

Excerpts of Select Edmondson Village Oral Histories 2

Excerpts are from *Blockbusting in Baltimore: The Edmondson Village Story*¹ by Dr. W. Edward Orser.

“We got the impression that the black folk coming in wanted it the other way around. They didn’t want to live with all black folk; they wanted to be in an integrated neighborhood. Just to show you what I tried to tell you is truth, we had a black police officer who moved into the Stephens’s house where we used to play ball. He came up to us and said, ‘I was thrilled to move into this neighborhood, but I can’t wait to get out. I can’t get any sleep. The kids get in the alley and scream. I don’t know what it is about black children, but they can’t play without screaming.’ So he was going to move.”

-- “Vera Johnson” (alias), white former Edmondson Village resident, p. 116

“When we first moved to the neighborhood, it was more white – we were just about the second black family on this block... We could see the changes, because when we moved, there were so many sale signs all around, and it did make a difference in the neighborhood, because there was a change, and you had to get yourself adjusted to the people who were moving in, and you couldn’t really know the ones who were moving out, because they were leaving so fast, so we were really going through a transitional stage. People were moving in and out overnight; you didn’t really know who your neighbors were. It was a difficult period, because when we moved, we thought maybe the neighborhood would be stabilized; it just wasn’t.

-- “Annie Green” (alias), African American Edmondson Village resident, p. 151-2

“I had four kids, and I always followed them through school even though I worked for [the federal government] for twenty-some years [to help pay for the mortgage]. I worked an evening shift for seven or eight years because I could get the kids off in the morning and do whatever I had to do to get dinner ready, so that when father came home in the evening, he could see that they were fed, and eventually I had an aunt who came in to live with me, and so she took care of things then.”

-- “Mary Slade” (alias), African American Edmondson Village resident, p. 149

¹ Orser, W. Edward. *Blockbusting in Baltimore: The Edmondson Village Story*. University Press of Kentucky: Lexington, 1994.