

10-26-1984

Interview with Alex Mercedes Kelley (Donna Maria Kinchlow) (FA 12)

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INFORMANT/FIELDWORKER DATA FORMI. INFORMANT.

Alex Mercedes Kelly (born: Donna Maria Kinchlow)

NAME [Include fullest possible name - first, middle and/or maiden, last.

For example: John James Smith; Mary Franklin Smith (Mrs. John Smith)

1337 South 4th Street - Apt. 6 Louisville, Kentucky 40208

ADDRESS

PERSONAL DATA:

Age: 29 Date of Birth: 12-17-54 Place of Birth: New Albany, Ind. Sex: F

Afro-American

RACE/NATIONALITY/ETHNIC BACKGROUND

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: [Include education, occupation, places of residence,
religion, etc.)

High school graduate of New Albany High School, attended Depauw University,

Greencastle, Indiana, also Indiana University, Bloomington. Presently working

on a degree in Music Therapy from the University of Louisville.

II. COLLECTOR.

Gina Lloyce Kinchlow

NAME (Include fullest possible name as described above)

1225 College Street - B105, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

ADDRESS, LOCAL

(same)

ADDRESS, PERMANENT

sister

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE INFORMANT, SUCH AS COUSIN, FRIEND, BOSS,
ACQUAINTANCE, ETC.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Data collected for a project in the graduate course, Family Folklore 585

Dr. Marilyn White - Instructor. The project concerned how the Kinchlow family

celebrated Easter during the years that the Kinchlow children were growing up.

Interviewer's, tape no.: 1

WKU FL, FL & OHA Accession no.:

Interviewer:

Address:

Gina L. Kinchlow 1225 College St-B105, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101

Interviewee:

Address:

Alex M. Kelly, 1337 South 4th St.-Apt. 6, Louisville, Ky.

Date:

October 26, 1984 - Friday

Place of interview: 208 Logsdon Ct., Louisville, Ky.

Other people present: none

Equipment used: Sony tape recorder

Reel-to-reel tape: Brand: Size reel: Tape Mil: Speed:

Cassette: Brand: AVX C-30/C-60/C-90/C-120 (circle size)

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): all (Side 2): 000 - 287

Brief description of interview context and tape contents:

talked with informant about how her family celebrated Easter when she was growing up.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
GINA KINCHLOW:	
001	Family Folklore 585, Dr. Marilyn White, Instructor, Project-Easter. Interview #1, Informant #2, Tape 1 side one. Today is October 26, 1984, Friday. I am at the home of my mother, Mrs. Fannie Lou Wood Kinchlow, 208 Logsdon Court, Louisville, Kentucky. My 2nd informant is my sister, Alex Mercedes Kelly. My name is Gina Kinchlow. What I need for you to do first is give
008	me just some basic biographical information. Give me your full name.
009	ALEX KELLY: Alex Mercedes Kelly.
	GK: And you birth name.
	AK: Donna Maria Kinchlow.
	GK: Your address, city, county and state.

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COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
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017

AK: 1337 South 4th Street, Apartment #6, Louisville, Kentucky, Jefferson County.

GK: Your burth date and birth place.

AK: December 17, 1954, New Albany, Indiana.

GK: Give the names of your siblings in birth order.

AK; Gina Kinchlow, David Kinchlow and Rhonda Kinchlow.

GK: Now what I want to do is ask you just some general questions about our family life. By asking these questions I'd like to give the listener a general idea about what our family home life was like. So we'll talk about this for a while and then we'll go ahead and talk about Easter. How would you describe the atmosphere in our home when we were growing up?

AK: Fun. It was sort of closed fun. I mean we entertained ourselves, and played with ourselves, among ourselves more than with outside. Varied. There was music, art and food, and there were guests and we tended things in the community; concerts, and things, so it was varied. I guess thats about it.

GK: Would you say that we were a happy family?

AK: Yeah. I guess so.

GK: Give me a brief description of our personalities of ourselves when we were growing up. Take each one of us and give a brief description of how you . . .

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AK: Well there was me, the oldest, and . . . a brief description of my personality . . . my personality as a child. I was serious. I don't know what more I can think of. I was serious and I was the oldest and so, responsible. Both on my own, and some sort of responsibility given to me. If there was noise in a room then it was always my name called. "Donna, what are you all doing?" There was that kind of reminder that I'm the oldest

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one and when it all comes down. I didn't have any problem with that. I was just serious and I liked my music and liked playing at home. Then Gina, you, you were the organized one, and the domestic one. You cleaned up and kept things in order. Kind of shy. A little shy. Although we were all what I would call sensitive, very emotionally sensitive children. I think that you seemed more sensitive. You seemed to cry easier at least.

Melvin, of course, was the comedian. His personality, I guess I would call him happy-go-lucky. I don't think he had, he didn't seem to have as many responsibilities that he needed to answer to and his personality kind of reflected that. He laughed easily and talked a lot and easily. Was not shy. Very gregarious. He has an artistic personality I would say, based on his sensitivity and his talent for drawing and his imagination with regard to humor. That kind of thing. And then Rhodie was a different kind of happy-go-lucky. She wasn't so . . . she was funny but it was not like Melvin. Melvin, he was funny and he played on it. Rhodie didn't particularly know that she was funny but she was funny because for some reason or other she was so different from us. Her taste was different. The way she played was different too, so that was amusing. So she was funny and she was the baby and I think she used that sometimes for as long as that could be played out. And then she became eventually, I think something like you because she got more organized. The way she would play. I can especially remember her playing school and how she would have her dialogue or her monologue for her class, the dolls that she had set up as her students. And if that didn't go right, if she said a word wrong or mispronounced a word, then she'd, "Okay. I'm going to start all over again from the beginning.

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'Good morning class.' " So she became a bit more organized and more detail-oriented.

GK: Now what we need to do is say the full names for each of us on tape because you've said Melvin and you've said Rhodie, but in naming your siblings those names did not come up.

AK: Right. Then what do you want? Their given name or what we called them?

GK: Both. An explanation.

AK: Middle names too? Okay. Gina Lois Kinchlow, which later we found out or discovered to be Gina Lloyce Kinchlow. And I always called you Gina. And David Melvin Kinchlow, Jr., who we always called Melvin, except he had other nicknames, but I always called him Melvin. Unless we were playing and then he was

"Mr. Dog." And then Rhonda Sue Kinchlow, who we called Rhodie.

GK: Good. I thought we needed to kind of clear that up. What things do you think were most important to Mommy and Daddy in raising us?

AK: Doing well at school was very important. Being good kids. good, meaning well-behaved in public, and we spoke good English in a clear voice with good enunciation, clear enunciation. Not necessarily things as in quantity of things, but in quality.

I can remember Mommy paying attention to the labels in clothes, for instance, and it didn't matter whether we bought the clothes brand new or we bought the clothes second-hand, we always checked the labels. And if you didn't like a dress, or spilled something on a dress, if the hem got torn on a dress, it was,

"Don't you know this is a Villager?" or "Don't you know this is a whatever?" So, the quality of things was important and I think telling the truth was important. I'm not sure if that got passed

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	<p>around to everybody but for some reason that seems like something that was stressed. I came away from childhood with some kind of memory about telling the truth being real important.</p> <p>GK: In your opinion, who was the disciplinarian? Who was the dominant figure?</p> <p>AK: Mommy.</p> <p>GK: I'd have to agree with you. I want to name a few subjects to you, and I want you to tell me how important they were to you when we were growing up, as opposed to, or in relation to, how important they were to our parents. The 1st subject is religion. How important was it to you?</p>
127	<p>AK: There was a time when it was very important to me right around the time I was in the 5th grade, which I think was about the time when I was baptized. Whenever the time was when I got baptized that was when religion was very important to me. As opposed or as it relates to it's importance to my parents . . .</p> <p>GK: In raising us. Were your feelings about religion on the same wavelength?</p> <p>AK: I would say yeah, most of my childhood they were. A few years after I was baptized I started having my doubts and, I don't know, maybe my parents had their doubts too. But that was never revealed to me and I never felt that from them. So then I felt we'd begun to differ on the topic of religion. But during most of my childhood I think I was on the same wavelength.</p> <p>GK: Do you think it was important to them?</p> <p>AK: Religion, per se, no. Like I say, I got somewhere that it was important to tell the truth, but I don't remember like the religion itself as in believe in God and Jesus died and you'll go to heaven if you do this and all those little particulars</p>

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of religion. I don't remember those being stressed by either Mommy or Daddy. So looking back I don't see those as things that were important to them. I think maybe faith or honesty and integrity as a person seemed to be very important to them but religion perse wasn't important to them but then going to church was part of community life then so it was important to attend church regularly. And so thats what I got was important. Not the religion itself, but to attend church regularly was important.

GK: Education.

AK: Education was important to both Mommy and Daddy although I, when I think back and play tapes, I hear Mommy vocalizing, verbalizing that importance^{more} than Daddy did. Education was important to me as a child. It wasn't important as in I've got to get this so I can be a better person or so I can get what I want out of life. It was important to me because I spent so much time at school and I also did enjoy school and outside of church and piano lessons and related performances, school was the big thing, thats where all my friends were. That was the center of it all. So it was real important to me too.

GK: Discipline.

AK: Discipline. Discipline was very important to Mommy. Discipline was very important to Daddy but I think they had different . . . the things that were important to Mommy with regard to discipline were not always important to Daddy with regard to discipline. For instance, for Mommy it was very important that when your name is called, you respond quickly and you respond so that she can hear that you're responding, in fact you come to her because she called you. I remember that being a real big, important,

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stressed, often-repeated thing, but I don't remember that ever being an issue with Daddy. I don't remember him ever . . . I mean I'm sure I came when he called or answered or something, but I don't remember feeling like. . . when Mommy called my name it was, zoom! get over there! And I don't remember feeling that same urgency when Daddy called my name and I also don't remember him ever sayin', "I called you. Why didn't you come? I called you a few minutes ago." I don't remember it being important to him.

GK: What were your personal feelings about discipline?

AK: I did not like, at all, physical punishment. I didn't enjoy getting a whippin', it never made sense to me, it didn't ever reach a point when I could say, "Well, I deserved that whippin'." I never got to that point as a child. I always resented being hit. And resented it very much. I felt that on some things the discipline was too strict, it was just too severe. Too picky, it was too severe, it was just unnecessary.

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GK: Can you give an example?

AK: One thing I remember, and I can't remember really the beginning, I don't know if there was some scuffle in the yard or something and I got called in, and being talked to by Mommy about whatever I had done that was wrong or that the kids were doing that I was not suppose to let them do, and I left the house and the back door slammed, so Mommy called me back in and yelled at me about letting the back door slam. So I went back out again with it very uppermost in my mind, don't slam the door. But I guess the door still made too much noise for her standards and so being called back in again and this time being slapped because the door had slammed again. That is an example to me of where it was just unnecessary. It was unnecessary because the door has already slammed, what good

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does it do now to call the child in and smack them across the face? The door was still slammed. And also just knowing, "I have yelled at this child twice and have called her in twice, and I know her, she's my child, she's not going to do something deliberately to get under my skin and she's not that kind of child so if the door sounded like it slammed a little too hard for me, then I'm gonna . . .," I just felt like, "Well you know I'm not doing that on purpose. Why are you gonna call me in and be mad at me? I'm not doing something to make you mad at me." It's like you're choosing to be angry with me right now.

GK: That's a good example. Travel.

23 0

AK: Travel was important to Mommy. Local travel, I think Daddy enjoyed going to family get-togethers. I enjoyed travel. Typical child. I enjoyed being there, I enjoyed coming home, I enjoyed the activities once we were there, but I would get restless on trips. I can remember being restless or hungry or I needed to use the bathroom or I'm tired of sitting or something in the car.

GK: Last of these particular subjects is heritage.

AK: Heritage. No I don't think that was real important to either Mommy or Daddy and I didn't grow up with a sense of its importance either.

GK: Did you feel like you wished you had or wanted to or just didn't really seem important to know your family background, your roots?

AK: It didn't matter to me as a child. I guess because all I knew was the environment in which I was raised. So if it wasn't important to my parents it wasn't important to me and I never really thought about it. In later life, yes, I had thought about it and regretted that it was not more important.

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GK: Okay. Let's talk about Easter.

AK: I would like to get another beer if possible. You wanna take a pause?

GK: Okay. Go ahead. [turns tape to pause]

What did you like most about Easter?

AK: The new clothes and just the attendant excitement that any holiday brings. Its just some kind of specialness in the air. I can't really describe it or tell you exactly what the components of that excitement are. But there's just some kind of specialness in the air when there's a holiday.

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GK: What did you like least about Easter?

AK: I did not like hard-boiled eggs, the white part of hard-boiled eggs. That's what I can remember more than anything else. I've thought about it and can't think of anything else, that I didn't like. Sweet potatoes. We also sometimes had sweet potatoes for Sunday dinner and I never liked sweet potatoes.

GK: Describe a typical Easter Sunday.

AK: Made up of going to church, going to church dressed , "checkin' out" everybody else's Easter clothes. At church: singing the Easter music, the Easter songs and coming home and eating dinner and it would be a big dinner and Easter baskets and somehow cramming some candy down in between dinner and church or after dinner sometime or other.

GK: At church, on Easter Sunday, what kinds of things happened that made you know it was Easter?

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AK: Well you knew it was Easter because as I said everybody is dressed up, for one thing, they're dressed as in new clothes and nicer than usual and also a lot of little girls have on hats which was unusual and which was not typical on Sunday. And [phone rings]

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	<p>the music was different. There were particular Easter songs for some reason, maybe thats not Easter but I'm thinkin' those palm trees or whatever that was that sat up in the pulpit were moved or they were in a different place at Easter time. Recitations, doing our Easter poems. Thats all I can remember right off hand at church.</p> <p>GK: Thats fine. After church we would go home and have our Easter dinner and that kind of thing. What do you remember an Easter dinner consisting of?</p> <p>AK: Sweet potatoes with marshmallows in them which I didn't like. Maybe macaroni and cheese casserole. Ham, and I believe it was boiled not baked, I'm not sure. Greens, with hard-boiled eggs. Rolls. I think thats it.</p> <p>GK: Would you say that you enjoyed Easter dinner?</p> <p>AK: Except for the sweet potatoes.</p> <p>GK: What was your favorite food?</p> <p>AK: The macaroni and cheese casserole.</p> <p>GK: Describe a typical Easter outfit.</p> <p>AK: A new dress. Pastel colors. Patent leather shoes. I don't remember wearing hats. I remember purses, little straw hand bags. Gloves, white gloves. Bows or barrettes in our hair. Thats it.</p> <p>GK: What kinds of preparations were made for Easter?</p> <p>AK: I remember a big pot of boiling eggs. I guess I have a real fixation with these eggs but I remember the . . . boiling the eggs and dying them. The color of the dye in the little plastic bottle and the color of the egg was never the same. I remember always thinking about that. It looked like it would be so yellow and then you'd dip it in and dip it in and dip it in and it never really came out yellow. It was sort of washed out, tinted sort of egg.</p>

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And of course getting the new clothes. Going out and getting them or I can remember new dresses laying on the bed. Just getting all the stuff you're going to wear and making food, I remember were the two preparations.

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GK: On Easter Eve do you remember . . . what did the day consist of? You've said getting new clothes and smelling food cooking preparing for the next day. Is there anything else?

AK: Well as far as our house, yes. I remember Easter egg hunts at church for the church school, but at home that's all I can remember.

GK: How did you feel about the whole idea of dressing up for Easter?

AK: I liked dressing up for Easter.

GK: How important were the religious aspects of Easter stressed?

AK: At home?

GK: At home and once we got to church.

AK: At home, not really. The religious aspects were not stressed at all. At church, of course, we knew the story by heart because it had been Palm Sunday a week before so we'd been properly prepared and set up, "Now next Sunday is Easter and that's the Sunday when they came and the stone was rolled away, and He was gone." The story is told over and over again. That was part of it all. There were some recitations that didn't have to do particularly with Easter, but the general climate was very religious.

GK: Do you remember the names of any of the religious songs that were sung in our church?

AK: Oh yeah. [sings] "He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today." And, "Up from the grave He _____, Jesus our Saviour. Low in the grave He lay." And then, . . . maybe that is He Lives. And then

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COUNTER

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"On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross." What else was Easter?

GK: "He Arose." Is that the same song?

AK: I'm wonderin' if thats the same thing.

GK: [sings] "Aleluia."

AK: [sings] "Sons of men and angels sing, Aleluia". . . maybe thats a different one.

GK: Yeah, I think thats a different one. Lets talk about the non-religious aspects of Easter that you can remember. Like the Easter basket. How do you remember seeing the Easter basket?

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AK: I see it at the foot of my bed and I'm sure I must have been excited although these years later I don't remember any real excitement about the Easter baskets. It was jelly beans and chocolate eggs and those marshmallow things that had sugar on the outside which I hated. I don't remember being that crazy about the candy, the eggs or the basket at all, really. But I remember seeing it, I think at the foot of the bed.

GK: Did you ever believe in the Easter bunny? Did you ever think it was an Easter rabbit that brought us those baskets?

AK: I remember having a bad dream one night about a big Easter bunny but I didn't really believe in . . . I mean, it wasn't like, "Oh, pshaw on the Easter bunny," because I don't remember Mommy and Daddy saying, "Now the Easter bunny brought you this basket," maybe it did, but it didn't stick with me. It was just an Easter basket and I don't even remember thinking, "Oh Mommy and Daddy put this out." Its Easter so theres an Easter basket. But I didn't really think of the Easter bunny bringing it.

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GK: What personal satisfactions if any do you feel like you got from celebrating Easter when you look back on it?

AK: Just as I mentioned before that special climate that accompanied

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any holiday and I liked that specialness in the air.

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END OF SIDE ONE

BEGIN SIDE TWO

003

GINA KINCHLOW: Family Folklore 585, Dr. Marilyn White, Instructor, Project Easter. Interview #1, Informant #2, Tape 1, side 2. Today is Friday, October 26, 1984. I am at the home of my mother, Mrs. Fannie Lou Wood Kinchlow, 208 Logsdon Court, Louisville, Kentucky. My 2nd informant is my sister, Alex Mercedes Kelly. My name is Gina Kinchlow. Okay, lets keep talking about Easter. Is there any Easter in particular that stands out in your mind?

AK: I remember the Easter we did our play. That really came back to my mind. The play that we wrote and directed and acted and did the costuming for. It was our production. And that was a really wonderful experience because that was . . . kids were sort of hands off, a second thought at church and that was the first time that I really felt important like the light was shining on us. We were in the spotlight for awhile.

GK: Do you remember the content of that play?

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AK: No, I don't really. I do remember having towels or sheets or something on our heads for some reason. We did that a lot anyway just trying to pretend we had long hair but I guess thats why that stands out because that was another time of a towel on the head. And maybe it was suppose to be some kind of headdress, Biblical headdress, but it still reminds me of the times we'd done it for long hair. But I don't really remember what the play was about. I remember there being some action on stage and people having to enter from the back of the hall during the play. But I don't really remember

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what it was about. I don't remember if it was religious or secular or what it was.

GK: It was a religious play about the Resurrection only we had made it for modern times. I remember us writing and I also remember everyone becoming totally bored with the play before we ever got it finished and I remember finishing writing it myself. Any other Easter in particular that stands out?

AK: The Easter that Mrs. Mallory died. Rev. Mallory's wife? I don't know maybe that was Mother's Day, but I remember it happenening the day before a holiday. And I thought it was Easter. I remember that one.

GK: When you think about Easter what do you smell?

AK: I smell new clothes and patent leather shoes 'cause it has its own smell. And the smell of new clothes just the way can-cans and that kind of stuff smells coming out the package or out of the box.

GK: Was there anything that our family did at Easter that other families didn't do?

AK: I remember me and you dressing alike for several years. Probably some other families did that but I do remember that about us, that you and I dressed alike. I remember taking pictures out on the front porch before we went to church. Standing in stair steps and getting pictures of us in our Easter clothes.

GK: Was there anything after mingling with the other kids at church that you felt like that we did that they didn't do?

AK: No, I can't think of anything.

GK: Were there any gifts exchanged?

AK: I don't remember any gifts either.

GK: Why don't you just share with me some of your notes? Some of your recollections?

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COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
060	<p>AK: Things that Easter made me visualize . . . shiny black legs cuffed in white lace. I remember the lotioning or the greasing . . . the little shiny . . . everybody's legs were shining with white lace at the bottom. And I also remember shiny black hair, and I remember bangs. I can see hats with flowers, dresses with flowers, and lace and flowers and lace and frills and bows and just real . . . everything's real pastel and very fancy. I also remember tulips in our yard. Remember the tulips that would come up just about that time? Easter Eve, I really started thinkin' about, was the Easter egg hunt at Rev. King's house. With the kids, everybody runnin' around wild lookin' for eggs. There were always some kids who would show up that didn't go to our church. And I don't remember who was talkin' about that, but I remember that bein' an issue in the air that here are these kids and they never come to church but they 're here when its time for the Easter egg hunt. And I can remember . . .</p> <p>GK: The kids that could never find the eggs. Do you remember that?</p> <p>AK: No, I don't remember that.</p> <p>GK: There was always somebody that couldn't find any eggs.</p> <p>AK: Well I remember that Gerald Higgins seemed to always know where all the eggs were. That was one of the things that I remember. That him and . . . another guy who didn't go to our church that often. I'm tryin' to remember his name. He was a black, real dark-skinned guy.</p> <p>GK: Yeah, Tinker.</p> <p>AK: Tinker. He maybe once in awhile would go to our church, but he was always at the egg hunt. As far as Easter outfits, I was also remembering that Tootie and Tanya Brown wore dusters. You know those little lightweight spring coates? And I don't remember other.</p>

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COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

people wearin' dusters. But I do remember the Brown sisters wearing dusters. And, I don't know, you asked about the Easter we evacuated?

GK: Do you remember that?

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AK: I hadn't until you brought it up, and then I remembered it, I remember we stayed at Sanford's house, there were lots of people there, and I was uncomfortable. We were in Indianapolis at Sanford's. And we went somewhere with somebody in a car. I don't remember if it was B or who, but we got in a car and maybe went out for food or cigarettes or somethin' but I was in the car and I can remember tryin' to get the adult who was driving to see if we could find Josette's house. And I remember drivin' around but I don't remember that we ever found the house.

GK: Do you remember why we were in Indianapolis?

AK: Well, yeah, you've told me now, I do remember that, but I mean that memory . . .

GK: Say it on the tape. Say it so the listener will know.

AK: We had evacuated because there had been some kind of a spill some kind of a collision with dangerous chemicals on the river since we lived on the river people evacuated. I don't know how extensive the evacuation was, but we left. I also say that I remember being hungry but being too uncomfortable or too uptight or somethin' to say to anybody about I want something to eat. While we were in Indianapolis I remember lots of grown people sitting around talking. And grown people that I didn't know. A few that I knew and several that I didn't know. I was uncomfortable with that too. I don't remember Daddy through that weekend or however long we were there. I don't remember him anywhere around.

GK: I think that Mommy and Daddy were divorced by that time.

AK: Maybe it was after the divorce because I don't remember

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COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

where in the picture that weekend, I'm thinkin' it must have been after the divorce. I don't really remember anybody in my family that weekend. I think I was just so, just disconcerted and dis-oriented by the whole thing, I can't remember anybody that was in my immediate family that weekend. Sunrise services. Can I just read this? Now that I think about it I don't think I knew back then just what sunrise service was about. The only thing I can think of at this point is that it was a commemoration of when Mary and somebody else returned to the tomb and found the stone rolled away. But back then I didn't really think about it. It was just a part of Easter and it was also a part of church camp. We had sunrise service. Sunrise service marked Easter as a magical time for me. There was something about early morning being up very, very early, 'cause we were never usually up that early. Only for family vacation and later on we had music contests out-of-town we'd have to get up real early. And then I also remember some kind of a film about the Resurrection being shown. I don't know if it was the night of Easter or the Sunday before or what but I remember being at church and thinking how odd it was to be watching a movie at church, first of all. And also I was sittin' next to Mommaw and she was crying during the movie. I don't remember what year that was or why that came to my mind but . . .

GK: It was a movie related to Easter?

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AK: It was a movie about the Resurrection. It was the whole story of Easter. Jesus coming into whatever the town was on Palm Sunday and just the whole intense week of Easter being celebrated by the people in the town. I remember the Last Supper and all of that was in this film. And I don't remember who brought that in but it wasn't an annual thing. 'Cause I just remember that one Easter having that

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COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

movie. Some other topics should I go on to other things?

GK: Sure. We have plenty of tape if you'd like to share some other things that you remember.

AK: Talkin' about baptism, and remembering whether or not someone was baptized on Easter, for some reason that really rings a bell . . . baptism on Easter Sunday mornin', but I can't remember who it was. But I also have a memory, whether its accurate or not I don't know, that Daddy was baptized on Easter when he was a boy. And, somethin' like, that year Easter fell on his birthday so its like really a day almost touched with something extraterrestrial or something! It was his birthday, it was his baptism, and it Easter which was the day our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ rose.

I have that whole thing in my mind and, like I say, I don't know if its accurate or not. Then also about the hair at Easter time,

GK: Right. That's something you haven't mentioned at all and that's something I remember. That's about the only thing I can remember about Easter Eve and that was having my hair washed and pressed.

AK: As far as sweating the hair, I think that you probably sweated back the hair. I have a lot of memories of you sweating back your hair though. Not just Easter. I don't know it just seemed like your hair was more prone to go back. But I do remember that everyone wanted their hair to look nice on Easter Sunday. It was real important that all of those edges be straightened to a "T". And the bows and barrettes and all that that was really your crown of glory, on top of all the patent leather shoes and can-cans and stuff.

GK: But that procedure didn't bother you?

AK: No. I didn't like for B to straighten our hair. She straightened our hair a couple of times and I didn't like that 'cause she usually burnt me. I don't know, I just didn't like the way she did my hair.

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But later on when we started goin' out to Miss Eddie Mae's house to get our hair straightened, I liked that because I liked her house and I liked her and she had a nice yard and the kids had toys and it was just I enjoyed goin' out there. And Mommy would leave. She'd go away and we got to be somewhere else, so I liked that.

GK: Anything else?

AK: Well, we have one sad memory of Easter and it was when I was young, real young because I was still in the Beginners Class and I had on a dress with a real full skirt, real puffy sleeves. It was big, huge pink roses I think they were. And a pink sash and can-can slip. I can still see that dress. I'll probably always be able to see that dress in my mind. There was one other Easter dress which I remember. It was the one that had a white bodice and an aqua-blue skirt, and a lime green sash around it and that dress stuck around for a long time. I remember that dress being passed down to you and Rhodie. We all wore that one. But, anyway, this pink dress with the pink flowers on it and I remember after the Beginners Class, before, after Sunday School but right before church, Mommy and Daddy arguing about my dress. Because Daddy thought the dress was too short, and Mommy didn't think the dress was too short. And I was standin' there, like I said I was in the Beginners Class, so I couldn't have been any older than six years old, but I remember just being so filled with tension because they were standing there arguing and they were arguing over the dress that I had on. I just remember feeling frozen like I couldn't move from the spot I was in, while they were arguing. I then, I also remember Miss Doris Southers I think was her name, coming into the room while they were arguing and the arguing stopped. I remember feeling a little bit embarrassed for some reason. I don't know whether I

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	<p>thought she heard or what, yeah, thats one early Easter I remember.</p> <p>GK: I don t remember that one. If you were 5 or 6 years old I was maybe 3 or 4. I don't remember that. Describe what an Easter egg hunt is.</p> <p>222 AK: Hunting for eggs. Eggs that have been hard-boiled and dyed. Hidden up at Rev. King's house. He had that large lot right next to his house. So they would hide the eggs up there, in the weeds and around about. I always thought Kathleen hid the eggs but I'm <i>not</i> sure. <i>lots</i> of adults hid the eggs, but for some reason I always think of Kathleen as the one that hid the eggs. And I see her there too. That's what it was. Us kids runnin' around tryin' to find all these eggs. Takin' them back home, cuttin' out the yellow part to eat, and throwin' the white part away.</p> <p>GK: Someday the person listening to this tape may not know what an Easter egg hunt is. Its hard to fathom, but it really could possibly be. If you could change anything about Easter what would it be?</p> <p>AK: Well, I would have made the eggs have larger yolks and less whites because I did love, I really loved the yellow of the egg. I don't know. I liked Easter. I don't think I have any real complaints about it. I wouldn't change it.</p> <p>GK: Of all the holidays during the year, that we recognize, which one is your favorite?</p> <p>AK:: Now or as a child?</p> <p>GK: Both.</p>
248	<p>AK: As a child, I would have to say, probably Christmas. Although 4th of July runs a close second because 4th of July was in the summer, we could run and sweat and catch <i>lightening</i> bugs and do firecrackers. We stayed later. We'd go to Mommaw's house and we'd stay later for 4th of July and so that was fun. Christmas we just</p>

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sort of, I don't know, maybe we did stay late at Christmastime, but I, of course we probably weren't outside playing, that's what . . . I don't remember nighttime. I guess Christmas was probably, just barely, beat out 4th of July as my favorite holiday as a child. Now I don't really celebrate holidays that much so I don't have a favorite holiday.

GK: How close was Easter to being a favorite?

AK: No. Way down there.

GK: One last question, how do you feel like the traditional celebration of Easter has changed over the years?

AK: Well I'm sure at some point we had to stop getting Easter baskets. But that I don't remember precisely, I just assume that probably happened. As far as the time I was at home, I don't remember how Easter changed. Well I guess I do remember somewhere along the line there being an Easter and not getting a new dress and that changed Easter somehow. Then of course later, not going to church as much, there was probably the first time that I didn't go to church on an Easter. That's about all I can . . . and its a real imprecise memory. Not even a memory really. Just sort of a logical assumption of how Easter had changed.

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GK: Is there anything else you'd like to share about Easter? I don't want to leave anything out.

AK: No, I think I said it all.

GK: Okay, thank you.

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