

Date: 4-23-10

My name is Susan Walter and I am interviewing

A: Dr. Annjennette McFarlin.

S: What is the middle name, please?

A: S, Sophie. Annjennette Sophie McFarlin.

S: Is McFarlin a maiden name or a married name?

A: Maiden name.

S: We are in a conference room in the Bonita Library and today's date is April 23, 2010. The purpose of our interview is to find out some of Annjennette's memories of growing up in the Otay area and to sort of backtrack a little bit, do you have any nicknames?

A: No.

S: You prefer to be called Annjennette?

A: Well, when I was growing up they called me Annje, but when I had my daughter, I named her after me, so that she became Annje and I took on Annjennette. I took my name back of Annjennette because she is Annje. And that is spelled Annje, rather than gie, most people's spelling.

S: Can you tell me when you were born, please?

A: I was born July 14, 1935, in Pensacola, Florida.

S: How did you get out here to California?

A: My father's mother and his father and some of his relatives, his brothers and sisters, moved out here. My father's oldest brother was in the Navy and he was stationed here in San Diego. And he liked what he saw here and he purchased some property here. He sent for his father and mother and his younger sisters and brothers. They wrote back to my dad telling him how great it was here in San Diego. He was even treated much better than they were in Florida. There were more jobs here. So my father said to my mom, well, what I want to do is I want to go to California for a couple of months and let's see what happens. If I find a

job, I will send for you and the girls. If I don't, I'll be back home and that's how we ended up out here.

S: The girls, so I take it you have sisters?

A: Yes, I have two sisters.

S: And what are their first names?

A: Margaret is one and she is deceased, and Linda is the other. And then after that, years later, we had our brother, Michael.

S: And where did you fit in that line up?

A: I am the oldest, that is correct, in fact the first grandchild, of all of the brothers and sisters.

S: About when was this that your dad sent for your family?

A: In 1944.

S: And how did you get here?

A: We came on the train, the jim crow car??? The train from Pensacola, Florida, all the way to San Diego.

S: Can you tell me a little bit about that experience, please.

A: Well, that was an interesting experience because when we got on this train those seats, to put it in terminology of today's language, were like slats and you could turn the seat around so they could face one another. So that's how mom was able to bring the three of us, my two sisters and I, that way. So she and the baby was Linda, then Margaret and I sat across. She brought a box of food with us in a basket. So we were able to eat. At that time period we had a war going on, so there were a lot of military on that train and so they helped my mom out by watching us if she had to go to the bathroom or those kinds of things. It was an interesting ride. As a kid you don't remember a whole lot except sitting there and watching things go by the window. As I've gotten older and I've looked into the Jim Cole (sp?) car, I realized that's what we were on, the Jim Cole (sp?) car, and then the military uniforms, and they were being treated as second class citizens. Then when we got into Texas a lot of the guys got off – Ft. Wachuka – and so they would get off there, there were a few left, wasn't very many at that time. And then we came the rest of the way down into Mexico. And it was very

interesting because the train tracks over here off Main Street, those were the train tracks that we came in on.... Into downtown San Diego. So that's when we changed the car, the Jim Coal Car (sp?)

S: So you were on, if you will, an integrated car at that time?

A: If you want to call it integrated, we were able to be with everyone else, so, yes, if you want to call it that, sure.

S: So what is your first memory of arriving in the San Diego area?

A: My first memory was seeing my dad because I was a daddy's girl. Seeing my dad and this big black car they had there, and for me it was big, big old Buick, for medad.....daddy's girl.....I wrote my dad a letter while we was gone telling him how much I miss you, daddy come home, and that I knew why he was here so that was fine. And then what really struck me was when we got to the corner of Main and Third Ave., not a lot of things going on there, there was a store, and that was Banks Store, service station and then Davey's Dairy where you could buy dairy products, it wasn't a dairy itself. You could see this big huge tree and this country looking store that was there and I thought wow, seeing my dad there, seeing that store, those were the two things that struck on me immediately.

S: Are you talking about arriving in the Otay area?

A: Yes. We moved to the Otay area when we came in.

S: Directly to?

A: That is correct.....

S: What was Woodlands Park, I had never heard of it until a few days ago.

A: It's a small community that is up on the hill, on Main Street, it's still a very small community. At that time period there were probably 6 or, at the most 10 families that lived there. There were the Bookers (sp?), the Wallaces, the Harveys, Mr. Stewart (sp?), Mr. Hancock, the Akinos (sp?), it was a mixed neighborhood of people that lived there. It was not a developed area, there were just houses that were there. The streets are still there, but of course it developed over a time period. The Wallaces owned most of the land. They came back in the 20's and they owned most of the land during that time period, my mother rented a house from the Wallaces and that's where we stayed until my parents built their own place.

S: Does this map mean anything, would you be able to locate where you were living in that area?

A: Yes, there were, okay here is Main Street, is this east? ...Broadwick (sp?) acres is down below me, so this is where we need to be, up here.

S: So in the map, you're in the south, lower left hand corner.....

A: No, Broadwick (sp?) acres is lower, we're upper, Broadwick is beneath us.....

S: But what I mean is on this little map that I have here, you're in this little quarter – corner ???.

A: That is correct.

S: Can you tell me about that neighborhood?

A: That was fun as a kid. I'm trying to think of all the other families that were there because there were quite a few, but just running and playing and having fun, it was very rural, there were pig farms that were there, there were cow pastures, the Riestras (sp?) owned the land that was up the hill from us and so you could smell the cows, of course, there were a couple of Native American families that were in the area. It was fun. We played with one another. It was an integrated community. There were Casiano Akino, Jimmy Adams and I were the three Musketeers, you know we were always together, you saw one of us, you saw the three of us, Casiano Akino were Filipinos, Jimmy was Anglo and then me, African American. We were always together. The three of us, like I said, you see one, you see the other. We had a lot of fun. We didn't get into trouble, we were just friends and doing things together. As we got older, we went our various ways, Casiano (sp?) lives in, I think, San Francisco, and Jimmy, I think he is still somewhere around here because I was some place recently and this girl came up to me and says "My grandfather knew you" and I said okay, and she said his name is Jimmy. And I said "what, I said yes, we were all friends together". So I think I'm the only one that virtually stayed in the same community all this period of time.

S: What kind of work was your dad doing?

A: My dad worked for the federal government. He was what they call a swamper (sp?) on the trash truck for the federal government. When the war ended, they laid off a lot of people and my dad was laid off. My parents had

saved enough money in order to buy a piece of property and so that's the property that I currently live on, we maintain the family place. He then became the mother of the family and my mother went to work as a domestic and also she worked for the railroad cleaning cars. ...I'd get up, these military men all over the floor because these guys had no place to go. These integrated kids all over the floor because they had no place to go, so we brought them home and took care of them. That's what my family was like.

S: Did you have other family that lived here, cousins?

A: Oh, my goodness, we ended up with several family members that moved to San Diego. In fact they moved all the way out to Woodland Park where we were. There were about 5 different sets of cousins that moved out into that area.

S: I had never heard of or known that was a black community living in the Otay area. Can you describe it to me. I was under the impression that there was one black family there.

A: We're talking about two different things. When you talk about Woodland Park, although the name was Woodland Park, they called it "nigger hill".

S: Who is they?

A: Everybody around. In fact, I didn't mean everybody area, but that's what it was always referred to because that's where black folks lived. Although it was integrated, there were other people that were there, but the bulk of us, the blacks that are in the south bay area that lived in Woodland Park. There were two different groups, the Andersons lived in Otay. They were the only family that lived in Otay.

S: So they were very separate from your little community.

A: Right, exceptsame school, that was John J. Montgomery Elementary School. Then junior high school and high school. That was the separation point – we were in this one confined community and they lived in Otay.

S: Did you ever play with them?

A: Only at school, when we saw them at school, but that was it, because they lived down there and we lived up here. Now my grandmother lived down there also. There on Mace and Main Street, where the service station in there now, there was like a little mall, Subway, that was the land that we owned.

S: What kind of games did you kids play? I mean Three Musketeers, but what sort of things did you do?

A: We played softball together, baseball, but we didn't have gloves, you got out there and you ran, we hit the ball, a lot of baseball playing, football playing, riding our bikes and those types of things, playing tag, hide and seek.

S: So you were playing mostly games that you didn't have to have stuff for.

A: That is correct. The closest thing you had when you played with the girls was jacks. That's no big deal, you'd get rocks when you play with that.

S: Marbles?

A: Yes. We also played marbles. We played jumping jacks, hop scotch, but there were things that you did. The syrup cans, I don't know if you are familiar with what a can of syrup looks like, you buy syrup in round cans, and then what you would do is – the syrup.... – then you would clean it out and put sand in it, pack it down real good, and then run a hole through that and then you just pull it as a toy, you just pull it back and forth as a toy. You make noise with that. Another thing you could make your own doll. Get a Coke bottle or whatever the bottle of the day might be, and you would get a rope and put the rope down inside and leave enough of it out, then you got you a doll, you could braid the hair.

S: Do you have any kind of pictures of anything like that?

A: I really don't know.

S: When you started school, how old were you?

A: When I started out here, I was in the 4th Grade. I started school in Florida.

S: Was there a difference in the schools from Florida to here that you felt?

A: No, when I went to school, started school in Florida because I was born in July, so in Sept., I was younger than most of the students that were in the classroom. My mother had taught me how to read before I got to kindergarten.so I knew how to read,yeah, sure.but yes I do. So I had an opportunity to show them that I could read. And what was interesting is that my kindergarten teacher was also my, a one room schoolhouse type of thing in the mid 30's, was also my dad's teacher when he had gone to school. Mrs. Sims (sp?). I found no difference because when I came out here, the classrooms were all integrated, but they were still students, and that was it. Mrs. Wilson at the

time was the principal and she said, well, we need to see if you can read. And that's how she would place you in the classroom. Once again, there goes reading. So I came here and I was in the 4th Grade.

S: Who were you playmates in class in school?

A: The Cacho twins, they were my friends, there were a couple other people, I'm trying to think, the last names, one of them was named Bobby. But primarily it was Irene Cacho and I have been friends since day one. It was my first time in seeing twins.

S: Were they identical twins?

A: No.and Irene Cacho, but they were not identical. Irene and I hit it and we are still in contact all the time right now. I e-mail her, she lives in Glendale and when I go to L.A. we go up there and visit, she comes down here. The Cachos was the ones I spent the most time with. I'd go to their house, they'd come to my house. That was not a fun situation for me, there was one of the girls and I don't remember her name, but I remember the incident, when I was in grammar school, they lived in Robert (sp?) acres and I wanted to go down and play, so we went down to play with her, and when I got down there, her dad said I don't want no niggers in the house. He was a military man. So, of course, I never went back to that house again to play. But as kids, we never thought about those things, we were in class, we never thought about that at all.

S: Did you have Asian kids?

A: Oh, yes, the Singaharas, Tameco was one of our group, Irene Tameco, Bobby, oh yes.

S: Do you have any particular memories about a school event that happened in your school, any odd or strange events that you can recall?

A: The only one, well to me it wasn't strange, our class had dedicated the wing that's up at the park.

S: The Montgomery Wing?

A: Yeah, we dedicated that. But, no, not at all. I was very much into the athletic scene so I was always playing ball. I guess one of the things was, I've always been heavy and I've always worn glasses. I've always, being a daddy's girl, you're doing the sports-type things and my daddy used to make tights for me. When I was at school and I wanted to play kick ball and volleyball, I was the kid

they would never select. You wear glasses, we don't want you on our team, but that was not because I was black, it because of all the other things the kids say fat people can't do. My thing is, hell no, I'm going to show you I can do it and I became the best volleyball player and the best kick ball player there because I believed, if you can do it, I can do it, and never mind the other kids who said hell no, of course, I got in trouble. If you could do it, I can do it. And that has always been my motto. My mother and my father both said that. If they can do it, you can do it, too.

S: Tell us about your mother.

A: Mother was a very kind, gentle soul. The kind of person I never wanted to be and I'm saying this because anyone could come over to our door and say "Mrs. McFarland, I need so and so" Okay, just a minute, let me go get it for you. So mom was the person everyone would come to and ask questions and borrow money or just to have someone there, have any food in our house or situations of kids in the community whether they were red, black, green or purple, they were not going to have anything for Christmas, I remember one time, it was foggy, we went to Tijuana to buy this white family, the kids, some food, some Christmas gifts, and that was the only thing, we just heard about these kids, and so mom and I went over there to give these gifts so the kids would have something. And you know what, I'm exactly like my mom. Being there, whatever your needs are, even to the point of affecting me as an individual, I will help someone out. My mother only had an 8th grade education, but she was in the South and she grew up on a farm in Florida and they only went to the 6th grade so that when she got to the 7th grade grade, then her family sent her into Pensacola to live with family members and go to school. So she was in 7th & 8th grade there and then she was in a horrible accident when she was a teenager, a car accident in the South, these white people ran them off the road and she was in a horrible accident. One of the relatives was killed, but she had a broken pelvic and all kinds of stuff, but she made it through in hard times She didn't have any limp, which was difficult on her, but just a good soul. Loved her dearly because she was a giving person. My dad only had a 3rd grade education, but he had a lot of, what we call, mother wit and common sense, and he had a lot of that. And so there were a lot of things from my dad, he would say things like "an empty wagon rattles loud" Dad what does that mean. Mom would say "if you made a mistake, just think, life is like a ladder, it has a series of rungs on it, and sometimes going to go up, and sometimes you're going to fall down, remember what made you fall down, get up, clean up yourself, and take off again, you can make it". So that's how we were raised. My mother was an avid reader and we used to watch my dad trying to teach himself how to read. He wanted to read. He would sit with his books and we would sit with him and he taught himself how to read.

S: So when he was in the service.

A: He was never in the service. He was too young at one and too old for the other. He had a hearing problem. All his brothers were in the service. But my dad was a short guy,short woman.....

S: There's a daddy's girl.

A: There in Pensacola they have this bridge, this huge bridge, and my dad was an avid swimmer. He jumped off this bridge and popped his ear drum. He had a hearing loss, but that was dad. He was the little one and he was going to prove to everyone that he can do it. He didn't go into the military.

S: Tell me what kind of hobbies you had.

A: I played an instrument, I played saxophone – I still have the one my dad gave me when I was in 9th grade.

S: Where did you learn to play it?

A: We had music classes there at John J. Montgomery Elementary School. It was up to you to pick up an instrument you wanted and I don't know why I liked the saxophone, didn't know anyone who played one, owned one or anything else. But I loved music and so I got a chance to play the saxophone. Mr. Duckdale (sp?) was the person that I met and he was an outstanding music teacher. I used to go to him and get on my bicycle and ride down to his place and have lesson - \$5 for an hour. Mom and Dad didn't have the money and he said don't worry about it, we'll take care of it later and that was just the kind of person he was. I played music, I loved to read, I was the type of person that I would hide and I would read. And then in the afternoons we'd come home from school, you had better get your housework done, you'd better get your school work done because my parents were working, and then you'd go out to the fields and play ball. That was about it. Running around, riding your bicycle, racing the boys on your bicycle, a lot of boys down there, not many girls, racing your bikes with the guys.

S: Did you have roller skates?

A: Yes, the old fashion ones with a skate key. In our neighborhood there was no place to skate at all because not until 60's maybe 20 yearsthat they finally paved our streets up in Woodland Park, we didn't get our streets paved. What we would do was go down to, we'd ride our bicycles down to John J. Montgomery grammar school, my sisters and I, and we would skate down there.

S: So did all of you each have your own pair of skates?

A: Yes.

S: So you weren't sharing them or anything?

A: No, we had our own skates.

S: Tell me about your bicycle.

A: My dad and mom purchased for our birthday, Christmas actually, but they purchased bicycles for all three of us from the Schwinn (sp?) Bicycle store, remember that one. They purchased bicycles for us for Christmas one year and that was fun riding our bicycles around. My dad was a strong believer in you better learn how to repair it if you want it. So we could tear a bicycle apart and we could put it back together. And then as we got older we learned the same thing with cars. Loved working on cars. You want to drive it, you're going to learn how to repair it. The statement was I don't want my girls depending on no man. We were not. We were very independent women.

S: So you said you had a younger brother.

A: Yes, Michael.

S: And how much younger is he than the rest of you?

A: Oh, I'm 20 years older than my brother.

S: So were you still living with your mom and dad when he was born.

A: I was in nursing school in Los Angeles. Yes, my first career was nursing.

S: So now we've jumped quite a bit. Let's talk about junior high school. What can you remember of that?

A: Junior high school was an interesting time period. I was in the band. I was in jr. high in the 40's. I came out of jr. hi in 1950 and hi school in 1953. We had to go up to Chula Vista Junior High School and that was the only one that was around. I was in the band and I had wanted to be in something else, I can't remember what it was, but they said I couldn't be in it. That was fine for me, I enjoyed the band. I hated sewing, I couldn't sew. They'd make you take the home ec class. Oh. My Mother loved it, my sisters loved it, I had no interest in

sewing, the stupid aprons. Then the skirts, every year they had you doing something else.

S: How about cooking classes, did you have that?

A: Well, that was fun, I knew I could cook. I got some of the notes, I was looking through some of them the other day, some notes mom had left for me, when you get home from schoolthings.....so that was, but you did it anyhow because you knew you had to get the grades to get out of school. So that was kind of fun. But the whole process of doing that sewing, I know I shouldn't say this, but what I would do, you're supposed to leave everything there at the school site, and then you come back and you work on it. Well, I needed a good grade and so I folded mine up read small, put it in my lunch bag and I'd take it home. My mom didn't know this, I never told her. I would go over to my cousin who was an excellent seamstress and said, would you help me with this, please.

S: Oh, blood is thicker than water. Good cousin.

A: A couple of things that stayed me the most from junior high school was an event that happened as a result of the McCarthy era. My Father, when he went back to work for the federal government, after he was laid off, after a time period they hired people back. So my Father, that's when we meet the Duckdale (sp?) and got involved with them. There was a knock on the door and there were these two white guys and the traditional church coats and the black hats. What's going on here and they came in and said, Mr. McFarland, we know that you are involved with the Duckdale (sp?) Well, they are Communists and you can no longer, if you want to maintain your job with the federal government, you must not have any involvement with them at all.

S: With the who?

A: The Duckdales,teachers in grammar school. In middle school, junior high school..... I remember that incident because it was such an impactful thing. I no longer had my teacher, my private teacher for music.

S: So you actually had to quit?

A: Oh, yes, but I was in school with the regular band at junior high school so that I still continued my music, but just the idea of my private classes stopped. When I was in junior high school, I have no idea what parade it was, there was a very large band there, excellent band instructor, he was in from New York, really loved teaching and being with the band and I was in the office doing something

for the band because I worked very closely with whatever they wanted to do. I liked it a lot. We were going to L.A. to do a parade and I remember being in the office when the band instructor made a call to, before Disneyland, it was a big park that you'd go to, Knotts Berry Farm. Anyway, he called to make reservations for the band on the way back. So we stopped so the group could eat. They asked him, do you have any blacks in the band. He said yes. We're sorry you cannot come here. And that stunned me, I had never had that happen in my life. I did not go to Knotts Berry Farm until my brother was, I was 50 years old just because of that. And then I started becoming aware after that incident that I wasn't the only one that they had stopped. There were a lot of movie stars they wouldn't let in. That was really the first time, my friends in grammar school, fathers said no nigger's going to come to my house. Crazy man, let him go, this is a massive type feat, and then just stop us, the whole band from coming in there..... And then Mr. Kennedy was our instructor, outstanding guy. Then the other thing was, I said when I was in junior high, I said I want to be a doctor. Of course, there wasn't anyAfrican, black person want to be a doctor during that time period cause black folks weren't "doctors". And when I graduated with my doctorate, I got a telephone call and they did a small town girl makes big thing here in Chula Vista in the Chula Vista newspaper. I got a telephone from Mrs. Cooper who when I was in junior high school, she was the principals, one of the principals, most of the girls were vice principals what they were at that time period and she said I saw your name in the paper, I looked you up, could you come and see me and I said sure. I had a little place there in Fredericka Manor. So my Father and I went to see her and she said you always said you were going to be a doctor and you did it. Those are the things that stuck out for me in junior high school.

S: Okay, move on to high school.

A: High school was interesting. I was still in the band. I enjoyed that very much. As I mentioned before, I was an avid reader which also mean I was a pretty good writer. Loved writing and reading. There in the 10th grade and I turned in my class assignment and my instructor, in front of everyone, said this is not your work, you could not have done this kind of work. You really deserve a B on this, but I'm going to give you a C because I knew you didn't do it, you must have had help from someone else. I was the only black kid in the class. And I'm going, my Mother has an 8th grade education, although she's quite smart, she didn't like My Father has a 3rd grade education. I wrote this paper and it was one of those stinging moments that happened. I still feel that pain. And what's interesting is, when I was doing this interview about the blacks in San Diego and especially those that live in the Chula Vista area, we're all saying the same thing, the Anderson said the same thing, the Bookhurst (sp?) said the same thing, they're all saying the same thing, how we were treated.

..... We all talked about Mr. Rindone, the Rindone family, they were the roots of education, they were the most bigoted people you ever wanted to meet. They stopped a lot of stuff from happening for black students in the school system. Each one of us talked about the impact that the Rindones had on us. Telling us, no, you're not going to do that, you can't do that,black.....for this. If you look at thepeople just don't know, but we as blacks went through with the Rindone family.

S: What kind of things did they do?

A: Paradine Rough (sp?) was telling me when she came through, she's older than I am, when they came through they only had one high school and that was Sweetwater High School. So everyone had to go to Sweetwater High School. She said that she was very good with accounting principles, in math and that she was very good at doing that. There was a job that Mr. Rindone, but he was there, and she said that there was a job that was open there on the campus, Sweetwater High School and they hired students, you could make some extra money, and she went in and applied for the job, and they told her, nope, they didn't want no black person there. And then I talked to Barbara Anderson and she was saying the same thing happened to her, and she's an active paradontist before me and she was saying, the same thing happened to her when she was going to CV High School., you didn't deserve these grades, you're not going to get these kinds of grade and then I think you knew about Frentrist Neil (sp?) outstanding football player, he was accepted to go to school either San Francisco State, but we know it was a university in SF, and he lived right across the street from me so I knew him well. He was guy that used to chase and run around, a big brother kind of thing, he was driving and lost control of his car and was killed right across the street from where the Andersons lived, there's a big ditch there, and he was killed. Everyone wanted to name the field Neil Field after this young man. Rindone says no you won't and so what's the name of that field now Rindone. He said no you won't, you won't do that.

I left CV High School, I was there for my 10th grade year, because I was a romance language major.

S: What other languages did you study?

A: French and Spanish.

S: Do you remember them?

A: A little bit, with my friends I do, because I have to,on the border. No as extensive as I used toI understand a lot, much more than I

speak. But I used to translate Spanish. So what I did in my 10th grade year, I would leave CV High School, take a bus and go into San Diego, they had a class at San Diego High School in French in the evening. Then my dad would pick me up and bring me home. Then I decided, I think I need to get an in-district permit because it was rough on my parents and my two sisters.... so I need to get a permit to go up there fulltime. And I was able to do that. So I would ride with one of my neighbors who worked at 32nd Street, get off, catch a bus and then go on to San Diego High School. In the afternoon I would go to my uncle's house and my Dad would pick me up and take me home. That was a totally different experience because rather than being the only black in school, everybody was totally mixed up and a much better type of environment, teachers and all.

S: Teachers were

A: Yeah, much better environment.

S: Before that school had you ever had a teacher that was not white?

A: No. Yes, when I was in Florida, Mrs. Sims.

S: So you never had any Mexicans, Hispanics, Asians, black teachers?

A: No, not until I got into San Diego High School.

S: Were any of the administrators in San Diego High School African American, that you recall.

A: No.

S: And how about the sports teams there?

A: Oh, yeah, they were all mixed up. Because I was in the band still and I used to go to all the games, be sitting right there on Friday nights. It was a lot of fun. Not that I really disliked school, but it such a melting pot situation that I really enjoyed high school, it was fun to be there and all the craziness of all the things the people did, I remember on Friday night after the game, you had Kearny High, Pt. Loma High, Hoover High, we would get in the stadium, play ball, it was a lot of fun. I got to meet some outstanding people. Ralph Bunch (sp?) came to visit us and a lot of people came in to visit and the opportunity to do a lot of various things, were much more open and accessible at San Diego High School than they were at CV High School. I appreciated that learning experience, the teachers were much more open, much more friendly, they believed in you, they supported you.

S: You were much more encouraged.

A: Oh, yeah, you see at CV High School, if you weren't encouraged by yourself, you were through. Because of the belief system of my parents, we didn't have a choice, you are going to college, you don't have a choice.

S: Then you went from high school.

A: Let me share something about high school. I was a Junior Achiever and that was the first year that Junior Achievement hit San Diego. I was in the 11th grade. So I was the first black to be President of the Junior Achievement Club. Junior Achievement was a program that was established to teach high school students about business, business organization structure and those types of things. We had various businesses that came into the club, like little miniature businesses. During my first year we worked with SDG&E and that's when they were downtown. In my club we made salad dressing. And in order to set your club up you had to sell stocks, buy out products, make the product, sell the product and then if there was any money left over, then you give it back to your people that you would donate funds to help you get going. It taught you the whole organizational structure and businesses and how they work, the manufacture and aspect of that. I was the first black to be a president of that organization – it was new – by the way, I'm on t.v. now, advertising Junior Achievement. I got an e-mail just the other day from one of my former students from Grossmont College saying I saw you on t.v. and I'm so glad to see you because I've been thinking about you. It made me follow up and I'm so glad to see what you're doing. So JA was an event that I loved, it was fun, it's exciting. And once again you got to work with a variety of people. The people there mentored you, they gave you guidance and that kind of thing was very helpful. The second year, my senior year, I became President of the Junior Achievement Association. That was all the small groups into one major umbrella, our group covered from El Centro to Riverside was all part of the Junior Achievers, they had little small pockets all over. I made my first major speech at Balboa Park to a group of women because we were always trying to get new people to become, businesses to take on Junior Achievers and that was my activities, I remember it so well, they'd think I was crazy, I was standing up there with butterflies, and guess what, I got a Ph.d. in speech communications. Right, I swear I have it. The high school experience was just fun and I enjoyed every minute of it. For some reason I wanted to be a nurse, I don't know, I didn't know any nurses, ...dcotors. So I went to LVN school, and became a licensed vocational nurse. When I was 19, I was LVN. The youngest one in my class.

S: So you graduated high school when you were...

A: 17.

S: Where did you go to the nursing school?

A: I started at San Diego City College, then I went to Los Angeles County General Hospital for my training, it was the largest county general hospital at that time. So as a 19 year old, 18 year old kid, I saw a lot of things....

S: Have you ever married?

A: No.

S: Made your own way.

A: Oh, yeah. That's what you want, go for it.

S: How long were you a nurse?

A: I started nursing, 19 years of age, I worked in the operating room, worked my way through college. I am going to tell you something about that experience, my nursing experience. I came back home when I was 19 and started working at Paradise Valley Hospital, in the 50's. I was going to school in the daytime and working there at night and I wanted to go back to school. I was very fortunate in that someone came to me and said we really would like, they had no blacks in the operating room....., are you interested in becoming an OR tech, and I said yeah, I'd love it, I loved medicine, it's great. I said okay, I thank you so very much. So they took me down and gave me the training on being an OR tech. Part of the training process, prior to every surgery, and every morning you walk in there, Paradise Valley, Seventh Day Adventist, I'm a Methodist, the entire staff got together when the suite opens up and you have to pray, pray over the day, they were helping the patients. There were doctors that refused to have a nigger in their operating room, I was told that on many occasions and it's like, religion....., yes.

S: My husband was born in Paradise Valley in 1952 and his sister was born in 1955, so they may have been there with you.

A: If they had cesarean sections because I was in the operating room. They might have been. The idea, the dichotomy (sp?), it didn't make any sense, so what happened is that Dr. Ford (sp?), who was also a Seventh Day Adventist, was an African American, asked me would I come work for him. So I went to work for him. So I was in East San Diego doing nursing from 55 until 62. 1962 I just had

enough. What I would do, Dr. Ford hired me and I worked with one of the doctors, Dr. Tisdale and at 21 I had my own office. Dr. Tisdale had his own office. I went with him.....his old office, I did it as a trainee, I hired, fired, the whole thing at 21. I used to do x-rays, you name it, I did it. What I would do, I'll tell you what boredom will do for you, work would not start until 9 o'clock, I'd go into City College and took a class, and then go to work, and then at 3 o'clock in the afternoon you were due back, and do the afternoon cases. For lunch I would go downtown, take a class at City College and come back home. I did the same thing in the evening, I was just bored, I wasn't full, like when you get hungry for something you want to eat, and then you eat and you're still hungry, that's what it was like, I was hungry for knowledge. Something about college,doing kind of stuff. Like going down to these classes. In 1962 I'd have enough of this, I'm going back to school. And I'm going back to school to become an M.D..... Dr. Tisdale said to me, he used to call me Miss Ann, he said this is your office when you get back. I said Dr. T, thank you so very much. So I go to L.A., move back up there with some relatives,take my sister up with me and we go to Bookland (sp?) school and I took a speech class, horrible teacher, but you know I learned a lot from that teacher. I was a pre-med student, chemistry, biology, anatomy classes, but I was also taking speech classes along the way – pre-med fell out and speech fell in - and that's what I did all the way through, speech communications.....I was in nursing from 54, I came back home in 55.....I was at East LA Community College, then from there I went to Long Beach State, then UCLA and got advanced sports scholarship to go to UCLA. I was at UCLA, graduated from there inwith a masters degree, I completed the masters degree in 9 months, because they were quarters so I was able to get in and out of there. I was at UCLA when some strange things occurred. When Kennedy passed, he was killed, I was at UCLA community college and I remember that day so well, like everybody does. Then when I was at UCLA, that's when King was killed. And although I had a scholarship going to UCLA, a scholarship you always think is all you need, I lived at the dorm, the graduate dorm, so I worked the switchboard. They came to me and asked me would I please make an announcement about what had happened to Martin Luther King. So I get on the system and make the announcement and I heard applause from members of the dorm that he was gone. They were actually clapping. It was the most liberal campus in the world and that's what happened. During that time period there were a lot of mysterious deaths that occurred to persons who were close to Kennedy, like Kitty Cowlin (sp?) and all those sorts of people suddenly dying. So we had a function at our dorm, Ebern Hall (sp?), and the idea we brought in, all of the big lawyers and all the people were talking about the conspiracy and Kennedy and I had gone out that day to make a speech.....speeches and I had gone out and purchased a brand new.....using these tape tracks, it was working, there was nothing wrong with it, and because I lived at the dorm and worked at the dorm, I had a spot right

there in the front with my recorder sitting right there next to the speaker. They had security guards everywhere, FBI, you name it, they were there, including on top of the roof right there in our dorm. After the whole thing was over, presentations were done, we were able to ask questions, then I went to my room because I wanted to play it back, they had jammed it. I still have that tape. Like buzzzzzz, all the way through. So I called a radio station right there on campus, I said what about yours, he said that was my experience at UCLA.

S: After you graduated from UCLA, what did you do?

A: I taught school at Northern Illinois University I had never seen snow in my life..... a coat or cover on my feet, or any kinds of those things. I was fortunate enough to get a position there because they weren't hiring in the State of California at that time, but they were everywhere else. So I went there, my first day of seeing snow and I'm in the classroom teaching and I look out the window and there was white stuff coming out of the sky. And I thought wow look at that started hating it, they were right. The mid-west is different and you learn to adjust and to adapt to what's going on. I was very active with students and that's also the time period a lot of things, people were getting shot and I knew a lot of them. I got to meet their moms andkids out of jail.Annje, don't come to class today I stayed there in the speech communications department, I designed and developed some classes for them, programs, the first of its kind in the US that would teach students on campus, students that were not supposed to succeed and they brought them in and we designed a program. I lost two students, I had 27 students – one went to jail and the other one dropped out – all the rest were successful students. They were not supposed to succeed and they did..... African American students.

S: Were they African American?

A: Yes, all of them, inner city Chicago, hard core inner city and once again it was a shock to me because I live in Chula Vista – I've never seen anything look like this before in my life. The school saw something in me and they said I'd like to have you take this project on and so I did.college there, and they were