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Mollison, Elsie Holmes (August 7, 1921 - September 2, 2014)

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Elsie Holmes Mollison
July 21th, 2011
David Slutzky, Hope Harrod, Damien Johnson

HH: OK, it's July 20th, 2011, and we are still on St. Helena, uh, about to interview Ms. Elsie, um, interviewers are David, Damien and Hope. Ok.

DS: Actually, it's July 21st.

HH: Oh! It's July 21st. July 21st, 2011. Alright. So Ms. Elsie, I'd like to thank you for coming to talk to us, uh, basically, what we're just interested in hearing about is about your life. Um, and we're interested in hearing about your experiences here on the island. And so maybe we could start by having you talk about some of your earliest memories here.

EHM: Early school?

HH: Mm hmm.

EHM: Eh, my first school was um, uh, Pe— my first school was Lee Rosenwald school. And I went to school in, I think, 1930. I went to school twelve years after I was born. I had a lot of sisters, not, brothers, only two sisters, but I have seven brothers, and I had to stay home from school and help take care of them. So I didn't get to go to school until I was twelve years old. But I made pretty good progress, you know (laughs) after I went into school, because I didn't care how things were going, I always tried to get into something that would, you know, help me. And um, the glee club, and quite a few clubs and I played ball, I played baseball, I played volleyball, I played basketball, and I made the tournament from Penn here to Columbia, Orangeburg, South Carolina, we went to the tournament and I played in the tournament, and after that I, you know, came back to school and we had teachers and the teachers used to help me, like there was no relative of mine but one, Ms. Washington, and the rest of them from Sheldon and, different, you know, community of Beaufort County. And when I go to play to basketball, leave home, one of them gave me a suitcase, one gave me a blouse or skirt or my luggage and my shoes... they gave me everything to wear when I get up there. And they were so great to me, you know, and I was so grateful and oh, I was so happy. And um after that, came back and around school, we play basketball every Saturday, and it used to be our mothers and the father, you know they never show up. But our mothers and relatives, you know would come and see us playing basketball and the coach from Lee Rosenwald school. And I left and start at Penn here, you see I think it was sixth grade that you start at Penn, and I came at Penn school then and play basketball. And I used to do a lot of laughing and the, the uh, who was it over Penn, Ms. Schoolie and Ms. Hunts, oh there would love for me to laugh. I would do a lot of laughing. Yeah. Then we, I ready to pick up basketball after I got here. And we had a good time, and you know they used to, before in the morning before we got to school, you know Friselle down there? We used to go in down there and we used to go and pray before we got into school. And all the classes go in Friselle and we'd have our prayer before we'd go into school. And everybody scatter and go to different you know, class. And it was beautiful you know I had a good time when I was young, uh huh. And then I left, and went to Philadelphia, and I stayed in Phillie for six years, six and a half years. And my sister, younger sister she went to New York, and I said "gee, I have to join her." And I left Philadelphia, the unemployment there was so low, you know it wasn't paying much there in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, so I went to New York and I joined my sister there, and I really I could've had anything, I could've gotten in sew, and factory place, I could get into, I tried. I even tried dressmaking, I could sew on a machine but I never liked to cut, you know, cut right through, cut my pattern, I never liked that. Somebody would always have to do it for me. But um, I didn't pay too much attention to that. But my mother and I at home, we used to make quilts, you know, little patch-up quilts. And then um, after that, I just went keep going, keep going, keep going, you know.

Then I left and went to Philadelphia. And New York. And it was very, a lot of fun for me, you know. I was young, and keep going.

HH: How old were you when you went to Philadelphia?

EHM: I... must be was about eighteen, or seventeen or something like that. Hm, but I stay away for forty-six-and-a-half years, Philadelphia and New York, and I came back in my sixty-three, came back here at sixty-three. And I really progressed after I came back here, because I had been through everything. Mm hmm. Yeah, I've really had a good life. Yeah. And then my sisters and brothers they were grown, and some went in the Army, and the Navy, and you know, they were all scattered but I made it. Mm hm. And when I came back I brought my husband back, and um, I had a brother named Curtis, and my husband's name is Curtis, but we call him Keith. And um, when I came home I said, "I brought you all a brother! Another brother so I make it eight brothers." And they said "ok." And he's a Jamaican. And I mean he got along beautiful with them. Very good with them. Mm hmm.

DS: Did you, where did you meet him?

EHM: In New York. Mm hmm. I used to live downstairs and he lived upstairs. And I used to smell his fish, you know. He used to cook, I forgot what they call it, some kind of fish, and I used to smell it downstairs, and I said I'm gonna go and see, you know, who cooking that fish. And I met him upstairs, cooking fish. (Laughs) yeah! But now he won't touch it. He won't eat no fish now.

DJ: No? Wow.

EHM: Mm mm. Yeah.

HH: I guess he's had enough.

EHM: Yeah. So well, he's still alive. Mm hmm.

HH: So how long have you been married?

Elsie: About twenty seven years. Mm. Yeah. And he's still there, I drive, I go everywhere, but I'm his maid now, you see, cause every time I go to the store something, bring something for me or go do something, I need something, I always have to go, you know. And we the same age! August 7th I will be 90, in January he will be 90. January 22nd he will be ninety. 21st he will be ninety. 22nd and I will be, 7th of August, 7 I will be 90. Yeah. It's real nice and I enjoy home, you know. Because if I been in New York, I been *been* gone. You know. You always think that way, you know?

DS: Why do you think that?

EHM: Oh, no, that pass their days too fast. And now the old people there, you know they pull you, they poor thing, they hold on to their pocketbook and getting dragged, you know. Take their pocketbook from them and stuff, and all of that I, I couldn't live there.

DJ: Where did you live in Harlem, Ms. Elsie?

EHM: Huh?

DJ: I mean, where did you live in New York, Ms. Elsie?

EHM: I live on, in the Bronx. And in Manhattan, Manhattan was my first stop. Then I went into the, I live in the Bronx. Mm hmm. And I haven't, I went to um, nursing school in New York. Nursing, New York Nurse Training. Then I left and I start working in a hospital. And um was a private hospital. And um, I um, I was glad cause I, you know, like to, I love people. I love to be around people. Yeah. And they, sometimes they hear the street, "hello," I was Ms. Holmes then, "Hello Ms. Holmes, how are you? How are you doing this evening? How is it, where I knew you?" I said oh, from the hospital. Yeah. Mm hmm. Yeah, so then I left the hospital Cranbrook, I don't remember what year that was. But I went to they, nursing home, work at a nursing home. Call they house of Holy Comfort, I at 100, at 96th Street and Broadway, 96th Street and Concourse, that's where I work at. Mm hmm. It was very pleasant. I had twenty-one patient. But I, when I start, I start like day, but I work myself then I made working, or, I'd look so bad 'til I didn't know myself. You know, that night work is hard. So then I went to evenings work, I'd go from four to twelve at night. My life was smooth sailing.

HH: Was that better?

EHM: Very good. Because I didn't have to take, in the daytime you have to take the patient to the hospital or to the doctor, you know. You gotta make up beds, there's a lot of things you do in the day but nighttime I like to go and I get them my patient, 21 patient in bed, so I had nothing to just answer the bell, after all. And in the morning, 5:30 or 4:00 I get up at that time in the morning, and I, you know, get them ready for when the 8:00 shift come in. Then I leave at 8:00 in the morning. And I had my breakfast there. Lot of people say eggs isn't good for you? I used to eat like four eggs! Soft boiled. And um, then when I going home I care at least for hard boiled. And I, I ate a lot of eggs. And I used to work at, you know, I used to serve they lunch at 12:00? And um, when I served their lunch, lot of times like they stuff the cabbage, or stuffed pepper? And they called me stuffed cabbage and green pepper (laughs). Yeah, so um...

DS: And why did they call you that?

EHM: Cause at the night I give them, you know, one or the other, and they were were sick of stuffed pepper and stuffed cabbage (DJ laughs) so they call me stuffed cabbage. But I didn't, I don't answer them. If I didn't like it they would've, you know, continued but I didn't answer them. Very seldom we would have chicken. Yeah.

DS: Did you continue nursing when you came back here?

EHM: Oh yeah, I did private. On Fripp Island. And all around in the, in the area. All around in, you know, the neighborhood.

DJ: How about Philadelphia? What did you do — where did you live in Philadelphia?

EHM: I, 111th, 1161 Barbara Avenue.

DJ: Wow, something.

EHM: Mm hmm. Yeah. Then we move, where did we move? To Washington Avenue. Mm hmm. So long.

DJ: Were you, were you nursing there?

EHM: No, I took up nursing in New York. Mm mm, I did a lot of sewing, I worked for the Army and the Navy. We, that fortieth star, I used to sew it in the flag! And then that red and white big stripe? For the, I

guess it was for the navy or somebody, we, I sewed that. But I put that fortieth star in the corner of that blue flag. Mm hmm, had to sew it in.

DJ: So was this during the war?

EHM: Yeah. Mm hmm. Yeah.

DJ: Ok. Great.

EHM: And then, then at home, before I left home, we used to sew on machine, but we used to working with our feet. And then when I went there for this job, I'll never forget, it was Sam Flagstaff. And he said, "you ever had a sewing machine before?" I said "yes!" But he didn't ask me what kind. So he sat there, he showed me, he said, if you push your foot hard, you're going fast, if you don't push it hard, it goes slow. And I watch him and watch him, I went on a sewing mission and make that flag. Make them stars. Fortieth stars I have to put in the corner of that flag, mm hmm. Yeah. And it was very nice. Yeah.

HH: So what was it like to come back?

EHM: Beautiful because before my, before which one died first? Before my father died, I used to come like three times a year. Cause you see, if you, and you work on a job like that you have sick leave, and you know, you workday and all like that. Vacation times and everything. And so, I used to come like every three or four months, I used to come home. And then after my mother died, I didn't come for a while. But they placed my mother and father then, yeah, maybe my father was in there too, they place them in what is a double-wide mobile home? My mother was in there. And then um, I start coming home, coming home, so I say them. I'm gonna go there, there used be a man, come to my block and I fear the snake. And he get big snake on his shoulder like he was crazy (mimed man with snake). And I come from work that same time in the evening, and I have to pass him by or he pass me by. I say oh, I have to get out of New York, I can't take this, and I can't just give up my apartment, you know. And I have to go to that block and yeah, he come to that block. I say that, I got to go away from here. So I didn't tell my husband, I was afraid of the snake. But I told him I, cause we married in March, in March the 3rd, and I came home April the 24th. And um, I told him I'm going home, you wanna go home with me? I said, because he used to visit down there, you know. And um, I said you wanna go with me? He said go with you where? I said I'm gonna move to South Carolina. He says it's just like Jamaica. Go with me. So I said ok, I said I'm going and I said when I go, you can go with me, and if you don't like it, I said, you can come back. I said I won't be angry, I said, you know. If you don't like it. Psh, I had to go to New York one time, cause I wasn't going back because that's where I worked so hard. I wasn't going back to New York but this time I promised I had the long standing club called the Barnabas [note: unclear] club. We used to work with children in the church. And I told them when I left, I said I will be back one anniversary that was always the last Sunday in November. And I said I'll be back one of these anniversary but I don't know when so I went back. And um, he went with me. And that's all the time he went, he didn't go no more. And right now, you go there he's in, he's either in that den on that couch sleeping, or on that porch. He would not get in that car and ride with me anymore. And he give up driving now, must've been about six years or more.

HH: You're still driving, clearly (EHM nods).

EHM: If I don't drive, I, I won't be going nowhere. Thank God I'm still driving, you know.

HH: It's funny because you left New York because of the snake, you said?

EHM: Yeah, the (mimes snake).

HH: You don't see snakes around here?

EHM: No, I don't see no snake.

HH: You don't see snakes?

EHM: Yeah, I got cat around my house. I got cats.

DJ: Ah.

EHM: Yeah, for rat and snakes and stuff I scared of snakes and worms. Them two things. Mm mm. (DJ laughs) Yes. And one day I was in the house and my husband came and like, "oh, you want to see this snake?" I don't know where he found it at or where he saw it. I was gone, I said, "what are you telling no snake for, I don't like em!" Then the next day he, was two more the same kind of snake. And he called my sister, the one on Coffin's Point the lower, we went to the prayer house, my sister, way down there. And I'm on the main highway. And he call her and she came and help him kill the snake. But he doesn't know any better because when the snake's tail is moving, he think the snake is still alive. But the snake is dying. And he set him afire. Set the, well he kill the snake. The snake had to die before he turn them loose. Mm. But I don't, snake and worm, I don't like them, but I'm screened in. I really don't come in contact with the fly and mosquitos, because I'm screened in.

DJ: You said your husband was from Jamaica.

EHM: Yeah.

DJ: And he said it's like South Carolina.

EHM: Just like South Carolina.

DJ: What, what made them the same?

EHM: I guess the, you know the plantation or whatever, they on plantation, they have to detect, like Scott. Coffin Point, Marty Hill, Fripp Point. Different, you know different, and there's always a river that divide the two, a little, you know stream or something that divide the two.

DJ: And you said that you met him in New York.

EHM: Yeah.

DJ: How did he, or why did he leave Jamaica and go to New York?

EHM: He was a seaman.

DJ: Ah.

EHM: He was a seaman. And then um, he reside in New York after he retire or whatever it was.

[End clip 1]

[Begin clip 2]

EHM: Yeah. Cause um.

DJ: Can you remember the first date that you had with him?

EHM: We, going upstairs, and being nosy when he was doing that, cookin' that fish? Yeah (DJ laughs). It was twelve of them in family. There was eleven of us. And he is his mother and father third child and I am my mother and father third child.

DJ: Wow.

EHM: And I about five months older than him, but I didn't know until we getting married because nobody asked how old the other one was. Until we went to the courthouse, you know. And I said oh, I said he is one age with me. You know. And he told me I am my mother third child and I said so am I! Yeah.

DJ: So it was meant to be.

EHM: Yeah. Yeah. Gets along very good (nods).

DS: Have you ever gone with him to Jamaica?

EHM: Oh no. I had a free trip his family, they give me a free trip, but I went to London, England for that. I never go to Jamaica. I went to London, England. Mm hmm.

HH: What did you do in... you went to London?

EHM: On vacation, yeah.

HH: Oh, ok. When was that?

EHM: What year? In eighty... eighty-three. 83. Mm hmm.

DJ: How long were you there in London?

EHM: Oh, got till Wednesday. I went on a Saturday, and I realized I was ready to come back because the meat wasn't fresh there. You know, their chicken was reddish and... you know the meat, you know what I ate in London. I didn't like rice, but I ate rice and cabbage every day. When I was there. And I went, I was ready but my ticket was for the next Sunday. And I just had to wait.

DJ: They say the food's not very good in England.

EHM: No, not at all. And then my daughter went there, you know she, her son is a computer programmer, they sent him all over Morgan, you know the computer company, and he went for, and they sent him overseas. But after 9/11, they didn't send him anymore. So they transfer him to Florida, from New York to Florida, where my, Jacksonville. That's where he at. And um, so my daughter went there, she "oh I love the food, I tell you I eat anything because it would get really, that..." No, no no. No no.

HH: Do you have any other children, besides your daughter?

EHM: That one because she was a twin, and they had to let that one go on. So she an only child. But um, she and her son, the baby, he's the baby yeah, baby of her son. He married, he was 39 years old, that was

December 2nd. And he um, was going to, they met on the ship. And we had to go from here to Jacksonville to the wedding, and I wasn't go— he had 97 people that went onto him on that trip on his wedding. Yeah, and um, but we came back, but his mama with him, my daughter? Everywhere he go he see that, she goes there too, you know. And he carry his mother with him (laughs). Yeah, she, but nice.

DJ: He's a good grandson.

EHM: Yeah, but that was some kind of wedding. Mm hmm. But he was from New York and she's from Jersey, but after he moved down here, after that many years they were friends. They used to work in, with computer with the same company. Mm hmm. And after he move to Jacksonville, she still was in Jersey. Hmm.

HH: So can I ask you about, uh, the Praise House. Um, and that's obviously where we met you. Did you go to, you went to the Praise House as a child?

EHM: No. But when I had to stay home and mind the children, my mother and father went.

HH: So you never went to the Praise House until you came back.

EHM: Came back, yeah.

HH: How do you think?

EHM: I didn't even know there was a Prayer House there, til Mary, Ms. Legree?

HH: Mm hmm.

EHM: Came from Detroit. See, I knew her mother and father, and I knew her mother and I were about the same age, and I knew when the mother died, and um, I knew when she was a little girl, you know. Little one. And then um, I met up with her again in New York. So she um, after her father and mother died, and her father, marry again, he was in New York and he took her to New York. And see, we used to go to the same church. But she, was she young. She about, I don't know, she no, she no eighty. She in her late sixties or something like that. And um, we were friends and I didn't know where she went to. Then when she came on home I was here. She got attached to me. But I was surprised, you know, young as she is, she's my greatest friend and I'm her greatest friend here. You'd be surprised how close we are. When I look her up at home I looking around, here come my food. She'll bring me something to eat. You know? And when she go someplace i say if you need company I'll go with you, I go with her to the airport, and, you know, you know wherever she wants to go, she take, she take me along with her. Um, so if she told me about the Prayer House, so I went there with her. And it was so beat up, you know. And you know she brought, the way they looked she got that place lookin' so good. And then when they are, some of them came from, to visit down there. And they did the floor for us.

DJ: Ah, yes.

EHM: Yeah, so. So we keepin' up. You know? It's nice like that. Yeah, so the prayer house, man, we go there, and people come from all over. And we have Gullah festival here. Approaching um, approaching Memorial Day. But we always start like that Thursday. We always start about three or four days before Memorial Day. And um she, Mary and I we work on the chartered buses. And you know we take people on tour here. And um, I always asked somebody else in um Cedar Brook, in um, my, Lady's Island, to let me have, open the prayer house there for me, but they never do it, you know. So um, we took the tour bus down there, and um, the people toured up and they sat in and they didn't want to come out! They didn't

want to come out and they, they just enjoy themselves there. And um, I enjoy taking them there. Mm hmm.

DJ: So what do you tell them, when you sing and talk?

EHM: We sing and, you know, and Mary tell them, you know, because she the one that really taking care of the Prayer House. And it was all, nobody never used to go there. Then Mary came and take over. Cause they a, uh, family, that you know, up in the city somewhere. But I told her don't fix up too good because they might come and take it away, you know. Go slow with it.

DJ: Yeah.

DS: Why, what is it about the Prayer House that attracts people?

EHM: The, well you know, that was during the time, and when we were in slavery, and the people, everybody, all those plantations that you call Coffin Point, everybody, they were over those plantation, and wherever you live you reside there, so, that's why it um, it's so important. Because that was in slavery time that Prayer House. Was there in slavery time. So, they let the woman go and the man go, I think. The woman go, they go on Thursday night and the men got their own night— they don't let the two join together. They go there, but they go there to try to help themselves, you know, and get away from them. But um, that's what happened— they never put the male and the female in at the same time. Yeah. They have they, you know, that's where they get all their ideas, over that prayer house. Yeah, that prayer house really mean something to us.

HH: How did you get into the ring shout, the shout?

EHM: Huh?

HH: How did you get into the shouting?

EHM: Oh, I was, when I first came here, um, you see the woman was in the wheelchair?

HH: Mm hmm.

EHM: She start the shouting cause she was living in New York also, and she ask, "who want to shout?" You know. So I said, "I'll join you!" So I joined her and oh, we went all over, Augusta, Georgia? Invite us to one of their festival. Black festival? And we went from Penn here, they gave us, I don't know whether Penn school furnished a ride, or somebody furnished a ride, but we went all the way to Atlanta. Georgia. Just to shout.

DJ: Wow.

EHM: Mm hmm. And we went like, I think it was a weekend. But after she was in a car accident, nobody bother anymore.

DJ: She's still getting around though.

EHM: Yeah, she gets around. I always wanting, I don't want to ask her. Does she have any legs, you know? I don't know if she have her two legs or not.

DS: Were there other people involved in it with you?

EHM: Who?

DS: In the ring shout, besides you and her?

EHM: No, quite a few people. Quite a few people shout along with us, and most people... twelve or thirteen of us went to that festival. Mm hmm.

DS: Did you get younger people involved?

EHM: Hmm?

DS: Did you get younger people?

EHM: You cannot get them young people involved. They young people laugh at you.

DJ: Yeah.

EHM: They young people don't wanna associate with the old. When they were the few young ones you see. They don't wanna bother with the old people. Mm mm.

HH: Why do you think that is?

EHM: That's the... the nature of the young people. That's the nature. That's why I always worry now when we, die out, the older one, what going to become of the land here? They have no interest, you know, they do nothing.

HH: Do you think that if you would've stayed her and not gone to Philadelphia or New York you would've gotten into that?

EHM: I think so because I love, I love to do things, the glee club was the first thing I got into. Then I got into volleyball. Basketball.

HH: So you were already very active in everything.

EHM: Baseball. I used to play, they used to wait for me in the afternoon, I come from school, like another team come from someplace else. They had to wait till I get there to play baseball and I used to catch behind the bat. Yeah.

DJ: So did you play underhand baseball or overhand?

EHM: No, overhand. Hardball. We didn't play no softball. We played with that hardball.

DJ: Wow, that's amazing.

EHM: And we used to practice, when we practice, we practice with the men. They were much older than we were. Yeah, and um, it was real nice. I enjoy myself all the way through life. Still enjoying it.

DJ: What's your favorite sport? Is it volleyball, basketball, or baseball?

EHM: I think it would be basketball.

DJ: Yeah?

EHM: Mm hmm.

DJ: Tell us about when you were playing ball. Tell us about when you were playing basketball.

EHM: Well, we start at Rosenwald school on, on the main highway over there. And um, there were a referee, but she was not from, she's, the woman who used to ref the girls, her name was Ms. Banks. And um, she used to come down to the Rosenwald school from Penn, and practice with us, you know referee for us on Saturdays. And all the people! Um, my mother always said I was so little. I was tall but I was thin. And my mother would say if they jump on you, Ms. Banks get em off! She would say she blow that whistle and get them off of you because I was so little you know, (laughs) yeah. She always say Ms. Banks always get em off of you. Mm hmm. Yeah, so I enjoyed it and we play basketball, the same Lula, Ms. Holmes that was, with the legs, she um, she was good too, playing basketball. We all was playing basketball. But I'm older than her. Mm hmm.

DJ: Did you like to score more or did you like to pass more?

EHM: Uh, you mean me?

DJ: Yeah.

EHM: (Mimes shooting a basket) I make the goals! (DJ and HH laugh)

DJ: Nice.

EHM: (Nods) yeah.

DJ: Very nice.

EHM: We came from a long ways, you know, because they left us, they, they, what-you-call-it. They masters or whatever they were, they left us, you know. We were the first one that they had our independent. Yeah, they left us, all of them left us, but people refuse to pick cotton because they were working for free. But after they left, then they thought, you know, getting money for picking cotton, yeah. Mm hmm. That's why I say, we were trained among ourselves, nobody trained us. Whatever we learn, we learn it among ourselves. We had nobody learn it. There were three white stores, the big one, right when you make the go to Mary, right on the corner. That was the big one, that was the Ward store. And down, down Penn School over there, the big, what do they call it, the piano, red piano, that was another white one and down in Land's End, down in that highway when cross— quarter in Coffin's when you keep going, there was another big one there; big one but only three white stores.

HH: Did you go to those stores?

EHM: (Nods) one right on the corner cause we had to walk to that one on the corner there.

HH: And what were the people like in there?

EHM: Huh?

HH: What were the people like?

EHM: They were alright. They were fine. Mm hmm. Very good.

HH: Did they live here on the island? Where did they live?

EHM: Over the store.

HH: They lived over the store.

EHM: That apartment over the store, that's why they don't wanna change that store cause it's uh, historical, you know.

DJ: Mm.

EHM: Yeah. But we train ourselves, whatever little we know, from one older one to the other, you know. And they really more farmers, you know, we don't know what that mixed up that they have. We had organic food. Mm hmm. Pretty good. Terrible all that stuff they mix in they food now. We would live off it.

DS: What, what would you eat?

EHM: Everything. Every thing. Oysters, crabs, shrimp, fish, everything come out that ocean, we had it. Turtles. Oh, a lot of things. Mm hmm, and then they plant they gardens, you know and they had fresh food off the garden, vegetables. And they had their fruit trees, and we had everything! The only thing we didn't have was flour. But they plant they corn and they get the husk for their hogs, and we get cornmeal. Grits. All that from there, from the corn yeah. We could make, uh, the cornbread and, but we had to buy the, you know, they, what do you call it. Flour. Mm hmm.

DS: Did you raise livestock?

EHM: Oh yes, that's all the meat. Mm hmm. The hog meat. But we didn't, my mother and father didn't like cows because they said cows was, people come to buy cows and different beef, or, cows for beef, and we didn't eat that until the depression. And that was 1945 they couldn't find meat. And then they had no other choice. Mm hmm. Yeah.

HH: So were you here for the depression?

EHM: This my second one.

HH: You were on the island for the depression?

EHM: Yeah.

HH: So what was that like?

EHM: Couldn't get anything, that's why I said we'd farm and raise our own things. Yeah. Couldn't get nothing.

DJ: So you all got through it.

EHM: Yeah. And all the people were getting uh, what do they call it. Relief or something. All the people in there, I used to send my two brothers to pick up for my great grandmother. And they used to get a can

of meat like that. And she would always have that can of meat, and give them some to bring home. Yeah. And they used to give them the cracked rice and all kinds of crazy things, you know. Yeah. But we wear, we wear our own things, because when I was going to Penn, you had to have an acre or something on the farm. We had a prize called Farmer's Fair, Farmer's Fair everybody assembly it around Penn here. And um, they used to barbecue, cows, and everything else. And um, we used to, my corn, I used to go in the field and get my father best corn, below down there, the river? And every year I won a prize for corn.

DJ: Really?

EHM: Yeah, yeah. Every year I won a prize.

DJ: So the prize consisted of like size or color, or...?

EHM: No, they give you a...

HH: A ribbon?

EHM: ...a certain, certain ribbon.

HH: So what was the, what was the, what made your corn so good?

EHM: Cause we on the land for planting. You know where Mary at, they don't really have nothing over there. Where I play the Praise House at? They don't really have nothing over there. On Coffin's Point. But over there on Marleasville, beautiful. You should've seen the okra fields at um, one of the pas— the um Minister planted in front of my house on my property. Should've seen the okra. He got a field of okra.

[End clip 2]

[Begin clip 3]

EHM: Cut it this morning.

DJ: Mm.

EHM: Mm hmm.

HH: Did your brothers use to help you on the land?

EHM: Huh?

HH: Did your brothers use to help you on the land?

EHM: Not me, I go there, every morning I go there, I lie, I come back. I did tell the truth because have, I fear worm and snake, you know, they have to keep them cropped in. Every morning 8:00 they go there and come back at 12. And I go right along with them. But I saw my mother and father here, because I keep them from tell them that I was lying. Um, I get in the field and I scream "aaah, I see a worm" and one time one morning and they woulda say "show me the worm." I come back home and I clean up the house and I, when they come home, I have the food ready.

HH: Mm hmm.

EHM: Everything was ready. Me! I didn't plant nothing in that field.

HH: So they let you stay home because you could do everything else.

EHM: I fear the worm. Yeah. And I told my brother. He's the seventh child. I told him, but he died now. I told him, I said you know, I sorry he is not here for me to tell him that I was lying every morning. He say you know what, I should've whipped you down! I say I too old (laughs). Yeah, mm mm.

DJ: Wow, you fooled them, huh.

EHM: Mm hmm. We had some good fun there, was real nice.

HH: Besides that you said that people used to love to hear you laugh?

EHM: The principal of the school.

HH: The principle. What kinds of things...

EHM: The one that run the school, yes.

HH: What kinds of things would make you laugh?

EHM: I used to laugh with, didn't matter with me. Oh, all kinds of things. I always used to laugh, I always was happy. Mm hmm.

DJ: Did you ever tell any jokes?

EHM: No, but there some man came around one time, and he wanted to know, you know, wanted to tell a joke or something and I said, what did I say then? Oh I say,

“Christopher Columbus is the King of the Jew,
He wear soda-water britches and a broke-ass shoe!”

And the man, man took that. Mm hmm.

DS: And where did you learn that?

EHM: At home. Mm hmm. At home. Yep.

HH: Was there a lot of singing in your house?

EHM: Not now, no. When we were coming up, with my sisters and I used to sing in the church on Sunday morning, before I left, on, in Sunday school. Yes, my sisters and I used to sing in Sunday school.

DJ: What church did you go to when you were here?

EHM: Uh, Stockwell.

DJ: Stockwell? Ok.

EHM: Yeah. It was back on Fripp Point.

DJ: Ah. And then when you went to New York, what was your church's name?

EHM: Greater Central Baptist church. Mary and I went to the same one until Mary, you know, I didn't know where she went to. Cause my grandmother was used to, be her babysitter. Mm hmm. But after I start moving around, I couldn't keep up with her. You know. Mm hmm.

DS: What was the hardest thing about adjusting to, when you moved to Philadelphia?

EHM: Wasn't hard because I had so many family there. I had families. Cousins. I even had one named like me but older than me, her name was Elsie Pope. And she had, what, she had two sisters or three sisters. One name was um, Elizabeth Taylor. She married a Taylor, she was a Pope but she married a Taylor. She still alive, she in Phillie. (Motions to people outside) they ain't bothering, they ain't bothering us.

HH: Oh, ok.

EHM: That ain't bothering us.

DJ: Ok.

EHM: Mm mm.

DS: And did um, did you stay with relatives when you were there?

EHM: That's who I went with, cause on the summertime time the kids used to, momma used to, you know, pick kids used to go every summer. When school finished, they used to go and I couldn't go. I had too much sister, too much brothers and sister to take care of. So I didn't go so this time, my cousin came home, her name was Lizzy, Elizabeth Priester. She came out, she said, "why aren't you doing, staying away from home sometimes?" Momma said, "she have to help with the kids." So she said, "send her," said, "my sister in law will be here next week," and when she comin back she said "send her with her!" And I did, momma did send me. But when I got, when I got in, Washington, D.C. or somewhere, we didn't get on the same bus. When I got to the next station she was there waiting for me, on the way to Phillie. From Phillie to New York. Mm.

DS: And did you wanna go or was it your mom, did she send you?

EHM: Sure, I wanted to go every year I wanted to go! But I couldn't go. I told my brother, and he's here to visit last November, I told him, "I don't take care of your snotty nose, and you better come here and see bout me!" Every morning them two, I got two twin brother alive now, in Beaufort, and the other one when you come back to my house he's right on the highway. I said "y'all better take in me," every morning they call me, but they call so early but I can't say you called me to early. They call me about 7:00 in the morning. Yeah. Both of them. I said that's too early, but I won't complain.

HH: Yeah.

EHM: Mm hmm. Yes. Yes, and we were a lucky family. I never went to bed one night and say I'm made at this one or mad at that one. Never angry with them. Never fight with them. No. I had a good life. And I thank God for that, you know? It's a lot to be thankful for. Yes, yes.

DJ: Ms. Elsie, I'm interested to know the types of music that you listen to. Cause uh, I'm sure you were in New York, you might've heard of, listened to some different music, in Phillie, and in South... can you tell us about the types of music that you listened to?

EHM: I don't know about too much types but uh, I know I dance but... I was a great dancer and then I met a great dancer. Like when I go, when we go out to clubs?

DJ: Ah.

EHM: And everybody stand back and Keith and I dance.

DJ: Aw, shucks.

EHM: Yeah, we take the floor, they'd give us the floor. Yeah, he was a, was a great dancer.

DJ: Did you all bring the Charleston up there, did you all do the Charleston?

EHM: Yeah, a bit. That's what we did when we went to Atlanta.

DJ: Ah.

EHM: The Charleston. Mm hmm. And they call it the Shout. That's the Charleston.

DJ: Ah.

EHM: Yeah. Mm hmm.

DJ: So how long would you and Keith dance?

EHM: 'Til the music finish.

DJ: Just 'til the music... wow, that's beautiful.

EHM: Yeah.

DJ: Could you show us some steps?

EHM: No, I fall a lot.

DJ: Ah. I understand. I understand.

EHM: Yeah, yeah. Cause I remember the Beaufort Gazette came once to the Prayer House, they met us there when I was there. He met us there. And they went to another man that rebuilt the prayer house. It was right across the field. They didn't go by the road, they went across the field, and I was walking behind them. And um, along while I fell. And mostly I went and go on my stomach. And I said, "I'm on the ground!" I'm on the ground. Anytime I fall, I say, "I'm on the ground, I'm down in the sand," or whatever it is. They, they tore right back there and pick me up! And now I wanna know did the Beaufort Gazette put my name, you know, or took picture but he didn't.

HH: (Laughs) well that was nice of him.

EHM: I said, Mary find out that he didn't take my picture, she say she, "I'm sure he didn't." Mm hmm. Anytime I fall I ain't ashamed.

DJ: Yeah.

EHM: No I fall cause somebody help me up. Mm hmm. Yeah. Cause about two weeks ago I went into the okra field. And when um, Ladson was there. But he know I will fall, because three years ago when he plant there, and it rain that night and was a lot of water, so I put on my boots and help him plant that Okra. And all of a sudden I fell in all that water, but my brother and his wife was in there, or they coulda see us, you know. They, oh Elsa fell. My brother yell say go on, get them vegetables! It was hot. I say I ain't comin out there, I'm gonna cut this okra right in these wet clothes and I, it'll dry on me! (DJ laughs) yeah. Come out there, put on some dry clothes! I got, no I ain't comin. Mm. Yeah. So he know that I'm noted to fall. This minister. So I said he laugh. Yeah. Yes sir.

DJ: So you've been on God's green earth, Ms. Elsie, for almost 90 years?

EHM: Yes ma'am. Yes sir.

DJ: You still drive.

EHM: Thank God for that.

DJ: And drove yourself up here. What, like what's your secret, like how, what can I do to live until ninety?

EHM: It's no secret. Love people.

DJ: Love people.

EHM: And love God, you know, it's not around you, it's in here (points to her heart), yeah it's not around you. Lot of people say, oh, this and that, and they ain't got nothing in their heart, you know. But I, everybody, I love people, my mother taught me that. She said, don't matter what color or creed. You must love people. Yeah. Mm hmm. Yeah. And that's the way I am. Yep. And I like a, you know, like to go.

DJ: Like to travel?

EHM: Yeah. Mm hmm.

DJ: My grandma, before she passed, she lived for a long time, and she would love to travel. Anytime she had the opportunity to, she was gone.

EHM: Me too.

DJ: Yep.

EHM: Mm hmm.

HH: Where do you wanna go next?

EHM: Hm?

HH: Where do you wanna go now. Like where do you wanna travel?

EHM: No, no, I finish at 80. Travelling, done with that, what is that, 80? I finish in 2001. I don't travel anymore, plane, since 9/11, I just don't bother, like every summer I was going on cruise, you know going to the Bahamas and different places?

DJ: Yes.

EHM: I don't bother anymore. Mm mm. I don't go far, I go to Savannah or Charleston. I don't go far. I don't bother. Mm hmm.

DJ: I understand.

EHM: Airplane, train, buses. I gave up all of that. Mm hmm. Tired (laughs). Yes.

DJ: So Ms. Elsie, we're, this video will be seen by young people, up in the Cleveland area and also in the Washington, D.C. area, and I remember you saying that the young people really don't really embrace the Gullah culture like they should.

EHM: Yeah.

DJ: We want our kids up in Cleveland and in Washington, D.C. to be able to embrace their culture, so, what would you say to them? What would you leave them with?

EHM: Just, like your parents, how your parents raise you. Try to raise them the way your parents raised you. Yeah. And always talk school. Intelligent. They got to be intelligent toward anybody. Regardless who they are, they must be intelligent. Because if you don't have that you ain't got nothin! Yeah. Mm hmm. Your parents raise you and brought you up good? Teach them the same thing. Yeah. And you be surprised. Mm hmm. Right now my great gran, my daughter, son, he have two twin boys. And they are, they about eighteen. And they, twin girls, one is twenty, every time one is 21 the other one 22. And both of the two twin boys, this is their first year in college.

DJ: Mm.

EHM: So now I'm trying to get them here, cause they have rewards from, they live in Atlanta. Atlanta University. The two boys. One for football, one play football, this gonna be his first year, you know in college for football. And the other twin, he's going, he got the reward for engineer. And um, now I'm trying to get them here on the 31st cause they won for the football, he's going to start on the 6th, uh...

DJ: Practice.

EHM: Sixth of no, it was back to school. 6th of August, I think.

HH: Right before your birthday.

EHM: And then the other one, the other three, they are going the August 16th. So now I'm trying to get them, they supposed to due here on the 31st they come to visit because I want to see them, before you know, before they go to college cause its not easy getting here. So the oldest daughter is going to drive them. Four of em coming. So um, that is next Saturday, next Sunday I think they're coming, Sunday morning, and they'll leave on the 2nd. Going back. So I'm trying to get them here now, to come to see me before they go. Mm hmm. And they promise they will be here Sunday. Next week Sunday.

DJ: What're you gonna tell them when you see them?

EHM: Even on the telephone I, the same thing: go to school, get your education, trade, and do something for yourself. And love people, don't matter who they are. Love people. Nobody a stranger to me. I meet people, they're not strangers. No. Mm mm. I'm just like that. A lot of times, I saw Cecil Tyson (note: probably referring to Cecily Tyson, the actress), a lot of times I be sitting there and they go, "hello Ms. Tyson!" I look up. And I say, "I'm not Ms. Tyson." And you know, they don't believe, they don't believe me! So one Saturday, Mary and I went up to the waterfront, and um, they had the NAACP I belongs to them too. NAACP had a, we had a cookout. And the woman kept bothering me, kept bothering me, and I had those pictures, somebody got my picture, where they came from, Mary sent em with the picture of the hat on? And um, I had the pictures so I said to her, I'm not, and I can prove it to you. So I show her the book, like. And then I show her the card picture, the one on the card. She said, "well!" well she said, "give me one of each," you know. And she bought it, But she did not believe that I wasn't who she said I was. Mm hmm.

DJ: Wow.

EHM: Yeah.

DJ: Now you said you were a member of the NAACP?

EHM: NAACP.

DJ: Tell us a little bit about that.

EHM: I don't know too much about that but I haven't been enough, you know, I haven't been attending the meetings. Cause I would have to go to Beaufort, you know. Mm hmm. But it's nice, very nice. They get a lot of things done. Mm hmm. Yeah. But uh, don't worry, don't mind I don't attend, every Memorial Day parade, I'm right on that car, sitting on the dashboard, like of the car. But they didn't do it this year because they say you put it too late, you know, so many cars, you know. And outfits, you know. But they say they didn't get into it this time, they didn't put in the time for it. Mm, but every year I make them my button on my cap. My sweater. Right there. Mm hmm. Yeah. And here we had, belongs to a lot of organization. First of all the Lowcountry Alliance. And um, on the, that side of the river, on Seaside Road, I guess you heard about Seaside Road. Cause when you turn from Mary, and come in, when you do, they are opposite way. And they didn't want no mobile home on that side, where the river on... flood zone. And um, we've signed papers and asked people to sign papers. And we um, we won that one. And then, St. Helena Post Office? That Post Office? They had a Frogmore Post Office and it wasn't Frogmore Post Office. Someone came from England, and with so many frogs here on our land, he named this whole St. Helena island Frogmore. And we came, and I came and we joined this NAA, this uh, Citizen, no, Lowcountry Alliance. We clear that up. Sign petitions. And then uh, my girlfriend call me from Georgia, say, "y'all didn't gone get that name, St. Helena Post Office, um, Frogmore Post Office, no St. Helena." I said, "no, it's supposed to be St. Helena," but that time we had gone go to Washington, D.C., and Washington, too, D.C. wrote us back and they said there's no Frogmore on that map. It got to be St. Helena. And they wouldn't put up the sign, they had it longer but they won't put it and one morning, when we woke up, this big sign, St. Helena Post Office. And they were callin' it what it was called in the other worlds, the child that we all made it. Yeah, we made, you know they don't wanna give you what belongs to you. Yeah, mm hmm.

DJ: But it shows that that small group of people got together and did something, and...

[End clip 3]

[Begin clip 4]

EHM: But they were gonna, they were gonna zone this island. And they came to the school over there. And oh the black and whites, you know. They didn't agree for the name of school, you know, the um post office. Was it a post office? Yeah. And uh, no, zoned this whole community. And when we say uh, they wasn't agreed, they was gonna do the zoning. They don't know anything about this island. So he said alright, I'll tell you what you're gonna do. You go back and form a group! And name, like my father, I got the Rachel and Jesse road. Name it the way you wanna name it, and, and, and get back to us, and we name them roads.

HH: So that's where all those names came from, I see.

EHM: Yeah, that's where all those names came from. Yeah. We name those roads, and say we did 95 percent. Yeah. And um, we were so glad, you know, cause they don't know anything about the island, how could you come from someplace and say you gonna do something, you can't do it cause you don't know it! So that was the Lowcountry Alliance.

HH: That's great.

EHM: And we had another one, the Citizen Advisory. We didn't want them big building on this island cause like you know them big buildings, two story and all them stories, it would've spoiled the island! And we sign petition for that. And we had Alan, Allan Galloway, I don't know if you hear, but he's a mortician. In Beaufort. And we put him in, in County Council, because everything we put in County Council would change it, but we had him like a watchdog. When they have meetings, he goes in there and see that they don't change things. Yeah. Mm hmm.

HH: Wow. That's active, you guys are active. That's very active.

EHM: Mm hmm. Yeah. Yes.

DJ: Strong, active.

EHM: Yeah, we did a, I did a, we did a lot. I did a lot of stuff since I came here.

HH: It's a lot of work to preserve this area. That's great.

EHM: Yeah.

DJ: I bet it comes from the beginning when you all, as an island, got your freedom and made...

EHM: Yeah, yes, that's right, and we don't intend for they, but we go and they can do as they please. But as long as we here we will not let them come and build, Alexander, what they named that, McDonalds and all them place? We don't want it on this island! This island is too beautiful and let them come and mess it up. They can do it when we go but they ain't gon do it while we're here. Mm hmm. But the Family Dollar right there? That was supposed to, we would love that to come in because we need something like that. And the dollar store, a little further up? We let those come in because it's not big stores, you know. Yeah. Mm hmm. But otherwise, no big thing.

DJ: That's great.

EHM: Yeah, we did a lot of fighting here. And we take it to County Council, see. But the guy we got in County Council, he works one quarter. And he won every year because nobody run against him. Yeah. His name is, his name is McBride. We, we love McBride.

DJ: Seems like you need Alan Galloway again.

EHM: Huh?

DJ: Seems like you need Mr. Galloway again.

EHM: Yeah, yeah yeah (laughs). But Mr. Galloway got his hands full, you know, he's a very, very busy man, he got a lot of things going.

DS: Is there much disagreement between the people who have been here and the new people moving in?

EHM: No, we have no problem. No problem. No problem. Mm mm. Because you know we, we were here. And like fence our house in and all like that, we didn't do that here but a few people, my daughter did it. But she did it because she keep children. And now she don't keep them anymore, she adopted a sister and brother now. Mm hmm cause see her children are grown, she got grandchildren. So she got two with her, one is nine and the other one is eleven, the sister is the oldest one. But we don't fence in no house here. You know? So we know our property and whatever, we do not have to fence it but some come and fence they place in. Mm hmm.

DJ: What if I came down here and moved, Ms. Elsie? How would I be treated down here?

EHM: Good. Very good, sure! Mm hmm. We welcome visitors, regardless who you are. Yeah. Glad to have you.

DJ: Is there anything that we didn't ask you that we didn't ask you that you want us to know?

EHM: Nah, I didn't (laughs) I, no.

DJ: Ok.

EHM: You know when I was going to school, we had to walk. It's not like these kids, bus come to their door, you know and all like this, we walk and got our education.

DJ: How far did you have to walk?

EHM: You know where Mary at? They used to send a bus for us from, for here, Penn School. And some of them, those men were so hateful. One call Mr. Fripp, he was the hatefulest thing on earth. And had children was coming to Penn School. And he would see us coming down the road and would never wait for us. No. See we'd come all, was two of us, we come from that way, we, when you turn to go into Coffins Point? Was two of us, one was on that side of Coffins Point and I was lower down. And um, we had to walk all the way to the two churches to go to school. Mm hmm. No, didn't care how cold it was. Yeah.

DS: What did you study when you went to Penn School?

EHM: Huh?

DS: What did you study? What classes did you take?

EHM: I, I didn't like Mathematic but you had to do it (laughs). I never did like Math, but I love English and Spelling and Geography and all that subject? You know.

DJ: Maybe that's why you like to travel so much.

EHM: Mm hmm. And um, wasn't nothing too special but I didn't like mathematic, that was something I hate. And then it was giving us Algebra, Goodness. I asked them if nah, I'd be taking Algebra. Oh, that was a tough subject, yeah.

DJ: I bet he (probably DS) could teach you algebra.

EHM: I'm sure!

HH: Yeah, he's an algebra teacher.

EHM: I'm sure, I'm sure.

DJ: He'd make it fun for you, Ms. Elsie.

EHM: Yeah. Yeah, but um. The teacher, they was very good. Very good. Mm hmm. And my mother told em, don't let me play basketball if I don't get my grades.

DJ: Ooh, wow. My dad would say the same thing.

EHM: So you know I had to study (laughs). But now when they ask me sometimes I would say, "I don't know nothin now." Too old to do anything! Mm hmm. Yes, God. I didn't know this place went up like that, the kitchen right there, that's beautiful.

DS: When you came back from New York what was the, what was the best thing, to you, to coming back?

EHM: I was glad cause I was getting rest, I didn't have to get up, you know, go to work, I didn't have, I could lay in my bed as long as I wish in the mornings. And um, the first thing we had to do was learn to drive, neither one of us could drive. I had to learn to drive, and I had no idea of driving, but I thought who goes by, learn by, somebody like here, by, you know you always thought you're better than the other one. I said I ain't gonna let him drive me! I said no, I'm gonna get out there and drive myself so he ask for money to go to driving school. So he went one day. And we had a cou— cousin in the morning used to come and carry him. And he learned to drive but he died. And um, then I said to myself well who can I get because another cousin, in-law and his wife they used to come every morning 9:00, carry me to driving. And he didn't sit underneath the wheel one day but he used to drive fast man, he used to live in Philadelphia. But, heaven, Colin's watching and teaching you? Say you gonna be a bad driver, you, you gonna, police gonna stop you. You know, the police have never stopped me. For driving. In driving. Is the police gonna stop me because Colin's watching and taught you how to drive? (DJ laughs) and so I said to myself they didn't know he never sat under that wheel. To show me anything, he just tell me what to do. And um, but he swear that I knew how to drive. But I didn't know a thing bout driving no car. Right now I don't know nothing about it, I can drive em. But puttin gas in it or whatever, but uh me I got a, mine is a '98. Buick Lasabre but it was a show car, my show is a show car. That car got anything one of these new cars got in it. And Mary told me that same, you know my car is the latest thing now, uh, the year, and she said my car don't have anything bout your car, my car is a, was a show car.

DJ: Loaded, huh?

EHM: Yeah, and on the dashboard? Anything wrong gonna show up on that dashboard. I don't have no problem with that car. And my mechanic told me don't get rid of it cause it's a good car. Mm hmm. Yeah. It's good, I was at the gas station, getting gas yesterday, these two guys pull up, they had, was in real, red, red, red. He was in a red Buick. He yelled at me, say, "I bet you ain't got a hundred, a hundred mile on that car!" I said, "who told you that?" So he said "I want you to get in front of me and I get behind you and you leave here." So I said, "why?" And he said, "I want to see how you drive that car, he'd say you've got your car in a good condition, that car lookin good!" So I said, "yours looking better, because yours a new brand one," I said to him. So anyhow when we pull out he going that way and I going this way but I'm still going the way he was going. But he got in front of me. And he car, turn off, but I had to keep on down this way, you know. And he turn up at Tom Fripp road. Teasin' me about my car, he said, "oh that's a beautiful car!" I said "oh, thank you." Yeah. Mm hmm.

DJ: He might've been trying to flirt with you, Ms. Elsie.

EHM: No, no. I'm too old (everyone laughs).

DS: You never know.

EHM: But a lot of them I've been tell, you don't play with older people. I told em I say you don't play with older people. I say I'm sister and sister years old. "Oh miss, you go ahead! You are not that age!" I said yes I am. Mm hmm. Yeah. They're flesh now. But I put em in their place. Yeah. (HH laugh) them flirtin days are over. Cause I had a good time in life. Beautiful time. I went in the way I was big enough to go. Mm hmm.

DS: What was the happiest time that you remember in your life?

EHM: I think, maybe school days. I think so. Mm hmm.

DS: Playing basketball?

EHM: Oh yes. Baseball? All them balls, I had a good time.

DS: Mm hmm?

EHM: Mm hmm. Very good time.

DS: Now we don't think of girl's sports as being a big thing.

EHM: Oh yeah.

DS: Back in that time, but it was, it was a big thing?

EHM: Oh yes, yes. When we, on Saturday night, Rosenwald school, down on the island, below? Called Seaside Road, like you know you turn in to go to Mary. And the other, but, road go that way. And the school was down that road. And all them people, on that Saturday evening, they had nothing to do but come watch us play basketball. And when I tell my grandchildren, that's why I say, y'all people don't do appeal, they laugh, they think I'm funny, they think I'm, not telling the truth you know. They just laugh.

DJ: Wow. I think that's why you have a great grandson playing football.

EHM: Yeah.

DJ: Came from somebody.

EHM: Yeah it did. Cause the daddy don't play no football. He'd rather drive one them 18-wheeler truck. He love truck driving. Mm hmm. And the momma is a secretary, you know. Different jobs. Yeah, I'm telling you. Life was good, still good. Cause when I go out I enjoy myself. Mm hmm.

DS: That's great.

EHM: Mm hmm. And then he, my husband and I are the same age. You know, he never fall?

DJ: Really?

EHM: (Laugh) and no he never fall! And when I fall I say "I fell today!" He said, "that's all you do and you lazy!" But he's the lazy one cause he doesn't go anywhere! Mm hmm.

DJ: You've got a reason to fall, cause you're out doing stuff! He's just sittin down now.

EHM: Yes.

DJ: Well, I think this is great, Ms. Elsie, we appreciate you for your stories and your time and the water-melon also (HH and DS agree). So, do you have any questions for us before we wrap things up?

EHM: No, I guess you're all going home tomorrow.

DJ: Oh actually we're going to Charleston.

EHM: Charleston.

DJ: And we'll be there for a week and then we'll be going home.

EHM: Oh. Oh.

DJ: Yeah, we got more work to do. More good work to do.

EHM: Mm. More. Charleston is a beautiful place, too.

HH: Yes it is.

EHM: But that place, Charleston, was built up you know. Yeah, Charleston was built up. It's not solid like what we have. Uh huh. We solid, we on sand. But Charleston is built up. That's why so many storm and rain and stuff there, you know.

DS: Mm hmm. Are there any questions we should've asked you that we didn't?

EHM: I think you cover everything.

DS: Ok.

DJ: Well thank you for your time, Ms. Elsie.

HH: Yes, thank you very much.

DJ: We really appreciate this. I learned a lot from you.

DS: MM hmm, yeah. Thank you very much.

DJ: Alright.

EHM: So you all are gonna play that back?

DJ: What we're gonna do is um, compile all of them together. And you'll get a copy of this.

EHM: Oh, fine. Very good.

DJ: You'll get a copy. Yeah.

EHM: Very good.

[End clip 4]