M.M.: [CONTINUED] PAGES WAS TORN OUT, YOU KNOW. YOU'D READ UP TO A CERTAIN THING, THEN IT LIABLE TO BE A PAGE MISSING. . . "

L.S.: "HAND-ME-DOWN BOOKS."

M.M.: "YEAH, YOU KNOW, COME FROM WHITE LIBRARIES. AND BRING 'EM OUT HERE. AND YOU NEVER COULD. . . YOU NEVER COULD REALLY HAVE ALL YOUR ACADEMICS OR ANYTHING. YOU COULDN'T GET YOUR LESSON 'CAUSE THE BOOKS WAS WRITTEN IN, AND PICTURES DREW IN THEM. AND YOU JUST COULDN'T READ 'EM AND YOU COULDN'T COME UP TO DATE WITH YOUR EDUCATION. AND THAT'S WHAT HE WAS FIGHTING AGAINST.

"AND HE WENT AND MENTIONED IT IN THE SCHOOL BOARD. IT WAS SIX OR SEVEN OF 'EM ON THE SCHOOL BOARD. AND THEY TOLD THEIR FRIENDS AND BLEW IT UP BIG! AND THAT'S WHEN ALL THOSE GUYS GOT TOGETHER AND SAID 'WELL, WE'LL STOP HIM FROM STIRRIN' UP TROUBLE. WE'LL HANG HIM.' AND THEY WERE GOIN' COME TO HANG 'IM OR KILL 'IM. DO WHATEVER. SCARE 'IM. BUT THEY DIDN'T DO NEITHER ONE.

Mansfield Oral History Project

(Unabridged Transcript)

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"AND THEN, THAT'S WHEN GRIFFIN COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WAS RIGHT UNDER HIS NOSE. WHITES. . HIS FRIENDS. . WAS ACTING THAT A WAY. AND HE INJECTED SOME DYE INTO HIS VEINS AND IT TURNED HIM BLACK FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS, I THINK. AND HE WENT TO LOUISIANA. AND HE LIKE TO GOT HUNG."

S.S.: "HOW DID HIS FRIENDS..."

M.M.: "TREATED HIM. . .?"

S.S.: "TREAT HIM, AFTER THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN?"

M.M.: "LIKE THEY'D ME OR...'CAUSE THEY DIDN'T KNOW HIM. THEY DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS HOWARD GRIFFIN UNTIL, LIKE...HIS SKIN GOT PINK AGAIN. AND THEN, THEY COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. HE'D DONE WRITTEN THE BOOK THEN."

S.S.: "RIGHT... BUT AFTER... AFTER THE BOOK WAS OUT, HOW DID THEY FEEL?"

M.M.: "He weren't too popular until he deceased. ... His in-laws still live here, right down the road there about a mile. Right down retta. ... uh

L.S.: "UH-HUH. STRAIGHT ON OUT BROAD. . ."

M.M.: "YEAH, THEY STILL LIVE HERE. BUT HE WEREN'T TOO POPULAR. . . WHICH, YOU KNOW. . HE DIDN'T REALLY CARE THEN, BECAUSE. . HE WAS A RICH MAN THEN. HA, HA, HE DIDN'T NEED 'EM. I IMAGINE MRS. BERRY, SHE WOULD HAVE A LOT TO TELL YOU IF SHE COULD REMEMBER. . . "

S.W.: "I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE SOMETHING. . ."

S.S.: Stan Solamillo B.B.: Betty Benjamin F.L.: Fred Lawson

L.L.S.: Lillie Lawson Sheppard M.E.B.: Mary Eliza Burr M.E.: Michael Evans

M.B.: Maggie Jackson Briscoe M.M.: McClendon Moody (Mac) S.W.: Shirley Larue Barton-Washington