



Carl Locklear Oral History Interview

Ashley Minner Jones

January 27, 2025

Aberdeen, Maryland

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Field Notes

Interviewee: Carl Locklear [CL]

Age: 81

Sex: Male

Occupation: Retired Concrete Worker

Residence: Aberdeen, Maryland

Tribal Affiliation: Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

Interviewer: Ashley Minner Jones [AMJ]

Location of Interview: Aberdeen, Maryland

Date of Interview: January 27, 2025

Time of Interview: 12:00 PM ET

Transcribers: Magdelene Jones and Austin Abistado

Key Words

Robeson County, East Baltimore, Broadway, Prospect, Lumbee, tobacco, farming, Aberdeen, concrete, tree service, Southern, flour bread, Baltimore, cow tongue, mules, The Moonlight, community, neighbors, Native American, Lumbee Homecoming, family, culture, church, cotton

Abstract

Carl Locklear (Lumbee) is an 81-year-old retired concrete worker. He has lived in Aberdeen, Maryland since 1984. Carl grew up in Prospect, North Carolina, on a 78-acre farm, where his family grew tobacco and cotton. He did not like school and did not want to continue working on the farm, so he got a job when he was 16 years old, doing tree service in Greensboro, North Carolina, prior to migrating to Baltimore. In Baltimore, Carl remembers spending time in the Indian community, especially at The Moonlight restaurant and the Volcano Bar. Now he enjoys working on his property in Aberdeen and gardening. He makes it a point to care for the people around him and in return people care for him. He likes to joke around and visit with friends, and

he enjoys going to his local VFW to dance on Friday nights. Carl keeps in touch with other Lumbee people in North Carolina and Baltimore through community events. He is optimistic that Natives will return to the part of Baltimore once known as "the reservation" and emphasizes that even though the neighborhood is more dangerous today, it will always be a Native place. Carl advises young people to get a good job and stay out of trouble.

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[00:25:07] Carl describes how North Carolina has been influenced by Baltimore, and ways in which he has or hasn't been influenced by Baltimore.

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[00:27:57] Carl explains his predictions, hopes, and advice for the future Native community in Baltimore.

Transcript

Ashley Minner Jones [AMJ]: [00:00:01] Hello, my name is Ashley Minner Jones. It is February 4, 2025 and I've 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?

Carl Locklear [CL]: Carl Locklear.

[AMJ]: And where are you from?

[CL]: Um North Carolina.

[AMJ]: Where in North Carolina?

[CL]: Robeson County.

[AMJ]: And [00:00:31] um, if you were meetin' somebody for the first time, how would you explain who you are?

[CL]: I-I'd just tell 'em my name's uh Carl Locklear, I'ma North Carolina, where you from? All that.

[AMJ]: When were you born?

[CL]: When I's born? 1943.

[AMJ]: [00:00:48] And tell me what it was like when you were growin' up.

[CL]: Oh, we—we were runnin' around there... ragamuffin. No clothes on. We were runnin' around there naked. Well, we—we would run around there naked, but I—I think I's [00:01:03] about five years old. And we never got shoes till wintertime. My mother go get us shoes for the... go to school and stuff. But we had a good time though we would get out there and play in them ol' mud holes, [00:01:18] pump water from the pump, make a mud hole, and get in there and play. [laughter] We'd have a ball.

[AMJ]: Did you grow up on a farm?

[CL]: A yeah. I's raised on a farm. We got 78 acres.

[AMJ]: That's a really big farm.

[CL]: [00:01:33] Pick cotton, tobacco, corn, peas. We had... We picked that by hand.

[AMJ]: You guys didn't have a tractor?

[CL]: Nah. Yeah... my mother got a tractor after I left home though. The [00:01:48] state give her a tractor 'cause she was crippled. Yeah, I, um... grewed up on a big farm there. We had a good

time. We'd get up every mornin', like picking cotton... muh—I hated pickin' cotton. Them ol' cotton worms'd sting you, God, and they hurt! [00:02:03] Mama'ed take that ol' chewin' tobacco and put it on there and they'd quit stingin' then, they'd... go on to work, now, and go back to pickin' cotton. Yep.

[AMJ]: How many brothers and sisters do you [00:02:18] have?

[CL]: Ah... six of we boys and five girls.

[AMJ]: Are you in the middle, or are you the oldest, or the baby...?

[CL]: Ah no, I'm, uh... in the middle.

[AMJ]: So all everybody [00:02:33] had to help on the farm?

[CL]: Oh yeah. Everybody get out there and pick cotton, crop tobacco... Had a mule out there and the crate, put 'bacca in there and take it to the barn, where they could hang it up.

[AMJ]: [00:02:49] Did you guys get to go to school every day?

[CL]: School? Oh yeah.

[AMJ]: Did you like school?

[CL]: No, I didn't like school.

[AMJ]: How come?

[CL]: I—It wasn't no fun in school.

[AMJ]: Why?

[CL]: They was too mean, they'd beat ya all the time. [00:03:04] Man and I mean they'd beat you with a paddle! I'm tellin' you.... That was hard. That's why I couldn't never learn nothin' on account of they'd beat you and... You was scared to do anything. We had a teacher named King—King David. Boy, he was [00:03:19] a mean devil. He'd sit by—he'd sit behind them desks and look at... be thinkin' he's looking at the book, he's lookin' dead atcha. Then he'd call you up there and make you lay across the... uh... desk and paddle ya, 'cause you're just talkin'. [00:03:34] Mean.

[AMJ]: Where did you go to school?

[CL]: Prospect.

[AMJ]: How far did you go?

[CL]: I went to the 8th grade.

[AMJ]: And then, how come you quit goin'?

[CL]: Well, I left home.

[AMJ]: When you were that young? [00:03:49]

[CL]: I left home 16 years old.

[AMJ]: Why?

[CL]: Because I didn't want nothin' to do with the farm. I went out and, uh, I got me a job and I... climbing trees, tree service. Then left that [00:04:04] and went to Greensboro. I got a job there, stayed in Greensboro for two years, then I came to Maryland. This is where I made my home.

[AMJ]: What made you decide to come to Maryland?

[CL]: I had a uncle up here and I'm went visitin'... [00:04:19] and uh... I decided to stay. I went up there, couple days later and got me a job, [a] dollar a hour. 1963.

[AMJ]: Where were you workin'?

[CL]: Huh?

[AMJ]: What was your job?

[CL]: Um, sandin' cars. [00:04:34]

[AMJ]: Was it at General Motors?

[CL]: No, in a body shop. That guy'd pay you a dollar a hour.

[AMJ]: Was it a good job?

[CL]: Oh yeah, I liked it. I—I—I stayed there about six months, ‘till I got what I wanted [00:04:49] it to be. Then I went to the tree service. I like that climbing...

[AMJ]: Yeah, I think one time you told me you were cutting right-of-way.

[CL]: Mhm.

[AMJ]: Can you tell me what that means?

[CL]: Right-of-way is uh... goin' through the swamps [00:05:04] where they got power lines goin' down through the woods, you cut out underneath of ‘em where no trees don’t grow up around the wires and stuff. I worked down in South Carolina doin' that.

[AMJ]: That sounds like a dangerous job.

[CL]: [00:05:19] Nah, it was alright. The onliest thing I didn't like, we'd run up on all them ol' rattlesnakes. And I killed—chopped a many a one up.

[AMJ]: How do you kill a rattlesnake?

[CL]: Take that bush hook and kill ‘em. Bap! Yes sir. [00:05:35] Man I tell ya, down there in South Carolina, woo, that place was loaded with rattlesnakes.

[AMJ]: Where were you in South Carolina?

[CL]: Let's see, uh... It—it—it was close to Myrtle Beach. It was close to Myrtle Beach, we's workin' around there.

[AMJ]: [00:05:50] Did you go there before you went to Greensboro?

[CL]: No, no. I—I come to Greensboro and then come there.

[AMJ]: And then you came to Baltimore?

[CL]: Yep. This is where I got on Baltimore Street. Got up here—I come up here on a [00:06:05] Monday and I got in here at midnight. God-a... We had to walk, me and my wife. And uh... people always say, when you come to Baltimore, go to Baltimore and Broadway. That's where you find the Indians. They'll tell you where to go. [00:06:20] My uncle live about... mmm, I'd say from the middle of them woods out there where I's staying, called The Moonlight. You heard tell of The Moonlight, right?

[AMJ] Yeah.

[CL] That's where all we Indians hung out at.

[AMJ]: What was good to eat at the Moonlight? [00:06:35]

[CL]: Oh they had... um... food 'bout like we have. Cause they know we eat that kind of food and they—and they cooked it for us all the time. That was a good—Moonlight was a good place. You could sit down and get a good meal, too [00:06:50] I—I stayed—I stayed with him about—'bout three days, found me apartment. Guy lent me um... \$30. Um, my uncle's um... wife's uh... niece let me borrow \$30, got me apartment, [00:07:06] got on my feet and went on to work.

[AMJ]: Where was your apartment?

[CL]: Down on Broadway.

[AMJ]: What was it like there?

[CL]: I liked it. I like it up there. Ni—they're nice apartments and stuff.

[AMJ]: Was it just you and your wife living there?

[CL]: Yeah. [00:07:21] Just me and her. Katherine! She was from uh... Lenore, North Carolina. She come up here with me.

[AMJ]: Did she like it?

[CL]: Oh, she liked it.

[AMJ]: Were you excited when you got to Baltimore?

[CL]: Oh yeah. I enjoyed it. Man... Man, I stayed [00:07:36] up all night.

[AMJ]: What were you doin' all night?

[CL]: Drinkin' beer, [laughing] drinkin' that beer.

[AMJ]: Where?

[CL]: Ah... where is it... up there at my uncle's apartment.

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[CL]: Yeah, man, I tell ya. Like I said, I—in a couple days I had [00:07:51] drank. And I said, “Nah, this ain’t for me. I want to get me a good job, get away from this place.” I worked my way out of there. When I got in trouble, I said, “I will get away from them Indians.” They was always instigatin'. I [00:08:06] said, “Well...” When I got outta that place, I went back home, say, for uh... I got out in uh... November the 20th, come back to Baltimore on my birthday. Man, I left my wife down there. I snuck [00:08:21] off and left her down there.

[AMJ]: Was she mad when she caught up to you?

[CL]: Woo, man. I's sittin' in the Moonlight [Restaurant] there. Boy, she comes bouncin' in there. She was a big woman, 6'1". Boy, she was mad, boy. “Yeah, you snuck off and left me down [00:08:36] there. I knew you’d come back to Baltimore.” [laughs]

[AMJ]: Mr. Charlie, cause the people listening, they can't see you... How tall are you?

[CL]: How tall? I’m 5... uh... 5’6".

[AMJ]: And how much do you [00:08:51] weigh?

[CL]: Right now... Matter of fact, I weighed, uh, last night, I weigh 160.

[AMJ]: Do you have any kind of nicknames?

[CL]: Nickname? Uh...

[AMJ]: What do the other Indians [00:09:06] up here call you?

[CL]: Ah, they all call me Charlie.

[AMJ]: Why do they call you Charlie if your name is Carl?

[CL]: Well, the um... that—that's was a nickname when I's growin' up, Charlie. Lotta people didn't know my name is Carl. [00:09:22]

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[CL]: -I would never tell 'em, I'd just tell 'em "Charlie."

[AMJ]: And how'd you get the nickname "Peewee?"

[CL]: Yeah, Jonesy and all of 'em... Uh, Lee Everett's the first one to start it.

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[CL]: Yeah. You knowed Lee, didn't you?

[AMJ]: Uh... I don't think I knew him, but I know who he is.

[CL] Yeah.

[AMJ]: That's Mr. [00:09:37] Redell's friend.

[CL]: Yeah, he passed away.

[AMJ]: I'm sorry.

[CL]: Yeah. I just found that out here when we—we all were at the homecoming together, we sit there and chat, talk about the times we had together, all of us. Yeah.

[AMJ]: [00:09:52] So he just passed away.

[CL]: He—no, it's been about a—he says 'bout a year.

[AMJ] Hmm.

[AMJ] His wife passed away first. I used to go uh... where.... They were livin' on Ann Street, him and his wife. [00:10:07] And um, the kids come to the door and I'd knock on the door, yeah. "Hey Daddy, this that little Peewee's here wantin' to see you!" [laughing]

[AMJ]: [laughing]

[CL]: I was little. I only weighed about 114 lbs. back then. Yes, indeedy. [00:10:22]

[AMJ]: Are your brothers and sisters small, too? Are they little?

[CL]: Um my oldest brother's bigger than I am.

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[CL]: Yeah me and m—I got a twin. Now he—I’m taller'n him.

[AMJ]: [00:10:37] Where do you live now?

[CL]: I live in uh... Aberdeen. Aberdeen, Maryland.

[AMJ]: And I hear the train goin' by outside.

[CL]: Right. It—it goes out night and day. I—you got used to it. You don't pay it no mind.

[AMJ]: Yeah, [00:10:52] how many years have you been livin' here?

[CL]: S—uh, since the uh... '84.

[AMJ]: And what made you move to Aberdeen?

[CL]: Uh....let's see... Why'd I move...? I worked my way... I was up in Cecil—[00:11:08] uh...all the way up in Harford County, up there near Pennsylvania line. It was Maryland, though. I was working down here. And I said, “Man, this is a lotta...” I—I’d hitchhike a lot of [00:11:23] times. So, I finally... met a guy. He had a—a business, um... a postal business. And he had a house, he said, “Carl, I got a house, if you want to rent it, \$400 a month.” That was a good deal, [00:11:38] too. You know when you come up—w-d'you come up on Spesutia Road?

[AMJ]: Mhm.

[CL] And then you crossed that little bridge?

[AMJ]: Mhm.

[CL] That big white house on the left up there. I lived there for 10 years.

[AMJ]: Wow.

[CL]: Yep. 10 years. Then I come here, [00:11:53] bought this place.

[AMJ]: Tell me about your house. What's it like here?

[CL]: Huh?

[AMJ]: What's it like here? What do you have outside?

[CL]: Oh, I've got my—I built my screenhouse and I built the buildings out back, of what big ol' white buildin', [00:12:08] got stuff all stored in there. This trailer 'as sitting off by itself. Did all this work around here, for the deck out there... and the enclosure out there. Did all that.

[AMJ]: We're kinda in [00:12:23] the country, right?

[CL]: Oh, this is the country. I sit out there on the porch, watchin' there, 'fore I closed it in, I sit out on the porch and those people always see me out there and they toot the horn, I'd wave at them.

[AMJ]: Do you have any animals around here?

[CL]: Animals? [00:12:38] Oh, yeah, deers, fox. Ri—uh er I catch uh some—sometime I ta—take in my—foxes... I put 'em in a cage. I catch 'em and I take 'em somewheres else where they won't be a-eatin' my garden up. [00:12:53]

[AMJ]: Yeah, do you have a big garden every year?

[CL]: Yeah? No. Okras the main—I had—I had okras here one year, it's been like two years ago. They was nine feet tall!

[AMJ]: Oh my gosh.

[CL]: I never seed none that tall. [00:13:08] I had to get a ladder to get up there to pull the suckers off of there.

[AMJ]: How do you like to eat your okra?

[CL]: Oh, I like 'em fried and s—and slimy.

[AMJ]: Ugh!

[CL]: Oh they—uh, man, I likes to cook 'em on cabbage [00:13:24] and let... Man, you talk about somethin' good!

[AMJ]: Was that your favorite thing growin' up?

[CL]: Oh yeah.

[AMJ]: Did your mom cook it for you?

[CL]: Yep, she cooked it... that flour bread and black molasses. And—and that white side meat.

[AMJ]: [00:13:40] That sounds good. I haven't had flour bread in forever.

[CL]: Man, I tell you one thing.... My one sister, the one that just passed away. She—she cooked me flour bread all the time when I come home. She just died—died, last one of my sisters [00:13:55] passed away, yeah. She was the oldest one. She outlived the rest of 'em.

[AMJ] Hm.

[CL]: My, uh, grandmother, my daddy's mother? They raised her, my grandmother. See, my mother was down on the bed when she had [00:14:10] her. And so, when she went back home, where the old house where we was raised up... So um... she grewed up with her cousin, Katie. [00:14:25] And so, we were all like brothers and sisters. We 'as raised up... Katie called my daddy "daddy," cause she didn't know no daddy.

[AMJ]: What was your mom and dad's names?

[CL]: Jimmy Locklear [00:14:41] and Jessie Bell Locklear.

[AMJ]: And your mom was a Bullard.

[CL]: Yeah. My da—my daddy was—my daddy's right name is James, James Locklear. But everybody called him Jimmy. [00:14:56] That was I tell you that's back uh... They had fish frys

back in them days. You'd go down to North Carolina, you'd see people cook fish fries everywhere.

[AMJ]: You like to eat fish?

[CL]: Mmm, I love fish. I—I got this one—[00:15:11] ol' buddy of mine, he—the one give me that truck? And uh—he give me that truck and left me \$10,000 in the bank.

[AMJ]: Wow.

[CL]: He was good to me. I had ano—the other boy [00:15:26] who used to stay here, I had—he give me a—left me a truck, a big blue one. I didn't like that. I sold it to this guy for \$800. He left me \$10,000 in the bank.

[AMJ]: How come?

[CL]: Because—let me tell you, I was good to people! When you good [00:15:41] to people that—they don't forget you. I'm not—that's why I'm well-blessed. I—you know, I take in too many people, you know, tryin' to help 'em.

[AMJ]: Years ago, you told me you hate it when somebody's hungry?

[CL]: [00:15:56] Hungry? Hold on now, I—I bre—take in... Man, I took a lot of people in and fed 'em. Cause let me tell you, I know that feelin'. I went three days a-hungry. I promised, say, "Lord, if uh I—somebody come my house [00:16:11] want to eat, I'll feed 'em." Cause you never know what's—when it's going to happen to you.

[AMJ]: Why were you hungry for three days?

[CL]: Cause I didn't have no money! When I first come up here. I made it, though.

[AMJ]: Tell me about [00:16:26] your big job you retired from—where you—

[CL]: Huh?

[AMJ]: —your job when you worked in concrete.

[CL]: Oh, uh... We made pipes from a 12" to 144" pipes. I done that for 21 [00:16:41] years. Um—uh... Next time you come up here, I'll get the pictures and stuff out and show 'em to you.

[AMJ]: Did you like that job?

[CL]: Oh, I loved that job. I sprayed cement. Pressure hose, 90 lbs. of pressure. [00:16:56] There ain't none of them guys in that plant could beat me up sprayin' cement.

[AMJ]: What was the name of the company?

[CL]: Ummmm... [whispering] I'm tryin' to think of the...

[AMJ]: [00:17:14] It'll come to you.

[CL]: Huh?

[AMJ]: You'll remember it later.

[CL]: Ah... It'll come to me. [It was Lock Joint Pipe Company.]

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

[CL]: Oh, yeah! Mhm. Yeah, my brothers and—and some of my buddies [00:17:29] I run around with. Keep in contact with 'em. When I go home, get up there and drink a few beers.

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

[CL]: Uh the onliest ones I—like Jonesy [Heyman Jones] and you and [00:17:44] uh... Redell [Hunt] and them boys, that's the onliest ones I can get in touch with.

[AMJ]: Yeah, how do you keep in touch with everybody?

[CL]: Well, um... uh like when um.... they have somethin', they'll call me, we get together. Like the homecomin'? We all got [00:17:59] together, sat down, and we had a good time. That ol' Redell's wife [Jeanette Hunt] loves to hear me talk. Boy, she gets a kick out of me. She said, “Charlie, you a trip right!”

[AMJ]: What's homecomin'?

[CL]: What's a homecomin'? Uh well everybody get together and [00:18:14] eat and—and all kinds of food. People—people wanted to cook and bring stuff in, called homecoming. Everybody get together, talk and laugh and have fun.

[AMJ]: Was it at the church? [South Broadway Baptist Church]

[CL]: Yeah. [00:18:29]

[AMJ]: Did you go to church growin' up?

[CL]: Oh yeah! Yes sir, we went to church every day. Every Sunday, my daddy had a... bought a 1951 GMC, brand new. [00:18:44] Every one of us went to church. And Ima tell you one thing, k—kids these days, they get away with murder. Buddy, when we 'as goin' to church, you better sit still, you better not be talkin'. If you did, you'd get the blood cut out of you. Shit, [00:18:59] my daddy... my—He said, “I tell you, when ye gets home, Ima break you.”

[AMJ]: Did you notice after you were livin' in Baltimore for a while, did you start doin' anything different than how you did in North Carolina? Like, did [00:19:14] you dress different?

[CL]: Uh... Well, uh, yeah, I dressed different than I did at home. I dressed uh nice. You know, down home, you ju—you're like a ol' little hillbilly that's runnin' around there. [laughs] So I— When [00:19:29] I came to Baltimore, you know, I um... I was dressed up. You can ask anybody about me, I stayed dressed.

[AMJ]: What did you wear in North Carolina?

[CL]: Oh, um, I wore, uh... overhauls [overalls], mostly.

[AMJ]: [00:19:44] Yeah.

[CL]: Yeah.

[AMJ]: Did you ever change the way you talk? Do you talk different now... cause you lived in Baltimore?

[CL]: No um... No I'm 'bout the sa—everybody say my voice ain't changed a bit.

[AMJ]: What about the foods you eat?

[CL]: Uh, yeah I— [00:19:59] b—food's a lot different here. Yeah now, the onliest way a... like me and Tony, we'll cook stuff like they d—do in North Carolina. Beans and rice, pinto beans. We cook that all the [00:20:14] time.

[AMJ]: Who's Tony?

[CL]: My grandson.

[AMJ]: Tell me about—

[CL] One daughter, one daughter...

[AMJ]: —your kids.

[CL] One daughter, Carla.

[AMJ]: And then Tony's her son?

[CL]: Yeah.

[AMJ]: Yep.

[CL]: She got...uh...she uh... Oh [00:20:29] she got two boys and two girls. Yeah. The other ones live in Oklahoma. The other two. That's where I'm goin'.

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[CL]: For my birthday.

[AMJ]: You excited?

[CL]: Hm oh yeah! I have a good time out there [00:20:44] with them kids. Man, they take—they take me out 'bout every day to eat. Mexican food.

[AMJ]: I know you love Mexican food.

[CL]: Oo, I love their tortilla. Mm!

[AMJ]: What else did you start eatin' since you moved to Baltimore?

[CL]: [00:20:59] Cow tongue.

[AMJ]: Oh, Mexican tacos with cow tongue?

[CL]: Oh yeah, I love cow tongue. You ever eat any cow tongue?

[AMJ]: Yeah, I don't love it, though.

[CL]: Hey, I—I fix you some—some one day, I'm fix it and put se—seasonin' in it. [00:21:14]
You'd eat it, you'd love it.

[AMJ]: Yeah?

[CL]: Yeah, cut that sucker open, put some seasonin' in there... Man, that cow tongue is
so—Man, I could sit down and eat three cow tongues.

[AMJ]: So you didn't eat that North Carolina.

[CL]: No. [00:21:29] Shine! When I—when I come up here and I said—I told 'em, said, “all
them cow tongues we pulled out of the cows when we's hangin' em up to eat...” Uh... we used to
kill two cows every fall that we'd eat for the winter, [00:21:45] and like five hogs. I'd put 'em
right down to salt 'em down, that—then the smokehouse, take all that. That ol'—that old
smokehouse [is] still standing up there. Uh, [00:22:00] there's a lot of stuff I eat now, I—seafood
and stuff, now I got into that. I used to work in the—that market house down there in Broadway.
Man, I loved to eat them oysters. Oo, the oysters, mmm.

[AMJ]: Do you eat 'em raw?

[CL]: Yeah! Man, [00:22:15] put that hot sauce on 'em, lay in them. Me and Jonesy's [Heyman
Jones] nephew eat a whole bushel down there one weekend we went down there. A whole
bushel. I'm tellin' you one thing, boy, that was the best food I eat in a long time. Man, went down
there [00:22:30] and had a ball.

[AMJ]: What happened to your family farm?

[CL]: The farm? They uh...all of em's gots—and they all my nephews and nieces and all of em are there.

[AMJ]: Yeah, so it's still in the family.

[CL]: [00:22:45] Mm, yeah. I goes to see 'em all.

[AMJ]: Your family didn't sharecrop, you owned your farm.

[CL]: We owned it.

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[CL:] Now we sharecropped with a Black lady down there one time. That's where I fell out of a tree [00:23:00] and broke my arms... fell out of her pecan tree, all the way from the top. I shook all through it, three or four of them trees, and got to the last tree all way up to the top. I don't remember fallin' or nothin'. See, I all the—broke there and there. And—and this leg right across here. [showing where his bones were broken]

[AMJ]: [00:23:21] How old were you when it happened?

[CL]: Uh, I—I was, uh, 13.

[AMJ]: I bet your mom had a fit.

[CL]: My mother... Daddy died, then my twin brother... he's playin' in [00:23:36] over... We kids, when we were growing up, didn't have no playin' wagons and stuff. Just take you a lid, a jar lid,

and tack it on a uh... 'bacca stick, make a little thing to play with. And my twin—my twin brother, that's what happened to him, got punctured and he had [00:23:51] to go in the hospital.

[AMJ]: What happened to him?

[CL]: He punctured hisself in his groin. Man, he's in the hospital for a week. And then, over Christmas time... uh... We uh... [00:24:06] sharecropped with that Black lady? We 'as cleanin' the ditch banks out. [I] told 'em boys, say, "You all take and... Br—and Buddy Roll, Calvin, and Tracy— uh, Bracy went with me." I told him, "Come go with me." I— 'cause [00:24:21] I'm the onliest one [that would] shake the trees, they was scared to climb. I get up in the... Bracy said... he heared somethin, "Boom, boom, boom!" When he looked up, seed me comin' down. And said I hit that ground [00:24:36], broke bones 'as stickin' all out of my arm, legs. I've had a rough time in my life, but I made it.

[AMJ]: Was your dad sick?

[CL]: Sick?

[AMJ]: When he died?

[CL]: Yeah, he died diabetes. That's why he died. Diabetes.

[AMJ]: [00:24:52] And how old are you today, Mr. Charlie?

[CL]: I'm 81.

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[CL]: I'll be 82 in March.

[AMJ]: Do you notice in North Carolina anything that's there because people went to Baltimore now? Like ways [00:25:07] North Carolina changed because all the—

[CL]: Oh yeah, it's a lot. North Carolina is built up, got schools and doctors office and all that kind of stuff there. Things really changed there. The Indians was poor, [00:25:22] and they worked theirself up to have somethin'. Now they got homes... you know, nice cars, and be able to go where they want to, 'stead of havin' to walk. You know, [00:25:37] when I 'as coming up as a little boy, we went to town on—to get our groceries [and] stuff—on mule and wagon.

[AMJ]: Wow.

[CL]: That's the way I—we went—we didn't have a car when I was little, we went down on mule and wagon. And [00:25:52] you go out of Red Springs and go to the grocery store, tied a mule to the post, go in there and get our groceries, come on back home.

[AMJ]: Could you still hitch a mule if you wanted to?

[CL]: Oh yeah, I could still hook a mule up. I'll never forget how to hook a mule up to save my...
hmm.

[AMJ]: [00:26:08] You never went home to North Carolina and people told you you sound like you've been livin' in Baltimore?

[CL]: No, no. They—they say, “You livin’ in Baltimore, use the same talk just like you was before, ain’t changed a bit.” And it ain’t.

[AMJ]: [00:26:24] Does anybody in Baltimore ever say, “Wow, you must be from North Carolina!”

[CL]: Yeah. Oh yeah. That Southern talk? I—I’ve been with white people and they say, “You from North Carolina, ain’t ya?” I says, “Yes, sir. A ‘ol hillbilly from North Carolina.” And [00:26:42] then—they I—I be out huntin’ women. I—I kept—I, man, I got more women than anybody’d ever see. ‘Cause I dress nice. Ain’t none of them Indians walked Baltimore Street’d dress like I did. [00:26:57] When I go in the Volcano, they says, “Look—look at him, just huntin’ a woman now.” I said, “I ain’t gotta—I ain’t gotta hunt one, they’ll hunt me.” Boy, one come in there, had a Chevrolet sittin’ outside, an Impala, Chevrolet convertible [00:27:12]. Say, “Hey, Charlie! Come on! I come to get you, buddy.” Boy, them boys said, “Look at ‘im. He—Women come gets him!” [laughter]

[AMJ]: What do you do for fun these days?

[CL]: Fun? Oh, I go—I go out and visit people. Yeah, I got [00:27:27] a lot of people up there I visit. Cut up and joke. Yeah, I go to um... VFW on Friday nights.

[AMJ]: What do you do there?

[CL]: Just go down and have a drink and dance with the old people. Well, I’m old, too. These [00:27:42] old ladies—one old lady, she say to me... —I—I told her, I says, “Baby, I’m not...I just come out to have fun. Too old to be a-huntin’ women.”

[AMJ]: What do you think the Indian community in Baltimore will be like in 10 years [00:27:57] or 20 years, like, down Baltimore and Broadway?

[CL]: Uh, I think it’ll come back together.

[AMJ]: Really?

[CL]: Yeah, mhm.

[AMJ]: With Indian people or other people?

[CL]: I—Indians. ‘Cause the Indians grewed up around there and they built that place [00:28:12] up around there, too.

[AMJ]: Yeah, do you think it's more dangerous than it used to be now?

[CL]: Ooo, God, it's dangerous around there now, baby. But I—back when I first come up here... Well, if I got—I know—had a little too much to drink, [00:28:27] I sat down on the steps and go to sleep, nobody never bothered me. Better not do it now! Might not wake up. [laughter]

[AMJ]: Might wake up dead.

[CL]: Yeah, yeah. Somebody be—BAM—robbed ye and try to kill you.

[AMJ]: [00:28:42] Is there anything you want to tell young people that you think they should hear from you?

[CL]: Um, take my advice: Get out there and make a good living for yourself, and don't get yourself in no trouble with nobody. You better work and get a good life. [00:28:58] Maryland—you can do it in Maryland. I did it. I come up with no education, and I made it and got a good home, live good. Don't have to worry about nothing.

[AMJ]: Anything else you want to tell the whole world?

[CL]: [00:29:13] Well, I'm a happy man. I s—I'm happy, I'm, uh, living in the country, ain't got no neighbors, nothin'. All I got the train track comin' by. That's it. Right?

[AMJ]: Right.

[CL]: [00:29:28] Ain't gotta look at nobody. I—I get up in the mornin' and watch them deers out there in the woods a-eatin'.

[AMJ]: Yeah, it's a peaceful life.

[CL]: Oh yeah, peace and it's quiet out here, nobody bothers ye.

[AMJ]: [00:29:43] Do you still like to go down there to Baltimore and Broadway?

[CL]: No.

[AMJ]: Why not?

[CL]: Because, uh, you—you got to w—worry about somebody robbin' ye and jumpin' on ye.

[AMJ]: You think the Indians are gonna come back though?

[CL]: I think they will. [00:29:59]

[AMJ]: Yeah?

[CL]: Yeah. The—the—the sta—the young generation'll start growin' up and they'll—They know that place. They like to hang out there.

[AMJ]: Yeah?

[CL]: Here—they—they'll never take that away from the Indians, Broadway, [00:30:14] 'cause that's their—like home to them, Baltimore Street and Broadway. Always they say, "If you wanna find the Indians, go to Baltimore and Broadway." And that—and that's right. Where the Lumbee Indians hang there.

[AMJ]: [00:30:30] I think we got it, Mr. Charlie, you ready to go eat?

[CL]: Yessir, baby, ready to go eat and, uh, give you a big hug and you go back home, tell your old man you had a good time with me.

[AMJ]: I love you, Mr. Charlie. Thanks for lettin' me interview [00:30:45] you again.

[CL]: Yeah I love you, too, baby. You always been my baby.