

### Jay Reed interviewing Charles Word clip 3

#### Topic: Employment at the University of Delaware

[Charles Word is talking about his earliest memories, which include their arrival in Newark and settling down in town.]

**Charles Word:** The University, I think unlike now, during that time they played a great part in helping our families to be established here. And uh, pretty much did it by word of mouth. Because you see our parents, most of us that was coming here couldn't read or write very well, I'll put it that way. They could read and write some but, you know, enough to function. They pretty much hired people at will to work at the University.

And I remember my mother, she became a maid in the dorms at the University of Delaware, and um, she was happy with it. And she loved her children — some of the children used to come to the house to see her, "Where's Flossy?" you know, and they used to come to see her. They loved my mother and she loved them.

My father, he worked on the grounds and uh, I have to say this, one thing that I always appreciated the University for was because, I don't know what level it was on but I know that they treated my father very well concerning an issue, a health issue, that he had that we never looked on as a health issue in Virginia. He had a habit that when he would sit down, it was a sleeping problem, if he sit down, wherever he sat he would go to sleep.

**Interviewer:** Like narcolepsy, or something like that?

**Charles Word:** Exactly, that's the name. And, you know at first, we were a little worried about that but the University, they tolerated that. And uh, we used to say, when we were walking down the street and we would see Daddy working, we said "You know, they're gonna fire you!" he'd say "No they're not," and they never did. They accepted that as a condition he had, and it went smooth.