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**Jennie Bibbs Didlick, Principal, Teacher**

D.O.B.: September 30, 1908

Interview Date: August 8, 1986

Interviewer: Emily Parker

57 minutes

In the late 1940s, Mrs. Didlick filed a lawsuit against the local transportation system after she was asked to sit in the back of a public bus travelling between Winchester and Lexington. The judge ruled in her favor, awarding her \$200 in damages. The daughter of Benjamin and Lena Burns Bibbs, Mrs. Didlick taught at Booker T. Washington and Constitution Elementary Schools, and later earned the position of principal at Booker T. Washington. She attended school at Russell and Dunbar in Lexington, and graduated from Howard University. Her master's degree was earned at the University of Kentucky, and at one time she worked for UK President Frank McVey. Before Hill became superintendent of the Fayette County Schools, the salary scale for African American teachers was very different from that afforded white teachers. She also mentions the teacher-student relationship in the segregated African American schools, the integration of teachers at Booker T. Washington, a few of her teaching experiences, and compares the quality of education between her era and 1986. Mrs. Didlick recalls growing up in the African American community, the importance of the family and the role the churches played in that society. Her mother took in laundry and was the disciplinarian in the family, and her father worked for the University of Kentucky. She recounts the family memories of slavery, the educational background of her family and its' history. She recounts experiences with discrimination in white-owned businesses, her lack of participation in the civil rights movement, the socio-economic division present in the African American community, and the segregated housing conditions still in effect in Winchester in 1986.