

## **Arbie Glover**

- Segregation
- Discrimination
- Civil Rights
- Urban Renewal
- Fairview Council
- Naval base/Navy league
- George Washington Carver
- Lincoln School

## **Arbie Glover**

**Can you please tell us your name?**

Arbie Glover

**How long have you lived in Olathe?**

77 years

**And what section of Olathe did you live in?**

This section, but it wasn't...it didn't look like this like then.

**What did it look like?**

What every slum area looks like. This was the north section of town, the lower area of town. In other words, all the black people lived in this area.

**Could tell us about that, what it was like?**

It was like a...it was like any city you've been at...where're you from?

**Here.**

Well it was like about any city, course you are a young person. But back in the day when I went to school it was all the black people on this section of town. This of course was all farm land. And a...a...but from...a...to Santa Fe and from Lincoln to aaaa...Woodland, that's where the black people lived in that area.

**What was it like growing up here in Olathe?**

It was a...you all are young people and it is hard for me to talk to you this way...but it was like every city has a slum area that black people live in...one section of town, cross the railroad tracks. Olathe was the same way...it was a segregated town. There was a group of black people out on Ridgeview and Santa Fe and I am trying to think what's out there now, a...service station is there I think now and a bank I think across the corner. This was all owned by Black out there. And they bought them all out when they put I-35 through. And a...most of them, all of them moved over on this side of town. That's the only place they could live. Because black people were not allowed to live anywhere else except the north section of town. They would not sell you a house anyplace but the north section of town. You didn't have jobs anyway...so you all were pushed to the north section called the "lower section area of town". Even the water on storm days came down in to the north section of town. And sometimes you would have to carry your wife out of the car and into the house because the water was deep down by the

underpass. And everyone said well that is the lower area of town there is nothing we can do about that.

There's a lot of people that really cursed the fact that Urban Renewal came to this town. The people in this area did not ask for it. We didn't know anything about it. It was the downtown wealthy business men that asked for Urban Renewal, after a big fire they had downtown that burned a couple of the buildings and a...a...they applied for Urban Renewal and they asked us to come to meetings because we are really going to improve Olathe. And of course the first thing we thought about was housing, that we're going to have better housing to raise our families instead of tar paper shacks and so forth and a...after going to several meetings and we not hear anything about housing just downtown. We said, "What are you going to do about housing? We need housing..." "This isn't for you folks...for housing? This is for downtown area. If you folks want Urban Renewal you gotta have to ask for it yourselves".

And we didn't know where to go or what to do. So we went to Atchison and Leavenworth that had some Urban Renewal and we asked them about this program. What do you do how do you apply for it? And they told us you can go to the city and ask for the workable program and that way you'll find out what the city is going to do about it...Olathe and about the Urban Renewal. And so we did this and it took a couple of weeks before we got it because they didn't even expect us to ask for that. They didn't think we'd know, but we finally got it, they have to give it to you. And in it said a...a...that in order to apply for these funds, Urban Renewal funds, you must have minority participation. What participation do you have? And they said Fairview Neighborhood Council so and so secretary...this was our organization this was the organization we had in this area to try and clean up this area. And we didn't know we were being used for this, but we were used to get 3½ million dollars into this town. And it all was going for the downtown area. So we raised so much hell that they said "ok, you folks applied for this you can use our Urban Renewal director and you can apply for the funds yourself". And we did this. We had meetings in the churches and the people got together and we applied for it and showed them the need for it. And evidently the government went for it...they saw we had a need. And we got 9 ½ million dollars for...to clean up this area.

People curse Urban Renewal but mostly the downtown business men, because they used to say, well...if you give the people the money and they build the houses they won't know what to do with it. It will just run down after a while. But what ran down is the downtown area. In every city the monies were taken first to use for downtowns, but the "book" says beware of your local businesses men that they don't use Urban Renewal funding for downtown areas. It is for the slum and blight housing areas, but by the time you learn this they have already applied for it and got the money. But in this case we got more money than they did. So, but by putting our name on there using this once we found out we were being used they couldn't hardly spend

anything without first coming to us. We were part of it. I was appointed to the Urban Renewal board for one and the Fairview Neighbor Council was...they put it in the book that this is the council we are using, this is the minority participation they were using so they had to use it. So nothing could hardly be done without it. So that they could get the money.

But the people that really got it was the big clothing stores that got bought out and they retired. Couple of businessmen had some big buildings downtown that were boarded up and condemned. They got heavy money for those buildings.

And nothing was going to go for this area. So what they did...people would...you know...it's a long process you talk to the people they don't trust anyone so you have to make them realize that we are going to buy your home for fair market value and then you use this money to buy a home somewhere else, but the fair market value on a slum and blight area or a substandard house is a...maybe a...thirty five hundred, four thousand dollars. It's not enough to really make the bank loan you the money to build a house. They say, aw you folks you just don't have the jobs you don't have the income for it. So the government said well we'll fix that. We'll give them a fair market value for the house it might not be much three or four thousand dollars, but on top of that we would give them up to fifteen thousand replacement housing grant. That depending on the size of your family you get a grant to go with it. Now you go to any bank then with fifteen-twenty-twenty five thousand dollars toward the house and if they turn you down, go to Kansas City, go somewhere else and get it...somebody will do it. But, they couldn't afford to turn you down then. But they tried to talk you into building high rise apartments. We knocked that out. These are going to be nice apartments...there really nice, fine thing. I said, well where are you going to put them? We'll put them all out in the north section. In other words you are taking millions of dollars to build a bigger ghetto. I said if you put some of them out east of town then...you know. If they are so nice...well these folks don't want...and he stopped and caught himself...he was saying these folks don't want these things out there see...**(he laughs as he tells this story)** Well, we don't want those things here. We may not have had much but what we had, we owned.

So a...a...when the government changed the plan where you get fifteen thousand dollar grant to go on top of the fair market value then you had money to deal with the banks. At the same time, you had to fight for fair jobs because most Blacks could only get jobs as a carwash, well we didn't have carwashes then, garage or working in a garage, or janitor or something like that you know. Janitor at the courthouse. It was janitor when Blacks had it and as it changed it became "engineer" you are a...a...what do you call it some kind of engineer what you are you're over the janitors.

But anyway, a...things changed a little when that money came in, so a...people that lived in some "oochies" they had some...at one time when the Naval base was here people would put

Quonset huts in their yards. They rented those out to...short-time houses. Every city had those lower areas of town you know you know a...and the government, the Chamber of Commerce and the government, men out at the naval base they all worked together. You go out there...I had a cousin in the service out there worked in the "officer's mess" and I was out there all the time. And you would see judges and a...downtown business men in with the Navy. The Navy League is what it was, a big club. Well the Navy...when people would come here in the Navy officers and all even they couldn't live in the houses. One of them lived down the street from us. In a house that had a septic tank and the septic tank leaked stuff all in the yard and a...but that all...he was a captain, but he couldn't live out there.

See so...what I am saying is....you people are young and you don't remember or know anything about any of that, but when you see certain problems in town it stems from things that happened long time ago. Not too long ago either for me. But it was some time ago. And a...you may take interviews from a lot of people and they may never mention things like that happened in Olathe. Or nobody would ever say it. Like when I went to high school we couldn't eat in the cafeteria. Or when we would go to a...assembly...as you'd come in the door to go into the auditorium the teacher and principal would guide you right over to these two or three rows right here for the black people. The rest all around you were white. It would be like a fly in the buttermilk. But this is the way it was. Only fight I ever had...my sister once decided to go into the cafeteria anyway and one of the guys came in "Get over, N.I.G.", and she ran out of there crying and came home. We had to come home to lunch every day...rain, snow, sleet or shine. We walked or ran home every day. I lived right down the street on Walnut. And a...but, a...every day at noon we'd run home to lunch and go back to school. The White kids ate in the cafeteria. St. John Memorial High School

### **How far away was that?**

That would be about probably ten blocks or a mile is where I had to go. Some might have to go a little farther. But a...we ran, I ran home most of the time. We had the short cut through the courthouse lawn you know where the....I think that running only helped me in track. I was pretty good in track (*he laughs*). That's about all. But the time when my sister had the trouble in the cafeteria I waited by the Dickenson Theater until that boy came by and I jumped him right there because of what he said to my sister. And a...so...you know...we have a...every year I think or so we have a class reunion. And I hate to say it but I have never gone. I went to one some years back, but they say "come on down Arb, we are going to do so and so...we're going to get together with..." "You remember so and so?" Well, I was on the team with them but when the team was through practicing or having a track meet we would go home as I went up the street I wanted to go in with the others boys to get a Coke but they wouldn't allow you to do that. I would go into Steps Drugs Store and I had to take a...you'd go and stand at the

counter and ask for a Coke and he would say 'Darkies down at the end of the counter.' The last time I went in there had him to make two malts...he said "Nope, Darkies at the end of the counter", so I went down there and I made him sit them down in front of me. And I told him what to do with them and walked out. And boy he couldn't wait to tell my dad about it and my dad said, "I don't like that boy talking like that, I don't like that...but you should have sold him that malt." "You know I can't do that Arbie." Well...but this is the way it was, so I don't have the same memory about my childhood in school as they do. And I was their friend on the team, but when we left the team and they would go in there and sit down with their girlfriends and drink Cokes I couldn't do it, and they never said anything about it..."if you don't serve him you won't serve me". They felt that's the way it is I guess. They wasn't trying to treat me mean, but that is the way it was.

So a...sometimes...sometimes some kids might act a little strange, but don't treat them different because of the color of their skin things happen in their life that sticks with them. Their parents had it, it's a little bit with them and a...we just got to start understanding each other better. Things are a lot better now, but nobody really understands why I don't feel that comfortable going to the reunions, because I wasn't their buddy. **(Lots of emphasis and emotion when talking about this)** You know you go to a track meet there are even guys in there that say when we run against Sumner, it was an all-black school, "Look at that N. I. G. run!", and they would look back at me and **(he motioned his head by looking back over his shoulder a couple of times)** and the worse thing they'd do is apologize to me cause that means you are calling me one too.

So you know, little old things like that. I'd sit in the classroom and things they were teaching I wasn't interested in it. I wasn't a part of it. You teach me about people of a different color all over the world, but nobody from right here. And now, yeearrs later, we claim all that George Washington Carver went to school here. **(His voice has lots of emotions)** A...we claim him, but now you tell me, that if no other Black in this town could go to a school here, but Lincoln, and Lincoln wasn't built until after Carver...no other Blacks could go here...why did George Washington Carver go...why would he be able to go to school here. He hadn't yet done anything with the peanut, he was just a kid...with no shoes on...so we claim this but from what I get from dad and what he got from the people...be barbered here for 50 years and the man he started with that they wouldn't let Carver go to school here. And that a...he had no shoes and clothes and this barber that owned the shop helped a...get him a few clothes. But you know I don't know anything about that except that I know that in my day we weren't able to go, how can I believe that George Washington Carver went to school here, he didn't go to Lincoln, because I went to Lincoln and they never did mention anything about Carver ever having gone to school here.

And a...so you know there's a lot of things about Olathe...Olathe is one of the best places I know of to raise children, a...the schools are really good, it's really nice, but there's still something about it that they have skipped over and there is a lot of times they don't teach about those...that day and time. And a...I don't like that. Because as they get older a...sometimes the separation shows up when you go to apply for a job...a...how that person was raised a...what he was taught by his family a...was he taught that black people was substandard to Whites you know it's just a part...of...and it's a hidden thing now nobody...Olathe would not want to brag about having been a...town that was segregated...wouldn't allow Blacks to live anywhere but in the north section of town...wouldn't allow them decent jobs nobody would want to admit to that now.

And it is a great town to live in, but see I grew up with guys around here...some Whites lived in this area too, a...but they were not what you call well off Whites. They do well now, they do well now, but I grew up with them and a...one of them was quite a big businesses man here in Olathe and he lived right next door to us when we lived on Santa Fe when you are heading west and you cross Santa Fe Railroad tracks there was a two story house right there and it's a vacant lot now, but that was our home and right next to it was Ralph DeNoon he started Muehlebach Beer Distributingship and he is a pretty well off man. And he had two nephews that he raised there and we played together all the time good friends until grade school and then he goes off to Central and Washington and I go down to Lincoln and from then on you don't see no more until 7<sup>th</sup> grade and then a...you're put together **(he puts his hands up and then claps them together)** but you've lost something those six years and he's been with all Whites and I've been with the Blacks.

You got the swimmin' pool down there but we couldn't swim in it. We'd go down there and sit on the side and look through the fence and your daddy was allowed to pay taxes on it but they don't allow us to swim in it. So you know those kind of things say, "well to a kid, something different between us now, why is it I can't go down there, but you can go down there. Or you go to the theater and you got to sit on the left side ten rows back and if those rows were filled you wait for the second showing. But you couldn't sit in the center aisle or on that side over there. **(He motions with his hands to show the right side of the room)** And so...and that was all the time the Dickenson and Andrews Theater was here...there was ten rows that was it. They both were the same. Andrews Theater's seating was different you could say there were about four or five row you had about eight seats in that row, where Dickenson Theater you sit on the left side two seats in each row and you sit ten rows down. Now if those ten rows—two seats were filled you had to wait until the next showing and I never will forget when The Ten Commandments was here that was a...everybody wanted to see that and especially the young people, but that ten rows is what you could sit. So a...but those things are forgotten by a...especially by White people...it isn't forgotten with me, because it puts a spin on ya. You

couldn't eat in restaurants but when they finally opened up after Civil Rights Move you could eat in restaurants you felt like when you go in the restaurants everybody is looking at you. **(He turns his head and makes a motion like he is watching someone walk by)** And they were looking at you! **(He says with emotion)** And you didn't feel comfortable...you know. So it takes a while to get used to.

I left here...my...there was six of us in my family. My brother and sisters and everybody went to Los Angeles when they graduated from high school. My mother's older brother's moved out there and they were in business out there. So we went out there because opportunities were not here. My sister wanted to be a secretary she always wanted to be in business type of thing and a...but the superintendent told her I don't know why you would want to take secretary work you should take homemaking because most colored girls do that when they get out. And boy, dad jumped all over him about that and she went on and took secretarial work and when she got out, she's a smart girl, the Naval base had moved here and they were looking for people to work and she went out and applied for the job and a...civil service you know, she applied like everybody else did and she made the highest score there and they called her and a...told her she had the job to come on out and she went out there but they guy she went to that was over this office he said, "well, no the spot has been filled...no there is a mistake made", after he saw who she was, that she was black. And she wrote the governor she wrote everybody, they investigated but said when they checked, evidently somebody else had been hired for that job before she and it was just a bunch of mess so she got so angry that she left. She won't come back here now only for few days you know. And you know...things have changed...like she understands that. But a...that memory is in her head. **(He points to his head)**

When I went out there I had never eaten in a restaurant before. And I graduated from high school and it was a year after and I went out this would had been 1940...I graduated in 1947 so it would have been 1948. And I went out there and a...it was just something new to me to go out there to a restaurant and sit down and eat. And a...you know the people around you all color and kinds it was so different. And I really liked that and enjoyed that, but I really liked back here better but I didn't like what was happening you know...a...so...a...when they had the Civil Rights Move and things were changing in the South and all they were fightin' down there.

That's when things started changing up here. They had a restaurant, Bellock's restaurant, they had the theater, they sold the theater, went out of business after years, they made a restaurant out of it...big restaurant, nice. Well, we had a friend that taught kindergarten at Central school and her husband was a Navy officer and a...and we got to be friends because my kids went to kindergarten out there. She came in town one day and went to the restaurant to eat and they told her that they did not serve colored there she had to go. And she came up to the...I had a barber shop right up the street, she came up there crying she said she had been over there and

won't let her eat there and I took her then over to the district attorney and, Jack Gordman, and he a...said, Oh...is that true? I said...yep, that's what happened...He said, let's go over there and talk to him. He went over there then and talked to him...they said, "Oh we didn't know she was a teacher, I'm sorry, he said, wait a minute you mean she has to be a teacher and have a Master's degree before she can eat in here? They started stuttering and changing their story..."you are welcome to come here anytime." But she'd never go there and eat now because you know...that just does **(he makes a spllittt! Sound with his mouth)** you aren't hungry anymore for a place like that. But...a...this is just the way it was then.

You would buy clothes and women couldn't try on the clothes that they wanted to buy. And there is one store, Pembers, and they refused to let her try on something then she came over and started crying then and I told Mr. Pember, and he wait a minute and he chewed that woman and in fact that woman didn't have her job anymore. But a...that was a...I was a businessman downtown too, and I had been trading there for years and I am not certain that they did that for everybody. But he was really...the type of person he was I think a...he wouldn't want that to happen, but the people that worked in there do those things and everybody want take it any further they just call them a name and walk out. And a...but there are so many things like that that happen.

Teachers in the school were the same way. I have had teachers in the school use N.I.G. and then apologize. And never was I taught anything about any black person in history that did anything, but George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington. In the school's name you've got Carver's Schools and Washington Schools and Lincoln Schools, but there was no other Black did anything. And then you find out later in life as you grew up that they were a part of everything to the street lights...to flushing stools...you know...invented things that we're using now all the time. But a...at that time I was never taught that...WHY...? I mean just imagine your child...if your child...went to school up there and they would not teach him certain things but they taught all the rest of the kids that...you know?

Every kid in there had a grandfather...my grandfather was a...this...my grandfather was a...that...do it this...do that...great people, but your grandfather, great grandfather was slaves. Not because that is all they could do...they were made to do that. So...you know...it just hurt me in school when the teacher would say I want you to come in the next day and report on your family tree, your father, your mother, your grandfather, your great grandfather and all this. You can't go much farther than grandfather. And sometimes you would get into the other race when you into the history. A...so it bothered me cause some things I didn't know myself...I would like to know myself about my great grandfather.

So...it's a...a **(He shakes his head and his voice trails off)** it's so many things.....my father was a barber for 50 years too, and a...cut all White hair at that time. Like anybody else, White and

Black couldn't mingle in the same place, but they would accept a black person as a barber because that was a service you were serving, doing a service. But every business man in town I believe went to that shop. You know where the Park Cherry Building is a...and there used to be steps going down to the basement I don't know if you ever knew that, but that is where I started at the steps. But up top of the steps the first door there when you go in on the west side the shop was in there a five chair barber shop and it was the best shop in town and it was the most popular place in town. I don't think there was a business man in town that didn't get his haircut. He had a rack of shaving mugs...everybody had their own personal shaving mug. Go by there every morning and get a shave talk of business and you knew everything going on in Olathe because the Mayor, the Commissioner, the judges, and I think at one time I had every judge that was in the courthouse, and the district attorney and all...You know...now when I started barbering in '55 and by that time we were all...you could take anybody that come in because the Civil Rights Move had changed things all over...but a before that...it was...it was not that way. Course there was only a handful...not that many...black people there wasn't enough to make a living off of, but there was about three or four barbers that were Black that would cut hair but they were not licensed barbers. It's the same in every town.

But its...Olathe was no different than most cities...there's a lot of people say well no we didn't have that where I was from...we never felt that...well there's about two families in that town and they were treated just like everybody else. But when you get to a town that has 50, 60, 70, 80, 150 Blacks; there's a difference.

There was a Black area of town and it took me a while to...one time when I first got married and we had one or two children...two children we wanted a house bad...because I've lived in a house so close to the railroad track I think the house jumped over 6" so the train could go by. You know they were sitting right on the tracks and a...you would try your best to get a home and everybody knew you were looking for one. But one builder came up to me one day and he said he had two houses over by the Westview area. I want you to look at 'em he said, cause I think we can get you in there. Nice houses brick outside and my wife and I you know we were newly married people and finally had a couple of kids and we wanted space and we went in and looked and he took us all inside and out and all that kind of thing and a...I didn't see him for about a week. Somebody lived out that way told me I told him we were looking at a house out there and he said where was it and I told him and he said ah that house is sold its filled. He said, "Arbie I am going to tell you something, the guy that took you out there he knew he wasn't going to sell you that house. When he took you out there you and your wife went through it, people saw black people looking at that house....that house will sell pretty quick to get it out of there". And that's what they'd do use you to sell that house and a...it...it...after that I was very spectacle of people take you out and show you a place.

And they're quick to tell you at the bank you just don't make enough to do this. But you're not making enough because no one will hire you on the same job that they are hiring people you went to school with no more education than you and they are hiring them. And a...we started fighting for better housing...better jobs and everything else. But I have had people threaten and told me once, "that you know this town has been good to you and your dad and it doesn't have to be that way". This was after a meeting. He called me on the phone at the shop he said, it doesn't have to be that way...you know. So I tell you, whatever you have got to do to me you do it now, but I went over and fought for this country just like a lot of you did and I said anytime I can't speak my piece and say what I believe without being threatened with a job...I said you can take this town and this job and everything else and jam it. And I just hung up on him. He called me back in about two hours and said, "Arbie I am sorry about that I never should have said that I have been trading with you and your dad for all these years and I am not going to stop now he said. I want you to forgive me for that". Ok, forgot...well from then on he was kind of a good friend of mine.

He was an old business man he retiring then, but he told me things about business people here that he never would have before. He wasn't too straight himself you know...but he told me about things that had happened. People who that borrowed money from the bank like \$10,000 going into business doing something and a...didn't pay back that money. And how they would...the man would call him in at the bank and he end up a...a...advising him to go down to Overland Park somewhere, borrow the money and pay them off and they'd give him a good recommendation...there were so many things done at that time that helped people who they wanted to help and there's a lot of things done to keep you from getting that same kind of help. And that things I don't like to see done now. And I know that...see it's a great town to live in but is got some problems and some things are being ignored as though they never happened, and I doubt if a lots of these people here if their parents or grandparents would sit down and tell them about some of the past history of the town and a...a...things that happened that I hope never happens under them and I don't think it ever will, because young people now...I don't think...I don't think...they a...look that much at the color of the skin.

And...and...and...some of the things being taught in school some of it I would like to see more black teachers in the schools, because I don't think they are any better than of the others but I think it is good for our kids to see that there are black teachers that have the same education and the same ability that the white do. And a...it would be good for them to see this...to see them...I mean as teaching History and English and Math a...because we got that we got people coming out of college that do everything now.

But it's a...it's a...it's a world that you probably always will see a majority of white everything you are in and everywhere you go but that don't mean you can't treat each other fairly. But you

take a job now where the person is 50 years old, 60 years old or 55 years old. They still have sometimes a little something back there in the back of their head that they don't think you're quite up to what they are. And if you've got the education and the ability and sometimes you've got more than what the boss has hiring you and they have a way of (**he makes a sound and using his hand like a claw**) holding you back and grab you because they are afraid you might take over their position. And I don't like it because I was in the service and I fought for this country and I've got five sons that were all in the service and three of them are retired from there. They were in about every war counting the Korean War, I was in that, but we've been in all the wars around. I think they have earned their way. I am just thankful they are all back here and they are all working here and making a living here. It used to be our kids had to leave and go somewhere else in order to make a decent living, but now they are all able to do that here. I got a son that moved back here from North Carolina. He worked for the city in Human Resources department, and it's good when they can go get their education and then come back to their home town and to be a part of its growth. So this is what I would like to have seen years ago. I glad it is here now.

**What are some of the differences between when you were raising your kids compared to what it was like when you were growing up, what were some of the differences?**

Well, when I was raising my children it was about the same for a while until the marches in the South, Civil Rights Move and we began to organize here. And we were doing...fighting the same situation cause that they were doing there. And there was a lot of people thousands of people fighting for the same cause. And a...Martin Luther King was really the leader in that. And there was these ministers here I have been in organizations here in the Fairview Council when Reverend Babbs, the First Baptist Church and a...Reverend Sprudole, Cunningham, Nazareth Church and all they came to our meetings too and we all worked together to try to get things changed. I've seen Dr. Gross with tears in his eyes at the City Hall pleading for a cause you know, because you had a hard fight, and one thing I liked about is the people would fight to hold their own way. But after you discuss it a long time you fuss and you fight and you argue changes began to be made. They're not a push over, but after a while they get to change things, you know I like that part. But the ministers at that time really at the time Martin Luther King working...I always said, I don't think people like to hear it, "that's God's man". The reason I say that, every so often somebody comes along every minister should have been preaching the same thing, equality among people. Regardless of racial color or creed, you treat 'em with love. Every minister should have, but they didn't...but...black or white, but Martin Luther King came...the things that happened during that time I think it was just the time for change. And...a...thousands of people were following him and ministers in different towns. I know one minister here they threatened to put him out because he played one of his sermons one day in the service...one of Kings' speeches and the people didn't like it. But he was strong and he really

helped us a lot. And in housing he and his wife went once to a...a lady had gone to rent a...this house...apartment that was they wanted to rent a...and a...they told her that it was filled already they had somebody in there, but a...they really didn't he just didn't want her to rent it. And this minister went out there and a...applied and a...tried to get that house..."oh sure fine" and then they went through a law suit on that you know. So without some of them helping it never would have been done.

But there were people who did help make changes and a...but when I raised my kids it was a little different, because we were fighting for change and a...the schools had begin to do a little bit of changing. We went to Dr. Fick and tried to get him to enter black history with the other history and a little black history in. He swore he was going to do that and he tried the next year and they bit of it in but not much. And I don't know how much they teach now, but a...kids need to know that there were black people helped to build this nation too. In fact, they did a lot of labor in this nation. People of color. So a...

**I heard you mention a couple of time Fairview Council. Can you talk a little more about it?**

Yeah, it was a...a...actually it was kind of began by some...this was all kind of integrated with Urban Renewal, but there was some that came out to help organize this group we were going to do something to help clean up the area. And a...see what we can do to a...ourselves you know to do some cleaning up. There was lots of...there were lots of problems in the area. And so we thought we were doing one thing but the business men knew it was something else. They needed the minority participation. So it took a while to find out that you were being used, actually. But it turned out that the same organization is what they had to depend on. They couldn't do anything without the okay of that organization to get federal money in. And when...when Nixon finally stopped the Urban Renewal program and put it in Community Development Funds, we had about...I believe it was a...about 2½...NO it was more than that...a...there was several million dollars left. But it went into the Community Development Fund. And the city was in charge of it rather than Urban Renewal. Urban Renewal was dissolved, but he said we urge you to go on with your Urban Renewal programs clean up the slum and blight. But everybody and his brother came up every year to see what they wanted to do with that money. We want to do this a...why don't we take the federal money and build a community center downtown. And this community center had in it hand ball courts and stuff like that and a...but really the job was supposed...it was supposed to be more less to help build a...the lower area and something for the youth to have to be able to do down there. But handball courts? That is like for the lawyer during the break time go play a little handball and take a shower and go back to the office or something like that. But not many of the kids especially the black kids in the area or people in the Urban Renewal area...affected area would be going up there to play handball. So we fought that real bad. I really fought hard to, but a

lawyers wife which really pushing for it and she just about got it through until one man found out by studying the a...that a...tax place up at the courthouse that a...hadn't paid their taxes for three years, but they were itching to get this thing and it would be costing more taxes you see. And he put an article in the paper just before voting time and (**he makes a sound like "sppppit"**) it knocked it out.

But it...it...raising my kids was a lot easier in a way and in a way it wasn't because they had begin...you know all of the Civil Rights Move listening to all of the rhetoric there and a...they began to be aware of what hadn't happened to their folks and to their grandparents and it a...it...it...it...a...when King was livin' it was a nonviolent thing. But then there was a group that just didn't want to a...no more. They just kept a saying you can't do everything at once in time this will change, well we didn't have time for it to change. I've got eight children at home and I am not going to tell them: "well, the constitution isn't for you it's for the other people-kids, you know. If you're going to teach them this and teach them what America is and democracy is so forth then live it. Don't teach one thing and then say but it ain't for you it's for these other kids. So they...they...it was a little easier raising my kids but in a way they got a little more militant. They got the feeling that something ain't right here. So you know, it...it...there's a little violence in it to a...even after things broke loose they had the right to do this and that and the other some things they were afraid to step into.

Like I couldn't even eat in a restaurant I was 19-20 years old and never ate in a restaurant. Then I go to California and there's a restaurant there and I go in there and I (**he looks around like he is scared**) you know you are expecting that same feeling back home that you don't get. Then you come back home and you can't go in the restaurant or you go in and they just started letting ya in and there is an uneasy feeling there.

So my kids had an uneasy feeling too they knew something wasn't right. But all of them when they graduated from high school soon as they graduated they went straight into the service. They signed up before graduation. The first two boys were paratroopers and they...you know...the other boys idolized them. So they went right in the service afterwards and I am glad they because they...they...finished the service they had good jobs in the service they went to college in the service. The boy that's here and works for the city in Human Resources now a...he got out of the service and went to school and got his degree he was a cum laude he...he...if he had not gone into the service and had stayed around here in '72 & '73. I'm sure his life would have been a lot different than what it is now because there was a lot of kids that all they did was hang around on the corners you know they couldn't get the jobs they'd get frustrated so I am glad they went in because they a fair education there a decent education and its proven out they got good jobs and I just glad for them. But I don't like and they don't either anybody to

miss use them treat them like a half a citizen because that isn't the way they were treated when they went to battle.

### **What about your wife, when did you meet?**

I met my wife...I went to school in Topeka when I came back from California. I went in the service I came back from the service and I went to school in Topeka at Kansas Technical Institute and by the time I started going to school she had just gotten out of high school and started school up there. I thought she was a snob, stuck up good looking *(he laughs)*. But a...a...carried herself in such a way that I didn't want to be told...told off *(he laughs)* by saying something to her. So I...I...I watched her all the time. But my class was down here, and *(he holds one hand down and one hand is up)* there was a big window that goes up a hall and she would come out of her class and go up that hall and if that window hadn't of been there and I didn't have to see her every day. *(He laughs again)* I might not have been married to her. But one time I a...didn't go into town I was a veteran then I had my car up there and all...but it was raining...and...the weather was cold and I went to the gym to work out and I went over there and she was over there working in the gym and playing ball and I was talking to somebody by the water fountain and a...she came out of the gym to get a drink and I had pushed my foot on the water thing to get a drink myself and it sprayed all in her face and along with the fact that I thought she was stuck up and didn't want to talk to her then I done sprayed water in her face. *(He laughs)* So you know that's how I met her and a...she laughed and a...we...she was in a...I guess we were in a different mood it just...it...it just clicked off and that was the end of it. From then on I knew that's who I wanted.

### **How long have you been married?**

Fifty three years, fifty three, fifty four years...we had our fiftieth anniversary about three years ago I think. So....53 and eight children. Our last ones were a set of twin boys. They are now I believe...40. But we have had a good life and I tell you she is a good wife and a good mother and a...virtuous woman.

We've had a...they've never been without their own bed, without food, without shelter...I think she can rattle pots and pans and make food out of it and a...and a...she's just a wonderful woman...wonderful woman. Gets on my nerves sometimes *(he laughs)* there is nothing I can do about it. No she is a wonderful woman, cause I know I get on her probably sometimes. We've a...had to live in everything from a two room shack to you know...three or four rooms on the railroad track or near the railroad track it's always been like that. And a...but we...we...every house she made a home out of and you just...in fact we had a little place that we were renting and a nice place. We kept the yard up and everything she always kept everything neat inside.

And a man came by one day and he wanted to know he worked construction and just built a home up here and he said a...would I be interested in renting his home he said the construction company was moving him to Topeka to do some work and he'd be gone three to four years but he needed somebody to take care of the house; didn't even have the grass...the grass hadn't even grown yet. He had it all plowed up and a garden it but it wasn't up. And he wanted to know if I would be interested in it and I said no I think I'll stay here because we're able to save a little bit of money and we want to buy a home sometime but a...we're not ready yet. And this rent is just right for me. So he couldn't talk me into that. We kept our yard immaculate and the house...my wife always took...she haul rocks and bricks and make a little walk way little things and make it pretty and he saw that.

The next day he came by and said my wife I were talking and he said a...if we'll rent you that house for the same price you're paying here and we'll pay the rest if you'll just stay in it because we want somebody to take care of the house and get the grass to grow like I say I'll be gone three to four years and it would be a nice place for you and your family. I talked to my lawyer about it and a...and he said, well I don't care if he is a deacon in your church or who he is I would get a contract. So...I asked him if he would sign a contract about that. Sure he'd do that. So lawyer, Peter Martin, drew up a contract that I had the option to rent it for the next four years if I wanted to. But a year at a time. If I wanted it for the next four years I had the option. And so we moved in there. We got the grass growing beautiful, pretty garden. It was really nice for my family.

At the time I had three children and so...a...but when that first two years he came back or: SHE, his wife, wanted to know when we were going to move I said well we have a couple more years yet. Oh no, Glover, you know I would never let this house go for four years, no. Two years you were supposed to move out I said NO. Well she had her lawyer to write me. I got a letter that said they were going to do this and do that to me and sue me. So I went to Peter Martin again and he said no that lawyer....that's his way of doing things. They can't do anything about that. So I went up there to see the man and he said a...no he said that contract is completely valid. He said the lawyer told her that, but she wanted the house. But we decided to move out anyway. That is when we moved right up on the railroad tracks, because I don't like confusion.

**Is there anything else you want to tell us about?**

No, I think not. I could talk forever on this thing. Well, I have a lot of confidence in some of the younger people because I think that is what will change the world. If they would just stick to what's right and just and good and if they have to stand alone stand for what's right and just. People like them as they get older and get a job there going to be the head in that job someday be fair with people regardless of race color or creed be fair with them. This is a good city and this is a good country. But we have to make it work...we have to work at it.

**When did you retire?**

I retired about oh...I guess it has been about eight years ago now. I really retired...started retiring at 65...I was about 67 I think. Must have been ten years ago.

**Was your shop downtown?**

Yes downtown, but at that time it was on the west side of the square. Do you know where...where used to be Westside Diner was that is where I was? I was in the rear of the building. They closed that they...Huckleberry owned that building...Park Cherry Building and they gutted it...cleaned it out and a...so I moved over on the Westside. They found a place over there that used to be Kansas Power and Light, and they built a shop in the back of it for me, but I was about close to retirement. But I had a lot of friends there; people that were my dad's customers...old farmers. If it weren't for those old farmers I would have probably had a hard time making it. Those guys used to bring me meat, eggs and food. I have had some good...good...customers.