<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>TOPIC OF DISCUSSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00:00:00</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:00:39</td>
<td>Place of Birth and Birthdate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sydenham Hospital, Harlem, New York, 1958.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:00:50</td>
<td>Parent's Place of Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drewryville, Virginia (Mother).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South Boston, Virginia (Father).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:01:05</td>
<td>Parents' Occupations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mother was sold sewing machines and packed cookies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Father worked at the post office and drove a cab in New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:01:26</td>
<td>Siblings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two older sisters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:01:34</td>
<td>Place in the Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youngest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:01:45</td>
<td>Place Where Grew Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A middle class neighborhood in Teaneck, New Jersey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:01:54</td>
<td>Interests as a Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:02:27</td>
<td>Fondest Memory of High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organizing the Bicentennial Events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:02:59</td>
<td>High School Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High School Class President</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mentors and Role Models Childhood/Adolescent Years
Mother and Father.

Family's Socioeconomic Status
Middle Class. But Parent worked two jobs to keep them in the neighborhood so she learned that things do not come easy.

View on Growing up as a Black Woman
More difficult today because of the stereotypes and expectations placed on young African-American women.

College
Attendance was assumed by parents, the only decision was where.

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
Awards Presenter from Scholastic Magazine suggested she attend Northwestern University after winning a national creating writing contest in junior high. Always had a love for writing

Focus Within Major
On Magazine Track at the Medill School of Journalism

College Activities
Class President, President of Student Council, Cheerleader, Majorette.

Most Vivid Memory of College
Successfully planning with other students to steal the Daily Northwestern in response to an inequitable distribution of student activity funds.

Current Relationship with Northwestern University
None really. Geographic challenges but would like to maintain a relationship with the school.

Careers Considered
Always thought she would be a journalist. Never thought about a career in law.

Law School Decision
Decided to go to law school when parents asked her how she planned to make a living. She took all the exams for graduate and professional schools and did best on the LSAT so she decided to go to law school.

Influences on Decision to Attend Law School.
None. She was just looking for a place to land.
00:11:25 **Decision to Attend Penn Law**
Geographic and Status. Her mother was very ill so she didn’t want to be too far away from New Jersey and Penn was among the nation’s best law schools.

00:12:10 **First Year of Law School**
Broke into hives after attending Professor Burbank’s Civil Procedure Class.

00:13:18 **Law School Activities**
BLSA Vice-President; 1L Class Representative; 2L Class Representative; and President of her Graduating Class.

00:13:48 **Law School Demographics**
Predominately white. She remembers twelve African-Americans in her class and fifteen in the class after her class. She also remembers there being about five black women in her graduating class.

00:14:46 **Experience as an African-American Woman in Law School & How She Coped.**
Learned that it was necessary to build relationships with people of all different races. She also got more familiar with Entimann’s cakes and resolving to improve the quality of student life.

00:17:04 **Law School Professors of Color**
Regina Austin and Ralph Smith. Remembers that both Professors were occasionally privy to disrespectful treatment and recalls that on more than occasion Professor Austin had to “step student’s back.”

00:21:07 **Most Influential Law School Professor**
No end all be all but notes, Professor Burbank, Professor Aronstein, Professor Austin, and Judge Higgenbothem.

00:23:58 **Favorite Course in Law School**
Torts.

00:24:33 **Least Favorable about Law School**
Didn’t care for the Environment. While attempting to improve the student lounge the feeling was that if students were studying they way they out to they wouldn’t have time to lounge.

00:26:33 **Fondest Memory of Law School**
When Vice Dean, Margo Marshak took her to see Amadeus on Broadway.
1973 Yearbook Memories (The Report)
She points out Professor Austin; Professor Aronstein; Professor Goodman (and recalls ruining his holiday function after they engaged in an energetic discussion); Professor Haskins, Professor Gorman; Doug Frenkel, Professor Cathcart; Professor Leech; Professor Kerr; Professor Kramer; Professor Levin; Professor Lonsdorf; Professor Reitz; Professor Shulhofer; Professor Sparer; Professor Spaeth; Professor Spritzer; Professor Smith; Professor Summers; Libby Gary, Ernie, Farris Burgeon; Lenny (in reproduction), and Alice Lonsdorth.

Relationships Maintained with Graduating Class Members
Still in contact with Kim Lewis, Robert Marchman, Karen Spores (graduated from a different law school).

Political and Social Issues of the 1980s Effect on Penn Law
Gay Rights. The law schools non-discrimination policy and the JAG, which discriminates against gays, recruiting on the law school campus. Dean Mundheim says the law school has too much to lose and does not ban the Armed Services from the law school campus. Tuck-Ponder writes a letter detailing the dean’s feelings to the Daily Pennsylvanian.

Clerkship
Her first job after law school was clerking in Washington, D.C. for the Honorable Judge Reginald B. Walton.

Learning Lessons as a Clerk
Learned she that she did not want to practice criminal law.

Judge Reginald B. Walton
A young judge appointed by the Reagan Administration.

View on Judges After Clerkship
You do not get to be a judge because you are smarter than everyone else. Still considers Judge Walton to be a friend.

Associate at Zuckerman, Spader, Goldstein, Taylor & Kolker
Worked on Estate Planning after clerking.

Personal Encounter with Racism in the Work Place
Race and Gender starts to have a larger impact. A client refuses to accept the work that she has done after she meets Michele in person and discovers that she is black. The firm complies with the client’s wishes. She leaves this position.

Press Secretary for Representative Lewis Stokes
While looking for a job, another alumna tipped her off that Representative Stokes was looking for a Press Secretary.
Working on the Hill
Never thought about working on the hill and did not know what to accept. She jokes that it is called the world’s biggest plantation because you work long hours and are subject to sexual harassment, being fired on a moment’s notice, or whatever.

Representative Louis Stokes
Brother to Carl Stokes, the first African-American mayor of Cleveland. Louis Stokes argued the Mapp v. Ohio case before the Supreme Court.

Typical Day as a Press Secretary
Lewis stokes was on the house Intelligence and Appropriations Committees at the time. The Intelligence Committee was handling the Ollie North matter there could be no discussions over the phone or in the office. Usually, Stokes would be asked to appear on a news program in the evening. She also wrote press releases, floor statements and the Congressional Newsletter.

Politically Influential Person
Jessie Jackson.

Politically Influential Experience
Black Caucus' negative reaction when Jessie Jackson announced he was going to run for the Presidency a second time.

Political Lesson Learned While Press Secretary
In politics, there are no permanent friends, just permanent interests and everybody’s permanent interests is himself or herself.

First Press Conference
Nobody showed.

Special Assistant to New Jersey Senator Frank Lautenberg
Worked for two years.

Getting the Job of Special Assistant
Word of Mouth. She knew somebody whose child went to daycare with someone in the Senator's office. Certain that being an African-American from New Jersey factored in the decision.

Senator Lautenberg's Background
The Senator is compassionate about children and, unlike, Stokes, believes that New Jersey’s interests are first.

Responsibilities as Special Assistant
Dealing with the public. Mostly Environmental Issues.
Fondest Memory While Special Assistant
Helping to Establish the Pediatric Aids Resource Center

Has Considered Running for Congress
Yet, not in her location. She is pleased with her member of Congress.

Senator Laughtenberg’s New Jersey Office
Transferred there because she was a native of the area and could help draft relevant legislative initiatives.

Assignments While Working in the New Jersey Office
On one occasion she handled a matter involving a spate of New Jersey teen suicides.

Assistant Director of the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights
The division was looking for someone to deal with the public and this was her strong suit.

Most Enjoyable about working in the Division on Civil Rights
Liked being an outlet for people.

Reason for Leaving the Division on Civil Rights
Offered job as Assistant Counsel to Governor Jim Florio.

Assistant Counsel to Governor Jim Florio
She was contacted because she identified as a political person. The Florio administration was having trouble dealing with protests led by Al Sharpton.

Major Responsibilities as Assistant Counsel
Advising the Governor on Legislation and dealing with black folks.

Effects of 1989 – 1993 “Tax Revolt” on Position
The Governor lost his job and consequently she lost hers.

View on the Governors Decision to Raise Taxes
Believes that the people probably wouldn’t have minded but they wanted to be included in the decision making process.

Decision to Accept Position Despite Administration’s Difficulty Maintaining Public Support
Thought the people would get over it, they did not.

Most Difficult Aspect of Being Assistant Counsel
Getting the Governor to listen when there were a lot of people talking to him.
01:03:40 The Most Valuable Lesson Learned as Assistant Counsel
Do not be afraid to stand on top of a tale and yell bloody murder.

01:05:03 Experience Leading to Departure of the Florio Administration
Democratic party blamed minority non-voters for their loss of the legislature in 1991. The administration did not feel like it was necessary to have people of color in these positions if they were not going to help win elections.

01:07:27 Deputy Director of the New Jersey Division on Women
Needed to find out where she was going to land. After a couple of brief stints (back) at Senator Lautenberg's office and then the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage and Finance Agency, she landed this position. The Divisions primary focus was addressing violence against women.

01:09:11 Most Interesting Aspects of Position
Violence against women's issues and sexual harassment issues.

01:09:46 Political Influences at the Division on Women
Met many people who supported her decision to run for office.

01:10:28 Mayor, Township of Princeton, New Jersey
Became mayor in 1995.

01:10:36 Electoral Process
Elected by a majority of the Township Committee after having served on the committee herself since 1993.

01:12:10 Initial Goal as Mayor
Really didn't know but soon discovered many administrative needs and attempted to consolidate Princeton Township and Borough.

01:13:32 Perspective after Third Term as Mayor
Realized Consolidation was not going to happen.

01:13:58 Best Part About Being Mayor and Unique Aspects of Being Mayor of Princeton Township
Effectuating Change, and as mayor of Princeton there is higher visibility, stature and people listen to you.

01:15:08 Challenging Issues as Mayor
Mostly Internal. Also, discrimination by African-American's against Latinos, illegal immigration issues, etc.

01:16:26 Most Memorable Experience as Mayor
Facing a crowd of about 400 concerning the building of recreational facilities.
Other African-American Mayors in New Jersey
When she was elected there were four other African-American Women mayors.

Role of Race and Gender While Serving as Mayor
Did not feel discriminated against, going to Penn helped.

Advantages of Being an African-American Woman Mayor
It is easy to pick her out of a room full of mayors and you have a larger constituency.

Decision to Resign as Mayor in 1977
Wanted a family and did not want to balance her role as mayor and a family.

Community Building Fellow, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Began working there in 1998 when she applied and was selected.

Projects Working on as a Community Building Fellow
Brownsfield Mediation and Housing Discrimination Matters.

Goals as Community Building Fellow
To help people to see that they can make change.

Most Frustrating Aspect of Being a Community Building Fellow
Telling people to see their Congresspersons or informing them that the free holder board is meeting is considered lobbying.

Most Rewarding Aspect of Being of Community Building Fellow
The realization that people come to that they can make change, that they can make their lives better and that they have power.

Counsel to the New Brunswick Office of Rhinold Lamar Ponder
Rhinold Ponder is her husband. She once worked in his office for six months but found that she spent her time being mayor not an attorney at the firm.

Ponder Literary Properties, Inc.
She and her husband are also literary agents aspiring to get people published. They have managed to publish two of their own books.
Accomplishments of Ponder Literary Properties, Inc.
Wisdom of the Word: Faith was published in 1996 and Wisdom of the Word Love: Great Sermons By African-Americans was published in 1997. Tuck-Ponder co-authored both of these volumes with her husband Rhinold Ponder.

Future Literary Aspirations for Co-author Book on Justice
The Ponder's hope to publish a third volume on justice.

Views and Professional Activities
Leadership building is the most significant work she believes she has been involved in. She uses her work in Camden, New Jersey as an example.

Political Parties Do Not Believe Women Belong
This is what Tuck-Ponder says stinks about women and politics.

Fervent Optimist Concerning the Status of Women in Politics
If she was not an optimist she would go make money.

Most Influential African-American Women in Politics
Barbara Jordan.

The Work of African-American Women in Politics

African-Americans Should Not Always Rely on Politics or Law to Solve Problems
She thinks sometimes you have to push people to listen to you.

Minorities Should Use Their Positions of Power to Help Other Worthy Minorities
Minority groups asking for help should be prepared, knowledgeable and correct.

Influence of Legal Training on Her Career
Helped her think on her feet.

Advice for a New Lawyer Interested in Becoming a Politician
Make politics your avocation initially, not your vocation.

Perspective of Being a Lawyer After Fifteen Years of Legal and Political Experience
Going to Penn was the best thing she could have done.

Aspirations in the Near Future
Being a good mother and wife and to keep her foot on the backs of our elected officials.
01:38:37  **Long Term Aspirations**
To Improve the Quality of Life for all People By the End of Her Career.

01:39:01  **Most Significant Contribution to Society and New Jersey**
Hanging in there.

01:39:24  **Free Time**
None but if she did have some she would reupholster her husband's chair.

01:39:40  **Children**
One daughter, fifteen months old.

01:39:50  **The End**