Paul S. Hursey Sr.

A Verbatim Transcription
of an Oral Interview

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Champaign, Illinois
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Interviewed by
Shirley Walker

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Introduction

Mr. Hursey was the former owner of the Lincoln Bindery in Urbana and served two terms on the Urbana City Council. He was born in Urbana in July 1930.

This interview is with Mr. Hursey at the Douglass Branch Library on Oct. 25, 1982. The interviewer is Shirley Walker.

Shirley Walker: Okay, Mr. Hursey, our primary interest in you is that you've been a lifelong resident of Champaign-Urbana and you've probably seen many changes in this community. One of the first things we'd like to know is how your family came to Champaign-Urbana.

Paul Hursey: I'm not really sure. I think that my mother had a sister who lived in Decatur, and it was a part of them moving out of the South from Okolona, Mississippi, because that's where my father was from. And they were married in Okolona, then moved north in 1914. At that time, as you well know, I think conditions in the South weren't that good at that time, and a part of it was trying to get North where they thought conditions were better to get better jobs, etc.

Shirley Walker: Okay, tell us a little bit about your parents, their names, and your brothers and sisters if you have any.

Paul Hursey: All right. My father's name was Edgar Calhoun Hursey, and my mother's name was Caddie Yates Gray Hursey. I have four brothers and three sisters. Oldest sister is Mary L. Sullivan, and do you want something about what she does or . . . ?

Shirley Walker: Where she lives.

Paul Hursey: She lives in Chicago, teaches school. My next oldest sister is Dorothy Moses. She also lives in Chicago. And my youngest sister is Betty Hursey, who lives in Urbana. My oldest brother is Charles Hursey, lives in Urbana. Next oldest brother is George Hursey, who also lives in Urbana. My third oldest brother was Dave Hursey and he died two years ago. Then myself, and my youngest brother, Julius Hursey, who also lives in Urbana.

Shirley Walker: So is it safe to say that pretty much all the Hurseys who are black and live in Champaign are related?

Paul Hursey: That's for sure.

Shirley Walker: You were born in 1930, so you've seen Champaign-Urbana change for 50 years. One thing that I've noticed from reading the statistical information available is that there seems to be quite a large number of black people percentage-wise as compared to 25, 30, 40 years ago. How do you see that?

Paul Hursey: Well, that's true. When I went to grade school, what is now King School at that time was Hays School. And in Urbana at that time I would venture to say there were 12, 13 families at the most. Hays School was a totally integrated school, totally integrated to the point that all the black kids that lived in that immediate area had to go to Hays School. There was another school, Lincoln School, which was located just a few blocks south of Hays School and there were some families who lived in that area, too. The Wards, primarily that I remember, and their kids went to Lincoln School.

During the late forties, and early fifties, there was an influx of blacks into the Champaign-Urbana community, and what is now King School, you began to see the pattern changing as far as black families and what they termed the North End of Urbana and Champaign with more black children going to, still Hays School at that time.

And finally, in the early sixties, it was very noticeable, because during that period of time not only had the school changed, but the neighborhood had changed. There had been what we termed at that time some 'block busting' in the area around Hays School. One family sold their house right across from Hays School to Loretta Scott, who also was a local resident and had married Arthur Davis. And all of a sudden you saw for sale signs everyplace.

At that time, also, I think I was serving on one of the school committees and we did a study of black population in the Urbana Schools, and the numbers of black kids who were actually graduating from high school, and it was zero percentile. We then looked at Hays School and decided, well at that time Hays School was something like 98 percent black, and it was our assumption that our kids were not getting the proper education and so forth. And we went through this stage of what we termed desegregation and whether it's worked or not is something that I don't think we'll ever know, but at least we went to the board. They then determined that they would bus the kids from Orchard Downs into King School, and the kids from King School would be put into the other districts, in other schools into the district.

But I think over the period of time, say from 1940 through 1968-69, there was a real change in not only the housing in the black community, but also in numbers of black people who came from all over the country. Really, that's what it boils down to.

Shirley Walker: You mentioned in talking about black people that area in which you live. So what part of Urbana did you grow up in and live?

Paul Hursey: Basically the same area about four blocks south. Our old home was on Hill Street, 1408 Hill Street, and my sister still lives there and all of us within a radius of two blocks. I remember hearing my mother talk about 706 North Romine, which is just down the corner. We then moved to 1412, 1402 West Hill Street, and then from there to where the house is now, 1408 Hill Street. So, I was born and raised right in that basic immediate area. At that time you basically didn't live south of University Avenue. All the blacks lived north of University Avenue, and primarily between Wright Street and Goodwin.

Shirley Walker: Okay, now you also mentioned, you used the word influx of black people, and for several people with whom we've talked, they used that same word influx. Some people use it like it was bad, and others you know, just what the word means. So is that the standard term that was applied to black people coming in, especially from the South? And then too, what was the community feeling in your opinion about all the black people who were coming in?

Paul Hursey: Well, you know, I think this really started right after World War II. In my own opinion, I don't look at it as being a bad thing. I think it was a positive thing for

one reason. I think those residents who had been here for many years, when you looked around, and you started trying to identify what you might term 'old-time residents' it became very difficult to do that. I recall in particular when I went to, was in the Korean War and I went into service in 1951, you could pretty much walk down the street and call each other by name. I came back in 1953, and it was entirely different. I knew a lot of the people, but there were a lot of people that I didn't know. I think you know particularly black people who were trying to better themselves, and this community appeared to be a community to settle in which the opportunities might have been a little better from whence they came.

Shirley Walker: You later moved to what's called Ellis division in Urbana, and you and your family were one of the early residents of that division. Is that right?

Paul Hursey: That's right.

Shirley Walker: Now, could you tell me a little bit about how Ellis started and the changes that you've seen?

Paul Hursey: Well, it was strange. Our subdivision used to be what we used to call Mr. Pete's field where he grew corn, and the normal kinds of crops that are good for this area. Prior to Ellis Subdivision, Attucks Subdivision was built and some of the younger married couples at that time had settled in Attucks. Strangely enough, my wife and I had tried to get a lot in Attucks. Well, when we found out what was going on, all but one of the lots had been sold. And we were struggling at that time and couldn't even come up with the money to buy the lot that was left. And about four or five years later, they started developing Ellis Drive, and we were one of the first couples to apply for a lot. Having been in service, I went directly to the Veterans Administration to apply for a GI Loan to get my lot and to build my house. And many of the other young couples, guys that I had grown up with, were moving right into the Ellis Subdivision also.

It did two things I think for the North End. One, most of us at that time had young kids and for some reason or another we were able to coalesce and provide something like a power base for the black community in Urbana. In particular, in the political area, fellows like Carlos Donaldson, Herb Nesbitt, Lonnie Clark, we were all looking for something to hang onto to make sure that our kids received what we thought that they should be receiving from our community. So it provided somewhat of a political base.

In 1963, or '64, we had noticed a lot of things going on in our area primarily in the realm of not being done by our city, such as our streets being clean, snow being cleaned, just the general kinds of things and services that you would expect from the city and that you're paying taxes. So, we formed what we called the Hays School Neighborhood Association.

If you don't know anything about the city of Urbana, at that time they were in an old community building. That's where they conducted their city council meetings. And like in the 1890's, they had spittoons and hard-back chairs and everything. So we started going to city council meetings, and saying to them that we live in an area where

we're paying taxes and we expect the same services from the city as you give other places.

And from that we had an alderman at that time by the name of Don Harlow. Don was white, had watched the majority of us grow up because we all went to Hays School. And we first approached Don to see if he would, as our alderman, would go to the council and take our concerns to the council. And he told me in a meeting once, he had a gas station, he said, 'I can go to the city council, and talk 'til I'm blue in the face and they would not do anything for this area.'

Well, you know, that led us then to believe that we had to do something in electing someone from our own area. I then petitioned for candidacy in the primary, won, and then I beat him by nine votes in the general election. And from that time on our ward was represented. Well, there was another guy who was on the council at that time. He ran the next election time and was defeated by Fred Walden, so we had two black council persons. And then from that time on until just recently we've always had a black representative from our area.

Shirley Walker: So in what year did you and your family move to Ellis?

Paul Hursey: 1962. We lived in Champaign down on Park Street, 507 East Park Street, the first seven years of our marriage. Then when Ellis Addition came open we moved there in 1962. I think it took them a year to build the house and we moved in '62.

Shirley Walker: You just mentioned something about your running for and elected to Urbana as an Urbana councilman. Tell us something about your campaign, and how you were assisted, and then your reception by the all-white council as the first black councilman.

Paul Hursey: It was difficult at first. I thought I had a very good campaign. A lot of people assisted me when I was running for alderman. The strange thing about it, this area that I lived in had primarily been Republican, and many of our black residents had always voted Republican. In fact, the year that I ran, one of our closest family friends was a precinct committeeman, and she was Republican. And she campaigned for my opponent only to find out that she was taking black people to the polls to vote and they were voting for me instead of voting for Don Harlow. But the kids, the kids assisted me. They handed out leaflets. I probably knocked on every door in the ward. And you know, black people and white people, my basic concern was that I felt that the city was not providing the proper services and adequate services, and in our area in particular it didn't make any difference whether you were black or white. The area was identified as being in the North End of Urbana, and it historically had not been served well by the city. So many of the white residents, what I was saying, they could understand why I was taking that as a political position.

Another thing was occurring at that time. They were building the new city building and they have a granite stone over there with every alderman's name on it at that time. The concern was one from the white community that Don Harlow had been alderman for sixteen years, and here we were building this new city building, and there

was going to be a black man's name put in the stone. It was really funny. When they finally dedicated the building, and everybody dumped their little bit into the cornerstone the box that goes into the cornerstone. I took a clipping out of the paper where his daughter had really lashed out at me in the news media, talked about the little colored boy who had a snotty nose and had walked up to her daddy's candy counter, and put his penny on the counter, and asked for a penny's worth of candy. It was really comical, really.

At that time, there were four Democrats on the council, and it was difficult getting a lot of the things that we had worked for through the council. One of the primary things that we were working for at that time was a human relations commission, and that's back in the mid-sixties. I thought we had support from a very influential person, the individual being the general manager of Carson Pirie Scott. They had also just built Lincoln Square, only to find out that we got voted, it got voted down eleven to three at the council meeting. I think at that point and time, we were going through some serious changes in Urbana in the political arena as well as in the educational arena.

Shirley Walker: How long did you serve on the council?

Paul Hursey: The first time I served for a little over two and one-half years. I then took a job as Director of the County Poverty Program. And legally, it was determined that to be Director of the Poverty Program for the county, and to serve on the city council at the same time was a conflict of interest because I had to deal with the city council, I had to deal with county board, and it was necessary for me to resign from the council. And so I did resign from the council because I felt a couple of things. One, being Director of the Poverty Program I could do a lot more in trying to help my people. And secondly, it also was an opportunity for advancement for myself, and I always had to keep my family in mind as well. So I resigned from the council in 1967, I think it was 1966, because I became Director of the County Poverty Program in '66.

Shirley Walker: So in '66 you resigned from the council, and when is the next time you were a part of the Urbana City Council?

Paul Hursey: Well, during that period between '66 and '72. In 1968, the Democratic Party was looking for a candidate for mayor, and I had just thrown my hat in the ring just kind of cordial. Because they said you know, we're going to interview potential candidates and select a Democratic candidate to run. Well, when I found out what had happened they had selected Jean Marie Wild to run for mayor against Charlie Zipprodt and nobody had said anything to me at all. So about four days before you had to have your petitions in, I went over and got a petition, and you don't identify when you go in, you don't have to identify what you're running for. And the last day to file your petitions I filed my petitions for mayor, which presented a conflict within the Democratic Party.

Jean Marie Wild, her program and my program were very much alike. We had debates on the radio and so forth and so on. And she beat me in the primary by 31 votes. I was leading her up until her ward came in. She beat me by 31 votes. And the purpose of that, I didn't expect to get nominated to go into the general election

because the party said they didn't take any stand, but I knew full well by their selection of Jean Marie Wild that they were going to support her. But the part in doing that was to basically say to this community that we as black folks think the same way that you do. We have the same aspirations. Knowing as I said, full well, that I would not win the primary.

Then in 1972, I ran for the council again. After running for mayor, I had not intended on going back into politics because in my own analysis of politics it's a very dirty game. You got to If you don't play the game the way most people play it you always lose. And I'm not used to playing the dirty game, under the table and those kinds of things. But in 1972, I was asked by a group of people if I would consider running again. And so I did. I ran again in 1972. And I ran against a young black lady, Doris Williams. I beat Doris in the primary and again beat the Republican guy and Doris ran on a write-in vote in the general election, and I beat both of them in the general election as well.

At that time, we had a majority of Democrats on the council. I think there were eight Democrats and six Republicans. And Hiram Paley was elected as mayor. Well, come to find out that the Democratic contingency on the council were having meetings on Saturday mornings and I was being left out, and I raised quite a bit of hell about that. Hiram and I just didn't, his philosophy, his political philosophy and mine did not travel the same lines. Again, after three years on the council I left the council and I have no intentions of running again for any political office.

[End Side A]

Paul Hursey, Oral Interview
SIDE B

Shirley Walker: We talked about your family and how they came here, and your brothers and sisters, and your involvement with the Urbana City Council, and in politics. And during the course of this part, we've hit on a couple of things that you've done in the job line since you've lived here. So will you tell us something about the kinds of jobs you've had and how you see those jobs in terms of black people, and employment areas open to blacks in Urbana?

Paul Hursey: I got out of service in December of 1953, went to work in January, or February, that year at Douglass Center as Assistant Director. At that time, Lee Terry was Director. The following September, Lee left Douglass Center and went to Springfield, and I was then moved up to Director of Douglass Center. Stayed there until January or February of 1960. Moved into the University of Illinois as a mail messenger, occupied that job for approximately six years.

Then moved to Director of the Poverty Program for Champaign County, took a year's leave of absence from the University. Returned back to the University in '67 into the Personnel Office as a Personnel Officer, primarily in the recruiting of black employees. Stayed there for a year and was then made University Campus Affirmative Action Officer.

Then I left the University in 1969, and purchased the book bindery. Left the University, purchased some equipment for the Book Bindery. Stayed in that business for about a year and a half, and then returned to the University. Didn't sell the business. My wife continued the business until 1978.

Went back to University then in the functioning area of classification and salary. Stayed there for two years, was then moved into Labor Employer Relations. And at that time, became associate director for campus personnel, did all the contract negotiations, collective bargaining, grievances, etc. In 1980, I then moved to the University office of personnel as Coordinator of Labor and Employee Relations for the University, which encompasses Urbana and the two campuses in Chicago. And also as Associate Director.

Going back to Douglass Center, I think everyone knows that at that time it was basically, and still is, black-oriented. They opened in 1945, and has served the community well. After moving from Douglas Center I became a mail messenger. At that time, at the University of Illinois there was definitely a problem as far as black employment within this particular unit. There were nine or ten mail messengers, and they were all black. There is a history to this particular function of the University. Years ago, an individual named Mr. Scott was basically a runner for the president.

Shirley Walker: You know his first name, Mr. Scott? Is it Erma Bridgewater's father?

Paul Hursey: Father. Right.

Shirley Walker: Raymond Scott.

Paul Hursey: Raymond Scott. Raymond E. Scott Senior was basically a runner for the president and from that position came the mail messenger. His son worked there, another individual, George Evans. Initially, I think there were four including Mr. Scott. George Evans, Raymond Scott Jr., Nate Banks, Clarence Taylor and Mr. Scott. There were five. Always had from the University standpoint just a super record as far as delivering the mail. But that then became a bigger organization as the University grew, and I was employed, another fellow, Carlos Donaldson, Jim Miner, who is now a carpenter, John Thompson, who is also now in the carpenter shop. And I don't know, I've lost track of who works there now.

Early in 1965, or '66, when they started talking about affirmative action, the University was determined that they would also integrate the University mail service. And at that time, I think they brought in two white individuals, male individuals, to work within the organization. As a personnel officer recruiter, during that period of time when I was Director of the Poverty Program, I set up two employment stations in the black community. One being at the old OIC building on 5th Street. And at that time we had store front on Washington Street and we did recruiting from the University two days a week. Two individuals from the personnel office came out and did recruiting in the black community. After going back to the University as a personnel officer, I kept those two places open and then I came out here and I interviewed, and did the testing out here, and did a few other things internally, that hopefully, were assisting blacks in getting employment. Of course, in the area of classification of salary that's not a whole heck you can say about that. You review jobs, set salaries, basically that's the extent of it.

Going into the bindery business was something new for me, primarily because One: at that point in time, I had the only book bindery in the local community. I thought that I was going to be able to go back to the University and get the business from the University library. Applied for a small business loan and was turned down. Turned down by a black individual in Springfield. I found out pretty quickly that we weren't turning the books over quickly enough to maintain my household, and so I returned back to the University into the personnel office.

Shirley Walker: Why did you open the bindery? Did you have some experience in book binding or you decided that might be a good business or what?

Paul Hursey: Well, back in 1964 or '65, I went in jointly with another black individual, Donald Alexander. During the period of, Donald and his father and myself had a partnership, and it created some real problems with Donald and his father so I stepped out. Left my investment there and stepped out. In 1968, Donald lost the book bindery, and the guy that owned the building over on Lincoln Avenue bought it. Then I went in behind and bought it from this white guy on Lincoln Avenue in 1969.

So, I did have for about a year and a half, I worked in the bindery. We did everything by hand at that time. We did sewing by hand. All of it was what you might term fine-binding. But after purchasing the bindery for myself, I thought we'd mechanize the bindery we could produce books much quicker. But, you know, equipment costs a lot of money also. I think our initial investment was something like $30,000. But it still wasn't good enough to get the business from the University. I had

to leave the University primarily because as an employee of the University I could not contract work from the University. That's one of the University rules. So that was one of the reasons why I left the University. We kept the bindery for what? Nine years. My wife hired two other individuals and she worked in the bindery and we eventually sold it in 1978.

Shirley Walker: Is it still open?

Paul Hursey: It's still open. The young fella that's running it now is one of the individuals that my wife hired when I left, and he does a very good job.

Shirley Walker: You mentioned an organization, the Hays School Neighborhood Association, and you went into that. And I've also heard you mention another organization, BACUP, Black Action Council for United Progress. Would you tell us something about that? What was the purpose behind it?

Paul Hursey: The Hays School Neighborhood Association was formed basically for two reasons. One, when Ellis Addition was first built they were moving old houses from the University of Illinois back up into the North End of Urbana. A fella by the name of Henson was doing this, was converting these houses into apartments and renting these apartments to black families at exorbitant prices. Another reason was in moving these houses they came right through Ellis Addition. We had blacktop streets and just ruined our streets. So the second reason for forming the Hays School Neighborhood Association was for the desegregation of schools.

It worked. We had maybe seven or eight real active members, but no one knew how many were in the organization. We just said Hays School Neighborhood Association. And, of course, that encompassed the people from Lincoln Avenue to Wright Street, and from University back to Bradley.

We did stop the moving of houses. Henson at one time was moving three houses at one time. We blocked the streets. Everybody went to work that morning, parked their cars legally in the Ellis Subdivision, which prohibited him from moving the houses during that day. The Hays School Neighborhood Association went to the school board in '66, I think it was, and that was the year that what is now King School was Hays School then, was desegregated. So its two-fold purpose there with the Hays School Neighborhood Association.

BACUP was an organization that Reverend Offit and myself put together back in '68, '69, and the purpose for that was to try to get all the black organizations in the two communities to come together, the NAACP, the Ministerial Alliance, Hays School Neighborhood Association, and to act as one group on major problems such as: schools, housing, and any other major problem that was facing both communities. Jim and I went to the Baptist Senate . . .

Shirley Walker: Now Jim is?

Paul Hursey: Jim Offit. Reverend Offit, and obtained, and I can't remember I think it was like nine or ten thousand dollars for administrative purposes for this Black Action

Council For United Progress. Once we got the money for the organization, for all practical purposes, he and I kind of backed away from it. And if I recall, we did get a building. We got a building down on 5th Street. It used to be the old grain building down between Park and University Avenue on 5th Street. We got the building and then we backed away from it. Stevie Jackson was the first, if you want to call it, director, was the first director. BACUP then became "backed-up."

We really didn't foresee what was going to happen with the organization, and BACUP did eventually become the Black Coalition. And again, number-wise, initially in BACUP we did have members who were heads of the various organizations such as Urban League, NAACP, Hays School Neighborhood Association, Ministerial Alliance, but everybody just seemed to back away from it after Stevie took over as director. And we did not, we, Jim and I, intercede and try to change it at all. Probably was an error on our part that we didn't.

Shirley Walker: Okay, overall, we've covered several things. Overall, what do you see as the changes that have taken place for black people in Champaign-Urbana? And we've touched on a few things with the school and Ellis, but from just the time you were a kid to the present in terms of, say, general employment and housing, education. Like, was the University open to students, you know, how many black students, not exact numbers, but sizeable amount of students went to the University or whatever. We've done a lot of taping that carries us from about 1900 up to the fifties but most of those people that we taped, by time the fifties rolled in, mid-fifties, they were in their sixties, or late fifties or early sixties, and they had kind of wound down on what they were doing so that they're not as aware of what was going on after the influx or whatever.

Paul Hursey: Well, it seems to me, speaking in the area of education, when I started to school at the University no black students stayed on campus. All the black students stayed in town with families whose homes were either made into apartments or they rented rooms and no black students stayed on campus.

Shirley Walker: Did you attend the University?

Paul Hursey: Right. And certainly since that time the University is open to black students to live in the residence halls, etc. I think in the area of local education, and I don't know one way or another, it seems to me that when I went through the Urbana School system, and maybe I was naive at that time, but I thought, one, I got a good education; Two, the schools at that time were integrated. There were no segregated schools at that time. Hays School was integrated, the junior high which was Thornburn, was integrated, the high school was integrated.

Shirley Walker: Okay, excuse me a minute, looking back on it, why do you think they were so, and I assume well-integrated at that time?

Paul Hursey: Well, housing patterns were different for one reason. In the North End of Urbana, you had a mixture of black and white families. To say the least, most of the

white families were of the lower wage levels. That's basically I guess why they lived in the North End of Urbana. But you can look on the other side of Route 45 North also and you saw very poor white families as well.

Shirley Walker: That Criminal Hill.

Paul Hursey: Right, what's referred to as Criminal Hill. But I think, you know, in the North End of Urbana in particular there was integration. Of course, that's where all the blacks lived at that time, too, but that was an integrated area and an integrated school.

Shirley Walker: Now excuse me again. Were those? The schools were integrated you mentioned Thornburn and Hays. Was Thornburn the only junior high school at the time?

Paul Hursey: That was only junior high school at the time.

Shirley Walker: So, in essence, they were integrated. It was the only school, but there was no attempt at that time to establish a separate school for blacks.

Paul Hursey: No.

Shirley Walker: Do you think that part of that is because there were so few blacks?

Paul Hursey: It could've been that, plus the fact, in those days blacks basically are your blacks who live north of University Avenue. You found very few that lived south of University Avenue, or east of Lincoln Avenue. So, when I speak of the North End, that's where the bulk of the black families lived. It was a little different when you went to Thornburn Junior High School, because for the most part, kids who went to the other school such as Leal, and at that time there wasn't any Wiley School, Leal and Webber had basically not had a great deal of contact with other black students. But, on the other hand, it didn't appear that they didn't accept you at that time either. And as you say, it might be because there were so few black kids at that time who moved to the school system. In my graduating class from high school there were five blacks who were eligible to graduate, and four of us graduated out of 155, 156, so even the ratio there percentage-wise is very low.

Shirley Walker: Okay, as opposed to now, were there percentage-wise more?

Paul Hursey: Certainly. Right.

Shirley Walker: Something else that, I know I ask a question and you partially answer, but it brings to mind another question that may help answer the first one. You mentioned that there were white families who lived in the general area, as well as black families, and interviewing some other people they made references to them. Integration for all practical purposes, there was integration rather in the neighborhoods, and it seemed to be the same thing that there were so few blacks at the time, there

was no need to separate. You know, there wasn't that strength in numbers, or whatever. Do you feel that that played any part in the way the housing pattern, say, when you were growing up?

Paul Hursey: I think the fewer numbers of blacks as they may think we were not a threat to them at that time. Certainly as the influx of blacks into the community began to occur, and the housing patterns, you could very clearly then define the housing patterns. Because in the North End of Urbana we saw more blacks moving in and at that time, you saw whites leaving the North End and moving to other areas.

Shirley Walker: And these were new blacks coming into town?

Paul Hursey: New blacks coming into town.

Shirley Walker: Influx blacks.

Paul Hursey: Right. I recall, I went into service in 1951, and part of that time you could basically walk down the street and call everybody by name. I got out of service in 1953, and it was just completely different. In two years, in two years' time, two and a half years' time, you could see the numbers changing, faces changing, and you didn't know as many people. Of course, I took into account the fact that I had been gone for two years also, but there was definitely a major influx in blacks, in both the Champaign and Urbana areas. And most of them stayed right in the North End of Urbana, and/or Champaign.

Shirley Walker: What about in employment?

Paul Hursey: I really don't perceive any real major changes. Most of your blacks as they were in the early fifties, still worked in the service areas. There have been some breakthroughs in some professional positions, some in the craft and trade areas, but if you look at the numbers of blacks who have come here who have the qualifications, I think we're still way low as far as employment is concerned in certain areas. Certainly, the program at the University that brought in black students we see more black students on campus now. This is not to say that the treatment is any different. I think a part of that is that you can attribute to the fact that the University in order to maintain their level of federal funding has played a major role into this. And I don't know that the black students who are at the University now are any better off than the black students who were at the University when I was at school. You're talking about maybe 30 or 40 black students when I was in school, as opposed to what, 600 or 700 students now?

Shirley Walker: About 1,500 or so. Well, one thing I'd like to say overall, there's another area in just the time I've been here. I don't see any real black institutions other than the churches. And by the institutions, I mean the general things you find in the black community. There are no clubs, no hang-outs, you know the kinds of things that

you find. Were there more institutions prior to the last ten years or so, or what? Has it always been like this?

Paul Hursey: Well, there used to be a University Elks Club that went defunct. There used to be also when I was a teenager, a couple of restaurants where you could go and sit down and feel fairly, reasonably safe. For an example, Joe Somers had a place both on Grove Street in Champaign, and then again on the corner of 4th and Washington. There used to be a little place over in Urbana we called Mr. Lyde's. You could go there and get a hamburger and dance, and have a pretty good time. Here recently though, as you said, the real institution now in the black community is the church, and, of course, the church has always been there. You don't find that many black businesses that are in the black community. There are a couple located outside. Of course, we got the store on 4th Street, but for some reason or another we've not, in the black community, we have not materialized those kinds of institutions there. The clubs, well, there are a couple of, and I don't know if you'd call them clubs. They're basically social kinds of clubs. One, Saturday Nighters and then the Cavaliers.

Shirley Walker: But they're more organizational, as opposed to physical places where people can go.

Paul Hursey: Right, that's right.