



Jeanette Hunt and Howard Redell Hunt Oral History Interview

Ashley Minner Jones

October 18, 2024

Dundalk, Maryland

This oral history was recorded for *Beyond Baltimore Street: Living Lumbee Legacies*, a project of Ashley Minner Art, LLC, with support from a 2024 Library of Congress American Folklife Center Community Collections Grant.

Field Notes

Interviewee: Jeanette Hunt

Age: 78

Sex: Female

Occupation: Retired Unilever Worker

Interviewee: Howard Redell Hunt

Age: 81

Sex: Male

Occupation: Retired General Motors Worker, former President of the Native American Senior Citizens

Residence: Dundalk, Maryland

Tribal Affiliation: Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

Interviewer: Ashley Minner Jones [AMJ]

Location of Interview: Dundalk, Maryland

Date of Interview: October 18, 2024

Time of Interview: 10:00 AM ET

Transcriber: Magdelene Jones

Key Words

Robeson County, East Baltimore, Ann Street, Baltimore Street, General Motors, Vera Shank Daycare, cooking, Fuller's, Baltimore American Indian Center, cotton, tobacco, farming, Southern, work, community, neighbors, Native American, family, culture, Unilever, Bingo, Racetrack, Lumbee, pharmacy, North Avenue, Broadway, Cherry Grove, fish fry, Sharecropping, North Carolina, Maryland, Baltimore, Buddy Deane, Deaners, Red Hat Society, Fairmont, Rowland, Patterson Park Avenue, Fayette Street, Native American Senior Citizens

Abstract

Jeanette Hunt (Lumbee), age 78, and **Howard “Redell” Hunt** (Lumbee), age 81, reside in Dundalk, Maryland. Jeanette is from Shannon, North Carolina. Redell was born in Lumberton, North Carolina, but lived in the Fairmont / Rowland area. Both migrated to East Baltimore with relatives as children and settled in the part of the city once known as “the reservation.”

Both are now retired—Jeanette from Unilever and Redell from General Motors. In his early retirement, Redell was President (and cook) of the Native American Senior Citizens. He, Jeanette, and more relatives prepared lunch for elders of the community on a weekly basis until the Baltimore American Indian Center sold their building in 2017.

Jeanette is part of the Red Hat Society. She likes to play bingo, shop at thrift stores, and tend to her yard. Redell enjoys betting on horses and playing the lottery every day at his neighborhood liquor store. They believe Baltimore’s Indian community will be nonexistent in 20 years.

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- [00:04:12] Jeanette and Redell talk about how Jeanette doesn’t swim anymore.
- [00:04:51] Jeanette and Redell talk about farming cotton and tobacco, the issues with farming cotton, and activities they enjoyed as children, like going to the fair and frying fish at the beach.
- [00:10:17] Jeanette and Redell explain what brought them to Baltimore as teenagers.
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- [00:13:35] Redell elaborates on sharecropping and federal limitations on tobacco farming.
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[00:23:57] Jeanette and Redell describe where they live now.

[00:25:45] Redell describes his career at the General Motors plant, including winning a \$10,000 idea award.

[00:29:32] Jeanette describes her career at Unilever, her and Redell discuss changes in federal anti-discrimination laws.

[00:33:01] Redell describes working for a Jewish doctor at a drugstore in Baltimore.

[00:35:57] Redell and Jeanette talk about keeping in touch with other Native Americans in North Carolina and what they do on trips to North Carolina.

[00:37:57] Jeanette and Redell discuss keeping in touch with other Native Americans in Baltimore

[00:39:28] Jeanette and Redell talk about the Buddy Deane show and the ways in which Baltimore has or hasn't changed them, including fashion, food, and accent.

[00:44:01] Jeanette talks about playing bingo for fun and Redell talks about going to the racetrack.

[00:47:07] Jeanette and Redell give their predictions and hopes for the Indian community in Baltimore.

[00:48:24] Jeanette and Redell reminisce on cooking at the Lumbee senior center then discuss missed opportunities to open a new senior center.

[00:56:37] Jeanette and Redell give their final thoughts.

Transcript

Ashley Minner Jones [AMJ]: [00:00:00] Well, hello, my name is Ashley Minner-Jones. It is October 18th, 2024 and I have come to interview two amazing people for Beyond Baltimore Street, our oral history and photo documentary project that celebrates the vibrant, fascinating everyday lives of Baltimore Lumbee Elders, what's your name, sir?

Jeanette Hunt (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina) and Howard Redell Hunt (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina), interview by Ashley Minner Jones, October 18, 2024, for *Beyond Baltimore Street: Living Lumbee Legacies*, Community Collections Program, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress. AFC 2024/002

Howard Redell Hunt [HRH]: My name is Howard R. Hunt, but everybody calls me Redell, that's my middle name.

[AMJ]: And I call him Mr. Redell. [laughing]

[HRH]: You got to put that [00:00:30] “mister” there and make me old.

[AMJ]: Just respect! And what's your name, ma'am?

Jeanette Hunt [JH]: Jeanette Hunt.

[AMJ]: And what was your maiden name, Miss Jeanette?

[JH]: Locklear.

[AMJ]: Okay. And where are you from?

[HRH]: Uh, Lumberton, North Carolina, that's where I was born. But I lived, uh, [00:00:49] close to Fairmont and Rowland, North Carolina. That's right from the South Carolina border going into, um, uh, [00:00:59] Dillon, South Carolina.

[AMJ]: And where are you from, Miss Jeanette?

[JH]: Shannon, North Carolina.

[AMJ]: [00:01:07] And, Miss Jeanette, how would you explain to someone who doesn't know you, who you are?

Jeanette Hunt (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina) and Howard Redell Hunt (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina), interview by Ashley Minner Jones, October 18, 2024, for *Beyond Baltimore Street: Living Lumbee Legacies*, Community Collections Program, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress. AFC 2024/002

[JH]: [Laughing] I don't know.

[AMJ]: [00:01:15] What would you say about yourself, if you were going to introduce yourself to anyone?

[JH]: I gotta think about this one.

[AMJ]: [00:01:22] I'll go back to Mr. Redell.

[HRH]: Uh oh, what you want?

[AMJ]: [00:01:27] How would you explain who you are to someone who doesn't know you? What would you say about yourself?

[HRH]: Well, I tell 'em I'm Lumbee Indian, I'm from North Carolina, I'm 81 years old, I retired from General Motors after 35 years. I've lived where we live for the last 49 years, and, uh, [00:01:50] some people you got to explain yourself that you're a Lumbee, other than, uh, [00:01:56] just being American. I tell people where I hang out at the liquor store, I'm Lumbee Indian. Most everybody don't l- don't know what an Indian is!

[AMJ]: Miss Jeanette, if I was just meeting you for the first time I would say, where do you come from? What do you like to do? Where do you live?

[JH]: Well, my name's Jeanette Hunt, I'm from North Carolina. I'm Native American. I like to play Bingo. [00:02:25] I like- well, I did belong to the Red Hatters, [00:02:29] and, um, I like to shop, I'm always going to the thrift stores. [00:02:36] I like to work out in the yard, do gardening.

[AMJ]: What's your greatest thrift store find ever, like the best thing you ever found?

[JH]: Best thing? [00:02:47] Mmm, probably a doll, probably a doll. I got a real pretty doll there that I liked.

[AMJ]: What's the doll like?

[JH]: It looks like a baby, you know, it's small like a baby, and I like that about it. I don't have to have a lot of room to put it anywhere, yeah.

[AMJ]: [00:03:05] Did you like dolls growing up? Did you have a lot of dolls?

[JH]: Probably not, didn't have nothing.

[AMJ]: When and where were you born?

[JH]: When? Um, [00:03:16] in September 1946, [00:03:20] in Robeson County, North Carolina.

[AMJ]: What was it like in Robeson County when you were a kid?

[JH]: Poor.

[AMJ]: [00:03:29] When you say poor, what- what made it poor?

[JH]: Well, we never had anything, you know? I stayed with my grandmother and grandfather most of the time.

[AMJ]: What did you do everyday as a kid?

[JH]: Well, in the summertime, [00:03:45] we mostly worked the farm, but lunchtime we always got a break. We'd go swimming in the pond. My uncle across the road from us had a pond and we'd go over there every day at lunchtime, go swimming. That's what I liked to do.

[AMJ]: Do you still like to swim?

[JH]: No, not really.

[AMJ]: You got a beautiful swimming pool.

[JH]: I know, don't never get in it. Didn't get in it at all- well, he didn't put the, um, [00:04:12] ladder in 'till late and most time it was too hot to get out there in it.

[AMJ]: Mr. Redell, what's up with the ladder, man?

[HRH]: She wouldn't of got in it, no way. She didn't get-

[JH]: I did! I got in it last year, me and Robin, across the street got in it [00:04:27] I don't know how many times, you know, when I used to watch my mother and I'd bring her here, I got in it every day.

[AMJ]: Would she get in, too?

[JH]: No, I'd take her outside and I put a chair next to the pool and I'd have to watch her. And, um, I'd just get in the pool and exercise every day.

[AMJ]: What were you guys farming?

[JH]: [00:04:51] Tobacco, cotton. You pick cotton everyday. [00:04:55] I hated picking cotton.

[AMJ]: What was it like? What was so bad about it?

[JH]: ‘Cause you had to bend down, ‘cause it only sit about this high, and you had to bend down and pick it. But one good thing about it, my grandfather would say if you pick so much he'd take us to the- if it was a fair or carnival or anything around, he'd always take us there.

[AMJ]: Your grandfather was a cool guy?

[JH]: Yes, he was a preacher.

[AMJ]: What was his name?

[JH]: Less Norman Locklear.

[AMJ]: Was he your dad's dad?

[JH]: No, my mother's. I never knew my, um, father's people.

[AMJ]: Mr. Redell, when and where were you born?

[HRH]: Lumberton, North Carolina, 1943. [00:05:42] And I also worked the farm. I was the youngest, so I got out of a lot of work because I was little, but then when I got a certain age, I had to work just like the other brothers and sisters and we had tobacco, cotton, corn, and feed for

the animals because we didn't have no automatic stuff like tractors or nothing back then in them days, that was in the early 50s.

[AMJ]: [00:06:12] How many brothers and sisters did you have?

[HRH]: Three brothers and one sister. [00:06:18] And we farmed 106 acres farm. [00:06:24] We had to, like- it was a limit to how much tobacco we could grow. [00:06:30] And corn, we could have much as we wanted. Cotton you could have much as you wanted, but that, like she'd said, that was a rough job, be- getting up in the morning, like, at 5:00 going out in the field, picking that cotton, it wet, would come from dew, you know, I don't know if you know what dew is, but anyway, it would be wet. Then round eight or nine o'clock, the sun will come out, if it was like early September, it will be hot out there. Then, if you didn't get it done before it got warm and in the season, like, [00:07:09] uh, October, November, you'd have to pick it when it was cold and the cotton would have, sometime, frost on it, you know, I don't know if you know what frost is, it's something you have on your windshields in the wintertime in the- in the morning. You couldn't go- couldn't go to school 'till all the farm stuff was ended, they didn't have a law like they got now, they got a law now, that all kids got to stay- attend school, the whole- supposed to go the whole 180 days. It's 180 days all over the country and people back them days used to have kids to help farm the farm. [00:07:50] And, uh, [00:07:52] but we got done with the crop- uh with the cot- picking cotton. And if you pick so much, you get to go to the fair, you know, parents would take us to the fair and give us money to get in, and money to ride stuff and all that. That was our top job- then we get done picking the cotton and farming, we'd always go to the beach. We didn't go to the beach 'till the fall. We didn't go to the beach like everybody else go, in the summertime, we went in the fall. [00:08:25] Plus my uncles, well there'd be 5, 6 carloads of us, go to the beach and that was another enjoyable thing, and you was a kid, you get to go down there and you go out and water and stick your feet in and and the sand would wash from under you, there was good days, but-

[AMJ]: Would you guys fry fish?

[HRH]: Oh yeah, we'd go down to this place, um, [00:08:50] what was the beach you called a while ago?

[AMJ]: Cherry Grove.

[HRH]: Cherry Grove, they had tents set up and a building- they had a wash basin there, like a big sink, where we washed the fish, and they had a stove, you cook 'em, everything- you didn't have to bring nothing, just your fish or your shrimp, whatever you was gonna cook. So we'd go down to there, my parents would, all the kids would be outside playin'. Matter of fact, Bill Freeman's got a mobile home in that area, we used to go there.

[AMJ]: You ever go visit?

[HRH]: No, I- he tried to get me to buy a place down there several years ago, was real cheap, like \$80,000. And- but have too many hurricanes around it, too much water floods, too much.

[AMJ]: Yeah, well, what brought you to Baltimore?

[HRH]: Well, my mother and father had separated, and my father was going to stay with his other woman and we couldn't farm the farm no more, me and my sister and one brother. My other two brothers was in Baltimore with my mother. And, uh, she came down, but he kept going back to Baltimore with us- with me- we come back to Baltimore with her.

[AMJ]: How old were you then?

[HRH]: 16.

[AMJ]: You were really young.

[HRH]: Mhm. [00:10:17] Then at 17, I went into the Army National Guard.

[AMJ]: I never knew that!

[HRH]: Mhm, I was stationed in Fort Knox, Kentucky. And next- base from where Elvis is- was in the serve- done boot camp.

[AMJ]: Were you in at the same time?

[HRH]: No, he was there a month before I got there.

[AMJ]: Wow. Miss Jeanette, what brought you to Baltimore?

[JH]: My mother came up here. They separated, my mother and father, and they come to Baltimore, my mother did. Well, she was dating this soldier from Fort Bragg and, uh, they came up here.

[AMJ]: Do y'all think life was so hard in North Carolina, it was hard for families to stay together or just life, or what happened?

[JH]: I don't know [00:11:04] what happened with them, why they didn't stay together.

[AMJ]: [00:11:09] What do you think, Mr. Redell?

[HRH]: We didn't have that many people separated back when my mother and father did, but after that, after you got into, this was in the late '50s, then when- got into the '60s more people separated, or what. More jobs opened up back there in the '60s, you had sewing factories, uh, [00:11:32] tar factories, all kinds of manufacturers moved in from New York to North Carolina because they had plenty of labor. People was quit farming or you had to have 1,000 acres of farmin' to survive because little farmers couldn't survive like they did back when we farmed. We farmed, you only had, uh, maybe a 100-acre farm, but then when people got in the early '60s,

they started buying tractors and combines and all that and you need a lot of land to help pay for that equipment. And, uh, it started getting easy then, but everybody didn't want to farm no more, they wanted to go in them factories and work, when it was working for 75 cents an hour, ma- uh, minimum wage, that was a lot of money. You talkin' like, 30 some dollars a week. We used to work for \$3 a day, that's \$15 or if you could get to work five days a week. But there, it was just like here, when I come to Baltimore, there wasn't no jobs, not for young people.

[AMJ]: You mentioned, um, that you were limited, how much tobacco you could grow? What was that about?

[HRH]: Well, the federal government said he didn't- they didn't want so much- keep from bringing the price down. They kept allotment- what you call allotment per- how many acres you had to farm. And they wanted each farmer to have, say, if you had 100 acres, you allowed to have five acres tobacco and that way you could keep the price- price up and the farmer will make more money. The, uh, Eisenhower was the president back in, I think, 1953 when they started that law, but it helped the farmers, 'stead of hurting them, because I remember we used to make a lot of money. My father buy new cars [00:13:35] but he wouldn't buy nothing else, you- you buy school clothes and all that, and Sunday school clothes, you go to church, you- back then you didn't wear jeans, you wore dress pants and a suit or something like that, but he would buy us, you know, clothes like that.

[AMJ]: Did you guys own that farm you farmed?

[HRH]: No we, we, uh, what you call, uh...

[JH]: Rented.

[HRH]: [00:14:03] Well, not mostly rented, we, uh, what you call...

[AMJ]: Sharecrop?

[HRH]: Sharecrop. Yeah.

[AMJ]: Did you guys own your farm, Miss Jeanette?

[JH]: No.

[HRH]: Your grandfather did, didn't he?

[JH]: Well, my grandfather did but [00:14:15] when we lived at- my mother and father, we didn't own it, I guess we just, like he said, sharecropped it, run the farm. They had like, 28 acres, but I stayed with them most of the time.

[AMJ]: [00:14:27] Yeah, how many brothers and sisters do you have, Miss Jeanette?

[JH]: I had three brothers, no sisters.

[AMJ]: So your moms came to Baltimore to work?

[JH]: Yeah, she worked at a couple of place, like can company, what was that can company called, American Can Company, maybe?

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[HRH]: American Can Company was out on Boston Street, back when we come- that's all that was down on the waterfront was [00:14:52] can company, can produce. [00:14:56] In the summertime, they get it in from the farmers and they bring it down there, and they'd hire summer help.

[JH]: Yeah.

[HRH]: And last year or two years, my mother was down home. They worked at the cannery in the late summer. We was almost done with the crop and they would go to work and can sweet potatoes. Sweet potatoes was a fall crop, so we would be almost done farming and they could go work at the- at the, uh, cannery.

[AMJ]: Would she come up to Baltimore to do it?

[HRH]: No, she didn't come to Baltimore, she just come- her and my father separated, and she just come here, she had an uncle that live here then- I mean a brother, and she come up and stay with him 'till she got a job.

[AMJ]: Where'd she get a job? [00:15:47]

[HRH]: There was a bakery there on Ann Street, remember that bakery there on Ann Street. They used to have a bakery down past, [00:15:58] think it's two b- but it was on the other side of the street from Linda live, do you know Linda live?

[JH]: It was on the other side? Was it on the other side?

[HRH]: No, it was on the Ann Street [00:16:11] That was Pratt. Well.

[JH]: I think it was on [00:16:16] the same side as Linda.

[HRH]: It was on the same side but it was the next street, Pratt Street.

[AMJ]: What was Baltimore like when you got here? You said there weren't any jobs for young kids.

[HRH]: There wasn't no jobs. There ain't no jobs, I think, through the whole country 'till, uh, Gino's. You ever heard of Gino's? Gino's opened up and they employed all young boys, didn't have no g- women working at them. They had Gino's all over Maryland.

[AMJ]: Did you work at Gino's?

[HRH]: No. [00:16:47] Uh, they was mostly outskirts of the city, like, on Dundalk Avenue, that was- that was long way from, uh, East Baltimore, it seemed like, and out on Pulaski Highways. [00:17:01] It was Gino's, there was Gino's all over the place, then, that's when McDonald's started open up, then when McDon- McDonald's started open up, uh, [00:17:11] during the, uh, Vietnam war, there was plenty of jobs, then. You could ride around anywhere, they had sign up "Help Wanted, Help Wanted" because the military had the draft back then and the military was drafting all the young men and there wasn't nobody to take the jobs.

[AMJ]: [00:17:30] How did you get here when you came the first time?

[HRH]: When my mother, brought, uh, [00:17:36] this guy named Fred down to North Carolina, he had a car and he brought us back.

[AMJ]: What did you think when you saw it for the first time?

[HRH]: Didn't know where I was at, you walk to the corner, you was lost, in the city because there's nothing but buildings, you know, I had never- only that many buildings you ever see was little towns you went to, and they was only one or two stories tall. You come here, there was [unintelligible] ten feet tall, you know what I mean? My mother told me to go at the drugstore, down where it's that drugstore she talkin' about, to get her some aspirin. I got down there, I got a lost, and we lived on Ann Street, I got lost trying to find Ann Street [laughing].

[AMJ]: Where was the drugstore?

[HRH]: Down on the corner of Baltimore Street (note: Mr. Redell is pronouncing it as “streek”) and, uh Wolf.

[AMJ]: So, not far away at all, just everything looked the same?

[HRH]: Yeah, everything looked the same, I didn't- I had to stop and ask somebody where- where Ann Street was, “Hey buddy, there it is, right there.”

[JH]: [00:18:36] I think my mother's boyfriend had a car and we all came up. Well, that ain't exactly what happened, they came to Baltimore, my mother and him, left all of us in North Carolina. Two years later, we came up. She came back down there and got us.

[AMJ]: And how old were you when you got here?

[JH]: 11 years old.

[AMJ]: And what did you think when you first saw it?

[JH]: I thought the same way, couldn't find my way around. It was all buildings and they all looked the same.

[AMJ]: [00:19:06] I don't think I ever asked you guys this, but how did you meet? ‘Cause you were both kids in Baltimore, like did you know each other in North Carolina?

[JH]: No, we met in the neighborhood.

[HRH]: Well, all the Indian kids lived ‘round Baltimore Street, Ann Street, Broadway, [00:19:22] Baltimore Street, and all that, and you hung toge- you hung [00:19:26] together. We used to hang together on Baltimore Street and, what was it, 1700?

[JH]: 1700 block.

[HRH]: 1700 block.

[JH]: Pool hall, they had a pool hall down there, and then they had a barbecue place across the street from there, and we used to hang in them places.

[HRH]: You had another drugstore on the corner of Broadway and, uh...

[JH]: Baltimore Street.

[HRH]: Baltimore Street. You-you’d seed that then, [00:19:47] but then it was mostly [00:19:53] a liquor store, I mean- after this last time- but back then it was a drugstore. You- handle- what- the other drugstore up the corner didn’t handle the Indian people, that drugstore did. So, if you needed medicine, usually, go to either one.

[AMJ]: So, when- how or when did you guys meet? How old were you? [Laughing]

[JH]: Um... [laughing] I was...

[HRH]: 19 I think, 18. [00:20:23] No, younger than that, because we knewed each other a couple years before she was chasing me.

[JH]: 15 I was, I was 15, because he gave me a ring on my 16th birthday, a birthstone ring.

[AMJ]: It was serious.

[HRH]: She was chasing me.

[JH]: That's what he always says. [laughing]

[AMJ]: That's how it was?

[HRH]: [laughing] [00:20:47]

[AMJ]: So you were living on Ann Street?

[HRH]: No, that- it was then, and we moved around on Fayette Street and stayed around there.

[JH]: [Laughing] He was a gypsy, always moving. [00:20:56]

[HRH]: Well, my mother, I go to work and come home, [laughing] I didn't know where to go to live 'cause she'd be moved. She moved three times in one day!

[AMJ]: Really?

[HRH]: Mhm. When apartment back- all them places around there was all apartments then.

[AMJ]: What was it like, she went to one and didn't like it and went to another one?

[HRH]: Well, she had different landlords. Well, she moved into one around on Baltimore Street. And [00:21:22] she didn't like it there and Mr. Paul, he had- he's Jewish, he had mostly s-everybody around there renting from him, he had probably 100 buildings. But anyway, he told-so I got Fayette Street open. [00:21:39] And, uh, you can move- this was later on down we had m- lived in that same apartment years ago- 'fore then. And he says, "I got Fayette Street open." My mother says, "Which floors?" He said, "The first." "Ooh, we'll take it." She said and she moved from Washington Street up on Baltimore Street, moved from Baltimore Street to Fayette Street in the same day.

[AMJ]: How'd you find her?

[HRH]: We come home and, uh, somebody said, "Your mother said you- she moved around on Fayette Street." [laughing]

[AMJ]: [00:22:13] You just go stand on Fayette Street and wait?

[HRH]: No, we went around there. And she's wasn't in the same place where we used to live, but we lived on the second floor, my uncle lived on the first floor, and my cousin lived on the third floor, back early. We stay around here, two or three years, then we moved back on Baltimore Street 'bout 3, 4 years later.

[AMJ]: Yeah and [00:22:38] where were you living, Miss Jeanette?

[JH]: Uh, 1600 block of Baltimore Street.

[AMJ]: Did you stay there the whole time?

[JH]: Yeah, we stayed there a long time. We didn't move anymore 'till we moved to the 1900 block of Baltimore Street. And then we- we only moved three times as I can remember and we moved into 2100 block as far as living with him when I got married.

[AMJ]: Where did you guys get married?

[JH]: Where?

[HRH]: At my brother's house, on Patterson Park Avenue.

[AMJ]: [00:23:09] That's nice, who married you?

[HRH]: This guy named Jimmy Chavis. [00:23:15]

[AMJ]: Did you propose?

[HRH]: She proposed to me.

[AMJ]: Is that true, Miss Jeanette?

[JH]: No! [laughing]

[HRH]: [laughing]

[JH]: That's not- you don't- that ain't true!

[AMJ]: [00:23:26] Did you get down on one knee?

[HRH]: No!

[AMJ]: Did he get down on one knee?

[JH]: No, he- he didn't even know how to really ask, he just said something like “Why don't we get married?” You know, and that- that was it.

[AMJ]: And you were like, “Okay.”

[JH]: Yeah, I was- I was 19.

[AMJ]: [00:23:47] And how many years has it been?

[JH]: 57? [00:23:52]

[HRH]: 59- 58.

[AMJ]: Where do you guys live now?

[HRH]: Who? [00:23:57]

[AMJ]: You!

[HRH]: Here! [laughing]

[AMJ]: Where- where are we?

[HRH]: It's Carson Avenue.

[AMJ]: What part of the world are we in?

[HRH]: This is part of, well, Eastpoint, Dundalk, whatever you want to call it, it's- it really Eastview, that's on the Baltimore county map, Eastview and then in Berkshire.

[JH]: Dundalk, [00:24:18] Baltimore County, ain't it?

[HRH]: Yeah. W- well...

[AMJ]: How is it that y'all decided to live here? How long have you been living here? What brought you to right here?

[HRH]: Well, it was a lot and we built the house on it, in 1975.

[AMJ]: [00:24:33] Did you build it yourself?

[HRH]: No, it's a modular home. They brought it here in two sites and set it up with a crane.
[00:24:43] But I had a contractor, Carl Harding, you know Carl Harding, don't you? He did all the brick work and all of the foundation work back then.

[JH]: You gonna interview him?

[AMJ]: I was hanging out with him two weeks ago or last week, he had us out on- it's not a golf s- golf cart, but a low speed vehicle, he was driving all around the neighborhood.

[JH]: [Laughing] Oh, at [00:25:06] his house or down in his area?

[AMJ]: [00:25:10] Why did you pick right here in Dundalk?

[HRH]: It was close to work, almost five minutes away from work. I go out here or the back way, go through- go through, uh, [00:25:22] neighborhood up there where Hillbilly live- used to live, Jonesy, go through there and come out on Dundalk Avenue, then I was right at the plant right down the road of my hall, too.

[AMJ]: And when you say the plant?

[HRH]: Yeah, General Motors.

[AMJ]: And what'd you do at General Motors?

[HRH]: Well, worked the assembly line for 27 years. Then I went in the, uh, the new work department. [00:25:45] You were working for a different company because you- you done your job by yourself, you didn't have to work by the line, you just go through and pick up your cardboard and sweep and change the trash cans and do what you got to do. [00:26:00] But it was the best job, it paid as much as the line did, but you didn't have to work steady, one job behind another job, the jobs kept coming, you know, you finish what you do on this job and next job was the same thing, you do, and you keep- it got a little boring at times.

[AMJ]: Yeah, were you losing it on the line doing the same thing all day?

[HRH]: Nah, I wasn't losing it. That last job I had on line, I could read the newspaper.

[AMJ]: You were so good at it, you could do other stuff?

[HRH]: Yeah, [00:26:33] well, I'd- I'd hurried and do my job and I read five seconds or ten seconds or whatever.

[AMJ]: You told me one time, you won a big award from GM for a good idea you had?

[HRH]: Yeah, \$10,000 suggestion award they paid back then, and after I won mine, the next year they changed it to 20,000, but I don't- had another year waiting on it, I'd have got 10 or 20,000.

[AMJ]: What was your good idea?

[HRH]: Well, you wouldn't know, anyway, but I'll tell you. It was brake, uh, the brake lines we used to put on, used to make it up to the master cylinder, then hook the master cylinder up to line on the frame and I put in suggestion, put the brake line on the frame and then put the master cylinder on top of the lines. It took, uh, [00:27:30] see we come out- they come out with that system in, uh, [00:27:35] '73. [00:27:38] I put the suggestion in 1969. [00:27:42] And it took 'em 'till that long. Well, it come- they like uh- engineers always, two, three, four years ahead of [00:27:52] production whatever they gonna run. So it took that long to get it and get it engineered and make where how it fit and all that. But they finally paid me for it.

[AMJ]: How'd that make you feel?

[HRH]: Oh good, I got \$10,000 but I only got 70- [00:28:12] No, \$6,900, 'cause they took tax out.

[AMJ]: Oh, how much money do you think GM made off your suggestion?

[HRH]: Oh, they run 'bout three million vehicles off in that lot- time of year they used it- used it from 1973 [00:28:27] model to, I think, 1980. [00:28:30] 'Bout seven years of using that and we run [00:28:37] 25 trucks an hour, two shelves. So, there's like 50, 50 trucks, a hour, I think, for both shelves, they probably run a couple million trucks off of that. I don't know how many.

[AMJ]: So a lot, a lot of money.

[HRH]: Yeah, I didn't care, well, that was just one thing, [00:28:58] could have been 10 or 20 suggestions in that model or in that year, would run for seven years. So, the company paid out a lot of money for different people and not just this plant for suggestions. And, you know, they allowed to make- [phone ringing] allowed to make money just like you know anybody else, I didn't care, I had a good job, pay good money, we worked overtime. [00:29:28]

[JH]: It's the Baltimore Sun, you want to talk to him?

[HRH]: No, I'm busy.

[AMJ]: [Laughing] [00:29:32] Miss Jeanette, you want to tell me about your job?

[JH]: Well, there at the end, I was a forklift operator. I worked in a warehouse loading trucks and little bit of everything.

[AMJ]: What was the company?

[JH]: Lever Brothers. Well, Unilever. [00:29:48]

[AMJ]: And where was that?

[JH]: Holabird Avenue, right across from GM.

[AMJ]: Were there many women who did what you did?

[JH]: Oh yeah, a lot of women. When I started there in '73, they had already crossed over. So we had to work a man's job.

[AMJ]: Oh wow. When you say crossed over, what does that mean?

[JH]: That they- you had to work a man's job.

[HRH]: In other words, [00:30:12] if they had a man's job open, you had to take it, back before that law come in effect, which we didn't have no women either 'till '73. You had her job, you have, say a halo job- forklift driver job was open and they only had women for it, they had to take it back then, the federal law.

[JH]: After '73, yeah-

[HRH]: -they changed the federal law to that. 'Fore then, [00:30:38] they woulda laid the women off and keep the low-seniority men on them jobs.

[AMJ]: Oh, wow.

[HRH]: See, they used to do that at the plant, women would apply for jobs out there, and they wouldn't hire 'em. Cause they complained... complained it was the same with Bethlehem Steel, all your big corporations was back then, they wouldn't hire women, not to work in production, they'd hire them to work in the office, but they wouldn't hire them to work out on the line.

[AMJ]: So it was like an anti-discrimination law.

[JH]: Mhm.

[HRH]: And, and, uh,[00:31:06] you know, the people in the women to lead, or whatever they call- sued all these companies, then they got the government to go in, so they made discrimination-

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[HRH]: -filed against the company, they wouldn't hire women. So all the companies said, "Okay, we'll hire 'em." And that's what they did, they hired probably 500 women that- in '73 at my plant. [00:31:33] But my- maybe more than that, half of 'em quit, could take it or couldn't take- the men would aggravate them, you need to be home cooking and doing dishes and cleaning all that for- the men were really uh-

[JH]: They didn't like the women, when they- [00:31:51] and they're taking their jobs.

[AMJ]: Did you have a hard time, Miss Jeanette?

[JH]: Oh yeah, at first, you know, they say the same thing to us, "You should be home knitting socks," you know, they didn't want the women in there on those jobs.

[AMJ]: What did you say?

[JH]: I'd say nothin' to 'em.

[AMJ]: You just did your job?

[JH]: Yeah. [laughing]

[HRH]: I used to take up for the women, [00:32:14] you know, because they were kind of like that against me being an Indian gettin' a job there, or gettin' job somewhere they- "oh we ain't hirin'" or something like that. That's what he used to tell the women 'till the women in the National something or other went together and they sued all these companies like General Motors, Western House, uh, [00:32:38] Lever Bro-, all the big companies, they sued. And, uh, then the government passed federal discrimination law, you couldn't hire- you couldn't [00:32:51] discriminate on hiring against women, if you had a job open, you have to hire 'em for it, in the factories. See, they didn't want hire women in factories, back then.

[AMJ]: [00:33:01] Do you want to say anything about how it's different living up here than in North Carolina, even when you were kids or when now, what's different about Baltimore?

[JH]: No, I don't. I can't think of anything-

[HRH]: [00:33:14] Well, the thing about it was better here than in North Carolina 'cause, [00:33:20] down there you only got money on a weekend or something, to go to town, maybe 25 cents or 50 cents allowance or something. And [00:33:33] here, you have money every day [laughing]. [00:33:38] Especially if you worked a job, you got a job, when I got a job. I was making, uh, [00:33:43] delivering, uh, medicine for a drugstore on, uh, Walbrook Junction. You know where that is? On North Avenue?

[AMJ]: On the other side of town?

[HRH]: No, on North Avenue, you know where North Avenue is? All the way 'till the end.

[JH]: Well that's still on the other side of town, ain't it? [00:33:57]

[HRH]: All the way- well, it goes all the way to West Baltimore, yeah, North Avenue. And I- I used to get the bus on [00:34:08] Fayette and, uh, [00:34:10] Wolf Street. No, Wolf's going the other way, Washington Street, and he used to take it to Walbrook Junction and I worked for the doctor, he was a nice doctor, Dr. Kellogg, it was a pharmacy-

[AMJ]: Uh huh.

[HRH]: -right there on the corner. Made \$25 a week.

[AMJ]: Wow!

[HRH]: Oh, he liked me. Yeah, Jews- bakeries, restaurants, drugstores, [00:34:36] everything was run by Jewish people back then.

[AMJ]: Did Jewish people like Indians mostly?

[HRH]: Well, I don't know, but that doctor did, Dr. Kellogg, he was Jewish.

[JH]: Yeah.

[HRH]: [00:34:47] And he liked me because I was always working, I mopped the floor, sweep the floor, if I want, deliver medicine, I even go to the, uh, wholesale house and pick up medicine. He'd call it in and I go pick it up on the bus, he gave me bus fare. I get on the bus during North Avenue and I'd go all the way down to almost where- you know, where old Sears and Roebuck used to be?

[AMJ]: Uh-uh

[HRH]: On North Avenue?

[AMJ]: Uh-uh

[HRH]: Well, I'd go almost- [laughing]

[JH]: [00:35:20] Ashley only knows what Dundalk is, right?

[AMJ]: Well I know the city, but I- I guess, how long ago did that close?

[HRH]: [00:35:28] closed in the-

[JH]: I don't know how long- I don't remember ever going over there myself, I just know it was over there.

[HRH]: I went over there and bought stuff. At that old S- Sears and Roebuck, right over there Broa- uh, Broadway and North Avenue, was a big Sears department store.

[AMJ]: [00:35:44] Okay, where the- yeah I know about where you mean.

[JH]: Right down at the end like Broad-

[HRH]: Near the end, almost to the end of Broadway. [00:35:50]

[AMJ]: Close to where the courthouse is?

[JH]: There's courthouses over there.

[HRH]: Courthouses [00:35:53] up the street from, uh, [00:35:57] still Sears and Roebuck Company and I'd ride the bus up there and get the medicine and they'd put it in bags and all that

and I get back on the bus. Now, they would rob you! [laughing] I wouldn't even think about doing it now. But anyway, then, I take it back, he liked me because he knew I wouldn't steal nothin'. I never would steal nothin'.

[AMJ]: Do y'all still keep in touch with other Indian folks in North Carolina?

[HRH]: Just my brother-in-law, her people.

[JH]: Just family, mostly.

[AMJ]: Yeah, do you go back often?

[JH]: We go down twice the year and my brother.

[AMJ]: Which brother?

[JH]: Maurice, the one you said you're going to interview, him and I.

[AMJ]: Yeah, what do you do when you get there?

[JH]: We go to Fuller's and eat.

[AMJ]: [00:36:46] What do you want to eat at Fuller's?

[JH]: I- I eat mostly vegetables when I go there, that's the only place you can get vegetables but they have another little place now, it's on 211 Fayetteville Road or something, there in

Lumberton, another little place you can go get all-you-can-eat, it's like a buffet and they got vegetables.

[AMJ]: Yeah. [00:37:09] What do you do when you go, Mr. Redell, hang out with Miss Jeanette?

[HRH]: Well, we go- Last time I went there was last year, wasn't it?

[JH]: When Lee died, his friend Lee-

[HRH]: Lee and, uh- my friend passed away. He used to be a p- he used to work at a plant.

[JH]: He only goes for two days.

[AMJ]: You can't-

[HRH]: That's long enough for me.

[AMJ]: Yeah, you ready to come home?

[HRH]: Mhm.

[JH]: I love it down there, don't you, when you go?

[HRH]: I used to go like once or twice a year, when my sister was living.

[JH]: Yeah he'd stay a whole week, then,[00:37:38] when his sister was living. He'd stay down there a week.

[HRH]: When she passed away, then I, you know, I didn't have nobody close no more.

[AMJ]: [00:37:47] Which sister?

[HRH]: Lilian.

[AMJ]: Lilian?

[HRH] Mhm.

[AMJ]: [00:37:52] Do you still keep in touch with other Lumbee people in Baltimore?

[HRH]: [00:37:57] Yeah, well I go mostly- [00:38:00] well, Bill Freeman, Hillbilly, Jonesy Charlie, 'Lil Charlie, you know him, don't you?

[JH]: You gonna interview him?

[AMJ]: I gotta find him! He won't answer the phone, I got him one time this summer and I haven't heard from him since.

[HRH]: He was down at Minnie's, uh, [00:38:15] birthday party.

[JH]: And talkin' the whole time, Ashley.

[AMJ]: [00:38:18] I saw a picture of him, he has white hair now.

[JH]: Yeah.

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[JH]: He was talking the whole time we were there, [00:38:24] laughing, and him and them two was sitting together. Laughing and carrying on the whole time.

[AMJ]: Yeah. How do you guys keep in touch, when do you see other Indian people up here?

[JH]: [00:38:35] We don't, do we? See Linda once in a while when we go to church, that's about it, she- I tell her to stop by but she never does. That's about the only ones we see, ain't it?

[HRH]: And your brothers. [00:38:48]

[JH]: Brothers? She ain't talkin' about family.

[AMJ]: Yeah!

[JH]: Well, I see him quite often. My brother, Maurice.

[AMJ]: What do you guys like to do together?

[JH]: We don't- we don't ever do no-

[HRH]: We went to the, uh, [00:39:02] the, uh, thing the ce- the ce- uh, the center had, that, uh, crab f- not cra-

[JH]: It was, um, a shrimp and bull roast.

[HRH]: At Union Hall for the [00:39:13] Indian Center.

[AMJ]: Was it good?

[HRH]: Yeah, it had a whole crowd. I mean, it was- it was full. I didn't realize they'd have that many people there.

[JH]: How come you didn't go?

[AMJ]: Covid, I haven't really been anywhere.

[JH]: Oh that's right.

[AMJ]: [00:39:28] What kinds of things did y'all pick up on because you moved to Baltimore, do you notice that you do anything different? Like do you like different foods now or talk differently or wear different clothes at all?

[HRH]: Well, you gotta look back 50 years ago, 60 years ago that- s- jeans is the same style, shirts is almost, so. It ain't m- only thing that- all that change was back in the 80s when Jordache jeans come out and, uh, what do you call 'em, [00:40:02] the flare legs and, you know, that's when things like that changed. And things changed in the early 60s, you had a Buddy Deane's, uh, TV show, all the young people back down to, like, watch that show all the time because they have dancin' and carryin' on there. She was even on there.

[AMJ]: You were a Deaner, Miss Jeanette?

[JH]: No, I didn't, I end up not going, remember- I they-

[HRH]: I thought you and that what-you-call-

[JH]: They called me to go but some reason [00:40:31] I got too nervous and I- [laughing]

[AMJ]: Oh my god, you should have done it!

[HRH]: I thought you did it!

[JH]: No, I didn't go.

[AMJ]: [00:40:38] So, do you love to dance?

[JH]: I used to, yeah, when I had good legs and knees.

[AMJ]: Does that mean you dance, too?

[JH]: No.

[HRH]: No.

[AMJ]: So you dance just with whoever?

[JH]: Me and Liz used to dance a lot together, we used to have parties for every occasion here. We were party people and, um, her and I would dance all night. Just her and I dancing together.

[AMJ]: What do you guys like to dance to?

[JH]: Fast music, that I would just- not that, um, I don't like that rock stuff. Just regular music, you know, country or whatever.

[AMJ]: [00:41:16] Do you eat anything different now because you lived in Baltimore? Like other stuff you wouldn't have eaten before?

[JH]: No, [00:41:24] I don't think I do.

[HRH]: No, we eat c- eat-

[JH]: We still mostly eat [00:41:29] country food, cabbage and collard greens and all that stuff.

[AMJ]: I remember you said you made crab soup the other day.

[JH]: Yeah, I didn't put enough- didn't have enough crab in it, though. Only had some legs, I should have went down and got, like, maybe a half a dozen crabs or something, put in it.

[AMJ]: Did you guys start eating crabs in Baltimore or did you ever have them in North Carolina?

[JH]: No, we started up here.

[HRH]: We didn't know what crabs was down there.

[AMJ]: [00:41:55] What- when did you start eating them up here?

[HRH]: I didn't start eating them 'till later. I didn't- I didn't like them.

[AMJ]: Now you do?

[HRH]: Yeah, I eat 'em, I don't eat 'em as often as she does, she'd eat 'em every day.

[JH]: He's too lazy to pick 'em.

[AMJ]: You try to make Miss Jeanette pick your crabs?

[HRH]: No, she's never picked no crab for me.

[JH]: But he's too lazy, I think that's why he don't eat 'em, he's too lazy to pick 'em. Me and the neighbor get 'em quite a bit.

[AMJ]: [00:42:22] When you went home to North Carolina after living here for a while, did anybody say anything about you talking different or acting different or dressing different?

[JH]: No.

[HRH]: [00:42:34] Up here- up here still now people say I got that southern t- uh, accent.

[JH]: Yeah, a lot of people say, “Where are you from?” Even now.

[AMJ]: Yeah, and what do you say, [00:42:43] North Carolina?

[JH]: Mhm. They say we never lost our accent. [00:42:49] But I think we did, don't you? A little bit? When you talk to different people down there, if you go down there to visit, a lot of ‘em you can't even understand!

[AMJ]: [00:42:59] Yeah, that's true. So that does that mean if you lost some of your North Carolina accent, you picked up some Baltimore?

[JH]: Yeah. [00:43:08]

[AMJ]: Do you notice anything different in North Carolina now that so many people have been coming to Baltimore for years? Like, do you see Baltimore anywhere down there?

[HRH]: No, just people got more now they had when we was growing up down there because [00:43:23] there's not that many farmers anymore, you got to be, like I said, you got to be a big farmer like my brother-in-law- [00:43:31] brother, he's got about 2,000 acres. [00:43:36] And he's got all kind- probably a million dollars worth of farm equipment.

[AMJ]: Oh my gosh.

[HRH]: ‘Cause you gotta have a combine, corn puller, uh plan- the plant all that, uh, stuff.

[JH]: That’s one thing, Ashley, though, that corn down there is terrible, did you ever notice?

[AMJ]: Is it? Maryland has better corn?

[JH]: Yes, that corn is terrible, I couldn't eat that mess.

[AMJ]: [Laughing] [00:44:01] So what do you guys like to do for fun these days?

[HRH]: I go to the racetrack every Saturdays, she goes plays Bingo-

[AMJ]: [00:44:10] What are- what are you doing?

[HRH]: -five times a week. [laughing]

[AMJ]: [00:44:12] What do you do at the racetrack?

[HRH]: Bet the horses.

[AMJ]: But it- is it real horses, like you can see 'em?

[HRH]: You can see 'em, you go out there during the affair.

[JH]: [Laughing] he don't go outside, though.

[AMJ]: [00:44:24] How does he get there and not go outside?

[JH]: Well, he sits inside, they got 'em on the camera, on the, uh, TV.

[HRH]: Got 'em on the TV.

[AMJ]: You can actually see ‘em like a-

[HRH]: Yeah, they’re real.

[JH]: Simulcast, ain’t it called? Simulcast. [00:44:37]

[HRH]: Well it’s automatic, they runnin’ right then, it’s the same thing if you being out there watching ‘em.

[AMJ]: Do you ever win?

[HRH]: Sometime.

[AMJ]: What was your biggest win?

[HRH]: In horses? I don’t know, like a [00:44:49] thousand dollars, I believe.

[AMJ]: Yeah?

[JH]: I didn’t [00:44:53] know about it, though.

[AMJ]: No?

[JH]: He didn’t tell me about it.

[AMJ]: [Gasp]

[HRH]: I don't tell her about the wining, I don't tell her about the losing!

[JH]: You know what he'll say, [00:44:58] if I say to him, "Did you win?" Oh, if he has win he'll say, "A couple dollars."

[HRH]: She don't give me nothin' to play, so if I tell her I win she'll want some of it, so.

[AMJ]: [00:45:10] And tell me about bingo, Miss Jeanette.

[JH]: What about it?

[AMJ]: Where do you play?

[JH]: Well, uh, Friday- last Friday I went over to, um, Armstead Gardens, it's a church over there. And she's startin' to have, she has different things every other Friday, sometime we put puzzles together, you know, seniors, we put puzzles together, some of 'em play cards, not a card person 'cause that's all he [00:45:39] used to do and it drove me crazy all them years. [00:45:43] But this past Friday, we played Bingo, that was the best for me 'cause I couldn't put them puzzles together. First, you got to be able to see that stuff real good, and I couldn't, and, um,[00:45:58] I just wasn't no good at it.

[AMJ]: Do you ever win at bingo?

[JH]: You can't win that much 'cause it's just seniors.

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[JH]: Most probably I ever won was probably \$20.

[AMJ]: Do other Indian people go?

[JH]: Bigham goes.

[AMJ]: Who is Bigham?

[JH]: [00:46:16] Jeanette Walker knows her, she used to live next- well, couple doors from Ty and, um, Jeanette Walker.

[HRH]: And the drugstore up there in the city.

[JH]: She lived [00:46:25] like three doors down from that drugstore I was telling you about. She's the one told me the name of the drugstore 'cause she worked there. She lives in those- I'll give you her number, she lives in those, um, senior buildings, right there next to, um, Patterson High School. A senior building?

[AMJ]: Maybe we could take pictures at bingo and we'll get you and Bigham together.

[JH]: [00:46:47] Well, that bingo's getting ready to end so it'll have to be [00:46:51] soon 'cause I think, you know, the Catholic churches, they're all closing up, they ain't gonna have bingo at these places no more.

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

[HRH]: There won't be that many left. [00:47:07] All the old ones like us will be dead, the young ones is like interra- racial marriage or, or something like that. So, [00:47:18] I- it's going to be very few Indian people.

[JH]: That's what my aunt said, too, 'cause they're all you know, interracial marriages and so, not going to be that many natives left.

[AMJ]: What do you hope for the Indian community? [00:47:34] Like what do you wish would happen?

[JH]: I don't know.

[HRH]: [00:47:38] Well, they need more leaders in- you gotta- I think they should have moved outta that city years ago. But, who am I? I don't go up there that much to it, but city would have been a good place to be, but it's the city, just like any other city. They're turning all radical. [00:48:02] Look at- for the Broadway, every weekend they got fights down there and shootings all over the city and I wish they woulda, uh, [00:48:15] moved out of there years ago. [00:48:18] But they're there now and there's nowhere to park. [00:48:24] Um, still a lot of them-

[JH]: A lot of them don't want to move out, though, like Linda, she don't want to move nowhere. You know, it's not that many- Mary Hellen, she wouldn't move. Know what she was tellin' him and I, we should get another place where we could cook.

[AMJ]: I should ask while I got you, what do you mean by another place to cook? Did you used to cook?

[HRH]: Yeah, it's where- at the senior place.

[AMJ]: What was the senior place?

[HRH]: The senior place, where the daycare and the senior centers was, you know, don't you remember all that?

[AMJ]: Well, I remember but, you know, the Library of Congress, doesn't remember.

[HRH]: Well, you just tell 'em, that's where we- every Thursday we used to cook. We used to have mostly a Indian meal, and we cook every Thursday and sit and talk.

[JH]: County meals, we used to try to cook country meals that other people didn't cook at home.

[AMJ]: Yeah and it was the Native American Senior Citizens and Mr. Redell was the president, right?

[HRH]: Mhm [00:49:25] and Mr. Redell was the cook.

[AMJ]: The very good cook.

[HRH]: [00:49:30] Well, pretty good slop, we slopped it up.

[AMJ]: I don't know. I miss Thursday.

[HRH]: [00:49:37] You just miss that macaroni, you ever cooked that?

[AMJ]: I did like two times since you made it. I'm going to make it again.

[HRH]: We made it-

[JH]: Did it turn out good?

[AMJ]: One time it was awesome, it was just like Mr. Redell's and then the other time it was terrible and I had to throw it away.

[JH]: Well that, that's a hit and miss, 'cause the last time I made it turned out, but one other time I made it didn't, remember that? What I did, I put the tomatoes on and I let 'em cook for a while and then I browned my ground beef and I drained that and poured it in the tomatoes, then after that cooked for a while, then I put the macaroni in it, turned out good.

[AMJ]: I miss everything. I miss the cornbread, I miss the cabbage, I miss the barbecue, when you did a fundraiser. What was it like being president in the seniors?

[HRH]: You worked your butt off. [00:50:28] Go- well, I had to go sometime two days a week to go find the food, I try to get it on sale, like we was having barbecue, I try to find the shoulders on sale when there's like 69 cents a pound. Um, when [00:50:44] you have, uh, ground beef or ham- uh, what would- how hot dogs that much- cabbage I try to get on sale, go to the market and buy produce over there when it was on sale, you know, it was cheaper and fresher. And then you have to get up, pack up everything in the truck, take it down there and you couldn't park 'till 9:00, that was one big mistake when I got, uh, uh, that place licensed for, uh, for- for the cook down there, for the, that was- it was never registered Baltimore City 'till, uh, I went in and took over, all them years they had it down there, and I applied for a food per- for a food license to cook and the health inspector used to come out once every couple months wasn't it, he'd eat with us.

[AMJ]: I would, too, I mean, I did, too.

[HRH]: No, but I'm talkin' bout he would eat, you know, he ain't supposed to do that, but he's black and he liked the Indian food 'cause it's almost the way the black were cookin', he'd sit down to eat just like the rest of us. I'd invite him to eat.

[AMJ]: Do you miss doing it?

[JH]: At first he did, he used to talk about it all the time.

[HRH]: But you know, I'm kinda too old. If I- like I said, if I had- you could pull in and park, get out, take your food out in there but you had to wait till 9:00 before you could park in front of the building unload the food then you only had two hours and something to make some whole complete meal and you'd have to get in a rush, you'd have to say, "Okay, you know what you havin' today, we havin' cabbage and we havin' stew beef or pork chops," uh, you'd have to start cooking your pork chops a cert-

[JH]: Jonesy used to help us a lot, he'd come down there early and he would help out a little bit, ain't it?

[HRH]: Mhm, and my brother was always down there early, Michael.

[AMJ]: Mr. Mike.

[HRH]: Yeah, he used to come down there and help us, he'd be [00:52:51] down there right after we would, he would make coffee or help or, uh, vacuuming the floor if something- the kids or something had been in that room.

[JH]: Why don't they try to get a kitchen, [00:53:01] if somebody dote- donate some money put a kitchen in that buildin' they could have things over there and make money.

[AMJ]: At the Indian Center?

[HRH]: Parking, that's one key, ca- where you going to park? Johns Hopkins, them son of rascals parks there on Broadway, and walk up to the s- to the things so they don't have to pay for parking. Been doing that the whole time I- I've been down there.

[AMJ]: What happened to the seniors? Why is it closed?

[HRH]: They sold the building.

[AMJ]: Why'd they do that?

[HRH]: 'Cause the daycare was closed.

[AMJ]: Why'd the daycare close?

[HRH]: [Laughing] 'Cause they didn't have no kids.

[AMJ]: [00:53:39] Were you sad when they sold it?

[HRH]: Not really- I was offered to buy it- I mean they offered to sell it to me, I should have bought it for real cheap but they finally sold it. I could have bought it. I forgot how much but it was real cheap and I could have did like the guy bought it, he bought it and six months later, he sold it.

[AMJ]: Do you feel like the seniors don't get together as much now that you don't have the building?

[HRH]: They don't never get together. [00:54:09]

[JH]: That's what Mary Hellen misses, I guess, she's always trying to get people to get together, but then she don't want to get up.

[AMJ]: If you guys had a place out here somewhere, would you do it again?

[HRH]: Maybe, but maybe not every week, maybe-

[JH]: Once a month or somethin'.

[HRH]: Once every two weeks, [00:54:27] unless you can get other people to join to-

[AMJ]: Cook.

[HRH]: -to take- yeah, you know, cook or help out. [00:54:35] I- I started to buy, we should have bought his building right down there, used to be a doctor's office and it was only \$75,000. I've called about it and I was debating to buy it or not. I was going to buy it and take the whole first floor make s- Indian Center- I meant a, you know, daycare, or not a day care-

[AMJ]: Senior center?

[HRH]: Senior, I didn't- upstairs we were gonna move Bobby (Howard Redell Hunt Jr.) in, but then I changed my mind and [00:55:04] you know, you don't have no more \$75,000 houses no more, just, 3- \$400,000, you know. [00:55:13] Then I would have to be down there every thursday or 'cause I opened up- most all seniors is run by the county and they got a director [00:55:25] and we don't have one in this area. We used to have one over in East, uh, Eastwood at the school. Then when they closed the school, they made the police department over there and they had one and somehow, I guess, all the old people got out of it, died off, and nobody came back.

[AMJ]: I think it would be cool to have another Native American Senior Citizens, I would be there every time.

[HRH]: [00:55:54] You go buy it, we'll p- we'll move in there.

[AMJ]: I'll find us a grant.

[HRH]: You get us a grant, you gotta get one about four or five hundred thousand dollars.

[AMJ]: [00:56:03] Well, it's a new challenge.

[HRH]: There's a big buildin' on the right here on, uh, Eastern Avenue, it's a roofin' place now, the guy, was some kind of business, he sold it and a roofing company, they bought it, it sold for \$300,000. A big buildin', it's bigger than the daycare and the s- and the senior buildin' down there. And it only sold for \$300,000, would have been a perfect building for us.

[AMJ]: It seems like so much money.

[HRH]: It was then, but it ain't nothing now, \$300,000 ain't nothin'.

[AMJ]: [00:56:37] Is there anything you'd like the young people of the Indian community to hear from you?

[HRH]: No, they really don't wanna hear nothin'.

[AMJ]: [00:56:45] I do, hello, I'm here!

[JH]: [00:56:50] No, I can't think of anything.

[AMJ]: Anything else you want to tell the world, just people in general?

[JH]: [00:56:58] No.

[HRH]: No, we on our way out, she can say.

[AMJ]: [00:57:04] No, you're forbidden to exit.

[JH]: That's what I tell him all the time, he says some, "I'm on my way out." He's talking about a storm door out front and this and that, I said I've been telling him that for 20 years, I said I'm on my way out now, I ain't worried about it.

[AMJ]: Really? [00:57:23]

[JH]: No, it don't seem to bother him as much now.

[AMJ]: You got upset before?

[HRH]: About the door?

[AMJ]: About Miss Jeanette. [00:57:33] She's not allowed to die, right?

[HRH]: Not that- I gotta go first, [00:57:39] I ain't gonna stay here and take care of no big house.

[AMJ]: I'm sure that's what it's about [laughing] [00:57:48] You guys crack me up. [00:57:52] Okay, we're all done.

[JH]: Lemme see the picture of your baby now.

[AMJ]: Of course!