So, uh, we went up to Clinton Bank. I couldn't walk then. I had not much. So, I had Mr. Black, the second vice-president or first vice-president of the company. He came to the car, and he says, Christine, what did you want? I said I want you to authorize . . . I want to get . . . I want to get \$5,000. He said, what are you going to do with it? I was going to help pay my pastor's car. And he just looked at me like I was crazy. I said, yeah, that's what it's all about. He said, yeah, I'll go and fix it. He went on in there. This white man was . . . He fixed

it. Gave Reverend Hayes the \$5,000 and they brought me back, put me out, and went straight to Mayfield to give that \$5,000. When he came back, he had his car. But, now wait, while he was up there, he let Satan get on. Satan told him to tell the man that he didn't like this light blue. That he wanted to change when he had this a certain time, whether it would be a good time to change. He wanted the black one. Well, see, when he bought it, the man told him that if he got a black one in the next year, he would let him know. So, he called him and he rushes up there and gets that new car. He didn't say a word to me about it. And when he got it, the Lord didn't tell me to do anything else. So, he just laid with sweat with it. Well, I knew anything they would write me a letter telling me they were taking the second car which was a brand-new car, and wanted to know what did I want to do about it. I said, what do I want? He said, well, you know, you paid the down payment of that. So, we'd give you a chance if any of your children want it because you would lose too much on it, Ms. Cole. Well, I called my son, he said yes, he guesses he would buy it. Then, he got to thinking about it. He had too many cars. And then he called me back and said I don't want it. Just let it go on back and maybe it'd teach him a lesson. He was talking about the preacher. It went on back. He hadn't got a car yet. He is driving that truck. And then, I found all the scriptures that let him get himself straightened out. He is my pastor, but he \_\_\_\_\_. Well, I found the scriptures and showed him where it said, you know, these different things. And he got up in the pulpit and told those people he preached to that Christine said it and it's in the book and she proved it and I know I'm wrong. That's what he told me.

MM: Well . . .

CC: And now, I have a check in my purse. Every Sunday, that man is paying something on . . . I told you about borrowing the \$3,000. He wanted \$3,000. His wife had been on cobalt, and I didn't want to lend it to him, but he insisted to have it paid back and I signed it. I said, Reverend Hayes, I don't want to lend you \$3,000 more dollars. I've given you \$5,000. He said, well, I just don't want to keep on letting you pay my monthly bills. I was having him come and I'd write out the check and send the money off. I'd go with him to pay the ones in town and then, I'd go with him to the post office to see that it got into the post office. But, after that, I guess, he forgot all about his promise. But, see, God doesn't forget. That's the way he works things out. He had promised me he was going to do that. Now, he's found out he's wrong, so he's telling the congregation. He says I thought because Ms. Cole had plenty of money that I could wait just as long as I wanted to because she don't use it no how. She said she doesn't use it. I live on my annuity when I teach school. See, but it wasn't right, and I didn't realize it until later. But, I found out I'm wrong. If she's got a million dollars, I owe her that \$3,000 and I haven't paid hardly \$1,000 and I'm determined. The church said they are going to pay, and they are paying it every Sunday. So, maybe, this was helped by God.

I believe in every word that is in the Bible, every word. And I don't believe in deviating. If I do it, I do it. Everybody who does it, is wrong, and failed to live up to the letter, but you can't start it until you can keep on living up to the letter. And then people are teaching it now. TV and . . . now 24 hours a day. I don't know how much they do on the TV on Christianity.

MM: Hmm-Mmm.

CC: And I have . . . everywhere I sit, I've got something to write on for which they explain on those same chapters that I have read and maybe I was a little doubtful. I will read it from there, from the mouth of eight or ten different explanations. Somebody's got to be right. I just keep notes. And . . . and this is something I wish every Christian would do. Stop being so busy and find out what God wants you to do. There is a plan in the book. All you have to do is just find it out. Anybody can read. You can understand what his plan is. And you'll always use up all of your 60 seconds of every minute, as Kipling said in his "If". Find out what the Lord wants you to do with every minute of your time, and you do it. It's in there. From the time you get up in the morning until you go to bed at night, he's got something special. If you got children, He said train them up in a way that you'd go. If you got a husband that's not doing what you think you ought to do, tell the Lord about it. Now, whatever is wrong about me that makes him that way, take that out of me. He tells exactly how to do everything. You're a fool if you don't get the wisdom that comes out. See, the Bible is God's mind. God's mind.

MM: Hmm-Mmm.

CC: And it's the greatest mind that's ever been in and will be, and I can . . . I can trust in mine. Well, now and then, I get weak and I . . . you were damned, trying to find and all kinds, about ten different kinds. This is the good news and the living bible, and the . . . King James version, and then the concordance that goes with it and all of it. So, that I can look it up right quick. I'm getting ready to give all my books in my library and things to the church. Before I die, I'm planning on getting it moved up there to the church. The encyclopedias and different things. And I hope after I'm dead that some of the same things that the Lord is teaching and I'm trying to teach that they will become more interested and more concerned about what he says, be concerned because God has done, and be concerned about what he's doing in your life now. Right now. I . . . I hope you do that. Be concerned and be available. I hope everybody will be available. Available means, don't be so busy you haven't got time to love your neighbor as yourself and to love God. Any questions?

MM: No, ma'am.

CC: Ms. Christine Cole. Christine.

MM: May I call you Christine?

CC: That's fine.

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1.