

Matt:

Interviewer: was there

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their homes?

M: No, the

in BC,

come and see about the riot because

Regardless of what was happening to me, he couldn't come in there. So he had sixteen years

old, I had to weave my way and get out the best way I could and survive.

Int: Did blacks try to sneak into Beaumont and get the next

barriade

M: They weren't allowed. The officers and the law stopped them from going

somebody in Beaumont, you could

or what's going on, nothing. So you just had to get out of there from the bottom.

Int: okay, the people that left Beaumont through the bars share the same fear about Beaumont.

That they would never go back or

M: Beaumont has been marked as a racial town, and it always will be. You know, I don't

what's gonna change it. It always will be a racial town.

but, like I say you, it's a lot of black people

It's a lot of black people in here, and I'm talking about black men, would go do something and put a person. And then when he'd do it, he'd do a come out. [beat] And then that's something and struggle. [beat] And then they'd have to get up and [get their clothes] and then they'd have to get up and [get their clothes] today like they are. Because all of them. [beat] I'm saying?

Int: Yes. Yes. What about about a truck of white people looking for Blacks. Do you feel that the M's are people looking for Blacks? What?

M: Yes

Int: Which one?

M: Well this guy here was driving around, showing where blacks stay, didn't have anything to do with it, he wouldn't be showing where blacks stay.

Int: Do you think it's just this one Black person or a group of Spanish people that were doing this?

M: Well, I'm talking about black people, white person can come to them when they're in the street, are over here in the street for less money, they don't want to be over here in the street for less money.

paid when they start. You know what this man will do with
the black people, cause we have brought here a lot of slaves. We have built this country. Why are you
here, not of choice, we were brought here as slaves. We have built this country. Why are you
supposed to be here, you have built this country. Why are you
built this country.

Int: Defend the man that you feel about Spanish people, defend the man.

M: Well, I'll tell you, I never heard of Spanish people, any kind of Spanish people. I'll tell you
you one thing, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you,
sneakiest, under cover, that you ever want to do, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you,
about a white man, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you,
around. And the man is sneaking out of their mouth, they are the man, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you,
under cover, people that you see, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you,

Int: So, do you think that the man is sneaking out of their mouth, they are the man, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you,

M: Well, I'll put it like this, they're dangerous with their mouth, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you, I'll tell you,
anything that you want to say about you white [unclear?] you'll [unclear?] keep to yourself, you
can't tell them. They want to be white, the white man, you got them, and tell [unclear?] [unclear?]
give them a [unclear?] [unclear?] or whatever, and they'll do it, give [unclear?] [unclear?]
And then after he gets him [unclear?] [unclear?] [unclear?] through with him.

Int: So are you saying that Mexicans are pawns of white people?

M: Yeah.

Int: And how do you feel about white people, how do you feel about white people, how do you feel about white people,

M: They come from another place I don't know where in your history. And they grouped up and moved them Mexicans away they were... They... the man and so somehow or another they allowed them back in here. And the reason why they allowed them back in... some of the... created... paid... The only thing a Black man wants is equal opportunities. And equal opportunities... white man, 10 dollars an hour. Pay me 10 dollars an hour. If I do the same work the white man do, and I'm qualified, give me the same opportunities. White men think... white woman. The... man wants the same thing the White men got... White man... he wants it too. If the white man got a... it too. Not so much that he was... you see what I am saying.

I: [inaudible]

M: This is all about equal opportunities. [inaudible] if I worked... do the same job the white man do, give me the same pay. Allow me the... he has. If I work... and it calls for two weeks of vacation, give it to me. A... works there, and it calls for two... give it to him. But don't have... the rights of... leaves... and just because I'm Black, the [inaudible]... opportunities. If you work... That'll have you going to work working every day. [inaudible] got you going and [inaudible] week for the same pay, they won't pay you overtime.

I: Okay. My... you don't know what... is:

M. ...

Int: And what is racism?

M: Racism is being taught to...

Int: Okay. Would you call yourself a racist? Not the hate of the Black and Mexicans.

M: I don't hate anybody. I pray that one day in the black and white, the white man will see the black, not for the color.

him like a human being. The time has come for all people to group together and be a happy world, not to hate on another. You can't hate nobody and go to heaven. You can't...

don't like a person, but you have to live with them. I see the White society and the Black society.

Int: Okay. So Mr. Mattox, he...

M: Beaumont is getting there. I've seen a lot of things have happened since I've been away from there. I see a program that the college that you...

over there, now you can go there. I see a program that the college that you... year and they had one day for Blacks. For Black people, one day, and in the other time, it was closed to Blacks.

go there every day. You had one... around - I mean, in Houston, in the way around the county, you had one day to come into that land ground and enjoy the...

come. One day, the bar come...

when they make the money. They've been making money for Blacks and the Blacks with...

show up. So, they got a leg, they had all the stuff, and for the first time, they come. They enjoyed the come to Beaumont, you go any way you want, for the whole week, right?

Int: Right.

M: Well it used to be around Beaumont and around the money than they did that whole week of the first.

Int: Mr. Mattox, you had made a comment that you had two sisters that moved to Beaumont after the riot. How did you feel about moving to Beaumont after the riot?

M: If I could, I would, I have told them it was the wrong time. I got a cousin here now, he's doing good, he's a fine word, just a word. He called me, he said, I understand that he's doing good. So, I said, few words, I hope that they fine word, try to get along, and I hope that all the fine word, on wherever they gonna go, be the people that go. Luther King said, "we'll all get together and we'll work."

Int: Mr.

M: Well, they get a lot, they got it hard for them. The drugs killing not only blacks, the whites, Spanish people, are on drugs or some of them got to see drugs to try to make fine word, but it's unsafe in any town. I think there be there, you don't know what needs to be done for the whole America, we need jobs, we need

people, not Black, all people. Have something for the rest of [inaudible] mind?] they [inaudible few words] if they have a job for them to work, then they will they'll have something to go to, and [inaudible] more [inaudible] and people [inaudible] marriage, and [inaudible] together and has to one [and that's what we're gonna do].

Int: So you think that's a bit better for young [inaudible] M: Can you see [inaudible] young blacks, white [inaudible] turning over in their graves, kicking. You see what I'm saying? But that's in the lot of older people saying [inaudible] had to work for hours [inaudible] and be talked to like nothing and be talked like no [inaudible] this help [inaudible] people [inaudible] about the black man

Int: So, would you say that race relations [inaudible] M: It's getting better, getting there [inaudible] right now, and they can [inaudible] and after he leaves [inaudible] in the trash can. Then a white man comes along, and he's got a story, they'll hire him right in the spot. [inaudible] a long time. But [inaudible] twice as much more. And that's what [inaudible] a white [inaudible]

salary?] and he can live comfortable. Most of them don't have enough money to buy groceries or to eat.

Int: So what you're saying is that race relations are better, but there's room for improvement, right?

M: Yeah, there's room for improvement. This is America, everything is possible.

Int: Okay, now I need a little background. How long have you been in the country?

M: My full name is Jaytee M. Gray. Jaytee is Italian for...

Int: Mhm.

M: My wife is quite beautiful. She is a doctor.

Int: Okay. And your marital status?

M: Yes.

Int: Yes? You're married, right?

M: I was married. Her name is now Troy.

Int: Okay, you're a widow.

M: Nice.

Int: And you reside in Houston, Texas, right?

M: I am in Houston.

Int: And do you have any intention or possibility of being employed in the future, or you have no intention of...

M: No way, I would
just the way I was treated when I was there, you know

Int: Mr. Matton, I appreciate the interview and I hope I get a good sense for the
your views and your personal experience as to what went on back then, I thank you
very much