



Berkshire Historical Society at Herman Melville's Arrowhead
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Invisible Community Project
in partnership with
Housatonic Heritage Oral History

Margaret Hart
Recorded: May 1, 2000
0:00:00 – 0:45:55

Note: The original recording was of poor quality, so only portions of the interview are audible.

[00:00:30]

Interviewer: Okay. So say, May 1st, 2000, and I'm back with Miss Margaret Hart of [inaudible 00:00:22]. And I just want to do a few follow-up questions to learn a little bit more about you, but on a little bit more personal level.

Margaret Hart: All right, I'll answer as I can.

Interviewer: I did find out a lot of historical [inaudible 00:00:41] for background information, when you were born. [inaudible 00:00:45] and that was last time. But I realized I hadn't asked you anything about your parents or [inaudible 00:00:52], and I think that's very important in finding out about a person.

[00:01:00]

Margaret Hart: Well, my mother and father were both born in North Carolina, but they didn't meet until they came to Williamstown. My father was here in the early part of [inaudible 00:01:20]. All right, now I can't think. And he happened to come to Williamstown with a friend that he had met at Saratoga, and that was the place where people with money and means, that was really one of the leading places in the country where they went for recreation. And many of the students who worked during the summer came to Saratoga from their college where they were at school, and worked as waiters or maids, everything. Many of the places there. But perhaps the one that I think of most of all was one that I did happen to see before they tore it down, and that was the United States Hotel, and [inaudible 00:02:48] that it was miles around the big porch that was on that hotel. It enclosed, well, several buildings which were private residences that people had for the summer. That was the famous United States Hotel. [inaudible 00:03:21]

[00:03:30]

Margaret Hart: My father worked there one summer, and then he came... He had come up from the South, and had stayed back in North Carolina until all of the children were grown, but the youngest girl in the family was 18, [inaudible 00:03:43], and that's how he happened to come up there. And he met a man who had the same last name, Hart, Harry Hart, and he had worked up here for some time, and had come from Norfolk, Virginia. Well, they became friends, and [inaudible 00:04:18].

Interviewer: Know how he met your mother?

[00:04:30]

Margaret Hart: My mother was living here in Williamstown, where she had grown up and gone to school here. And where the post office in Williamstown is now, it was where the Spring Street School was. And that's where she met [inaudible 00:04:31]. She became [inaudible 00:04:31]. One of the places that she worked here was the building that's now burnt, that would have... It's torn down also. It's torn down. They had a fire there in the hotel at Sand Springs. And the [inaudible 00:05:14], the [inaudible 00:05:14] there at Sand Springs [inaudible 00:05:27] a fenced in area by that [inaudible 00:05:33] is one where the water bubbles up. You see these dimmer spots, fire caught fire, and the water bubbles up, but this water was mineral water that was natural, or is natural, still bubbling up there.

Interviewer: But did they ever turn [inaudible 00:05:57]?

[00:06:00]

Margaret Hart: No. I'm not sure [inaudible 00:06:05] say that Harry Hart came this way for [inaudible 00:06:14] end of the year, and my father came along with him. At that time there was a large black population here. They had black help, the Negroes, [inaudible 00:06:25]. And I think many people who could afford help got black [inaudible 00:06:35], the Negroes [inaudible 00:06:39]. Harry Hart was [inaudible 00:06:41] for Dr. Wilson, and they were talking about putting a [inaudible 00:06:47]. Dr. Dinesen, the one who had area [inaudible 00:06:51] end of Spring Street, and back in there it's called... it was called Dinesen Park.

Interviewer: Oh. Okay.

Margaret Hart: And that's where [inaudible 00:06:56] was.

Margaret Hart: All right, now, I'll [inaudible 00:07:08] so you can [inaudible 00:07:14].

Margaret Hart: [inaudible 00:07:14] I'm trying to take apart [inaudible 00:07:16]. When my mother was young, she lived here, my mother... My mother, my grandmother, and my uncle, [inaudible 00:07:30]. Frank Alexander and... I'll tell you about him later.

Interviewer: Okay.

[00:07:45]

Margaret Hart: But they lived in the house. It's still there, on the... I always say the back road, it's [inaudible 00:07:52] Road, on the North Avenue side. If you go along that road, you get into North Adams, there is a road that [inaudible 00:08:08] and comes down in [inaudible 00:08:11] way, onto the... connects to the highway that goes [inaudible 00:08:18]. But at that time, that area and all of that area around, along what was known as the Harriman Park.

[00:08:30]

Margaret Hart: One day, my [inaudible 00:08:44], my mother and my grandmother and her brother, Frank and my's mother's brother, Frank, lived with the Harriman's there, in the Harriman's house. But one day, Miss Harriman, who was a teacher in the [inaudible 00:09:02] School [inaudible 00:09:03] school in that area, "Why don't you go to North Adams over into the city to shop?" She was an heiress. And so when she got over onto the... to her home, she asked my mother to stand and wait by the tracks for the trolley to come along, and ask the conductor to wait for her while she went into the house and came back out. So my mother was standing there waiting and got a little bit too close to the trolley car when it came, and it knocked her over, and her feet slid down under the trolley car. Happened she had on Arctics, they were the heavy cloth-covered over-shoe, and barefoot under that, but she lost two soles, but it was so that because of the thickness of the boots, the over-shoe, that saved her from losing the whole foot.

[00:10:30]

Margaret Hart: And then of course she spent quite a bit of time in the hospital, [inaudible 00:10:55] North Adams Hospital, where she became interested and wanted help [inaudible 00:10:55] little girl. So while she was there she learned that they were going to have a bazaar to raise money for the hospital. And when they found out [inaudible 00:11:08] the cake walk. [inaudible 00:11:12] dance. [inaudible 00:11:13]. She and her brother Frank, together, danced the cake walk for the hospital, as part of the entertainment at the bazaar.

Margaret Hart: And we have the thimble [inaudible 00:11:37] that time, [inaudible 00:11:40] niece, Brenda, had her daughter, whose name is Kate, named for her grandmother, and she has the thimble.

Interviewer: What did the thimble...

Margaret Hart: It's a little sterling silver thimble, and it was really quite pretty. [inaudible 00:12:00] Fit exactly [inaudible 00:12:08]. And she had... Oh, I don't know if she used it yet, but [inaudible 00:12:17] just keep it in a safe deposit box.

Interviewer: So did your mother win that, or-

Margaret Hart: They gave it to her because she [inaudible 00:12:42]. But she came along all right, didn't lose her foot. [inaudible 00:12:46]

Interviewer: So is your Uncle Frank-

Margaret Hart: My Uncle Frank was one of the first Negroes to go to the Wentworth Institute in Boston, where he learned [inaudible 00:13:03].

Interviewer: Was he older or younger than her?

Margaret Hart: He was two years... I think it was two years older than my mother, Frank Alexander. Alexander was my mother's maiden name, and that was my middle name and my brother Thomas' middle name.

Interviewer: [inaudible 00:13:17]

- Margaret Hart: [inaudible 00:13:17] that's where it come from. All right now. [inaudible 00:13:39] Well, that's enough. Go ahead. Just don't hesitate to say the same thing.
- Interviewer: No, no. [inaudible 00:13:43] We're enjoying it. [inaudible 00:13:48] Talk about it.
- Margaret Hart: Yeah.
- Interviewer: [inaudible 00:13:51] not just stopping and [inaudible 00:13:53] go on and tell the whole-
- Margaret Hart: [inaudible 00:13:57] I'm not leaving out anything. Well, I know, but I wanted to [inaudible 00:14:05].
- Interviewer: Oh, can you tell us a little bit about when you were growing up, I know your mom and dad got married. You were the oldest child?
- Margaret Hart: Mm-hmm.
- Interviewer: Can you talk about what you remember growing up in [inaudible 00:14:16]?
[00:14:30]
- Margaret Hart: Yes. I often think about it because my brother, Thomas, who is the oldest brother living now. His picture's there, by that big picture. The largest. He's sitting on the left, next to the radio. Well, anyway...
- Interviewer: [inaudible 00:14:44]
- Margaret Hart: Yes. I was the oldest, and so therefore I... We got along like [inaudible 00:14:54] family. We had [inaudible 00:14:56]. And of course they realized that I would be in charge of [inaudible 00:15:03] father for some reason right there. I said it was much like my brother Thomas' oldest daughter, and he used to say, "Brenda, remember, you're the captain in charge."
- Margaret Hart: And if they were getting ready to [inaudible 00:15:20] or something, and then she'd say, "Yes, but Elaine and Tommy don't know it."
- Margaret Hart: So [inaudible 00:15:29]. Their parents weren't there. They cooperated. [inaudible 00:15:33] Every once in a while they'd give her a hard time, but my brothers [inaudible 00:15:33].
- Interviewer: It's the same thing with your brothers? The same thing with your brothers, that they didn't realize that you were the captain in charge?
- Margaret Hart: No. But I remember [inaudible 00:15:33], he had [inaudible 00:15:33], two years older than Thomas. And then [inaudible 00:15:34] brothers, there was at least two years between them, so we got along pretty well.
- Interviewer: [inaudible 00:15:34]
- Margaret Hart: Okay. [inaudible 00:15:34]

Interviewer: Did your grandmother live in the household?

[00:16:00]

Margaret Hart: No. My grandmother owned the property on Maple Street, on the corner of Maple Street, where Al, my father and brothers, built one, two three, there are three houses there, on the left, as you look down the hill. That was [inaudible 00:15:38] for everybody in town [inaudible 00:16:37] gliders or [inaudible 00:16:39] up that hill. And those houses weren't there on that side. But later on, as I say, my brothers and my father built those.

Interviewer: [inaudible 00:17:03]

Margaret Hart: That's the next street over.

Interviewer: From Maple?

[00:17:00]

Margaret Hart: From Maple. And my father [inaudible 00:17:11]. My grandmother gave me the property. She'd get old with the house, and it's the house that's on the left as you go down [inaudible 00:17:21] Avenue, go down the street. There's an empty lot, which would be on [inaudible 00:18:05] of my brother's buildings. Brothers built the family homes on that lot. [inaudible 00:18:05]. And this one built [inaudible 00:18:07] state of Washington. He's an architect. He graduated from Dartmouth, and he's an architect, and built it. I think it's another [inaudible 00:18:22] together [inaudible 00:18:23] business, construction business.

Interviewer: But this is also the youngest building though, right?

Margaret Hart: No. That one.

Interviewer: That one.

Margaret Hart: [inaudible 00:18:30] You're right. All right.

Interviewer: And do you remember any of the childhood games? Anything that you did together?

[00:18:40]

Margaret Hart: Well, depending on the [inaudible 00:18:48]. My father used to look forward to having the haying done by the first of August so we could go to North Carolina for the first Sunday in August, there at Black Creek Church. You know where that is?

Interviewer: No.

Margaret Hart: Oh, you never lived in North Carolina?

Interviewer: I've gone to many... No.

Margaret Hart: I've actually lived near that area.

Interviewer: No, that's my husband.

Margaret Hart: Oh, your husband?

Interviewer: Yeah. From Henderson.

[00:19:20]

Margaret Hart: Yes. [inaudible 00:19:28] come along that highway, and this turn, you can go back [inaudible 00:19:36] where they lived. And they lived... At one point, my father and I think all of the children, his family, were all born on the house that stood on that property, which was Judge Fingerton's property. They were slaves on that. I don't know that my [inaudible 00:20:07] my father was a slave on there, but that [inaudible 00:20:11] there.

Interviewer: His parents were not still alive when [inaudible 00:20:18]?

Margaret Hart: Tell me again.

Interviewer: His mother and father, your grandparents on your father's side, were they still living? [inaudible 00:20:25]

[00:20:30]

Margaret Hart: Well, I'd say no. I don't remember. My grandmother wasn't alive, because she had died when my father [inaudible 00:20:38]. My grandfather married another woman by the name of Rose, and he said Grandma Rose was good to them, and he remembers that, which is good, because I can think of some grandparents... I don't mean all grandparents, there's some people who aren't so good because of how they [inaudible 00:21:09] stepmother. Like she [inaudible 00:21:14] Rose, she was kind. [inaudible 00:21:18]

Interviewer: Do you remember what your grandfather's name was?

Margaret Hart: Yeah. Stephen.

Interviewer: Stephen Hart.

[00:21:30]

Margaret Hart: Stephen Hart. And if you go to Black Creek, and if you go that way, you can go into the church and there's a stained glass window, a window, [inaudible 00:21:42] Methodist Church, [inaudible 00:21:46]. I can remember, on my mother's [inaudible 00:21:52] question, that when she thought way out there in the country was a stained glass window. But that was there. [inaudible 00:21:54] the children. It's still there, in Trinidad. So there is that, the stained glass window. And also, there's a skylight that [inaudible 00:21:54].

Margaret Hart: That's where he was buried, the grandfather, Stephen Hart, and where Rose... Now, the mother, his mother's name was Jane [inaudible 00:21:55]. Anyway, that's what I

[inaudible 00:23:08]. I can't [inaudible 00:23:09]. There was two of them. Martha, because her name [inaudible 00:23:12] spelling. She used to [inaudible 00:23:14]. Anyway, it says Hart. And if I say the stained glass window in the church. I know that [inaudible 00:23:27].

Interviewer: So your mother's not from that part of North Carolina, she was from a different part?

Margaret Hart: Greensboro.

Interviewer: Greensboro.

Margaret Hart: It was south of [inaudible 00:23:39]. Because they never met. They [inaudible 00:23:41].

Interviewer: So do you have [inaudible 00:23:48] your mother's [inaudible 00:23:49]?

Margaret Hart: No. I'd say no. And yet, it seems to me one time my brother Henry [inaudible 00:23:58], had came down. He'd come down there in his car, and I think it would be a little change for him. And he'd [inaudible 00:24:08] family. And he'd come down, and then of course he would pick me up and we'd [inaudible 00:24:18] and then we'd come back home.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. So did your mom do any cooking or crocheting, or...

[00:24:30]

Margaret Hart: She really didn't do much. I think she worked on quilts, but they did it down there. I don't know. My mother's father, Henry Alexander, came up from Greensboro, North Carolina. I think it was 1923. He had sent ahead two trucks, and the trucks had [inaudible 00:25:05] and some other things [inaudible 00:25:08]. Well, there's three items that we still have, two came from there. And there's two... Jenny? [inaudible 00:25:19]

Interviewer: Where are they now?

Margaret Hart: They're at home. They're little [inaudible 00:25:36], you can find them in any home. Most of them aren't as ornate as the ones that I have.

Margaret Hart: Jenny, would you get Aunt Ellen's [inaudible 00:25:58], oh, that vase? Now, these are down at the end, the vase, the mirror, those bowls. I mean, [inaudible 00:26:14]. Wait a minute. There's two things. One, two... A vase, a mirror.

Interviewer: You'll think of it.

Margaret Hart: Three of them down there. Bring them out if you would.

Interviewer: You could go in the cupboard if you want to.

Margaret Hart: She's down that way.

Interviewer: So that was all the lists [inaudible 00:26:32].

Margaret Hart: He wanted us to have it. And he came up and delivered us all this. [inaudible 00:26:35] Because he had plans to come back and live. And he had sent these two cups for all the cooks. And my father, that's one thing that he and my mother disagreed about. My father wanted a cat, and my mother [inaudible 00:27:08]. She had all these [inaudible 00:27:28]. And of course, we did when they would do something, but there's no... Yeah, we have... That's what I was going to ask, the name of that.

Margaret Hart: Yeah, that's a mirror. And there's the vase, the vase. Where's the... Oh, here it is. There's that. It's a vase. The mirror. And this, I just love this.

Interviewer: But you've got a chip.

Margaret Hart: Yes, I noticed that. That happened, and I don't know when, but [inaudible 00:27:51] isn't anyone that I can think of. This is one that he had. He got [inaudible 00:28:05].

Interviewer: Did you know that this is from Austria?

Margaret Hart: Yes.

Interviewer: [inaudible 00:28:31] It's very heavy.

Margaret Hart: Oh, you mean that is.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Margaret Hart: Yes. You can put it where? I'll put it over there on that.

Interviewer: I'll put it there. Oh, but there was [inaudible 00:29:14]. That's [inaudible 00:29:15].

Margaret Hart: Yes. [inaudible 00:29:15] They're pieces. We have two. Jenny had the [inaudible 00:29:22]. Jenny? Yeah, she couldn't see [inaudible 00:29:22]. All right. Okay. But there's some left on the [inaudible 00:29:22] there.

Interviewer: Two.

Margaret Hart: Two. And I think [inaudible 00:29:22] in this [inaudible 00:29:23].

[00:29:30]

Interviewer: And so are there any childhood memories that this stuff stands out in your mind, or when you think about that [inaudible 00:29:39] childhood? Any kind of [inaudible 00:29:44]?

Margaret Hart: We worked together. Did things [inaudible 00:29:51], baling papers at the old press [inaudible 00:29:54] in the barn down there. And we baled papers, newspapers from [inaudible 00:30:01] paper. And then they'd sell it at the [inaudible 00:30:33]. They'd come to pick up the papers that people might have, and that way they made some money [inaudible 00:30:34] or [inaudible 00:30:34]. And we looked forward to that. Always was such a wonderful time.

- Interviewer: So every year, or most [inaudible 00:30:37]?
- Margaret Hart: Yes.
- Interviewer: So is that [inaudible 00:30:41], was that the anniversary of the church or something?
- Margaret Hart: That's who they had [inaudible 00:30:48] every year in August. First Sunday in August. And oh, that would be so wonderful, because there's a grove of trees in front of the church, and of course they weren't as big and as large as they are today, but the people had tables which were [inaudible 00:31:07] made out of long boards, and then would sit on either side of the long table. And they were all in there, several. There must've been at least six to eight, and they were large enough for about 10 people to sit and [inaudible 00:31:07].
- Interviewer: Oh yes.
- Margaret Hart: Cousin Henry, he was covering everybody, that's the term they used.
- Interviewer: Yes.
- Margaret Hart: "Come on over here, Cousin Henry. I want you to have some of our food." And then somebody else would [inaudible 00:31:46]. Because those tables were laden down with food, weren't they?
- Interviewer: Yes.
- Margaret Hart: And there was plenty of fried chicken and biscuits and cakes and pies, sweet potato, custard pies. [inaudible 00:32:04] And if you've never had one, you'll have to have-
- Interviewer: I haven't.
- Margaret Hart: Well.
- Interviewer: I'll have to try one. You'll have to make me some.
- Margaret Hart: It's a thing [inaudible 00:32:15]. Yeah. Oh, yes. Yes.
- Interviewer: So, in the household did you have weekly chores?
- Margaret Hart: Mm-hmm. My brothers didn't want me to cook. They'd say, "Save it for the company."
- Interviewer: Oh, really? Why?
- Margaret Hart: Yes. Well, I was just learning. And they'd [inaudible 00:32:53] and say, "Save it for the company." But they were really teasing. That was one of their favorite. But in spite of them my mother let me cook. And I can cook. But that was one, they used to make me so cross. "Save it for the company."
- Interviewer: What was one of your mom's favorite recipes?

[00:33:00]

Margaret Hart: She learned to make sweet potato pie. [inaudible 00:33:04] She made pound cake. My father said, "Have it so that they know that the butter is in it, not that it's passed through." And so she didn't make pound cake, I think, until she was taught down there. My grandmother made beautiful cakes, pies. And she didn't work.

Interviewer: This is your mother's mother?

Margaret Hart: Yeah. Yes. My grandmother. [inaudible 00:33:50]

Interviewer: Oh, [inaudible 00:33:52].

Interviewer: But she [inaudible 00:33:58].

Margaret Hart: She [inaudible 00:33:58]. And [inaudible 00:33:58] she'd cook. [inaudible 00:33:58] the Haller Inn. And the Haller Inn is behind that live red brick building [inaudible 00:34:19].

Interviewer: Oh, over there.

Margaret Hart: [inaudible 00:34:26] The last [inaudible 00:34:29] time when she cooked. Okay.

Interviewer: Did she save any of her recipes, or...

Margaret Hart: [inaudible 00:34:39] That was the one thing that we tried to get and we did get. Two places. The one recipe that I remember [inaudible 00:34:49]. Jenny? [inaudible 00:34:51] David? David?

Speaker 4: He's left, Margaret.

Margaret Hart: This is the [inaudible 00:35:15].

Speaker 4: Hello? What do you want? What do you want?

Margaret Hart: I don't know who she's talking to.

Speaker 4: He's not here. Okay. He's not here. Bye.

Margaret Hart: That's her favorite idiot. That's her favorite.

Speaker 4: Am I wrong?

Margaret Hart: No.

Speaker 4: Am I wrong?

Margaret Hart: Well... So I tell you about [inaudible 00:35:45].

Interviewer: So you tried to save some of her recipes.

Margaret Hart: Yeah. [inaudible 00:36:08] where it is. There's some [inaudible 00:36:08]. And my grandmother [inaudible 00:36:08] recipes are in here too. But I don't know [inaudible 00:36:08]. But like I say, pound cake, rolls. Oh, [inaudible 00:36:16].

Interviewer: Oh my goodness. She made rolls.

[00:36:30]

Margaret Hart: Oh. I like rolls too. And I have the recipe that a friend of mine used to get a kick out of. I took part in their wedding. Maybe 1947. About that time. And she makes rolls [inaudible 00:36:59] that she calls 60 minute rolls. And they're easy to make. I don't have it right here, but it's in...

Margaret Hart: Poor Jenny, she keeps going out.

Interviewer: Well, when we finish, let's ask Jenny, then she can find it. [inaudible 00:37:19] in there.

Margaret Hart: Okay.

Interviewer: You can see all of the athletics that you were involved in school.

Margaret Hart: Well, not just... We all were. Look at that crow with a [inaudible 00:37:32] stuck in his mouth. He has a cracker, I guess, or a piece of bread.

Interviewer: But you all were involved in sports?

Margaret Hart: Yes. All of us. And the interesting thing is right now, [inaudible 00:37:53], the granddaughter in Atlanta, [inaudible 00:38:00], for a six-year-old, she won a track meet. And everyone down there in Atlanta [inaudible 00:38:14].

Margaret Hart: Say hello.

Speaker 5: Hi. How are you?

Margaret Hart: She asked how you were. How do you feel today? Save it for another time. All right.

Interviewer: [inaudible 00:38:38]

Margaret Hart: Yes, he did. [inaudible 00:38:42] You landed. If he's a little cold, you just put that...

Interviewer: [inaudible 00:38:52]

Margaret Hart: Alan? You want to say hello to... or greetings or something to these people who are here? I like to tell them about my brother Alan as well as my other brothers. But you can close your eyes and think of some things you might remember. No, he [inaudible 00:39:19]. All right. Let's see, what else? If you ask me something and I didn't answer you-

Interviewer: Oh no. Oh no. We were just talking about [inaudible 00:39:27] chores.

Alan: What about other chores? Cleaning the house?

Margaret Hart: Oh yes. I did my [inaudible 00:39:35].

Alan: Every Saturday or every day?

[00:39:40]

Margaret Hart: We'd have to do some just all the time because of all the children. And of course then we had other children from around the [inaudible 00:39:50] and play. [inaudible 00:39:55] I cannot say that because I think probably on Saturday you did a little bit extra because the next day would be Sunday and you'd be thinking somebody might stop by.

Interviewer: Did you guys go to the Methodist Church?

[00:40:30]

Margaret Hart: Yes, that's where we were all baptized by the Methodist minister, and that's where we went to church. And we'd go there during the day, then Sunday morning to church, and usually the children go. My mother didn't go all the time, or my father, but we'd go. Then on special occasions we'd have [inaudible 00:40:47] programs that the children participated in. And then another [inaudible 00:40:58] at least [inaudible 00:41:00].

Interviewer: What kind of discipline?

Margaret Hart: Hmm?

Interviewer: What kind of discipline?

[00:41:00]

Margaret Hart: They didn't believe in not using the strap when it was necessary. I got more than one crack on my bottom and so did the rest of them, except your Alan. Yeah, the baby. He did stuff [inaudible 00:41:27] I'd call for him getting a whack, and he'd run to the first one, or then the other, and then they would protect him, so he didn't get it too often. What else?

Interviewer: Know any childhood [inaudible 00:41:45], or [inaudible 00:41:45]? Did you jump rope?

[00:42:00]

Margaret Hart: Oh yes, we did. You remember [inaudible 00:42:10] white children. We were the only blacks, and they were on both sides of the street, and up the other streets. [inaudible 00:42:16] and Maple and Elm. We never thought... And I think really and truly, that I've got to give credit to one of the teachers by the name of Brown, Ruth Brown. She taught fourth grade for us. I don't know that she always taught fourth. [inaudible 00:43:10] come to dinner half past 12:00, tried to fix alligators [inaudible

00:43:17] Y-O-U, and then you just pound it. [inaudible 00:43:17] They knew, but they didn't think of it as being colored.

Interviewer: Right.

Margaret Hart: They thought of it as a mean person. And as I said, Ruth Brown was the one who instilled that in us, the word nigger meant a mean person.

Interviewer: So what was the elementary school at that time.

Margaret Hart: [inaudible 00:43:42] that brick building.

Interviewer: The youth center. Was it the youth center?

Margaret Hart: The youth center. Yes.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: It was right on Cole Avenue.

Margaret Hart: Yeah.

Interviewer: So you could just walk.

[00:44:00]

Margaret Hart: That's right. And you could stand in our yard, and mother could give a call, and we could hear it. Or Mrs. Kelly, who lived across the street from us on Hall Street. And she'd say, [inaudible 00:44:03]. She spoke with an accent. John Kelly. His mother was calling. You would hear them say, "Coming, mother." And they were headed home. All she had to call was one, but that meant all of you'd come.

Interviewer: Right.

Margaret Hart: But I'm not too sure that we always reacted, the Harts, that fast, but we came. And if we did something that just wasn't right, and she had told us before, so then she said, "Just wait until your father gets home."

He was always famous for his [inaudible 00:44:43]. Every generation it's the...

Interviewer: Yeah.

Margaret Hart: Because I still [inaudible 00:44:48].

Interviewer: Oh yeah.