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### Mary McKinney

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# Bridges that Carried Us Over Project

## Interview Summary

**Interviewee:**

Mary McKinney

**Interviewer:**

Hailey McKenzie

**Interview Date:**

April 28, 2021

**Interview Location:**

Remotely via Zoom

**Length:**

00:53:00

**Interview Summary completed by:**

Hailey McKenzie, 2021.

Caroline Blanchard, 2023.

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**Description:**

Sister Mary McKinney recalls her experiences moving to Redlands, CA and the obstacles and success that followed. She created Mary's Beauty Shop and established Samaritan Social Services. Throughout her life she has been dedicated to helping those in her community. She provided children with meals and job support and helped run a soup kitchen and shelter for the homeless. Her faith was a guide and a motivator for always treating people with kindness, regardless of how they treated her.

**Subject Topic:**

- San Bernardino (Calif.)
- Redlands (Calif.)
- Businesses
- Religion

**Spatial Coverage:**

Name of Site (if relevant)	General Location/Address
First house in Redlands	Carlotta Court
Mary's Beauty Shop	705 W. Colton Ave. Redlands CA
St. Stephen's Church of God in Christ	13th & G Street, San Bernardino

**Temporal Coverage:**

1962 - 2020

**Key Events:**

- Civil Rights Movement

**Key Organizations:**

- Social Samaritan Services
- Mary's Beauty Shop

**Interview Index:**

Media Format	Time	Topic Discussed
Digital Video	00:00:16 – 00:01:09	Moved from Kalamazoo, Michigan to Redlands in 1962.
Digital Video	00:02:29 – 00:02:50	Married and lived in Redlands for 14 years, up until her divorce.
Digital Video	00:04:27 – 00:05:13	When she moved to Redlands she was able to buy her own home.
Digital Video	00:06:29 – 00:07:32	What it was like to live in Redlands.
Digital Video	00:07:40 – 00:09:43	Owens first beauty shop in Redlands; Mary's Beauty Shop.
Digital Video	00:11:52 – 00:14:51	Feeding the people in San Bernardino; worked with children to help feed them and find jobs for them.
Digital Video	15:03:00 – 00:18:09	Family lessons and influence on her work.
Digital Video	00:18:37 – 00:19:55	Went to Seventh-day Adventist Church in Redlands, but switched to St Stephen's Church of God in Christ when she married Pastor McKinney.
Digital Video	00:23:00 – 00:23:53	Church activity.
Digital Video	00:23:53 – 00:27:35	Samaritan Social Services; homeless shelter and soup kitchen.
Digital Video	00:31:30 – 00:34:26	Civil Rights Movement and the struggle of moving to Colton.
Digital Video	00:35:51 – 00:45:51	The importance of religion and the role it played when overcoming discrimination.
Digital Video	00:47:37 – 00:53:00	Advice for future generations.

**Related Materials:**

Additional oral history interviews are available from the Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation's "Bridges that Carries Us Over Project" on CSUSB ScholarWorks, <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges/>.

**Full interview transcript can be found below.**

## Interview Transcript

### Start of Interview:

[00:00:00]

**Mary McKinney** [00:00:01] I moved to Redlands in 1962.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:00:07] Can you tell us why you moved here? Do you recall?

**Mary Mcinney** [00:00:11 ]Why did I move here?

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:00:13] Yeah. To Redlands.

**Mary McKinney** [00:00:16] I was in. I was living in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and I moved to Redlands, in 19, 1962. But that's when I moved and I got married and lived there for 14 years, and I moved to um yes, I moved to, and then I moved to Redlands and I bought a house. And I stayed there for 14 years.

**Von Sommerville** [00:01:09] You came out here because your sisters were...

**Mary McKinney** [00:01:12] I moved out here because my sisters. I have a sister in, in Redlands, I had a sister in Redlands. And then I have a sister in Riverside.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:01:36] Okay, what were the, what are their names.

**Mary McKinney** [00:01:39] What are their names?

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:01:40] Yes.

**Mary McKinney** [00:01:42] My sister in Riverside, her name is Liana Coleman, and she's married to a minister, Charles Coleman. And then I have another sister that lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, and her name is Joyce McKinney, I mean so I'm sorry Joyce what is my sisters name?

**Von Sommerville** [00:02:17] Joyce is fine.

**Mary McKinney** [00:02:18] Yes, her name is Joyce, but she lives in Las Vegas.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:02:25] Okay. And what was the move to Redlands like for you?

**Mary McKinney** [00:02:29] Oh to move, the move to Redlands was. Like I said, I moved from Kalamazoo, Michigan, and I moved to Redlands, and then I got married, and I was married 14 years, and I got a divorce. And now I'm living here.

**Von Sommerville** [00:02:50] Tell them about your plane ride to Redlands.

**Mary McKinney** [00:02:53] I was in, I was on the plane with my son and he was, he was about two years old, and I wanted him to, to, to, to stay asleep. So I gave him a couple of aspirins and I, and he slept until we got to, got to, to Los Angeles. Yes, and when I came with my suitcase I had enough money to buy a house. To buy a house, and I got in touch with the realtor and he, he didn't live that far from me. And he said, "Oh, I can sell you a house", I said "Well I'm ready to buy a house right now". I am ready to buy a house right

now because I had my money, and I was ready to buy a house, and I bought my first house. I bought my first house. It was so amazing. Just so just so amazing. So I just, that's what I did.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:04:13] Do you recall the name of the realtor?

**Mary McKinney** [00:04:16] His name was Mr. Burton. He sold me my first house.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:04:27] And what, do you recall where that house was in Redlands what block.

**Mary McKinney** [00:04:31] Yes. That house was on Carlotta Court. My first house was on Carlotta Court. And I paid. I paid \$7800 for my first house. And I was so happy. I was so excited. My very first house.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:05:03] Great. Can you, do you remember some early memories of when you first got to Redlands, once you were settled in your house?

**Mary McKinney** [00:05:13] My sister was living next to me and her name was Joyce. And I was just, just at, I was just so excited. So excited. And when I bought my first house we had a, we had an orange grove right behind the house and my son and my daughter would sneak across there and throw some oranges across. Throw some oranges across. [Laughs] But it was so exciting, it was so exciting I had two lovely children, two lovely children. And, it's just been a matter of fact, my son, my son is a cook, and I'm a cook. And I wrote my first cookbook. And I have my cookbook now, and people are still buying my cookbook.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:06:25] That's amazing. So can you tell us a little bit more about what Redlands was like back then, like, what would you see driving around the city?

**Mary McKinney** [00:06:29] Redlands, was, it was, it was very nice, very nice, very nice. You know, I, I could walk to the store. I could actually walk to the store and, matter of fact, I'm not that far from the store. I can actually walk to the store and I love to walk. I love to walk, and I meet a lot of really nice people, really, really nice people.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:07:32] Okay, so how would you describe the strengths of the community in Redlands?

**Mary McKinney** [00:07:40] How would I describe the strength... Oh, Redlands was a very nice place to live and I had my first beauty shop there. And I was in my shop for a long time because I would do hair, I had my own beauty shop. And it was very nice, very nice, very, very nice.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:08:08] What was the name of your beauty shop?

**Mary McKinney** [00:08:11] Mary's beauty shop. Yes, Mary's beauty shop. And it was nice, and I had a variety of people that would come in. I had blacks, whites, whoever would come. Hispanics, and it was very nice, and they loved my beauty shop, they would come in and just totally relax. Just relax.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:08:46] Can you tell us where that was located in Redlands?

**Mary McKinney** [00:08:49] It was located on... located on Colton Avenue. Colton Avenue.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:09:07] And did you know if you had any customers from the University of Redlands?

**Mary McKinney** [00:09:12] I sure did. I had customers from the University of Redlands, yes.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:09:19] Do you remember what they were like,

**Mary McKinney:** [00:09:24] What they were like? They were very nice, they would come in, take a seat and let me shampoo their hair, do their nails, everything. I wasn't afraid of the people and they were not afraid of me.

**Hailey McKenzie or Denise Spencer** [00:09:43] So, were there any other black businesses that you remember in the city of Redlands?

**Mary McKinney** [00:09:48] Any other black businesses? Yes, yes. There were other black businesses. Yes, yes. There were -

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:10:16] Do you remember any of them?

**Mary McKinney** [00:10:17] Pardon me?

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:10:19] Do you remember any of their names?

**Mary McKinney** [00:10:20] Anne Watts.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:10:33] What kind of business was, did she have.

**Mary McKinney** [00:10:37] It was my beauty shop.

**Hailey McKenzie** [00:10:44] So then, um, can you tell us about other, any places that you went to in Redlands throughout the 60s and 70s.

**Mary McKinney:** [00:10:55] Um, I was, I had my I had another business, and I was able to to open another business in Redlands, and I had the mayor of Redlands, he came in and cut the ribbons at my beauty shop. Very fine person, very fine person.

**Denise Spencer:** [00:11:44] You had more than one business in Redlands, you had the beauty shop and what was your other business?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:11:52] The other, the other business that I had was feeding the people. I spent a lot of times, feeding the people and helping the people. I remember when, when we opened up our school, in in San Bernardino, I would, I would have the mothers to take those children to the bus stop. Put them on the bus. Come back to the house and help clean the house and help me cook the food. So those children would have food to eat. And we did that all the time.

**Hailey McKenzie:** [00:12:49] You mentioned a school, what's the name of that school?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:12:54] The name of that school was the name of that school... It was in Redlands, but the name of that school was - I can't even remember the name of their school. But those children would come. And we would, I would would fix the food. So the children can eat, and then I would send them out and out have them make a list of all the places that they've been looking for work, looking for work, and sure enough, I would have them write those places down, and then I would call those places to find out if they went to that job. And so many of them finally found work, it was so nice. They were no longer living under the bridge. It was just a place for those kids, and I would call, I would call some of the people and ask them if they had dishes to put on the table. And sometimes they would say no, I said yes you got you have dishes so you probably broke a cup or something and we need to fix those tables and make those tables available for those children to eat and I'd tell tell them over and over, over and over. Give me your dishes, so we can set the table, and those children will have a place to eat at their own table and that's what we would do. That's what I would do.

**Hailey McKenzie:** [00:14:51] Can you tell us a bit about your motivation to help these children.

**Mary McKinney:** Can I tell you about what now?

**Hailey McKenzie:** Your motivation to help these children.

**Mary McKinney:** [15:03:00] You know, you know, when I was when I was at home in Beaumont, Texas, because that's where I'm from when I was at home, my mother and father would plant a garden. And they would tell me you plant the garden and whatever you see in that garden you pick it. And you cook it. And we would go from there. My mother and father had 16 living children we really had 18 living children. And they were my father was a sharecropper. You know what that is. You know what you know what that is.

**Hailey McKenzie:** Yes, I do.

**Mary McKinney:** You know what it is, yes, yes, yes, yes. Well, he would plant greens turnips, all kinds and watermelons. He wouldn't he would he would just wait on the watermelons, but then at the end of the day those people would bring that stuff, and put it outside in the yard. And we could have as many watermelons as we wanted to. And it was all so good. My father and my mother got married when they were very young. My, my father brought his wife, which was my mother, to the house. And my mother looked at her and he's, and she said, "Abraham, What did you get this child? What did you? What did you get this child from?" And he said, "This is my wife, this is my wife. You said "You will not touch this child until she's 16 years old". And from that, we had eight brothers and eight sisters, and we had greens in the garden. Whatever we had in that garden, and my brothers would go out and they would kill a rabbit or something and I knew exactly what I needed to do with that rabbit so we could have rabbit stew. We could have whatever we wanted. We never went hungry for nothing, nothing. Yes, yes, yes.

**Hailey McKenzie:** [00:18:09] So having that large of a family, kind of taught you how to cook for large groups of people?

**Mary McKinney:** Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes and I'm still, I have a cookbook on the market.

**Hailey McKenzie:** And what's the name of that cookbook?



**Mary McKinney:** Soul to Soul, a vegetarian cookbook. So if you want a vegetarian cookbook, you can order one from me.

**Hailey McKenzie:** [00:18:37] All right. So can you tell us about the church you belong to?

**Mary McKinney:** The church that I belong to now?

**Hailey McKenzie:** Or the church that you belonged to when you first came to Redlands,

**Mary McKinney:** I was, I belong to a Seventh-day Adventist Church. I belonged to a Seventh-day Adventist Church. But I didn't stay there very long. I didn't stay there very long. Why didn't I stay there very long? Because I married Pastor McKinney, and he was a church of God in Christ. And that's why I've been with him at a church in God and Christ. But I never had a problem with any other churches. I was there, I was there.

**Hailey McKenzie:** Can I ask for your maiden name? Can I ask for your maiden name?

**Mary McKinney:** Mary Frances Keyes - Keyes.

**Hailey McKenzie:** [00:19:55] And then, can I ask what, what's the name of the church that you switched to once you married your husband.

**Mary McKinney:** St Stephen's Church of God in Christ.

**Hailey McKenzie:** And where was that located

**Mary McKinney:** in San Bernardino.

**Hailey McKenzie:** Is it still there today?

**Mary McKinney:** Yes, and it's still there it's still there. And the first one was located at 13, 13th and G Street.

**Hailey McKenzie:** And then can I ask what the congregation was like when you joined?

**Mary McKinney:** It was a mixed congregation. Everybody could come to the church. Now the story of the church. When I married, Pastor McKinney it's because I - I was working in in Mexico, and I just, you know, I just needed to continue my work in Mexico. And I spent a lot of time a lot of time in Mexico, serving the children. I would go up on the on the dump. And I would help all of these children to follow me, because the dump is where the people would come, that the trucks would come and dump all that food, all that food. And I would go up there and take that food out and wash it and clean it, clean it up. And I would serve those children. And I love to do that. I loved to do that. Once or twice I was doing that and there was a man inside the truck. And I pulled him out I said "You don't belong in here, you don't belong in here". He said "Yes but this is where I find my food". I said "No no no no no you don't belong in here". So I start taking the food to Mexico. And I would spend time ministering there, ministering there. I never missed an opportunity to spend time in places like that.

**Hailey McKenzie:** [00:23:00] So can we ask how your church was active within your community in San Bernardino and the Inland Empire.

**Mary McKinney:** Church was very active. Very very active. We go on, we knock on doors and invite people to come. Didn't matter what race. We just invite people to come and sit down and be ministered to. I'm a pastor's wife. And I know how to minister to the women, to the men, and to the other people in the community.

**Hailey McKenzie:** [00:23:53] So we're aware that the Samaritan Social Services nonprofit was created, can we ask when you established that?

**Mary McKinney:** I had a young man that began to serve and he said to me he said Sister McKinney, the nonprofit, he said. "I want to get that going. I want to get going". So I said "Just help yourself, help yourself". And sure enough, we got started, and we're still doing the same thing.

**Von Sommerville:** 30 years ago, 35 years ago.

**Hailey McKenzie:** [00:24:44] Can you tell us about the status.. the soup kitchen status that was given to the church, and to the Samaritan Social Services?

**Mary McKinney:** The status of the Samaritan of what now what do you ask me?

**Hailey McKenzie:** The soup kitchen status that was given to the, to the Samaritan Social Services nonprofit.

**Mary McKinney:** Well that's still, you know, you know that's still going on in 20, in 2012, that soup kitchen got started in 2012, and it's still going. All I have to do is just go and start picking up the food.

**Denise Spencer:** It sounds like the church, the Samaritan Social Services, supported both your soup kitchen, your - I understand that you had a shelter, is that correct?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:25:52] We had a shelter, yes, we had a shelter.

**Denise Spencer:** and also homes that you gave to homeless families?

**Mary McKinney:** Yes. Yes.

**Denise Spencer:** Can you tell us a little bit about?

**Mary McKinney:** That is still. That is so beautiful. Because if I would set a lady up in a in an apartment she has to have dishes, she has to have clothes, she have to have clothes for those children. We have a place where we would go and pick up the shoes and put shoes on those children feet, put clothes on their backs. And that's the thing that I would do. Me and my husband would do that. Those are the things that we would do. And guess what, we still doing it.

**Denise Spencer:** It sounds like your congregation, your life in Redlands, the people in it were very diverse, you didn't just focus on a residence or church members of African heritage descent. it sounds like you were very diverse at a time, then, that wasn't the case. Am I correct? Can you tell us the makeup of people? Were they white, were they Hispanics, were there African Americans.

**Mary McKinney:** [00:27:35] They were all races, you name them, and we took care of them. You know, we would go. When the kids will get out of school they would just run to me. They would leave the teacher said he would just run to me, and call me "Sister McKinney! Sister McKinney! I'm out of school, I'm out of school, I was good in school, I was good in school!" and those are the things that we did. Those are the things, All races, all races. Whoever needed help. We were there to help them.

**Hailey McKenzie:** [00:28:39] So what are some of the biggest events that you remember during the 60s 70s and 80s and the Inland Empire, and how did they change the Redlands community?

**Mary McKinney:** We were involved with the university across the street. We were involved with the university. And they would come and they would just really get involved with what we were doing. And one time I'm going to tell you something. One time, we were at one time. One time, one time we were there at the university and some of the people from the university came and - I got her! - Sometimes the people from the university would come and we were just so busy, so busy. And I said to them, I said come on come on I said, I told all the teachers. I said, Come on, I said, we're gonna, I'm going to show you how to wash the feet of the children and the adults. And they say well what you're going to do how you're going to do it I said well, and and and one of the things that one of the teachers from the university he said well I got to wash my hands I said no no no no no no, you don't have to wash your hands. Jesus didn't wash a hand, he didn't wash his hands let's just come over here and let's do it, let's just do it. And it was so beautiful. They didn't bother about washing their hands, they were, they were just about serving the people. Doesn't matter what color you are. This is what Jesus would do, wash their feet, put shoes on their plates, on their feet, And those are the things that we would do. And we still doing that, we're still doing it.

**Hailey McKenzie:** Do you recall at all how the civil rights movement changed things in your community or if it did?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:31:30] The Civil Rights Movement... well, you know, I am just so sad about what is happening now. Civil Rights Movement, I am so sad about that, because it doesn't have to be like that. We're all one color. We're all one race. And that's what it's all about.

**Von Sommerville:** Tell them about when you moved here. The way they treated you

**Mary McKinney:** When we moved out here? You know when I moved out here in Colton where I'm living now the white owners didn't want me to move out here. They put signs up on my tree. But I kept staying in my house. And then, not long after that some of my neighbors got sick. Some of my neighbors got sick. And I went to see about em. I went to see about em. Some of them died. But I still want to see about them. And that's what life is all about caring about your neighbor, caring about others. Doesn't matter what color they are. But caring about others. They would hang signs on my fence. When they got sick I went to see em. I went to see about em. Doesn't matter. People are people, and God is God. and he cares about people.

**Hailey McKenzie:** So what advice would you give to the younger generations about the current struggles for racial justice?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:34:26] You know, you talking about racial justice, people are people. And you keep praying for them, keep loving them. Doesn't matter what you do, Doesn't matter what they do, just keep, just keep loving em. God doesn't make a difference in how we look. He just loves us. He just cares about us. Now, I had that COVID. You know that I had, I had that virus, I had that virus. And I kept praying and it went away. And I just believe God I just believe God.

**Hailey McKenzie:** [00:35:51] So, religion played a strong role and you overcoming obstacles in your life?

**Mary McKinney:** Yes, yes, yes, yes, Yes. And he can play a role in your life. Just keep loving people, because God loves us all. And it's not about the color. It's all about Him.

**Hailey McKenzie:** So how have you seen racism within the Redlands community and San Bernardino community change over time?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:37:05] Just move ahead, trust God. God will make the difference. You talking about racism. How could another person hold another man down on the ground for nine minutes and so many seconds, and not think that it's going to affect him? Yes, it will affect him. He will affect him.

**Hailey McKenzie:** So with the current struggles do you think - how far do you think we as a nation have progressed in terms of racism in comparison, because I'm 21 so I wasn't living through it. So how, how do you see changes in how racism is expressed now, in comparison to maybe the 60s and the 70s?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:38:27] Well we had the same problem in the 60s and the 70s. Same problem.  
Same problem.

**Hailey McKenzie:** So could you share with us your observations or memories about the differences between the Redlands community and the San Bernardino community that your church was in, in terms of racial justice?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:39:11] Well, Hailey let me tell you something. We have the same problems. We just have to know that God is in control. We have to know that. There's so many times when I would just wake up at night, praying that things would change, praying that they would change, and only God can change it. Only God can change it. We still live in - our church still sits there in San Bernardino, we still sitting there. But we know that we have the same problems. I was with Von Sommerville. She's been - she and her husband have been helping us for years. Just years. Just years, and they're still doing the same thing. They're still doing the same thing. So now we again, we're again we're still doing the same thing.

**Hailey McKenzie:** So can I ask you how desegregation changed aspects of life in Redlands or San Bernardino?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:41:19] We're still in San Bernardino. We're still in Redlands. Trying to make an impact on those communities.

**Denise Spencer:** Hailey I have a question. You mentioned living in Colton. When did you move to Colton?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:42:02] I moved to Colton in 1976.

**Denise Spencer:** And I think I understood you to say that some of your neighbors initially, were not welcoming, is that correct?

**Mary McKinney:** They were not welcoming me, but you know what, I would go and welcome them. And, you know, a couple of them got sick and they really needed some help. And guess what, I was there to help them I was there to help them.

**Von Sommerville:** Tell them about when you bought your first house how you couldn't buy it

**Mary McKinney:** [00:42:40] Now, when I bought my first house out here my neighbors would come and put tags on my, my tree. Because they didn't want me here, they just didn't want me here.

**Denise Spencer:** That was in Redlands?

**Mary McKinney:** Right here in Colton. Colton. And a couple of them got sick. Denise a couple of them got sick. And I needed to see about them. And I was there for them. And that changed it. But they would put signs on my on my fence and signs on the tree and all that kind of stuff

**Denise Spencer:** So, from what I understand your faith had a greater impact on your life than racism, and segregation did in this area. Am I understanding you correctly?

**Mary McKinney:** Yes, I think you're understanding me correctly. You know, when when when you show people love and you're there for them, they can, they can have a good understanding.

**Denise Spencer:** Thank you.

**Mary McKinney:** [00:44:32] My husband passed away I guess about three or four weeks ago and it was really really hard for me. Was very very very hard. But those same people that would put signs on my tree they came to see about me. And I am so glad I am so glad when you show love, you get love. When you show kindness, you get kindness. And that's what it's all about. Anything else?

**Denise Spencer:** Hailey did you want to follow up with the last questions?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:45:51] You know, when I bought my first house in Redlands, I had to have a man sign. Did you understand what I'm saying? I had to have a man to sign it. But it was my money. He didn't have any money. It was my money. Cause I remember when I came from Kalamazoo, Michigan I brought my money with me, but I could not buy a house unless the man signed the house. Now, to me that's stupid. That is totally stupid. When I bought this house out here; "No no no, you can't you can't you can't you can't do that can't do that". And they had signs all over my tree. But I signed it. And I'm still living in it.

**Hailey McKenzie:** So the biggest piece that I've taken away is that being kind to people really comes back to you. And is there any other advice that you would give to future generations?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:47:37] You know, Hailey, Denise, you treat people the way you want to be treated. Don't worry about what's coming back. Because God will take care of the rest. God will take care of the rest. I met Von Sommerville, I met Von Sommerville years ago. She and her husband and she's still with me. She and her husband are still with me. And we would just talk and talk and talk. And I had- She and her husband are still with me, and they help me so much. Like I said, we had a shelter. We had two shelters, a men's shelter and a women's shelter. And those doors was open all the time. I still see those children. I still see those children, loving me. Loving pastor, cause he's gone now. But I still see those children still go to those same places, no difference, no difference. No difference.

**Hailey McKenzie:** Denise, are there any other questions?

**Denise Spencer:** I don't have any. Just for future generations, looking back over your life - I think we know the answer, but we want you to tell future generations - What do you think helped you thrive and overcome obstacles that you faced in life?

**Mary McKinney:** [00:50:18] You know, Denise. God just promised us; He just promised us one life, one life to live. And if you can't see a person in need, and respond to the need all I can say is, shame on you. Because God is in the business of caring about us, loving us, caring about us. That's what it's all about. You've got one life to live. And when that life is gone, He's gonna ask you, "What did you do with your life? How did you spend your life?" And I hope and pray that you would say, "Caring for people, caring for others". No matter what they've done to, you care about em. It was, it was hard for me, it was hard for me to see my neighbors putting signs on my trees in my front yard. But when they needed me. I cared. I cared.

**Hailey McKenzie:** Thank you so much. I think we're winding down on time. Thank you so much for participating in this project. It's been lovely talking with you

**Denise Spencer:** It was a great privilege to meet you. Thank you so much for participating.

**Mary McKinney:** Thank you. Thank you.

**Von Sommerville:** Thank you.

**Hailey McKenzie:** Have a lovely day.

**Von Sommerville:** Thanks, you too.

**End of Interview:**

[00:53:00]