



Heyman Jones Oral History Interview

Ashley Minner Jones

October 22, 2024

Dundalk, Maryland

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Field Notes

Interviewee: Heyman Jones (HJ)

Age: 87

Sex: Male

Occupation: Retired General Motors Worker

Residence: Dundalk, Maryland

Tribal Affiliation: Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

Interviewer: Ashley Minner Jones [AMJ]

Location of Interview: Dundalk, Maryland

Date of Interview: October 22, 2024

Time of Interview: 1:00 PM ET

Transcriber: Ashley Minner Jones

Key Words

Pembroke, Baltimore, Dundalk, Key Bridge, Harpers Ferry, Lumbee, Red Banks, Lumberton, Key Bridge, General Motors, UAW, union, Queen City Drywall, Dayton, farming, cotton, tobacco, plowing, family, parade, Linda's Restaurant, work, mules, horses, church, singing, South Broadway Baptist Church, Robeson County, Indian Center, gardening, barbeque, molasses, parade, racing, car shows

Abstract

Heyman "Jonesey" Jones (Lumbee) is an 87-year-old retired General Motors worker who resides in Dundalk, Maryland. He was born in Robeson County, North Carolina. He came to Baltimore for work in 1959. He recalls his childhood, farming tobacco and cotton with his large family. He could "plow a mule" when he was 5 years old. He speaks fondly of his hard-working and religious parents, whom he revered. Heyman drives back to visit with family and friends in North Carolina multiple times a year, and rides with his brother in a convertible in the annual Lumbee Homecoming parade. He leads an active life, singing in the choir at South Broadway Baptist, participating in car shows, going to see races, and traveling with his wife. A proud

member of the UAW [United Auto Workers] Local 239, he still attends his monthly union meetings to visit with friends from General Motors. He is known for knowing a lot of people, which has earned him the nickname "Mayor of Dundalk." He hopes that more people will return to South Broadway Baptist Church. He describes himself as an ordinary man who has no enemies and who will do what he can to help his neighbors.

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Transcript

Ashley Minner Jones [AMJ]: [00:00:01] Hello, my name is Ashley Minner Jones. It is October 22, 2024, and I have come to interview an amazing person for *Beyond Baltimore Street*, our oral history and photo documentary project that celebrates the vibrant, fascinating, everyday lives [00:00:16] of Baltimore Lumbee elders. What is your name, sir?

Heyman Jones [HJ]: My name's Heyman Jones and I'm from Pembroke, North Carolina. I come to Baltimore in 1959.

AMJ: How would you explain who you are to someone who doesn't know you?

HJ: Well, I would go back [00:00:31] to my... tell 'em where I'm from, and my family, the church I went to, and all my family in North Carolina. And I know they would know my father, Singin' Wiley Jones, and uh... All my family lives in North Carolina. They got horses... Linda's, [00:00:46] the restaurant—they would know her by that, she's my cousin. And Randall Jones, he got the golf carts and Southern States in uh... Pembroke. They would know him. That's my nephew. So I'm sure they will find out who my father was. They look up Singin' [00:01:01] Wiley Jones.

AMJ: Are you a singer?

HJ: I try to sing, but I can't sing like my father. But I sing in the choir, at uh... uh... South Broadway Baptist Church, with Miss Linda Cox. And I've been singing there for about... I guess... about 15–20 [00:01:16] years, now. I really enjoy it.

AMJ: Uh... Your father had a famous nickname. What was it?

HJ: Singin' Wiley Jones. He would sing in the men's chorus for like 50 years. He died when he was 93 years old. He sang till he was 90 years old, had [00:01:31] good health.

AMJ: So tell us a little bit more about where you're from.

HJ: Well, I grew up in Pembroke, right next to Red Banks, where they had *Strike at the Wind*. I was 2 miles from Pembroke, and uh...I'd be workin' in the farm, go [00:01:46] to school that mornin'... If I workin' in the field, I'd have to walk to school, cause I wasn't... time to catch the school bus. So it was 2 miles to school. So I plowed a mule, for a acre of ground, early in the mornin', then walk to school, and then catch [00:02:01] the bus back home. Then back in uh... '56, I left uh... Pembroke and when to Dayton, Ohio. Stayed there for a year and a half. And I got homesick and went back to Pembroke. So I started farmin' with [my] father again. I didn't like pickin' cotton, [00:02:16] so that's when I left. In May of '59, I come to Baltimore, worked at General Motor for 32 years. Retired in 1991 from General Motors.

AMJ: What were you doing in Dayton?

HJ: Queen City Drywall. They was 18 guys from 'round [00:02:31] my hometown in Pembroke was workin' there, in a boardin' house. And uh... 'bout 3 guys I know of that's still livin' they would work—I see 'em when I go to North Carolina.

AMJ: Did you like drywall or General Motors better?

HJ: I liked General Motors better, but when [00:02:46] I first went there, I was making \$2.54 an hour. That's what I was makin'. And the first check I got was \$80. And I loved it. I never saw so much money workin' for one week. But I was homesick, but I stuck it out. [00:03:01] And I'm glad I did, but I wanted to move back to North Carolina, but... every Friday, when I got that check, it looked real good. And uh... When I went back home, the first time I went home, I

showed my father that check I had for \$82. He couldn't believe I made [00:03:16] that much money in a—a week. But uh... that's why I stuck it out for 32 years.

AMJ: Was your dad sad when you left home?

HJ: Well, when I left home the first time, back in '56, he had went to church [00:03:31] that Sunday evenin'. [They] have a... trainin' union every Sunday evenin' at church. And when he come home from church that Sunday evenin', I was on my way to Ohio. He didn't know I was leavin'. And he said if I come ba—when I come back home, he was goin... [laughter] [00:03:46] He was gonna whip me for leavin' home. And I come home 2 times at Pembroke and I wouldn't step my father's. I's scared to go home. So about... a year after I was gone, I come back and I finally went home and stayed with my father. But he was sad because I was the oldest one of the children. They was [00:04:01] 7 of us, 4 boys and 3 girls. And I was the oldest, and I was the one to kind of help him out on the farm. But I didn't like farmin'. And I had a chance to go make a better livin' for myself and that's why I left the farm.

AMJ: That must have been really scary.

HJ: It was scary. It was scary. [00:04:16] And I had a good father and I... I's afraid of my father. And uh... I never sassed my father because I know he's a real religious man, Christian man. But a... good man, so. Yeah, I respect my father till the day he passed away.

AMJ: [00:04:31] Did he ever catch up with you for leavin'?

HJ: [laughter] You know, when I finally come back home, he had moved over there to Mr. Burleigh Lowry's. That's where he moved when I come back home in '57. But he didn't say one word to me about leavin' home. He never named it and I didn't name it. [00:04:46] So everything was cool...yeah, till I come to Baltimore. But when I come back home from Baltimore, he was always glad to see me because he had a garden. He had retired at the time. In '73, he quit farmin', just bought him a little house and a farm [00:05:01] and he had a garden. I'd always help him work on the garden, go plow his collards and everything and God, boy he would love to see me

come home. He said, when I come home, "I'll get something done now cause Heyman's home." So we'd go out and work in the garden.

AMJ: And... I noticed a lot of people don't [00:05:16] know your name is Heyman. What do people call you?

HJ: Everybody in Baltimore calls me Jonesy, but when I go... If anybody up here calls me Heyman, I say they know me from North Carolina, cause everybody up here knows me from Jonesy. And when I go to Carolina, people down [00:05:31] there, what—Some of 'em now, since so many people call me Jonesy, they say, "Jonesey's home!" But then some of the older people that I grew up with, they still call me Heyman, my first name.

AMJ: Are you named for anybody?

HJ: My mother named me after the Bible. [00:05:46] I'm tryin' to think what verse it was...the third ch—uh, was it... But she named me out of—out of the Bible. That's where she got my name. Yep, she got my name out of the Bible.

AMJ: Were you real close to your mom?

HJ: Yeah, I was. [00:06:04] I was, real close to my mother. No matter where we were goin', my mother would always make sure we were clean. Everything we wore was ironed. She would iron our clothes. We'd go to church, we'd have a white shirt on, our shorts, anything like that... me and my brother, she'd dressed up. She'd be proud of us. Everybody'd say.... And my mother, [00:06:19] when she washed clothes—and she had the old washboard—and everything we wore, even our handkerchiefs, my mother ironed everything we wore and our handkerchiefs. And there's 7 of us. But she made sure we's a clean. We didn't have much money, but everything we wore was clean. Yep.

AMJ: [00:06:34] That's a big job, just the laundry. Was she farmin' too?

HJ: She worked on the farm. And sometime be work... We'd be workin' on the farm, when it was time for dinner, she'd stay on the farm some time, my father'd go home and cook dinner. And my mother'd stay out there in the field workin' [00:06:49] Cause my father was a good cook, too. My father... his—his father passed away and his mother, when he was a young boy. And he had to raise his brothers and he had 1 sister. So he raised his brothers and his sister. So he learned to do all that around the house, cook, [00:07:04] take care of a family.

AMJ: Did you learn to cook?

HJ: Well, [laughter] not really. Not really. I could cook what I needed to cook, but uh...I wasn't no good cook. So I could fix breakfast. So...

AMJ: If you could think of one [00:07:19] meal that your mom or your dad made that you really miss or you love still, what is it?

HJ: Well, uh... best thing my mother ever cooked, like on Sunday? If the preacher was comin' home with us from church? She'd always have chocolate cakes, pineapple [00:07:34] cakes and pies. Every Sun—and chicken. My mother was a good cook and my sister was a good cook. She lives in High Point. And she would cook that banana puddin' and pies just like my mother did, but she passed away November a year ago. [00:07:49] But she was the good cook of the family.

AMJ: And which sister was this?

HJ: Her name was Marsha, Marsha Adkins. She lived in High Point. And she passed away last year, 73 years old. She'd been sick for a while. She had sugar.

AMJ: High [00:08:04] Point was known for furniture, right?

HJ: Right. High Point for maple furni... A friend of mine up here... It's been 25 years ago... I worked with him part-time. He was buying furniture up here in Baltimore, right here on Wise

[00:08:19] Avenue, and my sister worked at the furniture place in High Point. And she got him... um... furniture there, and had it delivered here. He'd go buy it here in Baltimore.

AMJ: Wow.

HJ: And delivered here, too. He brung it, set it up in the house.

AMJ: [00:08:34] Yeah. That's...quality stuff, American-made stuff too, right?

HJ: Right. It was, yep. Yeah, she worked there for years. Yeah. Her and my other sister Lavonia, she worked there, too before she moved into uh... Spartanburg, South Carolina.

AMJ: [00:08:49] Are you only—only one of your siblings that came to Baltimore?

HJ: Yeah, I come to Baltimore. My two sisters went to High Point and my brother went to... uh South Carolina. He lived at Charlotte for about five years, then back in '65, [00:09:04] he moved to uh... Darlington. He farmed all his life, then he finally sold his farm and bought a gas station for about 20 years. Then he retired. His name was Rod Jones. Everybody knows him, too. He's been with Shriners there in Darlington for 50 [00:09:19] years. He just got his pin couple a months ago.

AMJ: This is the guy you always ride in the Lumbee parade with.

HJ: Always ride in the convertible. That's my brother. He's 2 years younger than me. Yeah, yeah he's... I always ride with him in a convertibles in a parade, so I can see all my family, [00:09:34] all my cousins.

AMJ: I know we always look for you.

HJ: Yeah, I enjoy seein' everybody. That's why I like ridin' in parade. I to get to see... if I stay in one place, I don't see everybody. But I got to see a lot of my family, people I grew up with, went to school with, and farm with, [00:09:49] that's still livin'.

AMJ: When were you born? When's your birthday?

HJ: 1937.

AMJ: And where were you born?

HJ: In Robeson County, right across the river from Harpers Ferry Baptist Church. I's born right on the river in 1937, May.

AMJ: [00:10:04] Did your parents tell you the story of how you were born?

HJ: Not really. They didn't, but uh... I knew I's the only one born, and then after my other... after we moved... I was born, 2 years old, we moved over to close to Red Banks. We [00:10:19] stayed there till my father moved from there in '56.

AMJ: Why were you guys movin' so much?

HJ: My daddy was a farmer, sharecropper... farmer. And back then, he worked for different ones farmin'. He might stay at one place 4 or 5 years, [00:10:34] then talk to another somebody... one of the church members, somebody that had a farm. They'd make a deal, he'd farm tryin' to better hisself. That's what he did. The last year he farmed, he lived right there at Preacher Tommy Swett's. He rented a farm from [00:10:49] him and that's where he was livin' when I got married in 19... uh... 66.

AMJ: Did he ever get a really good deal?

HJ: Well, he did. Yes, he did. Yeah, he was a sharecropper, but he—he loved his cotton and tobacco. [00:11:04] That's what he mostly liked is... farm his cotton and tobacco. That's where he made most his money.

AMJ: Tell me again, what was it like when you were growin' up?

HJ: Uh... Well, when I was growin' up all our family, we worked together. [00:11:19] My uncles... we all farmed together. They didn't pay us and we didn't pay them. They would help us work on a—a Saturday, a Monday, and when we got done pickin' cotton we'd go help them pick cotton, same way croppin' tobacco. [00:11:34] So that's the way it was. We'd farm every day, except on a Saturday work a half day. My daddy didn't work on Sunday. But now if we had to crop tobacco on a Monday mornin', after 12:00, we'd get up, take out a bacca barn, so we could put [00:11:49] a bacca barn in the next day, croppin' it. So... Daddy did nothing but farm.

AMJ: And you didn't like it.

HJ: No, I did not care for farming. I says I want a better... somethin' better than farmin'. My-my daddy was a har... and he loved farmin'. He loved farmin'. [00:12:04] So...he never complained.

AMJ: What was so bad about it?

HJ: [laughter] Pickin' cotton. Pickin' cotton, croppin' tobacco and wasn't makin' no money. It was hard work. But the older people back in that day, [00:12:19] they never complained.

AMJ: How old were you when you started workin'?

HJ: 5 years old, started plowin' a mule when I was 5 years old. What's it called splittin' middles. I was 5 years old. I could plow a mule.

AMJ: What splittin' a middle?

HJ: That's when you're goin' [00:12:34] between two cotton... You had a hill right in the middle, You call it sidin' cotton or corn, sidin' it. Then you had one in the middle. That's when the mule walked on top of the... uh... middle. And you had a split middle, you split that middle, and level it off between the rows [00:12:49] of cotton or corn or tobacco.

AMJ: Did you get along with the mules?

HJ: [laughter] I love mules. I always loved mules. And I could work a mule. Yeah. And I always... Back when uh... my uncle had a horse... pretty horse. [00:13:04] I used to see him come by the school with this horse, pullin' this little cart. And uh... He was a heavyset guy. That was my daddy's brother. His name was Uncle Doc Jones. And we had two mules, and Uncle Doc told me one day, say, [00:13:19] "Heyman, if you'll bring one of those mules over here and give me," says, "I'll give you that horse." Daddy went fishin' one afternoon. When Daddy come back, I had took that mule and give it to my daddy's brother, [00:13:34] Uncle Doc. When Daddy got home, I had that horse, pretty horse. When I left home, we still had that horse. And daddy liked that horse. I would ride him and farm with him. I even bought a saddle to put on him, but... Yep. Horse named Nell. Had that [00:13:49] horse about 20 years.

AMJ: Could you still ride today?

HJ: Well, I got pictures where I was just ridin' last.. uh this year. I was ridin' horses down Carolina cause my nephew still got horses. When I go down, I still ride.

AMJ: And how old are you today?

HJ: 87. [00:14:05] The Lord's been good to me.

AMJ: 87 and fit as a fiddle, America. So you said work brought you to Baltimore. What was it like when you got here?

HJ: When I come to Baltimore, they wasn't many people here from [00:14:20] North Carolina. I come up here... uh... Jeff Maynor come here in '58. He come down home in '59, drivin' a new Impala Chevrolet, a new '59. He says, "Heyman, if you'll go with me back to Baltimore, he says, [00:14:35] "I'll get you a job at General Motors." And his sister was livin' right here on Gray Place Road, there in Gray Haven. That's where she was livin'. So I come up here on a... Sunday, went to General Motors that Monday, put a application in, and went to work that Wednesday. [00:14:50] I've been there ever since. And uh... He stayed here for two years after I got here. He moved back to Nor—North Carolina. Wayne Maynor, his father, was a schoolteacher. And uh... me and him would go down home. We'd leave work [00:15:05] at 12:30 at night, we'd be in... home before he even went to school that mornin' to teach school. He'd still be in the field workin'. We'd be home before daylight. 'Bout every other weekend, we'd go back to North Carolina.

AMJ: He didn't care for it up here?

HJ: No. Well, [00:15:20] he was married at the time, and she wouldn't come to Baltimore. And he moved back down home to satisfy her. Then, after about 10 years, they separated. He finally got married again, but he passed away last year.

AMJ: Aw. What was your [00:15:35] job at GM [General Motors]?

HJ: I worked on the truck line in 19... I come up here in '59. I worked on the truck line and uh... I knew all the operation on a... It was rough at times, but I learned all the operations. They call it a utility man. You made a nickel [00:15:50] more than the other guys on the line was makin'. So we started a second shift in uh... '66. The uh... supervisor say, "If you'll go with me to shift to get a truck line started second shift," he says, "I'll make you a utility [00:16:05] man." And I went and stayed one week. When I went back to daylight, from then on till I retired, I had [laughter] I had a really a good job. But I worked my way up to a good job. It were hard. It was rough when I first come up here. It was hard [00:16:20] work at the time.

AMJ: Did you ever feel like quitting?

HJ: It crossed my mind a many a time, but when you got that paycheck, it changed your mind. It changed your mind. But onest I learned all the jobs, workin' a lot of overtime, workin' on a weekend, repairman, and all that stuff, [00:16:35] we's makin' good money, back in that day.

AMJ: And it ended up... There were a lot of Indians workin' with you, right?

HJ: I had a lotta guys that [I'd] bring up here and get 'em a job... And at the time, they had quite a few of us workin' at General Motors. [00:16:50] All the Pevia boys and uh... a lot of em and... I got four or five different ones jobs. They'd come back for me and work maybe a month, two months. They'd quit and go back home, wouldn't come—come back up, you know. They didn't want to come back up here. But they'd—at the time, when I left, there's [00:17:05] quite a few Indians still working at General Motors.

AMJ: What was it like working there? Was it like fun to be with the people, or hard or...?

HJ: Well, it was hard work, but you got along with each other, back in that day. Back in the '50s and '60s, we're all work together. [00:17:20] If somebody needed help, we'd all work together. Just like if I was—I love racin'. For 20 years, I'd go to Daytona, every year for Speed Week. And sometime, I'd leave early on a—on a Friday [00:17:35] to go to Dover, to the races... The guys, they'd help me out to get my job done, so I can leave early. But we'd all work together, was like one big, happy family. And when I retired in '91, I'm—That's what I miss, workin' with the guys. [00:17:50] On the truck line, we had a good crew.

AMJ: I know you still go to your union meetings, right?

HJ: Yep. I still go to the union meetings once a month and see how all the guys that I worked... Quite a few of 'em has passed away, but still I see a lot of them that I worked with over the years, [00:18:05] they're still living.

AMJ: And what is your union?

HJ: UAW 239. Oldham Street.

AMJ: How did you feel when you first got here? What was your reaction to Baltimore?

HJ: Well, when I's in [00:18:20] Ohio, I kind of got used to being away from home, but when I come to Baltimore, it was a different world. And uh... I didn't know anybody up here. Quite a few of 'em and I... When I lived here in Gray Haven, I got to know a lot of people, [00:18:35] got to know a lot of friends 'cause I'm some—I worked with Queen City Drywall, buildin' those houses over here on uh... Harold Road? I worked with them part-time, got to know a lot of people. When I worked at still at General Motors, I'd work in the mornin' with them, three or four hours, then go [00:18:50] to work the evening at General Motors and got to know a lot of people. But by being in Dundalk all these years, I know so many people, they started calling me the Mayor of Dundalk. But... I knew a lot of people around Dundalk and I's from the south and I had a [00:19:05] lot of friends. Yep. I never met a stranger. Always had somebody to talk to.

AMJ: Yeah, I think you might be mostly famous for knowing everybody.

HJ: W—well, [laughter] they say that—a lot of my friends call me Mayor of Dundalk. [00:19:20] If there's anybody around that I don't know, I will get to know 'em, so... yep.

AMJ: Not only that, I notice every time somebody comes up, you even know, like, their family, like generations of their family and how they're related and if you don't [00:19:35] right away, by the next time I see you, you know. How do you... know all that? How do you keep it straight in your head?

HJ: Well, by bein' in North Carolina, what's a...? I had such a big family. I had family live in Lumberton, all around Red [00:19:50] Springs, Maxton... And by my father havin' a big family, my mother come from a big family, Dr. Fuller Lowry... Everybody knew him. That was my mother's uncle. And uh... He's one of the first uh... doctors at [00:20:05] the college down Pembroke, Dr. Fuller Lowry. And Uncle Billy Lowry? They all lived to be 100 years old. And

my grandmother, when she turned 100, back in the '80s, she got a birthday card from [United States President Jimmy] Carter. She was 100 years old. [00:20:20] That was my grandmother, my mother's mother, was a—so I knew a lot of people, a lot of people.

AMJ: So... when most of the Indians came to Baltimore, they moved right to that part of the city where the Indian Center and the church still is. How come you didn't?

HJ: [00:20:35] Well, I... I wasn't a city person and I heard a lot of rumors of what was going on up there. I knew some of those guys, but I might go up there ev—every once while, but that wasn't no place to hang. I always stayed in Dundalk 'cause I wasn't a guy lookin' for trouble, [00:20:50] and I—I know how my father raised me, and he kept me... That's what kept me out of a lot of trouble. My father was a religious man. He brung me up in church. I knew where I come from, so... that helped me a lot.

AMJ: Where did you first [00:21:05] live when you got here?

HJ: Gray... Gray Place, right there off of... uh... North Boundary Road. That's why I's stayin,' for two years.

AMJ: And where do you live now?

HJ: I live right now on Fairgreen Road.

AMJ: [00:21:20] And how did you come to live here?

HJ: I met a friend of mine way back in 1960...'61. I's goin' to uh... uptown, 'cause... some reason, I don't know. I had a '58 Ford convertible. It mighta been... [00:21:35] '60, '61 or '62. And I saw this young lady standin' beside the road. I didn't know who she was but I knew she's a Lum[bee]. I stopped and talked to her. And uh... just talkin' to her, asked if she wanted to take a ride to Dundlak. She'd never been to Dundalk before. [00:21:50] So she got in the convertible, we rode to Dundalk, down Liberty Parkway, see the azaleas and everything. That was on a Saturday

evenin'. And then we went back. I found out later, she was stayin' with her mother, but I didn't see her no more till... [00:22:05] it probably 20... 25 years. Come to find that that's who my wife is now. [laughter] That's Miss Jeanette Walker Jones. But that was back in '60 or '61.

AMJ: And how long have you been married?

HJ: [00:22:20] July comin' up'll be 9 years. But we met in church, by singin' in a choir. That's how we met. We used—used to get together up there at the Indian Center on a Thursday, all get together. And we got to where [00:22:35] we'd meet up there, and I got to know a lot of the Indians I really didn't know until we started goin' to the Indian Center up there... to get together on Thursday. And she would come up there. If she had to go to town or something to get a permit for parkin' for the homecomin' or somethin, she'd always come by and get me [00:22:50] to go up there, and drive her up, and drive her back. And uh... I don't know why she always picked me. Said she could always trust me, so if she'd ask me to do something, I'd try to help her. So... yeah. Been good friends.

AMJ: How [00:23:05] was livin' in Baltimore whe—when you got here, or now, or anytime... How's Baltimore... living here different than how you grew up?

HJ: It's a lot different, a lot different. When I—where I grew up, you knew everybody. You knew everybody. You see [00:23:20] a car going down the road, you knew who it was. When I first come to Baltimore, I was so used—when I see somebody comin', I's drivin' a car, I just [waves] wave at everybody, everybody. And uh... I got that habit up here of doin' the same thing and I [00:23:35] said all these people don't know me. And so they'll think I'm givin' 'em the wrong finger, so I quit doin' it. But I had the habit... had my hand on the steerin' wheel... just you wave at 'em, let 'em say hi to you or somethin' like that. Give 'em that gesture.

AMJ: Do you still keep in touch with other [00:23:50] Lumbee people in North Carolina?

HJ: A lot of 'em, a lot of 'em. I go down there, see all my family gets together, July the 4th, Easter, and Thanksgivin'. I go down there four or five times a year. All my family.

AMJ: [00:24:05] Yeah, how do you get to North Carolina from here?

HJ: [laughter] It ain't easy! It is a lot harder than it used to be... Right now, on account of the Key Bridge goin' out, bein' out, I hate goin' because right—used to I could leave here and be on [U.S. Rt.] 301 [00:24:20] in 30 minutes. Now it takes you 49 minutes to a hour, since the Key Bridge has gone out. When I go, I drive. And I love drivin'. Any place I go, I'm behind the wheel. So it's... I don't mind drivin'—Used to, I'd leave here 2:30 in the mornin' by myself. [00:24:35] I'd be at my cousin's uh... restaurant... Lee Hunt had moved down there, [I] worked with him down the plant, I'd tell him when I was comin'. They'd be at Linda's Restaurant, 8:30 in the mornin', 'bout 5 or 6 people there waitin' on me to have breakfast, right by myself.

AMJ: [00:24:50] Yeah, tell us a little bit about Linda's. What was that place like?

HJ: Linda's where everybody—all the family—it was a family get-together. I'd go there some time at 8:30 in the mornin', then my sisters, they—they would come in, they'd get there about 9:30, [00:25:05] 10 o'clock. Sometime we'd stay there, I'd have breakfast and lunch. It'd be 2 or 3 o'clock when I'd leave there. But just a family get-together and—and Linda was a good person, too. Yeah, a good person. That was a family atmosphere.

AMJ: And it—it was a restaurant. [00:25:20] Where was it?

HJ: Right out of Pembroke on the right, headed toward Lumberton. Yep. A—a nice restaurant. It's a shame she had to sell it and close it up about 4 years ago, but it really a nice family restaurant, had good food, good—good barbeque, Revels Barbeque, [00:25:35] and that Revel's Barbecue was my cousin's barbeque that made... my mother's cousin.

AMJ: So where's the spot now? Where do you go now?

HJ: [laughter] Hardee's. [laughter]

AMJ: What do you get at Hardee's?

HJ: We always [00:25:50] go there and get a sausage and egg biscuit at Hardee's, then we go to uh... Every once in a while, Linda works there at the railroad track, at Kay's? She has them cookin'. They have good food there, too. We go there and get buffet once or twice when we're down there, but they don't have the restaurant like they had [00:26:05] when Linda's there.

AMJ: Do you keep in touch with other Lumbee people in Baltimore?

HJ: Yes, I do.

AMJ: Why? How?

HJ: Well [laughter] because see a lot of 'em at church, then by me being married to my wife, Jeanette? She [00:26:20] know more people than I did because she been up here for a long time, she always worked with the Indian Center, with the pow wow. I met a lot of people through her, by me and—and her together, then I knew before we got married.

AMJ: Do you see [00:26:35] other Indian people pretty much every day?

HJ: Just about every day. Some lives right across the street from me.

AMJ: [laughter]

HJ: Yep. One lady lives across the street from me. When she was a young girl, 15... 16 years old, we used—used to go out dancin' on Saturday evenin'. I had a '61 [00:26:50] Chevrolet convertible. And that was your mother! We'd go out dancin', I could throw her over my shoulder. We enjoyed ourselves. Yeah.

AMJ: Yeah, I was thinkin' when you were dancin' with Alice at the crab feast, that's 3 generations.

HJ: [laughter] That's right. Yeah, you're right. [00:27:05] Yep... Yeah, that was back in '64 and '65.

AMJ: Wow.

HJ: Yep.

AMJ: Ok, so do you think you picked up on anything in Baltimore that changed the way you talk or eat, or dress... anything [00:27:20] different 'cause you moved up here?

HJ: Not really, not really. I tell people I talk worser now since I come to Baltimore than I did before. But uh... I dress just like I always did. My mother always made us dress good and [00:27:35] I'm always been a neat person, always has been. And 'cause I know from workin'... work hard and... hard to get your money, when you buy somethin' and what you get, you tried to take care of it, and respect it. [00:27:50] That's the way I always has been. So that's why anything I got, I don't care how old it is, I try to keep it—my cars, my trucks, anything I drive because I know how hard it was to get it, and I try to keep it clean and anything I got. [00:28:05] I take care of it.

AMJ: Do you eat crabs?

HJ: No ma'am. [laughter] I don't even like crab soup. [laughter]

AMJ: Yeah, had to ask because everybody I ask that question they're like, "Oh yeah, crab cakes."

HJ: Crab cakes, I love crab cakes! [00:28:20] I'll eat a crab cake, but now crabs... or steamed shrimp? No way.

AMJ: Even after you lived here for a long time, when you went back to North Carolina, did anybody tell you [you] talk different or look different or...?

HJ: No, they didn't tell me I talked [different], [00:28:35] but everybody seed me there say I look like I did 30 years ago. Yep. My two brothers is younger than me, they both bald-headed, don't have any hair. And uh... I'm the oldest, and I still got some hair on my head, but uh... I'm a still the [00:28:50] same old Heyman Jones.

AMJ: Do you notice anything in North Carolina that's um... different because of Baltimore? Like you get down there and you notice, "Oh, that's because people came home from Baltimore?"

HJ: [00:29:05] Not really, not really.

AMJ: What kind of things did you do in North Carolina that you still do in Baltimore? Things that you brought with you... like, do you still... garden? Or do you still...?

HJ: I was gardenin' there for [00:29:20] a while, me and Bro. Anthony [Dial], but two years ago, we's out there in the garden, it was 100 degrees. And I thought about what I used to do down North Carolina this year, and uh... I changed my mind about gardenin'. [00:29:35] I says, "Ain't no way I'm gonna be workin' out here in this garden at 100 degrees when I can go to the store and we don't cook—

AMJ: [laughter]

HJ: —me and my wife—we don't cook that much more, anymore." But I—I gave it up. But we first—for about three or four years, we would garden here, had collards, [00:29:51] cabbage, and all kind of vegetables out in the garden.

AMJ: So, like, what foods do you eat that you always ate, that people don't know about here?

HJ: Collards... I would love coll—any kind of vegetable. I'm a vegetable man. [00:30:06] As long as you got vegetables on the table... If I go to Cracker Barrel, that's all I eat, vegetables. 'Cause I can eat meat any time, but I'm a very vegetable man. And cornbread, love it. And if I can

get to the uh... Cracker Barrel and get some of the banana puddin' [00:30:21] and chocolate cakes, and... I'm always got ice cream here. Still love ice cream like I always did.

AMJ: What about the grandma molasses, Uncle Jonesy?

HJ: I still keep that in the frigerat—in the cabinet. I got some here now. [00:30:36] Yep, the original. Covington's. I always got my molasses. Anytime my wife cook biscuits, I got molasses on a plate.

AMJ: Did you eat that as a kid?

HJ: Loved it, love—we'd come home from school, get off the school bus, [00:30:51] go to the house, my mother'd have cold biscuits, from breakfast? You take a finger, put a hole in that biscuit, and pour that grandma molasses in there with a glass of Buttermilk and go to the field and work till it got dark. [00:31:06] And I loved it. Yep.

AMJ: What do you like to do for fun these days?

HJ: I like to go to car shows. But me and my wife goes out a lot. We like to do a lot of travelin' and thing... But I'm always doin' something. I don't stay still, I'm always busy doin' [00:31:21] somethin', but if it's a car show or something like that, and get together with my friends, go out. So... I try to keep somethin' goin' all the time.

AMJ: Is it any car shows comin' up?

HJ: Uh... I think we got one in a couple weeks, here at Watersedge.

AMJ: [00:31:36] Are you going to be in the car show?

HJ: If they have one, I'm always got my little truck in there. I got a new little '83 Chevrolet S10 truck. Got 8... uh... 56 thousand original miles on it, like new inside and out.

AMJ: Does the truck have a name?

HJ: [00:31:51] Yeah, Little Blue, [laughter] Little Blue.

AMJ: What do you think the Indian Community in Baltimore will be like in 10 or 20 years?

HJ: Uh... It's hard to say, the way things [00:32:06] are goin' now, the way things is goin' now. A lot of things happenin' up the city shouldn't be happenin', and somethin' great's gotta happen to change it all around. 'Cause nobody seemed like they don't care what's going on, they just turn their head the other way. [00:32:21] They don't worry about it. So uh... If something don't change, its gonna be rough, it's gonna be rough. And the last 20 years, it's a lot different now than it was 20 years ago.

AMJ: Well, what do you hope for the Indian Community of Baltimore?

HJ: I hope that we can get together [00:32:36] and keep gettin' people back to church. We need people back at Broadway. 'Cause right now, Sunday at church, we had 19 people. And we got a new pastor coming up here. And he's hopin' he can help build the church back up, and seem like he's gonna be a good [00:32:51] man. We need the people to come back to church to see what he sound like and try to help out the church, to build a church like it was. 20 years ago, when we had our homecoming? We'd have a full—people up in the balcony. We had two or three hundred people, so that's what we [00:33:06] need.

AMJ: Is there anything you'd like the young people in the community to hear from you?

HJ: That I'm just a [laughter] I'm just a ordinary man, just a ordinary man... Anybody I can help, I try to [00:33:21] do it. I try to do it. Anybody need anything, ask the whole anywhere I always stayed, all the neighbor, all the people always count on me if they needed anything. They'd always ask. They knew if they need anything, I'd be willin' to help 'em.

AMJ: [00:33:36] Is there anything else you'd like to tell the world?

HJ: I'm... just tell the world I'm 87 years old and the Lord has been good to me, and I don't have no enemies. And I always like to treat people like I was treated. [00:33:52] That's the way—that's the way I'm gonna leave it.

AMJ: You did a great job...

HJ: [laughter]

AMJ: You killed it!

HJ: [laughter]

HJ: Yeah, you've been on me to do this for the last 20 years. [laughter]

AMJ: You did it!