

Josephine Jordan & Bleaker Blake
INTERVIEWEE

Interviewer: George Garrison
Louse Pettus Archives and Special Collections
Winthrop University

Interview #: OH - 711

Interviewed: 2012
Transcribed on: September 19, 2022
Transcribed by: William F. Calandro
Annotated by: Cody A. Cook
MP3 File of Cassette Recording
Length: 01:19:54

Abstract: In his interview with Josephine Jordan and Bleaker Blake, Dr. George Garrison aims to discover the history of Emmett Scott High School (ESHS) and the African American experience in Rock Hill, South Carolina during a time of racial segregation. The Scottites organization, ESHS band, faculty, and alumni are all topics of discussion. In addition to the school, Jordan and Blake recount the Black-business district of Rock Hill on West Black Street as well as the influence of the Civil Rights Movement. Named for Emmett Jay Scott (1873-1957), a prominent educator, advisor to Booker T. Washington, and secretary-treasurer of Howard University, the African American school opened in 1920 and comprised all twelve grades until 1956 when it became a junior high and high school. Following the integration of S.C. schools in 1970, Emmett Scott closed its doors. It would later become the Emmett Scott Recreation Center where community events are still held today.

*This is an edited transcription. Our transcription guidelines are available upon request/on our website.

Time Keywords:

00:00:00 **GG: Interviewing Lee Cook and Josephine – Bleaker, Josephine would it be ok if I record this, for accuracy sake.**

00:00:13 JJ: Yes, I know you have to have a mix of notes.

00:00:16 **GG: Yes exactly, I have to.**

00:00:20 JJ: Cause I guess Scottites now.

00:00:22 **GG: Yes**

[Crosstalk]

JJ: Yeah

00:00:23 **GG: Alright, speaking of that. Let's start by discussing the Scottite organization¹.**

00:00:26 JJ: Ok, well it's right there. [Pointing to her book]

00:00:26 [Both Laugh]

00:00:30 **GG: I've been reading the book, but I got some questions I thought you can answer.**

[Crosstalk]

JJ: But did you read the book

00:00:37 **GG: I am, uh, when was this started?**

00:00:40 JJ: Well we'll get to Blake on that.

[Crosstalk]

BB: [Unclear]

JJ: We'll get that. Now boy she's *fine* on that.

00:00:47 **GG: Who's idea was it?**

00:00:50 JJ: Class of 1959

[Crosstalk]

GG: Ok

00:00:52 BB: Wait wait, right there, back up. Josephine, *and* the class of 1959.

00:00:59 **GG: Yeah that's right, give her credit.**

00:01:00 BB: Yes because, it was her.

00:01:01 **GG: And, how many chapters developed?**

00:01:05 JJ: 5?

[Crosstalk]

BB: 5?

¹ The Scottites, an alumni organization of Emmett Scott High School (ESHS) founded by Josephine Jordan and other members of the ESHS Class of 1959. The organization aims at reuniting Scottites (name given to attendees of ESHS) and preserving the legacy of the school and the African American community.

00:01:06 **GG: See, I thought it was three.**

00:01:07 JJ: Five

[Crosstalk]

GG: Five chapters.

00:01:10 **GG: Alright but, where were they.**

00:01:12 JJ: New York, New Jersey, Washington

00:01:18 **GG: Ok**

JJ: Oh, Philadelphia

[Crosstalk]

BB: Philadelphia, Rock Hill

00:01:20 **GG: Rock Hill, wow. Approximately, if you had to estimate. I know you have no way of knowing... About how many members would you say?**

00:01:29 JJ: Well, the locally or-

00:01:32 **GG: All, throughout the country.**

00:01:36 JJ: Meaning how many people they had at one time?

00:01:37 **GG: Approximately, no just in general if you had to estimate the number of people that say that, New York had... Philadelphia had...**

00:01:47 JJ: Ohh, well their membership-

00:01:49 **GG: Ya their membership.**

00:01:50 JJ: Over 200.. Noo because we had about 85 [Pause] at one time. We had 85 members one time.

00:01:58 BB: Yes, once-

00:01:59 JJ: We had a bunch, so that's over 400.

00:02:02 **GG: Yeah so that's safe. Yeah around 400 at least.**

00:02:07 JJ: For the five chapters

- 00:02:08 **GG: Over the long history of the Scottites, What has been its importance to the legacy of the Emmett Scott High School? In your latest estimate.**
- 00:02:21 JJ: Keeping the memory of Emmett Scott alive, and getting together people [Pause] find the people they thought they had lost, because one lady always say if we didn't have access to the Scottites we wouldn't have known for each other. For all these years.
- 00:02:41 **GG: So friends reuniting, classmates through this organization over the years.**
- 00:02:45: JJ: Yes
- 00:02:47 **GG: So those of us who are among that, so Emmett Scott High school are a part of it. Slowly vanishing group, what do you think should be done to ensure that this knowledge of this high school is not lost to history? What should we do?**
- 00:03:03 JJ: We're in the process now of [Pause] renovating the auditorium, and let people know who McGirt² is or was, because they have no knowledge. They were very surprised when they saw his picture, you know we got a few little things in there for him but we ran out of money.
- 00:03:28 **GG: Yes, Especially young people**
- 00:03:31 JJ: They don't know.
- 00:03:32 **GG: They don't even know there was a high school there.**
- 00:03:34 JJ: No because when I tell them, they say: "Where did you go to school." Because I work in a district now, and I say Emmett Scott. They say: "That's a neighborhood center Miss Jordan." And I have to let them know that that was a High School, because they don't know. So it needs to be known that that was an only Afro American, High School, *and* Elementary School.
- 00:04:00 **GG: And Elementary School, yes. This research you all helped me with the other day is intended into that to help preserve the legacy, and certainly the Scottite organization over the years in its existence has done that and I see all that as a continuation of trying to preserve the legacy of the school. [Pause] Send me some information about this renovation. Try and get my class involved in this to help you guys.**
- 00:04:31 JJ: Well we sent out information in 2010 and we were asking folks for donations, and we only got about \$1800 and, we still got a ways to go. We've had Sherwin- Williams donate to paint, and they painted the foyer as you walk in, and the city put in a six wide – she called them frames, book case, and we got Mr. McGirt's picture in there, now and in 2010 the Mayor [Doug Echols]³ gave us a proclamation and it's in there. And we trying to find some other little things to put in there, but we can't let all classes put stuff in there because it's not large enough. And we put new linoleum and there's two dressing rooms, and we bought sofas for those two dressing rooms.

² Ralph Waldo McGirt (1909-1959), former principal of ESHS (1938-1959). McGirt, a native of Camden, earned his A.B. from State College [S.C. State University] and later a M.A. degree from Ohio State before serving as principal at ESHS for twenty one years. The McGirt Auditorium (c. 1959) at the ESHS site was named in his honor.

³ Jordan indirectly references Douglas "Doug" Echols, longtime Mayor of Rock Hill (1998-2018).

- 00:05:33 **GG: I remember for my class we talked about that once, it's coming back to me now. We had voted, to send somebody and they just checked to see if that had happened.**
- 00:05:46 JJ: So now we kinda not gotta stand still here with finances because the man charges \$1200 for the tile down, and I did find some reasonable sofas. I wouldn't try to find no expensive stuff because that's just for a dressing room you know for their hair and things.
- 00:06:08 **GG: Yes, still having concerts and stuff?**
- 00:06:10 JJ: They had the concerts and stuff, in there and what not, and that's kind of [too cool?]
- 00:06:16 **GG: Who's in charge of that, who schedules it.**
- 00:06:19 JJ: Concerts?
- 00:06:20 **GG: Yes, any professional people in there.**
- 00:06:22 JJ: Latoya. She's the director. Latoya, she got married Latoya...
- 00:06:30 **GG: Does she work with the city? Or is she separate?**
- 00:06:30 [Crosstalk]
- 00:06:30 JJ: The city, she works for the city.
- 00:06:32 **GG: The city, that's how I about to say it.**
- 00:06:36 BB: So we could take George down to, down to Emmett Scott so he can see.
- [Crosstalk]
- JJ: Yeah, I need to take a trip down and some stuff today. I need to go down there today, I keep calling and they not answering.
- 00:06:50 **GG: Anything to do with your grandparents?**
- 00:06:56 JJ: Like what school?
- 00:07:00 **GG: And if so, anything to do with slaves? Or did they talk about their parents or grandparents who were slaves? You know anybody in your family who was a slave, in your history going that far back.**
- 00:07:11 BB: I can't go that far back.
- 00:07:14 JJ: No, my momma never talked about her grandparents because she was from Georgia, but my granddaddy. I knew my granddaddy, and he was not a slave because his mother was a white lady.

00:07:31 **GG: Ok**

00:07:32 JJ: And he was kind of brought up in the big house until she died and then-

00:07:36 **GG: His mother was a white lady-**

00:07:37 JJ: My granddad...

00:07:41 **GG: How does that happen?**

00:07:43 JJ: I don't know [laughter]

00:07:45 **GG: That's the other way around.**

00:07:47 JJ: No, my granddaddies mother was a white lady and his daddy was what they called some kind of black Indian.

00:07:56 **GG: Ok**

00:07:57 JJ: You know what I'm saying?

00:07:58 **GG: I do, I do.**

00:07:59 JJ: And so I don't know you know how that was-

00:08:03 **GG: Was this in your county or down in Georgia?**

00:08:05 JJ: Chester County

00:08:06 **GG: This is Chester County-**

00:08:07 JJ: My daddy is from Chester County.

00:08:08 **GG: How old, do you know approximately how old you grandfather was when he died**

00:08:14 JJ: He died at 97

00:08:15 **GG: 97, what year did he-**

00:08:16 JJ: Well we thought – died. 1965 at the time we thought because daddy was born February and my Granddaddy died October.

00:08:27 **GG: In 65' and he was 97.**

00:08:30 JJ: 97

00:08:32 **GG: So born in 1868. Wow.**

00:08:35 JJ: Yes

00:08:36 **GG: Now that's interesting because a lot of research I've been doing is looking how these three races intermingle right there, people who are European descendent, people who are African descendent in their unique population.**

00:08:59 JJ: Now I have pictures, my daddy looked. I have a picture of my granddaddy, and I have a picture of his mother.

00:09:04 **GG: Yes, he died in 65'.**

00:09:07 JJ: No, my oldest son born September of 65' and he died October 97'

00:09:13 **GG: A black Indian, ok.**

00:09:15 JJ: He was a Sweat, as we [unclear] called down there.

00:09:20 **GG: A Sweat**

00:09:20 JJ: But the story goes that when his mother died, her father told him and his sister that they had to leave, they couldn't stay there because you know they weren't all white. And he gave them enough money, and he must have been a teenage boy. He didn't have enough money to go somewhere and get another start. So he start, he went into a family named Anderson, and changed his name from Sweat to Anderson. But his last brother, and his brother used to go to see him when he was living on Black Street, I can remember that.

00:10:02 **GG: The white one?**

00:10:03 JJ: The white one. And the last one that died lived on Horse Street, and I remember him looking at you know the tall man, the white man. And I remember him, he was the last brother. I think his name was John Swif.

00:10:18: **GG: Swif?**

00:10:19 BB: Her Granddaddy's name.

00:10:26 JJ: I don't remember that.

00:10:27 **GG: I know you don't remember-**

{All laugh}

00:10:31 JJ: The name, the boys named after the one [unclear] James Saddle White Anderson now what was the boys name - , something, something Saddle White, it will come to me.

00:10:40 **GG: It will come before I finish.**

- 00:10:46 JJ: He had Saddle White, Anderson. He was the minister.
- 00:10:50 **GG: Your Grandfather?**
- 00:10:52 JJ: Yes
- 00:10:53 **GG: So originally it was Saddle White Sweat, and it changed to Anderson. Was the Anderson's a black family or a white family?**
- 00:11:01 JJ: I had a, my aunt never did say, my daddy never did say,
- 00:11:04 **GG: Was that family in the Rock Hill area?**
- 00:11:08 JJ: Chester County
- 00:11:09 **GG: Chester County, Ok. Ok. Now is that the Catawba Indians, or some other Indians that he was-**
- 00:11:13 JJ: All I know is she say, she called her father black Indian-
- 00:11:18 **GG: Was he born here?**
- 00:11:20 JJ: I don't know, she just never did really talk about a lot of you know the daddy because it, people think now that the girl had a baby and what not, but it seemed to me the Sweat was his mother's name.
- 00:11:39 BB: How do you spell that Sweat?
- 00:11:40 JJ: S.W.E.A.T. They never talked about his dad. They talked about his mother.
- 00:11:44 **GG: This a Sweats funeral involved in one of these?**
- 00:11:53 JJ: No, she's down there at Harmony⁴ on-
- 00:11:53 BB: Edgemoor [S.C.]
- 00:11:54 JJ: In Edgemoor section.
- 00:11:55 **GG: That's where his mother is buried, ok. But the Sweats is a big family.**
- 00:12:00 JJ: It is! And I met them when I was working at-
- 00:12:03 BB: Rock Hill
- 00:12:15 JJ: And she started working, at Westminster, and she started talking about her man name was Sweat, and she married a Sweat. And I started talking and then I asked, did you know a man

⁴ Harmony Baptist Church Cemetery is located in Edgemoor, Chester County, South Carolina.

named John Sweat on Wall Street? “Yeah that’s my husband’s uncle.” I said well you know what, that man was my Granddaddy’s brother. She turned red as ripe. And she went home! And her husband must have told her-

00:12:36 **GG: The truth**

00:12:37 JJ: The truth, about that. And she never talked to me no more after that.

00:12:42 **GG: That’s amazing.**

[All Laugh]

00:34:22 **GG: The classroom buildings and everything.**

JJ: Everything.

00:12:43 **GG: She had been glad she promised some grandkids, you know? [Through laughter]**

00:12:49 JJ: Yes, but you know how that goes, but my granddaddy actual white man, now a lot of mine of my daddies all of them are dead now, but if you see them they got those high cheek bones, or real light skin and that, and what not.

00:13:04 **GG: Yeah, plus the Catawba Indians were the big Indians around here so that’s why-**

00:13:10 JJ: Could have been you know [pause] I never heard much about the daddy. Just the mother.

00:13:16 **GG: Were both of you born and raised in Rock Hill?**

00:13:18 JJ: Yes

[Crosstalk]

BB: Yes

00:13:19 **GG: Before you ever went to Emmett Scott High School, what did you think about the High School that you would one day attend?**

00:13:26 JJ: We would have to think about it.

00:13:30 BB: Have to what?

00:13:32 **GG: I know, that means that you were looking forward to it in anticipation-**

[Crosstalk]

JJ: Oh yeah, the High School.

BB: Yeah

GG: And to herd the older kids who heard you talking about it.

00:13:38 JJ: We couldn't wait to go to Emmett Scott-

00:13:42 BB: I really wanted to be in High School before, I got there [laughter] and once I got there I was afraid of you know, older kids might jump the ninth graders and what not but um, I was interested in going there quite a bit, and learning. You know getting a higher education because we had got a lack of foundation at West End, and you see we just cruise at Emmett Scott. [Laughter]

00:14:15 **GG: Well I knew the answer to that question because you know [Unclear] across the street watching you and Genya and Francine go down and catch that bus right there.**

[All Laughing]

I couldn't wait to get off that bus. I just couldn't wait to get off that bus, that thing I wrote about you know, it was true! It was true.

00:14:36 JJ: It was good.

00:14:38 **GG: Describe Rock Hill in your youth, in the early stages of your adulthood.**

00:14:44 BB: Adulthood [Unclear]

00:14:45 **GG: What would you say about Rock Hill, when you guys were growing up around here.**

00:14:51 JJ: Well we know it was not [Pause] it was terrible. The injustice for the black people. Our prejudice, even until 1965, black people couldn't get the better jobs, you know and uh, we couldn't go in the front door of a doctor's office, we had to go through the side. We had to get, uhh, restaurants out the side window, and places like that. It was, everything was black and white. Even down to the water fountain, and they didn't start hiring, and the reason I could remember this so well. They didn't start hiring blacks in the school districts office work for secretaries and things like that, until 1965, and Ms. [Ruth Pharr?] helped me get a job.

00:15:50 **GG: The administrator?**

00:15:51 JJ: No, [unclear name]'s mother, she was a teacher.

00:15:56 **GG: Right by the Carver Theatre⁵ is where the house sit.**

00:15:59 JJ: Yes, yes but this was a house on the corner, as you turned

[Crosstalk]

⁵ Located at 411 W Main Street, the Carver Theatre opened its doors to the African American community of Rock Hill, S.C. in June 1947. Operating under Mr. Jesse C. Cox, the 496-seat movie theater allowed Blacks to experience cinema amidst "White-only" theaters in the Jim Crow South. The theater closed its doors in 1971, later becoming a pool hall.

BB: Before you get ready to turn on Black Street

00:16:08 JJ: And a store building that they ran, you know when you turn in here? It's the bricks building, the white house the build that. Well later years they moved to Green Street.

00:16:20 **GG: Ok, and she helped you get-**

00:16:23 JJ: A job, in 1965.

00:16:25 **GG: That's Cynthia's mother?**

00:16:26 JJ: Cynthia's mother.

[Crosstalk]

BB: That's right.

00:16:28 **GG: Are y'all in touch with her?**

00:16:30 JJ: Yeah, we're working on a project called Building Rock Hill

[Crosstalk]

BB: yeah

00:16:34 **GG: Let me get that phone number from you.**

00:16:36 JJ: I don't have it.

00:16:38 BB: Well it's in the book. All under the name James Reilly.

00:16:40 **GG: In this book here? Or the phone book?**

00:16:42 JJ: Phone book

00:16:42 **GG: Ok, alright. What were some of the black businesses that you remember in Rock Hill. Where were they located? Who owned it?**

00:16:54 BB: Downtown Black Street, what's the man off Mill Street.

00:16:58 JJ: Mutt's Pool Hall, Mills Service Station.⁶

⁶ Mutt's Pool Hall (1955-1968) at 119 W. Black St. was owned and operated by Alexander "Mutt" Hinton (1900-1992). Another well-known Black business, Mills Service Station, was located at 127 W. Black Street (1951-1963) and later at 131 W. Black Street (1964-1972).

00:17:03 **GG: Mills?**

00:17:05 JJ: Mills. Service Station.

00:17:08 **GG: Devil Square**

00:17:09 JJ: All of this was on Black Street.

00:17:10 **GG: Ahh, Black Street.⁷**

00:17:11 BB: [Unclear]

[Crosstalk]

JJ: Pink Brown was a bars man.

00:17:17 **GG: [unclear]**

00:17:18 JJ: Yeah, I guess he did, it had a Marie Gist is a restaurant. She served barbecue, Marie Gist.⁸ All right there on the right side-

00:17:34 **GG: Going up?**

00:17:35 JJ: Going up.

00:17:36 **GG: Was it, Marie Gist, was it right there, it was right there in that businesses shop? Or marketplace?**

00:17:42 JJ: [unclear]

[Crosstalk]

BB: Railroad track

00:17:45 **GG: Ok, it was the same time that The Minute Grill was there?⁹**

00:17:49 JJ: Minute Grill was there. The Minute Grill came later. Service Station was here, and then there was an alley way, and then I think she was right here, and that step was the Club Delisha and

⁷ Commonly referred to as “Black Wall Street,” this nickname refers to a section of Black Street where Black-owned businesses thrived in Rock Hill, especially during segregation. The street’s actual name “Black” references a founding family of Rock Hill (the Black Family), not African Americans.

⁸ Mrs. Marie Gist operated a restaurant at 303 W. Black Street from 1949-1953 according to The Rock Hill City Directory.

⁹ The Minute Grill was located at 121 W. Black Street from 1961-1971 according to The Rock Hill City Directory.

they had Mutt's Pool Hall, Robinson's funeral home¹⁰, and Pink Brown had his bar for a while-
11

[crosstalk]

BB: What about Hunt's place. [Probably Hunt's Shine Parlor]

00:18:17 JJ: He wasn't downtown yet.

00:18:18 BB: Wasn't downtown.

00:18:19 JJ: Not at that time.

00:18:22 **GG: What's that lady's name again?**

00:18:24 JJ: Marie Gist. G.I.S.T.

00:18:25 **GG: Ok**

00:18:26 JJ: She had a, you know she served food in the [unclear] and they'd dance and stuff like that and on the opposite side was the Blue Bird Taxi.¹²

00:18:36 BB: Barber shops.

00:18:37 **GG: Barber Shop.**

00:18:39 JJ: No, it was, she that same area.

00:18:42 **GG: It as before they moved back up in there, at one time when I was coming along, Blue Bird was up there Wilson and Black.**

00:18:50 JJ: No no, everything was up there. Before you get the railroad track. They were up there-

00:18:57 BB: Dave Tigler.

00:19:00 **GG: What did Dave Tigler do?**

¹⁰ Robinson Funeral Home, formerly the Peoples Undertaking Company, is a funeral home service operated by the Robinson Family of Rock Hill. Founded in 1911 by William M. Robinson, Jr. (1888-1931), the business was originally located at 117 W. Black St. until 1925 when it relocated to 111 W. Black St. In 1960, John W. Ramseur, a nephew of the family, joined the business. In 1973, the funeral home moved to 527 S Dave Lyle Blvd where it continues to operate. The company celebrated 100 years of service to the community in 2011.

¹¹ Pinckney "Pink" Brown (ca. 1904-1976) was a Rock Hill businessman and civic leader. Brown owned and operated Brown's Billiard Parlor & Lunch at 115 W Black Street from 1953-1971. He was also a bondman. In 1969, Brown became the first African American appointed to the York County Board of Public Welfare.

¹² According to the Rock Hill City Directory, the Blue Bird Taxi Company operated from 1946 to 1972 on W. Black Street. When the original building was demolished, Mr. Leroy Dye, owner and operator, relocated the business to 729 Green Street before ending operations in 1992.

- 00:19:01 BB: He was a Taxi. He owned a taxi line.¹³
- 00:19:03 JJ: And then, we had the [Unclear] fish market.¹⁴ James Smith's-
- 00:19:11 **GG: On Trade Street?**
- 00:19:12 BB: No, but it was Black Street, but before Smith had what were those people? You know, they people that moved to Fayetteville, those people go wawawawa. The Watson. Oh! The Iday Watson, they started it. The Watts
[Crosstalk]
- 00:19:26 JJ: Oh! Iday Watts.
- 00:19:28 **GG: They started what?**
- 00:19:29 JJ: The fish market!
- 00:19:30 JJ: It was Reverend Iday Watts, I.D.A.Y. Watson. W.A.T.S.O.N, Watson I forgot about, ya-
- 00:19:40 BB: They moved from Fayetteville!
- 00:19:42 **GG: And, who owned it before them?**
- 00:19:44 JJ: Smiths
[Crosstalk
BB: Smiths
- 00:19:45: **GG: You don't know the first name?**
- 00:19:48 JJ: James
[Crosstalk}
BB: James
- 00:19:48 JJ: A preacher.
- 00:19:49 **GG: James Smith, does he still own it?**
- 0019:50 JJ: Oh yeah!

¹³ Mr. David "Dave" Tigler (1910-1973) owned a taxi line in Rock Hill, S.C. According to the City Directory, Tigler operated Service Taxi Co. on W. Black Street from 1942 until 1971. Tigler was also a bondsman located at 104 W. Black Street (1961-1963).

¹⁴ Jordan is most likely referencing Rev. Iday Watson and Pastor James H. Smith's *West Black Street Fish Market*. The market first opened in 1958, selling raw and cooked fish as well as grocery items. The original market closed in 1970. However, Smith and Watson operated another location on Clinton Avenue. Smith assumed sole ownership in 2002 with the passing of Rev. Watson.

00:19:52 **GG: So he must be in the East End.**

00:19:53 JJ: Oh ya. Clinton Avenue. Her Granddaughter married that man.

00:19:57 **GG: Ok**

00:19:59 JJ: That's why I've been there too.

00:20:01 **GG: Yeah, and that was on Black Street on the other side.**

00:20:03 JJ: Yes, on the left.

00:20:04 **GG: Now you know eventually there's a fish market ended up on Trade Street there. Or is that the shoe store?**

00:20:10 JJ: That's the shoe store

[Crosstalk]

BB: That's the shoe store.

00:20:12 **GG: The shoe store, who owned that shoe repair shop?**

00:20:17 JJ: Joe Murphy, no on what street?

00:20:21 **GG: Trade, and White. Across from the railroad tracks. I remember Wagon Wheel worked in there at one time.**

00:20:27 JJ: Ohhh! That was Caldwell, Caldwell Street.

00:20:32 **GG: No, that is later years.**

00:20:33 JJ: But Joe Murphy-

00:20:34 **GG: On Caldwell Street.**

00:20:36 JJ: No that wasn't Joe Murphy that's that short man that - that's that little short fellow he had a, well used to go cut across, going down what is that Wilson Street, and there was a little cut across and we used to go through there a little old street and we would go cut across there and come out on Dave Lyle go to school. But I can't remember that little short man, nice skinny man.

00:21:00 **GG: They guy I'm talking about had a uhh, handicap.**

00:21:04 JJ: That's what I'm talking about.

00:21:05 **GG: Ok, and he eventually ended up on that street down there, what is that Heigan?**

- 00:21:10 JJ: Yeah, I know who you're talking about, but that's been too long.
[All laugh]
- 00:21:19 JJ: See we would come down Wilson Street, and right down there on Wilson Street past the post office now, you could cut across that field, but then there was a street – [Pause] you could across that and there was a little wide street, and this man had a uhh, it was Moore Street, it was part of Moore Street, and he had a shoe shop there. A little short man and he was kind of-
- 00:21:49 BB: Might [Unclear] He was across from that wasn't he.
- 00:21:50 JJ: It might have been. Because he lived over there. I know who you're talking about. But now that's just been too long.
[All laughing]
- 00:22:00 **GG: It's been a while, used to get my shoes repaired there. And when will it going off to uhh, down in Denmar-**
- 00:22:08 JJ: Era Trace?
- 00:22:10 **JG: Yeah, and they came back and went to Workman [Street]**
- 00:22:11 JJ: And then the next time he worked Mr. Board.
- 00:22:14 **GG: Board**
- 00:22:15 JJ: George Board, but that's not the man that you, we talking about that's on Moore Street.
- 00:22:21 **GG: Boyd, is who I'm talking about.**
- 00:22:22 JJ: Ok, you talking about-
- 00:22:23 **GG: You talking about somebody, Board**
- 00:22:27 JJ: You talking about John *Board*
- 00:22:28 **GG: Yes**
- 00:22:30 JJ: And then he left the downtown and he went to Hagins Street somewhere up in there and then he went downtown Caldwell Street, and then he came back down on Hagins Street up on the up end that they center the stuff now out of that.
- 00:22:43 **GG: Yeah, yeah**
- 00:22:45 JJ: That's what he talking Board-
[Crosstalk]

GG: Board was his-

00:22:49 JJ: You know it used to be Jordan's Laundry.¹⁵

00:22:51 BB: Yeah, laundromat.

00:22:51 **GG: Ok**

00:22:52 JJ: That was a lot before they dry cleaned clothes.

00:22:54 BB: Oh really?

00:22:58 **GG: Was Mr. Willie Jackson, did he have a barber shop at this time.**

00:23:02 JJ: Yes

00:23:03 **GG: And, before you guys came along.**

00:23:04 JJ: I don't know where he came from but his barber shop right down here. I don't know where Mr. Willie Jackson came from.

00:23:12 **GG: And at one time he was on Black Street. When I was a little boy I remember daddy taking me down to get my haircut, right across, you remember Dave Martin that live off Orange [Street] was on one side, and he was kind of down at the bottom before you get to Chicken in the Basket.**

00:23:26 JJ: Yeah, that's right.

00:23:27 **GG: He was right down there-**

00:23:30 JJ: Chicken in the Basket¹⁶ [through laughter]

00:23:30 **GG: No. No**

[All Laugh]

00:23:34 JJ: George you were- [Through Laughter]

[All Laughing]

00:23:37 JJ: I went everywhere with Willie Jackson¹⁷ [Through Laughter]

¹⁵ Jordan Cleaners (1962-1967) was laundry service located at 302 W. Black St. in Rock Hill, S.C.

¹⁶ In 1961, Freddie and Sylvia Barnes opened a local fried chicken joint called *Chicken in the Basket* at 134 W. Black Street. In 1964, the couple turned the business over to Freddie's brother James Barnes and his wife Willa Maye who owned and operated the business until its closing in 1972.

¹⁷ The Rock Hill City Directory shows that Willie Jackson owned a barber shop at 120 W. Black St. (1949-1953) and later at 123 W. Black St. (1955-1956).

- 00:23:38 **GG: Those aren't even good [unclear] Willie Jackson [Through Laughter]**
[All Laughing]
- 00:23:41 JJ: I remember the Chicken in the Basket.
- 00:23:43 **GG: Yeah, that was Mr. Barnes. Ran that-**
[Crosstalk]
JJ: Ran that.
- 00:23:46 **GG: In fact, I interviewed Ms. Barnes before he passed away. Yeah he will be missed. Um –
Any other business – tell about them clubs that was up there.**
- 00:23:59 JJ: Club Delicious [Delisha]?
- 00:24:00 BB: Club Delicious.¹⁸
- 00:24:02 **GG: Do you know who owned it?**
- 00:24:04 JJ: No, we didn't.
[Crosstalk]
BB: [Unclear]
- 00:24:08 BB: Now there was a man, you know he talked a lot but he was good looking. Ohh, he's from
around Wylie Street, you know, around there. You know, he's a nice lookin' man. Ohhh, and his
wife lives in Charlotte now. [Unclear]
- 00:24:28 JJ: Oh yeah, maybe so.
- 00:24:31 BB: They had the Club Delicious [Delisha].
- 00:24:34 JJ: And then we had the upper level, the drug store. That was, Gathings Drug Store.¹⁹
- 00:24:38 **GG: I remember Dylan.**

¹⁸ Club Delisha (1958-1959) was a restaurant located at 113 ½ W. Black Street according to the Rock Hill City Directory.

¹⁹ Gathings Drug Store (1925-1972) was the site of a pharmacy and dentistry located in the heart of Rock Hill's Black business district on W. Black Street. Once Imperial Drug Company owned by W. Stalk Alston, the name was changed to Ideal Pharmacy in 1911 and relocated to 107 W. Black St. After graduating from Meharry School of Medicine (Nashville, Tennessee), Dr. John A. Gathings (1898-n.d.) purchased the pharmacy. In the early 1930s, Dr. Spofford J. Gathings (1900-1971), the third Black dentist of Rock Hill, opened a dentistry on the second level of the building at 119 W. Black Street. Spofford purchased the building in 1937 and changed its name to Gathings Drugstore. In 1943, a new building was constructed at 168 W. Black St. This location also served home to Freddie *Hudson* Gathings' (1905-1988) Jefferson School of Beauty, located in the building's basement.

00:24:41 JJ: That was where Campbell's lived. It was uh, well we forgot one thing that was off, another thing that was off Black Street... Uhh, Chisolm's Funeral Home.²⁰

00:24:52 **GG: Yeah**

00:24:55 JJ: Chisolm's Funeral Home, right down below off where the Post Office is, you know. Yeah Chisolm's Funeral Home not very big house, and kind of chiseled in the it was Gathings Drug Store. Now what was the name of the club again attached to the drug store?

00:25:08 **GG: [Unclear]**

00:25:12 JJ: I didn't know there was a club over there

[Crosstalk]

GG: [Unclear]

00:25:15 JJ: I think you had to go up the steps.

00:25:15 BB: On outside.

00:25:17 **GG: Didn't Doctor [Dewey] Duckett have an office up there.**²¹

00:25:19 JJ: Yes.

00:25:20 **GG: So the club was up there along with his office.**

00:25:21 JJ: No, he had-

[All talking, unclear]

[All Laughter]

00:25:27 JJ: Yeah, what was the name of that club? Because we had the club Delisha down there, and there was another up the curve with Gathings Drug Store, because you had to walk up the steps, to get to that. And then the club was on the corner where he is now. I still walked through them doors, what was the name of that?

²⁰ Chisolm Funeral Home (1936-1971). Anderson David Chisolm, Jr. (1903-1976), a native of York County, S.C., attended Friendship Junior College of Rock Hill, S.C. and later attended S.C. State College before graduating from Echles College of Mortuary Science in Philadelphia, PA. Chisolm Funeral Home opened in 1936 on 128 W. Black Street. Four years later, the business moved to 165 W. Black St. where it remained until 1971. After the building's demolition, the funeral home moved to 442 W. Main Street, however, under several new names: Johnson Funeral Home, Clemons Funeral Home, and the present-day Clemons-McCray Funeral Home.

²¹ Dr. Dewey M. Duckett, Sr. (1900-1964), a native of Union, S.C., was a dentist and civil rights activist whose practice was located on the second floor of Gathings Drugstore (168 W. Black St.). In addition to his dental practice, Duckett was a prominent civil rights activist serving as the first vice-president of the S.C. Chapter of the NAACP and as a member of the Rock Hill Council on Human Relations. He also served as a member of the S.C. Medical Association.

- 00:25:49 **GG: I remember-**
- 00:25:50 JJ: I cannot remember what in Davis if I remember that-
- 00:25:55 **GG: Here call me, so you can give it to me. Well, what about over here in Boyd Hill and other places of business. What was the business over here because I remember Bob Long has a place.**
- 00:26:08 BB: Ya, right there. [Unclear] that's The Busy Bee
- 00:26:12 **GG: The Busy Bee... who owned that? Wasn't Humphrey was it?**
- 00:26:17 BB: No, they come right there to Miss Dodd, and Mr. Robert Dowry, and they run that down.
- 00:26:25 **GG: That club down there. Ok. The Busy Bee was located where?**
- 00:26:29 JJ: Berry Street.
- 00:26:29 **GG: Berry Street**
- 00:26:31 BB: That's the [Unclear] there now.
- 00:26:35 **GG: Ok, yeah.**
- 00:26:36 BB: Wayne Castle had a grocery store
- 00:26:39 **GG: Wayne Castle.**
- 00:26:41 BB: That's on Hoyles Street. H.O.Y.L.E.S.
- 00:26:46 JJ: And Mr. *Dodds*, Over here-
- 00:26:50 **GG: Ok, Hezekiah Dodd?**
- 00:26:51 JJ: Yeah, I was getting ready to ask what's his name. Hezekiah Dodds had a grocery store.²²
- 00:26:57 **GG: And his wife was a school teacher.**
- 00:27:00 JJ: What's her name Georgie.
- 00:27:03 **GG: She was probably teaching at West End sometimes.²³**

²² Hezekiah K. Dodds (n.d.-1966) was a local grocer at 995 W Main Street in Rock Hill, S.C. according to the City Directory, ed. 1958. He is buried alongside his wife Sarah *Gore* Dodds (1914-1988) at Barber Memorial Cemetery in Rock Hill, S.C.

²³ West End School (1925-1971), sometimes referred to as Boyd Hill School, was an elementary school for Black students in segregated Rock Hill, S.C. Its construction was funded by the school district, local African Americans, and the Julius Rosenwald Fund, an endowment that provided millions for building Black schools across the rural, segregated South. After the 1970 integration of S.C. schools, West End closed in 1971. Although the building no longer stands, it is remembered as a cornerstone of the Boyd Hill community of Rock Hill.

00:27:05 BB: [Unclear]

[Crosstalk]

JJ: Megan Dodds assistant down there.

00:27:09 **GG: Megan Dodds?**

00:27:10 BB: You sure?

00:27:12 JJ: No, that's her sister love, the Megan Dodd live off Sanders Street.

00:27:15 **GG: Ok, Sarah Dodds.**

00:27:18 BB: That's it.

00:27:20 **GG: That's it.**

{ All Laughing }

GG: Sarah Dodds, that's right. I remember she and my boy were good friends. [Though Laughter]

00:27:28 JJ: She ended up joining up Pineville.

00:27:30 **GG: Ok, Ok.**

00:27:31 JJ: Pineville Zion Church.

00:27:32 **GG: Yeah. Believing there was another one down Calhoun Street. The other part on the other side.**

00:27:38 BB: No, no no, no there wasn't.

00:27:39 **GG: Did you know where Glenn Street, wait a minute, Glenn Street come up to Calhoun, you know where Mr. Rubin Doyle live.**

00:27:46 JJ: Right.

00:27:47 **GG: Right across in that lades house right there, I remember there was some sort of business right there.**

00:27:54 JJ: You know Edith cousin lived in a house there, and then George Marshall on the left, and George I don't remember that now.

00:28:00 **GG: I want you to remember because I see it, and you will think of that at some point. Then we had a [Unclear] they sold hot dogs-**

[Crosstalk]

JJ: Hot dogs.

00:28:15 **GG: Best hot dogs, everybody would go out there.**

[All Laugh]

00:28:18 **GG: The best hot dogs were made up there.**

00:28:21 JJ: He had a little store on that corner. Where [Unclear] I remember that. There's a store right there, on that corner. Miss Crawford.

00:28:37 **GG: Miss Crawford?**

00:28:34 JJ: Mmmhmm. I can remember that, and then he had a store down there on the corner where there's nothing else. They live here, he turn to go, you know down Main Street. You know the Sheriff[?], old Sheriff[?] ran that store was on the right sitting right there at the stop light. It was a big old store sitting there.

00:28:45 **GG: There was-**

[Crosstalk]

BB: Ohhh, ok, it's [Unclear]

00:28:57 JJ: Yes, a service station.

00:29:00 **GG: Yeah, and walk Cherry Road and Main street-**

[Crosstalk]

JJ: At that time was Charlotte Avenue.

00:29:06 **GG: Charlotte Avenue.**

00:29:08 JJ: Yeah, and the Pepsi-Cola plant was across the street.

00:29:11 **GG, Yeah, and you know who bought that out? It was first Maria Charles. You know Maria Charles? - He tried committing suicide, he shot himself in there, when I was a kid.**

00:29:23 JJ: Really? Who is that George?

00:29:26 **GG: He owned the store right and you know across the street was then you know, the Shamrock.**

00:29:33 JJ: Yeah... The Shamrock...

[All Laughing]

JJ: I forgot about that, The Shamrock! [Through Laughter]

00:29:39 **GG: Don't you remember the Shamrock!**

00:29:42 JJ: Yeah, I remember that, yeah.

00:29:44 **GG: Yeah, some gusy would play, um Pingpong. Not Pingpong, what you call that... Pinball. And you shoot the pinball insert the coins [Unclear]**

00:29:56 **GG: And what about, down near Pond Street and Whitner Street.**

00:30:00 JJ: Now you don't want to leave out that little black motel we had down at the bottom end. West End Motel.

00:30:08 **GG: At the bottom on Route five?**

00:30:11 JJ: Yeah, that's Sturgus.

00:30:13 BB: S.T.U.R.G.U.S

00:30:14 JJ: You know that little lady they had, that black motel?

00:30:17 **GG: I believe, I remember that. Uhh, tell me the location of that again.**

00:30:22 JJ: It's when you cross over the light, go to half of up main street, it's right there on the right because you know, she never did say she were the set up to the sit-ins.

00:30:32 JJ: She died, she never cashed the check.

00:30:35 **GG: On Main Street?**

00:30:37 JJ: Ok, yeah go on down-

[Crosstalk]

GG: Going toward [Unclear] At the bottome of the hill?

00:30:41 JJ: Yeah, you stop at the light, and then it was on the right.

00:30:45 **GG: On the right hand side.**

00:30:45 JJ: Yeah, West End Motel.

00:30:46 **GG: And they cut half of the-**

[Crosstalk]

JJ: Highway

00:30:51 **GG: What was the name of that?**

00:30:53 JJ: West End Hotel.

00:30:54 BB: Motel.

00:30:55 **GG: West End Motel, and the lady who-**

00:30:59 JJ: Hattie Sturgus

00:31:00 **GG: Hattie Sturgus.**

00:31:02 BB: S.T.U.R.G.U.S

00:31:04 **GG: Ok, good good. I'll remember that. [Unclear]**

00:31:07 BB: She's a black lady now.

00:31:08 **GG: Is she still around?**

00:31:10 JJ: She died. They say when she-

00:31:11 [Tape Ends]

00:31:40 [Tape begins]

00:31:40 **GG: What about businesses down on Pond Street, and Whitner Street. Do you remember that?**

00:31:45 JJ: Was Hattie McCrory the first person, or did someone else have that before?

00:31:50 BB: I don't know.

00:31:54 JJ: Ok, you had a Gregory store.

00:31:57 **GG: Gregory store, right.**

00:31:59 BB: It was Gregory on top of West End.

00:32:01 JJ: You had Gregory store, and what that man name -

00:32:05 BB: [Unclear] Massey?

0:32:06 JJ: Yeah, no that's on down there by Emmett Scott. [sighs] Joe Curtis – you remember?

00:32:14 **GG: Sold hot dogs [All laugh] He was on Crawford Road?**

00:32:17 BB: Noooo, no that was on Trade Street. Because we had about our library.

00:32:22 JJ: No, it wasn't that far, for lunch I'd still sits there. We used to go there for lunch I remember, and we would run up there and dance for an hour and a half and run back to school time the bell would ring. We did that every. Ok, it sits, if you, New Mount Olive [Church], okay you know Gregory store.

00:32:45 **GG: Yeah, I do.**

00:32:46 JJ: And then there's a laundry mat there now in that building, and then there's a parking lot and there's a little brick building sitting right there. And that was Joe Curtis place. They got a barber shop there now, cause its Trade Street and then his house is-

00:33:01 **GG: Is that before you get to uhh, Herman Presbyterian.**²⁴

00:33:03 JJ: No no, [Unclear]

00:33:06 BB: She said before, so if you leave there-

00:33:08 JJ: Going downtown, and it's a little brick building but back then in fact it was real big and they sold hot dogs and we had all ate there for lunch.

00:33:21 BB: And then somehow one time they get me to eat back there, and we cooked every day.

00:33:26 **GG: Well you cooked out by the time we showed up.**

[All Laugh]

00:33:28 **GG: I remember that hour and a half. [Through laughter]**

00:33:38 JJ: We would go up there and be running, and the bell would ring we would run back to get there before the second bell that bell. We make it too!

00:33:45 **GG: Speaking of dancing and all of that. What were some of the artists on the jukebox up there. That you guys listened to.**

00:33:54 BB: Chubby Checker

00:33:55 **GG: Chubby Checker**

²⁴ Herman Presbyterian Church is an historic African American church in Rock Hill, S.C. noted for its importance role in the Civil Rights Movement. Rev. Cecil A. Ivory, a prominent pastor and civil rights leader, stood at the church's pupil from 1949 until his death in 1961. Herman Presbyterian hosted many mass meetings during the 1957 Rock Hill bus boycott. The original church stands at 446 Dave Lyld Blvd (once 446 S Trade Street) and the new church can be found at 107 Heckle Blvd in Rock Hill, S.C. For more information, reference Acc. 1730 - Reverend Cecil A. Ivory Papers at the Louise Pettus Archives.

- 00:33:59 JJ: Still a band [Unclear] Jackie Wilson
- 00:34:04 **GG: Jackie Wilson, ya he was still around when I came through.**
- 00:34:06 JJ: Jackie Wilson, uhhh. Who else. Marvin Gaye?
- 00:34:10 BB: No, that was too far back, we have to go back and find-
- 00:34:16 **GG: The Shirelles.**
- 00:34:19 JJ: Yeah, something like that. Shirelles and uhh, oh maybe what's the name of them, Diana Ross might have been started back in that day. What that man name? B.B. King-
- [Crosstalk]
- GG: B.B. King**
- 00:34:37 JJ: Because it was blues time, it was blues B.B. King and uhhh there was another blues fellow there.
- 00:34:46 **GG: Bobby Blue Bland?**
- 00:34:48 BB: Maybe so yeah Bobby Blue Bland.
- 00:34:53 JJ: He was good too, like to hear that. Everyday.
- 00:34:57 **GG: What years did you guys attend Emmett Scott High School**
- 00:34:59 JJ: 1955-59
- 0:35:04 **GG: Describe the building when you were there. Were they old buildings, the original buildings, or were they torn down?**
- 00:35:12 JJ: No, this was out in front. This was our building. [motions to something in person] [Unclear]
- 00:35:24 **GG: So you that same building Wendy is at essentially. Must have been practically brand new.**
- 00:35:32 JJ: The auditorium wasn't open until 1960. So you know, that's what that is. That's the auditorium, and it opened in 1960.²⁵
- 00:35:44 BB: You know by the time we got to Emmett Scott it was before, you know it was like four years before when the twelve year until then.

²⁵ McGirt Auditorium (c. 1960) was named in honor of ESHS principal Ralph Waldo McGirt (1938-1959). The 1,100-seat auditorium continues to host events at the Emmett Scott Center in Rock Hill, S.C.

- 00:35:56 JJ: In 1955 and then uh, the first of the year of 56', they moved that D hall to Edgewood. When we first went to Emmett Scott September 1955, it was the Elementary School.
- 00:36:15 **GG: yeah, the all 12 grades.**
- 00:36:17 JJ: All 12 grades, but the first of the year in 1956 they moved the Elementary kids because they were all down on that floor in D Hall, they moved them over to Edgewood.
- 00:36:28 **GG: And then you began High School what-**
- 00:36:33 JJ: Beginning of 1956
- 00:36:35 **GG: That's good to know.**
- 00:36:34 JJ: And we had this crazy [unclear]
- 00:36:38 **GG: [Laughing] Who were your favorite teachers and why?**
- 00:36:42 JJ: Ohhh, my favorite teacher was Ms. Clotilda Diggs.²⁶
- [Crosstalk]
- 00:36:47 JJ: She was an English teacher.
- 00:36:51 **GG: So why was she your favorite teacher?**
- 00:36:53 JJ: Oh, she showed a lot of concerns about young ladies, how they supposed to dress I guess and, you know she knew English well and we would challenge her because we got [Unclear]
- [All laughing]
- 00:37:10 **GG: [Through laughter] You can't [Unclear]**
- 00:37:17 JJ: She couldn't understand how we could learn those conjunctions, verbs and all that stuff-
- 00:37:25 **GG: Yeah, and knew all that stuff. [All laughing] She didn't know-**
- 00:37:31 JJ: But the music teacher told, this happened at Emmett Scott, - [Through laughter]
- 00:37:35 **GG: I bet everybody knew [Fredora?]**
- [All Laughing]

²⁶ Clotilda Daniels Diggs (b. 1931), an educator and activist, taught at Emmett Scott High School as an English instructor from approx. 1957 until 1963, before relocating to Florence S.C. Her husband, Rev. William Phillip Diggs, Sr. (1926-2020), was an influential church leader, civil rights activist, and educator who helped stage one of the first sit-in demonstrations in South Carolina, February 12, 1960, primarily involving Friendship Junior College students which predated the well-known Friendship Nine sit-in the following year.

- 00:37:38 JJ: Well we got the ninth grade they had to put us in another class.
- 00:37:48 **GG: Yeah, because you were advanced.**
- 00:37:49 JJ: We were advanced, and uhhh. That was because when they pulled all the kids out of what they called a rural schools, they had first and second grade in one class. Second and third, fourth and fifth, uhhh, they had first and second in one class. Second and third in a class, uhhh fourth and fifth, six and seven, and eighth grade we were kind of by ourselves. So when you were in elementary school you had to be quiet, if you were in the first grade class while the teacher teach the second grade. So that meant by the time we got to second grade, we knew all the second grade stuff.
- 00:38:39 **GG: Yeah, you were sitting there listening.**
- 00:38:40 JJ: Yes, so it was a good time. You know, so well we got to-
- 00:38:46 BB: What in eighth grade?
- 00:38:50 JJ: We were already prepared basically, knowing so much about second grade see. So Ms. Gardner taught us seventh grade.
- 00:38:55 **GG: That was, she was your teacher?**
- 00:39:00 JJ: Uh huh, Martha, Martha Gardner.
- 00:39:04 **GG: M. C. Gardner, *The Creature* Gardner-**
- 00:39:05 JJ: Ohh that's what they said.
- 00:39:05 **GG: What she said, before you would show up in her class, she wrote her name up on the board. M. C. Gardner. Do you all remember what that stands for was at that point? *Mean Creature Gardner*.**
- 00:39:16 JJ: [Laughing]
- 00:39:17 **GG: And if you get out of line and any of you go see that, she is one of the sweetest ladies.**
- 00:39:22 BB: She was nice.
- 00:39:24 **GG: All the guys fell for her we bought her some candy, I have to tell you this story-**
- [Tape Ends]
- 00:39:34 **GG: Yeah but Ms. Gardner taught us how to dance.**
- 00:39:39 JJ: She's still living in Atlanta, looking good. You know she lost her husband a long time ago.

- 00:39:45 **GG: I'm aware of that, that's why she's still there, um. Did you know any of these men. I'll call their names: Tilt Grownvil, Coles Curitin, Lee Copper, Tom Archer, C.B. Kennedy. Do you guys know any of their names.**
- 00:40:07 JJ: No.
- 00:40:10 **GG: That's alright you don't have to, I'll tell you who they were later. Which elementary school did you attend? Who was the principal and what do you remember about him? Who were you favorite teachers and why? You know, kind of answered that already.**
- 00:40:21 BB: Mr. [Richard] Boulware²⁷ was our principal. He was your principal too right?
- 00:40:25 JJ: He's died. You know what, I did research on that.
- 00:40:29 JJ: I got me and Ms. [Gladys Hurley] Boulware in that paper. Uh, we were with Mr. Lindsay for a while-
- 00:40:36 **GG: You were, over there?**
- 00:40:38 JJ: That was our principal.
- 00:40:42 **GG: What happened to him?**
- 00:40:43 JJ: He retired. You know I told you that was one thing I gave Ms. Boulware that clipping that I found. And wasn't that he had birthday party? I found that clipping in the archives. [Unclear] And Mr. Lindsay-
- 00:40:58 BB: I remember Mr. Lindsay walking around now because people were scared to death of him.
- 00:41:01 **GG: I was scared to death.**
- 00:41:02 JJ: And when he left, that's when they gave it to Ms. Boulware. Now I found that when I was trying to get some stuff to go in the-
- 00:41:14 **GG: You don't know when she had her [Unclear]**
- 00:41:16 JJ: No but umm-
- 00:41:22 BB: I gave it to Mr. –
- 00:41:26 JJ: You can go up there and ask them, they should give it to you.
- 00:41:29 **GG: Where.**

²⁷ Richard Franklin Boulware (1911-2001) was an educator and administrator who served as the principal of West End Elementary School (1949-1968) and later as an assistant principal at Emmett Scott High School (1968) in Rock Hill, S.C. He and his wife, Gladys *Hurley* Boulware (1912-2014), were avid educators. Mrs. Boulware taught home economics at Emmett Scott from 1949 until the school's closing in 1970. The Boulwares are buried at Grandview Memorial Park in Rock Hill, S.C.

- 00:41:31 JJ: In the library upstairs. It's in archives, see I had a copy-
- 00:41:34 **GG: In York County Library.**
- 00:41:35 JJ: No, right here at our library. I was trying to get something information on Mr. McGirt and I just happen to stumble up on the picture of Mr. Lindsay when he retired and then Mr. Boulware took over.
- 00:41:53 **GG: Ok, and then in S-**
- 00:41:54 JJ: And in West End, and we were there. You know we, you know back then you had you just had to be good and then you know I can remember that now.
- 00:42:08 **GG: My mother, when she attended West End, Mr. Lindsay²⁸ was the principal.**
- 00:42:14 JJ: Mr. Lindsay was there when we were there for a little while.
- 00:42:16 **GG: Ok, I will check that out. Did you know any of these former principals at Emmett Scott High School: Frank Neal²⁹, he was principal from 1920-1925, Lemuel B. Moore³⁰, he was one just before Mr. McGirt he was there from 1925-1938, and then, of course, you did know Mr. McGirt. What were you impressions of this man as principal?**
- 00:42:55 JJ: A man, very sincere, [unclear] He was a very sincere person and he had the attitude that uhh, was business all the time. And we were in the hallways and somebody was on another hall, and they would turn and say: "Mr. McGirt was on his way down this long hall."
- 00:43:22 BB: [Unclear]
- 00:43:25 **GG: Cleared the hall.**
- 00:43:27 JJ: They all got out the hall [Laughter]
- 00:43:30 BB: He was just uh, everybody was going in the bathroom to disappear the wall.
- 00:43:36 **GG: Respect**
- 00:43:37 BB: We even had to bow.

²⁸ Mr. Wesley James Lindsay (1880-1963) was the first principal of West End Elementary School in Rock Hill, S.C. An educator, administrator, and churchman, Mr. Lindsay taught for fifty-one years in the Rock Hill school district at both Ebenezer School and West End. During his early years at West End, Lindsay was the sole professor of forty pupils. He was a native of the Ebenezer community of Rock Hill and attended the State Agricultural and Mechanical College (S.C. State Univeristy) in Orangeburg, S.C.

²⁹ Frank Hazel Neal (b. 1882-n.d.) was an educator and principal at several African-American schools across the Carolinas. Neal served as the first principal of Emmett Scott School in Rock Hill, S.C. from 1920 to 1924. He earned degrees from Clinton College (1900) and Claflin University (1905).

³⁰ Lemuel Benjamin "L.B." Moore, Jr. (1908-1996), was an S.C. public school administrator who served as the second principal of Emmett Scott High School (1924-1938). He later served as principal of J.S. Wright High School in Abbeville, S.C. for twenty-five years. Moore earned degrees from several universities including Claflin, North Carolina A&T, and N.C. State.

00:43:40 **GG: Yeah, he's a man of respect.**

00:43:41 BB: Yeah. He really got it too.

00:43:45 **GG: Was he an effective principal.**

00:43:47 JJ: Oh yes

00:43:49 **GG: Tell me.**

00:43:50 BB: I think our class was the only class that he gave a party, you remember, everybody else, nobody else would ever remember going in that house for a graduation party.

00:43:04 **GG: In his house?**

00:43:05 BB: In his house. Cause I have some pictures of it. I got the pictures y'all don't remember going to Mr. McGirt's, and they got a party, and no other class ever got a party at his house but the Class of '59.

00:43:18 **JG: Yeah, he was gone when we got there, we was-**

00:44:21 BB: We sat in the first dance floor of 1959. I mean September 1959, but I got pictures and you remember these pictures, she don't remember that. [Unclear] It was McGirt's house.

00:44:37 **GG: Do you all remember Ms. White when she was a teacher.**

00:44:38 BB: Oh yeah, she taught there didn't she, she taught us there. [Unclear]

00:44:45 **GG: She said that she-**

00:44:46 JJ: What was her name? Helen[?] But see we weren't, we was not in her class. We was in somebody else's class. She told us what required. Whatever it was she taught, she didn't teach us. Because taught her kids in our class. [Dirty socks?]

00:45:08 **GG: Well we came in she taught the sixth grade, I don't know**

00:45:10 JJ: Well she didn't teach us

00:45:14 BB: I think she stayed, that was her class. Sixth grade.

00:45:21 **GG: And you at this point you mentioned moving out-**

00:45:25 BB: She didn't learn that, it was after learning that.

[All laugh]

00:45:28 JJ: But I never forgot that first word, you know. Some things just don't forget.

- 00:45:32 **GG: Absolutely, this clock is [Unclear] chestnut trees Ms. Menzy said, [Through laughter with all]**
- 00:45:46 JJ: Oh she made all of us, you know like. We really had literal tour and everything before we got to Emmett Scott, you know?
- 00:45:57 **GG: Indeed, correct.**
- 00:46:00 JJ: Yeah we were ready for it, and then like all the poems [Unclear] and all that. We knew that.
- 00:46:04 **GG: She covered it fast.**
- 00:46:07 JJ: Yeah, she covered it and um, I did really appreciate the teachers from West End that was there. We wrote a lot of poems-
- 00:46:18 BB: And we knew it more than anybody.
- 00:46:19 JJ: I tell that joke too.
- 00:46:20 **GG: You know what I learned, here, last few days. I interview the husband of your favorite teachers down there at Emmett Scott. Reverend [William P.] Diggs.**
- 00:46:31 BB: You went down to see him?
- 00:46:32 **GG: I was.**
- 00:46:34 BB: Oh, I would have loved to gone to see him.
- 00:46:36 **GG: I know, you could go with me, um. He was talking about those teachers at West End. And I was asking about Mrs. White, Beatrice's [Unclear] Said sometimes they didn't have a ride, he said they walked toward. They just walked over here.**
- 00:46:57 JJ: Dedication
- 00:46:57 **GG: Dedication and be right there ready when we got in. We had no idea and they just walked went through all through those woods.**
- 00:47:05 BB: Ms. White's mother taught school [Unclear]...scared to death of that walk.
- 00:47:14 **GG: Who was on staff at Emmett Scott when you was there, the janitors, cooks, secretary.**
- 00:47:20 JJ: Oh Mattie Thompson
- 00:47:22 **GG: What was she?**
- 00:47:23 JJ: Mattie Thompson?

00:47:24 **GG: What did she do for a living?**

00:47:25 JJ: Custodian.

00:47:30 BB: uhh, what about, what's Pop's name, you know [Unclear]... something [Unclear] for a first name. Ok well then there somebody else. [Laughs]

00:47:45 JJ: Albert White

00:47:47 **GG: Did what?**

00:47:48 JJ: All of this is Custodian. Did I say Mattie Thompson? She just died, last year. Umm, who else was there. Mr. Watson.

00:48:02 BB: Yeah I think that's all of them.

00:48:04 JJ: Oh I'll get confused from when I worked there.

00:48:06 **GG: Watson was a custodian?**

00:48:07 JJ: Yeah he was a custodian

00:48:08 **GG: What about secretaries?**

00:48:10 JJ: They had one secretary Mrs. [A.L.] Law that's about the only one in there.

00:48:16 **GG: And she continued right on with Mr. Witherspoon³¹ didn't she?**

00:48:23 JJ: I think so.

00:48:25 **GG: What about the cooks?**

00:48:26 BB: No Mr. Witherspoon was there. Yeah she was for a while with Mr. Witherspoon.

00:48:35 JJ: Cooks is Mary Helen Ruff.

00:48:42 **GG: What's that last name?**

00:48:46 JJ: Uh her name was Hinton, Ola Hinton. Now there was another lady in there.

00:48:55 BB: She was right in there where Scarlett Whaley[?] lived down there.

00:48:59 JJ: Yeah, she lived in that big house on that corner didn't she.

³¹ Wade Hampton Witherspoon (1908-1996), a native of Rock Hill, was a 44-year-long educator and principal at various schools across Rock Hill and Great Falls, S.C. He was a member of the first graduating class of Emmett Scott School in 1923. He would later serve as the school's principal from 1959 to 1967.

00:49:02 BB: I can't remember her name.

00:49:04 **GG: Was Scarlett Whaley in your class?**

00:49:05 JJ: No, she class of 1955. [Unclear]

00:49:14 **GG: And what courses were offered there while you were there?**

00:49:18 JJ: Oh we had the basic courses: English, French, uh, math, history, social studies, speech.

00:49:33 BB: We had Miss Urusha H. Spigner.

00:49:34 **GG: Miss Spigner taught spee-**

00:49:36 JJ: Speech, yes. We had P.E. [Pause] home economics. Yeah, did we get a grade for the choir with Booker T. [Brown]³² and all of that?

00:49:49 BB: I don't know.

00:49:50 **GG: Booker T. was there when you guys were there?**

00:49:51 JJ: Yeah but we had somebody else before Booker T. came. What's her name? Miss Henderson.

00:49:55 BB: Ohh, yeah. Miss Margaret Henderson.

00:49:58 **GG: Margaret Henderson, yes.**

00:50:06 JJ: And the library, Mrs. [Harvey L.] Ward.

00:50:10 **GG: There was a band there, I take it.**

00:50:13 JJ: Frontis Brooks

00:50:15 **GG: What was your impression of the band and Mr. Brooks.**

00:50:18 JJ: People still talk about-

[Crosstalk]

BB: When you say Emmett Scott you say: "Ohh, we couldn't wait, it made you want to be on the end at the Christmas parade."

00:50:30 **GG: They put you on the end for a reason? [Laughing]**

³² Booker T. Brown (1930-2007), named after the famous Booker T. Washington, was a pianist, music teacher, and U.S. Army veteran. He served as the music instructor and director of chorus at Emmett Scott High School from 1958 until the school's closing in 1970.

- 00:50:32 JJ: Ehh, so they could hear, so the people would stay [Laughing]
- 00:50:40 **GG: Whites and blacks.**
- 00:50:41 JJ: Whites and blacks. They still talk about that. Mr. Brooks was a band leader forever.³³
- 00:50:51 **GG: Yeah, he may have been the first one there I think it was. I'll have to check that again, with the war going on.**
- 00:50:59 JJ: Yes he went to s- he went in. I heard he still talking about it, he went and served.
- 00:51:03 **GG: Yes he did, for a couple of years and came back. [Pause] Was there a Jazz band there, when you guys were there?**
- 00:51:14 JJ: No, just him.
- 00:51:15 **GG: Just him, ok.**
- 00:51:16 JJ: And the [Unclear] Didn't they form their own jazz band or something.
- 00:51:22 **GG: Yeah, eventually. Mr. Brooks had a jazz band that was before you guys got there, and in the early 50s there was a female jazz band that I've seen in the yearbook. I wish I had the yearbook here to ask you who was who.**
- 00:51:40 JJ: Not in 1959.
- 00:51:41 **GG: It was the early 1950's as I recall. [Long pause]**
- 00:52:02 **GG: Was there a dance or art classes taught.**
- 00:52:04 JJ: Yes, we had art class. What was the man's name? We had [Tuttle?] but there was another before him. He was an art teacher too but.
- 00:52:14 BB: I get confused because I worked there, had an [Unclear]
- 00:52:21 **GG: There was a chemistry teacher.**
- 00:52:23 JJ: There was a chemistry teacher and then they had Mr. uhhh-
- 00:52:27 BB: [W.T.] Davis, a quiet kind of man [Unclear]
- 00:52:31 **GG: Before Mr. Davis?**

³³ In June 1941, the ESHS Band was organized by Mr. Frontis Brooks (1919-1989), a longtime music instructor at Emmett Scott and WWII Army veteran. Starting off with a mere clarinet, the band's instruments grew to over fifty by September 1941. In 1959, 111 students were members of the marching band that performed at football games, parades, and special events across the city and state. For a full history of the ESHS Band, reference page 55 of the 1959 ed. of *The Rattler*, ESHS's yearbook, available at the Louise Pettus Archives.

- 00:52:32 JJ: Yes.
- 00:52:32 **GG: Because Mr. Davis was still there when we came up.**
- 00:52:35 BB: It was another man. [Unclear name]. He just died last year.
- 00:52:40 JJ: I thought he's been dead.
- 00:52:42 **GG: Mr. Davis?**
- 05:52:43 JJ: No. [Crosstalk]
- 00:52:49 **GG: Umm, was there dance at Emmett Scott High School? Or in the community where you were students.**
- 00:52:53 JJ: No, we had to go to the rec. [recreation].
- 00:52:55 **GG: Which one?**
- 00:52:56 JJ: City rec.
- 00:52:58 **GG: Is that Carroll Park? Because they called it Catholic rec.** ³⁴
- 00:53:01 JJ: Nooo, because Saint Mary's is Catholic then they started doing it from Brook [Unclear] They'd have David Boom and Bob Marley [Unclear] We always went down to the city rec, Carroll park.
- 00:53:18 **GG: Carol Park.** ³⁵
- 00:53:19 JJ: It's torn down.
- 00:53:21 **GG: It's torn down, yeah. I drove over there Wednesday and Sunday nights they used have dances when we came, at Carol Park then, and uh Catholic rec I think was Friday nights.**
- 00:53:33 JJ: City rec, had been long torn down when it you this many years because my kids used to go to the [Unclear] room. One time I let Ron have my car, you know that green car I had the first one-second one I bought.
- 00:53:45 BB: Right.

³⁴ Saint Mary's Catholic Church was founded in 1945 under the stewardship of Father Edward V. Wahl (1917-1995), a priest from the Rock Hill Oratory. Historically rooted in the Black community, St. Mary's Parish opened its doors in 1945 to five practicing Black Catholics in Rock Hill. Since then, it has served as a place of worship, meeting place, and recreation center for the Crawford Road community of Rock Hill. As of 2013, St. Mary's has over 400 parishioners.

³⁵ Carroll Park, sometimes referred to as "City Rec.," is an eleven-acre public park located at 251 Simrill Street in a predominantly Black Crawford Road neighborhood of Rock Hill, S.C. Jordan, Blake, and other locals recount the park as a popular meeting place for the local African American community, especially as a space for basketball, swimming, dances, and social events. The park is steps away from the Emmett Scott grounds. In 2021, the park began a \$250,000 renovation project.

00:53:56 JJ: And umm, somebody hit him down there in the parking lot and he didn't know it. He came out and just backed up and kept going. So he was in high school then, so that's been gone since sometime in the 80s.

00:53:59 **GG: Who was in charge of the rec when you were there.**

00:54:01 JJ: [Sarah Parker?] Lovely lady.

00:54:05 **GG: Yeah.**

00:54:07 JJ: [Unclear]

00:54:08 **GG: Ok, so they were still there when we came up. What sports did Emmett Scott have when you were over there?**

00:54:16 JJ: Football, Basketball.

00:54:18 **GG: Did they have baseball?**

00:54:18 JJ: I can't remember, we was just into football and basketball.

00:54:25 **GG: Tell me the teams they played with.**

00:54:28 JJ: Ohh Chester. Yeah we played football [Unclear] there was another name we called it-

00:54:38 **GG: Was it [board?]**

00:54:38 JJ: Uhh, noo. It had but what was it? We only had old men.

00:54:46 **GG: Ok, I remember that.**

00:54:48 JJ: [Excited] Oh wait a minute! We had George and then [Selma?] [Unclear]

00:54:59 **GG: Selma was playing when we came through.**

[All laugh]

00:55:03 JJ: [Through laughter unclear]

00:55:05 JJ: They just came to play football and go back.

00:55:08 **GG: Reason to play quarterback then.**

[Crosstalk all three unclear]

- 00:55:16 **GG: And what about Carver High?**³⁶
- 00:55:17 JJ: [Unclear]
- 00:55:18 **GG: Spartanburg**
- 00:55:20 JJ: Spartanburg. Yeah, Carver. That's where those old people [Unclear] and uh-
- 00:55:26 **GG: Greenville?**
- 00:55:27 JJ: Greenville, that's where they played schools like uhh-
- 00:55:30 **GG: CHS**
- 00:55:33 JJ: Oh no we got CHS, I can't remember.
- 00:55:37 **GG: Yes well we was still open. I was there until. You know my daughter lives in Columbia. Yeah it was still open, they've expanded it, they maintained it, they call it Booker T. Washington, who played there too.**
- 00:55:57 **GG: Ok, your opinion now. What were some of the more intelligent academically gifted students at Emmett Scott High School, who would you say was the brightest.**
- 00:55:10 JJ: All of them. You know how we think. [Laughs]
- 00:55:16 **GG: [Laughing] I do, I know that's a question black people don't ask each other that. What teachers at Emmett Scott High School left a lasting impression on you?**
- 00:55:29 JJ: I liked Ms. Bradley, you know Ruby R. Bradley and as she said Ms. Diggs, and um, B. Moore, Ms. Boulware, I had Ms. Boulware. I'm trying to- oh and Mr. [J.W.] Martin, you remember Mr. Martin, he taught us Biology.
- 00:56:50 **GG: Yeah, he was a football coach too.**
- 00:56:52 JJ: Yeah, Mr. Martin and Nathurlon Jones.³⁷ Now all of these people are dead.
- 00:57:00 **GG: Mr. Jones is deceased.**
- 00:57:01 JJ: Yeah, and uhh we liked Mr. [David] Gardner. We didn't have Mr. Gardner until [Unclear]. Mr. Posey³⁸ too-

³⁶ George Washington Carver High School was a historically Black school in Spartanburg, South Carolina named for G.W. Carver (c. 1864-1943), a celebrated agricultural scientist, educator, and activist. The school first opened as Cumming Street Senior High School in 1926 but changed its name to Carver High School in 1938 when a new building was constructed in 1938. The all-Black high school closed in 1970 following integration; however, it remained a junior high until the structure was demolished in 2001.

³⁷ Mr. Nathurlon Jones, Sr. (1930-2008) was a science teacher at Emmett Scott High School from 1955 until 1965.

³⁸ John Allen Posey, Jr. (1921-1984) was a longtime public school teacher at Emmett Scott High School in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Posey started teaching math at Emmett Scott in the mid-1950s. During World War II (1939-1945), Posey served in the U.S. Army, like many other faculty and students at Emmett Scott.

00:57:12 **GG:** Was he there?

00:57:13 BB: Yeah, he taught us [Unclear, laughter]

00:57:19 **GG: You know it's interesting about Mr. Posey.**

00:57:23 JJ: Yes, and Mr. [W.L.] Cain. Did you have Mr. Cain?³⁹

 [Crosstalk]

GG: [Unclear]

 JJ: [Unclear]

00:57:33 JJ: But we caught him behind his back [laughter]

00:57:33 BB: But he was a Harvard graduate

00:57:36 **GG: He was, sharp as a tack, yes he was.**

00:57:40 JJ: What a [Unclear]. We had a name and Mr. [M.J.] Mack.⁴⁰

00:57:52 BB: Lord don't forget him.

00:57:46 **GG: Yes. I interviewed his son, last week.**

00:57:50 JJ: Joey!

00:57:50 **GG: Joey.**

00:57:51 JJ: Joey is in town?

00:57:51 **GG: No, he's in Michigan. I did it over-**

00:57:54 JJ: Over telephone.

00:57:56 **GG: He's a lawyer, in Michigan. He works for the federal-**

 [Crosstalk]

 JJ: Joey was doing good.

³⁹ Willie Lowman Cain (1929-1985) was a social studies teacher at Emmett Scott from 1958 to 1969. He was married to Dr. Ann G. Cain (1933-2014), an asst. professor of education at Winthrop College (1981-1990). Dr. Cain was a Winthrop College graduate (M.A., 1978) and later earned her PhD from the University of South Carolina in 1980.

⁴⁰ Marion Joseph Mack, Sr. (1920-2006) was an educator in Rock Hill, S.C. public schools: Emmett Scott High School (1950-1970) and Northwestern High School (1970-1981). While at Emmett Scott, he taught social studies. Mack also served in the U.S. Army during WWII.

- 00:58:03 **GG: Joey, yeah. I didn't know him. You all knew him, I didn't.**
- 00:58:06 JJ: We met a couple of times. He was a little boy, but we watch him grow up.
- 00:58:11 **GG: Ok, yeah I didn't know that.**
- 00:58:14 JJ: Lived on Friendship Drive.
- 00:58:18 BB: They just sell that house?
- 00:58:18 JJ: We'll have to see.
- 00:58:21 **GG: Did the teachers at Emmett Scott help the local farmers?**
- 00:58:23 JJ: Local what?
- 00:58:24 **GG: Farmers.**
- 00:58:25 JJ: All of the teachers, they talked to farmers.
- 00:58:27 BB: Who was that teaches, who taught the farmers?
- 00:58:28 JJ: Limehouse.
- 00:58:29 BB: Limehouse. That's what I was trying to get to, Mr. [George] Limehouse, yeah.
- 00:58:32 **GG: He helped them?**
- 00:58:33 JJ: Yes he did. Because that's what the boys say we didn't want them [Unclear] Farmers. Future Farmers of America⁴¹, that's what they were called.
- 00:58:45 **GG: When we were there, Mr. Brooks, would take the band sometimes when I went to the farm. And the other man gather crop at the end of the year so that those kids could come to school.**
- 00:59:00 JJ: Mmm
- 00:59:01 **GG: But you know they had to drop off [Unclear]**
- 00:59:04 JJ: Yeah, Georgie want a Coke or something to drink?
- 00:59:07 **GG: Oh not right now. Um, any of your classmates serve in the military?**
- 00:59:14 JJ: Yeah, [Clarence Brown?]. I don't know if Johnny McKinney went or not.

⁴¹ Future Farmers of America (FFA), established in 1928, is a student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. FFA is active in middle and high schools across the country.

- 00:59:21 **GG: Clarence was your classmate?**
- 00:59:21 JJ: Yeah, Clarence Brown.
- 00:59:32 JJ: You remember Clarence. The big one. Uh [Pause] we, you see, we didn't know until [Unclear] that's where they [wept?] it.
- 00:59:39 BB: It [wept?] it.
- 00:59:39 JJ: So then when, it-
- 00:59:47 BB: Caroline finished High School
- 00:59:49 **GG: Yeah**
- 00:59:50 JJ: I don't see him no more.
- 00:59:51 **GG: Same here, I think that's true.**
- 00:59:56 JJ: I could spot that fella anywhere [Unclear].
- 00:59:58 **GG: Do you know anybody who served in World War II? Old men who were at Emmett Scott, or girl.**
- 01:00:07 JJ: World War Two -
[Crosstalk]
BB: [unclear]
- 01:00:12 **GG: Did [unclear] Emmett Scott to you?**
- 01:00:14 JJ: Probably had [unclear]
- 01:00:16 **GG: [unclear] Come over here after serving in World War II. Did anyone you talk to serve in World War II?**
- 01:00:26 JJ: How old would World War Two people be?
- 01:00:27 **GG: 80s, mid 80s.**
- 01:00:35 JJ: You might need to get those answers from the PMWs.⁴²
- 01:00:41 **GG: Yeah, good idea. I actually left that page in the uh hallway. Who were the black doctors, lawyers and dentists in town when you guys were growing up?**

⁴² It is unclear as to what "PMWs" stands for. Jordan could be referencing a POW (prisoner of war) list.

- 01:00:53 JJ: Dr. Lane [unclear]. He was gone though.
- 01:00:59 BB: He wasn't there?
- 01:01:00 JJ: No, he came after. We had Dr. Lane there. Dr. Hogans⁴³ and Dr. Duckett.
- 01:01:09 **GG: And uh, Gathings.**
- 01:01:13 JJ: Yeah Dr. Gathings, but what kind of doctor was he?
- 01:01:14 **GG: He was a dentist.**
- 01:01:15 JJ: Dentist, yeah.
- 01:01:19 **GG: Yeah his brother there were two brothers that ran that store, it was a pharmacy.**
- 01:01:22 JJ: And they had a drug store.
- 01:01:25 **GG: What are some of the other Friendship⁴⁴ students beyond Friendship Nine that you know that participated in the sit-in movement.⁴⁵ [Pause]**
- 01:01:48 BB: Oh Elson but they were younger than me-
[Crosstalk unclear]
- 01:01:52 **GG: That's alright.**
- 01:01:53 BB: Elson White, and Phillis Hyatt and Miss Thompson Hyatt, and that Kirkland girl. What was her name? Olivette[?]
- 01:02:05 JJ: Olivette Kirkland.
[Phone rings, ignored]

⁴³ Dr. Hugh A. Hogans (1891-1975) was a physician in Rock Hill, S.C. who practiced at 158 W. Black St. (1938-1940) and later at 503 Whitner St. (1946-1975) as noted in the City Directory.

⁴⁴ Friendship Junior College (1891-1981), also known as Friendship School or Friendship Normal and Industrial Institute, was an African American school founded by Rev. M.J. Hall in 1891. The school's first classes were held in the basement of Mt. Prospect Baptist Church on W. Black Street before acquiring an 8.8-acre lot on Allen Street where a main building was constructed. Friendship was incorporated in 1906 and enrolled elementary, secondary, and junior-college level students, mostly training ministers and teachers. Dr. James H. Goudlock served as president from ca. 1932 to 1973. By the 1960s, Friendship enrolled around 400 students. In 1981, following internal fraud that led to bankruptcy, Friendship closed its doors. It was deeply rooted in Rock Hill's 1960-61 sit-in movement that later gave rise to the term the "Friendship Nine." See below.

⁴⁵ The *Friendship Nine* refers to a group of Black students from Friendship Junior College who participated in the January 31, 1961 sit-in at McCrory's lunch counter in Rock Hill, S.C. The group of nine were arrested, convicted, and fined, becoming the first of the sit-in protestors of the Civil Rights Movement to serve jail time. Their "Jail, No Bail" strategy was soon adopted by the greater movement. Prior to this sit-in, a large group of Friendship students were denied service at McCrory's on February 12, 1960, but they refused to leave.

- 01:02:11 **JG: Friendship [Unclear] anticipated.**
[Phone rings again]
- 01:02:21 **GG: What's it say?**
- 01:02:22 JJ: Wallace.
- 01:02:22 **GG: Lucile Wallace.**
- 01:02:23 BB: Wallace
[Crosstalk]
- 01:02:24 **GG: Where you say she was from?**
- 01:02:26 JJ: She lives in Georgia.
- 01:02:27 **GG: Lives in Georgia, ok.**
- 01:02:30 BB: [Unclear]
- 01:02:33 **GG: Yeah, in general, what were the-?**
- 01:02:36 JJ: Was it Wallace or Reece?
- 01:02:40 **GG: What were the general feelings of most white people in this city about the bus boycott and the sit-in movement at that time?**
[Tape ends]
- 01:03:15 **GG: What was that young lady in Georgia you said?**
- 01:03:18 JJ: Lucile Wallace Reece. R.E.E.C.E
- 01:03:25 **GG: Did you two know Reverend Ivory.⁴⁶**
- 01:03:28 JJ: Yes
- 01:03:28 **GG: What were your impressions of him?**
- 01:03:30 JJ: Not really, well, but we knew him, we knew *of* him.

⁴⁶ Rev. Cecil Augustus Ivory (1921-1961) was a prominent pastor and civil rights leader who served as president of the Rock Hill chapter of the NAACP and lead pastor at Herman Presbyterian Church. Although confined to a wheelchair after 1956, Rev. Ivory led the fight against racial inequality and segregation until his death in 1961. He was the leading figure of the 1957 Rock Hill bus boycott as president of the Local Committee for the Promotion of Human Rights. Rev. Ivory was a 1946 graduate of Johnson C. Smith University. For more information, please reference Acc. 1730 - Reverend Cecil A. Ivory Papers at the Louise Pettus Archives.

- 01:03:37 **GG: As what, what did you know of him?**
- 01:03:40 JJ: As president of NAACP but to tell the truth I think back then it just we knew him but we just knew that name and go up to those meetings and I didn't think or really meant a lot we just wanted to go, and be there.
- 01:03:54 **GG: You really didn't realize the role he was playing-**
- 01:03:56 JJ: He was playing-
- 01:03:58 **GG: At the time. What were some of the other civil rights leaders that you recall, at that time. [Pause] [Unclear name] Did you know him?**
- 01:04:10 BB: Yes, I really don't think the civil rights thing really kicked in on us until the boys went to jail. Don't you think so? When they went to jail Friendship nine.
- 01:04:20 JJ: Friendship nine. I think that's when it started. Coming home and you know, and our parents told us we couldn't be a part of that movement because you know people either do this and they really would and [Unclear family name] found out their children were doing it and your momma would say like: "You betta not go up there but you would sneak up there anyways." You know, and I think that's when it kind of dawned on us that we need fight for what we think is right. So, but the rest of it was just like whatever.
- 01:04:56 **GG: When you were growing up, were they any Ku Klux Klan activities that you were aware of, that you know of any blacks that was harmed by it?**
- 01:05:05 BB: I don't know if they died, but I can remember them burning the cross in folk's yard. Didn't they burn a lot of them [Unclear]
- 01:05:20 JJ: I can't remember where it was-
- 01:05:21 BB: I remember them burning crosses at different places.
- 01:05:24 **GG: They did.**
- 01:05:25 BB: In peoples yards.
- 01:05:25 **GG: They used to run it on down on West End on Cherry Road, when we were growing up. I remember we used to shoot marbles back there sometimes. You know William Jackson.**
- 01:05:40 JJ: Yeah.
- 01:05:41 **GG: And when they, before we left. We were leaving late in the evening, a group of them came up in cars. William had his father's gun. And uhh, fired up in the air. They never brought back another cross.**

[All laughing]

- 01:06:00 **GG: Yeah, they got in their cars and scattered!**
- 01:06:05 BB: Yeah I remember them burning crosses you know kind of like in different places but let me tell you something you might want to put in your book. The movies, you know we couldn't go to the Carolina Theatre.⁴⁷ All the pics. They had Carver Theatre, but then they started letting us go on Monday nights, to the Carolina.
- 01:06:29 **GG: Where is the Carolina located?**
- 01:06:30 BB: Trade Street.
- 01:06:31 **GG: Trade Street.**
- 01:06:33 JJ: Yup, in the middle of Trade Street.
- 01:06:34 **GG: What other Street.**
- 01:06:35 BB: It's Dave Lyle now.⁴⁸
- 01:06:35 **GG: I know but-**
- 01:06:39 JJ: It was right up the street, it would have bene in the parking lot of the bank, of the bank and the OK Pawn shop was over there, and that Carolina Pier. I can remember they started letting us go on Monday Night, but we had to sit upstairs. Sometimes they would let us go on Saturday nights. [Unclear] You don't remember going to Carolina, I did. And we would get upstairs and throw papers and stuff down at the people.
- 01:07:13 **GG: Below?**
- 01:07:13 JJ: Below. It was upstairs.
- 01:07:15 **GG: What about the Stevens⁴⁹? Do you remember Stevens the-**
- 01:07:18 JJ: I can remember the, but it was on Main Street. I don't ever remember going to the Stevens.
- 01:07:23 BB: What was the Stevens?
- 01:07:25 JJ: It was down there it was up by um, Friedman's department store, they moved Stevens.

⁴⁷ Carolina Theatre opened in the early 1930s on 124 N Trade Street in Rock Hill, S.C. The 424-seat movie theater was mostly a Whites-only cinema due to segregation. Carolina closed in 1954.

⁴⁸ In the early 1970s, what was once Trade Street evolved into Dave Lyle Boulevard or SC Highway 122. Named after Rock Hill mayor David "Dave" Lyle III (1913-1988) who served as the city's leader from 1964-1978, the project was completed in 1975. Many of the historic buildings were demolished in the process.

⁴⁹ Stevenson Theatre was located at 109 E Main St. Rock Hill, S.C. The 550-seat movie theater opened in January 1928 and operated under several owners until it closed in 1964. As of 2023, the building is still standing.

- 01:07:35 **GG: Between there and McCrory's.**⁵⁰
- 01:07:36 JJ: McCrory's and then they had um, Friedman's and on the corner and next to that was a drugstore, and then on the corner was JCPennys.
- 01:07:48 **GG: Right, what were the, what about the drive-in theaters.**
- 01:07:53 JJ: They had Old Rock⁵¹ out here-
- 01:07:56 BB: Seven Ace.
- 01:07:57 JJ: And then they had one down there by Main where the cemetery is, on Workman Street.⁵²
- 01:08:02 **GG: Was that for white people?**
- 01:08:06 JJ: It was for white people.
- 01:08:07 **GG: They had two on Cherry Road.**
- 01:08:09 JJ: Yeah but they had one down there, I can remember that one being down there where Workman Street apartments are.
- 01:08:15 **GG: So they had three.**
- 01:08:16 JJ: Yes
- 01:08:16 **GG: When did they decide that blacks go?**
- 01:08:19 JJ: I can't remember where black people started going, but they were afraid to go because it was outside. A drive-in movie. You know.
- 01:08:27 **GG: Yeah, my High School I didn't know if they were allowing it. My senior year, I remember, we would go to the drive-in out there Celanese [Road].**
- 01:08:40 BB: And we weren't never really interested because you know we was kind of afraid to go, you'd be out there and you'd never know what would happen.
- 01:08:52 **GG: Well, let's finish and get back to Emmett Scott. There's something about that school, that should never be forgotten in your opinion?**

⁵⁰ McCrory's Store (1937-1997) was a five-and-dime store and lunch counter located at 135 E. Main Street in Rock Hill, S.C. The building, built in 1901, would later become the site of the January 1961 sit-in protest by the Friendship Nine, a group of Black students from Friendship Junior College who were denied service but refused to leave. Today, the building is host to the Kounter, a restaurant paying homage to the historic event.

⁵¹ Referencing "Fort Roc" Drive In Theatre, Jordan mentions one of the several drive-in movie theaters in Rock Hill at the time. Fort Roc was located off of Charlotte Highway (RD 4) according to the Rock Hill City Directory (1958).

⁵² Jordan recalls the Rock Hill Drive In Theatre once located at 300 S Workman Street. Drive-in movie theaters peaked from the 1940s through 1960s. However, like traditional theaters across the South, they too were segregated or "Whites-only."

- 01:09:00 BB: [Unclear]
- 01:09:03 JJ: Something in the school- ?
- 01:09:02 **GG: It is something about the school, it is something that you remember about Emmett Scott that people should know.**
- 01:09:12 JJ: We had teachers that cared about us, and they never- that's what I think about all the time. That we had teachers that wanted us to be educated and they cared about us.
- 01:09:23 **GG: How did they demonstrate that?**
- 01:09:26 JJ: By the way they taught us the little things they would do for us. You know, they would demonstrate stuff they really cared about you. You know, to me that was- they wanted us to be educated.
- 01:09:44 BB: Oh yes, they did.
- 01:09:47 JJ: They instilled education.
- 01:09:49 BB: They instilled in us to think positive, towards success too.
- 01:09:55 JJ: And they were really nice.
- 01:09:57 **GG: Never thought yourself.**
- 01:09:59 JJ: Yeah, we could do anything.
- 01:10:00 **GG: Well what was Emmett Scott, this is the last question, main importance to the black community and to Rock Hill in general, what was their support piece.**
- 01:10:12 JJ: To graduate [laughs] to graduate from Emmett Scott.
- 01:10:19 **GG: That was your foundation?**
- 01:10:22 BB: Yes, and Emmett Scott has produced doctors, lawyers, nurses, I mean as far as you can go back, you know. To me they gave us a proving ground. To do anything.
- 01:10:40 **GG: So it was a very important purpose in this community**
- 01:10:43 JJ: Yeah, and if not up to me, children working in the school district now, they don't get what we got, they don't have what we got. Even the teachers, teaching the kids, they don't have what we have. You know because their diction is poor, it needs a lot of work. And I know how that is, and you don't need to record that but I do, [laughing] but I do.
- 01:11:11 BB: I don't believe you said that.
- 01:11:14 JJ: You know, I've seen em go down the street

01:11:18 BB: Oh Lord-

[All laughing]

01:11:23 JJ: You know, and when you try to correct the kids, you know-

01:11:29 BB: They're not interested in learning-

01:11:30 JJ: They're not interested in nothing. So had we'd said that to a teacher, but you know, they would've told so what the story was.

01:11:40 **GG: Exactly**

[All laugh]

01:11:45 JJ: You know, but I have a tendency and try to tell them, but they don't want to admit. You they, to me they never get too much time. "Is that I, is a small I." No that's supposed to be a capital I boy. You know.

01:12:05 BB: What you mean when you say cap. They don't know that! [Laughs]

01:12:10 JJ: I went down to uhhh, you know Dr. [Unclear name] got a day camp and I went down there one day this week, the first of the week, and they were doing uhh, having kids write something up, what the camp meant to them, and uh one little girl. And I was around looking, I wasn't working. And I looked down there and said "What do you got" and one little girl, she sat on hers. She didn't want me to read it. And I went ahead anyway. And she gave it to Ms. [Unclear] who said give it to Ms. Jordan. And she gave it to me. And she was writing something about BY and she put B.U.Y. I said no honey, this wrong BUY is when you go to the store. What you want to use is BY. "That doesn't make a difference, it mean the same thing." I said ok Miss, with your attitude I won't say anything else, but then I made her change it. You know, "And what grade are you in?"- "I'm going into the ninth grade." I said well when you go to school you need to know better than this, but see, because first through eighth nobody cared whether she used the BY, or the BUY. You know, and now I ask. I used to say when do you all start teaching these children correct grammar, but after that it's too late!

01:13:32 **GG: Way too late. Way too late.**

01:13:12 JJ: You know, I say they've already, it's going to be hard for them to get it right after ten years, you know. And you know another thing they can't do, they can't write cursive, and they can't read cursive. [Unclear] This summer with those kids, one little girl she picked it up just like that, other two, they can't read this. They say Miss Jordan I can't read that, that's cursive. I said but spell it, if you can spell it you can read it. Then she said ok. So, before the week was out, she was writing cursive.

01:14:12 **GG: What grade?**

01:14:13 JJ: She was getting up there on the ninth grade.

- 01:14:15 **GG: Wow, that's amazing.**
- 01:14:16 JJ: I say we would write cursive in the third grade, and she now they don't you know, teach cursive. And I just hate that, you know for our kids.
- 01:14:28 BB: Especially for the blacks.
- 01:14:29 **GG: And they're falling behind.**
- 01:14:30 JJ: We're falling behind. Because as I said Emmett Scott, they cared about us, but now you have to wonder, do these people really care about these kids.
- 01:15:41 **GG: This will illustrate what you said about this caring, of course I know exactly what you are talking about, and I've mentioned, I think, this to Reverend Roddey when I was interviewing him, I suppose I had been friends with him later in life. Before he passed away, and he started telling me about some of the challenges that the teachers had at Emmett Scott, uh like they were not paid the same salary that white teachers were making. And I imagine the same was true when they inherited these books from the white schools, and you would see the kids white names in them. I suppose that he said to me, he said: "you remember those little books I used to teach you guys from? I told you sat there in trigonometry and pre calc." I said yeah. He said: "District didn't provide them." You know he used his own money, and he had bought those books to make sure we qualified. I had no idea when I was there at Emmett Scott and went into University went right into calculus. Started teaching, I mean I started taking calculus-**
- 01:15:47 JJ: Taking the course.
- 01:15:47 **GG: Yeah I had taken a pre calc course, what these teachers had done is they prepared me for that, you know I didn't know that. They went beyond what the district had done. That's what you're talking when these teachers cared about us. Which is, you know how I said about Mr. [Unclear], uh Clark, I remember this woman just practicing with me after class getting diction straight, grammar straight. Because they cared, you know they didn't have to do that.**
- 01:16:20 JJ: No, they didn't have to do that but they did. When I first about the book situation, I was working at Emmett Scott with Sam Foster⁵³ in the office, and a principal came from some school, I don't remember what school, and Mr. Foster asked me to go down and get English books. An eleventh-grade English book, and I just go in there and I look up on the shelf and you know the package label, and I reached up there to get a book. When I got back, he dropped his head.
- 01:16:56 **GG: Who did?**

⁵³ Samuel R. Foster, Sr. (b. 1932) was a state legislator, public school administrator, and the first African American to serve as principal of a fully integrated public school in South Carolina. Foster served as principal of Emmett Scott High School from 1968 to 1970. Soon after, he became the first principal of Northwestern High School (1971-1977). He was also a member of the S.C. House of Representatives (1980-1992). In 2021, Foster was named one of Rock Hill's Freedom Walkway Local Heroes.

01:16:56 BB: Mr. Foster did, he said: "Aw Ms. Jordan, that's not the book that they used." I said, "Excuse me." He said, "That's the book we used." He wouldn't look up at me.

01:17:10 JJ: Well, where was the other book then.

01:17:13 BB: See I brought the man the book the black kids use. The whites' book was in there too. But I just looked for an everyday book. And he told me the name, you know, to look for it was like first, second, third, and fourth edition. See I took him the uh- third edition, but I was supposed to take him the fourth edition. You see what I'm saying.

01:17:43 **GG: The latest edition.**

01:17:44 JJ: The latest edition, and I just you know got a book because it was on the shelf, I didn't think about no edition. He said that's the book we use here look for the fourth edition. And I almost flipped when the man left, guess what I said: Do you mean that we are a year behind in books, and he said yes [Unclear] August. You see they didn't say anything then because they were afraid for their jobs. They couldn't do a thing about it.

[Crosstalk]

01:18:15 **GG: They couldn't do one thing about it.**

01:18:17 JJ: It didn't hamper us.

01:18:17 **GG: No, because they taught us what we needed to know despite that, isn't that right Josephine. You know one of the other things that I have recently researched too, my assessment of and Mr. Witherspoon has uh- been expanding, he was doing things we didn't know he was doing. Like uh fighting for equal pay, for teachers. We didn't know he was doing that. You know, when he was fighting this claim that white [superintendents] were making it that black teachers at the time were not as qualified as white teachers. Miss [Mills?] told me and they, I don't know if you guys can collaborate this or not, at one time Emmett Scott had more masters level teachers than Rock Hill High did and this may or may not have been during the time when Mr. Witherspoon and a lot of the other teachers because of the stereotype that the black teachers, many of them went back and got their masters degrees, and then came back and taught us. We had some very educated teachers.**

01:19:32 JJ: Yes we did.

[End tape]