

Jay Reed interviewing Charles Word clip 1

Topic: Experiences with the University of Delaware/New London Road

[Charles Word talking about the New London Road community and how the community changed after his family arrived in Newark.]

Charles Word: And this is where, uh, some discrepancies come in the way some of us see things as they are now. There are many that did not want that camaraderie, that love, that family-oriented love to disappear, but it did. And the University was growing, now, and they came through that way. But, personally—I will say personally—I don't blame it all on the progress of the University. I blame it—in a good way, I can see some good in this so called break up of that family, what happened, there was progress in civil rights. And housing opened up in the white communities. It was a struggle, we began to move into better homes, better neighborhoods but right there your community is breaking up, unaware!

So that happened, and that left opening—openings for the University to come in and begin to buy up the homes down on Ray Street, Cleveland Avenue, Church Street, well in that whole area. But you have to remember, we were also anxious to move into better neighborhoods. So, I'm just saying personally I think that we should remember that that was happening too during the Sixties in the civil rights era. We was actually uh, moving into some trouble areas, making history just moving anyway and uh, you know integrating. So that had a lot to do with the community—the family—coming apart. And so that's my personal opinion of it.