

Queens Memory Project Oral History Interview Content Outline

City: Flushing
Neighborhood (if any): Recorded at the Rosenthal Library, Queens College campus
Date of Interview: March 27, 2012
Time Period: 1943- Present
Interviewee Date of Birth: January 19th, 1943
Name of interviewee: Carol B. Whiting
Name of interviewer: Natalie Milbrodt
Length of interview: 1 hr, 16 minutes
Name of editor: Natalie Milbrodt
Editing software: SoundStudio
Content Outline Preparer: Rachel Donner

Summary: Carol B. Whiting, an African American who is very nostalgic about her childhood, has lived her entire life (except for three and a half years) in Flushing, mostly in the same large house. She fondly recalls “back in the day” when neighbors were close, shopping was local, her mother sewed her clothes and preserved fruits, and the area was country-like. This changed in the 70s when people of different cultures arrived.
In a follow up phone interview, she gave details of her educational route to teaching—Queens College, Hofstra B.A. and, more than a decade later, a Masters in Counseling and Education from St. Johns.

00:00:42 Grew up in 11 room house lived in by five generations—Great grandmother, grandmother, parents, Carol, her son. Large property; family preserved own fruit and berries.

00:03:37 Neighbors—Italian, Jewish, also Scottish, Polish. One brought two eggs daily for baby. All knew others by name, left doors open.

00:06:02 Coal delivered to bin. Dad used branches and paper to set up furnace.

00:08:42 In 1950s switched to other heat. Also got first (b&w) TV -- “biggest day of our life.”

00:09:15 Graduated P.S.24 (eighth grade) 1956, New Town High 1960, left Queens College after four years without graduating.

00:09:50 Worked as page at Flushing Library, first corporate job-- file clerk in book publishing, then stocks and bonds, also Barnes & Noble. Better at computers then than now.

00:12:05 Took #7 to work, then N.

00:13:04 Father “a car freak” loved Buicks. “Three Black Musketeers”—Father, cousin, friend

00:14:27 “Back in the day”

- “Parents were parents.”
- Neighbors, teachers also reported to parents.
- Doctors came to house and were given lunch—made from scratch.
- Ice delivered in blocks. Milk bottles also delivered.

00:19:19 Grocery shopping—everything for \$5. “Gas prices now ridiculous.”

00:20:40 Shopping

- Neighborhood--local butcher (gave kids bologna), drugstore, notions (plus sewing) shop

Rosenthal Library, Rm 317, Dept. of Special Col. and Archives, Attn: Natalie Milbrodt, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11367

For More Information, Contact: Director, Natalie Milbrodt (Natalie.Milbrodt@qc.cuny.edu)