

Reaching Out To The World
Dorothy Granberry, Geneva Miller Historical Society

Dr. Cynthia Bond Hopson, a name familiar to many in Haywood County, is widely known for the many public programs she presents in Brownsville often in collaboration with the Delta Heritage Center. A noted motivational speaker and popular author, Dr. Hopson is currently airing a podcast, Three Stores, Two Gins, and A Remarkable Life. The podcast is accessible via the internet.

For each podcast, Dr. Hopson interviews an individual about his/her life. A theme coursing through each of the interviews is the paths the interviewee followed "to get from there to here". These are stories of how people were able to turn obstacles into steppingstones, how they were able to turn negatives into positives. Stories of mentors and helping hands along the way. Stories of personal perseverance and focus. Stories of finding a purpose in life and persistently working toward getting to that point.

From these conversations hosted by Dr. Hopson, the world gets a glimpse of the discipline many of her interviewees learned from the cotton and tobacco fields of the South, the lessons learned from seeing the world from a second chair. The listener hears about the role of institutions such as the family, church and school in shaping each of these remarkable lives.

Of particular interest to Haywood County are the interviews with several of Dr. Hopson's seven sisters and brothers. Dr. Hopson's parents, Mr. John A. Bond and Ms. Alvis Marie Bond of the Douglass Community, successfully raised eight youngsters among whom are a university dean, a lawyer, a business executive and others, as well as the prolific, Cynthia Ann.