

Annie Mae Carpenter  
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I, Annie Mae Carpenter, started employment with Stephen F. Austin State University September 10, 1963. I worked as a maid with the responsibility of cleaning the restrooms in the Chemistry, Rusk, and Austin buildings and then Dr. Steen's home after I finished around 8:00 A.M.

After the university grew I was never at Dr. Steen's home at 8:00 A.M. but it was about 8:30 A.M. I would work from 8:30 to 12:00 A.M. He lived in a 2-story brick house. On Monday I did the washing that didn't go to the laundry, changed bed linens, wash dishes, clean two ovens, five bathrooms, and the dusting. When I finished it would be 12:00 and then I would go back on campus and clean the five restrooms again. By the time I made my rounds it was time to go home. Later they added to my jobs the conference room in the Austin building. As they would have meetings I tried to clean them in the afternoon if the meeting had adjourned. If not, I would clean it in the mornings before going to Dr. Steen's home.

I am only on campus two full days, Tuesday and Thursday, but I still had to do my full job on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday before going to Dr. Steen's. On Wednesday and Friday I did my general housecleaning.

On the afternoon of October 22, when I started back to work from lunch (cleaning my restrooms) the girl that works in the Rusk building asked if I had seen Mr. Miller and I said, "No". Then I went to one of my other buildings and then returned back to the Austin building. I started at the first floor and was working to the third when one of the janitors asked if I had seen Mr. Miller. I still hadn't. He didn't know what Mr. Miller wanted with me so I started cleaning the conference room feeling if it was important he would come over. I was there about 20 minutes when he sent Duck on the 3rd. floor and she said to me, "Annie Mae, Mr. Miller wants to see you. He is standing on the 2nd. floor by the elevator." I immediately went down to see what he wanted. He said to me, "Annie, what I am about to say I know you are going to get mad with me." I said, "No Sir, I won't get mad if it is anything in the bound of reason I will do, but if not in the bound of reason, the word is No." Then he explained what he wanted me to do - Go to the W.R.C. at 7:00 A.M. every morning to clean it. I don't remember the size but it is a large building. I was to mop it first, apply some kind of spray on the big industrial mop and then go back over it, plus one classroom in the W.R.C. I replied, "Mr. Miller, I can not do that with the other jobs I have to do. I don't get down to Dr. Steen's on time as it is". He said, "You aren't going to do it?" I said, "It is not a matter I'm not going to do it, but how can I?" He said, "When you go down to punch out this afternoon, you will have to see Mr. Green." (Mr. Green is over the grounds). When I got there Mr. Miller met me there. Mr. Green was on the outside looking for his truck. Mr. Miller stopped him and said, "We want to see you for a few minutes." Mr. Miller said to Mr. Green, "Annie said she couldn't do what we asked her to do." Mr. Green said, "You mean to tell me you aren't going to do it?" I replied, "Mr. Green, how can I with all the jobs I have to do?" Then he turned and went to his truck, didn't say another word. Then Mr. Miller shook his finger in my face and said, "When I tell you to do something I mean for you to do it, and I mean for you to be at the W.R.C. at 7:00 o'clock in the morning and if you aren't going to do it I mean for you to resign now." And I replied, "I am not going to do that neither. You can fire me but I am not going to resign." Mr. Miller didn't say a

word, he just walked off.

Nothing was done or said Tuesday to my knowing.

When I arrived at work Wednesday, October 24, I did the same work I had been doing and went to Dr. Steen's. After 9:00 A.M. I received a telephone call from Mr. Miller. He said, "Annie, at 1:00 o'clock you are to go to Mr. Green's office." I came back from Dr. Steen's and ate my lunch. At 1:00 o'clock I was at Mr. Green's office but he wasn't there. The secretary in the office asked if she could help me so I told her I was to see Mr. Green at 1:00 P. M. She said he had just left going by the way of the carpenter shop. I said, "I don't know what to do." She replied, "Call Mr. Haas' office, he might be up there." I called and he was not there but Mrs. Cloudy, Mr. Haas' secretary, said if he came she would tell him to call. Between 30 minutes and an hour, Mr. Green called in and this same secretary at Mr. Green's office give me the message that, "Mr. Green said Wait." I waited better than an hour and Mr. Green came in. Archie Lee told me he was in and said for me to go to his office. When I arrived Mr. Green said, "We were looking on the record and found out you are the only one that came to work and could do this job and Mr. Miller said he couldn't see the reason why you couldn't because he had the men to clean the restrooms at night." I said, "Mr. Green, did Mr. Miller say that? No one goes into the lady's restrooms from the time I go there in the mornings and do my cleaning and then again in the afternoons until I get there the next morning." He said, "No, he didn't tell me that, we will have to talk to Mr. Miller again because he told me he had somebody to clean up at night." Then he tried to get Mr. Miller on the shop radio but failed to contact him. He said, "I will talk to Mr. Miller again." And then I thanked him and walked out of his office. When I walked out into the outer office, Mr. Miller was there using the telephone. When I saw him, I turned and went back into Mr. Green's office and told him Mr. Miller was out there using the phone and did he want us to go on and get through with it now and he said "Yes". Mr. Green got up and went out there and asked him to come in. The door was open - Mr. Miller said, "You mean now?" And Mr. Green said, "Yes, now".

I was already sitting when Mr. Miller came in and sat down. Then Mr. Green said, "Mr. Miller, Annie and I were just talking and she said no one cleans the restrooms in all three buildings from the time she cleans them in the afternoon until she goes back in the mornings. Is that true?" Mr. Miller said, "Yes, but I will start letting somebody do it at night where she can get the W.R.C. at 7:00 o'clock in the morning. Including the classroom." He only gave me 30 minutes to do it. I said, "I can not do it, that is a man's job." Mr. Miller said, "You mean to tell me if I let the men clean up the restrooms at night, you can't do that at 7:00 o'clock in the morning?" I said, telling him how I couldn't do it with my other jobs he said, "Shut up and let me talk because if it was left up to me I would have fired you long time ago." I tried to explain again and he said, "Get out of here". I said, "I will". I left and went to Dr. Steen's office.

David Fry, Personnel Manager, was walking up the hall in front of me so he went pass Dr. Steen's office and I went in but he had some architects in his office.

In about 30 minutes or later Mr. Miller and Mr. Green walked into

Dr. Steen's office. I said to the secretary, "I guess Mr. Fry is not going to see Dr. Steen. He came ahead of me and went on down stairs". After I said that either Mr. Miller or Mr. Green said to the other, "You think Mr. Fry is coming up?" And he said, "I don't know". Mr. Green turned and asked the secretary to call Mr. Fry and ask him to come up. He came on up. In about 15 or 20 minutes Dr. Steen came out with the architects. Dr. Steen's secretary said, "Dr. Steen, Annie was here first. She won't be long. Do you want to see her first?" Mr. Green said, "We all want to see you". So we all went into the office. It was quiet a few minutes and Mr. Miller said, "Dr. Steen we are having a little problem with Annie Mae. We asked her to go every morning to the W.R.C. and push it and one classroom". He said he gave me an hour to do it. "But I decided to take the classroom away from her and let the men clean the restrooms at night". He said, "The reason we are asking her to do this is because when the men go over there they are still playing in there and the men can't do it because they play until after 11:00 o'clock at night". Dr. Steen posed for a while and said, "Annie, I think if they take the restrooms away from you and you push the W.R.C., I think that is a pretty good offer". I said, "Dr. Steen, you mean, do a man's job?" Mr. Green said, "We even offer her this, we asked her if she would even try it and she said she wouldn't even try". I said, "Dr. Steen, there is no use me trying when I know I can't do a man's job. I am sorry to say I can't do it". Mr. Miller said, "Annie, you know we never got along". And I said, "You know the reason why? Because you are a man over a group of people and can't make your decision to the best of your knowledge. And you never came to me right, only on what somebody said and I said, you want me to tell you about it? The first thing first. When I had surgery on my feet two years ago in December, I stayed off until January. I told the doctor what I had to do and he said I could walk that little distance in my wooden shoes and I still had the stitches in my feet. But I would have to ride down to Dr. Steen's but no extra walking. You called me on Sunday night at home and said you were informed I was coming back to work Monday and said, "Annie, you and Maurine will go to the medical center". He had taken it away from me before this. I said, "Mr. Miller, please let me survive. I will just come back to work with the wooden shoes and stitches in my feet". He said, "Nobody can tell you a damn thing" and slammed the receiver down. My husband turned and said, "What was that?" I said "nothing". And I came to work Monday morning, punched in. Mr. Paul Wilson and Mr. Garrett was standing in the middle of the floor and I was talking with them when Maurine walked in to punch the clock. And she turned around to Mr. Wilson and said, "You know it is a shame Annie Mae had surgery on her feet and Mr. Miller said we are going to have to go to the medical center". He said, "Listen Maurine, I don't want to hear this. Mr. Miller was going to hire a girl and you walked in and stopped him. You are the cause of the whole thing and I don't want to hear that lie. Another thing, this girl is a friend of yours and you are always trying to stab her in the back". She denied it.

Then she tried to take my vacation on August 24th. and Mr. Miller went alone with her. He said for me to take it on the 14th. because Mama and Papa (this is what he calls Maurine and her husband) wanted to take theirs on the 24th. and I said I was going to take mine on the 24th. because I always have. My brothers and I have made plans for the 24th. and now you are trying to change mine but I am still going to take it on the 24th. The next day I heard someone calling me and when I turned around it was Mr. Miller. He said, "Annie, by God you went to Dr. Steen on me". I said, "Who told you I went to Dr. Steen?" He said, "It matters

a damn, but I am going to see Goddamn you won't get a vacation next year". I replied, "If that is the way you feel I will see you don't have anything to do with my vacation next year". That is the reason why I said he couldn't make his own decisions, others were always agitating.

Mr. Miller about two weeks ago, one of the girls were cleaning the main building (Austin). When she was mopping she found \$1.25 and said to Duck, Maurine's sister, "Look what I found". And in turn Duck called Mr. Miller and said this girl was stealing money out of the secretary's desk drawers. Maurine called him later and told him to get rid of that girl, it made her sister nervous because she wasn't use to being around someone that stole. So he transferred her to the new library from 11:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M.

The next week, Maurine called Mr. Miller and said she was doing all of J. C.'s work, that he wasn't doing anything and asked to be moved to the second floor and was.

All of this is the reason I said we couldn't get alone.

Thursday Dr. Steen called me in his office (his secretary found me just before I got on the elevator). When I went into his office, he said, "Annie, I still think that is a pretty good offer and I wish you would try it". I said, "Dr. Steen, I have never turned you down but doing a man's job, I still have to say No." Dr. Steen said, "I hope Mr. Green changes his mind then". And I said, "Knowing Mr. Green, he won't". And doing a man's job my mind is made up, the answer is still No".

Thursday afternoon when I went to punch out there was a note on my card saying Mr. Green wants to see me. When I went into his office, he asked how I felt, I said fine. He said, "Are you still not going to take the W.R.C.?" And I said, "You mean still take a man's job?" And I said, "Mr. Green, the answer is still no." He said, "Then Dr. Steen said for me to tell you to turn over the keys because we can't use you anymore". I did and said, "Thank you, it was nice knowing you". I left.

*Mrs Annie Mae Carpenter*  
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