

McClain Fran 10-1-15

She is now the one survivor of all her family. (Drugs took her brothers.)

Very focused on loss, esp. neighborhood of father's first (1951) house at 195 Central Place in Orange. Area no longer as nice, lost hospital, brewery, YMCA, with economic downturn. Streets deleted by 280, that ruined an entire neighborhood of small businesses incl. among others Dave's and Manning's jazz joint at corner of Perot & Central. There were projects, but they were new.

"As an African American, when we talk about urban renewal, does that mean it's removal for us as a community? I know Stokely Carmichael said that, in 1965, but when you go around the country, that's what you see. They make these neighborhoods sterile."

Father, Frank, from Jersey City, a Channel 13 cameraman when it was a Newark channel; mother, Frannie, from Kenilworth. Moved to Orange with Fran and 2 of 3 brothers (Robert and William), after ~5 years moved to Union for newer house in more suburban area, but remained connected, e.g. attended Church of the Epiphany. (Also Union Baptist.)

People:

Babysitter on Wayne: Harriet Hicks,  
—plus Anne, Mildred, Juney (dec.)

Barbara Harper, friend of Hicks

BF: Brenda Caesar, mother in 90s.

Rita Bragg (big back yard)

In 280 path: William Perrier had to move

Family neighborhood: Church activities. Kids went to Y, took dancing with Ms. Towns. Summer day camp, day trips: Lake Sebago, Bellmar, Asbury Park, Lake Hopatcong. Roller skated to movies, with several theaters available: Moby Dick, 2,000 Leagues under the Sea, Disney movies, John Wayne. Hopscotch, jumprope, etc. Fred Sales show: Junior Frolic—at station and at home. Brownies. Bikes, roller rink.

"As kids we didn't know" that the Y on Main Street was for white kids and the one on Oakland Avenue for black ones. Oakland Avenue School did have a few whites, including a girl from Hungary.

280: They were in Union, but returned to see houses, etc., being torn down, people forced to move.

Going forward: Bring in jobs, promote small businesses, let artists provide hope. A

dance studio?

"When these roads come through and they totally ignore what was there, it's heartbreaking. And, and, It's all erased....That's the part that hurts."

"When you see your community erased, all your childhood memories and things are gone, that's the part that is painful, and I've seen that time and time again, when it comes to the black community, it's just erased."

Route 78 planned to go through their house in Vaux Hall neighborhood, Union, in early 60s, but the neighborhood organized and fought.