

Interview with George Walker

Narrator: George Walker

Interviewer: Cathy Sakas

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Project Name: Georgia Black Fishermen

Project Description: African American participation in marine-related careers began as early as 1796, when the federal government issued Seamen's Protection Certificates to merchant mariners defining them as "citizens" of the United States effectively making maritime employment one way for Blacks to shape their identities. This project documents the fishery-related occupations of African Americans in coastal Georgia 1865 to present and gather information for future work that may ascertain the relationship between their decreased participation and changes in regional fish populations and the fishing industry.

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Abstract:

On August 17, 2009, Cathay Sakas interviewed George Walker as part of the Georgia Black Fishermen oral history project. George was born in 1946 on Sapelo Island, Georgia—a small Gullah Geechee community founded on the fourth largest barrier island in the 1700s, 60 miles south of Savannah, in McIntosh County. George was an experienced shrimper during the 1960s, prior to working as a licensed captain aboard research vessels at the University of Georgia's Marine Institute. As a shrimper, Mr. Walker remembers the decreasing shrimp prices and increasing fuel prices and regulations that forced him and others out of the industry. Before making his way up the ranks to a research vessel captain, he returned to his home on Sapelo Island, to work in the kitchen of the "institute"—University of Georgia's Marine Institute. George recalls one extraordinary research trip with Milton "Sam" Gray in the 1960s, when they accidentally discovered a reef with a dredge 19 miles off the coast of Sapelo Island. Sam Gray was the director of the University of Georgia's Marine Institute at the time and began cataloging invertebrates and hard-bottom reef specimens—archived at the National Museum of Natural History—until his passing in 1967. For many years George and others, who were the first to discover the reef, were sworn to secrecy on the location to prevent overfishing or exploitation. In 1981, the reef was designated as a National Marine Sanctuary and named in honor of Sam Gray. For decades, George was instrumental in the discovery and research conducted at Gray's Reef and other research sites off the coast of Georgia, and he remained committed to environmental conservation.

Cathy Sakas: Would you tell us who you are please?

George Walker: George Walker of Sapelo Island.

CS: Well, George you grew up on this island. You were born here?

GW: Born here.

CS: And was uh, do you know who delivered you?

GW: The lady on that, on that boat. Katie uh...

CS: Underwood.

GW: Right, right yeah. I was one of those uh kids born in the forties, 46. A lot kids born in '46.

CS: Why is that?

GW: That's the time the war was going on wasn't it? I think.

CS: You were a baby boomer? You were the first of the baby boomers.

GW: That's right, that's right. I went to get my captain license in um, uh went to the courthouse the birth certificate I had was around dead or some point so I didn't get the original birth certificate and I told the lady and she said, "Oh Lord look a here more trouble."

Unison: All laughing.

GW: She got a record and um I think out in Darien there the courthouse um caught a fire something I don't know, records in the forties got destroyed and they had to uh Go to Washington or something to get those birth certificate, but the 46 a lot of kids born in 46.

CS: So when you went to your captain license you had to go back and get your birth certificate?

GW: The original birth certificate, the one I had didn't correspond, well the one I had well said I was born in 86. The original birth certificate said I was born January the 12th '46. See, I had to go by the one on record, the original one so it took two weeks to get it got it from somewhere Washington I imagine um.

CS: So when did you get your captain license?

GW: Uh, oh I guess 25 years ago or better, uh yeah. I can't remember exactly what year it was but it runs 25 years ago yeah I got it.

CS: And so what did you do with your captain license? Why did you want to get a captain license?

GW: Well you have to have it to work for the institute, because uh we didn't hire well ,we did hire people for hire but uh that's through the institute like the uh um the ferrry captains they a little different than the institute ,but we still had to have license to take students out uh to know, know the river and if something happens and what to do. It wasn't commanding to have that but I guess to hold our jobs we have to have it during that time. It's worse now. You gotta have it now.

CS: Well did you go on uh the mainland to take the course or did you study?

GW: I went to school in Savannah at night. CC school, and then went to Charleston to take the test; and it was hell. I'm gonna tell you now, it hell. It wasn't no easy thing. You know I mean especially you know for me I guess I didn't finish high school , and the way those tests uh, was uh, you got study but I passed it. When I took mines there was some guy from Savannah from corps engineer. Now they been in the college and they caught hell , but they were arguing with the people they were arguing with them you know so I don't know I didn't get into none of that. Those guys from core engineer were arguing with those people and I didn't argue with them so I passed mines they had to go back two or three times to get theirs.

CS: Well when you were getting your captain license did you have to have a certain amount of time on a boat prior to? How did you get time on a boat?

GW: Well I work on a boat 7, 8 years or longer so I had life experience. And uh I think now you have to have some sea time uh but during the time I was working I had a lot of time. I worked 5 or 6 years and I was shrimp fishing so I had a lot of sea time.

CS: Where was your shrimp boat docked?

GW: I fished out of Brunswick before I came back home and uh so I had a lot of sea time and experience on the water, um but I think now you still have to have a lot sea time.

CS: What size vessel uh what size boat did you fish off of? GW: Uh automatic 75 foot, 65 foot shrimp boat, I believe.

CS: So was it large enough for you to stay off shore for some time?

GW: Oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah. We'd go down to Florida damn near three four weeks.

Yeah I'd run boats around here before I started uh before I got my captain license so I'm pretty experienced I think uh running boats or handling boats I think yeah.

CS: So when you were shrimping was that um, that was before you had to use Teds is that right?

GW: Oh yeah oh yeah oh yeah, they didn't have no TED during that time.

CS: So what kind of catch would you get, say how much shrimp would you get to bycatch?

GW: Uh I'd imagine we'd we were probably catching 5-6 boxes a day during that time back in the sixties.

CS: And a box is how many pounds?

GW: How many, how many pounds? Average you know, we averaged 20-30 boxes a week averaged most time.

CS: That's a lot of money.

GW: Well, that was a lot of money during that time than there is now, now uh when I was working we were getting five dollars a pound in the sixties, six dollars a pound. Now them boys now is getting three dollars a pound uh, fuel is higher .So I don't I can't see how they floating right now as of right now. I don't see how they work but now during the time fuel was less than a dollar a dollar a gallon for fuel. Now fuel three dollars a gallon four dollars a gallon so.

CS: And how much was ice, did you have to, it was a uh ice hold right?

GW: Ice hold right uh block ice yeah block ice and you know what trip me out blow ice you blow in the hole like 40 50 35 40 boxes at block ,block at a time you blow in the hole and then we keep it two or three weeks for we come back and unload. But yeah, shipped iced you know have uh ice in the hole there'll be a couple days we was have a couple blocks of ice just a couple days of working , but now they got freezer boat now. So they fancy now .They ice it down weight it down and throw in the hole don't make a difference.

CS: So you shrimped for how many years?

GW: Probably three years, three or four years imagine. About three years. CS: Then you came back to the island.

GW: Then I got a job at the institute, then I got married and came back home, and still here! CS:

You married a local girl?

GW: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

CS: Tell me about Lula.

GW: I ain't getting into that man! Yeah, we were married what forty, 43 years right now .You know we grew up together and um we got married and I'm still here so I don't know.

CS: Must have worked.

GW It worked, forty seven forty three years still here so.

CS: Well when you came back to the islands um did you start working with Sam Gray right away or did you...

GW: No, I start, I start working um start from scratch I started back working washing dishes in the kitchen dormitory and I moved from there to um, um in the shop working on mechanical in the shop working on cars and I leave somebody retire leave from their went to the boat and I started running boats until I retire ten years ago. But I start from scratch I knew some work with Teddy Gray but uh not when I first started after I got down on the docks because I'm and I didn't work with him like that.

CS: So what did you do when you were um on the boat what, what was?

GW: Oh during that time I was a deckhand I just kinda you know help clean the boat up and paint the boat um do a little bit of cooking that time of the morn ain't much for cooking no way so but uh I work on the boat um we had another cruise that and captain Ronalds he was the captain um and uh Glascoe Bailey and uh he was a deck hand I worked with all of them, those guys you know they need some help you know then after somebody else retire then I'll start running the boat myself then later on they tell me I had to go get the captain license and I was on myself you know so um I guess that it's for the boat I imagine. What else you wanna know about the boat?

CS: Well what did um, how did you all find Gray's Reef? GW: They, they run across it.

CS: Just run it, with the net?

GW: Uh, I if I'm mistaken now they was out there doing research and run across it and uh um and they mark it mark it out and they come winter time didn't find it and when it come winter time they didn't find it again and they put a buoy on it. From then on that's when they go up there and had direct signal I mean direct course how to find it and that's how they found it but they found it on accident and it didn't really just -they was just up their working out there or the something like that.

CS: Were they diving?

GW: No, no, no, no, no, they were dragging a tumbler dredge they found a tumbler dredge.

CS: A tumbler dredge?

GW: Yeah, yeah a big ole thing that right behind the boat called a tumbler dredge and, and they hooked that rock yeah that's how they found it. And I mainly found the ... meter cause it was a big a rise their on that bonded pretty well leveled outside of to that area that's where it's kinda humpy and crazy but uh that's how they found it they , they ain't know it was there. They was working researching I mean just working I imagine.

CS: When did uh um I know that Sam Grey had a lot of uh he has a large collection of the specimens that he bought up from the bottom and um were those mostly bought up from that tumbler trawl or were did he use some other device?

GW: Uh they most come up from that different kinda of tumbler dredge, they found a tumbler dredge but after it finally gets fish and stuff they knew they had other nets other stuff to catch it with you know I imagine they had other nets so um it won't hurt the fish so bad cause a lot of rocks in that thing you know? You can't put a net all down there kinda way because you won't have no net it'll loose it. So you gotta have special, special equipment to drag some rocks I mean on the outside they had maybe a small net once they found out where it was. Uh, they lose a lot of net too. They lose a lot because it gets hung up in them rocks and it can't get loose and uh but before they found out the proper way to do that stuff with.

CS: Do you remember seeing uh when you would go off shore do you remember seeing birds like hitting the water or that would that would might give you a heads up if there was something there?

GW: Yeah , yeah, yeah, we use to see them once in while, now mackerel. You found mackerel now by the birds I mean you see a group of birds on that water up there and most likely it's gonna fish down there and a lot of times you might be a school of mackerels. I seen that up there. Anything on that water up there uh feed on top, bird want something to eat too- they gonna find it to um yeah that's normal that's normal.

CS: Someway to do it.

GW: Oh yeah it is right now today you go up there and um you might see a school of birds something that they had to feed on to come up top.

CS: When you were looking out there when you were working offshore um do you have any recollection of um like of really bad storms or any?

GW: Well I was in bad weather too, sure was.

[Break in audio]

CS: You were telling us at lunch about trying to come into to Wassaw Sound, that you didn't have the modern navigation like we have now. What happened?

GW: Um I don't know whatcha mean? We came in the um we plot the coast we plot the coast from the GPS. we didn't have the GPS that we have now. The GPS the old time GPS uh big old box yeah run them numbers down so when they got them numbers and channels you plot it down and run up the coast in and we didn't plot another and run and go to that buoy till we get in town it was bad weather. I mean it was raining and uh we never been there not in night time in our kinda weather so we had to be very careful. But now let say nowadays uh if a cap'n don't have a good GPS or something or familiar with that area they won't go through there.

CS: Do you remember uh what the name uh of the boat was?

GW: Kid Jones.

CS: Oh it was the Kid Jones.

GW: Yeah, yeah, and yeah.

CS: That's great. So what size, what size boat was that?

GW: 65 feet yeah, yeah that was an old boat down here built on this island. It built here now it's over here in Louisiana. I think it's in Louisiana I think that's where it's at. It's an old boat built right here on the island here.

CS: I didn't realize that.

GW: It was built here oh yeah built right here on this island.

CS: Well did they use the timbers from this island?

GW: Yes sir, yes, ma'am.

CS: Was it made out of live oak?

GW: Hard pine.

CS: How bout that!

GW: Yeah hard pine and uh oak keel, they cut the keel right here I mean the oak I mean the keel made out of oak, but the wood made out of hard pine, good pine I mean you know but uh the boat I think it's in Mississippi, Alabama one of them places it's over there. It meant ... to me for a while that's when they uh they brought the blue fin, and got rid of the Kid Jones. And I think I read blue fin they bought uh Miss Savannah. Yeah so uh that's you know for as I understand it boat still in good shape you though.

CS: How many people would be working on the deck when you all are pulling nets?

GW: Five or six maybe, maybe two or three deck hands and um Mr. Gray might have a couple students with him two or three students with him let take over with him you know.

CS: Now I understand that you um that people that worked with Sam were kinda sworn to secrecy about the location of this reef is that true?

GW: Yeah, yeah he didn't want nobody to know find out where it's at he put on secret yeah and he um he go in there any kind of weather bad weather he don't stop he goes I mean you got be really bad weather for you to turn around yeah he loved it yeah you got to be really pretty bad for you to turn around. He not going to turn around unless it's really bad because he doesn't wanna do that work.

CS: So you could work even if there were waves and you were rolling around in the high seas is that what you're saying?

GW: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Still gotta go up go up there unless it was too bad unless it was too bad then he turn around outside of that he ain't gonna turn around. He was a hard working old man. One time he wasn't old I guess when I really met him or know him good he definitely late probably middle fifties during that time I imagine middle fifties.

CS: Do you remember what years that you worked with him?

GW: Had to be in the sixties when I first came back here '66, '67 something like that around that time. I think he left here in '75 when he left.

CS: Did he live here on the island?

GW: Oh yeah, oh yeah. He stay in apartment, too. Him and his little dog Skippy, he had a little black dog called Skippy. He was a scary little dog. He was scared of lighting- yeah, yeah. I met his wife now but I can't remember her name, I can't remember.

CS: So she lived here too?

GW: Oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah.

CS: Did they have kids?

GW: No. no, I ain't never seen no kids I mean they may have some but I ain't never seen them brought none here during time they was here now they may have kids live away I uh I don't know.

CS: Did he uh, retire from here?

GW: I think so I don't know if he retired or I think he went back to Boston I don't know if he got a job a job back there or not I couldn't remember but I know he left in the early seventies but he left but uh I don't know if he had any kids or not I don't know.

CS: Do you know exactly what, what his uh what he was researching was he was he just collecting just to find out what was off shore or was he actually doing anything with those specimens?

GW: You ask me a questions I can't answer that now.

CS: Well that's alright.

GW: Uh seeing them kids down there, they down there now they doing a lot of research now I don't know what they does them in the marsh doing something. You, you gotta scientist that they'll tell me I probably won't know no way so um but Mr. Grey he collect a lot of fishes and

stuff and shells and different things but what it does or what it suppose to do I don't have the least idea you know I guess it maybe something to him but I don't know what it meant you know or what it alls about you know but I start eating the fish, I know the fish I eat the fish.

CS: So after you would collect the fish you could?

GW: No I'm talking about I'm talking about the one he told us we could have a certain fish he don't give it to you he wanna do research with it you know a cause a certain kind of fish like a bass or a trout or uh a snapper or something like that he don't want it he tell you, you could have it but you can't mess with that fish he didn't put the alcohol inside anyway, he didn't put it for maritime. You can't eat that fish you know so uh, but he give you what you have what you ate he gave it to you, you know but most for a lot of fish he takes it for my putting for maritime right then preserve it you know um.

CS: Well when you were uh after you finish working with Sam, did were you totally with Sam or, or were you working with other researchers to?

GW: Well I work with other ones to you know. I mean the only time I work with him when we out on the boat when we go on the boat other time he might take somebody else out uh do some work in the sun dragging planking that um getting mud sample for somebody else you know Jim Howard did a lot of work for him taking uh co sample for Dr .Henry different one like that you know doing work doing you know research like that but me we might go on Grey we might go maybe go out once a month Mr. Grey you know uh once every two three months when I go out that's when he wants to go I don't know so once you'll find out by the end. What else you wanna find out anyway I don't know he gotta a little dog and uh he fell down and bust his butt a couple of times.

CS: He what?

GW: He fall, it was bad weather and he fall and broke his butt a couple times and he go home then he ready to go home then after he broke his butt, skinned up his knees don't put that down there and his find out that thing there.

CS: That's great you've been uh you've been very gracious I know that I've been grilling you uh but I have to ask the gentlemen or uh Deon do you yell have any questions that you would like to ask?

Dionne Hoskins: Other than shrimp, other than shrimp what was some of the other things that you might have caught beside shrimp and fish like when you caught lobsters, oysters, claims?

GW: Oh yeah well you gets living over here we get a lots of seafood around here oysters, claims, um crab you know it's you get all around here all the time they eat it for our self you know.

That's the main thing on Sapelo people love Sapelo bout nice fresh seafood like I asked about

Savannah, around Savannah well it used to be a lot good seafood around Savannah but now them planting around Savannah now a lot places people don't eat them no more because them plants a lot of people around Savannah come down here to fish, they don't eat fish around Savannah all a lot of places around there , they used to now they might have cleaned some that stuff up but a lot of people around Savannah come this way fishing because all them plants around there.

DH: So, so did you continue shrimping when you moved back home or did when you left Brunswick you stopped?

GW: No, no, no, no I didn't fishing I work on after I leave the shop I work on the boat on the boat. So I was familiar with handling boats or handling nets and.

DH: But you weren't doing that for yourself anymore and trying to sell shrimp you, you were done with that?

GW: No, no ,no, no ,no, no I'd catch them myself to eat you know uh but I mean commercialized u know I would had a job here I couldn't I didn't have time to go back. I would go on weekends with my brother fishes I work with my brother on vacations we get some fish and shrimp and bring them home to eat on my on my vacations sometime or whatever it is but uh around here still a lot of fish around here we still get a lot of fishes and they go in the beach out there and I can't tell you that though. What we does at the beach out there, I can't tell you what we does out there.

DH: Y'all do something out there ok we'll take that you do something out there. So does uh your family I mean did your parents were they did was your dad a shrimper or was this something that you kinda did you do it as part of what your family did or you jut did it because you wanted to do it.

GW: No uh most people uh from Sapelo, once they leave Sapelo they worked at hotels especially on Sea Island and a lot of them find jobs shrimping. Shrimp was a big industrial around here and its kinda here for years and still is and still is you know a lot of people still fishing shrimp fish for living.

DH: So do your kids do your children shrimp or fish or?

GW: No, no, no they fish right, right around here for crabs and stuff you know.

DH: But they don't them wouldn't do it for a living?

GW: No. no ain't any money into it now.

DH: So you wouldn't suggest it to them either?

GW: No I wouldn't suggest them to it no money into it you can't make a living into it now well if you get into the big seas , or some big city or on them big fishing boats you probably make a little living but um ain't no money into it now.

DH: So is that what made you come back from Brunswick?

GW: I came back I guess because I got married and found a job and Lula got pregnant.

DH: In that order? Ok

GW: So uh, uh and I always love home you know what I mean I always come back home for the holidays and you know stuff like that you know what I mean so and I always love home so I came back and got a job and stuff here you know so but um and I still work for the university part time yeah so I work part time just on the weekends or whenever they needed me you know what I mean. So um what else you need now!

DH: That's what I, that's what I wanted to know but I wasn't sure.

GW: People fish around here they still do a lot of fishing around here.

DH: But it more for themselves and not, not to sell they not packing it up like you know. Nobody's picking crab meat and selling it by the pint and nothing like that ok.

GW: There used to be a long time ago around, they had crab factories they had a oyster factory they had a long time ago.

DH: Who, what, what factory they was that I've heard about it but I don't know of any.

GW: Oyster factory I don't that was before I was born you know down here.

CS: On Sapelo or?

GW: Yeah on Sapelo Shug. Austray used to sell it, yeah that was before I was born. I heard talks of it but I don't but I mean to make a living now, you still can make a living if you got to the know how you but now of days you gotta go through the state to get the proper amount of license and be legal to be inspected and all that kinda stuff you still can do it now yeah you still can do it you know. Uh crab good living making catching crab but mostly everybody here for the state or uh have worked for the state uh you know majority of the people here you know uh um they don't do it for a living no more because it is money involved in it but it take more uh I guess they don't have they would rather work from eight to five and I'd imagine I don't know. I wouldn't do it for a living no more I mean if I was able I'd probably I wouldn't do it if I was able to do it it's a lot of.

DH: Because of the work or because of the money or the, all the rules?

GW: Well I don't know it just I by living on Sapelo something. Let's say I go crabbing I gotta go to town I gotta buy the scrap fish for the crab trap, I gotta go out in the river and catch the crab, I gotta go to the mainland and sell that, than I gotta come back home. Just a lot of running back and fourth you see what I'm saying now. If you on the mainland were you can buy your bait from

the place and go out and catch the crab come back home and sell it and you back home, but living on Sapelo is kinda isolated but it could be now, it could be done.

DH: It's just extra steps?

GW: Extra steps right, right, right like the food y'all eat here a lot of that's I used bring this food here I to go to Savannah or Sam buy this food. I gotta bring it back put it on my boat put on my boat take it up to dock bring it to the restaurant here uh and cook it I done had food like five times before y'all eat it. It's a lot of effort to do that you gotta got kinda love I guess what you doing to do that it ain't like in town the, the that meat man bring that truck to you that restaurant and dump it out I go I can handle things four , five times before I use it. So, so that's why you gotta have tried to a little extra money. Try to uh get back from it. That's why I'm planting my greens now so I ain't going to town to buy no greens. That's why I'm planting it now I ain't gotta buy no greens.

DH: Well thanks I agree with Cathy Sakas, you've been very generous and tolerant and patient with us and sat with us for like two hours and made us food. The only other questions I would ask you is you know who, who in the families? Who should we be talking to; certainly it's clear we should be talking to you because you, you know a lot about Sam Grey um as a licensed boat captain. You know both sides of being on the boat um being in charge and, and being under someone. Who else should we be talking who's as knowledgeable as you or whose in you group, who was around doing what you were doing?

GW: Tracey.

DH: Tracey?

CS: Tracey Walker and Glascoe?

GW: Glascoe dead, he can't talk.

CS: I guess not.

GW: He can't talk.

DH: Alright well thank you very much.

GW: Yeah well Tracey he we all worked together and um he and he know about Mr. Grey to he was one of the ones that I know right around here that know about Mr. Grey and still living. Uh Julius don't know that much about him but when Julius came back here I think Mr. Grey already left I think um nobody else on the island that I know about that I can remember Tracey the only I think that know something about Mr. Grey.

DH: What about Alfowler, like Brunswick, Darien, Mute, people near by?

GW: Jim don't know that much about Mr. Grey. Jim, me and Jim we didn't come in and Mr.

Grey already gone so he don't know.

DH: Don't know about Mr. Grey or about being fisherman or shrimpers or crabbers?

GW: Um that boy came in here a few minutes ago Larry, uh he used to have a shrimp boat.

DH: Was it really more about the trouble and money?

GW: Well everybody got insurance I mean you know uh like Larry during the time they had that boat I guess they had no insurance. I had insurance little small speedy insurance but now he got a good job and indeed and I got good insurance and benefits.

DH: I was just wondering you know if health insurance made a difference to anybody the way it's important to people now you know?

GW: New I don't think much important insurance like it is now today, because I guess if you take sick. Didn't had no insurance still help you like they help you now still help you so I don't know um but during that time they made a good living they sell a lot of shrimp here and fish here um when there was had the boat a lot of peoples buying shrimp right off the island here but uh they make living with it now. It can be done it could be done but there's a lot of effort to it. It ain't gonna work no more like that you know better than that it ain't gonna work. They don't work eight to five lesser well get out the bed four o'clock in the morning and work till seven eight o'clock at night .They ain't gonna do it you know it's hard work but it could be done. So those fellows right there people the Moran's , hard labor all their life crabbers pick oysters his granddaddy ole man Roland Moran that's your granddaddy right your kinfolks?

Kasim Ortiz: No that's not my family I just know them personally. My family are the nobles.

GW: Well what they was school teachers?

KO: Right, but I know the Moran's very personally. Loretta Moran she grew up over here lives in Brunswick, she was a mentor of mine, and she comes over here regularly to see all of our family.

GW: But see those peoples, that's how the Moran's made their living.

DH: Yeah ok, and do some of them.

GW: Still does it, crabbers. pick oysters the guy died the other day he know who I'm talking about uh Edgar Timmons died the other day here eighty-five years old and pick oysters every day up till and crab up till he wasn't able till he took sick and died. Eighty something years old now young people can do it and they young and strong.

DH: So what makes somebody decide to be a crabber or a oystermen until they're 85 and others

decide ok, I'm 38 and it's over and I'm not doing it anymore is it just love of doing it or the simple life of doing it?

GW: Love of doing it I mean they don't have to do it I think it's love of doing it yeah you right. Like I say the greens I'm fixing to plant right now I could I'm able to buy as much greens as I want to. I wanna grow it see what I'm saying I guess the love of doing it you grow it yourself. Like having a hog or chicken out there. I don't need any chicken or hog. I can buy me a chicken but I don't need no chicken but I don't know how to raise it see what I'm saying. That's makes the difference the love of doing something you know so uh like pork. Every once in while every year I wanna kill me a hog eat me a piece of fresh pork it don't have no chemicals inside it ain't nothing come from where I can get me some corn and scrap food across this table hear. You know the hog eat the pork you buy it from. Sam's they full of chemicals. They grow what a hog grows in.

DH: You taste the chemicals? I don't know if I can taste the chemicals or not does it taste different to you than the hog you go out and kill?

GW: Yes ma'am yes ma'am. The eggs you eat, it's different from the one you see out there in that yard than the ones you buy out in the store there guarantee you it is yeah. You know that I, I have to eat that didn't I give you some.

CS: Those eggs were wonderful, it was they were beautiful first of all they were multi-colored they were peach colored, they were gold colored, green colored, blue colored, and the egg shells were so thick I mean really you had to wick them to get them open. I mean you know you normally with the normal egg you buy in the grocery store even the organic ones you can just tap them and they just bust open but these are just like wow wacked get these things open and the yolks are so gold I mean bright Gold.

GW: Now cut that thing off I'm gonna tell you something cut that thing off.

[Break in audio]

GW: So I gonna have me a winter garden.

DH: Ok collards and cabbage?

GW: Cabbage right yeah.

CS: When Do you plant that?

GW: Plant it right now time to plant it right now last of august.

CS: And then when will you harvest it?

GW: Uh middle of October, last of October.

CS: Oh ok, so it's really a fall garden rather a winter?

GW: Oh yeah it'll last till the whole winter. Oh yeah get greens the whole winter um you have to buy it , it's better when you grow around here than when you buy it at the store because the store full of fertilize full of chemicals so it's best to grow your own if you could.

CS: That's good so it is better to grow your own nothing better than home grown tomatoes.

GW: That's right it ain't full, it ain't full of chemicals fertilize that's right we have our restaurant here keep from buying we go out in the garden and pick it and put it in the restaurant and serve it fresh .

CS: Works for me take fresh everyday.

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Reviewed by Michelle Duncan 4/18/2022

Reviewed by Molly Graham 4/25/2022