Interview with Ida Jackson
June 26, 2004
Interviewer: Barbara Dickerman

Dickerman: This is Barbara Dickerman, on June 26, 2004, interviewing Ida Jackson about the history of her life. Ida, I'd like to start at the very beginning, way back, as to when you were born.

Jackson: Hi, Babs. It is so good to see you again. I think it is so important that we are doing the oral history, because I think it's so important that people need to know what we were doing. And especially our family members, our grandchildren, and our great grand—which I have all of those now. And I was born September the twelfth, 1938, which, as of today, makes me sixty-five years old. It has been a rocky, but very appreciative and understanding road. I am one of ten children. I am the second oldest, and I had the responsibility of raising my younger siblings when my mother and father both—my mother passed when she was forty-two, and my father passed when he was fifty-two—and they left three girls and one boy. I provided parenting for them, along with my five children, and soon I had an addition, which made it six. So, I had a nice family at my age of twenty-six or twenty-seven.

Dickerman: And—to go back—when you were a kid, where did you go to school? And the various schools?

Jackson: I grew up in the John Hay Homes, over on 15th Street. I attended Palmer School—it was right in the middle of our area. And, after Palmer School—because we went through one through eight—and then after eight years at Palmer, then—well, let's start back at Mrs. Treat's. We went to preschool; preschool first, and then to Palmer. And, then to Lanphier High School. And at Lanphier—it seemed like, although it hasn't really financially made us any money—but it always seemed like I was the first, because I was the first African-American to be on the cheerleading squad at Lanphier High School. I was captain of Junior Varsity. I graduated from Lanphier, and then went to Illinois State, in Normal, Illinois. And then came back home, got married, raised my family. Then, after my second son was graduated from high school, I decided that I wanted to go and finish up my education.

Dickerman: I want to go back a little bit, Ida, because I know that you did go back to finish your education, but go back to the neighborhood where you grew up, and the grocery store, any friends you had, and the atmosphere of the John Hay Homes.

Jackson: The atmosphere of the home, over in the John Hay Homes, it was very different than what it ended up being. Although we were segregated in our neighborhood, we still had families that were—we were very close knit—that were white families, Italian families. Where our parents even played Bingo, Bunco, and you name it. We used to all stay together, but we lived on 15th Street, which was an area where only blacks could live. And on Madison, in one block there were blacks, and on 12th Street there were blacks. We could not move, and from my understanding, when a non-black family moved in, they were asked if they would mind living next door to a colored person. So—the government seemed to encourage segregation. The area was—it was very beautiful. We had grass, we had trees, we had benches, and every year the older children of the John Hay Homes used to provide a carnival for us. The carnival involved—they would take wagons and tie them together; little red wagons, and ride you around for a ride. They had fixed us something like monkey bars, and a little merry-go-round. They had finger painting, and they sold food; it was just—it was fun growing up there. At that particular time, it appeared that all parents were on the same wavelength. By that I meant that you had to be in at a certain time, you had certain people that you hung around with, and we had more two parent families, too, which has really made a difference, you know.

Dickerman: I've been told that there were more shops on 11th Street, but maybe not that late in the game—maybe further back. But your grocery store that you went to...

Jackson: The grocery store that was right close to us ended up being on Reynolds Street, and it was Bill's Grocery Store. We had Amrhein's Bakery, on 12th, and boy, we used to love going to get their butter cakes. Then, further down on Carpenter was Campo's Food Market, and we used to love to get the pumpkin seeds down there. So, we used to always hear about the black businesses that used to flourish on 11th and up around town, but at the time we were growing up it wasn't there. I never saw an abundance of black businesses until I went to Chicago to visit our aunt once a year. We would go up there and stay for the summer; the two oldest of each family. Or if we went to Little Rock, Arkansas. But, other than that, we really never saw blacks really doing much of anything, as far as where businesses are concerned.

Dickerman: What about the church, Ida, that you went to?

Jackson: Okay, the church we went to ended up being Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, where Reverend Al R. Hubbard was the pastor, and it was at 908 South 18th Street. So we used to walk from the John Hay Homes all the way up on 18th Street for church. Yeah, every Sunday and every Wednesday. (laughs)

Dickerman: That was a pretty good walk, wasn't it? How about maybe teachers at Palmer School? I remember Palmer School, too. And Lanphier?

Jackson: Teachers, at that particular time, we didn't have any African-American teachers that were teaching in the school system. Matter of fact, probably the first time I had an African-American teacher, was when I came to Sangamon State.

Dickerman: We were going to go into your going back to college, but did you work before that? Did you have a job at that time? Or you were mostly raising your kids? I know that you had the six kids.

Jackson: Even with all the children there, I still had to work. And, I used to walk to work, so I can appreciate having a car because I used to have to walk to the State everyday. I would sometimes get a ride if I could. So, I have always worked forty hours a week, and even going back to school, I still worked. I have always worked full time.

Dickerman: What was the department?

Jackson: The first department that I worked at—well, in order to get my experience, I started working for the Federal Government; Internal Revenue. Actually, before that, at St. John's Hospital because my mother was an LPN, and I always thought that's what I wanted to do. She was a licensed LPN, and registered. I have always loved working with people, but somehow, we just never—we always thought we'd make our mom feel happy by saying we wanted to be a nurse, but we never did.

Dickerman: You started to say something about working at the John Hay Homes, and I don't know when that came?

Jackson: Okay, I worked at the John Hay Homes. At first, I got involved—matter of fact, there were some things that weren't—when we were resident of John Hay Homes—there were some problems that we were having that the Housing Authority wasn't complying with what they needed—the Compliance Laws, as far as spraying the apartments, hiring residents. There was a bunch of just little things that they were lying to the federal government that they were doing, and they weren't even doing. So, we went over, and we talked to Jack Pettiford and Theresa Cummings, and then the League of Women Voters got involved with us, and the Junior League of Women—and so, we decided that in order to see that things get done, that maybe some of us that were paying rent to the Housing Authority, we should have the right to, not only—we should be working for them. So we got together and we formed our Resident Council, from roaches actually, because not only did we want to get rid of them, we wanted the person that was doing the spraying be hired as a resident. So

we got the first resident person hired to spray. Then we decided that we needed a social—we found out through the Community Action at that time, that there was money out for a Social Service Department, and they needed to be run by the residents who lived there. So, they organized us, and everybody decided that I was the prime candidate to go up, since I had the education, and the background, and was working with people. So that is a job I will always remember because I got that job at six minutes after midnight when Joe Wright and a bunch of the residents decided that they would just have a sit in, and nobody let the board members leave until they had elected one of us as...

Dickerman: I remember those demonstrations.

Jackson: (laughs) Even had the children—it was really interesting because we had the children picketing at that time, too. Yula Jones, there was just so many people that really helped during that time. Kids marched and said that Musgrove and them had denied them playground equipment, because we—in that whole area—in that four block area—with over, close to 4,000 people, there was no playground equipment. There was no place for the kids to go, so that really helped.

Dickerman: George Musgrove was the director at that time, the paid director. You mentioned the Community Action—Jack Pettiford has been interviewed years ago—but you might say a little bit about that. Were you ever connected with that? With the work, you worked with them?

Jackson: I worked with Community Action, with Theresa Cummings, and even Jack. Jack saw to it that—Community Action was very helpful in seeing that we were trained, because Housing didn't train us. So they would send us to workshops, and make available training that was needed to work, with the residents at Springfield Housing Authority. But, one of the interesting things I found, Babs, once everybody was really close to us, until we became employees of the Housing Authority. Those of us who had worked there and lived there, we had to rebuild the trust, because they just really didn't trust us, you know, in trying to be an employee and being a resident.

Dickerman: Was that kind of what spurred you to go back to school then, Ida? About that time, or even when you were the Resident Council Head, were you still working at the State of Illinois too?

Jackson: Yes, I was still working there too. But being just a Resident Council President gave me a lot of experience. I met a lot of people. The veterans club at Sangamon State used to be real active. We had a lot of social organizations that were active with the Housing Authority at that time. I decided to go back to school, more so, because of the discrimination

against females, and because, even after being qualified when openings came for that first Tenant Relations when John Schaive, who, at that time, was there. John worked very closely with us, and John recommended me for the job, but because the Board had other people in mind, they brought somebody else in. I went through two directors, no three actually, because Henry Morris was one of the directors.

Dickerman: And you were Resident Council Chair all through this?

Jackson: No, at that time, for a while, I worked for the Housing Authority along with Tim, but it was Bob McGuffen. Bob was a pretty good director, but he wasn't going to be shoved around by Cellini and his crew, so they saw fit to try to get rid of him. But he's working still right now for Federal Housing Authority, and doing fine.

Dickerman: That's true, I remember.

Jackson: Uh huh. Bob was good. Henry, I think, is in Joliet. He is the director of the Joliet Housing Authority.

Dickerman: He came after McGuffen?

Jackson: He came after McGuffen. And that is when we worked alongside with the Streetside Boosters, Mike Townsend, and them, but Mike and them still kind of left me after I worked so hard with them. They recommended Henry Morris, over me, for the job. That is when I really decided to go back to school, because they kept saying you had to have a degree. Even after I went back and got the degrees, it didn't really matter. But at least I felt good, within my own heart, that I had done what I had done.

Dickerman: And yet, you had all of your children at home at that time? Didn't you? I thought you did. Starting at Lincoln Land, even though you had some ISU, but you filled in your courses.

Jackson: That is when Lincoln Land was on 6th Street.

Dickerman: Oh, yes, I do remember that.

Jackson: That's when Lincoln Land was in the trailer units; that's where I first started.

Dickerman: So all of this time, you were still working?

Jackson: Yes, still working, and going to school. Right now, I am still working and I have five grandchildren, who I have legal custody of. Their ages are from nine to sixteen.

Dickerman: That is real interesting. I think that you also went to school to get a Divinity degree? Are you an assistant minister?

Jackson: At our church, we are independent. Dr. Richard Maye is our Pastor, at Second Timothy Baptist Church. I am just one of the assistant ministers. There are six of us, and we are the only African-American Baptist Church that has females in the ministry and recognized, you know. It's excellent to work with the people. So it looks like I have just working with people, for people, all of my life.

Dickerman: But you didn't have to go to school to get that assistant ministry? You were just trained on-the-job, or by being a member of the church?

Jackson: We have classes that ministers must attend, for instructions. And I'm telling you, if you've ever been under the teaching of Dr. Richard Maye you really don't know what it really is. He's a very disciplined teacher, and he expects a lot from you, and you have to show a lot. He doesn't mind chastising you.

Dickerman: He was a professor at ISU, at Bloomington. Is he still? I don't know.

Jackson: He is presently a professor at Illinois College, in Jacksonville.

Dickerman: I remember Richard Maye, coming to a meeting, he takes out his gold watch and he says, "I have exactly one half-hour, let's do our business." Let's talk about your time at Sangamon State, because I know that you were pretty well known on campus; and Lincoln Land, the teachers...

Jackson: Yeah, and I really sitting here thinking, I really enjoyed being a student, and also getting active. One thing about being in the University—and I encourage all of the children—is the environment, you know, the environment that is so different, and the variety of ethnic groups that you run into, and the ability you have to interact with people who you wouldn't ordinarily mingle with in your own neighborhood. Actually, come to find out, that people are thinking, all the same things that you're thinking, and they want to do the same things, but until you sit down and actually talk with people, you actually don't find out, hey, we kind of think alike.

Dickerman: I know that you were a plaintiff in the lawsuit, which resulted in the desegregation of the public schools in '74, and I know Sangamon State professors were involved. You might talk a little bit about which came first? Maybe they started it, or the community started that law suit?

Jackson: I think it was a mixture of both, and I'm actually kind of finding out—because the older you get, and the more you get away from the activities

and the community, and you're working with so many things at home—that I would think that after doing the research, and us planning this community forum that is coming up, on July 11th at Second Timothy Baptist Church—I have been reading and finding out a lot, because I did not even realize there were so many plaintiffs, in the desegregation lawsuit.

Dickerman: Twenty-six, I think.

Jackson: Uh-huh. And how it was such a cross section of the community, both black and white, and not just the African-American community. The University, at first, I think came in. They were a little bit more liberal than what they are right now. They came into the community more, and we worked—I worked on a Board, on a committee—just seemed like I was committee-ing myself to death—who, when the idea came of bringing a higher learning institute to the city of Springfield, we sat on that first committee for Lincoln Land and Sangamon State. So when I see the results of some of our work, it just really makes you feel good.

Dickerman: It's done, yes, it's amazing. Then, you're still working with the State of Illinois?

Jackson: I'm still working with the Department of Public Aid. As I say, when I was going through my employment I had worked for Public Aid, but on my lunch hour I was going to Social Services meetings, and I was taking vacation days to go. So I decided, it appears that I need to be in the social field, so although my degrees are in Sociology and Anthropology, it's really sometimes something you never really worked directly in the fields that you get your degrees from. So, I ended up going to work at the Springfield Housing Authority, and then, from there, I went to family—and I was Social Service Director at the Springfield Housing Authority.

Dickerman: After you graduated?

Jackson: No. This was just before I went back to school. All of this happened in between everything. Then, I worked for Family Service Center, and Young Parents Program, Young Parents Too Soon, and got some social experience there. Then, before I could go back to the State, then I worked for the Urban League—Springfield Urban League. I worked for the WIC program, the Women Infants and Children program when Charles Lockhart was the director. Gloria Harris was the RN for that program. That is when we were on South 13th Street. Then we moved to South Grand, and there, I applied for the job when Velma Carey was leaving, and got that job, at the Urban League. That's when the Urban League also started the Winterization program. People could come and apply. So, it

seems like the east side has always been the starting point for any program, but it seems like the benefits were never reaped in our areas.

Dickerman: You mentioned the Family Service Center, we were going to try to interview Mary Jane Forney, but tell us a little bit about that, when you worked there.

Jackson: At the Family Service Center, they had received a grant, and at that time, I was unemployed. I had to go through CETA at that time to get a job, and they were looking for people who had social service experience. We had a program called Parents Too Soon. They received a grant, so our purpose was to get out into the community and recruit those young parents, and with the emphasis on African-Americans, because they were not receiving the health care, they weren't getting the prenatal care that was needed, so this was an extension of the WIC program.

Dickerman: Oh, I see.

Jackson: I really hated to see the daycare center leave, over at Family Service Center. Mary Jane Forney was the director for so many years, and that was such a plus program, and it really hurt for me to see that particular agency decided to put the counseling center over the importance of children who needed the daycare. But, from what I understand, they could not compete with the low-income daycare that is going around right now, with all the different people getting the grant money. So sometimes, Babs, I think the Federal Government creates these problems, and makes us end up actually fighting over crumbs. I don't know what we're going to be able to do.

Dickerman: Did any of your children go to that daycare center at Family Service?

Jackson: Not my children, but since I have guardianship over my grandchildren, they attended their first summer program and that was one of the best programs that has happened in the city.

Dickerman: I knew that you entered that desegregation lawsuit in the name of your children. They were named on the plaintiffs' list, and so, maybe talk a little bit about how desegregation affected them, and went with them.

Jackson: They were so very young. I know my youngest daughter, who is going to be a panelist on the program coming up July 11th, Elaina, she was McClanahan at that time, she was ten at the time, and now she has three children, and she has been through the system. She really has mixed emotions about it, Babs, because she said—and which, is very interesting—one of the plaintiffs—one of the panelists—Cinda Klickna, was one of her teachers when she was in school.

Dickerman: You might stop one minute, this program is going to be one where the schools should go?

Jackson: Yes, the program I am talking about on July the eleventh, Babs, is where do we go from here? I really feel that a community cannot go anyplace in the future until they find out what has happened in the past. And, if things were completely finished in the past—which, it looks like it has not been. So, that is one of the reasons that we are seeing problems surface right now.

Dickerman: I see. But your kids were among the ones who were bussed to different schools?

Jackson: Yes.

Dickerman: What school were they in when the desegregation took place?

Jackson: Let's see. They were bussed all over the city.

Dickerman: Where were they when it started, before it all took place?

Jackson: They were at Palmer. The school right in their own backyard. What we really didn't understand as parents why it was only the east side being bussed and not the west side. Because it wasn't—it just seemed like it was done backwards at that time.

Dickerman: (unclear) back and forth busing, or two way busing?

Jackson: Yeah, but it took a while. It took a while because the kids were mistreated at those schools, because they were laughed at, and jeered at, because at that time, the Boston schools were trying to integrate at the same time and they saw a bunch of stuff on the TV and everything. I think people almost began to mimic what they saw other people doing without even thinking that one day, the ones that you produce are going to be some problem folks.

Dickerman: Ida, are you glad you grew up in Springfield? And the things that have happened to you in Springfield?

Jackson: Actually, it is just like we always tell everybody—like I tell my children, even, right now—we had no other choice; it is where our parents were. But, I really do feel that we have made the best of what we can. But, it is good to be—when I go other places where you see multi-cultural events going on and there are more things that are open to African-Americans than it is here in the city of Springfield. Because it is still that institutional racism is just so deeply embedded in a community that it is hard for

people, for any people, to recognize it.

Dickerman: I often think that the University brought more multi-culturalism to the community, by recruiting people from all over the world. Medical school, the same. Do you think that has helped the community?

Jackson: The way I see it, it could help, but the folks who bring them here, are the ones with the money, and the ones who control the banks, and everything. If you don't kind of walk the tune, as they want you to, you will be someplace else teaching or doing something else. I don't think they—the people coming in—really have too much choice. Because at first, when Sangamon State had a lot of liberal teachers, and kind of shook them up—I can't even think of Ron's last name—but teachers who were not afraid to step out.

Dickerman: Sakolsky?

Jackson: Yes, Sakolsky. They weren't afraid to step out and to share their education with everybody. To really go out in the highways and byways and compel people to come. That is the type of person they were. There were some things I didn't like about Mike Townsend, but that is one thing Mike did. He was out there in the east side. I think they will find that people do really want to learn. They really want to do better than what they are doing when they see other people that are able to do.

Dickerman: I think you must be one of the first ones that took advantage of Sangamon State though, Ida, and came back to school—and Lincoln Land—which everybody had longed for, for so long. I did hear the symphony director get up in front of the School Board the other night and say it was the most racist community she had ever lived in, here it is in 2004, which is kind of sad.

Jackson: It is sad, but it is the truth. Anybody who is really realistic, and really dealing on a way you really need to deal, it really is. I want my grandchildren to get, really get up and get out of here. I know that somebody's got to stay in the community, but you think about all that has done. Most places, if an individual has worked as hard as I have even worked in a community, there would be more recognition, there would be more jobs, but a lot of times, because of my outspokenness it has kept me from a lot of advancement and things. Because people target you. They even make it hard in housing and everything else. But in spite of it all, we have been able to make it through, but it is one of the most racist—it's like Springfield never got past 1950. It's so sad, it's so sad. So when we met people, such as yourself and your husband; Len Oliver, Mary Tobermann, and so many of the other people; it was just like a Godsend blessing, that there were so many people here who looked beyond color. And who

actually looked at the heart, and saw the need of people, instead of just separating themselves off. It has changed. The people that are coming here are racists at heart, so I think, that is what happens. They are just—I don't know what to say about the kind of people who seem to be coming; they just seem to be Godless, hardhearted.

Dickerman: Where do your grandchildren go to school now?

Jackson: My grandchildren go to Harvard Park, and some of them go to Jefferson, and then I have some at Southeast High School.

Dickerman: Ida, I think, let's see, we have covered so much, and that's what makes it so interesting to me because I have always been a great admirer of you. I really am so glad to hear some things I didn't know about you; I didn't know you were one of ten... (tape stops and starts)

Jackson: Okay.

Dickerman: …Millie, the ones who are still (tape cuts off)

Jackson: The ones that are here are Velma and Shirley. Velma's the oldest of our family and my brothers, I have still have two brothers here and one brother deceased. Velma is a housewife and Shirley is a housewife and Millie works for the Milwaukee School Board, and Linda, she is a retired worker from not General Motors, but it's a motor company up in Wisconsin. And Lola, she's in Little Rock, Arkansas, and she's working now for Wal-mart. She worked for K-Mart years and years and years. But that's our family still is, it's rather close.

Dickerman: Do you have family reunions?

Jackson: Yes, we've got one. (tape cuts off) No, we haven't got that far yet. (laughs) We still seem to stay in Springfield. (laughs)

Dickerman: Ida, can you think of anything else we haven't covered? I'll stop the tape for a minute. (tape stops and starts) We've stopped the tape to think of things we had not covered and here's a great story.

Jackson: I think that one of the things I would never forget, you know, Babs, is my political involvement in the city of Springfield. Politics in Springfield; I don't think you could ever find it anyplace else in the world or in the country, but in the city of Springfield. And, we worked on... and, I never forget an activist that worked and it was Cozy Cole. Cozy he could teach you, if you wanted to learn, the ins and outs of politics better than any school could teach you. But we had worked in Mike Houston's campaign and…

Dickerman: Mike when he won and we, Peggy Ingram and myself, we decided, we told, there were some things that we had asked Mike, some requests that we wanted done. And we said, "If you don't do it, we'll run against you in the next, upcoming election." We were just really talking but, after things come, Mike was very disappointing to me as a Mayor and some of the things that he was supposed to do. So, the next four terms we decided we would run and it was one of the most interesting campaigns I had ever been in. And that's the reason I can tell you about the racism here in the city, you know, Babs. Most people, and we women sell ourselves short, because most people don't think that a female should be mayor. They see you being a secretary, a school teacher, all these traditional jobs that women have had. But, although we run everything, they don't see you running the City. You run the house, you run the kids, you run everything. But we ended up coming in third and so we didn't, we ended up with not having…

Dickerman: …campaign manager?

Jackson: Dorothy Mason was my campaign coordinator. We really worked. And, you know what is so excellent about it, Babs? Lots of things that they are doing now, they were things that we talked about, like when Frank McNeil and them were talking about the police department and that board. We talked about that review board, we talked about that when we ran. Our theme was opening the city of Springfield up to everyone to participate. We found out there were no ramps for the handicapped or the elderly. That the female versus male working for the City. We dealt with African-Americans being hired. We dealt with everything and we did it all with just going, doing research. And that cost lots of the African-American community who were helping Mike come against us because we were asking questions that they even should have been asking and making sure that the City was doing. So, it's going to take a long time to heal whatever wounds that's in the Springfield community.

Dickerman: That was, now, you came in third. It was Ossie Langfelder, won at that time?

Jackson: At that time.

Dickerman: And who was…

Jackson: And then I think it was -

Dickerman: I can't remember.

Jackson: Me either. I can't even remember… But I know it was an excellent experience and my children actually even looked like the people we was

even helping never won. So even when I run precinct committeeman and county board, I sit on the county board, and it's good when the kids go and they can see my name there inside the county building on that proposed building that we built, you know, the jail was voted during that time.

Dickerman: The new building?

Jackson: Uh-huh.

Dickerman: Your name is on the plaque?

Jackson: Yes.

Dickerman: Oh.

Jackson: I didn't even know that. Somebody had to come and tell me.

Dickerman: And you're still on the county board?

Jackson: No. I'm not on the county board now.

Dickerman: You have no elective office now.

Jackson: No elective office right now.

Dickerman: Are there any social clubs or groups that you have belonged to or worked with, Ida? You had more of the political activism.

Jackson: The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, is a member of that. And NAACP. Oh, I was on the Urban League. But, you know, you find yourself, you know, Babs, you really can't sow yourself so thin because you're not effective doing anything. And, so right now, my ministry, I have an outreach ministry, working with prison women – who are incarcerated. And I just do a lot of outreach and helping people right now, because there are so many hurting people that people who just don't have, they don't know folks, they don't have anything. And not that I have anything, but once you learn how to give it just seems you're never without.

Dickerman: That's true. Ida, it's been really very interesting to talk with you and fun. I might stop the tape again in case we forget something. (tape stops and starts)

Jackson: Okay, Babs, we had fought with the tape earlier that's why I'm not for sure, so I might be repeating myself. But I was just telling Babs that in my life it seemed like I was doing the first of everything. Because I was the

first black female to be elected for a cheerleader there at Lanphier High School. And at that time you didn't see any black cheerleaders in our school system. And then, I was captain of the Junior Varsity cheerleaders. And, the only person right now I can remember, Yvonne Lasky and Judy Leach. And Judy is deceased now. And it was just so different. I don't keep up too much with the people here in the city of Springfield, but once I, with my church family and then also with my sorority, the biggest majority of them came out of all-black schools. It's so different. They go to, it's like going to a family reunion with them to go to a class reunion.

Dickerman: In other towns.

Jackson: In other towns, yes. It's different, the closeness and everything is just different.

Dickerman: Oh, I see.

Jackson: You almost wanted to erase a lot of the memories around here.

Dickerman: But, was Lanphier, was very much of a black population at Lanphier in the days that you went there? You graduated in what year?

Jackson: (ringing sound) Here, Cole. (tape stops and starts) Okay, Babs. At Lanphier when we left Palmer school there were eleven of us that was in the graduating class from Palmer going over to Lanphier. And so there were very few of us. Out of my graduating class of fifty-two from Palmer, there probably was about twenty, eleven of us went over and probably only four of us graduated—four or five of us graduated. And we were always very much in the minority there—in everything, everything. So, it was not, it was mostly…we look at it now compared to when we went, it was almost seventy-five percent white.

Dickerman: Was Palmer School, what was the population of Palmer School, black and white?

Jackson: It was mixed, but there were actually, because at that particular time before the white flight happened, the whites leaving the community on the north side, because we lived on the north side. You know, going west or going to the small suburbs, you know, it happened so we saw lots of that.

Dickerman: Ida, thank you very much. It's been a great pleasure to talk to you.

Jackson: Okay, Babs. I would be very much amiss if I did not mention Ethel Gingold. Ethel was a fighter. Ethel really worked hard and she really saw that the League really got involved with us. Because that's how all of us met and all the different people in the community that needed, at that

particular time, and I really think that sometimes that God hooks people up at certain times in our lifetime in order for us to move in to some of the things that we need to move in and be busy about. And, Ethel was very persistent and she was always so understanding. I saw her at Zion, that's when I saw her for when the NAACP had the meeting to honor those of us that were plaintiffs in the desegregation lawsuit of 1974. It's just good to see old faces and see how at one time the community was more cohesive than what it is now.

Dickerman: Thank you, Ida. (end of tape)