

**BEYOND
BALTIMORE
STREET**

Living Lumbee Legacies

Mattie Fields Oral History Interview

Ashley Minner Jones

May 20, 2025

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: Mattie Fields (MF)

Age: 77

Sex: Female

Occupation: Retired Ball Corporation Worker

Residence: Glen Burnie, Maryland

Tribal Affiliation: Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

Interviewer: Ashley Minner Jones [AMJ]

Location of Interview: Dundalk, Maryland

Date of Interview: May 20, 2025

Time of Interview: 10:30 AM ET

Transcribers: Magdelene Jones

Key Words

Robeson County, East Baltimore, Lumberton, Georgia, American Indian, Glen Burnie, Lifelike Products, Can Company, manufacturing, spice, North Carolina, line dancing, social dancing, Buddy Deane, Deaners, Elks Club, Bingo, Elvis impersonator, Christian, segregation, Magnolia School, Baltimore County, East Baltimore Street, Ball Corporation

Abstract

Mattie Jean Fields (Lumbee), known as “Tie” by family and friends, is originally from Lumberton, North Carolina. She does not remember much about life in North Carolina as her family migrated to East Baltimore when she was young. In Baltimore, she recalls being the only American Indian student in her class at school. Her last job was with Baltimore Can Company and she worked there until she was 62 years old. Today, Mattie resides in Glen Burnie and she is 77 years old. She enjoys Country Line Dancing and occasionally goes to the Elks Club. She plays Bingo weekly. She wants women to know that they don’t need men to support them, they can make their own way, as she did. Mattie’s advice is to just be yourself and love yourself. She says that if you do, you’ll make a good way for yourself.

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- [00:00:20] Mattie introduces herself, where she's from, and how she would describe herself.
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[00:37:34] Mattie debates whether she has changed since moving to Baltimore, saying she feels the same but people say she talks different.

[00:38:53] Mattie talks more about her childhood in North Carolina, and her little experience in farming.

[00:40:31] Mattie describes her hobbies, including line dancing and bingo.

[00:44:30] Mattie discusses her predictions, hopes, and advice for the Indian community in Baltimore and the world.

Transcript

[AMJ]: Hello, my name is Ashley Minner Jones, it is May 20th, 2025, and another amazing person has come so that I can interview them for *Beyond Baltimore Street* our oral history and photo documentary project that celebrates the vibrant, fascinating, everyday lives of Baltimore, Lumbee Elders. Hello, ma'am. [00:00:20]

[MF]: Hello.

[AMJ]: What's your name please?

[MF]: Mattie Jean Fields [00:00:28]

[AMJ]: And where are you from?

[MF]: Lumberton, North Carolina.

[AMJ]: And-

[MF]: -But my birth certificate says Saint Paul's North Carolina. I don't know the difference [laughter]. [00:00:42]

[AMJ]: If you just met somebody for the first time, how would you explain who you are?

[MF]: I really don't know. Flora Jean Locklear's daughter from North Carolina.

[AMJ]: Do people ever guess that your American Indian in Baltimore?

[MF]: [00:01:00] No.

[AMJ]: So, do you have to explain or you just let it go?

[MF]: I never pushed, uh, Native American thing, 'cause I'm not full blooded.

[AMJ]: [00:01:13] Will you tell me more about that?

[MF]: My father- mother lived on my father's farm and he was always there, supporting my mother. And when I was 9 years old, he got- said he was going to marry a lady from the church, he had started going to church and, uh, [00:01:38] that my mother had told him that she didn't want to marry him. And they had nine of them, mine and my sisters. You know, we didn't like him too much, or I don't know him really because I was younger.

[AMJ]: [00:01:56] So, your dad was an American Indian?

[MF]: No, he was- he was a Prevatte, his family were all white. He was had a large family

[AMJ]: [00:02:07] And your last name...

[MF]: My last name, I use my mother's last name, Locklear. My mother was born in Georgia. Her father was working on a railroad where he met, uh, her name was Mattie McCallahan, [00:02:27] and she was from Ireland. Born in Ireland, but her family had moved to North Carolina but sh- they died with a scarlet fever, from what my mother said, and a Native American family, Joneses, raised her. That was my mother's dad, that work turpentine, and then he was working on the railroad [00:02:56] and he met his wife, I assumed in Georgia or I don't know where, but that's where my mother was born, in Georgia. Claxton, Georgia, my mother was born.

[AMJ]: Did you ever go there?

[MF]: [00:03:12] Ah, some time ago my sisters and I went and went to the graveyard, uh, where one of his sisters was buried. I don't remember the name in a graveyard, though.

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[MF]: It was a lot of Native Americans buried in the graveyard. [00:03:32] There's a big stone there with all the people that doesn't have stones, their names are on it.

[AMJ]: How did it feel to go there?

[MF]: Just a normal day. [00:03:46] That was my sisters and I and a couple other friends who we went to Georgia for a, you know, spent a coup- I think like three or four days there, it was nice. It was really nice.

[AMJ]: Did you guys drive?

[MF]: [00:04:03] Uh, yes, I did the driving. [laughter]

[AMJ]: What was that like?

[MF]: Uh, just normal, my sister Jeanette there, she read the directions and I followed her directions. [00:04:19]

[AMJ]: Did you guys go to, um, Lumberton first and then?

[MF]: That's where we met, yes. Uh, yeah, we stayed in a hotel there a Holiday Inn, [00:04:36] in Lumberton. And I don't recall where we stayed when we were in Georgia, um, but it was a nice trip. Shortly after then, my sister, Bonnie, she passed away, maybe a year or so later, or a year- little over a year later, she passed away. [00:04:57] I had a brother, John Lester Lowry. I had a sister, Bonnie Neisser and I have a Jeanette, that I still have, and myself. My mother had four children and all four of us have different parents.

[AMJ]: [00:05:20] Will you tell me about how you grew up?

[MF]: Uh, well, I grew up on my father's f- property 'till I was ten or nine. I think I was, like, turned 10 after we came, uh, to Baltimore. [00:05:43] I turned 10 and I went to school on Chester and Fremont Avenue? Fed- Fed street number 27. And I went to school to Magnolia when I was in North Carolina. I never really liked school. I was always- the principal always knew who my father was. And I didn't like it. [00:06:18]

[AMJ]: What didn't you like about it?

[MF]: Just that he would- he would call me, you know, a lot of people knew who my father was, and they would call me a half-breed. [00:06:32]

[AMJ]: So, in North Carolina, you went to an all Indian school.

[MF]: Yeah, Magnolia School. I guess that's still the same name.

[AMJ]: And when you came to Baltimore, was it still in all Indian School? [00:06:48]

[MF]: Definitely not, I went to school, um, I think it was Chester Street number 27. And my first day there, I was seated at, uh, the table with a lot- a lot of African American children and I'm sure that what they didn't know about me, maybe that was why they seated me there. [00:07:16] So, I was never really good in school. I don't know.

[AMJ]: Miss Tie, when is your birthday? What year were you born? [00:07:27]

[MF]: Uh, 1947.

[AMJ]: So, when you went to school in Baltimore, was it still kind of segregated in practice?

[MF]: No, they were black and white and I was the only Native American in there. [00:07:44]

[AMJ]: Did they seat the black kids together, or did the kids sit themselves apart?

[MF]: At that time, back in the 50's, they was sort of sectioned off, you know what I mean?

[AMJ]: Yeah. Yeah, um...

[MF]: That was in the 50s, so, [00:08:01] and they became my best friend- friends. I enjoyed them- uh, they were one boy and three other girls.

[AMJ]: Did anybody ask you who you were or what you were?

[MF]: I don't remember them to- doing so.

[AMJ]: Yeah. [00:08:19] How did you get to school every day?

[MJ]: Walked.

[AMJ]: So you must have been living close by. Where did you guys live?

[MF]: I would have- when I- when we came up here, we lived with my sister and her husband. [00:08:34] She had four children. She had a lady living there too, her name was Miss Cindy, to take care of her four children. She worked and her husband worked and we moved in with them when we came up here. My sister Jeanette, [00:08:53] she had to come, too, at that time, but her first husband, he came up and she got married, while we were up here, and moved back to North Carolina. About three months later, she was back, living with all of us, too, my sister with her husband, her four children, my mother, the lady that was taking care of her kids, [00:09:22] and myself in that apartment.

[AMJ]: Yeah. That- was this a big apartment?

[MF]: No.

[AMJ]: How many rooms?

[MF]: [00:09:34] Three and a bathroom.

[AMJ]: So, how did you guys manage with all those people?

[MF]: Well, that's what- where I had uh, what they call a pallet on the floor, blankets, you know, and a pillow, and that's where I slept. [00:09:51] Uh, my sister's four children, they slept on one bed together. And her and her husband had a bed. And the lady that was there to take care of her children, she shared the bed with my mother. [00:10:08] My mother went to work in the bar, uh, as a barmaid. And she worked day work in the bar, and after she worked there for a while, we got an apartment, and it was a two roo- or a kitchen and a bedroom like, and my mother and I shared the bedroom together.

[AMJ]: Do you remember what bar your mom worked in?

[MF]: It was called The Galley Bar down on the 600 block of Baltimore Street.

[AMJ]: Was it a nice bar? [00:10:42]

[MF]: I don't know. [laughter]

[AMJ]: Yeah, you wouldn't know because you're a little kid, right?

[MF]: Yeah. Although, I don't know

[AMJ]: Um, which sister worked there, too? Is that-

[MF]: My sister- my sister, Bonnie, my cousin, Annie, she's passed away, also. And my sister Bonnie's passed away. [00:11:02]

[AMJ]: Everybody worked in there?

[MF]: Uh, just them Jones ladies worked in there. I don't remember what their real name was. I know they were Joneses.

[AMJ]: Do you remember what Bonnie's address was?

[MF]: [00:11:21] 1732 East Baltimore Street

[AMJ]: That's a good memory.

[MF]: [laughter] yep.

[AMJ]: What floor were y'all on?

[MF]: Third floor, three bedroom, three room, kitchen, bedroom, and living room, bath. I think it's all tore down and it's all new s- buildings there, isn't it? [00:11:44]

[AMJ]: It's nothing. It's a park.

[MF]: It's a park?

[AMJ]: Mhm

[MF]: Really?

[AMJ]: Yeah. Do you remember where you guys moved when your mom got her place?

[MF]: Uh, in the same building down on the bottom floor. But, uh, we didn't stay there very long before she- uh, we moved back in with my sister.

[AMJ]: Oh, what happened? [00:12:13]

[MF]: She got a little cold and didn't work, and we paid rent by the week. Landlord will come every Saturday to pick the rent up. I can remember that.

[AMJ]: So, she missed rent and then you had to move back in?

[MF]: With my sister, Bonnie. [00:12:33] And later on, my cousin came up from North Carolina and she got an apartment with her and, uh, we lived with them for a while. Her and her husband. And, uh, we moved around a lot and- one place to another. It was just me and my, you know... [00:13:02] I guess the best time was when we moved in with Annie and a guy named Joe Cavalier. And, uh, he uh, he bought- would buy me clothes and stuff. He was pretty good to me. And then we moved on Orleans Street and that's where my sister moved in with us then, too. And that's where she was living when she had her first daughter. [00:13:34] She had left her husband and came back to Maryland.

[AMJ]: And this was Aunt Jeanette?

[MF]: Yes, her daughter is Tina.

[AMJ]: And was Tina like your baby?

[MF]: Pretty much so, you know, she was everybody's baby. [00:13:51]

[AMJ]: When you got up to Baltimore, were there are a lot of other Indians in the neighborhood? If not, at school?

[MF]: They were all on Baltimore Street, there were a lot of Indians back there from the 1600 block. We lived in the 1700 block, we lived in the 1800 block of Baltimore Street and that's when things really change because my mother had rented a big apartment and she had boarders.

[00:14:23]

[AMJ]: Did you like the guys that were renting from your mom or you didn't know them much?

[MF]: Oh, I didn't mind them at all. They didn't bother me, my mother cooked dinner for 'em. But she didn't get up and make any other foods for them, but she would have dinner for 'em, [00:14:40] and that's how, you know, she got a job, uh, working at a vinegar place for a few months. And that didn't last too long and then she got on social service after then.

[AMJ]: What did you think when you saw Baltimore for the first time? [00:15:01]

[MF]: Well, we had came here up early to visit my sister a few times back in the early, like '56 and we never came back, '56, I think it's '55, came to visit my sister. It was something different I- we- uh, they always lived in- when we came before, they lived in the same building, when we came back the second time, too. [00:15:32] There were a lot of Indian people living on Baltimore Street back then.

[AMJ]: Did you already know any of them from North Carolina? [00:15:44]

[MF]: No, no. I didn't know any of 'em, 'till my cousin came here and we live- I said we lived with her for a while and then my mother got an- her own apartment after then.

[AMJ]: Yeah, and when you say things really changed when she got the big apartment and had boarders was that cause y'all had in- a lot of income then?

[MF]: Had more income, yeah.

[AMJ]: [00:16:09] What were the good changes?

[MF]: I had, uh, had my own bed [laughter]. And it was my sister, and that's where we were living when she moved in with my cousin. That's what we were living when she had Tina.

[00:16:29] It was all Chester and Orleans Street, I think it was.

[AMJ]: How did you feel when you got your first bed?

[MF]: I had a bed, uh, no different really. It wasn't like, you know, a lot of times I would sleep with my mother most of the time, but when we live moved on Orleans and Chester Street, I had a little twin bed in the same room, my mother and my sister we slept together then. [00:16:58]

[AMJ]: Sounds like you and your mom were really, really close.

[MF]: We were.

[AMJ]: Yeah, her- your whole life and her whole life. [00:17:09]

[MF]: Either around one another, I guess. [laughter]

[AMJ]: Um, where do you live now?

[MF]: I live in Glen Burnie

[AMJ]: And if you're trying to tell somebody how to get to Glen Burnie, where is it? [00:17:25]

[MF]: Uh, Baltimore Annapolis Road, take route- if you're coming from here you get- come through the tunnel, come off on, what is that? Ritchie Highway, come down to Baltimore, uh, I mean, uh, Ritchie Highway to... God, I can't think.

[AMJ]: That's okay!

[MF]: Baltimore and Annapolis Road.

[AMJ]: When did you move to Glen Burnie, Miss Tie? [00:17:59]

[MF]: We moved to Glen Burnie back in the after hours, but we move- lived on Curley Street. Let's see, how do we go? Let's see, [00:18:19] my mother and I moved- I started after I grew up, we lived on, 1800 block on Baltimore Street for a good many years. Then we moved from 1800 block to 2000 block of Baltimore Street and that's where I turned 18 at. And my sister got me a job where she was working, where they made envelopes, and I would get glue on my hands and I didn't like it so they don't keep me around too long. [00:19:01] So, I went- didn't work for a while, I babysitted and got my own spending money. And then I got a job, uh, what was her name? Got me a job at a place called Life Likes (Lifelike Products Inc). I guess you talk to a lot of Indian people, they work there at Life Likes. And I worked there and I work night work, and my sister was dating my brother-in-law, John Walker, at the time [00:19:40] and he lived down the street and if I miss my bus I go down and make him go drive me to work.

[AMJ]: Yeah, whenever Uncle John comes up, you say something, what do you always say about him?

[MF]: He was my brother-in-law. [laughter]

[AMJ]: You loved him a lot.

[MF]: He was very good to me, never said anything out of the way, disrespect me. No way at all. I did. [00:20:07]

[AMJ]: What was he like?

[MF]: Just a normal brother-in-law, I guess. [laughter]

[AMJ]: Was he funny?

[MF]: Sometimes.

[AMJ]: Did you ever get married, Miss Tie? [00:20:19]

[MF]: I wa- I did, I was married for 20 years. I lived with my husband for 20 years.

[AMJ]: What was his name?

[MF]: Uh, Wright Jr. Fields.

[AMJ]: Did you move the Glen Burnie with him?

[MF]: Yeah, yes, mhm. [00:20:32]

[AMJ]: Did you guys have any kids?

[MF]: We have two sons. I have two sons, Navando and Durante Fields. I have a grandson, Christopher, and I have a great granddaughter, Stella. I've had Stella since she's been born. [00:20:54] Well, when since her and her mother came to live with me from the hospital, her mother had a real bad sin-sinion, how do you say that word?

[AMJ] C-Section.

[MF]: C-section, and she got all infected and she lived with me until Stella was about 7 or 8 months old. [00:21:20]

[AMJ]: How old is Stella now?

[MF]: Stella just turned 18 in April. She'll be graduating high school this year. She's already doing college courses at college. That little girl is my heart. Yes.

[AMJ]: What does she call you? [00:21:39]

[MF]: Mom-mom.

[AMJ]: Um, how is your life different now than it was from when you grew up in North Carolina? What's different about life?

[MF]: I'm self-supported of myself. [00:21:54] I've worked and all my own when I lived with my husband. We didn't really lived in an apartment, you know, a townhouse and really didn't have that much. So back in, I think, when did we move in the city- out of the city? [00:22:22] I got married in 1967, I had my first son in '69, uh, 14 months later, I had another baby, no, 16 months later, I had another son. And we lived on Curley, Baltimore and Curley Street for the first 12 years, I think it was. [00:22:49] Maybe not, maybe not 12 years. And my sister Bonnie and her- She was living in Glen Burnie and we- that's when I wanted to move close to my sister, Bonnie.

[AMJ]: How did you meet your husband? [00:22:07]

[MF]: Um, he was a friend of a guy that I was dating. They lived with uh, in- on Baltimore Street, with a lady named Bessie Porter, uh, I don't- I think she was a Porter, I don't really know her last name.

[AMJ]: But your husband was American Indian?

[MF]: [00:23:29] I think he's part American Native, American Indian. My friend, Shirley and I wanted to go to get something to eat and we talked into him driving us to get something to eat and he just kept showing back up- back up at my door.

[AMJ]: I guess he liked you. [00:23:50]

[MF]: I guess so [laughing]. So, mo- him and my mother got along very good. And at that time, I sort of married him for my mother, but then when I fell in love with him after we were married, he started running around with- on me. [00:24:12] So, I had my two children and we lived on Cur- Curley Street, still, that's where we went to live when I got married. And it's just me and him and my mother at first, they got along very well. [00:24:32] Then later my children were in school and they were going to St. Elizabeth School. And, uh, I had a problem with one of the teachers, uh, I hear she choked one of my- my older son, put her hands on my oldest son so I took him and put him in public school and I didn't like the public school. [00:25:00] So, we moved to Glen Burnie after then, and my kids went to- had to walk to school, uh, the first couple years 'cause one of 'em was in third and the other was in fourth grade, I can't remember the name of the school, they went to. So, we stayed in an apartment called- a complex called Woodside for eight years, there. And then, I got a job and started working after we moved, after my kids got where they can look after themselves. [00:25:45]

[AMJ]: Yeah. Where did you work Miss Tie?

[MF]: It was a place called Graph Co and in- and it changed names quite a few times through my 32 years there.

[AMJ]: That's a lifetime.

[MF]: [Laughter] Yeah, and when I retired from- well, I didn't retire, [00:26:06] I got laid off and I had my granddaughter again, taking care of her. I went back to work and then I worked about a year and a half, I got laid off again. I laid- work a while and I would get laid off, at that time. So, when I turned 62 I started drawing my husband social security 'cause he had passed away. [00:26:37] And then after, before I retired, I bought my own- got my own- purchased my own home.

[AMJ]: Were you so proud when you bought it?

[MF]: [00:26:52] Well, I, uh, moved in with my cousin Annie and I was living with her, my mother and I, 'cause she was living in the apartment that- in the house that I was renting, with me, 'cause she had got sick. And I had her and my mother, so she had a house sitting there, [00:27:16] nobody living in it and I was paying rent on the house that I was in. So, everybody said I should move in over there in her house. So that's where I went with her, shortly after then, my mother passed away, maybe about nine months later my mother passed away. [00:27:39] And I still lived there with Annie. And Annie and I lived there, I don't know how long, she got Alzheimer's and she would get out- get up and get out of the house at night and I couldn't- I was still working my job. [00:28:01] I was working in, it was called Ball Corporations at that time. It was a spice company and they made all kind of can- con- containers. And she would get out on me. And so, I had to put her in assisted living and that's where she would- where someone would be watching her at all times. And I was still working. [00:28:29]

[AMJ]: What was your job?

[MF]: I ran machinery, all kinds of s- I worked a whole- It was a machinery made cans. Yeah, I made spice cans for McCormick's. Then, McCormick's later in life, they went into plastics and that's when our company changed, where I was working, changed over to plastics. And that was

the hours that I couldn't work. So, I tra- went with the can company in East Baltimore on Route 40, [00:29:18] I transferred to Route 40 and I drove through the tunnel every day to work.

[AMJ]: Oh my gosh

[MF]: And I worked there 18 years on Route 40 making- well the spice cans, sort of went out, and I was a floor lady. [00:29:32] I went from one end of the building to the other end of the building doing odd jobs, different jobs. And that's when I, uh, turned 62, and I signed up- was drawing my husband's social security 'cause he had passed away. And I was living in the house when had, at that time, him and I had separated and we had been separated about 12 years and then he passed away. And I was still living there with Annie. [00:30:09] First Annie was living with me and my mom and my two son- well, my one son went to North Carolina to live with his father for a while after we separated, they went to North Carolina to live.

[AMJ]: Did you ever want to live in North Carolina again after you came to Baltimore?
[00:30:28]

[MF]: My husband wanted me to, we went down to put in to buy a house, it fell through, so we never moved to North Carolina. And then, not really.

[AMJ]: Do you think life is better in Glen Burnie or the city?

[MF]: [00:30:50] I had a rougher life and- when we lived in the city, my life was rougher, you know. But after I got married, I didn't work for a while, my husband- I didn't have to work. He made good money, he took care of me, but then he started running around on me, so I left.
[00:31:15]

[AMJ]: Good for you.

[MF]: Shortly after that, we got my own place. We lived on Nathan Way for a couple years. I don't know how many years. And then my sister wanted me to move into Brooklyn. [00:31:38] I can't remember the name of the street we lived on. 'Cause her son lived next door, Michael, he had bought his house next door. And it would be close to for her to take care of my mother. So, that's where we moved there in a house. [00:32:02] And that's when Annie started living with me there. And she had a house in Glen Burnie. Nobody was living in it. So, everybody said I should move there with her, and after Annie- moved in there with Annie, shortly after that my mother passed away. [00:32:24] And, uh, I still drove across- through the tunnel to spice company, spice-making cans. And I worked there 18 years, I think it was.

[AMJ]: Did you like your job?

[MF]: I love my job. I love the people I work with. [00:32:49]

[AMJ]: Tell me a good story from your job. What was like the best thing that ever happened or the funniest thing?

[MF]: [laughing] I can't remember. There were a lot of good things, I got along with everybody. [00:33:05] A lot of people that worked in the spice company when I worked over by the airport, when they sold the business from the airport to a place called use- U.S. Cans, that's when I followed the spice company, 'cause Graph Co went into all plastics, and that was different hours, you had to work weekends and different hours. [00:33:32] So, I went with the company called U.S. Cans and soon as I moved and went over there to work with them, it became Ball. And I worked there 18 years and some of the guys that I work with came, you know, a lot of them they came with- working there. And I love my job, after, both places, Graph Co and working for Ball. I got my granddaughter and got laid off a couple times. And I decide, I stay home with her. [00:34:12] And by then I was drawing up, like I said, my husband social security.

[AMJ]: Do you miss working now?

[MF]: I miss the people but mostly all of 'ems gone that I worked with.

[AMJ]: Do you have any left that you still keep in touch with?

[MF]: I have three ladies that live in my neighborhood that I still keep in touch with. [00:34:37]

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

[MF]: Uh, my husband's sister, I have two cousins I talk to [00:34:51] on the phone down there, and my cousin, Frank, he's like my brother and I go down and stay with him and he used- since he's moved down there, he lived with my mother and I for a long time, too. And my husband, him and my husband worked together. [00:35:12]

[AMJ]: Where did they work?

[MF]: Um, they did drywall finishing together.

[AMJ]: [00:35:19] Do you still keep in touch with other Indian people in Baltimore?

[MF]: Uh, Jeanette Hunt, that's, uh, her fa- her and her family. She's, uh, like th- we're like third cousins. Distant cousins. I don't really... what other Indian people in Baltimore? I go to the Native American Church on Broadway. [00:35:45] I remember a lot of them but I don't remember all of them from North- from Ann Street, Baltimore Street, and all of that, mostly all of them is where I remember them from.

[AMJ]: Do you go to church every Sunday?

[MF]: [00:36:00] No.

[AMJ]: Sometimes.

[MF]: I just start, sometimes, I generally go- used to go to, uh, church, I can't- I don't know the name of the church, Pastor Steve's church. I don't know the name of this church. They changed the name and I haven't been back there for a while. It all changed. The pastor when I started going to church there, [00:36:25] by Harundale Mall. Well, it was Harundale Mall, it's not a mall anymore. Well, it used to be a movie theater called movie theater, and it changed into a church.

[AMJ]: Oh

[MF]: Well, the- the pastor there, he was an Elvis impersonator- [00:36:45]

[AMJ]: [laughter]

[MF]: -and that's where I had met him and- and tennis- were Elvis Presley's thing and then when he left some other pastor come in, and now it's a different nomination than what he had. I haven't been there a few times and it wasn't the same so I don't know, I go- don't really go to church, sometimes I go with some friends. [00:37:13]

[AMJ]: I don't know, a pastor who's an Elvis impersonator sounds hard to beat. He must have been a character.

[MF]: He was from Tennessee and that's- he was the pastor there in that church up there. And then he went back to Tennessee to live. I can't remember his name.

[AMJ]: [00:37:34] Do you think the way you talk or dress or the foods you eat or any of that changed when you move to Baltimore?

[MF]: Not really.

[AMJ]: No? Do you eat crabs?

[MF]: Yeah.

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[MF]: I've been crabbing, caught a bunch of crabs before.

[AMJ]: Yeah.

[MF]: My husband he was a seafood ever- every Friday we had seafood when he was around.

[AMJ]: [00:38:01] Did you ever go to North Carolina and people say, "Oh she must be from Baltimore"?

[MF]: Not really, no, I don't- some people tease me, the way that I talk different anymore.

[AMJ]: Do you think you talk different?

[MF]: No.

[AMJ]: What do they think you sound like?

[MF]: They say, "She's got that northern accent now," but I don't think so. [00:38:31] I guess I mixed a southern and a northern language together.

[AMJ]: Well, I think the way you talk is lovely.

[MF]: Thank you, Ashley.

[AMJ]: What kind of things did you do growing up in North Carolina that you kept doing when you moved to Baltimore that only our Indian people do, [00:38:53] like, did you keep making the foods or listening to the music or?

[MF]: I wasn't- can't say- I was a kid when we left.

[AMJ]: Right.

[MF]: I don't remember too much about being in North Carolina. Really, I remember, I had a hula hoop that I'll- and play jump rope a lot. [00:39:15] And we had neighbors, they were the Bells, and I hung out at their house, every once in a while, their mother would run me home. That's all about I can remember.

[AMJ]: Did you guys farm?

[MF]: No.

[AMJ]: No.

[MF]: We live- my mother made dinner and my mother worked at a place called Chicken Plant or Poultry Plant or something. [00:39:43] She worked there. Then she tried nursing for a couple of years, but my fa- we lived on my father's farm and she done farm work, I wasn't old enough to do any farm work.

[AMJ]: Are you sorry you missed out on it?

[MF]: [00:39:59] No. [laughter] I did try it one time when I was down there and that stuff, what you call it- handing tobaccer, and they would string it on a stri- a stick. I tried that one time, I didn't like it.

[AMJ]: What was it like?

[MF]: You get this tar stuff off the tobacco leaves on your hands. No, I don't miss no farming [laughter].

[AMJ]: What do you like to do for fun now? [00:40:31]

[MF]: Ah well, I used to go- be in line dancing. Do- at, uh, Fonte Blue, they used to have line dancing, uh, country line dancing. I used to go there a lot. [00:40:46] Uh, I still go to the Elks Club sometimes. But basically, I go play Bingo on Thursdays sometime through to- on Tuesdays.

[AMJ]: Do you ever win?

[MF]: I do, [00:41:05] do pretty good sometime.

[AMJ]: How do you get good at bingo? You just play a lot or you're, like, it's a natural talent?

[MF]: -it's just a natural- you just- don't need to be good at it, you just got a blotter and you block the number that the lady calls, and then... My niece was there this past Thursday, Margaret, [00:41:26] her and her friend came, I didn't win anything, but the week before- I had won three weeks in a row until last Thursday and they won everything and I didn't win.

[AMJ]: Did you win a lot when you won?

[MF]: I won \$250, then I won \$80 dollars, and then I won \$100, and but this past week I didn't win anything [laughing].

[AMJ]: Dang Miss Tie, you are good! [00:41:55]

[MF]: I enjoy it and I have a lot of people that I talk to there. Some of the people I used to work- uh hang around with they- but now they're not coming anymore.

[AMJ]: What do you do when you win? What do you do with the money?

[MF]: [00:42:11] It's mine. I still, still have \$60 of my hundred dollars. I- I- my son sometimes gives me the money to play with, my younger son.

[AMJ]: That's cool.

[MF]: He takes good care of mom-mom.

[AMJ]: [00:42:32] Do you ever line dance anymore?

[MF]: Over the Elks Club, they have it, my girlfriend Gracie, she still goes, and she still wants me to go out. I have a problem when, uh, my left leg anymore, uh, I have sciatic nerve damage that goes down into my left leg and my left leg swells sometime and my feet.

[AMJ]: I'm sorry, that sounds like so much fun to dance.

[MF]: [00:43:02] It is, I still go every once in a while. I might slow dance or do the dances that I know, a lot of- a lot of new dances has come out that I don't know.

[AMJ]: What's your favorite dance?

[MF]: I don't really have a one. I guess not.

[AMJ]: Did you dance a lot when you were young in the city?

[MF]: [00:43:22] Uh, I guess so, back in- when I was younger, he had the show called the Buddy Deane Show, and you learn dances off that. That's where I learned how to cha-cha, the different dances off that show.

[AMJ]: Were you a Deaneer?

[MF]: [laughing] No, I don't think so. [00:43:44]

[AMJ]: Like where you actually go be on the show?

[MF]: No, mm-mm, I wouldn't have never did- had the nerve to do that.

[AMJ]: That was, like, a really exciting time for music and dancing, I think 'cause-

[MF]: -'60s

[AMJ]: Yeah, [00:44:01] do you have a favorite song?

[MF]: Not really. I don't think so.

[AMJ]: What kind of music do you listen to now, when you listen?

[MF]: [00:44:10] Country.

[AMJ]: Yeah. Do you like to sing?

[MF]: Nah, I'm not a singer. My granddaughter is- great-granddaughter is.

[AMJ]: Stella?

[MF]: [00:44:21] Yep. She was in a, uh, school play and she sang so beautiful. So proud of her.

[AMJ]: [00:44:30] What do you think the Indian community in Baltimore is going to be like in 10 years or 20 years?

[MF]: Well, it's already changed, when I went in the city it looks totally different. It really does.

[AMJ]: What's different?

[MF]: The whole street is tore down and something new- everything's new there. [00:44:52]
Like on the corner there they used to have, uh, a place called The Moonlight, the bars and all,
that's all different. The only place that look the same is the unit block of South Ann Street, all the
rest of it look different. Build up all different. [00:45:15]

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

[MF]: Well I hope everybody is living good. [laughter]

[AMJ]: Is there anything you would like the young people of the community to hear from you?

[MF]: I don't know any of the young people in the community.

[AMJ]: But if you had to tell them something, like, what would you t- any advice?

[MF]: [00:45:40] Just be yourself, love yourself. You love yourself, you'll make a good way for yourself.

[AMJ]: Is there anything else you want to tell the world generally? Like anything. You want people to hear from you?

[MF]: [00:45:56] Actually, a lot of women can make theirself. I made my own self, supported my own self, after I left my husband. I own my own home, I have my own car, I work for what I got. You don't need a man to support you. [laughter]

[AMJ]: I love that.

[MF]: You can make your own way. I have done it. [00:46:25] I have my two sons, my grandson, and my great granddaughter living in my house. My whole family. That's my whole family. Alright, darling.

[AMJ]: Thank you so much. [00:46:43]

[MF]: I don't know if I gave you enough information but...

[AMJ]: You did awesome, you're a great storyteller.

[MF]: I hope so.

[AMJ]: I promise.

[MF]: But I've had a good life.