

Chris Stewart: —and ask you, ma'am, if you could just tell me your name, so that I can get a voice level here on the—

Margaret Bishop White: My name is Margaret Bishop White.

Chris Stewart: Bishop White. I see. When we were talking before, ma'am, you said that—Were you born here in Wilmington?

Margaret Bishop White: Yes, I was born here.

Chris Stewart: You were. What part of Wilmington were you born in?

Margaret Bishop White: I was born—My mother and them traveled a lot. I finished race team Wilmington, but I—Virginia, but I say Wilmington.

Chris Stewart: Do you remember the house that you grew up in?

Margaret Bishop White: No. No.

Chris Stewart: You don't remember the house you grew up in at all?

Margaret Bishop White: No. No.

Chris Stewart: How long did you live in Wilmington before you moved to Chicago?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, I stayed there over 35 years.

Chris Stewart: Oh, you did? You were here—You stayed Chicago over-

Margaret Bishop White: Yes.

Chris Stewart: —35 years?

Margaret Bishop White: Yes.

Chris Stewart: Were you a teenager when you left to go to—

Margaret Bishop White: When I got out of school and stayed around here in Wilmington with my mother while I left.

Chris Stewart: Then you left.

Margaret Bishop White: That's right.

Chris Stewart: You mentioned that your grandmother used to—She would tell you things about your life.

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, yes.

Chris Stewart: Do you remember any of the things that she used to tell you?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, in slavery time, how they would do people and all like that. How they—Womens had to cook and do different things and when they get back at them, they want to whip them and all like that. I was told that. Then she was telling me when they do wrong and they punish them, they put them across the bow and whip them and all like that.

Chris Stewart: Were her parents slaves here in North Carolina or where were they?

Margaret Bishop White: Virginia.

Chris Stewart: In Virginia. In Virginia? When did her people come down then?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, my great-grandfather and mother died when I was small and I don't remember them too good.

Chris Stewart: But your grandmother was living—

Margaret Bishop White: My grandmother was staying around with us.

Chris Stewart: Oh, she did?

Margaret Bishop White: Mm-hmm.

Chris Stewart: She did? Wow. What kind of woman was she? Do you remember? What kinds of things do you remember about her?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, she was an Indian and she was very nice, sweet person and all like that. She would—My mother and her had ways just alike. When she'd speak to you, she mean for you to move. They don't play with you. Then I remember they used to carry the little children in the apron. They had a long white apron on, carried their children in their apron. That's the way they'd carry them. Way sometime now they'll carry them on the back.

Chris Stewart: Both your grandmother and your mother would carry children?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: Wow. Did your grandmother live with you when you were growing up?

Margaret Bishop White: Some. She stayed with different ones of her daughters.

Chris Stewart: What kind of work did your mother and father do?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, my father was a railroad man.

Chris Stewart: Did he work with the Atlantic Coast Railroad?

Margaret Bishop White: Yes. My mother, she mostly stays home and not that they had a dairy a long time ago.

Chris Stewart: A dairy?

Margaret Bishop White: Dairy, milk dairy. She milked cows and carried the milk, scribbled the milk around at that time when they was doing that.

Chris Stewart: Really?

Margaret Bishop White: She used to drive.

Chris Stewart: Wow. Now, did she work for a milk dairy or—

Margaret Bishop White: No. No.

Chris Stewart: —did your family have the milk dairy?

Margaret Bishop White: Her father was the cause of the milk dairy. His name is Abram Bishop.

Chris Stewart: Abraham?

Margaret Bishop White: Abram Bishop.

Chris Stewart: Abram Bishop. Wow. Do you remember your grandfather?

Margaret Bishop White: Yes, I do.

Chris Stewart: What kind of man was he?

Margaret Bishop White: He was very nice.

Chris Stewart: He was?

Margaret Bishop White: He moved around fast and all like that. He was very active and all. My grandmother was too.

Chris Stewart: Did your grandmother and grandfather live close to you?

Margaret Bishop White: But yeah, they stayed—We all was staying over there before we sold that over there.

Chris Stewart: Do you remember any of your neighbors from over there?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, the most of it was family over there.

Chris Stewart: They were?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah, over there where the college at. All of my aunts now have passed. There's none living.

Chris Stewart: Now, are you talking about where the college is now?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah. Yeah.

Chris Stewart: Your house used to be where the college is built.

Margaret Bishop White: Yes, that's right.

Chris Stewart: Wow. Wow. Was that actually part of the city when you were growing up—

Margaret Bishop White: No.

Chris Stewart: —or was that considered—

Margaret Bishop White: No, that wasn't the city. That's what you call the outskirts of town. Now it's the city.

Chris Stewart: Now it is. Now it's the college.

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, yes. I looks at that a lot now.

Chris Stewart: You do?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, yeah. When I was coming up, we had to walk to school. I went to Williston and when I was going to school, we didn't go any far into 11th grade.

Chris Stewart: Right. Right. Did you go to Williston Primary as well as Williston Senior High?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah. You went on up in the grades. That's right.

Chris Stewart: Right.

Margaret Bishop White: You know it burned too.

Chris Stewart: Were you at Williston Senior High when it burned?

Margaret Bishop White: I was out.

Chris Stewart: You were already out.

Margaret Bishop White: Or right after that. That's when they put the twelfth grade on.

Chris Stewart: When did you graduate from high school?

Margaret Bishop White: I think it was '39.

Chris Stewart: What kind of work did your father do with the railroad? Do you know?

Margaret Bishop White: Porter.

Chris Stewart: He was a Porter.

Margaret Bishop White: Right.

Chris Stewart: He was. Is that a good job for—

Margaret Bishop White: For them then. Oh, yes.

Chris Stewart: How many kids were there in your family? Just yourself.

Margaret Bishop White: I'm the only one.

Chris Stewart: Wow. How was it growing up as an only child?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, I was spoiled. I just to come on up and tell you, I'm spoiled, but I learned better. No mother, no father now, and you got to be on your own. You know what it's all about.

Chris Stewart: Right, right, right. Did you ever go with your mother when she would deliver milk?

Margaret Bishop White: I reckon I would be there and sometime when she had the buggy and the car, I'd be right with her when I wasn't in school. But we had a chores to do when we come in from school. All of us. That me and the grand. Oh, this girl here, she and I, we was raised up together and school. We went to school together and her brother and all of them passed.

Chris Stewart: You said you had a choice?

Margaret Bishop White: Choice is the work when you come in from school, take those school clothes off and go to work.

Chris Stewart: You had a choice as to which work, what work you'd be doing?

Margaret Bishop White: That's right. You had your choice every day.

Chris Stewart: What—

Margaret Bishop White: Then when it changed, you get in the—I washed the dishes for two weeks, someone else was—Right.

Chris Stewart: I see. You rotated.

Margaret Bishop White: That's right. Scrub and clean.

Chris Stewart: You had cousins that lived all around you.

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, yes. That's right.

Chris Stewart: It was probably—There were children around you—

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, yeah.

Chris Stewart: —it wasn't like you were all by yourself?

Margaret Bishop White: No, no.

Chris Stewart: Okay.

Margaret Bishop White: We called her sister.

Chris Stewart: You did?

Margaret Bishop White: She was in and out and that was my mother's heart string.

Chris Stewart: Would there be family gatherings? What would those be like when you had family holidays or birthdays?

Margaret Bishop White: Looked like a school let out.

Chris Stewart: What do you mean by that?

Margaret Bishop White: It'd be a lot of others. Now to a funeral, anything, the whole side of the church is nothing but family.

Chris Stewart: Really.

Margaret Bishop White: That's right. Grands and great-grands and great-great-grands.

Chris Stewart: What kinds of things would you do when you would get together for those family gatherings?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, we would play games, horse shoe, the huly-huly round, all kinds of different games we would play. Some be playing checkers, different things. Hopscotch if you want to play.

Chris Stewart: Right.

Margaret Bishop White: All kind of different.

Chris Stewart: Did anybody in your family farm in that area?

Margaret Bishop White: My grandfather did.

Chris Stewart: He did?

Margaret Bishop White: Yes.

Chris Stewart: Did he own his land?

Margaret Bishop White: Yes. All that over there the college was our land.

Chris Stewart: What did he farm?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, he had cotton and potatoes. He had corn, butter beans, field peas, all kind of vegetables. One time we had rice, I remember that. You had to beat it.

Chris Stewart: Did you work out in the fields?

Margaret Bishop White: Not much.

Chris Stewart: That what—You didn't choose to work out in the field.

Margaret Bishop White: No, no.

Chris Stewart: That's something you didn't want.

Margaret Bishop White: No, something I didn't like.

Chris Stewart: Rather go help deliver milk or do the dishes.

Margaret Bishop White: Dishes, clean or do something.

Chris Stewart: Did your grandfather have any livestock? Did he have any hogs or chickens?

Margaret Bishop White: Hogs and things like that. Chickens. I have some out there now.

Chris Stewart: You have chickens out there?

Margaret Bishop White: Mm-hmm.

Chris Stewart: Do you?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: What—Do you remember hog killing time?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, sure.

Chris Stewart: What was that like?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, we didn't have anything to do with that.

Chris Stewart: Children didn't.



Margaret Bishop White: No, we didn't have anything to do with that. But my mother and all of them, like the chitlins and things like that. They worked on them and bring them in the house and all like that. They'd show us what to do with them and pull some of the fat off of them, one thing to the other. Then they would cut the hog up, all like that. But what parts of a hog? I do not know anything about. I know about the chitlins and things like that.

Chris Stewart: Is that the kind of—Would the children help the mothers with the chitlins and the cracklin?

Margaret Bishop White: Sometimes we would. They'd show us what to do, we'd do it. Then they'll take the meat sometime and grind it up for sausage and something. We'll grind. Take the grind and grind. That's all. Stick the meat in there and let it grind. One be grinding, the other be put the meat in, something like that.

Chris Stewart: Would you try to get out of the way when it was hog killing time?

Margaret Bishop White: Why certainly. I didn't want no parts of that.

Chris Stewart: It doesn't sound like you were too thrilled—

Margaret Bishop White: No, I didn't care anything about that.

Chris Stewart: Oh, what would you do to try and get away?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, I'd do anything than do that. I'd rather go and cook, do something. I wasn't out there where they were. Anyway, the children wouldn't be out there.

Chris Stewart: Right.

Margaret Bishop White: The grown folks would be out.

Chris Stewart: Right. What time of year?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, they mostly killed hogs in the winter time, near Christmastime.

Chris Stewart: Were there—Would—Well, you said that all your relatives really lived around you.

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, sure.

Chris Stewart: Would your relatives all come-

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, sure.

Chris Stewart: —and help out?

Margaret Bishop White: Were there any other times when relatives would come and help out with stuff or when you would go help them?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, most of us, we would always help each other. Just like if you go in pick beans or something like that. Garden peas or something, we'd shell them. Downtown there, it was a market. We would carry the butter beans and things like that down to the market to sell.

Chris Stewart: Like what we would call a farmer's market now?

Margaret Bishop White: That's right.

Chris Stewart: Like an open air market?

Margaret Bishop White: That's right.

Chris Stewart: I see. Do you remember what kind of prices you would get for—

Margaret Bishop White: No, I don't remember that now, but I know I used to help sell some of them down there.

Chris Stewart: Would people bargain for prices?

Margaret Bishop White: Sometimes, they would put an order in for a bushel of field peas, bushel of butter beans and bushel of garden peas, snap beans and things like that. Salad.

Chris Stewart: Who would buy? Where would people come to buy?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, different ones come from different parts of Wilmington and other parts.

Chris Stewart: Throughout the county, maybe?

Margaret Bishop White: That's right.

Chris Stewart: You would do this during the summertime in the early fall?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah. Now peanuts—My grandfather used to have a lot of peanuts. It have a picker to go and pull them up and put in there. What we had to do to have the picker to pick them off the bushes. Then the only thing you had to do is see if they're solid. You couldn't sell them if they pops but they wouldn't have anything in. Some of them would be that way. Those kinds, you move them.

Chris Stewart: Your grandfather was growing cotton and peanuts as well as all kinds of vegetable.

Margaret Bishop White: That's right.

Chris Stewart: I see. Did your grandmother or your mother can any of the vegetables?

Margaret Bishop White: Yes, they did. Peaches, plums.

Chris Stewart: Did they have trees?

Margaret Bishop White: Pears. Pears all over there.

Chris Stewart: Oh, they did. They had trees.

Margaret Bishop White: I guess now they're going down, but we had plums and peaches and the big large peaches. See, he used to sell [indistinct 00:15:48] things so he could make fruit like that.

Chris Stewart: Right.

Margaret Bishop White: And grapes, we used to pick grapes.

Chris Stewart: Wow. How many acres of land did your grandfather have?

Margaret Bishop White: I think it was around about over 60 acres over there.

Chris Stewart: Because he had a lot of different things going on.

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: You mentioned that you had relatives that lived all around you. Did they also help with the land or were they working like your father was working on the railroad?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, we all get us a job to work in. Because sometime farms—You can have farms just like you—Lettuce and things like that you cut in the afternoon, we'd go along in the afternoon when we work, get off in the afternoon and go cut the lettuce, cabbage and things like that. They put them in the crates to carry to sell.

Chris Stewart: Did you sell most of the vegetables that you—

Margaret Bishop White: Well, I wouldn't say I sell them most of them, but I had help because it was about others.

Chris Stewart: Did your family—Did your grandfather though sell most of his vegetables?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah. He goes early in the morning and carry them to market. That's what they call it, market.

Chris Stewart: There'd be market every morning.

Margaret Bishop White: The market down there.

Chris Stewart: Where was it again?

Margaret Bishop White: On Front Street between—What's that there? It used to be a fish market down there. Right beside the fish market. I can't think of it now. But everything now going down downtown. It has. It's going down. You have to look good to see where you used to go.

Chris Stewart: I've noticed that.

Margaret Bishop White: When I came back home, I looked around Wilmington. There was so many—[indistinct 00:18:01] and Penney's and Sears and all of them out there, they used to be right down on Front Street.

Chris Stewart: Oh, they did.

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: Now they're all on these strip malls. All on—

Margaret Bishop White: What you call it?

Speaker 1: Independence Mall.

Margaret Bishop White: Independence Mall. I'll tell you, it's something. Everything now, it's not the same, much different.

Chris Stewart: How is it different?

Margaret Bishop White: It's not building—It is the places that downtown, they don't have anyone in them.

Chris Stewart: Yeah.

Margaret Bishop White: It just looks like a ghost town. Now, the Social Services was there on 16th Street, then they moved out here on Market Street, then they went right back downtown.

Chris Stewart: Right.

Margaret Bishop White: It's just one of those things, if you come home, it looks like a different place altogether because you don't know the same place that you was first come in. You just don't know how to take it, you look all around, say, "Which way must I go?"

Chris Stewart: When did you come back, ma'am? How long you been back?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, I've been back quite a while because my mother's—mm-hmm—my mother's sick and kept up coming in planes and the Coastline didn't have—The Coastline moved from here and you had to go to Fayetteville. Then I had to catch a bus from Fayetteville to come into Wilmington. There's no more Coastline here in North Carolina.

Chris Stewart: How did you travel around? It sounds like you were on the outskirts of town when you were living over by where the college was, back when you were growing up. How did you travel downtown? How did you get to the market or how did you—

Margaret Bishop White: We had to catch the bus. Some of us would carry each other.

Chris Stewart: Did your parents have—Or your grandparents have a car or a truck—

Margaret Bishop White: Sure.

Chris Stewart: —to take things? Do you remember them?

Margaret Bishop White: OT Model, Ford, don't even remember, them old-timey cars. Yes, indeed.

Chris Stewart: It was what kind? Was it a Model T?

Margaret Bishop White: Yes, that's right.

Chris Stewart: Wow.

Margaret Bishop White: You remember that?

Chris Stewart: Well, I'm not old enough to remember it, but I know what it looks like.

Margaret Bishop White: Like that.

Chris Stewart: That's how you used to get-

Margaret Bishop White: That's right.

Chris Stewart: You'd get carried around in that.

Margaret Bishop White: That's right.

Chris Stewart: Wow. Is that how your grandfather would also get the vegetables to the market?

Margaret Bishop White: He had a car big enough to carry it and not that, he'd go in horse and buggy.

Chris Stewart: You mentioned that your mother delivered when she was driving.

Margaret Bishop White: She had a pony.

Chris Stewart: She had a pony?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah, Dewdrop, I'll never forget her.

Chris Stewart: Why?

Margaret Bishop White: Because I used to get her on her and ride her back.

Chris Stewart: Yeah?

Margaret Bishop White: She threw me one once or twice.

Chris Stewart: What was her name?

Margaret Bishop White: Dewdrop.

Chris Stewart: Dewdrop. She threw you once or twice?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: Sounds like a feisty little pony.

Margaret Bishop White: She were.

Chris Stewart: Yeah.

Margaret Bishop White: But whenever they have parades or anything and music, she'd bucks around.

Chris Stewart: She was a dancing—

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, yeah. Sometimes when you'd be riding her and somebody come by with a car and they would like to pick at the horses and things. They'd get there and when they get right there, they'd—Sound like a gun, bow, bow. She'd go up like that.

Chris Stewart: Oh.

Margaret Bishop White: Down, up like that. That's what we used to go through. We'd get on that horseback and go and we and honey, we used to enjoy that.

Chris Stewart: Sounds like it.

Margaret Bishop White: All down there to Seagate, be together.

Chris Stewart: Where?

Margaret Bishop White: Seagate.

Chris Stewart: Seagate?

Margaret Bishop White: Uh-huh.

Chris Stewart: Where is that? Now I've heard of Seabreeze, I haven't heard of Seagate.

Margaret Bishop White: That's going down to Wrightsville.

Chris Stewart: Okay. Was this a beach area or was it a park?

Margaret Bishop White: Seagate was a little development just like this is.

Chris Stewart: A little development.

Margaret Bishop White: Yes.

Chris Stewart: You'd ride?

Margaret Bishop White: We'd ride. Ride the horseback.

Chris Stewart: All the way to Seagate?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: That's quite a ways away, isn't it?

Margaret Bishop White: Not from where I used to stay over there.

Chris Stewart: Oh, it's—See, I only know things by the map and it looks like it's quite a ways away. Did you have more than one horse then?

Margaret Bishop White: My grandfather had more than one.

Chris Stewart: Oh, he did?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: You and your cousins would go ride horses?

Margaret Bishop White: Ride. We love it. Call us tomboy.

Chris Stewart: I bet.

Margaret Bishop White: We really loved to ride now. We'd get on the horse's back, hitch the horse up and buggy, go into [indistinct 00:23:32].

Chris Stewart: Off you'd go. Did you take care of any of the horses?

Margaret Bishop White: Who? No, ma'am. No, ma'am.

Chris Stewart: How come?

Margaret Bishop White: The men folks would do that.

Chris Stewart: Were there specific jobs that men did and that women did?

Margaret Bishop White: Yes.

Chris Stewart: What—Can you talk a little bit about who did what?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, just like on the farm, women didn't have anything to do with that. Because they had tractors. Then you used the horse to plow or something like that. We didn't have anything to do with that.

Chris Stewart: Did women pretty much rule the house then?



Margaret Bishop White: Yeah, we mostly—The housework and getting things straight like that.

Chris Stewart: What about chickens?

Margaret Bishop White: Chickens that—We tend to the chickens, feed them. We had little calves. We had billy goats. They'd chew all your clothes up.

Chris Stewart: But women would tend to the billy goats and the chickens, and the calves?

Margaret Bishop White: Mm-hmm.

Chris Stewart: But when the animals got bigger then—

Margaret Bishop White: But see, we had Billy goats. You couldn't milk them.

Chris Stewart: Right. How big was your grandfather's dairy farm? How many cows did he have?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, I'll tell you, Pop had around—I'll say around about a hundred and something.

Chris Stewart: Wow. He had a really big dairy-

Margaret Bishop White: You see they had to carry them and dip them.

Chris Stewart: Carry—They had to what?

Margaret Bishop White: Carry them and dip them.

Chris Stewart: What's dipping?

Margaret Bishop White: Carry them to the water.

Chris Stewart: Cool them down.

Margaret Bishop White: Uh-huh.

Chris Stewart: Where would you carry them to? Where was the—

Margaret Bishop White: It's somewhere they used to carry them, but now that's not there now. But they had to do that because just like these here ticks and fleas and things would get on them. They had to do that.

Chris Stewart: They were dipping the cows.

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: What? Would they just lead them into the waters or what?

Margaret Bishop White: Right. Get on the horseback and carry them on.

Chris Stewart: Wow.

Margaret Bishop White: I remember all of that.

Chris Stewart: What—How many people did your mother deliver milk to?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, I couldn't tell you that. I know it was over 200.

Chris Stewart: Just like—

Margaret Bishop White: Just like the milk man, go by in the morning.

Chris Stewart: Right.

Margaret Bishop White: See, she used to go early in the morning, the milk route.

Chris Stewart: Right. She would be gone pretty much all day?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah. See, she had ice.

Chris Stewart: She had ice.

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: Where would they get ice?

Margaret Bishop White: The ice house.

Chris Stewart: Where was it?

Margaret Bishop White: On Market Street.

Chris Stewart: You'd have to pay for ice?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah. They come every day and bring ice. They'd have it in cubes, longer than this

right here. That table there.

Chris Stewart: Wow.

Margaret Bishop White: Then they run it through that thing and chop it up. Not that—We'd get two or three of those long ones like that and whenever we want it, we'll take the ice pick and pick it up.

Chris Stewart: How—Would one block of ice—I mean, did she use one whole block of ice each day that she did her route?

Margaret Bishop White: More than one.

Chris Stewart: She used more than one.

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: Wow. Especially on hot days like this.

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, sure. Because the milk will go bad, get sour.

Chris Stewart: Right. Did she deliver to White families as well as Black families?

Margaret Bishop White: That's right. All in [indistinct 00:27:31], all down to Wrightsville Beach.

Chris Stewart: Were there any other milk, dairy businesses as well that they were—Your family was competing with?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, his was some, but so far, we had pretty good business.

Chris Stewart: Sounds like it.

Margaret Bishop White: Butter and stuff like that.

Chris Stewart: You sold butter, too?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: Did you have—

Margaret Bishop White: Buttermilk.

Chris Stewart: Who would—Did you have machines to make butter and—

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, sure.

Chris Stewart: —all stuff?

Margaret Bishop White: Sure.

Chris Stewart: That was all stuff that your grandfather was running. Did he hire people to work for him or was it just family?

Margaret Bishop White: The family. Family.

Chris Stewart: Wow. You-

Margaret Bishop White: I come out a large family.

Chris Stewart: Okay. Let's figure this out here. How many aunts and uncles did you have living around you?

Margaret Bishop White: It was 14. I have two uncles and all of them passed.

Chris Stewart: Fourteen—

Margaret Bishop White: My mother made 14-

Chris Stewart: Children.

Margaret Bishop White: —children, girls.

Chris Stewart: Then two-

Margaret Bishop White: Two boys.

Chris Stewart: —boys.

Margaret Bishop White: There was two uncles.

Chris Stewart: They were all living around you?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah. The ones that wanted to live with you so long, they'd get out and go.

Chris Stewart: Right.

Margaret Bishop White: Just like—

Chris Stewart: How many did you figure were living around you?

Margaret Bishop White: Sometime it'd be—In aunts, it'd be four, something like that.

Chris Stewart: Then they would have kids and—

Margaret Bishop White: That's right. We'd get going.

Chris Stewart: I bet. I bet. Who made decisions in your house, say decisions about disciplining kids or decisions about disciplining you or money decisions, financial decisions?

Margaret Bishop White: When my father was living, he did it. My mother.

Chris Stewart: How old were you when your father died?

Margaret Bishop White: I was around about 14.

Chris Stewart: How did he die?

Margaret Bishop White: Know. All I know he was sick and he passed.

Chris Stewart: He was pretty young.

Margaret Bishop White: My father?

Chris Stewart: Yeah.

Margaret Bishop White: Well, yes. He was pretty good and young. Because I was still going to school when my father died.

Chris Stewart: Do you remember him when he was sick?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah. I remember my father.

Chris Stewart: Was he at home in bed?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, he worked a while, but he come in and after he came in and he came in for a while and wasn't long before he passed.

Chris Stewart: Were there any doctors around him that could tend to him?

Margaret Bishop White: Yes. A lot of doctors attend to him because some of the doctors that stayed in there.

Chris Stewart: But there were doctors who came out—

Margaret Bishop White: Sure.

Chris Stewart: —and talked. We actually talked to—I don't know if he was around here, but we talked to a Dr. Upperman? He was a doctor, I think around the '40s, somewhere.

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: He worked at Community Hospital for a while. We also heard about a Dr. Eaton.

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: And Rone.

Margaret Bishop White: Rone.

Chris Stewart: Dr. Rone. Dr. Eaton just passed recently.

Margaret Bishop White: Yes, he did.

Chris Stewart: Well, we did get to talk to Dr. Upperman.

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, you did?

Chris Stewart: Yeah.

Margaret Bishop White: He retired now.

Chris Stewart: Yeah. What kinds of things did you do for fun as a young person?

Margaret Bishop White: I loved to dance and I loved to sing.

Chris Stewart: Well, where would you get to dance and sing?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, we'd get out and go and had a place that we'd go to dance there in Wilmington.

Chris Stewart: What was that place?

Margaret Bishop White: The Ruth Hall.

Chris Stewart: The—

Margaret Bishop White: Ruth Hall.

Chris Stewart: Ruth Hall?

Margaret Bishop White: Mm-hmm.

Chris Stewart: Who—What kind of music would they play?

Margaret Bishop White: Band.

Chris Stewart: Big band music?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: What dances would you do?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, we loved the Jitterbug. I love the dance now.

Chris Stewart: You do?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, sure.

Chris Stewart: Can you still Jitterbug?

Margaret Bishop White: I can't hold up at it, but I'll try it.

Chris Stewart: It's a tough one, isn't it?

Margaret Bishop White: Yes, it is.

Chris Stewart: Yeah.

Margaret Bishop White: I love to dance and sing.

Chris Stewart: Would they have special dances at Ruth Hall or would there be—

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, sure.

Chris Stewart: —something happening every night?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, we'd have special dances at The Ruth Hall. They'd come in. And Fats Domino were living and different ones of them and all of them, they would come and have a band and singing and dancing and going on. We enjoyed it.

Chris Stewart: No, I bet. Would you be going with a group of girls or would you have a date?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, sometime we'd go by ourself.

Chris Stewart: You would.

Margaret Bishop White: Sometimes we'd go—Our friend would come and pick us up.

Chris Stewart: When did you start going out on dates?

Margaret Bishop White: (laughs) I was dating a long time before my mother knew it. (both laugh)

Chris Stewart: I was going to say, when you were allowed to, I imagine.

Margaret Bishop White: That's right. Oh, yeah. I loved to go though.

Chris Stewart: Well, how did you do it? How were you able to do it and not have your mother know?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, the work I does. Say after I come out of school, I worked a while. I have all the time to make my dates with my friends. What you don't know, don't hurt you, right? (laughs)

Chris Stewart: Mm-hmm. That's definitely true in my case, too.

Margaret Bishop White: That's right.

Chris Stewart: Yes. That's definitely true. That is true. Well, were there other places that you'd go besides Ruth Hall? Where was Ruth Hall located?

Margaret Bishop White: It was on the—Is that south or north? Past Dawson Street light?

Speaker 1: South side.

Margaret Bishop White: South side. Then you had one right there on 7th Street, a dancing hall.

Chris Stewart: What was the name of that place? Do you remember?



Margaret Bishop White: No, I can't remember that. That was—Del Morocco, that's what it was.

Chris Stewart: El Morocco?

Margaret Bishop White: Del Morocco.

Chris Stewart: Del Morocco. Heard that Castle Street was a good place to go if you wanted to—

Margaret Bishop White: It used to have a place up there, but they have it every now and then up there for the young people to go and enjoy theirself. They're the 7th and Castle.

Chris Stewart: What about Seabreeze?

Margaret Bishop White: I used to go to Seabreeze.

Chris Stewart: What kinds of things did you do up there?

Margaret Bishop White: Dancing. Enjoy yourself.

Chris Stewart: Somebody told me that there was a guy—I'm not sure when he was out there, but there was a man out there that they called The Snake Man?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: Do you remember him?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah, I know him.

Chris Stewart: He had a wife who was real short—

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: —and he used to—People used to pay to see her?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, yeah. You know who you talking about there?

Chris Stewart: What other kinds of attractions?

Margaret Bishop White: James' daddy. Huh?

Chris Stewart: What other kinds of attractions were there like that out there?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, little snakes, that was too much for me. Because I don't like nobody's snake, but he would take those snakes and they would do all kind of different carrying on all down the leg.

Chris Stewart: No.

Margaret Bishop White: No snake for me. No, sir.

Chris Stewart: Were there other things that you'd go see because you wanted to stay away from the snakes?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah. There'd be a lot that you wanted do. Then it was a place there, you had, take pictures and you see person with no head, all of that, different things. The parrot, they send talking birds and all like that. Monkeys, just like the zoo down there. They had it.

Chris Stewart: Was all this stuff along a boardwalk or something?

Margaret Bishop White: Yes.

Chris Stewart: How was it—

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, it was all around.

Chris Stewart: How did it look? How did Seabreeze look when you were going? When you would come—

Margaret Bishop White: It don't look like that now.

Chris Stewart: I know.

Margaret Bishop White: But when it was Seabreeze, it was very built up at the time, and you could go from one place to the other. You like, you go over here, then you go somewhere else, like that, and then you go around the bin and see different things and all like that.

Chris Stewart: Was there a beach there as well for people to—

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah. You could—It was water there. Go out on the pier and dance and all.

Chris Stewart: Would they have special parties or festivals?

Margaret Bishop White: They'd have dances there and the best dancer would get a prize.

Chris Stewart: Did you ever win?

Margaret Bishop White: Sure.

Chris Stewart: Of course. What kind of prize would you get?

Margaret Bishop White: Sometimes we would get money or we would get a vase or we would get towel, or most anything. A little monkey or something like that. We'd win something.

Chris Stewart: Would you have special dance partners that were really—

Margaret Bishop White: Yes, indeed.

Chris Stewart: —good dance—How would you choose a dance partner?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, I had one, St. James, and then I had another one, Thomas. I remember him.

Chris Stewart: What do you remember about him?

Margaret Bishop White: He could dance and that would be my partner I'd dance with. If whenever they're having those special parties like that, we'd have our buddies that we'd dance with.

Chris Stewart: Well, why—What was it about him that made him the dance partner that you would use at these special—

Margaret Bishop White: Well, everybody don't do the same stunts.

Chris Stewart: What kind of stunts could he do?

Margaret Bishop White: He could do something that the rest of them didn't know anything about.

Chris Stewart: Like what?

Margaret Bishop White: Dancing.

Chris Stewart: What kind of things? What exactly kind of things could he do?

Margaret Bishop White: Well see, a lot of those girls didn't—Some boys would take them and throw them—

Chris Stewart: Right.

Margaret Bishop White: —and you catch on your feet.

Chris Stewart: Right.

Margaret Bishop White: Some of those girls didn't know anything about it. But see, we practiced those things.

Chris Stewart: I bet you were hot.

Margaret Bishop White: I love to dance now.

Chris Stewart: Oh, I bet.

Margaret Bishop White: She got a granddaughter love to dance. She goes all up the road.

Chris Stewart: Really? This Thomas guy, he could throw you and—

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, yeah.

Chris Stewart: —heave up and flail you all around.

Margaret Bishop White: Mm-hmm.

Chris Stewart: Wow. Were there any other partners who could do that as well?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, we wouldn't dance the same dance all the time. You'd dance with different partners.

Chris Stewart: How were the dances—What different dances would you do?

Margaret Bishop White: Well see, it's different dances. If I dance with this one one time, I'll dance Jitterbug.

Chris Stewart: Right.

Margaret Bishop White: Next one, I wouldn't dance Jitterbug.

Chris Stewart: What would you dance?

Margaret Bishop White: I would dance another dance.

Chris Stewart: What other dance?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, I can't call the name of it now, but I can do it. Then sometimes they would like to get the old-timey Charleston.

Chris Stewart: Charleston?

Margaret Bishop White: It comes back in—Like that.

Chris Stewart: What about Lindy hopping? Was there Lindy hopping going on?

Margaret Bishop White: I love that. I love that.

Chris Stewart: How is Lindy hopping different from Jitterbugging?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, there's so many different steps you put in Jitterbug.

Chris Stewart: There is?

Margaret Bishop White: Mm-hmm. That's—

Chris Stewart: Lindy hopping doesn't have as many steps as Jitterbug?

Margaret Bishop White: No. No.

Chris Stewart: Do you think—Well, Jitterbug is more complicated?

Margaret Bishop White: That's right.

Chris Stewart: What kind of music would you dance to?

Margaret Bishop White: We would dance by a band.

Chris Stewart: Do you remember any of the songs?

Margaret Bishop White: After Hours was one. Fats Domino used to sing one I used to love. I can't remember it now.

Chris Stewart: Do you ever listen to—Did you ever dance to any blues?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah, I've danced with blues.

Chris Stewart: What kind of dances would you do to the blues?

Margaret Bishop White: Kind of slow drag, but I'd have some of the steps of Jitterbug.

Chris Stewart: Were there different partners? Would you dance with different people besides like this

[indistinct 00:41:57]?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, yes. I'd dance with different ones that come and ask for a dance.

Chris Stewart: Sounds like you were a popular woman.

Margaret Bishop White: I used to be, (laughs) but I'm not now. (laughs) I'm getting too old.

Chris Stewart: A really good dancer, too.

Margaret Bishop White: I love to dance now. Ballet, all of that.

Chris Stewart: Wow. You mentioned that you like to sing, too.

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: Where would you—Besides singing in the shower, where would you sing?

Margaret Bishop White: Sing in the choir.

Chris Stewart: In church?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah. The things I used to do when I was young, I don't do them anymore.

Chris Stewart: Did you ever used to sing in public in any places besides choir?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: Where would you sing?

Margaret Bishop White: I used to sing in—What you call it? No, different places. I sang up north, different places. New York.

Chris Stewart: New York? What kinds of songs would you sing?

Margaret Bishop White: Sing the blues.

Chris Stewart: You would?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah.

Chris Stewart: Do you remember any of the songs that you would sing?

Margaret Bishop White: Some of them, I don't remember. But I love to sing. Now, mostly—Sometimes I can think of—I have to book them over. I get my book sometimes, study them. Christian.

Chris Stewart: Do you have a book that you used to sing-

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, when we sing in the choir, we have a book.

Chris Stewart: Right. Did you have a band or a [indistinct 00:43:29]?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah, I used to sing in the band.

Chris Stewart: I mean, what instruments were in your band when you were—

Margaret Bishop White: Drum, horn, Cornet, all.

Chris Stewart: What places did you sing at in Chicago and New York? Do you remember the names of any of the places?

Margaret Bishop White: No. I don't know them all. But now they changed. The name's changed.

Chris Stewart: One or two of them, do you remember any of them?

Margaret Bishop White: No. I can't remember now. I can't remember like I used to remember, but I loved it. I love it though.

Chris Stewart: I noticed I was getting a little excited when you were talking about this, because I love it, too. This is some of my favorite kind of music in the world. Where would you learn your songs? Would you listen to records or would you make them up yourself? Write them yourself?

Margaret Bishop White: Well, whenever you go out to sing like that, you can put words to some of the songs that you know.

Chris Stewart: Sure. Some of the tunes that you know.

Margaret Bishop White: That's right.

Chris Stewart: Put your own words to it. What kinds of things would you sing about when you were singing blues?

Margaret Bishop White: So many—I'm telling you now, I can't think about all those songs and things like that, dancing. You had to have some rhythm to them when you sing them and all.

Chris Stewart: Were you singing My Man Left Me?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, sure.

Chris Stewart: Kind of blues?

Margaret Bishop White: That's blues. Yes, sir. Then let's see, all of those blues. I said to myself, "I ought to wrote some of them down," but I look them over now. I know them.

Chris Stewart: You do?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, yeah.

Chris Stewart: You know them to sing them?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, yeah.

Chris Stewart: Would you need accompaniment or could you sing them?

Margaret Bishop White: Sure.

Chris Stewart: When?

Margaret Bishop White: Whenever I studied them over.

Chris Stewart: Now you're talking about blues songs?

Margaret Bishop White: Yeah, blues.

Chris Stewart: Did you write some of them down?

Margaret Bishop White: Some of them, I have wrote them down, but I couldn't tell you now where it's at?

Chris Stewart: You just study them in your mind and you do that?

Margaret Bishop White: That's right. Then we sing them and all. But those things, if you don't do that often, you'll forget it. It goes from you.

Chris Stewart: Right. How would the audience respond to you?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, they'd clap. They'll clap.



Chris Stewart: Would they respond to you while you were singing?

Margaret Bishop White: Oh, sure.

Chris Stewart: How would they?

Margaret Bishop White: Clapping and telling you to come on with it, all like that. They do that.