

TAPE # CC01 – 001 IV November 7, 2004
Charles Cook
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

01.00.30 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.05.22 CHARLES COOK : Anyway, I went to buy a bike, and I, I went out there to see about a bike. And the, it fell through because what he was offering for the bike, I could have stayed here in New York and got the same thing. So. But I've been really traveling, then I went on a cruise with the wife. And totally enjoyed it, with, and with my son (?) I'll tell you about uh, is in the hospital right now, went to see yesterday. And I had a ball. I went to uh, we went to, I took a train down 'cos I can't fly. And they flew there. And got down there (?) it was, Charlie was going on.

01.05.59 So I told my wife, I said, you better hurry up. And get to the ship. Oh, we got, I said we better get to the ship. They done changed the departure schedule to 3 o'clock. So I'm on the ship. And the captain's telling, everybody better hurry up and get here. My wife gets to the ship 2 o'clock. Two sixteen, he pulled away from the dock and left people on the pier. Two, 'cos they, he said he had to get (LAUGHS) get away. Half of our family did not get on the ship. (LAUGHS)

0.1.06.31 So it looks like we had a family reunion. Half of them we're (LAUGHS) (waving?) But we didn't have no choice. But we went to Bermuda. That was decent, but Cocoa Beach was the thing. (~JW~)

JW : In Bermuda?

01.06.48 CHARLES COOK : No, it's another island by itself. It's uh, owned by Royal Caribbean, and they have a set up, 'cos what they do when you get there, the crew goes ashore and just like you would normally have uh, eat sort of on the ship that day, you eat everything that's set up there, you eat there.

01.07.05 So I had to go on in and I came back and I told my wife, I said, they were bringing all this stuff. I said, all you need is a bathing suit if, if you can wear less than that, take that. 'Cos everything's set up. It was just (?) went snorkeling, which I couldn't really do too well 'cos my ear was bothering. But I went jet skiing, and (?) diving and all that, it was (?)

JW : You got on the back of the boat and did that?

CHARLES COOK : Yeah.

JW : I'm really interested in that.

01.07.31 CHARLES COOK : Oh, it's so much fun. I felt like cutting loose and (?) jumping in the water, letting go. Yeah, I mean.

JW : Can you do that?

CHARLES COOK : No, you can't do that, they don't want you to do that, yeah. but you're up too high. But it's, it's so much fun. And that jet skiing. Oh, I was, I can't swim. I jumped in the water in the, I just jumped in, I didn't care. You know I can't swim but you had to have a life preserver on, but I had a ball. It was so sweet. I'm going again. I'm taking somebody's daughter soon (LAUGHS).

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : What about your ear?

01.09.41 CHARLES COOK : Oh, I have uh, tinnitus. I got struck by a truck and because of it, it's uh, my ear constantly rings. And uh, excuse me, you see me doing this. That's just to pop my ear (?). But it's something I have to live with. It's real bad.

JW : Is it ringing now?

01.09.31 CHARLES COOK : Oh, definitely. Yeah. and it, this quietness in here does not help. It's worse. I, I know, uh, most of the times at night, I'm awake. I sleep during the day time mostly. And it, because of this my whole sleeping habits changed.

JW : You sleep in the day?

01.09.50 CHARLES COOK : Most of the time. (~JW~) Because it's noise and I can put the TV up and all that, and the noise, I can go to sleep. That's another thing I found out that riding the trains helps 'cos I, the noise of the train I can sleep on the trains. So it does, so it's, being as I can't fly no more because of the tinnitus I, the train's a decent way to go. (~I~) Takes longer, but it's OK.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : What else is going on?

01.11.12 CHARLES COOK : Uh, we discussed the electoral thing. Uh, and I was telling you that I think uh, we have stepped back to 1960, '50's, because when Bush puts these four people, five people in the, those robes on the Supreme Court, we're in trouble. Women's rights gonna be locked down, a lot of stuff. It's gonna be terrible. And I don't believe in gay marriage, but I believe people should have a choice to do what they want to do. And he's gonna not make it, he's gonna put that, that is a law that you can't have it, so. I think he, the government is stepping beyond their means when they do stuff like that.

JW : Where were you on the election?

01.11.54 CHARLES COOK : Where was I? (~JW~) I was in Brooklyn, during the election. I went o, had to vote. And uh, (~I~)

JW : You vote in Brooklyn?

01.12.02 CHARLES COOK : Yeah, well, that's where my wife lives. (~JW~) I never. (~JW~) yeah, that's' where my wife lives, and that's where my legal address is. Even though it's gonna make me look like a bum. But she knows I'm with another woman all these years, so. But I did take her on a cruise, though (LAUGHS). They say, how's he living? He's a dirty dog. But he's honest (LAUGHS).

01.12.31 Oh, gosh.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.12.53 CHARLES COOK : Ok. For the record, I'm a, I have a flea collar and been had one for years. I'm officially licensed dog. (LAUGHS) (~JW~) And if it's anything better than a woman, JC took it with him. (LAUGHS) Ok. That's (official?)

JW : What else?

01.13.14 CHARLES COOK : And so uh, that was my year was like mostly, I did a lot of traveling. Uh, I'm uh, currently getting ready to uh, do some work with the Red Cross. Uh, (behind?) 9-11 I just started feeling I wanted to be of service. Well, we, I feel there's gonna be another disaster somewhere along the line.

01.13.35 Not that I'm afraid of it, but I'm anticipating it. Uh, I don't go nowhere now without a flashlight, 'cos I think something's gonna happen soon. Uh.

JW : You have one here?

CHARLES COOK : Yeah, I'll keep one. I keep, I, I, since that day I've never gone without a flashlight. Uh.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : What do you think every day when you put a flashlight in your bag?

01.14.05 CHARLES COOK : It's just so that safe, if we had a power failure (?) I would have had one then. Anything can happen. Uh, so this way you could be in a bad situation, at least you can see the lights go out, where you're at, what's going on? You know, I have a good \$10 little flashlight, and I keep it with me, which is nothing wrong with that.

01.14.27 But I'm supposed to be on the uh, disaster response team for the Red Cross there. I'm taking some courses for building structure and assessment. Uh, mass destruction, weapons of mass destruction, learning difference ones. And a couple of other courses for uh, for family uh, help, supposed to in case I can go in and assess their needs in case uh, they burning it out or whatever. And I'm gonna be riding and driving the command truck. That's what they have me geared to do.

01.15.00 I'm on the national uh, Red Cross, but I wasn't on the New York red cross. So now they, New York has asked me to join them.

JW : Were you asked?

01.15.10 CHARLES COOK : No, they asked me, they sent me a letter, asking me, recently. You know, and I just hadn't had time to start the classes (CLEAR THROAT) completely. I got one of the courses (?) now, but I got to get into it more. I'll be doing that in the next couple of weeks. Now that things are slowing down. And then I'll be giving my time maybe twice a week, something, you know?

01.15.31 I'll be on call. So that's all I'm doing. Just being a bum, playing pinochle as always. And I'm starting to play chess again. I'm getting whipped up right now, but I'm starting to whip back. Been off my game. You know?

JW : Do you have any thoughts about the Red Cross? Is it something you would have done before?

01.16.01 CHARLES COOK : No, I would never have done it before 9-11. I never was uh, committed to any of those things, those activities. Not that I didn't think they had uh, decent jobs, but. Uh, I'm thinking about those things. It's got me going back to school, studying. I'm redoing, I'm home with a book learning to retie knots and stuff because you need to know, never know when those kinds of things will come in handy.

JW : What were the other things you were thinking of?

01.16.34 CHARLES COOK : Oh, I was just. I was just thinking about just doing, doing some national home security stuff. I know, I know two people that I'm with them now. Uh, you met one of them. The fellow that had, that built, made the American flag with all the names on it that was on the trip? He's uh, with them now.

01.16.56 And he asked me, said come on, boy. (?) decided to do that. And I might just do that. You know. I got time. So. Might as well be of service doing something.

JW : Do you think about 9-11 much?

01.17.13 CHARLES COOK : Only when somebody brings it up. Uh, when uh. When it, the week came up, of course. I thought about it, of course, when I had to go to the uh, 9-11 has a program uh, where they evaluate your health up at Mount Sinai, which I just recently went to.

01.17.36 I had not thought about it up until that time. And then uh, one of your workers called and at the time I said, oh, I just got all that (?) I had to go over there then. She said, well, we'd like to go with you and film that at that time. I said I didn't want her to do it. But uh.

JW : Why not?

CHARLES COOK : Uh.

JW : You can say, it's all right. I'm just curious.

01.18.02 CHARLES COOK : Uh, uh. I you know, what I did I didn't do for what we're doing now. And it was my girlfriend's daughter saying the story needs to be told. Uh. And should be told. I wasn't gonna be here doing this no more, to be honest. I told you. But when they put it to me like that, I decided, you know, it's a healing period for everybody, myself included.

01.18.36 And she was saying, it's a healing period for the country 'cos some people have to understand. And apparently a lot of people don't understand 'cos they sure voted for Bush. We are not scared of terrorists here in New York. And we was voting for Kerry. What's that saying? What is that saying? But uh, to each his own. (?) they gonna find out, it's just like (?) he claims there's 327,000 new jobs.

01.19.04 In the month of October. And I explained to you a little while ago, where did those jobs come from in October? Jobs came to me, they're not permanent jobs. They came from, they all them hurricanes. Florida's devastated, Georgia, parts of North Carolina. Those where those jobs those people had to be on construction sites or clean up crews.

01.19.29 Those are people going to uh, Home Depot that never worked at Home Depot, all because they need more workers yeah, those jobs are great, but they're not permanent jobs. They're not jobs that you say oh, I work for American Airlines or I work for United Parcel, I work for some place the way you make ten years and you still have a job. They're temporary jobs.

They're not (?) that's just a false illusion. I don't want to get into politics. We're just gonna be sad. (~JW~) It's just gonna be sad for us. You know? You know?

JW : Were you thinking of quitting this?

01.20.26 CHARLES COOK : Well, I was thinking about it because I was uh, I didn't go in to do, you know like I asked you before, why me? I (?) I just. Uh. I was just another fellow, I was worried there'd be (?) was to be here. Sitting here, like this.

01.20.29 I always thought there was other people may have done more, may have done less, but I just you know, I look at it, those people that perished in the buildings. And I, I look at them as the heroes. I look at those, those men that went in that building, that I know would have went in that building regardless. If they thought they could save somebody, was saved (?) their fellow firemen. You know, nobody wants to just throw your (?) arbitrary throw your life away. But I believe in my heart, I believe with all my life that they would have gone if they thought they could save someone.

01.21.02 Those were, those people (?) have my utmost respect.

JW : Would you have done that?

01.21.08 CHARLES COOK : Stupidly, yes, I would have done the same thing. Crazy as it sounds, yeah, I would have done the same thing.

JW : Why?

CHARLES COOK : I don't know. But I know I would have. Without a doubt I would have. Yeah. I would have. (?) I would have.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : You have a helpful personality?

01.22.21 CHARLES COOK : Oh, I, you know, the, my cousin got on me about that, that same situation. She said, you always helping people but you don't want nobody to help you. Yeah. My cousin's a state Supreme Court judge, right? And I told you (?) I got hit by the truck and I wouldn't, I wouldn't tell nobody I was, I went to the hospital, didn't tell nobody (?). So when she found out, she gave me a blasting out (LAUGHS). For, you always there for us, and you ain't saying (?), so. (?) That's my way. I don't mind helping people, especially if I have the time, you know?

JW : What do you think that's from?

01.22.58 CHARLES COOK : I don't know. It, it's the softy in me. (LAUGHS) It's the softy (LAUGHS). That's that (?) I tell you. They can play the, behind 9-11 they could play, I could see a war story or something where some of our folks are getting hurt and when (?) say United States citizens, and I started to get mad and well up and cry. We got (LAUGHS) so (COUGHS) and I got soft, 9-11 made me real soft.

01.23.30 But I, I don't mind helping people. It's uh, life you hear the, put here to do something in life decent, you know, (?) do something, make input on something. And you know, it doesn't take too much for me if I got the time to go. Like my sister-in-law called me because her husband was sick. That's, that's my brother's ex-wife. I went down and talked to him, I didn't mind that. You know, or whatever.

01.23.54 My niece called me and said she's needs me in Detroit. I don't mind going.

JW : You like it?

01.24.04 CHARLES COOK : Yeah, well, I (~JW~) yeah, yeah, I (?) like uh, being around my family. I like being around people that I can appreciate. You know, if you got time to help somebody, why not? It does, it's always a little time, a little money. I'm retired so what's,

you know, what else am I doing? You know, so, (?) you give of yourself sometime, you know?

01.24.27 I already, now I'm not getting no points to go to heaven, 'cos my points are dead a long time ago. I'm gonna be the conductor on the Hell-bound Express (LAUGHS). So that's a given on that (LAUGHS).

JW : Before 9-11, were you always helpful to others?

01.24.47 CHARLES COOK : Yeah, I did. Yeah, I always helped, as a rule. (?) when I look back on it, yeah. I think that's, that was uh, because of my parenting.

01.25.01 Uh, my uh, parents raised my brother and myself, you know, I'm a, I had a strong father with discipline, and I had a mother that was nurtured us educationally. Uh, so. We got the best of both worlds. And uh, we're fortunate to have two parents, you know? My father came from uh, really came up in, he had really my grandmother raised him mainly.

01.25.38 Uh, she had him early, early in life. And then she wed and then her husband, he died during World War II. So he, you know, he came up with my grandmother's nurturing, but he came up good. And he instilled what he learned, and kept it hard on my and my brother, and it made men of us.

01.26.04 You know? And which was a good thing. And I tried to pass those values on to my kids. You know? To me, I told my kids, I said, when you hear somebody cursing and you're (?) profanity, that's just an ignorant mind trying to express itself. And. It's very true.

JW : What about your grandmother?

01.26.37 CHARLES COOK : Oh, my grandmother's my heart. With her sailor mouth (LAUGHS). My grandmother had a mouth that would make the devil blush. But uh, she was very feisty.

She lived to be 94. You know, she was, she was a good woman. I was telling you about my grandmother's hair, you could sit on it.

01.27.03 She could take it and sit on it. 'Cos my grandmother was American Indian and she also, well, she had both mixed in her. So her hair was all the way down. She could sit on her hair and it'd be down here like that. I didn't know it was that long 'til one day I combed it for her, you know, as a child. Yeah. She was a nice person. She was my heart. That was my best friend.

JW : Do you think about her a lot?

01.27.29 CHARLES COOK : All the time. All the time. Every time I do something (?) I would think about would she, she looking down there saying uh that's the right thing to do, Butch. (LAUGHS) Yeah. 'Cos I think we have guardian angels, you know? I really do. Somebody's watching over you. You know?

JW : Do you think she influences your choices to help people?

01.27.58 CHARLES COOK : I really don't (~JW~) She was a giving person and she always did help people. You know? She, she was like me, a soft touch. Or, I was like I'm like her, a soft touch. And I found that she, she and I have a lot of things in common. I find myself, I like to listen to the radio a lot. And she listened to the radio a lot, you know? And she always listened to educational things, and I found the same thing. My kids do the same thing. My sons do the same thing. And I, you know, the (instinctually?) we all do the same (?) those ways we do the same thing, you know?

01.28.30 My sons, my oldest son's always listening to uh, shows like uh, the all-American channel that, you know, that program that they have on the air, progressively thinking, put it that way. Maybe (?) radical (LAUGHS) whatever. All rolled into one.

JW : Is that passed down?

01.29.55 CHARLES COOK : Yes, I would think so. You know, my, my family's stressed a lot of education, you know? All our kids have been to college, graduated uh, and (?) so, yes. It's passed down.

JW : What other things do you want to talk about?

01.29.21 CHARLES COOK : I'm wondering uh, when I'm gonna get to see these other ten people. (~JW~) That we uh, I would like to meet them.

JW : Why do you want to meet them?

01.29.32 CHARLES COOK : Well, what got me interested was the girl on the bike. (~JW~) Uh, then I started thinking, I said, well, and then one of the fellow's a fireman or something. (~JW~) I wanted to meet, you know, I just. I think in meeting them it's a healing period also for us uh, 'cos I do need a little healing to be honest about it. You know, I'm trying not to say that, but it's true.

01.29.58 You know? I got to 'fess up, since we're friends. And I'm glad I said it, it's true. I do need some healing.

JW : What kind of healing? Why do you think meeting them would give you that?

01.50.13 CHARLES COOK : 'Cos we are, I think, indirectly share some of the feelings. Different ways. That's why. Yeah. (~JW~)

01.30.27 Because I've never been one to cry, and I do a lot of crying when I be thinking about 9-11 or other stuff. It just gets me. It really does. I don't, I don't like to admit doing, what I'm saying now, but being as we have become friends, I got to be honest with you, and I do think your project is worth me being honest.

JW : That's what I mean.

01.30.52 CHARLES COOK : You make me mad with you, because you (?) too damn honest (LAUGHS). But, you know, I'm not really mad, you know what I'm saying?

JW : That's what I'm trying to do is get an honest.

01.31.06 CHARLES COOK : Yeah, ok, you're getting it (LAUGHS). I'm gonna hit you with a baseball bat (?) whiffle bat or something (LAUGHS).

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : What about the healing process?

01.31.31 CHARLES COOK : I really don't know. I don't know. You know, I really, really don't know. Uh, maybe the healing process is the fact that I'm gonna be doing something for the Red Cross, whatever. I don't know what the healing process is. But I know uh, I can't live my life not doing anything no more. I got to do something.

JW : What are you searching for in meeting the other people?

CHARLES COOK : Maybe (~JW~) I can stop being so emotional (LAUGHS).

JW : That could be, too.

01.32.21 CHARLES COOK : (?) that'd be, that'd be good, 'cos I'm tired of be looking at movie and (?) next thing I know I see a little tear coming down my eye (LAUGHS). Yeah. I never thought of myself as weak person. You know, (?) emotionally. Or mentally or physically. But apparently I am. Yeah. (?)

JW : You're giving in to it?

01.32.50 CHARLES COOK : I'm not feeling weaker physical, but it's that uh, I uh, my emotions are open more. I'm more into things. Still, things like death and stuff like doesn't bother me. I could see somebody get killed and that don't bother me. I can see carnage and all that other, that doesn't bother me. But I'm just more opened in other words. You know? You know I'm more aware of uh, mankind's suffering. I don't want to see nobody suffer no more, and I don't like you know?

01.33.31 I saw enough suffering down in that hole, just on the faces of the people that were there. That was true suffering. I saw the suffering not just in that hole, but coming out of there and seeing the faces of them people and when I was with the Red Cross and they're coming there 'cos they're uh, their family's lost or somebody was lost. I don't want to see that no more.

JW : You might see more of that working with the Red Cross?

01.34.03 CHARLES COOK : Yeah. But uh. Those people need help. Just is, that's the difference.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : Is there a comfort or connection in working with others who have also been severely affected in a way that you have?

01.35.21 CHARLES COOK : I do understand exactly, 'cos that's what I'm going through. I do understand that. That's maybe, that's why we connecting. 'Cos we do connect. (~JW~) You may not know, but we connect.

JW : I agree.

CHARLES COOK : We do, we definitely connect.

JW : There was a clarity associated with it that was comforting.

01.36.00 CHARLES COOK : Yeah. I know what you're saying. It's something you can't (?) up into words. It's just a feeling. Yeah. (~JW~) That's why, that's why I'm gonna do something with, uh, work with the Red Cross. That's my clarity. You know? I'm, I'm stuck in this giving now. I can't reverse it, I can't change it. I'm, I'm caught up in it.

JW : Are you getting a lot out of it as well?

01.36.34 CHARLES COOK : Yeah, oh, this is, I'm getting my selfish thing. I'm getting, I'm getting my release through this, also. So that's my reward. I'm not getting uh, I may not be getting no pay or nothing. But that's, this is my reward. I have friends, I have some people that every time they see me say, you know you's a damn fool. You went down there and you could have been getting \$100 an hour and didn't (?) all that. I said, I said I don't feel like a damn fool, you know?

01.36.58 And I don't feel like a damn fool getting ready to do what I'm gonna do at the Red Cross. You know? There's some things that are more valuable than money. And money can't make everything. Not that I couldn't use some (LAUGHS). (?) Lord, if you let me hit the lotto I'll be happy. (LAUGHS) (?) Couple of mil, that'd be nice. But you know?

JW : What about the emotional thing and its place in the process?

01.37.35 CHARLES COOK : Yes, it is. And (?) to be honest, when you really do good or even try to do good or attempt to do the right thing, is a good feeling. You know, when you know you have done the right thing by somebody, it's a good feeling. For me, anyway. I don't know about for anybody else. You know?

01.38.00 And that's all I can say. I just try to live my life each day and be a better person than I was the day before. That's what I'm doing.

JW : Are you paying back for earlier transgressions?

01.38.23 CHARLES COOK : Oh, shoot, if I pay back for things I did in my life, who-wee. I couldn't even begin to start. When I was really doing my stuff, I was most of the stuff I did was womanizing stuff, it wasn't nothing else. I never went out there and stole or beat up nobody. I, I've done some stuff where I've had a pistol in my hand, shot somebody and stuff, but it was self-defense and stuff like that. But I've always been a decent person, and I'm not about lying or stealing. Never did no drugs, all that. I'm not uh, those things aren't me.

01.39.02 You know? But I'm paying, I been paying for breaking a whole lot of hearts. Or uh, stuff like that, because I, like I said, I was a very much a womanizer. I used to tell them I ain't going nowhere. I got a wife and that's it. (LAUGHS) And they knew I wasn't going nowhere, and they were still falling for the oh, (?) but I knew I wasn't going nowhere (LAUGHS). I was honest, but in being honest they said, well, you was honest.

01.39.25 But that's the worst thing (?) get a woman's ego, I'm not gonna leave with (?) and you still, they gonna try to change your mind, they gonna think you gonna change your mind with it. but you knew you wasn't gonna leave the (?) Well, I told you (LAUGHS). Oh, well, anyway. That was then. And I'm a good guy now. I hung up my flea collar.

JW : What about your feelings about your health issues surrounding Ground Zero?

01.40.15 CHARLES COOK : Well, if you know that you got bad news coming, you just don't want to run to (?) readily hear it. I already, you know your body, you know, uh, if things are bothering you. And I have some problems, and I knew I had problems.

01.40.30 I didn't need them confirmed but you know, those tests are confirmed that I had some problems. Of course, as they said, that they, we'll send, they said we'll be, be 2 or 3 weeks, we'll send you a letter uh, just to give you the results. If it's anything that needs to be addressed right away, we'll send you a letter sooner. I got a letter within 3 days. So. I'm, I, but I have gonna follow up on it. I'm going to the doctor. Uh, the 13th.

JW : What did they bring up in the letter?

01.41.03 CHARLES COOK : Uh, something with my heart, the valve or some stuff, and some other stuff I got. Stuff in my chest that they can't determine uh, and I got wheezing which I never had, and asthma, which I never had before. Which uh, my doctor's already told me I got that from down there, so. And some other stuff, but you know? We ain't gonna go into the bad. Say anything about that. I don't want nobody feeling sorry for me, 'cos I'm not feeling sorry.

JW : Will you go to the doctor on the 13th?

01.41.38 CHARLES COOK : I, most certainly, yes. I, I uh, I tell people uh, on this, this second day when I swallowed all that dust, I looked at the guy and said, you know, we ought to, we might as well just bend over and kiss our ass goodbye (LAUGHS). 'Cos yeah. That stuff we swallowed then you know is bad.

01.42.00 Uh. Do something, I been meaning to do this.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.42.26 CHARLES COOK : You just accept (?), what the heck, you know? Nobody forced me down there, and knowing the circumstances, maybe I might have been more cautious. But it wasn't really much you could do at that time, because uh, they didn't have the proper equipment down there. Uh, what they call masks and stuff, you actually needed a mask with oxygen to it. Everybody. Pure oxygen (?) whatever. Because those uh, those things didn't serve a purpose and they got clogged up within a couple hours, the first of them., for the first four days, until it rained on Thursday that first week.

01.43.04 And that dust sort of settled. Uh, it was no good.

JW : Do you have anxiety about it?

CHARLES COOK : No.

JW : None?

CHARLES COOK : Nope.

JW : How is that?

01.43.31 CHARLES COOK : You clarify anxiety. In your mind, and tell me what you mean.

JW : That you're nervous about it, an apprehension.

01.43.49 CHARLES COOK : No, I don't have that, no. I'm at peace with myself. I accept what it comes. And if it's, you know, if it's disease, cancerous or whatever it is, uh, I think I'll beat it if it's something like that. It's and I'm not worried about it.

01.44.18 There's a guy who uh, has natural healing stuff that I would see first. And I would try with him. He has a very good program. I know he's brought people back who had cancer. So (?) the body is a healing, too. It can heal itself. The lungs can regenerate itself, so. I'm gonna start working on myself.

JW : Have you investigated that?

01.44.40 CHARLES COOK : Yes, I've been down (?) I've been to, (?) I've, I know what to do to really heal myself, clean myself out, you know? Use some of the old remedies. Can't eat no meat though, no more. Have to leave red meat alone and a whole lot of stuff. It's strict, it's a real strict diet. Very, very strict. I even, I know somebody who had prostate cancer and that, this guy helped him with that. So but I just haven't wanted to bother giving up all that stuff yet.

01.45.09 But I suppose that if that's, I see the doctor I might, I've already made the initiative to get in touch with him, so that I have to, I'm gonna send him my papers down so he can give me a, a (?) what I'm supposed to take.

JW : A what?

01.45.23 CHARLES COOK : A regimen, you know, something what I'm supposed to take. I was on his diet one time. I had made the mistake of not listening to him, and, and ate some meat. That was the worst, I have, I had the worst belly ache I had in my life. I went to my knees, two other friends of mine, they were laughing at me, 'cos they doing the same thing. We told you, you can't eat no meat, not even a little small piece. I just ate a little small piece. Once you start this stuff, (?) take, 'cos they getting rid of all the toxin in your body and your body just rejects anything other than that coming in, oh.

01.45.57 So I know what to do. I'm not gonna worry about it.

JW : You're expecting you'll have it?

01.46.04 CHARLES COOK : I expect the worst, hope for the best. (~I~) Yeah, I expect I have it.

JW : What if you don't?

01.46.16 CHARLES COOK : That's a better day. You know? It's a better day. But if I do, I'm gonna full speed ahead, damn the torpedoes (LAUGHS). That's all, you know?

01.46.36 And I was uh, I dated somebody years ago, and when you speak about your mom and cancer, uh, this was exactly, my son is 31 this year. This is, she's dead 30 years ago.

01.47.01 Ok. And she and I would, I was separated from my wife at that time, that's how long I've been separated from my wife. I just separated from my wife when my son was being born. So, my last son. And so I come to her house one day and she says I got to go get a check up.

So we go down to Sloan Kettering, which is one of the better hospitals. So she says, you know, they found something. And she was a very big-busted woman.

01.47.32 So I go with her. She says, well, looks like they're gonna have to operate and take off my breast. I said, so when she came back, she was all traumatized somewhat. But she was always good spirit. So she was sort of waiting for (me to see?) when they did it, that whole tissue in here was all hard and stuff. It was sort of bothered me, but I didn't let her see it. and I didn't say anything. So she was, she was looking for my reaction. I said, well, we'll just get (?) if you want to get another thing, you know?

01.47.58 Then she said, oh, but she, she, I said don't worry about it. said, much titties as you got just flap it over on the other side and you, nobody will see the difference (LAUGHS). She did (?) (LAUGHS) But I watched her go. And she could (?) watch it metastasize and she drowned in her own saliva, so I had. When you speak about your mom, you just put all that back (?) that's why I say we connect. You brought that back to me. To uh, uh, I know there is suffering, I know what, and I, I when it's time for me when I know how I'm gonna go, I'm gonna take my own time, and choose it nicely. I'll go to sleep nicely. Get in the car, carbon dioxide and go to sleep.

JW : Really?

01.48.45 CHARLES COOK : I'm dead serious. That's the way I would go. The easy way. 'Cos I ain't gonna take no pills, and they can't say for insurance purpose that he killed himself 'cos they're gonna stay something's stuck in it, some leaves or something.

01.49.02 But that's the way I would go. (~I~) We'll see what we see.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.49.26 CHARLES COOK : She was just a friend I was seeing at the time. I just separated from my wife. And uh, we started dating and uh, that's when I found out uh, yeah. at least 30 years

ago. Boy. You bringing up old memories. (~JW~) That was one of my better times in life. You know? (?) run away from her situation (?) doing that whole time.

01.50.00 I was going to work, I'd come right to the hospital, stay until they threw me out. Every day. See, that's uh, that's one of my guardian angels, see?

01.50.28 END OF TAPE # CC 001 IV 11-7-04

TAPE # CC002 – IV 11-7-04
Charles Cook
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

02.00.14 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : Is being there for this woman connected in some way to how you went down to Ground Zero?

02.02.36 CHARLES COOK : No, it was two different things. Uh, that, both of them were personal. But it was a difference. I didn't know anybody at 9-11 when I went there, but uh, you know, that's why I (?) that's (?) the difference. (~JW~)

02.03.01 But it became very personal once I arrived on the scene, you know, then it became (?) I suppose as emotional as that, yeah, so, it, they do have a correlation.

JW : You've been seeing your wife more?

02.03.27 CHARLES COOK : Yes. But I've always seen my wife. But uh, a lot more lately, yes. In fact, I'm going to Washington. She's in Washington now. I'm, I couldn't go right away. I'm

gonna go after I take this test on the 13th. I'm gonna drive down, I'm gonna take the train down to uh, Washington and drive back with her, I was gonna do that but I had some other tests to take. She went down to see her sister who is, having a, she had an operation on her shoulder. So she's down there. And I really don't like her driving all the way by herself, so.

02.04.01 I'll go and drive back with her. Uh, my wife and I have a, a very, very good relation. Uh, we never, never had a quarrel word between us, you know? I just that I cheated on her and I just didn't feel right that I did. And I felt guilty, still do.

JW : Do you spend more time than usual with your wife?

02.04.35 CHARLES COOK : We were, rode to (?) lately we've been spending a little more time, yes. Yeah, we have (LAUGHS) a little more time, yeah. that's, that's a true statement. Much more time, yeah. 'Cos she trying to get me to come to church and sing for her, with her. She want, they want me to be in their choir. She and I used to sing together years ago.

02.05.02 That's maybe one day you'll get to hear me sing.

JW : Is it just about the singing?

CHARLES COOK : No. Uh-uh, she has a plan, she know what she doing.

JW : Do you have a plan?

02.05.13 CHARLES COOK : I don't think so. (LAUGHS) I don't think so. (LAUGHS) I don't think so. I like my lifestyle right now (LAUGHS). My, my wife is very religious, though. But I notice she, she's always, she's always make sure she got some gospel show or some gospel something going on (?) at home.

02.05.36 And I told her, I said, uh, you know, too much of this drives me crazy. So lately she's been playing some music that I like. And she's planning on something. She told me when she's

ready to reach for me, she's just gonna come get me. So we'll see, we'll cross that bridge when it gets there.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : If the doctor appointment tests your mortality, do you go to the person you're closest to?

02.06.30 CHARLES COOK : That's very true. So what you saying?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : Do you think there's any connection between you, what you're going through right now and the fact that you may be spending more time with your wife, not just because of the singing?

02.07.01 CHARLES COOK : I never thought about that. Oh. That's heavy. You should be a lawyer, you've got some good questions there (LAUGHS). Oh, boy. Can I pass?

JW : No.

CHARLES COOK : Can't pass? (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.07.36 CHARLES COOK : I would, I would not go to her knowing I was sick. It wouldn't be fair to her. I wouldn't want her to suffer like that.

JW : Does she know you're sick?

02.08.00 CHARLES COOK : She's a nurse. She knows everything. She's the one who encouraged me to go to the doctor. Been trying to tell me to go to the doctor.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : It seems to be more complicated with you.

02.08.40 CHARLES COOK : Yeah, 'cos I got someone that really cares about me right now. I, I'm fortunate, I have two women that love me. Most people don't get one in life. I've been blessed with two, and two ladies. Decent women. You know?

02.09.01 Very much so. I've been really blessed, God has been good to me.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : You are in the middle?

02.09.24 CHARLES COOK : That you ain't got to explain, we're friends. You (~JW~) You, we, we searching for the truth.

JW : That's what I'm trying to do.

02.09.33 CHARLES COOK : And, and in doing what you're doing you're making me look at some things that I didn't even really think about, with you. Uh, that's, you know, you, I said, you missed your calling, you sure you're not a lawyer in disguise? (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : From a personal point of view?

- 02.10.45 CHARLES COOK : Uh, when I first got involved with America's Ride, I thought it was the right ride for the right reasons. And, and two rides that I did, I saw people uh, try to take it to a level the person that founded it had one agenda.
- 02.11.07 And his agenda was a true and good agenda where he used of his own money. And really tried to make the ride go. And people exploited him. And (?) you know, they, they ridiculed his, ridiculed him, all kind of stuff. And all the accusations they made against him uh, proved out to be false and everything. And I found them to be honorable people.
- 02.11.34 Uh, subsequently uh, one of the people that was took the ride over, they used the name this year, but I wouldn't go. But they used, said I was gonna be there and (?) they used my name and I had to call people up and tell them I wasn't gonna be there. So subsequently, a lot of the venues that they went to were knocked out. But they were using the name so, the name has caught on, so. But I understand he might be to (?) person might be doing another one.
- 02.12.02 But he's not doing them so much for 9-11. He's behind the war effort. And a lot of the uh, troops aren't getting some of the stuff that they need. And I know that when he does something uh, it does go to the people that he's trying to do. He might be doing something with the Tillman thing. Uh, using the uh, football player, Tillman, who passed. So I might just do that with him. But I didn't want to get involved with somebody just exploiting something for profit and gain.
- 02.12.33 And I saw that. Uh, it was, I'll name the person, Jill Zhan, she can say anything she want, she can say it, she is the most devious person I ever met in my life. I never seen nobody like her. Uh, but anyway. It's, that's just sad. What, that people would just take something and fight this and turn it and tarnish it.
- 02.13.00 So I wasn't gonna be involved with that. So. You know?

JW : That's a disappointment?

02.13.09 CHARLES COOK : There's a disappointment in that, you know? That uh, people want to exploit this. Uh, for their profit, for their, for their pocket. You know? Uh, just, and it's just sad. And that, that bothers me, it really bothers me. About a lot. It bothers me.

02.13.31 But we are, they'll all have their day of reckoning, and uh, things that they uh, she had put out are coming back to eat her up and haunt her. Uh, she had tried to get in certain places in out Midwest, and (STOPS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : What else about America's Ride?

02.14.12 CHARLES COOK : Yeah, I was saying just that some people just want to exploit things for themselves. Which is bad. Come to find out, they were using my name uh, uh, on this ride. They were saying, yeah, I was gonna be part of the ride and all that.

02.14.29 And uh, fellow named Will Rogers, that's his name, he has a band uh, he was gonna bring his band into Omaha. And play for free. Said CC I'm coming because of you. I hear you're gonna be there, blahblahblah. And he was saying Jill Zhan was saying, he said, you know, they didn't think you was gonna be there 'cos she's not a nice person. And I said, I'm not gonna be there. I said, I wasn't even riding. He said you weren't invited? Says no. He said ok, just give me a second.

02.15.01 The mayor of the town called me and said you're not coming. Said no. They said, they're using your name. I said (?) I said, no I had not been invited. I said the woman is just strictly out trying to do something get some money for herself. He had, she was supposed to have uh, a police escort and all that other kind of stuff. They cancelled all of it. And Will and them wouldn't go, they just cancelled the whole thing. So.

02.15.33 That's, she got her just desserts there. Uh, but uh, the just used it, they're just doing stuff and that's what some money it's just, it's ridiculous. It's really ridiculous. And it's not going to

nobody but their pocket. She tried that uh, the same ride I was on, she stopped the ride, told them uh, she wasn't, she didn't get \$80,000 she wasn't gonna continue.

02.16.06 And she, it wasn't nothing that she did. All she did was help to coordinate it. but it was what's his name, Mitch's ride, he did it uh, but he stepped back, he said I'm gonna let her do this, and he's gonna get rid of her. That's when she took it over and let her do it her thing. So I didn't want to be associated with stuff like that. I mean, it's, it's uh, I, they've stepping on people who are dead, that's all that is.

02.16.37 And it has a sour taste in my mouth, yeah.

JW : What else?

02.16.44 CHARLES COOK : Oh, nothing. I don't want to talk about bad stuff. I want to talk about positive things. Uh, I'm gonna wait to go see a movie. Where's it playing at, anyway?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.17.04 CHARLES COOK : I'm not a movie person, I haven't been to a movie in a while. I'm always getting movies bootlegged. You wouldn't mind if I get your movie for \$2, would you? (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : What about the things that came up with your son?

02.18.56 CHARLES COOK : Oh, my son uh, suffers from schizophrenia. And uh, he's, he had a relapse and the reason he had a relapse is speaking of was because in his, he's in college, (?) he's studying, he's already got one degree and he's going for something else (I don't know what he's studying now?) Uh, he got a master's is one thing, and I think he's going for uh, a master's in something else. And every time he gets in school and is trying to work and do

this two together, even doing the school by itself he's doesn't want to take his medication because he's, he's concentration isn't as good.

02.19.36 And he has these relapses and then he had to be put in the hospital again, so that's what happened. He just has to accept the fact that he has to regardless of how hard it is to study, it's best for him to just to keep on with the medication. So. That's not a happy thought for me, my son being in the hospital right now. But I was with him yesterday. He's really himself, but he just, they (?) want to make sure he's stabilized.

02.20.04 But he's, he's close to almost being himself. He's a good kid. He's a good man and a good person. (?) he suffers from the disease, schizophrenia.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : What's the truth of your three (?)

CHARLES COOK : Of my three years?

JW : Three years since we've begun this?

02.20.41 CHARLES COOK : Time is passing very quickly, that's the truth. These last few years doesn't seem like three years. Especially when you look back on events, yeah. It doesn't seem that long. This year just went away fast, I don't know where this year went to. This is one of the quickest years I've seen.

02.21.02 Uh, maybe 'cos I stay so busy. (STOPS) Maybe 'cos I stayed so busy and I did stay busy. Uh, I put over 5,000 credits to, on my Amtrak riding. (LAUGHS) points. For riding so much (?) the system.

02.21.30 I just need a few more and I can go all the way to California. Again. You know, so? I've slowed down most of the, I slowed down in the last month or two, though, but. I don't know,

on the average I've been going, I've been out of the city at least 20 to 30 days each month, and more. Each month up until August, August, September. Yeah, I slowed down, and then I went back out again.

02.22.03 I'm gonna go tomorrow but after the 13th and then I'm gonna go to DC and stay down there a couple of days, maybe a week or two. And then maybe I'll take a ride. I might even ride down to Texas with my wife. See my brother-in-law. Uh, that's in the works. I didn't tell you, I just thought about it.

02.22.30 I remember now she was saying she wanted to do that, we might do that. That right, that's a lot of (?) driving, though, but that ain't no big thing. I like to ride, uh, drive. I'll let her do the work this time. I can do that.

JW : Where do you think you are in the process of responding to what happened on 9-11?

02.23.06 CHARLES COOK : Oh. I'm gonna be all right. If I'm here. I'm gonna be all right. Be talking my stuff. Be a dirty old man. Saying, baby what, (?) there's a time I see you walking by, with this and that to you, I'll be talking my stuff, you know? Like you see the old men doing now, I'll be doing the same thing (LAUGHS).

02.23.34 Saying things that you know you can get away 'cos you're so old that nobody (?) to hear (LAUGHS). So that's what I'll be doing. Yeah. Yeah, I'll be 74 then. Yeah. Ten years from now. I just made my 64th birthday. In October.

02.24.02 Uh, this is November the 7th.

JW : What are you thinking?

02.24.10 CHARLES COOK : I was (?) thinking one time I would get to be this old. I really didn't. At one time I thought anything past 40 was ancient (LAUGHS). And I don't feel ancient, I may look it, but I don't feel it.

02.24.31 Uh, so. Yeah, yeah. And I don't need no Lavitra, don't need no, what's that other one, Viagra? I don't need all that. Not yet, anyway.

JW : Why didn't you think you'd get past 40?

02.25.03 CHARLES COOK : I just had a premonition that I was gonna die before then. And I stopped feeling that way uh, after a certain thing happened. I, I had, I kept having a feeling I was gonna die (?) before I was 20 something. And I turned over in a jeep when I was in service, and (?) that was the feeling that I always had that uh, something was gonna drastically happen to me, and that was it. After that, I stopped feeling, thinking about that.

02.25.32 Yeah, I didn't think I was gonna make 25, 'cos I used to always, I used to wake up with dreams before this accident happened. That I was gonna die, something (?) something tragic, an accident, some uh, and I actually turned over in a jeep, (?) over a (?) completely upside down on top of me. I was thrown clear 'cos I didn't have a seat belt. That's why I don't like seat belts. It was a (~JW~)

JW : You were saved by not having a seat belt?

02.25.57 CHARLES COOK : Right. It was a default in, in the jeep. You could turn a corner and the wheels would collapse. They had to eventually recall them. In turning, if you turned a certain way, the wheels would go under. It would go head over. And that's what happened to me. They ended up recalling those, those. That was in 1960, '61. I was 21 then.

JW : You thought you would die at 40?

02.26.32 CHARLES COOK : No. I (?) that's when I stopped thinking I would die. That's (?) I kept thinking (?) I used to have those dreams, that something drastic was gonna happen before. And that, after that I said well, that was it. And it's been full steam ahead ever since.

JW : I'm interested in wisdom of people over 100?

02.26.59 CHARLES COOK : Oh, well, I, I'm gonna see if I can stick around for you (LAUGHS).
I'm gonna try hard. (LAUGHS) I want to be the oldest one in the book (LAUGHS).

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : I have passed an emotional milestone in the last few weeks.

02.28.18 CHARLES COOK : Oh, I can, I can relate to what you're saying. (~JW~) You know, I uh,
for the last couple of years, I'm walking the street and I hear, this hey Pops. Hey, Pops.
Hey, Pops? (LAUGHS) Who you talking to? (LAUGHS) So I can relate. (?) you (?) twenty
and thirty you start calling you hey, Pops. (LAUGHS) Then you can (?)

02.28.38 I relate I relate to that, ok.

JW : What's the wisdom right now for you? What are you thinking about?

02.09.06 CHARLES COOK : What I'm thinking about is getting back on the motorcycle and doing
that ride again. I'm thinking about taking three cruises or four cruises within the next year.
Which I plan to do, I'm going in February for sure. And I got one, I'm going to Puerto Rico
in May, and one in June. Uh, July.

02.29.36 That's a uh, three different cruises that I want to go.

JW : Why three cruises?

02.29.42 CHARLES COOK : I'm going with three different people (LAUGHS). (?) The one I might
be going by myself. Uh, the one in uh, July, I think I want to go by myself. It's like a singles
cruise.

02.30.02 So I'm gonna be in shape by that time, you know, getting ready. This cannot be edited, this cannot be put in nothing. I'm gonna be up going back to my dog days in (?) August.

JW : What's the wisdom, you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

CHARLES COOK : No. (~I~) You're only (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.30.35 CHARLES COOK : You only learn from your old tricks to get better with them. that's all. (LAUGHS). No, I'm not doing all, but I'm just, I'm just gonna have some fun. And uh, ever since I started thinking I was sick, I said I'm just gonna enjoy life, do whatever I want to do whenever I want to do it, and that's what I've been trying to do.

02.30.59 You know? I'm gonna still give it my time to direct course, four times a month, five times, whatever, and take a break during my vacation time, to (?) know that I'll come back and do that. I'll still be doing those kind of things (?) I'm gonna be responsible. I'm not gonna be a you know, I'll rest up in between, you know, get my little rest in between. Then I will get ready to go again. But I'm gonna be having fun.

02.31.31 You know? (?) this old saying, don't let no grass grow (?) they ain't no grass gonna be growing under my feet. I won't have time.

JW : Is that why you described this year as being that kind of year?

02.31.44 CHARLES COOK : Well, this year was a good one. I had uh, I was, I stayed gone. You know. And when I was gone, I wasn't chasing no women. It wasn't nothing like that. It wasn't that kind of thing. Uh, in fact, when I was gone I wasn't bothered with nobody. I was just out. I was just having fun.

- 02.32.06 I was seeing people, going to dinner with people, I wasn't trying to get familiar with them or whatever or anything like that. You know, it's, I was just having a ball, even when I went on the cruise with my wife, I wasn't trying to get all hanky-panky. Not that I didn't. But it wasn't about that. Uh. And I'm not saying I did and I'm not saying I didn't. But you understand what I'm saying, I'm keeping that to me. But it was a good trip (LAUGHS).
- 02.32.31 I want to do it again. Uh, and I, and I enjoyed my son because he was with us, uh, the one that's in the hospital. Uh, we spent time together, you know? Which I really (not yet?) didn't get to do with my father when I, I became a grown man, because uh, yeah. he ended up passing and so I didn't get that opportunity. So. And I regret that, but I was glad that I was able to share that kind of time with my young, oldest son.
- 02.33.01 My youngest son and I are supposed to go to Florida uh, soon. Yeah, that's another thing, we're going to Tampa. Uh, he wants to look for a house down there, so when he goes, I'm gonna ride down with him. And he has a friend of his, that's like one of my sons because he stayed at my house, he grew up in my house. And uh, he's uh, into weight training. So he keeps (?) or Pops, we get you down here and work you out, and gonna beat you up uh, I taught him how to play chess, and the last time we played, he just killed me.
- 02.33.35 He said, I've been practicing. I said oh, then he's talking about who's your daddy, 'cos I used to always tell him, who's your dad (LAUGHS) for years I was saying (?) that. So now he's saying, who's your daddy? (LAUGHS) So I had to give him his props. So. Uh, it's just, it's just nice. I have like three kids that stayed in my house. They all call me Pops 'cos uh, I like nurtured them.
- 02.34.01 And I got a couple of girls the same way. So. I'm happy with myself.

JW : You're also moving pretty fast?

02.34.15 CHARLES COOK : Oh, yeah, I've been moving kind of fast with, it's a good moving fast. You know? I'm not doing anything that harmful to anybody, not even to myself. I'm just enjoying the fruits of my labor.

02.34.33 When I say my labor, you know, I did (?) retire so I supposed to enjoy something, so. I'm enjoying that.

JW : Do you spend much time alone?

02.34.45 CHARLES COOK : Do I spend much time alone? Oh, I could stay alone it doesn't bother me. I like, I like solitude for myself a lot. But I won't be able to cruise looking to be alone. I'm gonna be looking to strike. The iron's gonna be out (LAUGHS) I'm ready to brand somebody (LAUGHS).

JW : It's not a problem for you to be alone?

02.35.12 CHARLES COOK : (No). (LAUGHS) No. I could be in the house all day long by myself. Where I'm at. But if I go home where my wife is at, I don't (?) Now that, the house is empty right now. My wife's away, my son's away.

02.35.28 And I got the keys. And I started to stay over there the other, on election day. I just feel so out of, so I just don't like to be in there by myself, because uh, well, it's much larger. It's in (?) City and it's 3 bedrooms and just I, everything is comfortable, it's even more comfortable than in Manhattan, and I have (?) a nice place in Manhattan, one day you have to come and see. But I just like Manhattan better, one because I can fall out the door and my pinochle game is right there. And I go up the street and there's a pinochle and there's a chess game right across the street, there's (?). (?) over there that way, 'cos I really, I lived in Brooklyn but I didn't live in Brooklyn.

02.36.06 Because I've always been in Manhattanite. I (?) grew up in Manhattan, so even when I was living in Brooklyn constantly, I would always come to Manhattan to do anything I was gonna

do. Except my wife could never stay at home. She kept it (?) dirt in front of me. No. Uh, she could never say that. She ain't never seen me with nobody, never, she knew but she didn't know.

02.36.29 And I would not do that, I wouldn't disrespect her that way.

JW : How's your daughter?

02.36.36 CHARLES COOK : Well, my daughter called me and my, my wife, uh, see I was in bed. Constable, with her mama at 2:30 in the morning, and she called me and said, at first my wife picked up the phone and I knew right away it was something wrong. And uh, she say it's Vicki. Her husband had gotten into an accident and she wanted my wife to go and check on her husband.

02.37.02 So that was uh, last week. So we got up that morning and drove up to Highland Lakes, that's where she lives now, in New Jersey, and ever since then I'm sorry I went up there 'cos my ears are ringing. Not that I'm sorry that we went up there. But he needed to get his knee in a cast and stuff. They gave him one of those flexible casts that's all the way up here. He was in a 3-car accident. He was sandwiched in between two cars.

02.37.29 And uh, she was calling from Paris when she called. Uh, it was so, she, she actually was calling, she called 2:30, that was about 8:30, 9 o'clock there. So she's up at the right time, but for us that's you know, 6 hours' difference. So we went up there and uh, we took care of him. Uh, she's here now uh, I'm gonna call her. She's here now.

02.37.58 She, she flew in from uh, Paris. On Friday, but I'm, but I wanted to give her some time with him, but I didn't get a chance to call her. I'm gonna call her today. But she's leaving, I just found out she's leaving out today to go to Morocco or some place, somewhere. Like I told you, she's a epidemiologist. And that's the study of diseases and she's with the World Health Organization. She has like 21 countries that she has to administer, you know, do stuff with. So she's flying all over the world.

02.38.33 And I have a, like I said, I have a 20, I have a round trip ticketed anywhere in the world, first class, but I can't take it because of my ear. I can't fly. But if I can get on a plane and get there and it's all right, I'm gonna either go to China or Africa for a year.

JW : Why those places?

02.38.52 CHARLES COOK : They've always intrigued me. Uh, China because I would like to go and study the arts with the masters, karate and stuff like that. Uh, Africa just because uh, that's where I believe my ancestry is. And I would like to walk around. I would like to go and see uh, my nephew's home, home (down there?) I could relate to him directly. My, my brother's uh, youngest son, you've heard of Roots, Alex Haley?

02.39.30 Ok. Alex Haley and my nephew are direct first cousins. So that makes him Kunta Kente's great-great grandson. Uh, so.

JW : What is the family line?

02.39.45 CHARLES COOK : Alex Haley's great-great-great grandfather was Kunta Kente. (~I~) My nephew and he are first cousins, so that makes him the same lineage, Kunta Kente's same. Uh, through, for the, it's the story where Roots was generated from. Ok. So.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.40.12 CHARLES COOK : So Earlene, his mother and uh, and Alex are first cousins, so her son, you know? My brother's son, youngest son.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.40.26 CHARLES COOK : If they could find a way that I can get rid of this problem. You know? You see me, gonna keep doing that, it's gonna try to bust my ear open. But uh, and I stopped

doing it, I don't even put my hand on (?) I do it so much. Uh. But uh. I would like just to walk uh, walk around or drive around, get on a bike and get a motorcycle and go from country to country all over. Don't miss no countries. You know? I'd like to go to Cape Horn and all, you know, this, I'd like to go see where we were shipped out from all of that, I'd just like to see that. (LAUGHS)

02.41.08 I told somebody that (LAUGHS) they were saying, oh, you see all these hurricanes coming up. I say, yeah, you know where they's coming from? They all come from Africa. They saying you shouldn't have taken our people (LAUGHS). I says, that's exactly where they shipped those out from. Uh, that's where them hurricane's been coming from (LAUGHS). And they hit all the red states (?) I say red states, all the Bush states.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.41.48 CHARLES COOK : But you see where they coming from. Uh, right where they put them on the ships at, right on up that way, the same passage (LAUGHS).

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : Does your daughter know you're sick?

02.42.15 CHARLES COOK : I ain't telling her that. I would not tell her that. She would never find that out from me.

02.42.36 Why? 'Cos I don't want to worry her. Ok. If uh, I'll put it like this – if you was sick, would you tell Rebecca? When she's about 12, 11 years old?

JW : It's a tough call. At a certain point you will be sick?

02.43.05 CHARLES COOK : But would you, would you want to worry her so she'd have to worry, have that burden worrying, all that period of time?

JW : She's an epidemiologist?

02.43.19 CHARLES COOK : Oh, she's uh, that's one of the reason I wouldn't tell her. You know, I get mad with her when uh, 9-11. Uh, 'cos at that time, she was working for the city.

02.43.31 So I uh, went over to the Board of Health down there to bring her a mask. Daddy, I, can't take this, 'cos the city's saying there's nothing wrong with the air. I said, Vicki. She said, I know there's something wrong, but I got to, if I wear it, it's gonna panic the people. I don't want them, everybody. That was the policy. Denial. I was so mad with her.

02.44.00 But. You know?

JW : She knew there was a problem?

02.44.05 CHARLES COOK : Yeah, she knew. She definitely know. The, the city knew. She, she definitely knew. But they had deniability and they were saying, no, nothing's wrong. And they really did a disservice to the people that went down there to work. And uh, that was that volunteered.

02.44.30 And those firemen or whatever, you know, there was a disservice because they had a lot of people, indigent people coming down there and do the worst of those jobs to sweep that dust up. And those buildings. And knowing how toxic that stuff was. I feel that's a form of genocide, sending somebody do something that you know was really that bad, even if you was paying them. They knew how bad that stuff was. We knew it was bad, you know?

02.45.07 When you were there. but still. And they didn't equip them people with the proper stuff, no mask, no nothing. They just sent them in there. It's gonna be a lot of sick people for a long time.

JW : Did she ask you about your situation, did you talk to her about it?

02.45.31 CHARLES COOK : We don't talk about those things. I don't let her get near the subjects. I had her uh, I'm always joking about something. You know? But I, my daughter's dangerous, though. We was having Thanksgiving dinner one year, my mother-in-law's there. and this was just before (?)

02.45.59 And they were talking about cheating men. My mother-in-law had to bring it up. She liked to start something with my wife's (?) This is before (Bobbie?) (LAUGHS) My daughter was looking at me, and she's shaking her head. If my husband cheated on me, she's looking at me, looking at my mother, my wife (LAUGHS). I'm gonna cut it off (LAUGHS). And (?) said, you would do that to your daddy? (LAUGHS).

02.46.27 Are you trying to get me hurt? (LAUGHS) She said, well. You would be good. (LAUGHS). I said no, not to mess (?) (LAUGHS) But oh, boy.

JW : What will she say?

CHARLES COOK : Say what?

JW : When she finds out?

02.46.59 CHARLES COOK : She ain't gonna find out, who's gonna tell her? You ain't telling her. (?) so how's she gonna find out? Uh. If first of all, we jumping the gun. It might not be nothing. All this pain up in here might not be nothing. Who knows? You know? (LAUGHS)

02.47.32 She looked at me and was shaking her head. I'll cut it off. That's before Bobbitt cut that man's thing off. Whew. That's kind of hard (LAUGHS). I just looked at her. I said, you would do that to your (dad?) (LAUGHS). Woo. I looked at my wife, I said, I guess I'm gonna be leaving (LAUGHS). (?) want her to get no ideas. She was a nurse for all them

years, and I know she's got a scalpel in there, it would be so quick (LAUGHS). Uh, boy. But that's what she said.

JW : Anything you want to talk about or bring up?

02.48.17 CHARLES COOK : Oh. I went to uh, Democracy Plaza (JW COUGHS) which was at uh, Rockefeller Center. (COUGHS) Last week. I saw it on television, so I was interested.

02.48.31 And uh, they had uh, an original train of one of the first I think it was Taft or one of them, that they used to go around the, somebody before Taft, that they used to, to barnstorm on these, so the President spoke on the back of the train. They used that in Roosevelt and some others. They uh, used. And uh, you went, and the one, and then you went into a tent, and then there they had the polling uh, different polling booths uh, that they were gonna be using for the election this year.

02.49.03 Even they had the chads from Florida. And that was the one, then went to another tent, and in there was a (?) the original copy of the Declaration of Independence. And as I was saying, there was 200 copies that were made originally. And as of now, I think they have about 24, or 25. They were first bought at a price of \$4, and now they go for over \$1.5 million for those copies that they have left.

02.49.33 Gone to into another tent and it was larger, with just in that it was like the history the United States uh, showing uh, the democratic way, the voting stuff. Uh, the Whig party, all those other different parties. They had uh, hats from Abraham Lincoln, and a different uh, uh, Washington hat, and had an exhibit of Harriet Tubman.

02.49.57 She said this, her statement was (?) how did her statement, she said there's two things you born with, uh, liberty and death. That you supposed to be born with, liberty and death. And if she can't have one, she wants the other. You know, I like that. That was a nice statement on her part. Uh, and then there were uh, further on in there and, and they had a mock-up of the Oval office. Uh, the chair and the seal and everything.

02.50.30 They had that one roped off. But they also had another one, same way but this one you know, visitors could sit in there, sit down and get their pictures taken. And they had a mock-up of the uh, Air Force One you was able to go through and see that. It was really good. I, I suggest you see it if it's still there. And you'd really enjoy it. Uh. I enjoyed that. In fact I've, I might, if it's not doing anything, I might go back today and take some pictures of it 'cos I didn't have a camera with me.

02.51.00 But it was really nice. It's good, real good. You know, and it was just nice to see where this country uh, founded their ideas and how they have gone so far astray lately. And they have definitely gone astray. When they get these four Supreme Courts Justices that Mr. Bush put in there, look out. Your liberties will soon.

02.51.30 He's already shown that he's trying to, you know, this Homeland thing, you can't say nothing 'cos you against the country and that's wrong. I don't think that's the way it is. People can't even (?) it's getting tough already (STOPS)

02.51.34 END OF TAPE # CC002, IV, 11-7-04

TAPE # CC 003, IV, 11-7-04
Charles Cook
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

03.00.34 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : What is the wisdom?

03.01.57 CHARLES COOK : They told me I could have been a politician or a lawyer, because I've been listening to the debates and stuff, and they've been asking those questions like uh, how much is one and one? Well, to get to that number you have to derive or go off, you know, subtract and they never answer the question. (?) but they're still, you know, speaking. That's what, so I'm learning from them. So did you get your answer? (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : What is the wisdom you have gained at this point in your life right now?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.03.08 CHARLES COOK : On a serious note? I would say be better to people that you'd want them to be to you. Yeah. That's what would be my wisdom to people.

03.03.27 If people can do that, it'd be a lot better. That's like a lady yesterday. I got on the bus and I, I, touched her getting in the bus, and it was accidental. I said excuse me, I'm very sorry. Oh, she went off. You tried to take me (?) I said excuse me. I said, you know, if you feel that really, that bad that you got to scream, I said you should really ask your chauffeur to take you home instead of getting uh, 'cos you're gonna get bumped every time you get in there.

03.03.58 And the bus just fell out. You know, so, and then she stepped on somebody else, and I said, oh, now do you want that man to go off on you 'cos you stepped on his foot? I said, think about that. She went there and sat down and (?) you know, so. People uh, (?) just got to think. So just try to be better to people than you want to be to you. If everybody did that, everybody'd be happy.

JW : Are you happy these days?

03.04.32 CHARLES COOK : I'm always happy, even when I'm not, I'm happy. I try to make myself happy. Uh, I'm doing more reading again. (Sorry about my ear?) I'm doing more

reading. I have a book with me now on chess. And just skimming through that now. 'Cos I'm starting to play that more. So I have had all these books all these years, but I never read them. I intend to finish this book before the month's out, and I've been staying in the house, other than going to, only time I go out is to go to play chess.

03.05.04 Or pinochle and I come right back home, nothing else. And occasionally to visit one of the cuties. That's about it. And that's seldom. I'm not doing that much.

JW : Are things changing for you in that sense?

03.05.23 CHARLES COOK : No, I've always been a house person. I could be, I could stay in the house all month. You know? All I do is go get all my groceries for 3 months like I normally shop. I can stay in the house all week, all month, the next two months. I don't have to go no place. I'm not (?) been (?) myself. I'm content. (I say, like I say?) I guess I said I could say in, by myself and it would be no problem. Uh, I could look at the Learning Channel and, you know, with the kids and the what the, documentary or history channel. Uh, those things.

JW : What was the highest point and lowest point of the past year?

03.06.05 CHARLES COOK : Not going on (?) the trip to California and them people using my name. The fact that I found out they were doing that and I just didn't like that. The lowest point. The highest point? Uh. Being around my family, being with my daughter in her new house, seeing the look on her face when she got her new house this year.

03.06.31 Uh. My being around my nieces, the kids, one that calls me Uncle Grandpa. Uh. I want to kill him, Uncle Grandpa. Got a lot of stuff working. When he was 5 years old, 4 years old, he's going by the cemetery up in Detroit. So he looked at his mother and said, is Uncle Grandpa in there? She said why you say that? Oh, he's old. (LAUGHS)

03.07.00 I ain't, I ain't get back at him yet. (LAUGHS) I'm gonna get him to eventually (LAUGHS) But he's 7 now. But he's, he's a nice kid. He's going around, he wants to lift weights, but his

father is, is uh, constantly traveling. He works with uh, he's an executive with Kroger. I don't know if you ever hear of Kroger stores? Uh, he has like 6 states that he's uh, the stores are all under him. So he's constantly traveling. My niece does travel a lot now.

03.07.31 That's another reason I'd be going to Detroit sometime 'cos they, they're stuck there. her mother has to come out to baby-sit or somebody someone (so I'm going out there a lot?) but uh. So I help her with the kids sometimes like that. So. When I be going to Detroit, it's not just to be going. I just go out there, and which gives me something to do. And. I have fun doing that. So. I'll do that occasionally. And enjoyed that time, enjoyed uh, enjoyed going down there with like one of my stepsons in Tampa.

03.08.02 'Cos I went to Tampa this year. We played chess. That's when he whipped me up. That's what made me sad I stopped 'cos I haven't played in years. so I'm slowly getting my game back. Uh. Let's see. I enjoyed the cruise with my wife extremely well, and my son. I enjoyed my time with the lady I'm presently with, constantly, so.

03.08.29 Uh, see what else. I enjoyed Peaches and I conversation about the electric uh, we kept going back and forth with it every day. And uh, e-mail Bush things they should say, some of the stuff he uses and we heard him use. Uh, things like that. Peaches said to tell you hello, too.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.08.58 CHARLES COOK : She said you ready for, give her a job, she's ready. She said she says have job, will travel (LAUGHS). Uh, let's see. That, that was. (?) talk about Peaches, but that was a helluva an experience, you know? She is a brave girl. She had that operation. She called me up and I had to call her father. She called me.

03.09.29 And I had to break it to her mother. And then I had to call her father. He's in Boston and tell him. But she knew that, she didn't have to lose her eye. But she wanted to get rid of all the cancer. But you may not know it, but all of her jaw, all of this uh, this all gone. Teeth, all, all

of this is all gone, to get all of it, all that cancer. They said, well, we, you could keep the eye, and you know, and the jaw. (?) But and she says, nope.

03.10.01 Just take it all. Whatever has to be done. And she, she, and you know, to her credit, boy, she could probably get plastic surgery and some other stuff to build it up and redo those things. She won't do that. You know, 'cos she was a real pretty girl before that happened. But she gonna, to her credit, she, she don't let that bother her. She's, people (?) want to accept it, they'll accept it, this is just the way she is, is what's happening. I, I take my hat off to her.

03.10.31 She's, she's a survivor. So when you talk about cancer and stuff, I, everybody I've seen that have had it, they've been some troopers. Peaches is one. (?) And then she's a nice person.

JW : Yes, she is.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.10.55 CHARLES COOK : (MID-STATEMENT) she got a good head. And I helped put her through school. She cost me a lot of money. (Tuff's?) was not an easy to pay for (LAUGHS). Oh, that's another school I can put on my resume. Tuff's. That's right, I forgot. Peaches (LAUGHS).

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.12.01 CHARLES COOK : But he's uh, trying to lift weights now. At 7. So I had to call and talk to him and uh, he called me uh, day before yesterday. He said, yeah, and oh, he's doing two things. He's growing an Afro, because Ben Wallace has that big Afro in Detroit, ok. And (?) his father is conservative, conservative, right? He voted for Bush, I know that. Ain't no doubt, he voted for Bush. Ok.

03.12.31 He's growing and he's, his mother said, well, I'm gonna let him grow it. His father doesn't want it. I said, let him grow his hair. That's what he wants to do, you can't stop that. It's a,

he's at an age where he's a, he has to be able to make those choices, you know? So his father relented. And he wants to do these weights, and I was telling him, I said, first of all if you're really serious about it, I don't want you lifting no weights 'til you start doing sit-ups and running around the, the house. When I mean the house, 'cos they have a big house.

03.12.58 Running around the whole yard, at least 20 times. Every day. Come in and do about 20 jumping jacks, sit ups. And just work with 1-pound, 2-pound weights. You know, 'cos he's only (?) and you do that for three weeks, and when you finish doing that, and I gave him the exercise to do, I said call me and then I'll tell you to go to another step, because until that time and when you do it, have your brother spot you when you start doing it. That's so you won't get hurt. She said, what do you mean by spot, and I told her. I said to my niece, I said that means somebody got to watch, (?) make sure to help pick up the weight.

03.13.28 So he's on his little (?) so we talk daily about that.

JW : Anything else?

03.13.41 CHARLES COOK : See, I'm living vicariously through my niece and nephews (?) again. With my kids, so that's a two-way switch, you know, I'm (cool with it?) And they told me to come out there so I could cook them a meal, 'cos their mother don't cook.

JW : Are you a good cook?

03.13.58 CHARLES COOK : Oh, yes, I am. I can sing and cook very well. Very well. Who told you?

JW : I heard.

03.14.09 CHARLES COOK : Yeah, I cook very well. Yeah. Yeah. Uh. Well enough that when Renee was working downtown, uh, she was uh, she does uh, you know, word processing, that type of thing. Uh, I had brought down some food for uh, her office 'cos they're having a

party. Then they said (?) the restaurant. She said no, that Charles made that. I make everything from scratch.

- 03.14.33 Biscuits, pies, cakes, or anything. I make those things. I had the place jumping. When I (?) go in the kitchen, the pots'd be doing like that, and they shaking. Say use me today. Use me. But I, I got away from (?). I haven't been bothering. I've been making her cook lately. But I can cook. Uh, my, I, I started cooking when I was about 5, 6 years old.
- 03.14.58 Uh, I used to watch my mother and my father. My father used to cook. My father used to do more baking. That's where I get the baking from. And he used to make yeast biscuits which I still haven't been able to make. Which was so good. You'd have to let the dough sit for a couple of days or a day or something like that. Uh, it's. drive me crazy. My aunt's husband also uh, my aunt used to cook every day.
- 03.15.28 So I come from a family of cooks. And I used to stay in the kitchen and watch. All the time. I'm always constantly watching. My (?) aunt's husband. I don't know if you know what the Number Banker is. You know what the numbers are? Well, in New York, you got three numbers that come out every day and somebody (everybody?) plays it's called policy for some people .You know that it is right, sir? Ok.
- 03.15.54 He used to be the banker. He'd have guys running out there. So he was always home. Ok. He's making a lot of money, he's very rich man. But he's home every day. And I would love to go to his house when school wasn't on because breakfast time, my aunt had to make from scratch, biscuits, and I'm talking about she had to fill up, she had to have at least 3 to 4 different meats on the table, and a full course breakfast. And I mean when I say breakfast, it'd be a, if you wanted grits, there was grits.
- 03.16.28 If you wanted home fries, whatever you decided, he, it was there in case he changes his mind. Every morning. And had these biscuits. And when he sat down, the biscuits would come right out the oven. He said, lunch time, she had to make hot biscuits again. No seconds.

Dinner, the same thing. Three hundred sixty-five days a year, she had to do that 3 day after day. So by being there with my cousins, I would watch and I learned.

03.16.55 And when she was making the stuff, I would so when I went to start making it, some (?) I've made my first when I was about 6 years old, I wasn't even 6. I made some uh, was like prune tarts. I just took some prunes and they were pitted, and I boiled them 'til they were soft. And I put a lot of sugar in them and I took the pits out. And I made the dough like uh, she would make. And I put the prunes in it, and I made, and I made prune tarts. And they said oh, who told you how to do that? And I was cooking ever since. I started making sweet potato pies, apple pies, anything. From scratch.

JW : Who ran the numbers?

03.17.37 CHARLES COOK : Well, he's dead now, that was a long time ago.

JW : Was he a really well-known guy?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.17.44 CHARLES COOK : I got no say no more about that. (LAUGHS) Some families secrets stay family secrets. (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : I didn't know what it was?

03.18.28 CHARLES COOK : Yeah, well they, what they do is they, they tally the uh, total sheet of the race. The third race and the sixth and the ninth race. And when they tally those three races, the last number that comes out is the first number of the first number for the uh, thing. And that's how it goes. But you can actually uh, by betting a certain amount of money, you

can uh, determine what the numbers are, but at the race track you get to determine what the last number's gonna add up monetarily.

03.18.59 Uh, and but this is, it's a big (?). They had, they used to have so many ways of cheating with the numbers. 'Cos I've written numbers in random, you know, make a little money when I was younger. So I know what it's like with the numbers. And that's not a winning game, you know? Any time you willing to give \$700, \$600 to one, how much the odds against you of hitting?

03.19.32 And uh, I know guys, I know my mother played these, played the numbers. My mother played the numbers and (?) I don't know, everybody made numbers, money on that numbers but my mother. When she was hitting for like two weeks. She never played, but she had a premonition about playing. My mother's playing three cent, and every day the people is telling her, what she gonna play today? And she was hitting every day. She had a every day for 3 weeks, she hit out of 3 weeks, she hit at least 12 times.

03.19.59 People got rich off my mother's numbers. And she wasn't, she's not all I don't play, I just wanted to. I was young then. (?) had I had known, I would have been (?) the way I play? I'd have had a hundred dollars (?) numbers that had been. Three dollars, she getting thirty something dollars and laughing like it's something. Yeah, but numbers. They call it policy.

JW : What?

03.20.24 CHARLES COOK : Policy. (~ovlp~) Yeah, policy, policy, numbers, you know? It started in uh, black areas. Uh, and then the mob took it over when they found out how much money there is, it was in it. Uh, but uh, they never really take it, the biggest guy doing it now is uh, Spanish Raymond. Out of Harlem. He's the biggest right now. And there's a few other people I know doing quite well with it.

JW : What about the idea of premonitions?

- 03.21.03 CHARLES COOK : I think so. I'll tell you something that's very true and it may sound strange. But actually it's true, two things. I went to Lang City when they first opened up. I wasn't gonna go, but I kept saying, I kept (?) dating this girl. I said, Pat, I go, uh, we need to go to (?) go some place. I said my mind is telling me we need to go someplace. Let's just go. She said, what (?) just got to go. I said, let's just get in the car.
- 03.21.31 And we got in the car. She, and (?) just started with O'Hara's first one. I said we're going to Atlantic City. My mind is telling me to get up and go. So we went down to Atlantic City, so she said where we gonna go into the casino, you know, first time in the casino. First (?) not true. First time in the casino. And the first time in any kind of legal gambling situation. Not that I haven't gambled before. And I walk in there, and we walk around, and she said, where is (?) She said, what we gonna do?
- 03.22.01 I said (?) I said, so I ended up. I said oh, I feel it, I went past these machines. I went past the slots, I went past uh, the tables. Roulette, all that. I came back and I went through there, and I said I feel it right here. And I stopped into, in front of these two machines. I said, I feel it. She said, well, you want me to hold it? And something said, no. I said, no. Something said no, don't hold it, just walk away from it. And come back. And I said if it's there for me, it'll gonna be there. you know, 'cos nobody was using them.
- 03.22.32 I come back and nobody was using. So I told her, start playing a dollar, you know? On each machine, every time. Or whatever it was (?) we was playing. Dingalingaling, I hit the jackpot. Before the woman could bring me back the rest of the money, dingalingaling. I hit the jackpot with her. I said it's time to go, that was it. And then the other thing that happened with me. I see a girl and I'm flirting, fine. And we got to talking. She calls me.
- 03.23.01 Or I call her. And I had never seen her uh, but she said she lived in Jersey. And I told her, I swear to God this is true. You can call her if you (?) think (?). I said uh, I'm gonna tell you something, and I said, I don't know how it's coming from, but I'm gonna describe your house. I described her house, what it looked like, to a Tee. I said you have a driveway that goes like that, and you have a, a downstairs, when you come in there's off and down.

03.23.28 And you go up one level to your, your apartment, and your apartment, and she said huh? It was just like I said.

JW : Have any premonitions lately?

03.23.42 CHARLES COOK : I wish I could. I, I stopped having it. I did something I know I wasn't supposed to do. And I haven't had none lately. See, God punishes you for those gifts that you abuse. Yeah.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.24.15 CHARLES COOK : There's an old West Indian remedy to get rid of a cold if you got a real bad cold. It may sound sick, but some turpentine and sugar. (~I~) Just a drop of turpentine like a needle and sugar. See all that mucus (?) right away. In the bed, though. It'll get rid of it.

JW : Ever done it before?

03.24.41 CHARLES COOK : Yep. My grandmother on my mother's side, West Indian. Yeah, I got a hell of a combination. I've got that West Indian and that Welsh and Indian on the other, on my father's side, and (LAUGHS) a little mix up. (LAUGHS) Hit on grandmothers. I told you not to mess with no high, yellow red thing like that. Talking about my father.
(LAUGHS)

03.25.09 And my (?) and my, my father's mother, I told you not to mess with them West (LAUGHS). Done trapped my son (LAUGHS) oh, god. (LAUGHS).

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

- 03.27.00 CHARLES COOK : (MID-STATEMENT) Hold her as close to you as possible, as long as you can possibly hold her (~JW~) 'cos those, those, I wish I could just hold my kids when they were young again, 'cos that was a real, you know, those are precious, precious times. You know? It just, you know, that's why I said, when my sons and my daughters grab me now and kiss me, I, it's a good thing, 'cos I, I know I did something right with them, because they feel like (hey?) this is my father, and (?) I, it makes me feel good.
- 03.27.31 I have no shame about grabbing my son and kissing him, and (?) that's, that's, I tell you it gets my son when (?) what's wrong with you kissing that man? I said, that's my son. So? You ain't, I said you got to be sick. I'm gonna kiss my son. And hug him as long as I want to hug him, you know? And that day that, that happens, kill me, let me die, 'cos it ain't worth living if it's things that mean most to me in my life is my family. Uh, that's how I feel about it.
- 03.28.00 That's why my wife is my wife forever. One life, one wife.
- 03.28.07 END OF TAPE # CC 003, IV, 11-7-04