

Museum of History and Holocaust Education Legacy Series
Geraldine Anthony Interview
Conducted by James Newberry
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Transcribed by Camden Anich

Born in Bartow County, Georgia, in 1927, Geraldine Anthony worked as a janitor at Bell Aircraft in Marietta during World War II. She swept the factory floor of metal shavings and debris that fell from B-29 planes during construction. After the war, she worked on a cotton farm before taking a job with Goodyear Tire in Rome, Georgia. Geraldine Anthony recorded her oral history interview for Kennesaw State University in May 2018.

Full Transcript

Interviewer: I'm James Newbury and I'm here with Geraldine Anthony on Thursday, May 3rd, 2018. And we're at her home in Rome, Georgia. And could you state your name for us?

Anthony: Geraldine Anthony.

Interviewer: Okay. And do you agree to take part in this interview?

Anthony: Of course. That's why you're here.

Interviewer: Well, thank you so much, so we're going to start at the beginning. Can you tell us your full name?

Anthony: Well, look before I was married, I was Geraldine Gibbons. I was a Gibbons before I was married. After I married, I was an Anthony.

Interviewer: And can you spell that name for me?

Anthony: My first name?

Interviewer: Your maiden name? The name before you got married.

Anthony: G-I-B-B-O-N-S.

Interviewer: Okay. And what's your birthday Miss Anthony?

Anthony: Four, Fourteen, Twenty-seven (4/14/27).

Interviewer: Okay, so you just had a birthday then?

Anthony: I told you I'm not-I don't feel no 91 years old mhmh.

Interviewer: How do you feel?

Anthony: You see them hedges cut don'tcha? I cut them with a hand-cutter. See, I come off the farm. I know about work.

Interviewer: You come off the farm, so tell me about that, about coming off the farm-

Anthony: Well we-my momma died when we was good-sized girls and her momma-that's my momma's momma [points to photograph] picture over there behind her, and she finished raising us. We was on the farm. We had-only way we got to go to school when it rained.

Interviewer: So if it wasn't raining you were working?

Anthony: [nods head] If it was pretty, we didn't get to go to school. Me and my sisters didn't get no further than eighth grade, but still I did and I can fill out a social-security form for people and it gets approved. Eighth grade student.

Interviewer: So, where were you growing up? What town were you near?

Anthony: Bartow County.

Interviewer: And you said your mother had passed away?

Anthony: She passed away when we were good-sized girls and her momma finished raising the five of us girls.

Interviewer: Now, what was your mother's name?

Anthony: Edlemay. She was Edlemay Brasier before he married and then she married Watson Gibbons. that's my daddy's last name, Watson Gibbons.

Interviewer: And what about your grandmother who raised you?

Anthony: She uh-I don't know what my grandmomma-let's see. I believe her maiden name was Sheryl before she married a Brasier. I think on my-

Interviewer: And, how long did you stay there on the farm?

Anthony: Oh, until we were grown. There in Bartow County in Taylorsville, Georgia.

Interviewer: And, what kind of work did you have to do on the farm?

Anthony: Pick cotton, hoe cotton. Then after I married, I still was in the field. I enjoyed it though. We had to hoe cotton. We had to pick cotton, and after I married I lived in Rydal, Georgia, and was there about 17 years.

Interviewer: Okay, and you said Rydal?

Anthony: [nods head] That's right. Rydal, Georgia.

Interviewer: And where is Rydal, Georgia?

Anthony: That's um, like you're going to-let's see. Well, you go to, you go to through Carter(sville). Go out here like you are going to Cartersville, you take a left and keep straight. When you take a left you will go through Rydal.

Interviewer: Okay, so I want to go back. You said you only went to school on the rainy days.

Anthony: That's all. Prett-prett-pretty-If it rained we got to go to school, but if it was pretty we didn't get to go.

Interviewer: And do you remember the school you went to?

Anthony: Rockmart High. Rockmart, Georgia Highschool.

Interviewer: Okay

Anthony: You know where Rockmart is don'tcha?

Interviewer: Sure, yeah. And you said how far up did you go? How many grades?

Anthony: Eighth.

Interviewer: Okay so did yo-how did you feel about that? Did you want more schooling or?

Anthony: I did but we didn't get to go. We didn't get to go to school like children do now. Children gotta good opportunity and they'll lay out of the school and quit (4:19). They got good things going on for them now than were when I was going to school (4:24).

Interviewer: So tell me, you said your mother passed away. What about your father? Where was he?

Anthony: When I-when me and my sisters got bigger he had passed away. I don't, I don't remember my daddy.

Interviewer: Okay and tell me about the house that your grandmother lived in where you stayed with her.

Anthony: Well, it was just a country-farm house. Wooden house.

Interviewer: Okay and was she-did she own it or was she renting it from someone?

Anthony: Yeah, at that time she owned it, but I don't know what happened to it after she passed cause we was still, you know, small then.

Interviewer: So, tell me about meeting your husband. How did y'all meet each other?

Anthony: Well, see I worked at bomber plant when I was there. We got laid off there. I come to Taylorsville, Georgia and then from there to Rome, but I met him in Taylorsville, Georgia, Roy Anthony.

Interviewer: And what did you like about him?

Anthony: Well, I just liked his-he was a nice person. Nice age, good attitude, and things.

Interviewer: And how old were you at the time when you met him?

Anthony: Well, turns out about 18-19 somewhere like that (6:03), but me being born in 27' and I got it, I met him in, let's see what year, cause I was in Atlanta prolly 5. It might be about 4 or 6. I be coming back and forth from Atlanta home and it was probably the middle of 45' or somewhere like that.

Interviewer: Well, let's talk about going back and forth to Atlanta. Why-why were you doing that at the time?

Anthony: Well, I was visiting my-when I come I was visiting my rep-family's part of them who were living in Taylorsville.

Interviewer: And who was in Atlanta? Why were you going there?

Anthony: Well my cousin and his wife that was half of my grandmomma nephew and his wife lived down there, and that's where I stayed over there on Rockwell Street, 550 Rockwell Street while I worked at the bomber plant.

Interviewer: So, you were staying with your cousin?

Anthony: And his wife.

Interviewer: Okay and how was Atlanta sort of different from Taylorsville?

Anthony: Oh, there was a lot of difference and I know Atlanta ain't like it was when I was down there. It's different now, oooo it done got rough. It was nice when I was staying down there and working Bell Bomber Plant.

Interviewer: So did-were you in Taylorsville when you heard about the job about Bell Bomber-

Anthony: No, I was in Tennessee, Chattanooga. And when the job we was on up there give out I went to Atlanta down at my cousin and his wife And I told her I wanted to try to put in for another job, and I did. That's how I got on at Bell Bomber Plant.

Interviewer: What was the job in Tennessee?

Anthony: Washing-the job-my first job I had washing dishes and I enjoyed it (laughs).

Interviewer: What was-

Anthony: One of them told me one time I wouldn't wash no dishes (8:08). Yeah, I worked on Eleventh Street down the road across from me in Chattanooga. I enjoyed it.

Interviewer: Was it somebody's house?

Anthony: No, it was in a big restaurant.

Interviewer: Okay and-so you had gone up there for that job.

Anthony: I was staying up there with my auntie in Chattanooga and I enjoyed it. Yeah, I washed them pots and pans. If it had a dishwasher, I put the dishes and things in it. I enjoyed every day of it.

Interviewer: Okay and tell me how you heard about the job at Bell Bomber.

Anthony: When I went down there and talked to my cousins and them, I told them I want to go down to the employment office, and they offered me a job. So she said, well low and then she told me they was hiring at Bell Bomber, so I told her I want to put in for a job there and I got it.

Interviewer: Okay and you went to the employment office to put in for the job.

Anthony: Right, in Atlanta.

Interviewer: Okay. What-do you remember what questions they asked you when you were applying for the job?

Anthony: No, they just gave me an application to fill out

Interviewer: Okay. And was there certain work that you applied for or were you just-

Anthony: No, I just put in for a job there where they made them B-29 cut that shavings off of that plane on the floor. I kept it clean.

Interviewer: Okay you said-

Anthony: That was my job.

Interviewer: Okay, so you said it was shavings?

Anthony: You know when they make them B-29 planes where they be shaving off the wings and all that hit the floor. I kept the floor clean with the push broom.

Interviewer: Okay, so this was like a big room.

Anthony: More of a big building where it was. Down there where the bomber plant was, what's the name of it now?

Interviewer: Lockheed

Anthony: That's right. [nods head] That's what used to be the bomber plant.

Interviewer: Okay, so tell me about an average day on the job. Wha-what time did you go in? What-what were your-

Anthony: Go in at 8 and get off at 4.

Interviewer: Okay. And what'd you wear?

Anthony: Well, like pants. you wasn't no soldier (8:20) like if you were an officer or something. It's different. You wear your blue jeans and your tops and whatever.

Interviewer: And did you have, you know, equipment that you used, or was it like a big-

Anthony: A push broom, push broom like the ones they've got now, they had them then. That's what I kept the floor clean with. I enjoyed it.

Interviewer: Okay, and did you come in after they were finished doing a plane would you clean up, or was it just constant?

Anthony: No, see I go in at 8, go in at 8 and my job got started and I stayed there till 4 o'clock.

Interviewer: So, how did you get to and from work?

Anthony: Streetcar.

Interviewer: Okay, so you were going on the streetcar from Atlanta-

Anthony: I was catching there on McDaniel Street and go to Whitehall Street and change buses to go on down there.

Interviewer: All the way to Marietta.

Anthony: [nods head yes]

Interviewer: So, that was a long trip.

Anthony: Well, to me it didn't seem like it.

Interviewer: And how many, I mean, what type of people were you working with?

Anthony: Oh honey. All kinds of people. They were good. They were nice people. I have to say they were really nice. I know one of them there run up to the machine he said, "If I don't get to see you no more," he said, "I'll see you in heaven." It was nice there. Back then it wasn't like it is now. Things done got-like down there in Atlanta, things were nice, look how Atlanta is now. It's rough. You see, well what them judges need to do when them boys be doing they uh, men. Put em' in there and let them stay in there for life cause' let them stay a year they'll get out and do the same thing. If I was judge that's what I'd do. They wouldn't get out and do it no more. they need to it's-tell all the young folk done got some of them (12:21). Not all of them.

Interviewer: Well tell me, you said-okay, were there mostly women or men working as janitors?

Anthony: At the bomber plant it was just as many men as women worked. They sho' (sure) did.

Interviewer: And was it mostly black women or were there any white women?

Anthony: Yeah, there were black and white women who worked at the bomber plant.

Interviewer: And how did you get along with the, with the-

Anthony: Oh honey, I got along good. [laughs] Kept em' laughing all the time.

Interviewer: Tell me about that.

Anthony: Well I be-I'll go by him. I said, "If y'all don't move out of my way-out of my way I'm gonna have to spank you." He said, "Oh lord, don't hit me hard I'm tired." I said, "Okay, I'm going to let you go by." I had good times with them. They said I was the only employee that act like that to them. Some of them were rude to them. I wasn't like that.

Interviewer: And when you went into the factory did you have to have a nametag or something?

Anthony: After I got in there they gave me one, you know, yep.

Interviewer: And, so you said you worked 8 to 4. When were your breaks?

Anthony: Well, we didn't want no break. I didn't want no break. I just kept going. I enjoyed it. I didn't want no break. There was a man said, "Ain't you going to get your break?" I said, "Honey, with these push brooms on this floor, no break." They go-they give us breaks if you wanted to.

Interviewer: And, when did you eat lunch?

Anthony: When you wanted to. Well, well I tell you. I wasn't ready to eat with all that stuff on the floor. I sat down about 20 minutes eat me a sandwich I had brought down to work with me.

Interviewer: So, you brought your lunch to work.

Anthony: Sure did.

Interviewer: Was there a cafeteria for workers?

Anthony: There was a cafeteria there, but I didn't eat out of it.

Interviewer: Why not?

Anthony: I just didn't want to. I fixed my own lunch.

Interviewer: Did people who ate at the cafeteria, did they have to pay for their food?

Anthony: Oh yeah, they had to buy it. Just like when I worked at Goodyear. After I retired from there they put a cafeteria in there and they had to buy it.

Interviewer: In the cafeteria could black and white workers eat together?

Anthony: Yeah, they ate together. [video cuts to a different take]

Anthony: Now what were you asking me?

Interviewer: So, we were talking about the cafeteria where you ate, or you didn't eat there. So, where did you eat in the building?

Anthony: Just where I want to sit. Just where I want to sit. I didn't go in the cafeteria. I had my lunch, but I could have. It wasn't no uglier or nothing like that. I just enjoyed it.

Interviewer: Did you have to go through any training for the job?

Anthony: [shakes head no] I know how to sweep. That push broom—I didn't have to go through no training, no sir I didn't.

Interviewer: And were you in charge of a certain area?

Anthony: The whole-like Lockheed down there that was a big building that was my territory to keep the floor clean and I did.

Interviewer: And so would you-how-tell me what you would do like, you'd sweep it all up into a pile and-

Anthony: You'd sweep it into a pile and they had a big can, they have a big thing you sweep it up on put it in that can.

Interviewer: But it was mostly like, like metal parts and things.

Anthony: Yeah, the metal would come off them planes.

Interviewer: Okay, so what did the crews working on the planes-like how many people would be working on it and what parts of the plane were you seeing?

Anthony: Well sometimes it'd be two on there. I be seeing them. They be shaving that stuff off on the wings, you know. It was the whole plane till they get like they want it. That's the reason I kept the floor clean.

Interviewer: Did you ever feel like it was dangerous?

Anthony: I didn't even think about that. I told you I enjoyed it.

Interviewer: Did you wear any sort of hat or cover on your head?

Anthony: Sometimes I wear a scarf. Sometimes I wouldn't.

Interviewer: So, it's basically up to you.

Anthony: It was up to me.

Interviewer: How much money did you make?

Anthony: Then we was getting, let me see now, it was around then 6 or 7 dollars an hour, somewhere like that. I can't really remember cause I ain't going to tell you if something ain't right (17:04). Well I'll tell ya I can't remember, but it was more than 2 or 3 dollars an hour.

Interviewer: Did-how much, I mean, how did you feel about that money, about that salary? Was it good? Was it bad?

Anthony: Oh, that was good. I enjoy-the check was okay.

Interviewer: And how much more were you making there than you had been making washing dishes in Chattanooga?

Anthony: Oh, I made way more there than washing dishes. Oh lord, yes. They were more there.

Interviewer: Were you able to save the money, or were you having to spend it on things-

Anthony: Well, see my cousin, his wife, I was staying there I give them something for me staying there cause' they had bills to pay.

Interviewer: And what did you do in your off hours when you weren't at the factory?

Anthony: Go to church.

Interviewer: What church?

Anthony: In Atlanta. I can't think of the name of that church. It's been so long I don't got-I wasn't no street person. I wasn't raised like that and I-uhuh. I'll never drink. I'll never smoke.

Interviewer: Did you-was there life outside of church? Was there other types of entertainment?

Anthony: Sometimes they had-like they had staff appreciation days they have dinner like that and it was good. I enjoyed it.

Interviewer: Do you remember like a lot of troops being around the area, soldier, people like that?

Anthony: I seen a lot of them when I worked at the plant. Sometimes some of them come in the plant. They were visiting the plant, they on foot they come in there (18:50).

Interviewer: What were they doing there?

Anthony: I guess they were looking around, come in seeing what was what. They were friendly.

Interviewer: So you talked to them?

Anthony: Sure I did. I told you so. You know I had talked to them mhmm.

Interviewer: And they were building the B-29

Anthony: That's right. B-29 plane. That's where I worked.

Interviewer: What can you tell me about the B-29?

Anthony: All I know-I don't know how now they were making them, putting them together. All I know, I tell you, I see when they be shaving all that stuff off of them it be falling on the floor.

Interviewer: How big was it in comparison to this room, the plane?

Anthony: All of this had to be open for them planes cause' they had to have room to sit down, yeah, it was bigger than this. You know like this here [points to wall] all of that was out for the plane.

Interviewer: Did you ever go inside it, inside the plane?

Anthony: No, I didn't ever go. I didn't do that.

Interviewer: Did you ever leave the floor, go any other parts of the factory?

Anthony: Oh sure, I was all over it.

Interviewer: Was there like a changing room or a-just tell me about the facility, the factory and all that.

Anthony: Well, they had bedrooms, but you know I was knows what was going on then where I had to sweep. You know I was going to look. Yeah, I worked the whole area.

Interviewer: Who did you report to? Who did you have to-who was your boss?

Anthony: I can't think it's been so long. I can't think of that man's name, but he was, he was a good supervisor. He was nice

Interviewer: Was he black or white?

Anthony: He was white. He was real nice.

Interviewer: Did you have any bad interactions with anybody?

Anthony: Nooo, I told you nothing bad every happened. I never did, never. All of them were my friends.

Interviewer: Did you see other people who had less good reactions?

Anthony: They had some of them that were real rude mouth. I didn't talk like that.

Interviewer: What do you mean?

Anthony: Saying ugly words.

Interviewer: And who was, who was saying those words?

Anthony: There were these like if they were-something they didn't like and they giving the [unintelligible] (21:16) men calling them names. I didn't do that. Whatever your momma named you that what I called you. I don't call you no extra name what I think of it.

Interviewer: Okay, so, how long did you work at Bell?

Anthony: It was about 2 cause' we went to Atlanta about-it was about-I guess I worked there about, about, just about 2 years.

Interviewer: And you said you met your husband there.

Anthony: No, no. Met him in Taylorsville, Georgia.

Interviewer: Okay, did he come to work at the plant?

Anthony: No, he was, he was a farmer. He worked on the farm nah, nah, nah he-

Interviewer: Okay, so you had not met him while you were working there?

Anthony: [shakes head no] When I come, when I come back visiting my family in Taylorsville that's when I, you know, seen him.

Interviewer: Okay. So, I want to ask you about some things earlier on. Do you remember the attack on Pearl Harbor when the war started?

Anthony: nuhuhh, I can't remember, but I done been out where it was when I went to Hawaii.

Interviewer: Alright, so tell me about going, going to Hawaii.

Anthony: Well, my granddaughter, her and her husband in the Navy and they sent for me, you know. I flied there, so I went where Pearl Harbor was. she carr-it carried me all the way out there. (most likely the ferry to the memorial over the USS Arizona)

Interviewer: Do you remember hearing about that at all?

Anthony: I had heard about Pearl Harbor at the first time I had been there in the building.

Interviewer: Okay, and then, tell me what are your memories of, of President Roosevelt?

Anthony: Oh, see I was still in Atlanta when he was the president.

Interviewer: What did you think about him?

Anthony: Oh, I thought he was a good president. Whatcha think about the one we got now? (President Trump) [looks away]

Interviewer: No comment.

Anthony: Good evening. That's why me and you ain't got no comment because we get away from that.

Interviewer: [laughs] Well what-what kind of president did you think Roosevelt was for the country at that time?

Anthony: At that time he was a real good president. And, you know, sometimes when you're doing good, always going to be somebody finding some fault of you. When you're doing the right thing, some fault. Ain't nobody going-they better agree right there together (23:45), cause' God ain't going to approve of that that last day he come back. Them that didn't do the right thing he says in part from me you wake up I never knew ya (23:58). That's in my bible.

Interviewer: So, I can tell you're, you're very faithful, religious person, right?

Anthony: That's right. I breathe that bible. The woman, I told her that she talking about. I said, "The gospel, fret not yourself because he will do it." She said, "hold your peace and wait on him. He will fight your battle." Honey, I can fight my own battle. Non- [starts laughing] I said, "What you say?" Honey I can fight my own battle. I said, "Girl, he wants to move, we couldn't even move. We be sitting and looking." I said, "How you supposed to fight that?" I said, "because I was waking up everyday." "No, I wake up by myself." "No you don't." I said, "Cause' of Satan, when everybody went to sleep cause' of Satan, won't nobody wake up, but God ordered Satan and he wakes us up."

Interviewer: Well: how did you, how did you become religious? Who was the first person in your life that showed you or took you to church? That sort of thing.

Anthony: My grandmother. My grandmomma carried us girls, five girls, she carried us to church. Yes, sure did.

Interviewer: How much time would you spend at church as a child?

Anthony: Well, maybe going in the morning we'd turn the church out bout' 1 or 2 according to, you know, what they be having.

Interviewer: What kind of building was it?

Anthony: It was an ordinary church. It's still down there, right outside, Taylorsville church that one where she carried us to is still down there. They done put the new building on, you know how the-how them things is. It look good. It's the same church that she carried us to when we were girls.

Interviewer: Was it like a wooden church?

Anthony: That's right.

Interviewer: Well, I want to come back to Bell, Bell Bomber, and ask you when your work there ended and why it came to an end. Why did you stop working there? (26:03)

Anthony: Well, they were laying everybody off. And I was in the layoff too.

Interviewer: Was this at the end of the war?

Anthony: Just about at th-the war was still on when we got laid off. Only a couple of janitors got laid off. People worked there from Rockmart, Cedartown, cause' some of them went from Rockmart I knew them.

Interviewer: And how did people feel about getting laid off?

Anthony: Well, we didn't feel too very good, but we was supposed to be happy cause' they was laying us off.

Interviewer: And how did you get the news that you were being laid off?

Anthony: The man notified us.

Interviewer: So, what were your plans at that point?

Anthony: What was my plan to do when I got laid off? Well, I didn't know. That's when, when I got laid off, that's when I left Atlanta and come to Taylorsville, Georgia. And then, after I left Taylorsville, I come to here Rome and I got a job at Goodyear at Cartersville. I worked there 14 years.

Interviewer: That's Goodyear the tire company?

Anthony: Right. Well, they done tore that building down. All the business now in Akron, Ohio. Yeah, I worked there 14 years.

Interviewer: What did you do there?

Anthony Feed the [unintelligible]¹ into the end of the machine.

Interviewer: Can you say that again?

Anthony: You know that they had weavers that make them big rolls.

Interviewer: Mhmm

Anthony: Told ya they can make them tire out of, and I had to keep that filin' on the end of the machine. I think I saved some of them. I don't know right now where they at. I had to keep them

¹ Although this is difficult to hear, it's possible that she is referencing a bobbin or some other collection of thread.

filed for the weaver. She would, when them threads, that thing roll and I had to keep a file up on the edge of the machine for the weavers.

Interviewer: Okay and that-you worked there 14 years?

Anthony: 14 years.

Interviewer: Okay, where were you living at the time?

Anthony: Right here. [points to the floor]

Interviewer: So, when did you move into this house?

Anthony: Seventh of October 1977. I've been here bout' 41 years.

Interviewer: Okay. [fades to a new shot] Okay, so we are going to start back. You said you've been in this house since 1977?

Anthony: [nods head yes]

Interviewer: Well, where did live after you-when you first came here to Rome?

Anthony: Taylorsville, Georgia.

Interviewer: But what about when you first came to Rome.

Anthony: Well, I-first I lived on the backstreet over down there on Wilson's Avenue, and I got tired of paying rent to them [laughs] Well, like I said one day, I said, "I'm paying for staying there, paying them people." I said, "How come I can't look for me a house?" He was 40 had his 550 and his lady told me about it, so I lived Wilson Avenue and moved to here.

Interviewer: Okay, so let's talk about your husband again, so you met him after you finished at Bell Bomber.

Anthony: Right.

Interviewer: And tell me about when y'all got married.

Anthony: Let me see, we got married 46' or 45' honey. It been so long I don't be thinking about it. And he pass away in 1989. Yeah.

Interviewer: What did he do during the war?

Anthony: Work on the farm.

Interviewer: Okay.

Anthony: He worked at the gin. They had a-we lived in Rydal, Georgia for a while, and had a cotton gin. That's where he worked. The cotton gin, you know, the gin streamed the cotton out of the boll. That's what his job was.

Interviewer: And what did he do aft-when y'all-when you were working at the tire company?

Anthony: Well, he was on the farm. You mean when I was at Goodyear? Oh, he worked at the gin. See, before I got that job at Goodyear I was working in the field, me and my older children. See we, only prairie we could pick the cotton at the boll. Its-I got some cotton up there in that thing [points off camera]. You see that white cotton up there?

Interviewer: Mhmmm.

Anthony: We pulled that cotton at the boll when it got cold in November. We pulled the boll off and take them to the gin. And you know it be so cold till' my knees and feet were frozen. See, I got two knee replacements, and the doctor told me what it was, see when I get on them I had a [unintelligible] (31:11) they go to itching throwing up, throwing out. They were cold. It'd be so cold when I wake to work the field and warm our feet. Boy, it was rough. Me and my older children, I don't know what other work they did.

Interviewer: So, who-do you know who's cotton that was? Who were you working for?

Anthony: Mr. J. M. Maxim from Rydal, Georgia.

Interviewer: Okay.

Anthony: J. M. Maxim.

Interviewer: And do you remember how much you were paid for that work?

Anthony: Well, see we were figuring that we had a cotton crop and we picked our cotton and they gin it, and then when they bale it up, whatever the cotton weighed that's what they paid my work for that bale of cotton.

Interviewer: Was it enough money to get by?

Anthony: Oh yeah, Lordy yeah. You know, I think back at Goodyear they said 25 of, there before I went there, 25 pounds of sugar wasn't but 50 cents, that Goodyear back then. Mhmm, work like that, you don't get no 25 no 50 cents now. But I was working that year/gin. Yeah Mr.- he was working Rockmart Goodyear, but I didn't work at Rockmart. Mr. Head, he was-he left from Rockmart plant come to Cartersville, cause' he was my uncle's supervisor when he was in Rockmart. So, he was up there and about all them supervisors I worked with at Goodyear through them 14 years, all them done pass away. Even some of the young folk done pass and I'm older than they is. Lord.

Interviewer: Well, tell me about your children. How many did you have?

Anthony: Six.

Interviewer: And what are their names?

Anthony: James, they now towards Jamie, I lost him last year in August. He stayed in with me and don't look like I can get over it, but I tell I got to go on. Now, 2010 I lost my baby girl. Last year I lost my oldest child and I'm just holding on, and don't know about what it is till' you lose one of our own cause' that's part of you. That's right, and I got to go through with it. I got to get over it. I didn't want to see none of my kids put away, but it didn't work like that. I wanted to go first. Yeah, I done live to be 90 years old, 91. I don't feel it though, nuuh. Growing up here pretty good I'm in my yard, and my nephew, he working late hours. He usually do my yard, but you see I can cut [points off camera] hedges dontcha'? I done all that and I don't use no electric shears and them. I use [motions with hands] hand clippers. Stood up on that ladder and cut.

Interviewer: You stand on a ladder?

Anthony: That ladder [points off camera] laying down in my yard. They was that high. They done got away.

Interviewer: Well it's a perfect hedge.

Anthony: See, then it got done rainin' and couldn't cut em'. They done got so high I had to stand up on it. Yeah.

Interviewer: Well I'm impressed. I don't even do that.

Anthony: Well, see I tell ya' I come off the farm

Interviewer: [laughs]

Anthony: I know about that.

Interviewer: So you, you still have 4 children that are living?

Anthony: Right, I got one son, he a police at Rockmart and I didn't want him to be that. He a police down there and my baby's son. And, I got a daughter live in Greenville. She a police, and I told em' I was going to spank em' she said, "Mom, you know you hurt us you got to go to jail." [laughs]

Interviewer: [laughs] Can't hurt a policeman

Anthony: I said, "Wait a minute, I'm the momma, I know you not my momma.," but she's like, "Momma, you'll break my leg, and I have to tell how it got broke you going to jail."

Interviewer: [laughs]

Anthony: Yeah, we have a lot of fun. I miss them I done loss though. It's rough sometimes, but-

Interviewer: I want to ask you one more question, okay? So, I'm so happy you agreed to speak with us, and I want to ask you why you think it's important to tell your story about the past? Why do you think that's important?

Anthony: Well, one day and I'm gonna take that long journey and I can't talk and y'all can hear me on there [points at the camera].

Interviewer: That's great.

Anthony: You'll be listening to me, but I'm gone.

Interviewer: Well, thank you so much Geraldine Anthony. I appreciate it. Do you have anything else you would like to share?

Anthony: No, I appreciate y'all coming and that man there putting-how I'm lookin-am I-you looking at me on that too? [points at camera]

Camera Operator: Mhmmm.

Interviewer: We got a picture of ya right here. See?

Anthony: Ohhh Looord Jesus.

Interviewer: [laughs]

Anthony: Listen/Dixie, Imma' spank you, you I'm coming-

Interviewer: She makes a lot of threats doesn't she?

Anthony: How come you didn't tell me they have it? Ms. Jane, Imma have to spank her lightly.

Interviewer: Lightly. [laughs]

Anthony: No, I like to have fun. [laughs]

Interviewer: Well, we appreciate it.

Anthony: Yeah, I told him I was going to hide. Then I told him I was going to run away. He said, "We'll find you."

Interviewer: [laughs]

Anthony: No, I wasn't going to do that. Done told you you could come and I really been gone.
No, I wouldn't have done you like that.

Interviewer: Alright, well we'll end there okay?

Anthony: [Nods head yes]

END OF TRANSCRIPTION