

Storyteller:	Black, Samuel W	Interviewer:	Fields-Black, Edda
Date:	June 9, 2006	Original StoryCorps Log Files:	MBX001444_L1 MBX001444_L2

Timecode Notes

0:50	John Black, my father, man of integrity, family important.
1:45	Father's stories of growing up – didn't know if we could believe them, born during Depression 1921.
3:00	His stories were about people, not what he did – family members.
4:30	His family moved to Cincinnati in 1942, grandfather got work at Cincinnati Milling.
6:30	Grandfather married four times, my grandmother died before I knew her.
8:15	Lived in downtown Cincinnati , over the Rhine.
9:00	Cincinnati in 1930s and 1940s was just like Birmingham, AL, segregated by custom if not by law- certain schools for black students.
10:40	Father moved to Cincinnati to be with father because his guardian in KY died.
11:30	Attended Woodward High School in Over the Rhine, active student.
13:15	Left college to enlist in army, met his wife in North Carolina, where he did basic training.
14:00	Mother wasn't so impressed at first with father.
15:15	Army friend was father of NFL player; paratrooper, didn't get sent overseas, discharged in 1953 (entered 1950).
17:25	Married wife in March 1953, moved to Cincinnati.
18:30	Working as janitor for Cincinnati public schools, Taft High School.
19:45	Janitor for 8-10 years, taking classes on stationary engineer – steam boiling engineering – heating buildings.
22:00	Dad came home tired to the bone – only breadwinner, had to work long hours, needed overtime wages – came home so tired he'd collapse. We'd climb on him and play with his muscles.
24:00	Boiler room work – over 100 degrees when it's freezing outside, two boilers 15' tall, 12' wide, coal burning inside – you have to keep it burning, when phone rang.22:15
27:15	I knew I wouldn't do this for a living, father wanted to teach me about the job, greenhouses go some help.
28:15	Father had 11 kids, raised brother's 5 kids too; all worked for public schools; also helped raise oldest sister's kids
30:30	He didn't make much money, also bought groceries for father's ex-wife, I don't recall ever missing a meal no having health care, he sacrificed.
32:30	Father was so happy when Aku was born – they look alike; John loved all his children and grandchildren.
34:00	Dad gave us military orders : "On your feet, turn to your left..."; he came to most of my games, proud of me.

36:00	Family summer trips to King, KY, where family is from, ate saltines, cheese and bologna. Drank orange pop.
38:00	Friend and I hunting pop bottlesto collect deposits to buy root beer and potato chips (Barq's and Hussman's – local brand). I took some of the store's bottles to ad to my own, Dad caught me, made me go home and he followed me and gave me a hwipping for stealing, he told me to ask my mom for story.
41:30	I learned mom and dad were in it together, learned about parenting; we had credit at the store and he was protecting that relationship.
43:00	You had to get it right first time – dad didn't have time for discussion.