

Storyteller:	Belcher, Henry	Interviewer:	Mason III, Major
Date:	June 10, 2006	Original StoryCorps Log Files:	MBX001448_L1
			MBX001448_L2
			MBX001448_L3

Timecode Notes

1:07	Introduction.
1:47	First memory was ending of WW I. He was born in South Carolina.
2:40	Started to learn how to pick cotton at 5. He was a good and fast worker. At 12, he picked 125 pounds a day.
4:00	Did you like picking cotton? That's a real joke!
4:19	He came to Pittsburgh with Big Migration, before make cash. He went to school every day; from the South, work was more important.
5:28	He liked athletics in school.
5:44	Asks him about role of stamina in his life.
6:46	He was a "hooper": a tap dancer (sounded like horses)
7:13	Tap dancing was something he felt he could make a living from.
9:02	In jam sessions on the street corner, in the evenings like jazz musicians who were a big influence...Rhythm and Double Trio natives.
10:13	Talks about Billy Estine – bee bopper in his dress.
12:06	Hip hop status in the day. What do you mean? We were rappin' and tappin'...He gives an example.
	He talks about respect. Today people they may say anything. Respect lost completely today...his words of wisdom.
1:06	Why do you say...You can say that? It eliminates the argument.
1:30	Other words of wisdom? That's the way it is.
1:52	On pyramid's architecture based on desire, though, and act.
2:20	Like kids and words of wisdom.
2:39	Where did you tap dance? I teared up with two friends. They called themselves the Six Sensational Sizzling Shoes.
3:47	He went to NY in 1939. Mahatma Gandhi talk of the day then – the group named the e had Magandhis – dressed as Arabians. Novelty to be dressed that way and do hoofin' rather than
5:30	Favorite song?
6:00	He talks about Benny Canter of the Savoy Club (in NY).
6:34	His friend Early Garren who became famous.
7:41	What was so exciting about dancing at the Apollo? It was top of the line. After the Apollo, he went to the "Plantation" club in St. Louis...He had to enter through the back door.
9:30	He could not stay in hotels.
9:48	What happened to this group? His partners drank and took drugs, the more money they

	made.
10:53	He left group and started to work at glass company. He decided to forget it and get married.
11:50	He married Sylvia. She was too nice.
12:30	Talk about your mother? Most wonderful woman I've ever known.
13:20	Death of mother and wife...to cancer.
14:07	On starting to dance again, group called itself: The Dancing Dreams. His partner, Nazi Howard...of Nazi Muslim faith.
15:30	We danced all over PA.
16:09	How did it feel to dance again? Wonderful. Wife had passed and had to find somebody at his age. (He was 66 when he started dancing again).
18:02	Retired from work and started building routines.
18:12	How long is a routine? 15-20 minutes.
18:53	Rap was called "skat" back then...
19:20	He had to entertain for 15-20 minutes: Dance and stop to tell jokes to catch breath.
20:35	Names different dances, e.g. "fall off the leg"
21:07	Raps and "fall off the leg" ... "see we were rappin' back then
22:37	M thanks H. I appreciate you as an individual and for contributions to tap dance.
23:18	He and Gregory Hines and performers who over work their body.
24:31	M thanks StoryCorps.
25:14	He describes his last performance in East Liberty.
26:55	M glad it was able to realize some of his dreams... H: I have a million dollars worth of experience.