

ALUMNI INTERVIEW:

July 16, 1984

Mollie Vort O'Niell, born October, 1908, entered JCH 2/20/12, left 1/16/29 (non-resident ward). Mrs. O'Niell remembers herself as being about two years old when she entered the Home, although agency dates indicate that she was 3 1/2. She remembered being in the nursery and recalled fondly the woman in charge of the babies. Mrs. O'Niell recalled the fence down the middle of the courtyard and talking with her brother over the fence. She entered with three siblings: Jenny, Esther and Abraham. Mainly Mrs. O'Niell recalled the good care the children got and recalled the black women who cared for them very fondly. She also recalled with pleasure the two weeks they spent at camp on the Gulf Coast and the fun they had there. Mainly she remembered the friends she made at the Home, commenting that she is still good friends with many of them, such as Dora and Rosalie Gorden. She thinks she was one of the oldest children to leave the Home, and seemed to take pride in the fact. She was 19 years old when she left, there being apparently no relative to whom she could go. Her siblings had left before she did.

Mrs. O'Niell is now a widow. She worked for the federal government most of her working life. She has no children.

She is an active member of the JCC Senior Citizens Group.