

Storyteller:	Morrow, Bernita "Dee"	Interviewer:	Morrow, Jeremy
Date:	June 18, 2006	Original StoryCorps Log Files:	MBX001491_L1 MBX001491_L2 MBX001491_L3

Timecode Notes

0:40	Born 1942 Pittsburgh – it was dirty back then. Had to bring in the laundry as soon as it was dry or it would get dirty. Didn't see the sun for days; switch from bituminous to anthracite coal and made a big difference.
2:20	I remember WW II Armistice but I didn't know what it meant, rationing – gas rations meant we couldn't go out for a drive.
3:45	My Catholic family moved to Protestant neighborhood. They didn't want us, picked on us, spit on us.
4:45	Brother pushed down hill, hurt, taken to hospital, stress caused mom to go into labor, premature birth, chose between baby being blind or mentally retarded.
7:00	They threw rocks at my blind sister's feet; we put boards around the porch to protect her.
7:45	Brother going to Officer Candidate School – 90 day wonder – started the day JFK assassinated. I gave him money to help.
9:00	Brother Ed didn't talk about Vietnam experience.
9:45	Parents sent their son to school, thought he'd have to support a family one day. Ironic, he didn't, I did. I had few choices, chose nursing to please my mother, but I really wanted to teach.
11:45	Putting ex-husband through PhD program, he promised he'd help me, but when he finished he left, at University of New Mexico-Albuquerque. They did monkey research and I helped them make it more humane.
15:00	People in labs abused the drugs meant for experiments; my husband did it, led to cardiac problems, he abused me.
17:00	I called my brother who'd been in military, told him about abuse, and he helped me get away, after my husband walked out.
17:45	I was afraid he was going to kill the baby.
18:00	Was there discrimination against you in 1970s Pittsburgh? For being a single mother, had to take care of my parents, blind sister, newborn baby. I know I could get 2-year degree in computers and still have time to take care of family.
20:30	Bus driver tried to keep me from taking you to daycare. He thought I was just going to school to earn money to have frills. I was scared of him.
21:30	I was one of the first white women to join NAACP.
0:15	Block busting – changing neighborhood, real estate agents telling people blacks were going to move in, we thought it was wrong so we worked to get anti-blockbusting bill on the books in Pittsburgh.
2:30	I've done lots but not as much as I want.
2:45	Accomplishments – lots of volunteering. I want to teach people to read, hopefully I'll have

	more time now. I'm most proud of you. You've done a great job growing up under the circumstances; when I die nobody will write an obituary, I'll just pass into the light.
4:45	My father was a playboy growing up, followed big bands; married and worked two jobs to support 5 kids. He built crystal sets – early radios- goal to pick up most distant signal – he got a signal from China, wrote to them to get confirmation and the CIA investigated him. Thought he was a subversive.
8:00	After he died, people told us about all the charitable work that he did.
8:20	Mother's family from 1700s in England, Ireland; she was a hellion – skated behind horse drawn carriage with bottle of milk.
9:45	Mom good at baseball, boys quit playing with her, being athletic wasn't appreciated then.
10:20	Mom left-handed – considered mark of the devil. Had to write with her right hand, bad handwriting.
11:20	My grandparents, architect, seamstress. Grandma progressive – wanted to go on stage. I listened to her stories even though she was senile.
12:30	Neighborhood peddlers – collecting rags, old irons, sharpening knives.
14:00	Our oldest living relatives – Uncle Nick became a millionaire selling used cars, would take my dad for chemo therapy treatments and then Uncle Nick made a big meal for him. He helped with the funeral. He enjoyed every minute of his life.
17:30	It's better to be too politically correct than to have people discriminated against, things are better than they used to be.
18:00	I don't like the president, this war is going to be a disaster. We can't change other cultures – we ruined the Indian culture.