

## Mrs. Rose Jackson on Employment



“Because I didn't want nobody looking down their nose at me; I'm a very independent person. And my children come to me and they wanna work. And the guy that lived at Portland Public Housing helped all my children start working at age 12 and 13. Doing the grounds. One of them was cleaning up around the projects, the other was working at the armory in South Portland. Those kind of things. You raise them to be independent, not always, 'Mom, can I have this? Mom, can I have that?’”

*Rose Jackson was born in Louisville, Mississippi, to Willie O Clayton Hathorne and Bertha Ophelia (Young) Hathorne; she had three sisters and three brothers. She left school at fifteen to marry her first husband, with whom she had five children; after his death, she married John Jackson, with whom she had another daughter. She worked as a cleaner and hairdresser, and received her diploma from Portland High night school. At the time of this interview, she had been living in Maine 40 years; her family moved here because she had a brother-in-law who had been a Freedom Rider.*

You can hear the full interview and read a transcript at  
[https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/aa\\_hiwimi/16/](https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/aa_hiwimi/16/)