

## Introductory Questions

An interview is a personal experience, and you will clearly be driven by your subject's knowledge and stories. For consistency, we request that you begin by stating and spelling your name, and giving the date of the interview. Then ask the subject the following mandatory questions to identify the interviewee on the audio tape and eventual transcript.

- Can you please state your name and spell it slowly for me?
- What is your date of birth? (if they're willing to divulge that information)
- Where were you born?
- (If applicable) When did you move to Houston?

The following are some specific questions that we would like asked at some point during the interview:

- Do you have any old family recipes that you wouldn't mind sharing or having published?
- Do you have any old mementos, photographs, or other artifacts that we could photograph or scan?
- Do you know if any of your ancestors are buried in any historic cemeteries: College Park, Olivewood, Founder's, Glenwood, etc.?

## Question Suggestions

The following are some suggested questions, but the best advice is to use these simple questions (and any others you think of) to lead the interview subject into telling stories and giving long complete responses. Let them talk as long as you think it is going someplace.

### Neighborhood

What year did you first come to the neighborhood?

If you were born in the neighborhood, when did your parents first come to the neighborhood?

Tell me about your neighbors.

What stories did you hear about the neighborhood when you first moved in? (from neighbors, friends, relatives...)

Tell me about your first house.

What were the original amenities offered in the typical house in the neighborhood?

What were the prices of new homes?

Were there as many houses in the neighborhood as there are now?

### Shopping/businesses

Where did you shop?

What were the grocery stores like?

Where did you go to buy clothes?

What stores were in the neighborhood?

Did you know the owners?

What other businesses did you frequent? (Types and names)

Where did you buy gas?

What is the lowest price you can remember?

What restaurants did you go to?

What were your favorite dishes?

Did you know the owners?

Where did you go to the doctor and dentist?

## **Neighborhood Places**

What did you do for recreation?

Give some details

Any good stories?

Where did you go out for local entertainment?

What were the happening places for kids and adults?

Where did you see local musicians and who were they?

Touring musicians?

Local sports?

What do you recall about neighborhood or school sports?

Tell about your participation?

Who were the neighborhood “stars”?

What neighborhood parks and open outdoor areas were there?

Where else did people play?

Any good stories about that?

What were the happening gathering places for kids and for adults?

Where did you go to church? (temple?)

What were some specific memories from there?

Where did you or your children go to school?

Tell me what you recall about the schools.

## **Social Life**

What was life like back then?

What are your favorite memories of life in this neighborhood?

What bad memories do you have of life in the neighborhood?

How much has the neighborhood changed over the years?

What were the racial and social attitudes?

Were you involved in local politics or causes?

Tell me about your successes and failures there.

## **Transportation and City Services**

How did you get around town?

What were the roads and bridges like and how has getting around changed?

Did everyone have cars then?

What kind of public transportation was there?

What kind of police and fire protection did you have?

Any memories involving them?

## **Workplace**

If you worked, where did you work?

Tell me about your workplace.

Who were the most memorable people you worked with?

How has that business changed over the years?

## **Major Events**

Do you have any Houston based memories of major events such as storms, fires, floods or life during one of the wars?