

TAPE INDEX

TAPE#: J-2

DATE INDEXED: 3/6/93

SUBJECT: African American Education in South Central Kentucky, 1920-1960

Narrator: Margaret E. Munday [MM]  
Address: 145 Hill St. Auburn, KY. 42206  
Place: MM's home  
Date: Friday, March 5, 1993

Interviewer: Joe Ruff [JR]  
Equipment: MARANTZ PMD 430/Ext. Mic.  
Tape: MAXELL UD-90

Amount Used: 60 minutes

Comments: Ms. Munday is a music teacher in Logan County schools. She was the first African-American undergraduate at Western Kentucky University in 1958. I had believed I would be interviewing Agnes Munday, her mother, who also attended and taught in Logan segregated schools. There was a bit of confusion about this at the beginning of the interview. Agnes Munday sat in another room and made a few comments, but was generally not a participant. She said she might agree to an interview at a later date.

**\*\*NOTE:** The following is a brief index, not a complete transcription.  
Verbatim quotes denoted by quotation marks (" "), comments by the indexer surrounded by [brackets], and uncertain items denoted by {}?.

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Count: [Side A]

000 = Tape Announcement [JR]

005 = Tape Introduction [JR]. There is confusion about who is being interviewed. This is Margaret Munday.

013 = MM does not remember exactly when she started school. [She started at Auburn in the mid-1940s.] Her mother taught her to read, so she was able to skip grades.

= Auburn was a two-room school. The small room was a lunch room. Six grades met in the other room.

= Teacher taught each grade separately, gave assignments and helped.

036 = MM's mother taught at Auburn training school and at Johntown. The training schools were grades 1 to 8. Things were better there. Teachers at Johntown Training School: Ms. King, Ms. Foulkes, Ms. Emery, and Ms. Munday [MM is talking about when she taught, early 1960s].

055 = MM walked about a mile to get to Auburn School as a child. She lived near the tannery. Some students walked from South Union. No busses.

= Her first teacher was Louise McReynolds Smith. Requirements for teachers varied. Pay scale was low. She made \$600 a month when she started at Johntown in 1962.

100 = Auburn Elementary integrated in 1966. She began at Auburn in 1967, then she started traveling to 5 schools. She was the only music teacher.

120 = Black community raised money for school improvements. Books and desks were furnished by the county.

- 138 = Teaching methods were traditional, like they are going back to now. Older students help younger students.
- = Textbooks were used. Not much Black history taught. What they did cover was from the teacher. She got some stereotyped story books from her parents--"it was just fun."
- 174 = Description of school day: Older children built fire. They did a pledge and called role, collect lunch money (some brought lunch). Teaching in the morning, recess, class, lunch, class, recess. School day was about the same.
- = Teachers rode city bus out from Russellville. They sang patriotic songs
- 215 = She got interested in music early, both church and popular songs. Not much community music.
- 240 = Discipline by switch, parents supported teachers. Her brother got in trouble for eating in class.
- = There were fights with White kids after school. A man set his dog on the Black kids.
- 310 = Ms. Helen Burris taught at one time. Ms. Christine Morris and Ms. MurmaLee Bibb also taught.
- 325 = MM describes some of the games that were played.
- 345 = When she was young, everybody went to the Baptist church. At one time there was a Methodist church in Auburn. Community revolved around school and church.
- = School did not address problems faced by Blacks. Her father drove a truck and MM traveled a lot with him.
- 395 = Her mother and grandmother encouraged education. She read the Bible and stories as a child. Community saw to children being prepared for work.
- 430 = When she was young, people did not speak of the need for integration. She thinks Black children have suffered under integration. She saw a lot negative stereotypes of Blacks in books.
- = She did not "go through many back doors" in her life.
- 510 = Discusses various people at Western, including Ivan Wilson. She transferred from Kentucky State to Western in 1958.
- 575 = Integrating had advantages and disadvantages. Black children do not work as hard as they did when they were segregated. The community as a whole is better--Auburn has always had pretty good race relations.
- 622 = [END OF Side A]
- Count: [Side B]
- 000 = [Blank]
- 010 = White busses sometimes harassed Black students. MM tells about riding busses to Adairville. County paid a White man to drive students on terrible busses.

- 048 = Some Knob City students boarded in Russellville at MM's great aunt's, Esther Price and [Verdie]? Walker.
- 080 = Significant changes for African Americans include better opportunities.  
= In elementary school, boys and girls sat on opposite sides of room.
- 100 = Some students did not keep up with school and did not pass. Older students who were held back eventually dropped out.
- 135 = She had very little contact with White students when she was in school.
- 140 = [Tape is turned off while she discusses some of the racism at Western. MM told two stories then which she agreed to repeat for the tape, and it is turned back on.]  
= MM describes a conflict with White community when she began teaching. One man wrote to the State Board of Education to protest hiring a Black teacher for White students. There was a local meeting and the Superintendent supported MM. [A good story.]
- 220 = MM tells about a young White student who told her that his father was in the hospital because "'some niggers beat him up.'" She asked the boy, "Well, what is a nigger?"  
= She has bought lunches for both Black and White students who did not have enough to eat at home.
- 258 = [END OF INTERVIEW]