



Carl Harding Oral History Interview

Ashley Minner Jones

May 15, 2024

Pasadena, 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: Carl Harding (CH)

Age: 79

Sex: Male

Occupation: Owner, Pasadena Design Concepts

Residence: Pasadena, Maryland

Tribal Affiliation: Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

Interviewer: Ashley Minner Jones [AMJ]

Location of Interview: Pasadena, Maryland

Date of Interview: May 15, 2024

Time of Interview: 1:00 PM ET

Transcriber: Magdelene Jones

Key Words

Pembroke, Baltimore, bricklaying, Lumbee, Robeson County, East Baltimore, trades, sharecropping, Moonlight Restaurant, masonry, Morehead City, Pasadena, business, farming, Indian School, foreman, laborer, bricklayer, tradesman, fishing, crabs, Baltimore American Indian Center, North Carolina, squeegee boys, job training

Abstract

Carl Dean Harding (Lumbee), age 79, is originally from Robeson County, North Carolina. He ran away from home at age 15 seeking work in Morehead City, where he learned to be a bricklayer. He eventually migrated to East Baltimore, following his trade. Carl quickly advanced to foreman and was able to hire other Lumbee workers. He estimates he has taught the trade to as many as 30 people in his lifetime.

Carl went on to own his own successful business, Pasadena Building Concepts, which specializes in masonry, concrete, and stone work. He resides in Pasadena, Maryland, where he enjoys fishing on the Magothy River. He predicts there won't be an Indian community in Baltimore in 10 or 20 years, but hopes those who remain can hold onto the church. Carl advises

young people to learn a trade, stay in school, and be the best they can be at whatever they can be, but cautions that there's more to life than making a living.

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[00:00:01] Harding introduces himself and describes his upbringing as a sharecropping family in Robeson County, North Carolina

[00:01:07] Harding details his childhood, having 9 siblings, doing unpaid farm work, and living in a community of Black, White, and Lumbee people.

[00:03:44] Harding discusses moving to Baltimore for better work opportunities.

[00:05:49] Harding tells the story of his journey to Baltimore for the first time, which was also his first time traveling further than 50 miles away from his home in North Carolina.

[00:09:54] Harding talks about seeing other Lumbee Indians in his East Baltimore neighborhood and discusses the food he ate at The Moonlight.

[00:11:28] Harding describes living in his sister's one bedroom apartment with 9 other people, having to move out, living in a three-bedroom apartment nearby, and helping other Lumbee people move to Baltimore.

[00:13:23] Harding describes the Lumbee work ethic.

[00:14:51] Harding explains his current job as an estimator and masonry contracting company owner

[00:17:05] Harding talks about how he got involved in masonry as a 15-year-old runaway in North Carolina, moving from farming to bricklaying.

[00:28:14] Harding discusses his plans and experiences teaching trades to Baltimore youth, in total he taught 20 or 30 people a trade.

[00:31:06] Harding explains how he learned to read blueprints and become a foreman and site supervisor as a 17-year-old.

[00:36:51] Harding talks about the origin of his nicknames "Youngblood" and "Carl, the Hammer."

- [00:37:16] Harding describes how he ended up having a home and business in Pasadena, Maryland.
- [00:40:20] Harding talks about the difference between living in Baltimore and living in Pasadena.
- [00:40:55] Harding discusses moving out of the city and into a Polish and German community, being the only Native American, and adjusting to his new neighborhood.
- [00:44:36] Harding describes what it means to grow up tough.
- [00:45:48] Harding explains how he keeps in touch with other Lumbee people in North Carolina and Baltimore.
- [00:48:37] Harding talks about the ways living in Baltimore has influenced him, including his love of crabs, and getting Lumbee relatives to try crabs.
- [00:52:45] Harding describes turning trips to North Carolina for funerals and homecoming into a vacation, and the foods he brings back home to Maryland.
- [00:54:24] Harding talks about his fishing hobby, including how he began fishing out of necessity, where he fishes now, and the differences between fishing in Maryland and North Carolina.
- [00:58:52] Harding describes buying a plane, although he never learned to fly it.
- [00:59:52] Harding discusses his predictions and hopes for the future of the Baltimore Lumbee community. He predicts the community will scatter, but hopes they can maintain a church for a gathering space.
- [01:00:51] Harding urges Lumbee youth to learn a trade and stay in school, elaborating on his disappointment in having to leave school to take care of his family when his father got cancer.
- [01:04:26] Harding tells the world about his experience with black and white people, his thankfulness for people of all nationalities, and urges people to mingle with people of different races and nationalities.
- [1:05:43] Harding elaborates on the work ethic of Lumbee people.
- [1:09:10] Harding finishes with advice for young people to learn about handling finances, he tells a story about not knowing he was Native American despite attending an Native American school, and his wishes for everyone to live in harmony.

Transcript

Ashley Minner Jones [AMJ]: [00:00:01] Hello, my name is Ashley Minner Jones. It is May 15th 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 of Baltimore Lumbee Elders. What is your name, sir?

Carl Harding [CH]: Carl Harding.

[AMJ]: Where are you from?

[CH]: I'm originally from North Carolina, St. Paul's, Lumberton, Parkton, Red Springs. I lived in all those towns- all those townships- Maxton. Sharecroppers, so we moved a lot.

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

[CH]: I'm just an average guy. I hope, you know, honest, try to be uh- treat everybody the way I want to be treated. [00:00:53]

[AMJ]: Um, when and where were you born?

[CH]: In North Carolina, Robeson County.

[AMJ]: What year?

[CH]: 1944. [00:01:02]

[AMJ]: And how did you grow up?

[CH]: Farming, [00:01:07] walking behind mules, picking cotton, cucumber, soybeans, tobacco, whatever it took. [00:01:14]

[AMJ]: Um, what was that like?

[CH]: Hard work, but everybody did it. So we didn't know it was hard work till I moved to Maryland and as uh, you know, I started public working and found out that people pay you for your work. [laughter] We- there was no paying then- we were just raising a family.

[AMJ]: Yeah. Who was in your family? Was it a big family?

[CH] We had nine brothers and sisters, my mother and my father, 11 of us all together.

[AMJ]: [00:01:41] And how come there was no pay for all that hard work?

[CH]: Most of it was swap off, if some- somebody needed you to work, you work with them and if you- they- my father needed them, they would come and trade back off. There was no money exchanged at that time, it wasn't any money, anyway, [laughter] where we- at least we didn't have any.

[AMJ]: What kind of people lived in the community where you grew up?

[CH]: Uh, was all whites, blacks and Indians. [00:02:09]

[AMJ]: Indians from what tribe?

[CH]: Um, Lumbees. [00:02:13]

[AMJ]: What are Lumbees like?

[CH]: Lumbees is like family. Everybody's like a family. The- they- if you live around Lumbees you- they treat you like it- when you're being raised, the Lumbee women treat you as just if you're one of their kids. If you get out of order, they'll spank your butt as- would spank your butt or do whatever it took as a mother, so you respected them like you did your mother, no matter where you went.

[AMJ]: Do you have a lot of fond memories growing up?

[CH]: Oh, a lot of them, yeah, yeah was- think back [00:02:46] and think, compare that to now it's a big difference.

[AMJ] Yeah. What's different now?

[CH]: Well, when I was in the cotton field picking cotton and I would see a car go by, we thought that person was rich because they had a car and I never expected any day in my life that I would ever have a car. And, first time ever got a car, I looked around to see how many people was going to be thinking I was rich but [laughing] I was just growing up and the times was changing. So, you know, everybody did their own thing, and try to help other people, that's the way we grew up.

[AMJ]: Yeah, I know you said what year you were born but just for the record, how old are you today, Mr. Carl?

[CH]: 79.

[AMJ]: What are we going to do for 80?

[CH]: 80? [00:03:32] I don't know. Probably hide behind a ca- hidin' behind a door somewhere. May not want to be reminded of it, but I'm okay. I've aged pretty good.

[AMJ]: I would say so. [00:03:44] Um, what brought you to Baltimore?

[CH]: Work, construction work, more money. [00:03:51]

[AMJ]: Can you tell the story of the work that brought you to Baltimore?

[CH]: Oh, yeah, I was a bricklayer and I was a foreman and working, uh, on a job. And I was making a dollar 75 cents an hour, running a five-man crew and every weekend I was hanging with the wrong people, I had just got married and everybody was still wanting to go out and hangin' together and blow money and go to the bootleggers and juke joints and I couldn't get away from that. And I had realized one day that I had to get away from the people I was hangin' with so I called my sister that lived in Maryland, and I asked her, I says, "Is there any bricklayers- ads for bricklayers in the newspaper?" She said, "Yeah, there's, uh, let me look, I just got a paper today." She said, "Oh, there 'bout say s- 15 or 17 in there." I said, "How much they pay?" She said, "Uh, anywhere from \$3 to \$3.75 an hour." I said, "My god that's double, that's almost triple what I make now." I said uh, "Could I come to Maryland and live with you till I got a job and, uh, you know, find my own place?" She said, "Yeah, come on up!" Not realized she had a one-bedroom apartment at the time. [laughter] [00:05:04] So, my wife and I, we headed to Baltimore. That- there's a little story behind that I wasn't planning on bringing her. I was gone come up and I skip paying my bootleg bill and all my bills that week so I could get a bus ticket to Maryland and I figured I'd just sneak out and get away from them guys and I'd pay 'em later so I didn't want anybody h- an- anybody or a lot of people to know that I was leaving because, you know, I didn't want anybody follow me or I didn't- I was just trying to get away and gets my life started all over again. So, my wife says, if you go, I'm going, I said, "Look, let me get a place and then," you know, no, we just got married. "You get up there and get around them white women, I never see you again." [laughter] [00:05:49] So, I had to get her bus ticket and that left us \$12 and on the way to the state of Maryland, I had never been away from home no more than 50 miles in my whole life and only time I went that far was to visit somebody in

prison, we rode with somebody that were visiting their son and they let us ride with them, me and my brother. But other than that, I hadn't never been out of the county, really, no, no more than just riding a bicycle or something, you know.

[AMJ]: What was it like when you got here?

[CH]: [00:06:17] Scary, really scary. I went to sleep on that's Greyhound bus and I was coming up the Baltimore-Washington Parkway not knowing where I was at the time, but that bus hit a bump at the Russell Street bridge, and I woke up and looked out the window and all I could see was lights. Mile- as far as I could see. And I said, oh my god. I've never seen but one red light my whole life and that was in St. Paul's, and other- you go to town at night, that- after 6:00 there's all the stores close. And it would be dark, they didn't have street lights or anything like that. So I'm looking out and I said, oh my god, all I got is an address and I- \$12 in my pocket and a wife. I s- uh, if I had- woulda had the money I'da turn around and left. Scared to death. Got off that bus and the taxi drivers lined up, "Hey, you, you, you, you!" I said to this guy, I said, "Hey, do you know where this address is?" I had the address on a matchbook cover, all it was, was uh 27 North Broadway, Baltimore, Maryland. That was it. He said, "Yeah, jump in the cab." He threw my little bag back there, in the back, my wife- my f- my wife and I had all our clothes in the same bag, a little shopping bag. So, he threw the clothes in the back and jumped in there and it'll sound like- felt like he was going 100 miles an hour coming out of Baltimore City headed toward Broadway, I had no idea where we was going. And I said, "Oh my God, if this guy gets stopped and locked up for speeding or, you know, breaking the law, or whatever." At- all kind of crazy stuff was coming in my head. He pulls up in front of, uh, Broadway at the Moonlight and he jumps out and says "There, you are, right there." I said, uh, "Where?" He said, "That's it right there." I said "All them houses look alike to me, buddy." I said, "I- I did- I'm not getting out of the cab till you make sure my sister's in one of them houses." He said, "What's your name? And what's the floor?" And I told him "Aggie Harding and, uh, she said she lived on the third floor." He goes inside and rings the bell and steps back out in the street. And I'm saying to myself, "She's on the third floor. Why is he coming out on the street?" I thought she'd come down the stairs and open the door and say hi or whatever. This window comes up and my sister sticks her head out that window with big hair roller cut- curlers in her hair, yells down there, "Can I help you?" Cab driver says, "Yeah, I got a guy in my cab, won't get out, he says he's your brother." She says, "Oh yeah, that's Carl, my brother Carl!" [laughter] I was already getting out of that cab when I saw her head pop out that window, that was the most beautiful sight I'd ever- ever seen in my life. Oh God, and we got up, next day, I started calling around. That was on a- we got there on a Friday night or Saturday, I forget, but 1964 and, uh, that next day, I grabbed a- got a

newspaper, started calling, the first person I called, I told him, I just came from North Carolina, I was looking for a job and then guess what the guy says, he says, "I'm from down south, too." He was the owner of the company. He says out in the south- came from- moved from South Carolina here years ago and started my own business. So that worked out good for me. He was, they was billed Crofton Maryland, then, and, um, his wife picked me up because I didn't know how to catch a bus or anything like that, so she picked me up and they showed me how to get home in the evenings and then they had some guys that was working with them, lived in Baltimore City, and they arranged for them to come by and pick me up till I got all my gatherings together and figured my way out around the city and all that.

[AMJ]: [00:09:54] Do you remember what it felt like being there the next day? Like did you see other people who were Indian from North Carolina?

[CH]: Um, everybody where we- where I was around the Moonlight was Indian, so that was all that was there. That's one thing made me feel comfortable was all Indians, mostly Indians, there was, it was Greeks that own the businesses like stores, the restaurants, and so forth, or, um, Polish, but the whole neighborhood was Indians, Lumbees from North Carolina.

[AMJ]: Did you see people you knew right away?

[CH]: Right away, yes. [laughter] [00:10:28] I saw people that, uh, my sister had went to school with, and they lived up here and I knew them right off the bat, you know, and other people, too, that, uh, older people that had, I didn't even know they lived in Maryland, they had- I knew them as a kid and they had moved to Maryland and was working at General Motors and places like that.

[AMJ]: Did you go to The Moonlight on your first day?

[CH]: First day, yep.

[AMJ]: Do you remember what you ate?

[CH]: Uh, I think I- sausage and eggs with home fries. The way they fix home fries, I had never had them before. Oh my God, they were delicious [laughter].

[AMJ]: How'd they fix them?

[CH]: Uh, they just cut them up, they sliced them like my mother did and she would fry them, but they put them on the grill and was stirring them, you know, and big lumps and big piles of them, you know, stirring them, and then they get the crust on them. Oh my goodness, they was good.

[AMJ]: I love breakfast, too.

[CH]: Yeah, it was my favorite meal was at breakfast at The Moonlight. Is- they had some good food there.

[AMJ]: [00:11:28] So you were living with your sister in a one-bedroom apartment, what was that like?

[CH]: It was kind of crowded because after I came up here, everybody else wanted to come, too, and they was- they- after all we had about 10 people in that apartment. Landlord kicked us out, [laughing] he didn't kick us out, I mean he told her, my sister, that some of us had to move out of there, and, uh, I was more knowledgeable than the rest of them about, uh, as far as the city went, you know? So I went out and, uh, started looking, and the first place I found was, uh, 27 North, was uh- was Pratt Street, I think was on Pratt Street, right down from the Patterson Park. It was the first floor apartment, three bedrooms, \$25 a month, \$25 a week, furnished. So all of us moved in there. [00:12:18] And, six months later I had the whole house, second and third floor from- people from North Carolina, everybody found out I was up here working and doing good and bragging about it. I wasn't bragging, I was just telling them what the conditions was, difference between where they was working and what I was doing, you know, and they started coming up and the boss, the guy told me, said, "I'll take as many as you can bring." They had never saw Lumbees the way they work, we work like the Hispanics do now, seven days a week

and, uh, every- everybody- I say, "I got two guys want to come up next week and go to work." He, he- "Bring them on. Bring them on. Bring them on." I had w- I had 15, 20 guys in, uh, Crofton at one time working.

[AMJ]: [00:13:02] So it was- wasn't a secret, you were here for about 5 minutes. [00:13:07] Everybody found out you were here immediately.

[CH]: Everybody found out, yeah. Next day, next day, when it was time to go out and party and I wasn't around and they found out that I was gone, my mother told him where I was.

[AMJ]: Where do you think that Lumbee work ethic comes from?

[CH]: [00:13:23] Hard- well, it's- it's taught to you as you- as you growing up. I mean, you work- back then there was no social services and nothing to help you out, so you earn- you knew you had to work to live and everybody was seeking work. You didn't have to tell them to go get a job, they was looking- always looking for a job, if nobody had a job, but most people had jobs, at- farming was continuous year round. There was no time off, a little, you know, a little bit of time in the winter, so you would pray for rain or snow. That's how you learn how to pray when you're a kid, you pray for- pray to- so it's raining or snowing, so you don't have to go to school [laughter] [00:14:03] but it was just a work ethic and when I started called- we called it public working, then, you know, working for hourly wage. [00:14:14] Uh, I would work seven days a week and when the guy would give me my check on Fridays, I would shake his hand and thank him for letting me work with him, you know, that's our proud- how proud I was of being able to, you know, that they would give me an opportunity like that. I looked at it as opportunities, you know, I never looked at- never ever thought about it is hard work. It was never hard work and it was work that I enjoyed doing.

[AMJ]: Well, you got very, very good at what you do. What do you do now, Mr. Carl?

[CH]: I am now, I am an estimator. [00:14:51] I own the company. So I guess I would be the executive president. I'm an estimator, I'm a bookkeeper, I'm a secretary and, you know, I have to supervise all those employees. So, I- in order to supervise somebody, you have to know how to

do it yourself, so I had to teach myself in order to make sure that they was doing their job. So [00:15:15] I got about- I couldn't name all the descriptions, the job descriptions that I do, you know, I am a bricklayer, I became a concrete finisher, I became a tile layer, I became a carpenter, I became a apprentice electrician, apprentice heat and air condition, I mean I don't install them or anything but I knew how to rough them in the houses and do that kind of work, you know, do the set up, and electrical work, I can- once the electrician would hook everything in the boxes after I ran it and test it, I can wire whole house and learned it all from a book, reading at night. I would learn the basics in the book and then I'd find an opportunity to go out and try it somewhere and that's how I became- learned all those trades.

[AMJ]: [00:16:02] Wow, and what's the name of your company?

[CH]: Pasadena Building Concepts.

[AMJ]: And how long have you been in business?

[CH]: Oh... [00:16:12] Probably 30 years, I've uh- although, the company name has changed a couple of times from wives and partners and so forth. But it was we still the same, same employees, same company saying [00:16:29] kind of work and so forth.

[AMJ]: If you had to explain to someone what- what your company does, how would you explain it?

[CH]: I would say that we are masonry contractors, we, uh, do landscaping. Anything, anything pertaining to our work, if we have to do demolition, if we have to do [00:16:50] hook up water lines or cut water lines on a job we know how to fix them, you know, without calling a plumber, [00:16:57] uh, we're jack of all trades, but- and the masters of masonry, concrete, and stone.

[AMJ]: [00:17:05] Will you tell me how you got started in masonry?

[CH]: Yeah, I'd ran away from home when I was 15 years old, uh, the guy's, uh, place where we hang out at a juke joint, these new guys, I never knew them, but I just knew them that they was the Indians and they worked on farms somewhere. They was in Morehead City working and they would come home on the weekend and they would have dollar bills, actual dollar bills to spread around, you know, buying sodas and honey buns and crackers and stuff. We might have sold a little- but my- me and my brother, we'd sell a sack of corn once in a while and get 'bout two or three dollars, but we didn't- there was no such thing as an allowance because my parents didn't have money. And, uh, these guys were bragging about their money and they said, uh, they said, "Hey, if you was old enough, you could go to work with us." You know, I said- uh, they said, "How old are you?" I said, uh, "16." He said, "Yeah, you can, wor- you come to go to work with us." So I packed my little bags and, uh, actually, I had already got my driver's license 'cause when I turned 15, they said you had to be 16 to get your license, so I went to the, uh, license place and walked in there and say, "Today is my birthday, I came to get my driver license." They, "Fill out this form." And they would- no ID or anything, I didn't have to show- [laughter] [00:18:21] gave me a driver's permit right there on the spot. So, therefore, I already had driver's license. So we- I put- pack all my little stuff in a little shopping bag, just pair of underwear, t-shirt, change of pants, pair of socks, and that, water shoes that I had on, and the clothes that I had on, and threw them out the window, sneaked away and went with them boys to Morehead City, and the first week that we were- I work, we work at- the guy gave me \$40, I had never seen \$40 in my life, not that much money, and I put it in my pocket and I thought all night long somebody was going to kill me and rob me, I had never said- I'd never seen that much money in my life and I had a hawkbill pocket knife, I laid on it- I laid on my, uh, bunk, it was a like a migrant house where they had to build the bunks in the side of the wall all the way around for 10 guys. I laid on the top bunk and I never went to sleep all night long with my pocket knife in my hand, 'fraid somebody was gonna rob me [laughter] [00:19:22] After that weekend, I started spending money and I never looked at it as a lot of money since [laughter] [00:19:28] I got right in with the crowd and we started, we didn't- w- wasn't partying that much, but, you know, we was having a good time.

[AMJ]: What was the work like?

[CH]: It was all cropping tobacco, farming. It was, uh, actually, that's all we did, we went up and, uh, put in tobacco, crop tobacco, put it in the barn, take it, get up at 3:00 in the morning, take it out. Typical same thing we was doing in- on the farm but I was getting paid for it and working for somebody that, you know, they was paying me to do it. After, uh, the crop was over with for the summer and all these guys says, uh, the get- farmer told us that, "Okay, all you guys

can go home till next year.” All the guys getting ready to go home, and I call my- I went to a pay phone somehow, I got- hope- my- they didn't have a phone, but I passed the word somewhere, how, to get the word to them that I'd be coming home and, uh, they said, uh, my- my father said, “You made your bed hard, you stay where you're at.” You know, um, we left us at a 400, uh, acre farm, three mules and the, uh, the other boys, my younger brothers had to take over and help out, you know, where I- said you'd might as well stay where you are. I said, “oh my-” I don't know what I was gonna do, I wasn't, uh, I hadn't even turned 16 years old, then, but everybody thought I was 16. So these- well- couple of guys that were already live there in that- in Morehead City, they said, “We're going to get a public job.” And I said, “What- what do you mean a public job?” They said, “Well, they building a armory down the road here and, uh, somebody told us they was hiring laborers.” They said, “Come and go with us.” So we go in there, and the boss is sitting behind the counter and he said- we tell him, “We're looking for a job.” [And he asked, what the one guy- said, “What can you do?” Guy says, “I've worked a little bit with carpenters and this and that and so forth.” He said, okay, y'all go- he looked at me and said, “What can you do?” I said, “I'll do- I can do anything.” He said, “What have you ever done?” I said, “Well, I'm a farmer. I know how to do farming.” But this guy says, “Pushing wheelbarrows and digging holes and stuff.” I said, “I know I can do that.” He says, uh, “Well, you can't do anything, you've got to learn, but I'm going to give you a chance to learn.” He says, “How old are you?” I said, “16.” He said, “Okay, yeah, I'll try you out.” So they put me- it was a big company, and they was no subcontractors, then, that company had all their own contractors in house. So every day of the laborers would go out with a different crew, or you might work with one of the same crew, but the [00:21:59] uh, the contractors like the electricians, plumbers, all that, they would pick how many men they needed that morning, “I need three guys.” “Okay, pick three guys out of this bunch here and bound.” So, everyday we was jumping around from job to job. That's one of the reasons why I learned so many trades because I had already did it, you know, I saw how it was done, and so forth. So I worked there and jumping around and one day to- the boss says to me, he says, uh, “Young blood,” he says, uh, “You've been working with all these guys here,” He says, uh, “About time for you to learn a trade. So, who do you like working with best?” I said, “The bricklayers.” He says, uh, “Why?” I said, “Man, I don't know, but I- them guys lay them brick and make it look so easy.” I said, “I- I like working with them. I just like watching them, after I get him set up.” Now- He says, “Well, from now on you work with the bricklayers.” So, everyday he sent me out with the bricklayers, the bricklayer crew, and, uh, about two weeks later, he says to me, he says, “You need to learn a trade, you want to be a bricklayer, Carl?” I said, “Well, if I was going to be anything, I want to be a bricklayer.” He says, “Okay, you going to be a bricklayer.” I said, “No, I like doing what I'm doing.” Because I thought I was making pretty good money, you know, “I like doing what I'm doing.” He said, uh, “Well, why don't you want to learn to be a bricklayer?” I said, “That guy told me it would take three years to be a bricklayer.” [laughing] He said, [00:23:26] “So what are you going to be doing three years from now?” I

says, "I don't know. I- I'll- I'll stay here work with these bricklayers." He said, "Well." [laughing] [00:23:37] Made me look- made me open my eyes and think, you know, wait a minute, I do have three more years in front of me. I said, uh, "Well," uh, he says, "You gonna be a bricklayer and here's how you're gonna do it." He says, uh, "I'ma give you- I'ma give you your paycheck, if you don't come in Monday morning with a trial, a level, a hammer, you're not- you don't need a rule right now, and you already have a striking arm," Cause that's what- the carpenter had plenty of them in his bag. He says, "If you don't come in with them three items," Say, "Don't show up." I said, "Where am I going to get them?" He says, "There's a hardware store, just go to a hardware store, and you ain't gonna be able to party this weekend and blow your money. You go get them tools and you show up Monday morning." I showed up that Monday morning with them tools, and there was a black guy, he was one of the best bricklayers- even now I look back and think some of the things this guy could do. He was amazing, he was in- he was an artist. He said, "You're going to work with, uh, Leon or Allen," whatever his name was, "You going to work with him because he was the guy that built the corners." Back then, we set up corner poles now, but back then the bricklayers actually built the corners, built the height, set the heights, you know, it had certain heights to hit, you had to be within a quarter inch of it and 10, 12 feet and that's what that guy's job was, he go ahead of the bill- ahead of everybody, me- build the corners, and I was his laborer. I'm dragging this bucket around thinking, "I'm working with him. I got tools in my bucket, and what- what good are they doing?" So, he would build a corner up and coming out of the ground at the walls is like 8 to 12 inches under the ground, that's where the brickworkers start, and that part would be hidden after they grade, so he'd hang- have me hang a line on that and he said, "You're going to lay those three courses of brick up to grading and the bricklayers will take it from there." That was his job, so he was going to build the corners, he's gonna teach me how to lay brick underground. So the first day I laid about 10 or 12 bricks, somewhere around there, and he had to move two or three of them, five or six of them, whatever, because he was teaching me how to strike up at the same time and I got pretty good at that, so that's all I wanted to do, but he- I still couldn't get it in my head that I could actually be a bricklayer and I said, "No way I'd ever learn how to do that." You know, and, uh, the next day he says, "Alright, I want you to pull all three courses in there and, uh, then I'll walk back and forth and check you." So that day I laid about 30 brick and he moved five or six of 'em. The third day, I laid all three courses and, uh, he might have tapped one or two of them and that was it, after that, the line- he would have me bring the walls up knee-high and I would be able to- I'd get him going and I could build a wall faster than he was building the corners [laughing] [00:26:33] because he'd tell me sometime, "You gotta slow down, you're pulling my corner over with them le- with that strong pulling a tight line on it." And the brick was wet and I'd pull and twist his corners. And uh, he'd say, "You just slow down, slow down." So he said, "You know what you need to do, you need to learn to build corners." So he would put me on one and get me started, show me how to use the level and so forth, and he'd go down on the other end and he would

work on that end, and then he'd come back and check me. After about [00:27:02] t- two weeks, I guess, he would walk down there and he would say, "I've been watching you, you're not using that level that walls has got to be plumb." I said, "It is plum!" He's, uh, I- he said, "I'm going to check it when I get there." I said, "Okay come check it." He would check it and he would say, "How in the hell you build a corner without a level?" Because he would lay one row and lay the level on it, tap it, and plumb it, plumb it, lay another row, and he saw me, I was going like five rows before I'd ever pick the level up. And I told him, I said, "Well, I laid the first five rows plumb and then I looked down the corner, sight down the corner." He said, "Well, what does that do? How do you keep it plumb?" I said, "Well, if the corners cocked out, that means the bricks going up or, you know, if it's cocked down this way it mean I'm going downhill." I said "That corner tells me that that-" he said, "Well, damn, it must be working 'cause you corner's dead plumb!" And I got where I could run a 40-foot chimney all the way up after I got the first six or eight, uh, feet of it, and run it all the way to the top and never pick up a level, I leave my level in the truck. That's how good I was. [00:28:14] I was uh- I was one of the best bricklayers around, I think.

[AMJ]: Could you still do it?

[CH]: Uh, yep, still could do it. I mean, I wouldn't be as fast as I was then, but n- I still got the techniques. I could teach anybody how to do it, you know. My idea was it- if I was 40 years old, I will go to Baltimore city and I'd take all those squeegee kids and have them give me a grant of like a million dollars, let's go into the neighborhood, knock down all the rowhouses, all the houses on one block, clean it up, let's dig a hole, and start with teaching the guys how to run a piece of equipment. Give me a bobcat and an excavator and a dump truck, I would t- first off, I would teach the guy to run the bobcat, I'd teach 'em to run the dump truck and I teach 'em how to, uh, run the excavator and give me three guys in one week, I would have them qualified to go get a job. Because what I would do, I'd dig the hole, have the guy deep it out, put it on the truck, and bring it back, dump it in the hole, and just repeat that process every day, every day, 'till they learn their trade. And, uh, it's the same thing if you put them out on a job, they would go be doing the same thing that I'm making them repeat till they get it the way they want it. Then after we dug the hole and got those guys move to what- moved off, I would bring in some new guys and we would dig footers and we would h- dig those footers and shoot the grades on 'em, and pile it- cover them up with dirt and I just keep repeating every process right on up to bricklaying, and concrete, and whatever it was, and I- it- and I figured if I was 40 years old, within one year, I would have 600 guys out of Baltimore City on a job. [00:30:04] And just repeat the process over and over and over, just move 'em right through, move 'em through. And a lot of those guys if

they were, [00:30:13] you know, get up and go out on a hot street and wash windshields, they would love to have a construction job with all that money coming in.

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[CH]: But I did that one time in Baltimore City, they- we got a grant, somehow they got a grant that if when we was working in Crofton, if I would hire, uh, some of them Indian guys out of the city and the city- the state would pay half of their wages, if I hired them as a laborer, moved 'em up as a helper and then made 'em an apprentice bricklayer, blocklayer, and we- I did about 15-20, guys like that and, uh, least four or five of them went back North Carolina and became contractors.

[AMJ]: [00:30:57] How many people do you think you personally taught to have a trade in your lifetime?

[CH]: I would say at least 20 or 30.

[AMJ]: [00:31:06] Yeah, that's amazing, Mr. Carl.

[CH]: Mhm, yep, I feel good about it. And, one thi- the thing about teaching somebody a trade is like the bricklayer that was teaching me, he only worked with me for a couple of weeks and he saw that I was beginning to learn enough about it that I could take it and go with it, you know. He, uh, after you learn how to lay brick and do all that, then you- there's more to it than that, you got to learn how to maintain heights, points hit certain levels, you know, and so forth. And, uh, I was doing that and when I came back to North Carolina, we started working on different things, different jobs. I moved back from- back to North Carolina after [00:31:51] uh, I wanna- maybe a year living up there, but it was lonely, there wasn't no Indians up there, I was the only Indian on the job [laughing] out of about 300 people and you know, they didn't know what an Indian was, they- they just- everybody treated the same way, I mean, it was blacks, whites, and one Indian, and I got kind of missing my own people. So, I moved back to North Carolina and went to work as a, you know, as a mason there, and, um, it's [00:32:21] you- it- you find out that if you teach a person enough, uh, they can- they'll figure it out themselves and take it and go with it. You- you-

it's not like a daily routine that you got to repeat over and over and over, once you repeat it a few times to them, they got it, if they want to learn a trade. And that's what happened to me, I'm on a job, big job, and we're working, you know, and, uh, [00:32:44] uh, the, uh, the guy says, um, came up one day and he says, "well we need- I want, I want-" no, here's- let me f- go back. I wanted to learn how to read blueprints and we're working on this church and these guys are hitting certain points and certain angles and so forth, and every time they would get to that point on this big job, they would start arguing about who was right and who was wrong. "It goes on the next course!" "No, it don't. It goes on this course!" And they had a foreman there and he would run to the blueprints and- but he was in the office and they got to go get him to bring him out and show him how this works- you know, actual where the window went, whether it went on this course or that course, the heights off the floor and all. So I started watching that, you know and I- listening to these- these guys, you know, and, uh, since I'm the youngest guy, I'm at the lowest part of the totem pole, but, you know, I consider myself at that time, I'm the best bricklayer here, I coulda put them all to shame any time of day, but they was older guys, and I respected that. So, I'm thinking to myself, [00:33:47] I'd like to read- learn how to read blueprints. So, I went to a one 'em surplus stores one time and they had military blueprints, you know, I don't know what they was doing with them but they was in a big corner over there and they was selling them for like 25 cents, a piece or whatever, and I got me a little small role of a building and I took them home and I started looking at 'em and realize a blueprint is nothing but a picture in your head. If you can take that blueprint and see the picture of this house on it, then it's possible that you can build it. All you need to do is know the measurements and how to go about doing it. So I started practicing with them blueprints, and then the guy would bring the blueprints out on the job and he would lay them on the- on the table and leave them there 'till they needed him and he would come over and look at them. So, what I'd started doing is sneaking over there, r- reading the blueprints and I would tell the bricklayers this is right, or that's right, or whatever, you know. And so I was running- tell 'em how to run- you know, doing the math for 'em and all that, whatever you call it. So the guy came up one day and it was one the- that- he knew a little bit about that I was running around, you know, reading the blueprints, and not taking his job, but that was his job, that was all he did, but I- he- I didn't want any trouble with him that I was t- trying to take his job because he had a college education, I had at that time, um, I had a tenth grade- eighth grade education, and, uh, they- he came out one day, and they came on the job and they says, "We need, we gonna break the crew up, we wan- want 'em on two jobs at one time, we need another foreman." And, uh, it- it was three brothers, they was working there and they was Indian guys. And he says, "One of you guys, we want you to be the foreman." And them guys said, "Well man, I'm 50 years old, I don't wanna be no foreman." The other guy, "No, no, no, no." They said- so they say, "Well, we need a foreman, we got to have- one of you guys gotta be a foreman." Then they- they was like, 10, 10 bricklayers on the job, but these were the three choices the guy had, that these guys was qualified to, you know, run the job.

And, uh, they said, “Why don't you get Youngblood?” [00:35:57] The guy says, “Who?” He says, “Youngblood there, he's been runnin' the job for over a year, he knows how to read blueprints and everything, you're going to need somebody on there- over there that knows how to read the blueprints.” And look- he said, “I can't- that boy ain't old enough to run no job. He's only about 16 years old- 17 years old.” They said, “Well, he's been running this [laughing] job here for about ever since he got here.” The guy talk me in the office in there and he says, I- them guys told him, said, “I'll tell you what, let him run the job and put us with him, and we will help him if he needs some help.” And that's what he did, he gave me those three guys and myself and we moved over and started a crew and not- that- before we left there, I was in charge of a three million dollar church.

[AMJ]: Wow.

[CH]: Mhm, they took me off the wall, I didn't have to lay any brick, I just stayed on the ground and give them the heights and this way- you know, I just supervised.

[AMJ]: [00:36:51] Yeah, they called you Youngblood and now you have another nickname, what's your new nickname, Mr. Carl?

[CH]: Carl the Hammer. [laughter] [00:37:04] Oh yeah, Anne Arundel county director named me that, just watching us work on the jobs and so forth, he said, “I think I'm gonna name him Carl the Hammer, cause he- d- h- he do anything.” Oh my.

[AMJ]: [00:37:16] Where do you live now, Mr. Carl?

[CH]: I live at 588 Street, Pasadena, Maryland.

[AMJ]: How'd you end up in Pasadena [00:37:25]

[CH]: Working m- when I started my business working on the house across the street there, somehow my f- the- my partner got that job across the street bricking that house, and we was over there working and the homeowner was asking me all kinds of questions about my life and so forth, and I told him I was married and had one kid and so forth, and “Where do you live?” I said, “I rent a house in, uh, over in Middle River.” At that time, I had moved to- out of Baltimore city and moved into a townhouse. He said, “How much is your rent?” and I told him, he said, “Why don't you buy y-” He said, “Why don't you get your own place? You can g- you can build a house and with the mortgage about that, somewhere around there.” I said, “I don't want to build no house, I don't want to- I- you got to pay taxes and you got to do this and you got to go- keep it up and all that.” You know, I never had on- would own property. And, uh, he said “That lot, right there's for sale, across th- this lot here.” And it was had grown up in trees and everything, you know, was- he said, “Somebody started building a house there a few years ago, and they cleared the lot and they never came back, I don't know what happened.” So this guy three doors up came walking down the street, and he was about 60 or 70 years old, and he had a brick- had a belt around his side, and had his hammer and his, uh, screw- uh, tape measure and all that on there, and the guy says, “That's Mr.” Uh, forget his name, “He's the one owns the lot.” And he told him, said, “This boy here, this young kid, young guy here is interested in buying that lot, he's got a wife and a kid and they live all the way out in Middle River, renting a house.” And the old man says to me, said, “Boy, why don't you build your own house?” I said, “I ain't got no land and I can't afford no house.” He said, “Well, you pay- you afford to pay rent, don't you?” I said, “Yeah, I'm paying rent.” He said, “Well, you could- that's the same thing as making- paying payments on the house.” I started thinking and he says to me, said, “I'll tell you what, you- I'll give you the lot and you just pay me about \$100 a month for it till you get ready to build a house on it.” And I says, “Okay. I mean, can't go wrong there, you know.” And next thing I know I'm- I'm [00:39:33] concentrating on becoming a homeowner, now, I'm a landowner, and I'm gonna build a house, you know? So, I've finagled out, there was a company called Miles Homes and I got them out of a catalog and they would, uh, supply you the materials to build your house if you had a clear lot, and then when you settled on the, uh, got enough equity in the lot, in the house, you borrowed the money and pay them off. Meanwhile, all you did was pay the interest till you got your house built for three years, they allow you three years to build a house. So I called them up and work the deal, met the guy out here, and signed the papers, and I started working on this house, got permits and everything, and it's- came out and build a house. And that's how I became a homeowner.

[AMJ]: [00:40:20] Wow. And, uh, could you talk a little bit about how it's different living here than in Baltimore City?

[CH]: Oh, big difference, it's, uh, like I- living in the country here, I'm back to nature. I got wild animals, squirrels, even it- I didn't even have all those in North Carolina, if we had squirrels, we go hunt 'em and shoot 'em and use 'em for food, now they're my pets! [laughing] [00:40:46] Oh, I become a lazy man, I'm a bird watcher, squirrel watcher, I take care of my animals, and all that, it's just peaceful, really peaceful, you know.

[AMJ]: [00:40:55] Why did you move out of the city? When- when did you move out and why?

[CH]: I moved out of the city because my landlord told me he was going to kick me out if I didn't get out of that house with my wife and kid and get away from the neighborhoods that was had started to move in and, you know, the crime and stuff that was starting around in that area. He didn't want my daughter to- he had to- took a likin' to my daughter, said she was like his grandkid, looking out for her, and he wanted me to move out, so I moved out into, uh, his mother- his mother passed away, and it- it was a Polish community, Polish and, uh, German, and he inherited the house and he says, "I want you to move into my mother's house and, uh, I'll keep the rent, you know, I'll- just pay the rent where you can afford it or whatever." and I was making good money, so I said, it- it- took me around and looked at the house and it was out of the Indian community, w- but I had already kinda branched out of- from the Indian community, I was a little on- kinda with the outskirts, you know, with my big nice apartment and all that. Uh, he says, "You rent this house and, uh, you know, raise your daughter here and so forth." Anyway, he got me, he wanted me to move out. I moved into that neighborhood and it was like I was the only, the, uh, [00:42:17] I- only person in that neighborhood that wasn't German or Polish. I was a Native American and I had come in and busted the neighborhood and they thought the neighborhood was going to go down because of me and they treated me like crap for a couple of weeks. So, they wouldn't speak to me or they- they- if they try to take my parking places, where I wouldn't have anywhere to park or whatever. And then my daughter, she started running up and down the street playing and they started liking her and started communicating with her, giving her candy and cookies and stuff like that, and I saw 'em out one morning washing the steps, and I was saying, "What the heck are they doing washing steps?" And it was marble, I didn't realize it, then, to me it was just a step, but they was washing, and they would take their water hose and clean off the sidewalk and everything, and I'm in a rental house, I'm not responsible for n- any of that, right? But I go down in the basement, and there's a water hose and a window, I throw that water hose out that window, and I started watching them, I do- whatever they would do, I would do and, uh, they started to appreciate it, like, "Oh, you cleanin' up in front of your house, oh they keep those marble nice" And all that, they spoke very little of English, but they took a liking to us, the next thing I know they bringing us, uh, Polish, uh, Polish food, noodles- not noodles, um,

pastas, and things like that, you know, German, uh g- uh, g-, German dishes, and they took care of my daughter, anything she wanted, they would buy her clothes, if they knew a birthday was coming up or anything like that, they would bake us pies, oh, some of the best pies you ever ate. And I blended right in with the community, and then I got word that real elderly ones, I would go to their house and actually wash their steps and stuff for them on Saturdays when I wasn't working. But most of the time, I work seven days a week, but you know, when I was off I always looked out for my community. [00:44:11] And people would- we would go out cleaning and people walked out as we go, throw trash out, I'll tell 'em, "Hey, come pick up this trash." I make 'em come pick the trash up, I wouldn't let nobody throw no trash on the street.

[AMJ]: Yeah. [00:44:24]

[CH]: And they was scared to say anything to 'em, they was afraid of 'em. But me, I- you know, didn't matter to me. I was- considered myself kind of tough, anyway, I grew up tough. [laughter] I [00:44:36] make 'em come pick their trash up and put it back in their pocket and carry it somewhere else and throw it out, not in- not on my street or in front of our house.

[AMJ]: Can you tell a little bit more about what it means to grow up tough?

[CH]: Growing up, where I grew up at, you had to be tough. If you didn't, I mean, that was a reputation you had to obtain. And a few people found out that- Native American people are, they're fighters anyway, I mean, they grew up fighting, they're not afraid to fight, they're, uh, enjoy fighting, really, you know, even to get their butt whipped once in a while, they don't care, they'll go right back, fight the same guy next weekend. And, uh, you had to learn how to fight, you had to learn how to stand your ground in school, if bullies would push you around or whatever, you know, just typical Native Americans, no different from anybody else when it come to bullying and that kind of stuff. So I learned to ha- handle myself and stand my ground and be a little threat to somebody. And I wasn't afraid. I wasn't afraid of anybody because I figured I could take my- take my- you know, my- even up with anybody that I- that came at me and I was pretty well taken care of on that. I could always knew how to handle myself.

[AMJ]: [00:45:48] Do you still keep in touch with Lumbee people in North Carolina?

[CH]: Oh yeah, all the time. I'm a Facebook fanatic. I have hun- dozens and dozens of cousins I had never seen before till we go down- Facebook, got on Facebook and I watch them grow up from little kids. When we was in North Carolina, we went to school with our cousins and all that, and it's- you see 'em everyday and you're, you know, you don't live near 'em or anything, but everybody goes to the same school, it wasn't- you related to him but it wasn't buddy-buddy and friendly-friendly and eat dinner with them and all that, like then, it was just another group of kids. But when you get up here and you see how things are going, you know, you're not around that many people, there was hundreds or thousands down in North Carolina, and we was all together. I mean, there- there were- we was a tribe and it wasn't like you had to get real close to anybody or whatever. But up here, you hit- it was a group and you had to fit into that group. And that's- that's- so, I've decided, you know, that I would like to be part of the community and I started out, you know, going- attending the things, the Indian Center started up, so forth, and the Herbert Locklear, and he would invite me to come bring my daughter to, you know, powwows and things like that, they're trying to get things going and, uh, next thing you know, I'm involved in it and helping them, we're traveling all over doing powwows and so forth. And that- every- the whole group came- the whole community came together, we w- we was tight. Everybody- we had to- we'd have the meetings and we'd have to use the big church for our meetings, after we obtained that church, down there. Had to obtain the church for the meetings, because everybody could, you know, houses had- used to meet at people's houses, but the- that- that had to wash out real quick, because really too many people started coming to the meeting. And we- we stayed close, yep, everybody and- and- in fact, almost everybody in that area knew everybody else, if you didn't know 'em, you knew their name or if you knew their face or something like that.

[AMJ]: So now, um, hardly any Indians live in that area but somehow y'all still managed to stay in touch and do things together, how do you stay in touch with people from the community today?

[CH]: Pretty much with Facebook [laughter] [00:48:18] that's why we're still on Facebook together, still talk, still trade photos, and things like that.

[AMJ]: Did you ever notice you started doing things since you moved to Baltimore that you didn't do in North Carolina? Like Baltimore cultures that you picked up, things you eat, things you wear, things you say?

[CH]: Uh, [00:48:37] kind of, yeah. You try to blend in with whatever's around you, you know. I started enjoying Italian food, I never knew what Italian food was. In fact, I had ate spaghetti, growing up, out of a can, but I never paid any attention to what spaghetti was, or who made it, or anything like that. We came to Maryland and they got Italian restaurants and that's one of their dishes but they fix it totally different from the way it came out of the can. [laughing] Once you have it you're- you start wanting to start hitting the other restaurants, the Spanish and, you know, the, uh, the oth- other cultures and enjoy the food. And that's one of the things that I love about, you know, living out here, living, uh, in, uh, in the state of Maryland, they got all kinds of food. Fact, the first time I ever had crabs, I had people bragging on crabs for a year, "Oh, crabs, crabs, crabs." And every time I'd look at crabs I would, oo, I would get sick on the stomach, look like a monster from outer space or something, you know? And I- I'd go in a place where they was eating crabs, I would have to move from that table, 'cause I couldn't sit there and watch them beat and bangin' them crabs, and eatin' that, you know, suckin' that meat out of them bones and stuff. It- it was- it looked nasty. So I got about half boozed up one night and we went out to dinner and everybody- somebody at the table order- next table ordered crabs. And I says to him, I said, "Oh man." Then they said, "Won't you get some crabs?" I said, "I don't want to no, no, I don't want no crabs." Though, so they threw one over there and said "Here, you gone eat some crabs tonight." I ate one crab, next thing I know, I had a dozen on the table, [laughing] I became a crab addict ever since. Oh lord.

[AMJ]: [00:50:21] Did you introduce anybody in North Carolina to crabs?

[CH]: Oh yes, uh, some of my- my mother used to come up here when she was able to travel, and she would bring some of her church members with her, like- like three other women, they had their sons, their sons or relatives is up here, too, so they would come up here and, like three or four of them, and we take them out to dinner and, uh, same way, they was afraid of crabs. They- uh, they had- uh, in fact, let me tell you this little- little story, how I, uh, learned about a crab. My father went to the beach when we was kids and he brought this crab back, live crab, and we had never seen a crab, and, uh, he was telling my mother how to cook the crab, you gotta put it on, you got to steam it, and do this and do that, you know, he had the crab and he- we had a little tin heater on- in the center of the floor and he says, uh, "You put them- all you need is," Somebody had told him you could put them in- on, kind of, on heat and that you could cook them, or whatever, 'cause he took that crab and he laid him on top of that heater, that- that crab jumps all the way to the ceiling, when he hit the floor, everybody in the house, including my father, we tore out of [laughing] that house. [00:51:35] I don't know, whatever happened to that crab, I think my father went back got it, but that was the scariest thing I'd ever seen in my life.

But- but that crab, I mean, it looked like a monster, oh my god, I'd never seen nothing like that, with all them claws and stuff, I had nightmares over that thing for a while. But when, uh, when they came to Maryland, it was the same thing, my mother wouldn't eat a crab and the other women wouldn't eat a crab, you know. In fact, I tell you how country they was, they had never been in a restaurant where there was a mirror. We were sitting in a restaurant and there was a mirror on the wall, right here. And I never forget, one of the Indian women was sitting there and she kept looking over at me, you know, shaking her head, and I said, "Edna Mae." I said, "What is it?" She said, "Every time I look that ways, there's a woman on the other side there, looking at me." I said, "That's a mirror, that's you!" She said "That ain't me!" I said, "Yes, it is!" She looked around there, [00:52:33] "Yes, it is me, ain't it?" She said, "I hadn't look close enough," said, "I thought I was somebody sitting over there." [laughter] [00:52:41] That's- now that's what you call country.

[AMJ]: [00:52:45] When- when you go to North Carolina, what do you take with you for people? Like what do they ask for?

[CH]: What do they ask for? Uh, money. [laughter] Oh, [00:52:56] I- they don't ask for too much, I mean, we go down, we always plan something, you- if I go there, it's a funeral or a homecoming, we don't have the time to just go down and visit a weekend and come back or something, we make it- we make it a vacation. So, if we go to a funeral, spend a couple extra days there, or if we go to homecoming, we plan it where we got three or four days... [00:53:19] s- uh, move around, look at, you know, try to visit, do a lot of visiting to my close family, you know, like brothers and sisters and all that.

[AMJ]: And what do you bring back with you? Any groceries? [00:53:31]

[CH]: Barbecue and sausage. [laughter] Oh, [00:53:35] North Carolina barbecue and sausage.

[AMJ]: Where do you find it?

[CH]: Well, Fuller's, all those, uh, buffets, they have it. Uh, Fuller's, uh, one of those guys has racehorses, that owns Fuller's restaurant, and he comes to Charlestown and, uh, I meet him a lot. We go up there when he's running and watch his horse, so we'll have him bring us a whole cooler full of, uh, sausage and, uh, barbecue and we've got to distribute it out among the whole family

and friends up here. So we still get our barbecue and sausage, but collards, collards in Maryland, do not taste like North Carolina collards for some reason. If we go down during that season and they got collards, my wife will fill the trunk up full of collards, [laughter] the whole head, pack-pack 'em in there, then bring them home, put 'em in the freezer.

[AMJ]: Nice. [00:54:24] Mr. Carl, what do you like to do for fun these days?

[CH]: I love fishing 'till I had to get a hip replaced, but now I had to give up fishing for a while but I hope to get back into it once I get myself together again. But I became a pr- real good fi- I fished all my life, ever since I was a little kid. Um, [00:54:44] grew up, that was part of our food source to take us through the winter, was my brother and I would either hunt and put food in the freezer or we fished and we had figured out that we knew how to trap fish in the river, we made us some homemade traps and we would set 'em in the river and we would go down once a week and pull these traps and they'd have 30, 40 fish in there and we would stock our freezer for the winter. Only thing about it, in the wintertime, the river would freeze over and if they- you didn't get those fish out of there, you know, they would also- they would die within a week with no food or anything like that. So my father was say to us, "You got to go pull them traps!" And I would say, "Daddy, the river's froze over." Say, "I don't know, bust the ice! You got to get in there and get them fish!" So my brother and I went down there at one time and we could see the water running underneath the ice, it was about an inch thick. We say, "We got to do it. Who goes first?" Both us decided, we'd just go at the same time, we backed off, run, jumped in that river, pulled that trap out, threw the fish up on the shore, picked up the- got- and reset the trap and had to move the ice, the water around us is freezing, we had to move the ice to set the trap again, it was a- uh- uh- um- [00:55:59] chicken wire box with wings on it, where if the fish came down the river, they'd follow that wing and go right into that hole and go into that trap. So we reset that, had to put ol' stakes in it, got out, put our fish on the- uh- s- on sticks, and, uh, hangers or rope or whatever and came across the field and had a quarter mile to get home. Now, the time we got home, our pants is creaking, "chrrr, chrrr [sound effects]" [00:56:24] [laughing] froze on us, [00:56:28] and we've walked in the house and this was our only pair of pants, these was our school pants, and we had another pair of pants for Sunday pants. So we had- we have two pair of pants and my mother made us pull off our pants and we should stood them up in order to get in the corner in front of the fireplace and we had to walk around in our underwear 'till our pants thawed out, [laughing] and put 'em back on again.

[AMJ]: [00:56:52] And you still wanted to fish after that?

[CH]: Oh, yeah, well, that was part of the way we live, you know, we never really thought anything about it, you know, that was unusual or whatever. Because that's- everybody else would do it, too, it wan- wasn't just us. Any- anybody that would set a trap in there, they woulda had to go down and do it, you know. But, uh, it was funny, I think about, that was only time it ever ever happened to us that we had to go in and break the river to get the trap out. But, I fish down there, I became a pretty decent fisherman, but when I came to Maryland, I really got into it pretty heavy.

[AMJ]: Which river were you fishing, by the way?

[CH]: Lumbee River. [00:57:30] They call it the Lumber River, we call it the Lumbee River. They called it the Lumber River and, uh, that was what it was known as, but we, the Indians, named it the Lumbee River. So we had our own river [laughter].

[AMJ]: What [00:57:44] was different about fishing in Maryland?

[CH]: Fishing in Maryland was more- you had to have a boat to do any really good fishing. So, I became- I got my- started out boating a little bit, ride- you know, uh, going out on other people's boats and became a- wanted to get my own boat and so I b- got my own boat and started fishing and you learn all the spots and information, guys tell you where to go fish and so forth, trading information with people out on the water and, uh, got pretty good at it.

[AMJ]: Where's your favorite fishing spot in Maryland?

[CH]: Favorite fishing spot in Maryland is the Magothy River.

[AMJ]: That's right here, isn't it?

[CH]: Right around the corner there, yep. We charter boats to go all out into uh- into the- into the, uh, bay and on the right days and right occasions I can catch just as many fish where I go as they do on those charter boats, even though, you know, um, I don't keep 'em, you know, but I know wh- where they are, and I- when to catch them, what time to catch them, learn to read tides and so forth.

[AMJ]: Is there anything you can't do?

[CH]: [00:58:52] Uh, never flew a plane, my buddy and I bought a plane one time. My first partner, we- he wanted to buy a plane, so we went over on the Eastern Shore, and the guy took us a ride in one of those little planes and said, "You can buy one and if you buy the plane, when you're not using it, we'll rent it out for you." So we bought a plane and I- we would go over there and he would take us out on the plane, ride us around, but I wanted to be my own pilot, so I got my book, started studying, and he [00:59:24] didn't have enough education, he said, to learn all everything about becoming a pilot, so it- he- he dropped out and I'm by myself, didn't have anybody to hang with, you know, with this plane deal. So, I turned the plane back in and sold it. So I- that's one of the things that kept me from ever having my own plane and flying it around, but I wanted to be a pilot, own my own little plane, one of them little planes on the Eastern Shore. But that was fun, while it lasted.

[AMJ]: [00:59:52] What do you think the Indian community will be like in 10 years, 20 years?

[CH]: In Baltimore? It won't be one. It won't be one, everybody's scattered out now and, uh, uh, [01:00:06] the only way we'll stay in contact with one another's through churches or Facebook, [01:00:12] or some other kind of, you know, uh, some- something to do with, I don't- [01:00:19] kind of got my doubts about, you know, everybody's moving away, they got to move out, they got- being pushed out and so forth, so we spreadin' out more, too.

[AMJ]: What do you hope for the Indian community of Baltimore?

[CH]: I hope we'd be able to maintain- ma- to hold onto the church, is one thing, that's where everybody kind of gathers at, you know, at least once a year, like a homecoming thing, you

know, or family reunion, is what I call it, when they have the homecoming up there. That's about the only time you get to see everybody.

[AMJ]: [01:00:51] Is there anything you'd like to tell the younger generations of Indian people in Baltimore coming up behind you?

[CH]: I would say, learn a trade, and stay in school. Here's one thing, I look at, if I would have had the opportunity to go to school and get a degree or something, I think I would have become a politician but, I was kind of smart in school, they had a spelling bee one time in the fifth grade, I spelled every word in the book and then the sixth grade was coming up and they said, "Let him continue spelling with the sixth graders, see how far he can go." I spelled all the way through that book, I out-spelled everybody in the whole class and they moved me to the si-, uh, the sixth grade and that was one of the biggest disappointments of my life, is leaving my friends that you already know and goin' into a class in midterm, or whatever that you don't know people. But I look back now, if, um, I had the opportunity, my father got cancer and all of, um, the working group that had oldest people, oldest kids in the family had to, uh, drop out and kind of take care of the farm and, uh, they didn't call it cancer, then they called it ulcers, but he was in serious condition, and then later on, years later, they determined it was cancer and he died from it. But we, me and my brother and my older sister, we had to drop out of school, I dropped out in eighth grade, and, um, we all dropped out and started taking care of the farm. But- but we was- my mother still wants us to go to school, but only time we could go to school was, you know, rainy days, and rainy days before, we had looked at not going to school, that was our little vacation away from school. So, we would farm and wait for a rainy day to go to school, and by the time you get to school, maybe a month, once a month, you don't know, you know, I mean, you- you- you don't know what's going on, you can't- you- you're so far behind on everything that you just sitting there listening, you know, and it became boring. So when I got old enough, I just- my father just let me drop out. But, uh, I would say to kids nowadays is education, education, education, we need, and Lumbees need, in the future, you'll need more lawyers, you're gonna need politicians, we need politicians real bad, you know, just to look out for our rights and every, every trade out there, you know, they- become a banker, come w- whatever you can be, you know, be the best you can be, but don't cut yourself short. Um, [01:03:29] we was taught growing up, nobody ever said anything to us about get a education and go get a good job somewhere, at least in my- in my community. [01:03:41] Learn enough to be able to take care of a farm. Well, you don't know- need that much education to be a farmer, most of the farmers I knew did not have no more than a fifth or sixth grade education and that was kind of, like, planted in my mind that if I could read and write, I could d- I could make a living, but there's

more to being- a lot more to life than making a living, you know, you want to leave a name for yourself somewhere out there, you know, and the only way you're going to do it is: get out and become the person that you want to be, and then you can do it if you want, if- if you got the time and you want to put enough effort into it, you could do whatever you want to be.

[AMJ]: [01:04:19] Is there anything else you'd like to tell the world? [01:04:23]

[CH]: Tell the world... [01:04:26] I don't know, I thank everybody that ever helped me, I have never held animosities against black people or white people, because every time I found out among races, hatred is the worst thing that you would take to your grave and you'll never get- never get over it, if you make an effort to help yourself, if you're in a black community or a white community, and they see you're trying to help yourself, [01:04:55] The Bible says, knock and the door will be open, a lot of different races has open- opened doors for me. [01:05:06] My God. [01:05:09] I've never hated, uh, hated any other race in my life and I thank God that I grew up around them and they helped me, looked out for me when I didn't know how to look out for myself, and taught me things that I would never have known other than, you know, you got to be with those people, you gotta- that's part of living, you gotta mingle in, fit in with all the cultures and the- and the- and the nationalities around you. And once you do that, everything is- you become family.

[AMJ]: [01:05:43] What do you want the world to know about Lumbee Indians?

[CH]: I want the world to know that Lumbee Indians is the hardest working people in the world, and, uh, I know the Hispanics have come over here and made a name for themselves but the Lumbees started it [laughter]. [01:05:59] Everybody always recogni- even when I came to Maryland, before I got out and met eve- uh, different people, I would hear [cough] "Do you know so-and-so, he's a Locklear boy hangin' sheetrock, he's a Lumbee Indian." I said, "No, I don't know him." "Oh boy, I'll tell you what, them Lumbees are the workin'-est people we ever saw, that guy- them guys can hang sheetrock-" Heard it about roofing, all trades, everybody was brag- you know, braggin' on their crew of Native Americans or Lumbees. Those Lumbees, we made a right- we made a name for ourselves in the state of Maryland, up here, everybody recognizes that the Lumbee is a hard worker and they'll- my mother used to say to me, "Boy, you workin' seven days a week. What the- what're you doing workin' seven days a week?" "Well, you know, it was opportunity there to make money and get ahead and I grabbed it." In fact, I

came home, one day and, uh, we was living in this house, came in the kitchen and there was a car sittin' in the yard and I walked in the house and, um, my daughter, she was about, you know, she was 18 years old but if you- sh- when you only got one kid, they always consider them your baby. [laughter] [01:07:10] And I walked in the house and she had been here with friends and they would have little parties and stuff in here, you know, and I never in- go down and interfere with their, you know, with their parties or whatever, they were- it was all real nice kids. So, I walked in the house one day and my wife says, uh, "Jerry wants to talk to you." I said, "Jerry who?" And I looked over and I had saw this guy before and I thought he was going to ask me for a job. I said "Oh, yeah, yeah." He said- he stood up and said, "Hey dude, I want to marry your daughter." I said, [01:07:41] "Whoa, buddy. What do you mean marry my daughter? I didn't even know you was dating!" You know, my wife said they've been dating for over a year. Well every time I saw them, they was in a group, I never knew that they was individual, you know, guy and girlfriend, anything that. So I said to him, "Hey buddy, my daughter ca- ain't old enough to get married." I said, "What are you talking about?" My wife said, "She's 18 years old, she's been dating for over a year." I said, "Oo, wait a minute." I've been working seven days a week, and the only time I see her is when she's going to bed at night or getting up to go to school and I might see her on the weekend, too, when she's o- got old enough she was out with her friends. And that right there hit me when she got married that I had to stop seven days a week, so I cut down to six, and then when my wife died and I wasn't spending enough time with my grandkids, I said that's it, five days a week. So, I do not work Saturdays or Sundays, that's my- that's my family time or my free time to myself, to catch my thoughts up and think and, you know, make my plans or whatever, you know, I just- you need time to yourself to do things. Work is good, but you can't work seven days a week and, uh, raise a family.

[AMJ]: I want to thank you for the best interview, um, is there anything else you'd like to say?

[CH]: Ah, that's about it, that's my life story [laughter]. [01:09:10]

[AMJ]: It's- it's amazing, thank you, Mr. Carl.

[CH]: Yeah, there's one thing I do want to say, you asked me about what would I tell kids nowadays? When we was going to school, they taught you reading, writing, and arithmetic, and that was it. [01:09:27] There was nothing teaching kids about how to handle money, or I don't remember, ever, I dropped- I may have dropped out of school too soon, but I don't remember

ever a teacher showing me how to write a check. First time, I had a bank account, I had to have a person in the bank show me how to write a check, and they took me to the back there and said, "Here's how you do it, and just carry it up there, and give it to the girl, and they'll cash the check for you." Well, I felt like I should have learned that in school, they didn't teach us anything about how to save money, they told us how to write a letter but, uh, didn't teach us anything about other cultures or anything like that, it was, we talked about Columbus discoverin' America and so forth and this, and he, you know, the Indians and all, but I was like, 8 or 10 years old before I knew I was an Indian, because in the history books then was Indians was savages, and they kill people, and they scalped 'em, and they would burn the villages, and all that kind of- well, you know, in my mind, I hated Indians. And then to realize one day, the teacher says, "Oh, we got a pla- play coming up Friday, we need- it's going to be about cowboys and Indians." And they says, "Who wants to be a cowboy? Wh- who wants to be a, uh, cowboy?" I said, "I want to be a cowboy!" He said, "Why?" I said, "I don't want to be no Indian!" I said, "Them Indians are bad, they kill people, scalp people." She said, "Well, you're an Indian." I said, "No, I'm not." She said, "We'd better go home and ask your mom and dad why you're going to an Indian school." I never really thought about it, you know, I knew we went to separate schools, the white kids and the blacks and the Indians, but we was all friends and we'd mingle back together when we got off the bus and no- race was never a thing among us, as growing up as kids. And I asked my father, and my father said, "You going to Indian school and you didn't know that you was Indian? [laughing] How?" [01:11:26] We never done anything Indian, you know, I mean, nothin', singin' or drumming or anything Indian culture, we was never taught none of that, you know, that was- Yeah, but, uh, [01:11:39] that's one way that you break up hatred among tribes and people and so forth. If everybody is forced to go to the same school or, I think- I think integrate, you got to integrate with people, but that's a good thing about everybody going to school together, kids don't, uh, uh, they don't really feel like they're [01:12:03] separate from anybody else. They're just as good as anybody or, you know, everybody's equal. That's how kids look at it, how we looked at it, when we was growing up. You know, that black family over there, my father could go to borrow something from them, if my mother needed sugar or whatever, you know, everybody was always borrowin' stuff from somebody, get ready to cook some chicken or something, you didn't have enough rice, you could go over there borrow some rice from the white people, the black people, it didn't matter, you know, even though we was a half a mile apart on the farm, but we was- it was just like being community, you know, we was never taught to be hatin' races or anything like that, harmonizing, in harmony. That's what I want, in harmony.

[AMJ]: Do you sing, Mr. Carl?

[CH]: Do I sing? [01:12:48] Uh, used to sing Indian songs, I don't- I don't- not- when I was younger, I don't, I don't sing anymore.

[AMJ]: [01:12:56] I was just curious because you said harmony.

[CH]: In harmony? [laughter] [01:13:00] Harmony means- is- not singin'. Harmony is everybody coming together as a clan, as a group, peace and harmony. That's what I call it. So I left out the peace, but that goes with it, peace and harmony.

[AMJ]: You gave a great interview, Mr. Carl, [01:13:19] I think we got it.

[CH]: You got it? Okay.