

CLEMENT, Arthur John Howard, Jr.  
INTERVIEWEE

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**Interview # 249**

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Abstract: In his interview with Michael Cooke, Arthur John Howard Clement Jr. (1908-1986) discusses his life and work in Charleston, South Carolina. Mr. Clement details his experiences growing up in the South and what lead him to become active in political issues. He relates his involvement with the South Carolina Progressive Democratic Party whose purpose was to provide African Americans a more active voice in state and national elections. He also discusses his role in and work with the NAACP. He even served as President of the Charleston Branch of the NAACP. In 1950, Clement opposed incumbent Rep. L. Mendel Rivers in South Carolina's First Congressional District, becoming the first African American in South Carolina to run for Congress as a Democrat. Mr. Clement also discusses his experience with the Avery Institute and how that helped shape his political ideology.

*\*many online sources incorrectly state that Arthur J. H. Clement, Jr. died in 1985, however he passed away on September 23, 1986*

\*This is an edited transcript. Our transcription guidelines are available upon request/on our website.

Time	Keywords
00:00:00	<b>MC: Today is February 16, 1986. I'm conducting an interview with Arthur Clement. Is it Arthur J. Clement?</b>
	AC: Arthur J. H. Clement Junior.
00:00:13	<b>MC: Junior. He resides in Charleston South Carolina. Mr. Clement can you give us a brief biographical sketch of your life? Your birthdate, your birth place, education, and occupation or occupations?</b>
	AC: I was born in Charleston, South Carolina, July 28, 1908. I grew up in Charleston. I attended private kindergarten. Private first, second, and third grade at Dot's School. Then I went to Avery Institute, which was then called Avery Normal Institute because it had two years of teacher training classes, for fourth grade. [Coughs] I added a fifth grade. After I completed the ninth grade in 1923, my father decided to send me to the school from which he graduated, Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte [NC]. They had a high school department there. I

finished high school there in 1926 but I stayed there for four years and finished college there in 1930.

00:01:43 **MC: Could you tell us a little about your father though? What type of employment he had.**

AC: My father was a country boy. He was born in a little hamlet in Cleveland, North Carolina. Since you asked me about him, to get a better appreciation of his background, his father and mother were slaves. Fortunately both of them were owned by masters who, I never heard them state or indicate, were mean in any respect. In fact my grandmother's master gave her the opportunity to learn how to read and write right along with their children. She was a house slave, she took care of the children. She worked in the home. My grandfather was a field slave. Of course he never did learn to read and write but after they got married and moved from Iredell County to Rowan County, North Carolina. Where [unclear] and moved them to a little hamlet called Cleveland [NC] and started their family. This is the part I want to mention. Even though they were freed in 1865, by 1878 13 years later, my grandfather by farming during the farming season and building railroads—working the railroad—building the actual railroad—laying the ties and tracks in Pennsylvania in the winter time, he had accumulated enough land in 1978 to give land for a minority school—

00:04:00 **MC: You mean 1878?**

AC: 1878. 1878, thirteen years after he came out of slavery. That boys school that ultimately was named for him, R.A. Clement High School. And land for the Presbyterian Church in Cleveland. I mention that because of the kind of progressiveness and discipline that he had. While he was doing that my grandmother, she took in shirt collars. You see, back then men wore stiff collars that were attached to shirts by a button in the front and a button in the back and cuffs on their shirts. These were stiff they were attached to the cuff of the shirt but these were heavily starched, stiff. She developed a business of laundering those two items. Shirt collars and shirt cuffs. She would make enough money to not only save but to assist the family in putting three of her children, including my father, through college. My father went to Johnson C. Smith and then to Pembroke. Of course his first year was practically high school work. The four remaining years he did what they called college work. Now remember this was back in 1900-1905.

In 1905 he graduated and went to Wilmington North Carolina, Johnson Smith was in Charlotte, went to Wilmington North Carolina to teach. While in Wilmington a representative of North Carolina Teachers, which was organized in 1898 in Durham, came into Wilmington on one of his trips and met this young school teacher and persuaded him in 1906 to come to Charleston and start a North Carolina Mutual. He came on down here. The first thing he did was he bought a whole lot of burial sites. That's what insurance type of business we had then

because white companies wouldn't insure our people back then. So he started North Carolina Mutual of Charleston in 1906. I think that started the entire thing. A young lady in the community who was a clerk and secretary [cough] in his office. Just in about...well she came to like him. I was first born that was in 1908. Subsequently they had two additional children. A girl who was born in 1910 and a boy in 1912.

00:07:46 AC: So as I said I grew up here and went to the schools that I have already mentioned. Finished Johnson C. Smith in 1930. I came back to Charleston to work for North Carolina Mutual. Which I did in 1935. The company transferred me from Charleston to Savannah as their manager down there. I was there from 1937 to 1942, that's five years. In 1942...I've indicated to you some of my interest I took a few in Savannah but very much in involved in the fateful grandiose march on Washington. Became the head of a group down there and of course I think you know ultimately we did have to have the march because the pressure built up, certainly along the Eastern coast. Present Roosevelt had to officially [unclear]. Incidentally he was a wonderful person. I rather think you should do a detailed study of that man. But anyway, then I got involved...I had already been involved with the NAACP in Charleston before I left there. They didn't have an NAACP in Savannah. They had it there previously but...for some reason it disappeared, wasn't active. The Ku Klux [Klan] were heavy down there that could actually be the reason. I don't know for sure but that's the kind of thing [unclear] into the organization. Soon after that happened a North Carolina youth group decided to bring back to Charleston the [unclear] a fortunate time for my father to retire. That day I was trying to reach [unclear] he was really for that so they brought me back here. I believe when I came back here, not back there but soon thereafter he became President of the Charleston NAACP.

00:10:17 **MC: Your father was President?**

AC: My father, yes. Later on of course I got to be President of the NAACP. To me those were really the most stimulating years of my early life. We were interested in equalization of teacher's salaries. Teacher testing was coming on the scene to determine this equalization, that was real important there. We were trying to get into the Democratic Primary. This was the motivation for the creation of the Progressive Democrats.

00:11:17 This young fellow John Henry McCray, he would work with North Carolina Mutual and whose mind was running possibly ten to fifteen years ahead of himself, left North Carolina Mutual to establish this newspaper. It's a bit fuzzy to me, that the first paper he started was the Lighthouse and then within a few years he decided to move to Columbia. It seems to me that it was then that he incorporated with the newspaper in Columbia, the Informer. Anyway the paper when it got established was the Lighthouse Informer. He was the editor and publisher. Just about the time he got that established, then he came up with the idea of the Progressive Democrats. Since out of his contacts with the National

Office, Oscar Irving then, was National Chairman of the Democratic Party, who seemed to have wanted to do something concrete or substantive in South Carolina. Was a fit president because you had a provision in the election laws in South Carolina that you had to be a member of the Democratic Party and participate in the Democratic Primary. Which these freed men were not permitted to participate in. Anyway, out of that kind of confrontation with the National Office and not getting any results, John McCray decided to organize the Progressive Democrats. He convinced me along with many others, several others initially. We would go to Columbia for meetings. Ultimately we decided that since we couldn't participate in the Democratic Primary we would run candidates independently. I believe the first candidate we ran was a fellow named Osceola McKaine. You have heard of him?

00:14:06 **MC: Yes.**

AC: Osceola McKaine. We ran him for a statewide office. I think it was the Senate, a Senator. But that Osceola McKaine was the catalyst for the organizing of the Progressive Democrats. People who had rallied around supporting him. Then in 1944 when the Democratic Convention came about in Chicago, Roosevelt made up his mind to run for office for the third or fourth time. Fourth time, 1944 yes because Truman was his running mate. That to me was when the Progressive Democrats really became a viable force in South Carolina because this group gathered together a delegation at their expense and sent them to Chicago.

00:15:39 **MC: Were you one of the delegates?**

AC: Yes. Yes.

00:15:43 **MC: So was the Progressive Democratic Party in existence prior to the Chicago convention?**

AC: Oh yes! Oh yes. It really got together when they ran Osceola McKaine. That's when all these little hamlets organized. They got behind that election that was it. Really they, as I said, they administered candidates and...

00:16:12 **MC: What happened in Chicago though?**

AC: Alright. We went to Chicago. When we got there, there was a fellow named Edgar Brown. He was quite a minority personality in the Democratic Party. Edgar Brown. He had a short beard.

00:16:48 **MC: Was he black?**

AC: Handsome brown skin color.

00:16:51 **MC: From what state?**

AC: I can't remember, but a comparable personality would be Roy Innis. He was a slippery...but he knew how to work both sides of the street. He was a smart guy. Anyway he met us, as soon as we got in the hotel there in Chicago. Somewhere down in the segregated south side. He assured us we would have tickets because, you see, they didn't...the Democratic Party and this guy was a hustler through and through...national chairman. They didn't want any confrontation with these darkies from down in South Carolina. They didn't want any...they wanted a smooth convention because Roosevelt wanted everything cut and dry for his nomination. Remember he's breaking history. He's breaking all the rules of the game. He's already run a third time, now he's getting ready to run a fourth time. So they were getting...wherever there was likely to be an interruption they were trying to get all of this smoothed out. So this guy Edgar Brown he had initially fronted that effort. I can't remember

00:18:30 **MC: Actually it was the third time, I was mistaken. He was running for his third time. Third I guess...**

AC: But anyway, that was...he was doing something very unique and distinctive. Whether it was the third or the fourth I couldn't swear to that.

00:18:47 **MC: Were the people from your party going to Chicago to contest those seats?**

AC: We were going to contest the white delegation. We were asking for an opportunity to appear before the convention committee.

00:19:03 **MC: So you were challenging their credentials?**

AC: That's right.

00:19:07 **MC: That was one of the main reasons for being there?**

AC: Of course! That was the reason. Now they were intercepting us. As soon as we got there this man Edgar Brown came down to the hotel and assured us we would have tickets to admit us to all of the sessions but not on the floor. The gallery or in the non-voters. There was a non-voting section, see. Now I'm trying to keep '44 separate from '48 because there was a different situation. [mumbles unclear] because we went there too.

00:19:51 **MC: I see.**

AC: Anyway in '44 this man met us. We wanted to hire an attorney and we had a friend there, a friend of John McCray himself rather. L. Howard Bennet, he's [unclear] I suppose now, but back then he was an attorney in Chicago. We wanted him to get for us a lawyer who knew the ramifications and the technicalities of

getting before the credentials committee. Because that's what our objective was, get before that committee and present our case.

00:20:51 **MC: What was your case?**

AC: Our case was that the white delegation should not be seated because they didn't permit a segment of the South Carolina population to participate in their affairs and we were being denied full enfranchisement. They had denied us an opportunity to be a part of their delegation. Our delegation was open to admitting them to be a part of us. So purely on racial lines we were being denied. We were be disenfranchised. We were being limited in our political participation and we felt that this was not the American way.

00:21:39 **MC: Ok. Now I guess you can continue but after you thought about legal counsel, did you go through with this?**

AC: Yes! We paid, I'm trying to think of that guy's name. He was a [unclear] but he was presented to us as being very knowledgeable about how to maneuver to get before the credentials committee. We had to get to them to say what we had in mind to say. If we couldn't get to them, why then we were just left at the door. Of course we had these tickets. Edgar Brown gave us tickets, 'well you have your tickets you can get in the door' Now we have to...I don't know how John McCray figured that out. He hustled up the \$3000 for the man because that's what he charged. Anyway that's what sticks in my mind. The \$3000. Wish I could remember his name, he was Wes something. We never did get to the credentials committee.

00:22:54 **MC: Never happened?**

AC: No. It didn't happen.

00:22:56 **MC: Did anything positive happen from your time in Chicago?**

AC: Well actually some of us...I don't know what the majority did, but I know some of us left. After we found out we couldn't get to the credentials committee, we didn't see the point of staying around. Now some may have, I know four or five did that, but amongst the early departees I was there. I left and went back. Alright.

Now around, that would have been '44, I'm a bit hazy as to whether just before we left or just after we came back the NAACP was successful in its suit for our entrance into the Democratic Primaries because Judge J. Waties Waring handed down the decision that the way of election in South Carolina was the Democratic Primaries and these citizens of color had to be given the opportunity to participate in their election. His decision opened up the Democratic Primary for participation by all sorts. Now, that just about knocked the Progressive Democrats out

preemptively, because we ran as a door opener and what we were fighting for developed but to get into the Democratic Primary you had to vote. They still had on their books a statement of certain rules and regulations you had to know a certain portion of the constitution to register. You had to get a certificate to vote. This was a great stumbling block because the first thing the masses of our people couldn't read. I'm not talking about [unclear] But the masses of our supporters. Middle class Negroes back then are just like middle class Negroes today. As long as they were making money, practicing their professions, teaching, they weren't particularly interested. They weren't concerned much with voting. Certainly not in getting out, going down and being embarrassed, and asked to do this, do that to get a voting certificate. We had to really plan upon the people in the hinterlands the people in the bushes, the people in the back country. They had...well that's where all the masses were. Time went on and out comes Jim Grady in the house in 1948. The election of delegates to the National Convention which that year was in Philadelphia. Well in the meantime Congressman William Dawson had become very prominent in the National Democratic Party, he was there in Chicago.

00:26:44 **MC: He was black, wasn't he?**

AC: Oh yes! He was the intermediary to work with these [chuckles] upstarts from South Carolina, the Progressive Democrats. He was in constant contact with John McCray. That's a wonderful thought. He invited three of us to Washington. Now this was before the convention. We were getting ready for a conference. John McCray, who you could tell was very excited, Roscoe Wilson, and myself but I couldn't [unclear]. John McCray handled everything. He was a Columbia. I respected him. I still do. So we met in Columbia and this guy Roscoe Wilson, a rare fair skinned guy. Just looking at him and you'd think he was white. The three of us go into Washington to make some kind of appeal for participation in the convention to Congressman Dawson. I didn't think anything about it because that's just the way our society was 40 years ago. We had the Negro courts you had the white courts. Don't you know they got guarded away from us? [laughs] Join up with us! [claps] But back then you didn't say you have to guard us back there you didn't do that. You just went. You didn't say anything about it. I didn't know what John McCray thought but I knew what I thought. [MC laughs] Anyway he got the white folks. We used to feel like this. If you have to marry for duty go ahead and do it and make them in our estimation look like a bunch of chumps but his shows how...well that's not it.

00:29:19 AC: So we went. When we got up there I remember that morning, the three of us came together to write the presentation and went on down. I think Congressman Dawson knew this. I can't remember now. Anyway, we got together with Congressman Dawson and he told us 'we want you to come to the convention in Philadelphia. We are going to arrange for you to meet the credential committee and let you present your case. We may just as well tell you there is very little chance that credential committee voting to seat you under the regular Democrats.' Regular Democrats were headed by Senator Olin Johnston. 'You will receive at

the convention every curtesy. You will have tickets. Senator Johnston will have your tickets and you will go down to your planned hotel and pick them up.' In other words he smoothed the way so that if we did get rejected when we went before the conventions committee we would be emotionally prepared to accept it. Because there was still the chance that the kind of appeal that we would make, may touch a sufficient amount that it would override the political consideration. Because back then South Carolina was considered a dyed in the wool Democrat state and well they didn't want to rock the boat or anything. I didn't understand...

00:31:29 **[recording stops]**

00:31:30 **[Recording starts]**

**MC: Let's continue your discussion about meeting with Congressman Dawson.**

AC: Alright. Well there are two things I wanted to be sure to mention about Congressman Dawson. One thing he kept telling us 'Don't get mad. Get smart but don't get mad.' That has stuck with me all my life. I spoke up at the North [unclear] in Charleston. We had [unclear]. Don't get mad, get smart.

Another thing he taught me was to drink scotch with milk. I had never tried that formulation, he said that was a great way to drink scotch. [unclear] So I brought it back. [laughs] So that's how I remember him. He was a wonderful man and a tactician. He made suggestion on how we should prepare because John McCray was set to be presenting our appeal. He made suggestions.

00:33:05 **MC: What type of suggestions did he make? Can you recall?**

AC: Well, like things that...substantive things that you could say when making the appeal that our delegation should be seated. The chief thing that we had any of their delegation could be incorporated with us for the seating. We were not discriminatory. We were not discriminating. Whereas they were discriminating. They didn't want us to be a part of their delegation.

00:33:45 **MC: What reasons did they give? Or did they attempt to justify excluding blacks.**

AC: Well one big thing they had was we were late comers. We had just come into the democratic process [chuckles] in South Carolina. The first thing we wanted was send delegates to the National Convention. That...when these guys have been going back and forth for years. I can remember my father—well all of us—the only meaningful political activity our people had in South Carolina and North Carolina, Virginia, all of these southern states was in the Republican Party. That was the party of our fathers.

00:34:43 **MC: Were you ever a member of the Republican Party?**



AC: My father was.

00:34:45 **MC: But were you?**

AC: I am now. I have been for the past twelve, fifteen years. I promised when I retired I was going back into the Republican Party.

00:34:57 **MC: Were you a Republican in the 1940s and '50s?**

AC: Heavens no.

00:35:02 **MC: No?**

AC: No. All of us...the old, well the young...my generation...when we became conscious about voting we voted in the general election. We voted for the candidate of our choice rather than the political party. That's in general elections. But you see, in South Carolina the meaningful election was the Democratic Primary that was in June. Usually, not usually [laughs] *always* a man that was elected in the Democratic Primaries wins the various state or national office. He was the winner in the general election in November. So our voting, if we didn't vote for whom they had nominated in June and voted for the Republican candidate it was more or less a hopeless vote because in South Carolina that man is elected in the Primary, not nominated in the Democratic Primary. He was inescapably the winner. This was the way it went.

00:36:29 **MC: It was a one party system.**

AC: That's what it practically was. You just had a token—I remember my father going to the Republican Convention in Topeka, Kansas. You had a few whites in this state...let's go back. 1870, five years after they...closed [unclear] 1870. From the Charleston District, this was called the Charleston District back then rather than Charleston County, you had 47 representatives from this district. Sixteen counties. That 47 districts back then represented 16 counties from the lower part of the state. They called it the Low Country, couple of miles around Columbia is the Midlands, up around Greenville is the Piedmont. From the Low Country you had 47 representatives to the state legislature. In 1870 those 47 were African Americans and all were Republicans.

00:37:48 **MC: What else transpired in the 1948 Democratic National Convention that you attended?**

AC: Alright. I remember now, we were meeting Dawson. We were going to Philadelphia. Remember now, in the interim we had to raise—John McCray had to raise all this money to send this delegation up there.

00:38:11 **MC: How did he do that? Was he successful?**

AC: Yes! We went! I think it was around 30 or 40 of us. I don't remember exactly.

00:38:18 **MC: How much money was required to send that many people there?**

AC: Whatever was required to put us on the train, put us in the hotel, and bring us back. He raised that money.

00:38:36 **MC: Through what sources?**

AC: Contributions. Church meetings. I know I would be traveling all over the state, talking to churches. Sunday afternoon. One church in the morning, one church in the afternoon, one church at night.

00:38:52 **MC: During the regular service or just as a let's say—**

AC: well it's usually at night.

**MC: How did you go about—how did you go before a church and talk about politics? How did they incorporate you in—**

AC: Oh man! Ministers back then, man they weren't these...I started to say dumb bastards that you have now. These ministers were head up about it. They were enthusiastic. They *enjoyed* welcoming you to their church. The people—you know this was *novel* experience for people back then. Politics, getting involved, sending a delegation, this was unusual. Then you just had the equalization of teachers' salary, you had then a public school system, this teachers examination. The question was if a minority teacher made an 'A' did he cheat? You had court cases of where some teachers...oh man everything was boiling!

00:40:14 **MC: It was quite easy for you to get a hold of them?**

AC: Of course! Going into a church, they'd welcome you on Sunday. After the Minister got through he would say 'In my audience I have Mr. X'. I think that woman, Modjeska Simkins, she was a firebrand. You should have known her back then! She still goes now. She's in her 90s I imagine, easily because I'm 78. Back then she was much older than me, she still is [chuckles]. If she's still living then she is. But...

00:40:56 **MC: That dynamic leadership was allowed audience.**

AC: Of course. I mean people just were far more...the lackadaisical disinterest that you find now, it was totally different back then. We have a Minister here in Charleston right now and he's a member of the state legislature. His church

operates a child care center. Here now, I always thought that they made audits of his centers every year, but here about four or five months ago it came up that there is some discrepancy in his finances and...man...member of the state legislature, pastor of his church for over 20 years, he's been suspended because when you're under an indictment in South Carolina you can't serve in the state legislature. You're suspended until your case is cleared. So he's been suspended from the state legislature.

00:42:05 **MC: That's Robert Woods?**

AC: Woods. Of course the church hasn't suspended church services. They are having a rally tonight. Well, 40 years ago, hell that church would be packed. I'd never get out of the pulpit [unclear]. I know I'm not going to the church. But this is the change in the attitude. But 40 years ago with state elections coming up this fall, man this state would be stirred up. It's not like that now. But anyway, John McCray got the money together and we went on to Philadelphia. We made our appeal. I'm not going into all the details. Philadelphia required to carry our petition the next morning. John McCray was speaking to the credentials committee. After all this was the first time that a delegation from a southern state, a minority, had ever appeared before the...you see a lot of people in your generation you all think that this lady Mrs. Hamer at the Atlantic City convention in 1960 that was the first time that could happen that she carried the delegation up from Mississippi. But hell this thing had happened back in 1948 in Philadelphia. John McCray can't understand why history is like that. They give her credit but don't give the Progressive Democrats credit for what we did in 1948.

00:44:02 **MC: I think that you managed. Was a black Mississippi party in existence at the time?**

AC: Oh they were in existence in 1940. This was a group Mrs. Hamer, Lou Hamer out of Mississippi got together and took to Atlantic City. I was living then in Philadelphia. I remember that because the same L. Howard Bennett was very prominent with Hubert Humphrey of Indianapolis. When Lyndon Johnson and Humphrey won he was in Atlantic City and I was in Philadelphia, he called me around eight o'clock that night and he said Arthur you better get over here we are having a big party. The Minnesota delegation is having big party tonight. You come on over, Humphrey is going to be there. Which he was. I met him Hubert Humphrey. The thing I was emphasizing was that Lou Hamer, that was a convention where she carried the Mississippi...your generation gives her credit for leading the first group and contesting the seating of the white delegation before the credentials committee. I don't know whether she got to the credentials committee or not but I know she was there with her group to contest it. What I'm saying is that John McCray and the Progressive Democrats back in 1948 had done that. We went before the credentials committee and as I told you the Philadelphia required us and they had the paper there. In Philadelphia the next morning they

had our pictures before the credentials committee John McCray and myself and the committee making our appeal. Well we didn't get it. They voted against us.

00:46:03 **MC: What type of vote was it? Was it along sectional lines that the northern congressmen were favoring the southern were—**

AC: Well, even if it were like that you had a majority because back then you had the solid south that was pure Democrats. Anyway they outvoted whomever voted for us.

00:46:34 **MC: Did you know the results of the--?**

AC: No. I have no. It may have been in that article. I believe John has it, I know I don't—

00:46:42 **MC: I believe I'll be able to get a copy no problem.**

AC: That was the 1948 Democratic Convention in Philadelphia. I wanted to mention this incident. As I told you, we were assured we would have tickets and that Olin Johnston would have those tickets. He was in the delegation from South Carolina staying in the Lorraine Hotel up there off Broad Street. So a fellow from...Spartanburg, Julius Williams, McCray assigned us to go down to the hotel and pick up these tickets. When we went down to the hotel Jules called up to the Senator Johnston's room to tell him we were downstairs waiting so we could get the tickets. I don't remember exactly what he said to Julius Williams but the interpretation he gave to me when he left from the telephone in the lobby was something like 'You darkies can wait until I get a chance and I'll bring them down.' But anyway we left, but we did get the tickets. How we got them—or how John McCray...Because when we got back to the hotel—

00:48:20 **MC: I had to restrain myself from chuckling on tape but this just seemed to me as not likely to happen that he was going to help you.**

AC: Oh no. They ultimately got them but he didn't... Whatever he said to Jules made Jules irate. He said 'man let's go. I'm not waiting on that son of a bitch.' We left. John McCray, he got them. He had gotten them through somebody else but he got the tickets. I didn't follow McCray to the committee sessions because all we could do was just sit up in the gallery. Sit in the non-voter sections. So soon after that we came on back home.

00:49:04 **MC: Were there any political ramifications of that though? Was there any kind of grievance perhaps with the National bar. You left...we have to do something to—**

AC: Well they passed the word on down to these white Democrats that you are going to have to let these people be involved. I'll put it like this. It was a different time. It was a different time.

00:49:36 **MC: Do you know individuals who were perhaps responsible for that changing atmosphere?**

AC: I really can't pinpoint...

00:49:46 **MC: But there was a feeling? There was a sentiment within the Democratic or National Democratic Party that hey we have to change the way the system is working and that we will have—in other words it was filtering down to the people in the South Carolina political establishment at least the Democratic Party that henceforth this discrimination, this object denial opportunity for blacks to participate will not prevail and that you will have to accommodate yourself. Was that a sentiment that was echoed—**

AC: Well that's what happened. It took a little time but that's what happened.

00:50:26 **MC: So that was...there was some political ramifications from the 1948? But it wasn't something that you didn't have a contesting of seats, that didn't happen. But there was some political fallout?**

AC: Of course! Of course. Well after that, that was '48, by '52 you found certain sections of our state electing minorities as their representatives to the delegation.

00:50:59 **MC: So that happened?**

AC: Oh yes it happened.

00:51:01 **MC: Did you ever serve as one of the--?**

AC: No. No.

00:51:03 **MC: You never did?**

AC: No, because that was '48, '49, '50. Well by '52...I can think of several...I think John talked with Jaffa Brown.

00:51:26 **MC: While I was listening to you a question came to mind. During the 1944 or 1948 political conventions, who were some of the people who went to those two conventions? Are some of those people still alive? You mentioned another person along with you and John McCray who went to the Chicago convention. A Roscoe...?**

AC: Roscoe Wilson? He's dead.

00:52:02 **MC: He's dead. What about the 1948?**

AC: Butch Brown, he's dead. Levi Bird out of Cheraw, he's dead. There's a fellow in Cheraw, he's still living John Cole.

00:52:25 **MC: John Cole?**

AC: You didn't talk with him?

**MC: I planned on talking to him in fact next week. I have talked to him and I do plan on interviewing him.**

AC: I wish you would talk to him because to me out of this whole imbroglio over these years he brought a suit, I don't remember a thing about it but I know a few years ago he got \$250,000. There was something happened back in the '40s. John Cole, try to talk to him. He's still living. There's no one living in Charleston who were delegates when we went before the court 40 years ago. They're all dead.

00:53:21 **MC: What about outside of Charleston?**

AC: I think Reverend Bowman.

00:53:35 **MC: Right. I have interviewed him. Yes.**

AC: In fact Mr. Morgan, I know John McCray knows all of them and you spoke to his wife didn't you?

00:53:46 **MC: Yes.**

AC: In Mullins?

**MC: In Mullins.**

AC: He's dead.

00:53:51 **MC: Yes he's passed.**

AC: Yes. Well most of those persons are dead. I can't recall one other than those persons I just named. J Arthur Brown though he wasn't that active. He was more active in the NAACP. He wasn't that active with the Progressive Democrats. I can't—in fact I don't know anyone here, Eva Green, John Green, George F., Nigel Huntsack, Jeff...all of them.

00:54:37 **MC: Well I think I've learned a—**

AC: Now listen, listen—[telephone rings]

**MC: We'll stop briefly. [Recording stops]**

00:54:43 **[Recording resumes]**

**MC: Ok. We're continuing again.**

AC: Did I fill out the question you...?

00:54:48 **MC: Yes we basically talked about how many people are still living who were delegates to the 1944-1948 Democratic conventions.**

AC: Still living. Ninety percent of them, I'm sure, 90-95 percent are dead.

00:55:05 **MC: After the 1948 convention was over and after you had some positive feedback from national democratic figures about the future role of blacks in their party. What was the effect on the Progressive Democratic Party? Did it take away some of the wind out the sails or did it continue to be a force in the community and in the state?**

AC: Now I would say, I got it now. You see, after 1948 in South Carolina I told you about the teachers' examination. I told you about the difficulties people faced, even though the Democratic Primary was open, in getting registered. Remember I told you there was so much ignorance in the...well I wouldn't say ignorance, I should say literacy, in the state that getting our people registered to vote. The opportunity was there but you had to get registered. Keep in mind we had poll taxes to pay and in many instances they made you pay that back unpaid poll taxes. In other words there were a lot of hurdles as the National Democrat Party from Washington was saying to the power structure of the Democrats of this state 'now you got to let them darkies in. you got to involve them in your operations.' There were certain state limitations or requirements or guidelines we had to meet. Then you had guys like Wesaw Jenkins coming on the scene and trying to teach our people how to write, how to memorize that Constitution. That in all probability when you go down to the registration place to register and they stick that paper in front of you and they say read any part of that that you can read or they point out a part well they couldn't read it but they could memorize it. While all of this is going on, then you had over here teachers involved and equalization of teacher's salaries. Thurgood Marshall and Robert Carter coming down from Washington. During these years, '48 to '54 all of this turmoil was going on. It was not necessarily turmoil but the pot was boiling. You had experts like Kenneth Clark and Matthew Whitehead coming in here, going up into Clarendon County. Preparing now for the Clarendon County Brown case to get into the federal courts. I'm an NAACP Chapter President here. We're trying to get money together to hire these lawyers, Boulware out of Columbia.

00:58:33 **MC: Was it Henry? I knew it was H, I couldn't remember...**

AC: Harold. Harold Boulware. Hire him up, because you see we had to have a lawyer, a resident of the state for Thurgood Marshall to be affiliated with to present his case. You had J. Waties Waring, this federal judge that was doing all of these things, being considerate of the minorities. The town was stirred up because he divorced his wife and married a Northern woman, and they were ostracized. [laughs] Boy the things that were going on! Then you came up to about '53. Where you had your preliminary hearing. Not '53, '52 and the local Federal Court. Thurgood Marshall for months previously had been coming back and forth building up his case. Now to say that Clarendon County schools were unequal. You see the law back then was based on Plessy v. Ferguson, separate but equal. We were saying in this state that the schools for the minority citizens or children were unequal. So he was building this case and these experts were coming in here. That's how I met Kenneth Clark the sociologist. Eponymous.

01:00:15 But anyway around '52 the hearing was held. Judge Waring, I can remember the day, he called the lawyers of the NAACP to his chambers down there on Broad Street and he told them 'You are going to forget about equal. We are going to the gut for this one. But racial segregation is unconstitutional.' Then he had them go. I heard the case down here. They appealed. Then South Carolina hired John Davis, former candidate for President, P. Arthur Miller, Richmond, went up to Richmond. Heard the appeal. They lost there. Then on to the Supreme Court. Went to Washington. Heard the case presented there. You see that kind of mind that Thurgood Marshall had; you don't hear people talk about their mind. That kind of mind, you don't find it now. Stopped right here in Charleston, that man stood there when those white men, and there was a battery of white lawyers, four or five of them. When they wanted to refer to some previous case and some particular journal or book, the lawyer who was making the presentation he would turn to these guys his associates and they would hand him the book, the transcript, the journal from which he would read the citation. Then when Thurgood Marshall got up there, he was citing these things from his mind. [snapping fingers] Such and such a year courts in Topeka, courts in Kansas, a court in Dallas decided such and such a thing. Just from his mind. I can see Mrs. Waring, the judge's wife, she'd be sitting in the corner knitting and when this guy came on she put that knitting down. I've seen it. I'm looking at it. That guy would just [finger snap]. It was phenomenal. How he could recall in perfect sequence—

01:03:00 [Recording warp and stops]

01:04:01 [Recording resumes]

**MC: Ok. We can continue now. You were talking about Thurgood Marshall and his legal expertise.**



AC: Right. Well anyway, he demonstrated this in all three of the courts. Remember now, this is a case leading up to the May 17, 1954 Supreme Court ruling on racial segregation. Alright. Now, after that the NAACP felt that their responsibility now was to prepare our people for full integration. They had a convention. They had a consultation of all Presidents of their NAACP chapters out of the south lands in Atlanta. That was in June '54. We all gathered there. They outlined how they were going to prepare. We were going to get rid of illiteracy because this was keeping a whole lot of our people from registering and being able to vote intelligently. We were going to teach our people how to dress when we go in to these restaurants and lunch rooms. We were not only going to be attired properly we weren't to leave this fertilizer factory or this laboring position and go into these places and demand service or ask for service. Because that wasn't the way it should be done. We would be certain that you had a job where you could make adequate money so that if you did go into a restaurant and the cost for the meal or that sandwich, you would have that money in your pocket to pay for it. Now they were going—we were assigned to go back to our respective communities and teach the people those kind of things because we were looking forward now to a desegregated society. Just as they announced that schedule, that program, you had another group jumping up and saying 'No we can't wait. We are going to do it *now*.' We are going to have sit-ins. We are going to have marches. You had all the disruptions, all the violence, all the riots. Some people claimed that that was the way to go and that produced the further fragmentation. We have been colored. We have been Negro. In the March from Selma to Montgomery or Montgomery to Selma, I can't remember which way it was going. Oh, Selma to Montgomery. Stokely Carmichael got up and hollered 'Black is free' and that damned us to another fragmentation in our minds. One set of us started calling each other black something but my mother, my generation, would have slapped me down if I had called a fellow, a neighbor black. We became very color conscious.

01:07:42 Then we started...and this now leading up to the deterioration and the dissolution of the Progressive Democrats. Because as we became more active after we got our voting certificate, that white man lost his concern about our color, our previous servitude, he wanted that vote. So he began to seek out voters. If you were a voter you took precedence over a non-voter. You were no value to him if you were a non-voter, but if you were a voter... Right now, 20 years later—30 years later, but I'm going back to the '60s when you young bucks were so rampant. You see that wasn't the way of the NAACP, its way was through the courts. We would take the laws that the white man created and choke him with his own laws. [MC laughs] This is what happened. Thurgood Marshall carried 33 cases to the Supreme Court and won 31. All had to do with making us full citizens. The full decision, the Supreme decision. He gave us that opportunity. But you see, the way they had planned for this readjustment was detoured and sidetracked by SNCC [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee], Southern Leadership Conference [SCLC], CORE [Congress of Racial Equality], James Palmer. Of course [unclear] has started now. These other organizations that sprang up in the '60s. To me Martin

Luther King was one of the most divisive factors in our situation because you have a situation in our society now where, I live right here in Charleston, the young fellows and women who have benefited from all of these changes and laws and social habits and political opportunities they've got top jobs in this community but do they participate in anything? They don't participate in anything, they live out in suburbs. They bother with the Boy Scouts? No. With the churches? No. They have their pools.

01:10:47 **MC: Well that's part of the 'they have arrived' syndrome.**

AC: Yes but they have arrived. I don't blame them. I'm happy for them. I'm happy for them. But I—

01:10:58 **MC: My philosophy about that is that they have not arrived. They have arrived at the 60 yard line of a 100 yard race.**

AC: They are to me full Americans.

01:11:11 **MC: Oh.**

AC: They are taking advantage of the opportunities that their forbearers created for them. They are not worried about that guy that doesn't have a vision. They won't work with the Boy Scouts. They won't work with the YMCA, or Girl Scouts, or YWCA. They won't work with Salvation Army, United Way. They don't participate in any of those things. Chamber of Commerce. But they have the good jobs. You are one of them. You have a good job, you told me yourself. You don't know what's going on in Roanoke. [Laughs]

01:11:52 **MC: No. I don't live in Roanoke. I live in Blacksburg. I do know what's going on in Blacksburg.**

AC: Blacksburg. I take it—when you lived in Durham, going to Duke. Those same cases that I just cited made the way open for you to get into Duke. I remember I went to Duke, first time I went to Duke was 1924. Duke was then Trinity College. In '54...not '54, in '24 when J.B. Duke set up the indenture that required Trinity to change its name to Duke he also included Johnson C. Smith in that. We had been getting from Duke over a million dollars for over 50 years Johnson C. Smith was. Berman and Davidson were the other two schools. But when you used to live in Durham at Duke, were you ever in a Dr. Merriweather, Lionel Merriweather? Or he was there before you?

01:12:59 **MC: I really don't know. The...**

AC: Don't know the name?

01:13:05 **MC: Well actually I wasn't very familiar with that part of the country because I'm not a native—**

AC: Yes but you lived [there] and he went to Duke. He went to Duke.

01:13:13 **MC: I lived on campus [laughs] That's the problem.**

AC: Well, he lived on campus. [laughs]

01:13:19 **MC: I know you're really giving it to me on this tape here but I'm going to move away here from me.**

AC: I know I wasn't thinking about that. I wasn't thinking about that.

01:13:28 **MC: Ok. What were the shortcomings and the accomplishments of the Progressive Democratic Party in your opinion?**

AC: My—I have no—to me it had—it was viable for its time and season. I cited some of the social eruptions that developed that caused the gradual dissolution of the need for that kind of operation. So it quietly passed off the scene. Because more current and pressing things came on and we also emphasized that the National Democratic Party was touching these guys in South Carolina and throughout the South. You have to take those [unclear] then the climate began to change. Until now Will Sanders is the Chairman of the Charleston county Democratic Party.

01:14:39 **MC: That's amazing.**

AC: Of course but this is the change. Evolution.

01:14:46 **MC: It really has been evolutionary process. Now one thing I would like to do before we end, is that we hadn't really touched upon the Avery years. Because those years were very formative too.**

AC: I thought I said at the very beginning... Well after all you know John McCray came up under that same influence.

01:15:05 **MC: The Avery Institute?**

AC: Yes. He worked down there.

01:15:07 **MC: In Charleston?**

AC: In Charleston.

01:15:10 **MC: Could you tell us about some of the people, some of the teachers especially, and administrators in Avery who had an impact on your development?**

AC: You had... I don't think you had the machine on when we were talking about it. But you remember I said the American Missionary Association [AMA] brought to the South a totally new philosophy. You are a human being. You have talent. You have abilities. Don't permit the color of your skin to interfere with how you can grow and how you can develop. Now we are going to give you a track of education. Top education.'

01:15:53 **MC: What type of education or curriculum was stressed?**

AC: Mostly pre-college. College prep.

01:16:02 **MC: College Prep?**

AC: That's what you would call it today. College prep. They didn't go in for mechanics, not at Avery. They may have had some institutions in Georgia or some other communities where they taught the vocation skills but here it was a pure and intellectual development. Culture.

01:16:27 **MC: How were you introduced to culture and ideas? Were you introduced to culture and ideas at Avery Institute? How?**

AC: Of course! [unclear] You had a principal who was out of Fisk.

01:16:42 **MC: What was his name by the way?**

AC: Benjamin. Benjamin Ferdinand Cox. Benjamin Ferdinand Cox. He took John McCray in down there as a working student. He was a veritable custodian because they had a small tuition. You had to pay a tuition each month. [MC snickers] It was just like any private school, you have to pay a tuition to private school.

01:17:18 **MC: Were scholarships offered though? Were they available?**

AC: I'm not certain. Well they must have offered because we had persons down there like John who worked. Worked around the buildings. They had one, two... they had three...they had four buildings there. He worked and other students worked.

01:17:42 **MC: So there were work-study programs. At least work-study maybe not...maybe even scholarships. But definitely work-study, you do know that.**

AC: I'm certain that John, that that's the way he put himself through.

01:18:00 **MC: What about some of the administrators? Benjamin Cox, what stands out in your mind about him as an administrator and his commitment to his school?**

AC: well the first thing he was what I presume you would call a dedicated educator. Every student no matter their social strata—like with John because John had to work, but he certainly instilled in John all those values that made him concerned about people.

01:18:44 **MC: Were they just concerns about people or about black people?**

AC: People.

01:18:50 **MC: People.**

AC: I doubt that there was a week down there...now you have to remember the American Ministers Association was predominantly white, and these people would come in to that school often. From New York. They didn't look down at you like you were a slave or subservient they looked you straight in the eye. When they started to release their control of their school and when they notified me of it that you are going to have to become gradually, little by little, each year more and more self-supporting we had to set up a community and advisory council. A council to control it as it moved from under the umbrella of the AMA to a local management. I was the first Chairman. I got an opportunity to see, I'm sorry I can't recall some of those names, but these were human beings. These were white people you were dealing with and they treated you accordingly. Back then local white people didn't call us Mr. and Mrs. It was Clement. They would come in the community and it was Mr. Clement.

01:20:37 **MC: So it was an atmosphere of equality.**

AC: They treated you like you were a fellow American. Period.

01:20:45 **MC: So that's really important too. It was not just simply the Avery Institute but you have to talk about the American Missionary Association.**

AC: I started. The first thing I said to you was the American Missionary Association and their philosophy.

01:20:58 **MC: Their philosophy of ...?**

AC: Dealing with fellow human beings as equals. That's the climate that Mr. Cox exuded. That's the type he exemplified. He taught me to be interested in flowers, plants, in music. He taught it. He was a principal, he had teachers to teach it but he would come in your class with mathematics and teach it. Algebra. I can see him right now, ninth grade. He came in and told the teacher I'm going to take

over. Well this makes a tremendous impact on you. He was a quiet, stately, gentlemanly man.

01:21:48 **MC: Was he a disciplinarian?**

AC: Of course. Oh hell, when he did his finger and said ‘Arthur go to my office.’ That was the end and I could think of the toughest guys we had down there. We used to call him ‘Pig Iron’ Pete. Pig Iron Pete, well he told Pig Iron Pete you go to my office, take off your jacket.’ and he grabbed that cane that he’d strike you over your shoulders with. Pig Iron Pete would accept it. It was not only his discipline but the respect you had for the man and the way the man treated you.

01:23:34 **MC: What were some of the values he had? What were some of the things that you recognized that he really had an appreciation for? Values that he had?**

AC: Well I’ll go back to John. John didn’t come from an educated family but when that man got through with him. He was an excellent student down there. Hundreds of others who came under his influence, I’m talking about Benjamin Cox, he did the same way. Since you know John McCray and what he did. When that guy got through with Avery I doubt he had railroad fair to Talladega. That’s where he went. That’s where he graduated. He was—John McCray was in Talladega. I can think of hundreds of others from this school that had that influence. In fact, that influence got so great that by ’56 it was decided it would be better to close up Avery because they were producing in this community a superior class.

01:24:07 **MC: Superior intellects?**

AC: Absolutely.

01:24:08 **MC: People also who were causing a problem for the white establishment. Why was there so much interest in Avery in black progress? It seems to me—**

AC: Absolutely. That was the objective of the AMA, American Missionary Association.

01:24:29 **MC: What was their objective?**

AC: Their objective was to eradicate all of the previous iniquities and inequalities that slavery and the segregated living had produced.

01:24:51 **MC: So that was one of the primary goals. What about—I talked to another Avery-ite about his education. He mentioned that unlike public school, people at Avery had opportunities to see very influential black leaders.**

AC: They would bring them in and all—well they brought them in of both races. Any day—that’s another thing. You see with the American Missionary Association they had a lot of contacts with wealthy white people. Those people would come down to Charleston and as tourism is our first or second biggest industry here. All my lifetime I can remember wealthy whites from the North coming in here and spend a few months, especially in the winter time. We had congregation of Ministers here because the AMA had a congregation from the Church [unclear]. Those people would come in here first thing after they got settled in the hotel, ‘We want to go by Avery’. Of course Mr. Cox kept his arms open for these, because they never came and [unclear]. Of course guys like Galen Lock and Ellie Miller, [unclear] Giants, Charles Johnson the sociologist from Fisk, they hit Charleston the first place they want to go is Avery. If they weren’t already down there staying with Mr. Cox.

01:26:40 **MC: So you had role models. Isn’t that something?**

AC: Every year.

**MC: You had opportunities meeting black students [hand hits desk]**

AC: To see them!

01:26:47 **MC: To see them first hand. Hear them first hand more importantly. To say this is my role model. This is what I can emulate.**

AC: They wouldn’t be going to the public schools. They would be going to Avery. Every year that school had a full scale production of one of Shakespeare’s plays. Every year. That was part of the commencement. When I said Shakespeare production, the costumes would come from Chicago. Claudius, Othello, he had on what they were supposed to have on when Shakespeare wrote them.

01:27:34 **MC: So that was the quality of education. And not just simply the quality of education, the quality of the cultural experience.**

AC: That kind of culture. Absolutely.

01:27:43 [Phone rings]

AC: You can cut that off. **[Recording paused]**

01:27:51 **[Recording resumes]**

**MC: You mentioned before we were interrupted the richness of the culture experience at Avery. You talked about the fact that so many black leaders or black prominent figures came to Avery. You also mentioned about theater**

**and you also mentioned about the black music at the time. Which had such an impression on you.**

AC: Well you see not only me. I'm talking about this group, this segment of our population. This is where you would—people in the community, I don't care what your economic or social situation was, if you can get those dollars, and there were very few dollars it wasn't an expensive school, my kids going to Avery. Then another thing you had a second and a third generation of people in the community who had gone to Avery. So that's why people and remember I said it had two years of Normal school, so when you finished your high school you went into teacher training. They had Normal school for those persons who wanted to go into teacher training. Of course, back then you had far more males going into teacher training than possibly you have today.

01:29:20 **MC: Males or females?**

AC: Males. Males. Yes. A whole lot of males back then. Well that was where you got a job, you know teaching. That was the great thing unless your plans were to go to professional school. Of course, we had a lot of students from here go to Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, these northern schools. If I have the time to go behind Benjamin Cox, Francis Cardoza the first principal of Avery that guy was a graduate of University of Edinburgh. Of course he was what we call in Atlanta—

01:30:11 **MC: But wasn't Cox one as well?**

AC: Of course he was! But he didn't have that kind—his educational background was less. Cardoza went to the University of Edinburgh.

01:30:23 **MC: What about other black instructors or administrators? What about...I have a few names and maybe you have many more to go. I have a A.W. Horsley, or J Andrew Simmons? You remember him?**

AC: Yes. I knew this man. Of course! J. Andrew. I knew both of them. J. Andrew Simmons was...he was an unusual character. He was mentally...man he could play a piano like a genius. Classical. Just like this guy who blows the horn now, Mikallis? This young fellow.

01:31:01 **MC: Marsalis. Wynton Marsalis.**

AC: Blows the horn. Jazz or classical. That J. Andrew Simmons. He was principal for a long time of Booker Washington in Columbia. These were the kinds of fellows that Avery produced.

01:31:26 **MC: Did they go to Avery?**



AC: Yes!

01:31:28 **MC: Both? So they were products of Avery and then came back to teach at Avery. Oh I didn't know that.**

AC: Absolutely. Yes they went to finish Avery and Bishop Nichols. Bishop at the AME Church. He got his start, I remember him as a practicing teacher down there. J. Simmons too. He and Horsley went to Fisk and came back here and taught at Avery.

01:31:59 **MC: What type of men were they? In terms of their teaching and their commitment to black involvement?**

AC: They were committed. No finagling, no messing around, no shenanigans, these were high principled individuals. I can think of John Long. I can think of...my mother-in-law who taught down there. Finished school and taught down there. My mother finished there, but she didn't teach there. I can think of Ms. Edna Morrison, Mrs...well we called her Ms. Birdy, I can't think of her last name but these were wonderful persons who motivated their students. Who took time with their students. I remember my mother-in-law, she wasn't my mother-in-law then but she was my teacher in the seventh grade, she used to make me sit right beside her because she said I was so active in class. Well I enjoyed it, I always have. She would make me sit right there. I remember I think the first or second month, you see back then you would get your report cards every month, I got a 44 in Geography. That's the first time in my life I ever got a paper like that, under a 70. I was glad she gave me that 44. She knew I was going with her daughter. We were back then holding hands in the seventh grade, it was kids' stuff. Anyway I was so happy—as a matter of fact I was happy she did that because never again did I make any 44. These were...I have no way of explaining these kind of people to you. Because our society...well I take here in Charleston the superintendent of our county schools last year he was arrested for driving under the influence. Hell if that had happened back then, he'd have to leave town the next week or the next day.

01:34:23 **MC: These people had a great deal of integrity.**

AC: That's it! And the kids couldn't be otherwise. That was all the training you had. I used that guy Pig Iron Pete, boy he was a terror. I've seen him pick up a whole brick at recess. The Assistant Principal, John Moore who had just come out a Captain in the First World War, and he came down there as a teacher. He was correcting this boy, physically, that boy reached down and picked up a half of a brick and hurled it at him. [Recording stopped.]

01:35:04 [Recording Resumes]

**MC: Ok. We can continue. [Laughs] We're through?**

AC: Well I think so. I mean Avery was a unique experience. Of course I told you why. It was ultimately inspiring but then... You see different things came together a guy who was Principal John Fox he got an opportunity to go to Voorhees College, which was then a Junior College, as the President there. When he submitted his resignation to Avery I think that was '56. The board was independent, you see I had moved away from Charleston after '55.

01:35:53 **MC: Where were you living at that time after '55?**

AC: Oh I left here and went to New Jersey. Company transferred me. I stayed there six years then we decided to open out in California, so they sent me to California. I was to stay there five years but I only stayed three because we had a union situation. We only had one district and we had [unclear] unionized that. They said they wanted a strong manager because we weren't familiar with dealing with unions. [unclear] So they pulled us out of it because [unclear]. Well by that time I was approaching 60 and I had always promised that I would retire when I was 60. That had just been something in my mind over the years because long ago I developed a philosophy that a man should not work all his life. In fact I don't believe that man is made to work and labor. He should labor for a period of time to get the sustenance whereby he can live without working. Later on in my childhood I found that's true. You would be amazed at the volume of people in the world that don't work. They are living by having what they created work for them. Now they are able to, as I said, enjoy the abundance. If you have to work up until the last day of your retirement then to me you're like a slave and of course in my count by the time I've aged to 65. In selling life insurance you tell people to plan to retire is 65. Well most jobs back then the retirement age was 65 so I said oh if I'm spending a life time telling people, telling agents this I think I should really cut mine down by five. From 65 to 60 so that's when I will retire.

I wanted to get back from the west coast to the east coast. So when he asked me to go to Philadelphia, I said ok. So I stayed in Philadelphia four years. From '63 to '67. In '67 that's when I retired. I retired that August. Now just as I retired this guy that had been the principal and with whom I had worked in Charleston, he principled as I was Chairman of the Budget Committee. John Fox, whom I met personally in 1923 just before my father sent me to Johnson C. Smith, we had kept in touch with each other. He asked me said instead of going back to Charleston why don't you come here to Voorhees since I've got to change this school from a junior college to a 4-year college. We need an office of Admission. We need a Career Councilor. We need so much. He said you come here and set up the Office of Admission and Office of Career Council. Two years and you get two young men to take those offices. Well I thought that was a good thing because in the meantime I decided to travel. I said that would be nice. I would have a supplement to my income, I'll use this money to pay for my travel. So I went on up there and set up the office, but I stayed six years because they don't have a retirement. By six years I said goodbye. The first year I went around the world.

With that money I went around the world. The second year I went to 11 countries in Africa. The next year I went to Australia. The next year I went to South America. But when I got through I had gone to all of the continents. I have been to the Peoples Republic of China, Soviet Union, New Zealand...

01:40:49 **MC: That's great. I wish I have had that same opportunity. I really enjoyed the interview. I've learned a great deal. I think this is a real treasure. Thank you for your cooperation.**

AC: Certainly.

01:41:08 **End of Interview**

01:52:03 end of recording.