



I didn't really know anything about Brown versus the board of education. But my parents did say to me, well, you're going to be going to school with only black kids. And my other friends, their parents were all kind of excited about it. So, you know, I grew up in that period with those experiences. So I think they all had an impact on me.

L: So it helped turn you into a revolutionary?

J: Yes, that helped.

L: Now, tell me more about the history of the Black Panther Party Intercommunal newspaper that you were involved with, the Black Panther newspaper actually got started in 1967. I joined in 1972.

The newspaper got started when a young black man was shot in the back and murdered by some cops in Richmond, California, which is in the Bay area, not too far from Oakland, where the Black Panther party got started. And his name was Denzil Dowell. And the people in the party, they were asked by Denzil Dowell's family to investigate because the cops had claimed that he was threatening them and they were justified in killing him.

But the party was able to find out that there were witnesses who saw Denzil Dowell. Well, the police claimed that he was running away from them. That's how he got shot. Well, Denzil Dowell's family said, well no, there's no way he could have been running away from you because he had an injury. And there were other witnesses who disputed the police department's account.

So that formed the basis of the first Black Panther newspaper published in April 1967. It was called "Who Killed Denzil Dowell? And the paper ran from 1967 until 1981.

L: You worked on a newspaper committee for almost ten years. Tell us about what you did on that committee.

J: So I joined the Black Panther Party in Detroit, but our chapter relocated to Oakland because the party wanted to really make Oakland their base of operation. And when I got to Oakland, I told them I had a background in journalism, so they put me on the newspaper, and what I did was write.

Sometimes it involved writing articles, maybe from scratch, as we would say. Maybe they would send me to a community event in Oakland, and I would write about

