

Paul Ortiz: Could you tell me—

Colonel Johnson: I'll see you next week.

Paul Ortiz: Okay.

Colonel Johnson: Because I got another sheet for you at home I haven't finished.

Paul Ortiz: Okay. Could you tell me once more though about, you mentioned George Walker was a member of the miner's union.

Colonel Johnson: Mm-hmm.

Paul Ortiz: And Will Hall, he was also a member of the miner's union?

Colonel Johnson: Yeah. He was a president of one union, and George Walker was president of another.

Paul Ortiz: And you said that they were primarily black union members who would [indistinct 00:00:29] security?

Colonel Johnson: Right. Right.

Paul Ortiz: Okay. And the church, because they had experience in organizing [indistinct 00:00:36]—

Colonel Johnson: Right.

Paul Ortiz: Okay. I know you have to—

Colonel Johnson: You had some women, black women help watch over the church. I'm going to give you the—you can cut that back on. On. You got it on?

Paul Ortiz: It's on.

Colonel Johnson: Okay. Because I want their names—whatever you're going to put in there, I sure want their names in it. You got one woman was named Lucinda Brown Robie. She was a principal of a black school, and she was black, and had plenty nerve. And you had another woman named Minnie Eaton. And she was an insurance writer. E-A-T-O-N. And you had another one was named Dester Brooks.

Paul Ortiz: Can you spell her first name?

Colonel Johnson: D-E-S-T-E-R. Dester Brooks. And them three women—Dester Brooks owned a florist. She owned her own business. She could afford to do it. But now, the other lady, that first one, was the principal of the school, and folks thought she was going to lose her job, but they didn't bother. They kind of hinted at it once or twice, but I don't know why. I guess it's God's work that they didn't try to get her job. But I've seen times that the security got so thin around there, until them women had to come out and help us watch.

Colonel Johnson: Got just that—see, every time it burned around there, the men's wives would tell them, "You're going to get killed. You better let it alone." And I can remember eight men quit, that I had out there. Come from the shop I worked at, in my union. The night that Will Hall and myself moved the bomb from [indistinct 00:02:48] Church. When Stoner put a bomb there. You ever heard of Stoner? He was, what you call a Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. He's the one they sent to prison for bombing Bethel Church. And myself, I was a witness, and one detective, white guy.

Colonel Johnson: That's the only reason he made any time. A lot of witnesses out there, that saw him walking around him. He didn't drive, but he was riding in the back of a Yellow Cab. So the yellow cab driver, and I don't know whether the company know anything about it, but the Yellow Cab driver was up with it. Because they'd help intimidate the neighborhood. They'd drive around all night, every night. They was burning gas, driving around Bethel Baptist Church. Now, that's the church they bombed, so—they bombed this church, because the boycott march was going to come out here.

Colonel Johnson: I guess that—

Paul Ortiz: Okay.

Paul Ortiz: [indistinct 00:04:06]