

CRSTA 13

Interviewee:

Interviewer:

Date:

T: . . . Jim Dot. He was pretty wealthy and he owned a couple of famous ship bars. He was a millionaire or I imagine he was. He was a big young fellow. That is the way that most of them are that hung out in there where Barnett Bank is now, in that lot. I understand that Dot was the man that was doing a lot of the financing in fact for the community private school that is operating right now in the YMCA building. That is one of the reasons why we are having such a zoo at the Y now. Because the Y was developed by a liberal mayor. Blacks could use the pool, blacks could use the facilities and everything, but they do not even want to do that. They are not very generous with us on the one hand, and on the other hand over there, the Y is even sponsoring a day care center for mothers in the black community. This is well and good for the black mothers to keep their children off the streets while they go out and work and this kind of thing to keep them off of welfare. I am for day care a hundred percent. We need that care, we need somebody to take care of black children, but I also feel black parents, black mothers or somebody in the community in their homes has always taken care of those black kids. Maybe there are not the best facilities in the world, but there are houses. Now all of a sudden the city cracks down, and the Y decides to put in a day care center, saying that it is federally funded. So the city cracks down, and all these people who have been keeping children are closing up. So now the Y punishes us, and they have got the day care center. They have got three to four whites up there, and some whites working, whites directing and all this kind of stuff, and in the black community that is what we were doing for them. In the mean time the Y is housing this private school. To me, you cannot serve two masters. If you are going to feed me with the right hand, feed her with the left hand. We have had a heck of a to do with the Y about this thing. We need a lot more blacks on the board of directors. We have got black members at the Y and all this, but there are no blacks in the policy-making outfit at all. If you have no black participation out there, you are going to limit black kids to an alley as a place to go. We do not have anything private, we do not have a private swimming pool. This is the only place we can go where we do have things like that. We deserve to have something besides a softball team, and they have some pretty nice things out there, weights, and softball, and things like that, for everybody, and I think it is really pretty down there. They have tennis courts and basketball courts, and all that kind of thing.

C: The William **Kinnard** jolt that was riding through the black community, did this happen much during this period of time that you know of?

T: Sure. I mean this was common practice.

C: There were nearly a hundred of them.

T: We knew that someone was framing _____, and they knew it. And then we tried to talk. This was during the time when everybody knew about it. Maybe that week, there was something else that came up. I think his wife was in the school system here. He had two small girls, and they had a big old box of dolls at the house, up in Scottsville, I believe. For some reason, I called, or someone called, and told him that they were out riding that night. We had pretty good communications, word of mouth, phone, or someone would get out there in the back yard and holler. I saw the cop pass. Well, they would take this car, we were told, and we believed it, and I still believe it, and they would take this car and they would paint different colors on different days. It was mostly black, and they would put a white top on it or a black top, or a black top on a white body, anything on the same car. And this was the car they were operating from, this car and a pickup truck. Now, Roosevelt James, a fellow who lives out on Palmer Street, a fellow who has not been able to get a plumbing licence, they stopped at his house several times to try to find **Brady**. Now Brady never stayed there, they thought he did. They would pass there, just ride up and down the street all night long. So one night they stopped at his house, and they were all out there winding through the rooms. They came by in this pickup truck and when they did, they had a number sixty-eight, he did not want to kill anybody, bird shots in the shotgun, and they unloaded in the squad in his house, and when they did, he just ran out in the street, and man, he did not have his trousers on! And he fucked with these guys, so what happened, there are these men there, they are out there investigating, go **Braden** goes to the school to see if his wife is there, and they see a pistol in her pocket, and they arrest her for carrying a weapon, but they do not catch the guy who is in the truck, they do not do anything with him. We have got the tag numbers, we turn in the tag numbers, we have seen who we identified, we know who is doing it and everything else. We always had to be on the alert to go to sleep at night. So a couple nights before then it had been down the road where Goldie Eubanks lived on the corner. Now, Goldie was very outspoken, and folks could tell he had been there for a number of years from South Carolina, and everybody seemed to like Goldie, until Goldie began to make some demands, and then he was a scoundrel.

One night my brother-in-law was in the house, and he heard the dog's noise out, and he ran out to see what it was about, or ran to the door, and when he did, they took one of these old flambeaux off the street where the city had been doing some work, this was before they had these automatic blinkers, they had little flambeaux, kerosene flambeaux or whatever they worked on, and set it in the back seat of his car sitting in the front yard. So he either had a choice of trying to get his gun and shoot at the guys or putting out his car. So he ran to put out his car and they disappeared by the time the police came about two weeks later, that is when they set the house on fire, but in the meantime, he then was talking on

the phone, I do not recall exactly who it was, someone was talking on the phone to his wife, and she got up off the divan, she must have been seven or eight months pregnant, and the divan was across from the door almost to the back of the room. She got up off this divan and answered the phone, and that was the only thing. These guys went out there and stopped this car in front of their house and riddled that house with bullets. It looked like they had machine guns or high-powered rifles. Some of them went clean through the house, literally almost just shot the door clean off the hinges, and she happened to be in the next room, otherwise she would have gotten killed. They killed the boxer dog. He came to the door and was stepping around when he heard the commotion out there. Somebody even saw this and everything, and nobody . . .

C: That must have been, I guess, when he made that comment, about arming himself.

T: Yes, right. It brings back the time when we had a young fellow get shot right in that center, just some fellow was walking down the street, and he got shot with a .22 rifle right through the heel of his foot.

C: Why did they go out to the Klan meeting?

T: They did not actually, I was supposed to go on with them, they did not actually attend the Klan meeting. Now we had some very good, liberal white people that would inform us, some local people from here and some ministers that had come up from Daytona who we trusted who were at our meetings and would keep us informed and so forth, because we wanted to stay one step ahead of them. So they had been attending those Klan meetings, and they decided that night how we were going to find Jenkins. Well, they were supposed to come by for me, but I do not know what I was on, but anyway they did not come by, I did not go. They were having the Klan when I was out there, and we heard all the time remarks about what all was going on, and Jenkins' stoning the common men out there and whatever else was going on at that particular time. So they went out on the road, out on U.S. 1, and there is a bowling alley right across from the shopping center, that is where they were, on back down there behind the little grade school that is there now. So they just rolled out there out of curiosity to see what was happening, and they went down there and were just standing around, and when they turned around there were so many cars coming from the Klan meeting, they got in this lane of cars that was turning right going back in the woods. Well, these guys were just waving people on, waving them on, you know. So they got in this particular lane, traffic was so heavy from what I was told that I do not think they could get out of it or something, and they attempted to turn around and come back out. Well, after they got down in there, somebody passed the word around, and all these guys had CB's during that time, and we did not have any, and they got down there and they poked him right on down

there. This is what happened when they discovered they drove him all over the woods while they said the words, niggers, niggers, niggers, and this was the cry at that particular time. They pulled him onto the ground, and pulled him onto the stage, and they whipped him. It was awful. You should have seen it, it was really something terrible. I do not know if you have seen any pictures of it or not, but it was something terrible.

C: I have not seen any pictures of it, no.

T: And then the local doctors did not want to wait on him. They really tried to, I do not know, they told Hilling he needed a dentist. They wanted to break him up, they tried to break his hands, pulling his hands off, his fingers, pulling between his fingers, and then they were going to set him on fire. They really knocked him for one once.

C: Some of these white people, did they get the sheriff out there? How did the sheriff know about it?

T: The sheriff was there. He was there all the time, he and all his deputies, I mean this was common. The sheriff was, in a lot of cities in the South the sheriff was in the Ku Klux Klan. You do not know who it is under those sheets, _____, you do not know who is in there. Now he is working out there today and tomorrow, but at night he is out there under the sheets. So, he swears that, I do not know, and so some of these people who were attending this meeting saw what was going on and they slipped away and called. Or they patrolled, I do not know, maybe he was there, I do not know. He was accused of being there, some of the people thought he was there. So they went out there, and they went to get some gasoline, they were going to set him on fire.

C: Yes, I remember that time. Is it true that they took Dr. Hilling and Houser and the other fellow over to Jacksonville Hospital to protect them, or did they take them over there because they could not get treated at Flagler?

T: They could not get any treatment over there. You know, we had a black list, we might want to call it, over there at Flagler. Some of the doctors would see you out there picketing or see some of your family out picketing and tag a label on you. Everybody here knows everybody, and the local police would take pictures. You would be out there picketing, and they would ride by in the car, and everybody would take your picture. So they had you on at the clinic and everything else in town. I mean, you went in a place, and they would look, and they identified you, and you are one of those smart guys or whatever the case might be, and so you just do the best you can to go somewhere else.

C: Now, these doctors, many of them were members of the **John Brooks Society**.

- T: I would think so, yes. We definitely would think so. They even, I do not know about now, but on this radio news, not **WFOY**, another radio station, every Saturday morning they would have a call-in, some conservative poll, some guy working I guess out in Texas or something, was it not? Right.
- C: Yes, I cannot remember what the fellow's name is, but . . .
- T: I can, Hunt. Yes, he was a millionaire or something. He ran the program out of Texas, and his was the only program such as this or whatever the case might be, every Saturday morning on this radio station, to keep people informed of what was going on and so forth, and this fellow was highly conservative and so forth, and the government was listening. We had just gotten that to tie, in a way of speaking, city and county against the federal government at that particular time, especially on the conservative programs and so forth.
- C: Well, I guess that brings us into sixty-four.
- T: Well, we had meetings with the city. We tried to sit down and iron out our problems. We wanted to talk with them. I knew the guy who was city manager at that time, and we had big meetings set up with the City.
- C: Was that Barrior? Was Barrior city manager?
- T: I believe he was, I believe it was Barrior, I think it was. And all the black men used to come, and the city commission and some of the county representatives and so forth, and we would go up there, and there he is sitting up there with a tape recorder. So quite naturally, I mean we do not want to talk to no tape, we want to sit across the table, and they refused to talk with us. So this is the thing that had gone ____ with you all now. We had some kids that did some picketing and sitting in. We look back on it now, but at this particular time, they grabbed them, I think, and then put them in jail, and after they put them in jail, they sent them to reformatory school.
- C: Oh, that was the two young girls and the two young boys.
- T: Right, right, they were on the corner we are on now, and he has not been exactly himself since then. This was a hell of an ordeal for these kids twelve and thirteen years old, and we had a heck of a time getting them out. It took us six months or eight months to get these kids released from reformatory school.
- C: That was an incredible development.
- T: I am telling you now, we have been through the mill. My wife was one of the first, she and probably Jenkins I would say, were the first black adults to go to jail

here. Mostly the kids were doing the serving. And the kids were easy for it. We kept them ornery. They were well-dressed and everything else, and they were pretty good, and they would go in and sit at the lunch counter, and the whites did not want blacks, and when the blacks were at the lunch counter, and you were open, you would have to serve them, so they would cut out the lights, and all the waiters and waitresses would just walk out, and they would close the door, so they would lock up the place almost, lock the inside.

C: Shelley argues that the blacks would lay all over the floor. Is there any truth to that?

T: We did have a lie-in. These are the only people who made any time in jail besides these kids, we did have a lie-in, and we did not have any protection to that. This happened at St. George Pharmacy. This only happened one time. A young lady, well, they dropped all these things off the records, I think she spent about thirty days in jail. We had offered her an alternative, she teaches school now down south, and so forth. Now, they will say that the kids who participated, they went on to make them criminals, but this is a lie. Now I can tell you a lot of kids who participated are people who are teaching in the public school system. Some of them are principals and assistant principals and all this kind of thing. They went on to continue their education.

C: Shelley would have you believe that this took place all the time.

T: I know, I know, I can tell you exactly how many of them there were, four, I think, or five of them. There was only one place this took place, and that was St. George Pharmacy. This was the only place this took place.

C: How did you get all those people in from the North, those college kids, and Mrs. Peabody?

T: Well, these people were interested in, this was the hardest place in the nation at that particular time, because, you know, you had your freedom riots and everything else, and these people followed King, they believed in King. So, actually, we wrote some letters to some fraternities, some white people had come here, some liberal-thinking people, some people who were staying out, but we had contact with the University of Florida, we knew somebody over there. This was Dr. Jones, they eventually fired him over there. And the **Homily** brothers, I remember them from the University of Florida.

C: David Chalmers came over.

T: Yes. **Homily**, I think they were from Daytona. And we had a lot of northern students there. I cannot think of some of the names. Some of them lived in

housing with us much of the time. But, Dr. Jones, I remember him specifically. He got arrested over there, and boy, that was really big news when his wife found out about it, that they had locked him up, she called me long distance that night in Gainesville, and my wife went to jail with him, she was having quite a time of it, and eventually they fired Dr. Jones from over at the University of Florida. He fought this thing, he fought this thing for years, and they did spot him everything in the last four or five years, I believe it was.

C: Now, when Mrs. Peabody came, and some of those ministers from the North, and those college kids, then the press seemed to come, the New York Times, and the ABC cameras and everything.

T: Well, the press was following King here when he came here. King was something new. Nobody had ever seen this before. This was almost like Martin **Gandy** [Gandhi?] you know, the black passion resistance. You offered your body as a living sacrifice, you did not fight back. Now, the northern kids fought them back. **Leeland** fought them back. This was annihilating women, you fought the white man, but we could not shoot, we could not buy any ammunition, we could not buy twenty-two shells, we could not buy no guns, we could not buy anything around here. We do not have no violence. This was the only way we could do it, and this was King who persuaded us to do it. I bet that Leeland did not like to go along with his ideas, but he had to, because this was King's organization and everything, and he did not want any shots fired.

C: After the Easter protests, things seemed to quiet down from then until May, and then they got really hot. What was happening in that stretch of time? Do you remember? That would be from the end of March, actually it would just be the month of April, really.

T: Well, during that particular time, King had several commissions, made up of citizens in other places. We had to stop and revamp. We had to get money and everything to get people out of jail. This was, I think, the first time my wife went to jail, I believe, about \$250 I think, in fee charges, conspiracy, delinquency and minor trespassing out at the **Warners** or something. The next time, I think, was \$500 or something like this, or \$1500.

C: Fifteen hundred, that is very high.

T: Well, and the next time, it went up to about \$7,500 or something like this apiece on fee charges. So then we had to revamp, and we had to reorganize and everything, but we kept picketing. I mean, there was only a limited scale, because we did not have as many people participating, but we tried to show that we were together as much as possible, and we got as many whites as we could get participating with us. To tell you the truth, I really feel sorry for some of the

whites, because a lot of the whites, they would give them hell, they would call them all kinds of names, and accuse the whites of laying up with blacks and all this kind of thing. They would kick them, and they would beat the hell out of them. They treated them in some ways worse than they treated us. Truly speaking, these were really some fine people, these people took a lot of time for us.

T: When things started up again in May, according to Shelley, he claims that you met with Andrew Young, and you asked Young if there was anything the city could do for St. Augustine's black people. He claims Young said no, there was nothing, and then he claims that Young went out the next day, or two days later, and that the city had rejected thirteen demands he had made upon them. Were you familiar at all with that? Could you respond to what Shelley was saying?

T: Yes, Shelley is not telling the truth. No, we had met with someone, as I told you before, and they refused to sit down and negotiate our views with us and talk with us. Some things they claim they did not do, it was just up to the local merchants, the local chamber of commerce and so forth. In fact, I should have done my homework, I knew you were coming, but I have a book in my room. I have got a lot of statements, I have got a lot of dabbling with King, he wrote little notes and all this kind of thing. Every night we would meet. After we demonstrated at night we would meet. We would sit at Leeland's house or somebody's home. We would meet in various homes with the executive board, and all these attorneys would meet. Now, we had pretty good legal advice, from **Custers**, Guy Simons, Earl Johnson and so forth. And all these lawyers were legal defense, and also Civil Liberties Union. One time we had thirty-seven attorneys in there.

C: What were the demands being made? Do you remember the specifics?

T: Integrate the lunch counters, this was one of them. Jobs were one.

C: I remember that one.

T: All right. We wanted to integrate the beaches. We even talked about the churches.

C: Plus foods.

T: Foods, this was one of the main ones. Cleaning supplies. Fire department.

C: One of the big things that Shelley and other whites would claim is that percentage-wise, there was a comparable number of blacks employed by the city to equal the percentage of blacks in St. Augustine.

- T: Yes, if they pick and choose. Right now, you look at the blacks, and I mean, we have been negotiating with the city right now. In fact, we have some demands up there right now to upgrade blacks, of trying to open up a school or something, so these blacks can move up in their positions. Now we have got one, maybe two black farmers out there at the present time. One fellow by the name of Jones who is in charge of the food, who puts the orders in or something like this, he has got the highest position as a black in the city work force. We do not have any blacks. You go uptown and go up the city building and find out how many black workers there are in the department, how many tax collectors, and even the county courthouse, find out how many. We are still trying to fight this battle. Why are there not any blacks in the fire department? We have been trying, but I mean our examinees cannot even pass this test. See, a white man does homework and he does very well. Meanwhile, they are playing around, shooting dice and working, and picking cotton and other things, and smiling, and trying to figure out a way to escape from the South and go north and make a comfortable living, or something for forty hours a week, but this man here is checking it out and is doing his homework.
- C: There was one black fellow, was there not, working for the police department.
- T: He is still there, by the name of Fred Waters.
- C: Fred Waters.
- T: Fred Waters was taken on because he had been appointed at that time chief, or whatever call you want it to take, for the Black Legion. I do not think Fred Waters has ever taken the advanced Civil Service exam, I think he has been carried through, and has been grandfathered in. That is my way of thinking, I do not know. Now, uphunds of the last two or three years ago, Fred Waters ought to have become the chief, to have been working there for so many years. Now I say five or six years, but I am not sure of the correct time. But he worked, I think his hours were from about three or four in the afternoon to about three or four in the morning, in the black neighborhood, and he only could arrest black people, at that particular time. Now, he has got patrol car, he works a regular shift, whatever a regular shift is, seven to three, or seven to whatever the case, maybe he rotates around their shifts; but Fred Waters has been out there twenty-five or thirty years, and he is still patrolling. Fred Waters' salary is below the lowest-ranked white patrolmen who walk. But I imagine his salary is pretty comfortable now, because they have been negotiating contracts, he had to gain approval. It is the union, you know, they have been unionized. We have never had but one black policeman, but they have given those tests, but what happened is this city has its own civil service rules. They are not statewide, and they are not covered. In this city, I mean you make up your own civil service rules. You have got a civil service board that consists of about four or five

people, who represent the police department, there is one from the fire department, and I think two or three civilians on it. All these are white people. All right, now they give a civil service exam whenever there is an opening, and if you take the exam, then they have the right to pick the man who they think is best qualified, best suited for the job, as far as I know now, maybe I am wrong, and then this fellow is picked. Now we have had people who have passed the exams, but I admit they did not go to school, and you stay on there until the time falls and there is another opening, after you take the exam again. This is the way they do it, they do not keep stagger slips.

C: When King came here and started mobilizing the black community, although as you are pointing out, it was mobilized, when he came here and started holding his meetings, what sort of things did the SCLC expect from the black community?

T: Nothing but cooperation, we had told them that we did not have any money. We did not have no anything.

C: He just wanted to get as many people on the street . . .

T: On the street, this was his strategy, to get as many people on the street, fill up the jails if necessary, just offer your bodies as living human sacrifice. Let people see us on the outside, what they are doing to us. See, we tried to keep this thing in tact. I have seen newspaper reporters beaten something terrible there, their cameras snatched and all this kind of stuff. I have seen even some reporters from I believe **Sweeton** or someplace uptown, I was working up there one day, and some kids went across to Woolworth's. They went into the **Munson** and they locked the door, the Munson specifically, and they walked across the park, the play market, over to Woolworth's. And once they got into Woolworth's, the guy, Hansen, who was a Holiness minister, he was a deputy sheriff at that time, he arrested these newspaper cameramen, because they had followed these kids, and they had tried to get a piece of the action. He claimed that one of them had turned his camera on and hit him, or hit somebody. He knows better, surely it was accidentally, so he put the man in jail. See, every night, at our tour, we would have a strategy, and we would have something different every night, and we would just try to sit there and iron out, and figure out what was going to be everybody's reaction, how you would react to this thing.

The day that the kids went in the pool, this was all planned out. We had these rabbis coming up. They were young rabbis, and they arrested Drew **Munson**. So at ten o'clock the next morning, Dr. King would be down on the seawall, he was there, and we got these girls, they came in from Savannah, Georgia and were good swimmers. We did not have any girls down here who were good swimmers. These were all good-swimming girls. So now when we dive up there, you are going to arrest this knight. They go up there, and they arrest Drew

Munson. Everything is going, these are all white people. Nobody pays any attention to them. So they arrest them, they arrest all the rabbis, they get all the young rabbis, and they arrest them. So the next morning at ten o'clock they had on their bathing suits, and we had a car arrive up there at ten o'clock. Everything is going very precisely. The car arrives at ten o'clock, and when they arrive at ten o'clock, immediately the police were almost right there. They were all uptown, and they had four all-days going, and these girls jumped right out of the car and jumped right in the pool. The rabbis jumped in the pool, and that was everybody in the pool, and you know that they are going to react. You know this white man is going to react to this thing, because he cannot stand it. He does not want this thing to happen. King was over there on the seawall. They were so busy watching these girls, they do not hardly pay attention. Some of the cameras go over to King, and some of the staff sit there on the seawall. They were sitting, all of them, right there waiting. When the action takes place, they want to see their reaction. A lot of people say that King was sitting back. No, he was not, he was right there on the seawall. Someone could even have pushed him over on anything, or whatever. You could have shot him, anything you wanted to do to him at that particular time, and then this when this policeman, a fellow by the name of Henry Bennett, he jumps out of the police car and tells them to come out, and they do not come out, and he just cannot stand it any longer, so he jumps over in his uniform.

C: Is that when Watson threw that acid in the water?

T: Well, maybe the same day he threw the acid in the water. The next day, no, they put alligators in the pool, but we did not want to go to the pool that morning, we had something else to do the next day. Right, the next day or so we went down to St. Augustine Beach. We stayed my wife back there. She said she did not swim, so she was not going down on the beach. And these guys were working at Fairchilds, and they came right through the gate, and they let them off in some kind of way or other, and they had all these axhammers in the trunks of these cars, and they passed them out down there, and we chopped some wood. The axhammers, boy, they worked some kids pitifully down there. A young white woman, I never will forget, I cannot think of her name, but she would be walking around with broken bones. Another boy, we had to send this one on back home, they had beaten him so much, and then that boy had a concussion; and he wanted to stay, but we just said he just could not afford to stay, we sent him back home. We had a lot of other white kids who came, we had a boy who came who was tending flowers, I think, I forgot. Gary Oswald was his name, he stayed here with us. Gary just could not take it. He got sick. Man, he was so scared, he just stayed in the house. He would just stay in the house, lock the house. Usually he was in the house. He would just lock the house all day, because this thing lit him up. I mean, all right, we had been accustomed to it all our lives. We were accustomed to police jumping out of their cars, a blackjack in one hand and a

pistol in the other hand, and knock us upside the head. We were accustomed to that, we were accustomed to white people who walk uptown, and you would have tipped your hat and said, "Mister," or something, or whatever the case might be, and he would kick you in the pants or something, because nobody is saying anything about it. Well, all right then, this was the thing that we were rebelling against.

C: Why the night marches? Why not other marches?

T: It was the only way we thought it was going to be more effective. See, you had to take your tactics.

C: To get publicity.

T: Right, right. We were taking our tactics, and the general organizations, service organizations, whatever you want to call them, began to buy dogs, the Kiwanis Club, the Rotary Club, and I guess the Knights Clubs, I am not sure, and so forth, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and all this kind of thing. They would buy these German shepherds, and they would surprise you. You do not see the shepherds around there now.

C: They bought those for the police department?

T: Yes, they bought them, or the dogs were donated by the police department.

C: Oh, somebody came . . .

T: Yes, that is where some of them came from. The police and the city bought some, and they donated some. You do not see, we have got the same black people living right here that lived here before, and you do not see any dogs. They hardly use one. Now, with the drug problem we have got, they will not even bother to buy any dogs to find the drugs now.

C: What was it like going downtown? Were the police there? Did they try to stop the whites from pounding the heads of the blacks and the other whites who were marching with them?

T: I will tell you, the first night march we had, the first one we had was in October at the Lutton and Brown Ladies' Center, we caught them by surprise. We left Washington street, and we got on down to Dole Street, and the police station at that time was on **Hipolica** Street, the police and fire departments were on Hipolica Street. They have got a parking lot there, between the state board and Thirtieth Street. We walked down there, walked flat up to the van, and when they did see us, they did not even know what was happening, and there were a lot of

cars that passed us on the street, and a lot of whites immediately armed themselves at that particular time. _____. This was the first night march I had ever participated in, when we were at the Lutton and Brown Ladies' Center. Then, after them, in 1964, the next one we had, the first one with King therefore, we got right there in the **Lightly** Museum parking lot. My boy was a little boy then, about three or four years old, but the police were still going to stop us, on **Cordillo** Street. So we left **Cordillo** Street, right in front of where city hall is, or the county courthouse rather. We came over this big rock, and C. T. _____ asked if we could have a prayer, and he and Jose and the rest of them got to get it together, still while we were stopped, right on the corner of **King** and **Cordillo** Street. So it was debated, do not go on, we do not know what they are going to do to us. So we said, let us have a word of prayer, let us thank the same Lord. So we did, we stood and had a word of prayer. This was something familiar to black people, black people are family prayers. Even the rusty ones checked on, because you do not hide the expression for the good Lord to do something, for somebody to help us. We sent the boys back, we said, send the kids back. We decided we were going tonight, so we went. This time we caught them by surprise, but after that, boy, they would be militant. You could go up there in the city, and at night they would have all the benches and chairs and things that they could find, and they would have them all around the place blockading us. There were people running in reels, and they would be loaded. These guys would have bricks, they had bicycle chains, they had lead pipes, they had some of everything, and we had people come rank us in the head and so forth, and tomorrow night they would be right back.

C: Did you get any protection from the police department until the judge ordered them to protect you?

T: No, this is what they wanted, they wanted to stop this thing, they did not care, anything to stop them, kill them, beat them, anything.

C: How about the city fathers there, the mayor, the commissioner and the city manager, were they doing anything to try and negotiate the problem, or get the police to enforce the law?

T: No. Well, yes, they were enforcing the law, that was the law at that time, segregation was the law. This is what they were doing, getting the police to enforce the law, segregating, keeping the niggers in their place.

C: Did you get any cooperation at all from the business community after you really began to . . .

T: There were one or two people. For instance, a fellow had a shop, Friendship, or the Loving Shop, or something like that, down on St. George Street, Mr. _____,

down right here. He was there at this particular time, I think he taught a Sunday school class at one of the Methodist churches, and they ran this man out of town. Last thing I knew of him, he was in Ocala working at the Holiday Inn. I have seen him since that time. _____, the state senator at that time, he spoke out against it, he thought it was wrong. We were at the college, in _____ history at Flagler College, I took a course, and they went by and broke all the windows at his place. All right, he was located at the corner of **Treasure** and **Taylor** Streets. So the place was rigged.

C: After they passed the Civil Rights Act in that year, and **Munson** and some of the others said they would abide by it, that is when they followed you into the restaurant, was it not?

T: Oh man, yes.

C: What sort of man was Munson?

T: He was a _____.

C: What do you mean when you say _____.

T: He is there now.

C: Was he from Tampa? What sort of man was he to deal with back then?

T: He did not own it, **Farr** owned it. Farr was from Tennessee out there, and he owned a chain of restaurants in Tennessee. Farr brought some blacks here, they lived out there with him and everything. A fellow by the name of T. C., he thought the world of them, but when these blacks started demonstrating, it was a different situation. "Now you blacks are just like everybody else, I am going to raze you," but this is a different situation now. And that is when we separated. So, Brock supposedly had been buying the Munson's from Farr at that particular time, and they will do this, he has to run his business, and Farr took it back, and now he is back up there, he is back with Farr and so forth. There are a lot of rumors I would not want to put in on this tape, in the black community about some of the accidents, about some of the things that Brock had done.

C: Were you all shocked by the action of the judge in Jacksonville, Judge Bryan Simpson, when he took the side . . .

T: Scott had the first case. That is when we went to the Federal court in Jacksonville, because here, Judge Matthews was giving us hell. Weinberger, we were kind of shocked at him, he did the interview, and Meniacle, we thought he would be sympathetic with our case, but we had the first store cases in the city,

and people would look at those. Next, we went to the local courts, the county courts, and Matthews, oh man, he has never gotten over this thing.

[End of the interview.]