

Larry Henderson: Should I stand?

Stacey Scales: We'll get a shot of that.

Larry Henderson: Yeah. Might have even had a Masonic Template over at—

Stacey Scales: Who owned it?

Larry Henderson: I don't know who the owner is at this time?

Stacey Scales: Do you want to do the writing thing? Do you want me to write it down or—

Tywanna Whorley: Yeah, that's fine.

Stacey Scales: Okay.

Stacey Scales: So this is the first — So this was what now?

Larry Henderson: It was a funeral home at one time, and possible Masonic Template.

Stacey Scales: Black-owned, right?

Larry Henderson: Right, mm-hmm.

Stacey Scales: Do you know who owned it?

Larry Henderson: No, it's just always been called Jackie Boys, probably for about 50 years.

Stacey Scales: Is it possible you could get closer, like where this grass is?

Larry Henderson: On the other side of it?

Stacey Scales: I could walk out there. I'll do it.

Tywanna Whorley: Do it right here?

Stacey Scales: Yeah.

Tywanna Whorley: That used to be a funeral home?

Larry Henderson: Yeah.

Tywanna Whorley: Before it became a barber shop?

Larry Henderson: Yeah, mm-hmm.

Tywanna Whorley: You don't remember the name of it, do you?

Larry Henderson: It might've been Blevin's. I'm not sure.

Stacey Scales: All right. Jackie Boys?

Stacey Scales: The Black Races.

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm. It's a—

Stacey Scales: It's a gang?

Larry Henderson: No, as a matter of fact it's some kind of mental guy that goes around writing a lot of graffiti.

Stacey Scales: Oh yeah?

Larry Henderson: It seems like it's reverse graffiti or something.

Speaker 4: Hey, should I take y'all's picture?

Larry Henderson: Just the building, Booker. You don't know how old that building is, do you? Everything's all right.

Stacey Scales: Yeah. That the barber?

Larry Henderson: Shoeshine. Probably the owner.

Stacey Scales: Oh, okay.

Tywanna Whorley: Want [indistinct 00:02:40] here chicken?

Larry Henderson: Mm-mm.

Stacey Scales: They going to call [indistinct 00:02:42]?

Larry Henderson: No, no, I know them all. He know me. Once he saw who it was—

Stacey Scales: What about that building there?

Larry Henderson: Yeah. This is Carolina Avenue. What he's talking about, it was an old hotel, The Southern Queen.

Stacey Scales: That's Black-owned?

Larry Henderson: It used to be.

Stacey Scales: Oh yeah?

Larry Henderson: I think it was in the Bradford family.

Stacey Scales: Maybe I can get right here at this corner. Anybody behind you?

Larry Henderson: No. Not out of the way, but —

Stacey Scales: It's still— You could still see the words "Southern Queen" on the front of it.

Tywanna Whorley: Southern Queen Hotel?

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm. My uncle would be the contact person on that. Actually it's in his family, I think.

Tywanna Whorley: Are they going to do anything? It's just run down?

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm. You know how limited their money is for that kind of stuff. They be fixing more in the downtown area before they would just get a building on the outskirts like this.

Stacey Scales: I got two shots of that one, so that's one, two, and three. So that was an old hangout, huh?

Larry Henderson: Just a little hotel, business hotel, you know? And people lived there by the week and month and stuff, too, at one point.

Tywanna Whorley: So what would this be? Like a Black-predominant area of Birmingham? The south?

Larry Henderson: Hmm. It's mixed. It wouldn't ever be predominant. It's just this is what they call the south side of town, just on this south side of those tracks there.

Stacey Scales: Oh, yeah?

Larry Henderson: Yeah.

Larry Henderson: This is Carolina Avenue, what the mayor was telling you all about. You don't have any more of those brochures on you, do you? I was going to pass that guy one, what was looking for.

Stacey Scales: What brochure?

Larry Henderson: I think everything's back at the car.

Stacey Scales: The guy who came out of the store?

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm, just to satisfy his mind, that's all.

Stacey Scales: Okay.

Tywanna Whorley: He has been—

Stacey Scales: Hmm, this is a Masonic Temple, or it used to be.

Larry Henderson: Yeah, it is. Still is.

Stacey Scales: So this whole area right here?

Larry Henderson: Yeah, yeah, that's what— I think this is the area the mayor was talking about, what used to be predominant. Black cafés, Silver Moon Café right there. Barbershops. Cab stands.

Tywanna Whorley: You going straight down the line?

Stacey Scales: Yeah, I'm going to just kind of take like a distance view of here. What's that say? The Moon Café?

Larry Henderson: Silver Moon.

Stacey Scales: Hmm. So that was a club or something?

Larry Henderson: Yeah, café, restaurant, all that.

Stacey Scales: Okay.

Larry Henderson: Sold meals to the plant workers.

Tywanna Whorley: Is that new there, the A.D. Grant Grocery Shop, is that old?

Larry Henderson: That's not — No, it's not old at all. Relatively new. I don't know what used to be in it.

Stacey Scales: I took three of these. One of that whole row, one of the Moon Café, Silver Moon. That's closed, huh?

Larry Henderson: Yeah.

Stacey Scales: You got it.

Stacey Scales: A club?

Larry Henderson: No.

Stacey Scales: Something Birmingham.

Larry Henderson: Owl?

Stacey Scales: Yeah.

Larry Henderson: What about it?

Stacey Scales: Owl's Club. It was popular during the '30s and things. Mr. Lowe was telling me something about it. He never got into detail, but—

Larry Henderson: Yeah, Ms. Monroe would know about it.

Larry Henderson: I was telling her, they sell a few drinks in that place. That's the reason that guy was so nervous, you know?

Stacey Scales: Really?

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm.

Stacey Scales: They were like bootlegging?

Larry Henderson: Yeah, exactly.

Stacey Scales: Ms. Monroe bootlegged, she said.

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm. Yeah, it was illegal.

Larry Henderson: This is Cook's Cleaners. It's—

Stacey Scales: Oh yeah—

Larry Henderson: That sign where it say "Since 1923."

Tywanna Whorley: Oh.

Stacey Scales: Yeah.

Tywanna Whorley: Black-owned?

Larry Henderson: Yeah.

Stacey Scales: All right.

Larry Henderson: Mr. Joe Cook, and his son is a Supreme Court judge, Ralph Cook. Alabama Supreme Court judge.

Stacey Scales: We should have taken a picture of it. In front of—

Larry Henderson: Well, that's okay. I can give you better angle. I ain't going to put you— I ain't going to make you uncomfortable.

Stacey Scales: Maybe we could just back up and I could like—

Tywanna Whorley: Hey, there's a [indistinct 00:10:29].

Larry Henderson: I'll come around where you can just take your picture from the window.

Stacey Scales: 1923, that's that's allright.

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm.

Stacey Scales: Could be historical.

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm.

Stacey Scales: I don't think she was too thrilled about us coming to find that picture again.

Larry Henderson: Naw, they just not comfortable.

Stacey Scales: So most of the Black businesses was over this way. None of them was like down here in the south side—

Larry Henderson: Well, on both sides of the track, you know?

Stacey Scales: Okay.

Larry Henderson: Yeah, it's all part.

Stacey Scales: [indistinct 00:11:33] this way.

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm.

Stacey Scales: All right, let me get ready. I want to make sure I get that 1923, too.

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm.

Stacey Scales: [indistinct 00:12:08].

Tywanna Whorley: [indistinct 00:12:34]?

Stacey Scales: I'm trying to see what my aperture [indistinct 00:12:38]. I'm taking it now.

Tywanna Whorley: Wait, what?

Stacey Scales: This thing over here, in the numbers.

Tywanna Whorley: Oh.

Stacey Scales: Want some sunglasses?

Larry Henderson: No thank you.

Stacey Scales: All right.

Larry Henderson: This is an old Black drug store, Union Drug Store.

Larry Henderson: It was about the same time, right on the corner. I'll bring you— Yeah, I'll bring you back around to it.

Stacey Scales: McGill Insurance Agency.

Larry Henderson: Yeah, I don't remember what was in there, but all this was a Black block.

Stacey Scales: Really?

Larry Henderson: Even more of it here, yeah a lot of it coming down with barber shops and taxi cab stands. We'll come around. And that was the one in the newspaper article we talked about, The New Deal—

Stacey Scales: Just where that guy is?

Larry Henderson: New Deal Café or something.

Stacey Scales: This is what really brought us out here. We were looking for the Black business district.

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm.

Stacey Scales: So just right there?

Larry Henderson: Yeah, this is the row of buildings—

Stacey Scales: Oh, this over here?

Larry Henderson: Yeah, that's just where the Mayor's Barber Shop. You'll see the signs saying 20th Century Barber Shop. I'm not sure when that building was built, but it was probably the mid-'20s, early '30s.

Tywanna Whorley: So they had First and Twentieth, Twentieth, and then First Avenue? All of—

Larry Henderson: Yeah, First Avenue was mainly the Black businesses, and then, along Twentieth Street and also Carolina Avenue. Mm-hmm.

Stacey Scales: All right.

Larry Henderson: That's a Black tailoring shop over there on that side, but I don't know exactly how old it is. It's probably been going on a long time, though.

Stacey Scales: I mean, this store is called Town's Ego Shop.

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm. Named properly for the owner.

Larry Henderson: I wish that had been open. He's got a lot of original stuff in there, but that was the Black movie theater and—



Stacey Scales: Right here?

Larry Henderson: Uh-huh, barber shop.

Stacey Scales: Said it earlier.

Larry Henderson: Uh-huh. Mainly owned by Italians, but patronized by Blacks.

Tywanna Whorley: Do you know the name?

Larry Henderson: Little Lincoln Theater.

Larry Henderson: This would be owned by an Italian guy, Mr. Toni LaSalle. I guess you'd spell it just like LaSalle.

Tywanna Whorley: What's this boarded up here?

Larry Henderson: It's a tailoring shop, just in the office part of it. [INTERRUPTION 00:17:20]

Stacey Scales: I can kind of tell we're here, in Birmingham. The south side is separated from the east side—

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm.

Stacey Scales: — by First.

Larry Henderson: Yeah.

Stacey Scales: There's another one of those spots, Royale's—

Larry Henderson: Yeah. Now, that's the printing business I was telling you about.

Stacey Scales: Really? Royale's is?

Larry Henderson: No, yeah, yeah, the guy that owned the printing business, he died out, and his wife died, and I guess he was renting it to this place, but I know they had an old 1920-something printing press in there that was real heavy. They could never get it out of there. You know, probably got it out since, but a couple of churches been in there.

Stacey Scales: I don't know if I want to take a picture of this place.

Larry Henderson: Why you say that? 'Cause it's falling or just 'cause of the nature?

Stacey Scales: Juju, but—

Larry Henderson: Uh-huh.

Stacey Scales: If you back up, I can take it from here.

Larry Henderson: Yeah, you got more juice than they got money. (laughs) Yeah, because if you stop and believe for a minute about that candle and forget about the higher power—

Stacey Scales: Yeah, I burn candles myself, but I don't know if it's for the same reasons they do.

Larry Henderson: Who knows, who cares?

Tywanna Whorley: Now, you say it used to be an old printing—

Larry Henderson: Model Printing, uh-huh, owned by Mr. Brown. I want to say Normany Brown, but that doesn't sound — Like, I think that's somebody over in Birmingham.

Tywanna Whorley: In the '20s?

Larry Henderson: Yeah, '20s, '30s, Model Printing. But that's who printed up a lot—

Stacey Scales: [indistinct 00:18:43] a bird.

Larry Henderson: Printed a lot of placards and posters and stuff like that.

Stacey Scales: Oh. She wanted to know why I was taking a picture. You want to tell her?

Larry Henderson: You can tell her. I don't have to. I just had to deal with that bootlegger back there, say she ain't going to hurt nobody.

Stacey Scales: Might put a hex on you.

Larry Henderson: Nah, you can tell her if you want. Just go in there.

Stacey Scales: I'll go, yeah.

Larry Henderson: I can tell you want to go. You just saying to say you want to go.

Larry Henderson: Perhaps I need some cameras or something.

Tywanna Whorley: That's strange, being on that this would be all the way over here.

Larry Henderson: Well, it probably had other businesses mixed in between and then this more less a thoroughfare, you know? See, because what you're actually talking about is, back in the '20s and '30s, you had Blacks, Whites, and Italians all living close together. See, like where my father grew up, he had Italians for his neighbors and Greeks or Irishmen in his backyard, see? So it wasn't so much where it wasn't—

Stacey Scales: Where my brochures?

Larry Henderson: Yeah, y'all going to have put me on the payroll next. I'm passing out more brochures than y'all are.

Stacey Scales: She know where she can keep—

Tywanna Whorley: A Kit-Kat?

Larry Henderson: You need to see if that printing machine in there—

Stacey Scales: What?

Larry Henderson: —where we go on, get it.

Tywanna Whorley: —any need for a Kit-Kat bar? I have to tell her, "No, we don't have that."

Larry Henderson: Tell her I'll drop her one back off, you know?

Stacey Scales: All right.

Larry Henderson: I've got an extra one.

Stacey Scales: Do you think she might know you?

Larry Henderson: No, I doubt it.

Stacey Scales: Oh.

Larry Henderson: She's new. I'm not.

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm.

Larry Henderson: See, y'all'll be gone, and then people'll be saying, "Yeah, Larry Henderson was taking some folks around taking pictures."

Stacey Scales: Well—

Larry Henderson: And I'll say—

Stacey Scales: Yeah, well, people are saying they want a personal item of yours.

Larry Henderson: Who cares?

Larry Henderson: Well, see, just like we having fun and y'all been riding around, having fun, that's the same way when I was up in South Carolina with those guys. You know, you drive about 700 miles with a person, you kind of get to know him.

Larry Henderson: Hmm?

Tywanna Whorley: [indistinct 00:22:24].

Larry Henderson: I know.

Tywanna Whorley: [indistinct 00:22:24].

Larry Henderson: Mm-hmm, and that's just all — That's what I put on the U-Haul in South Carolina. I probably did the same here in South Alabama with them.

Stacey Scales: I went in there and said, "You probably wondering why I took a picture." She said, "You damn right."

Larry Henderson: Naw, not that little girl.

Stacey Scales: That was a woman.

Larry Henderson: Was it?

Stacey Scales: Yeah.

Larry Henderson: I guess they know ain't nobody buying no roots, so they got to blame it on someone. But they messing with the right somebody if they looking for trouble. I'm mad and broke, too. (laughs) That girl come out there—