

**Kennesaw State University  
Department of History and Philosophy  
Summer Hill Oral History Project**

**Interview with:** Dale Griffin  
**Interviewed by:** Melissa Massey  
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**Transcribed by:** Diana Godwin

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(Tape 1, Side A.)

M.M: Can you state your name for me?

D.G: Dale Carnegan Griffin.

M.M: And when and where were you born?

D.G: I was born in Cartersville, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1950 on St. Francis Drive.

M.M: In the community.

D.G: Yeah.

M.M: And did you have any brothers or sisters?

D.G: Yes, I have four brothers and two sisters.

M.M: What are their names?

D.G: William Garnegan, Sr., I mean William Garnegan, Jr., Lawrence Garnegan, John Travis Garnegan, (unintelligible) Michelle Garnegan, (unintelligible) Garnegan, and Charles (unintelligible) Garnegan.

M.M: And who else did your household consist of?

D.G: Both parents and my brothers and sisters.

M.M: And what were your parents' names?

D.G: Julia Davis Garnagan and William Horace Garnegan, Sr.

M.M: And what did your family do for a living?

D.G: My daddy was a cook, my mother she was a house wife, well she cleaned houses until I guess you could say..., but domestic work.

M.M: Right, and where was your father employed?

D.G: He was employed at Ross' diner.

M.M: Okay right down here off of Museum Street, is that where it was?

D.G: If it was...

M.M: Maybe it's Wall Street.

D.G: Yeah Wall Street downtown Cartersville, and he also worked at the Grand Theatre.

M.M: Okay, now what do you think of when you think of Summer Hill?

D.G: Well, we had a lot of fun growing up. All the teachers were like our parents, you know they were born and raised in the community. It was fun, because we played and had fun. Everybody knew everybody you know, we just got along, and you know if you were doing something you had no business doing, everybody all the parents chastised you, you got whippings all the way across the hill all the way home, (unintelligible).

M.M: Now where did you live, I know you still live in Summer Hill, but where, you were born on St. Francis Street, and then you mentioned you moved?

D.G: When I turned, I don't know about eight, we moved to Weaver Street, which is the project area.

M.M: Okay.

D.G: And we stayed there until I turned about sixteen and then we moved to Bartow Street, north Bartow Street, so its still there in the community. Then after I married in 1973 we bought a house on Jones Street, my husband and I.

M.M: Now can you describe the house that you grew up in, I guess the one on Weaver Street?

D.G: Well Weaver Street was projects.

M.M: It was the projects?

D.G: Uh huh.

M.M: Okay what about the one on St. Francis?

D.G: It's just a big old wooden house, you know you had five or ten or twelve steps from the bottom to the top, and it had a big porch, front porch that you, you know all the kids could play on, and you know have fun. Then we had I think about five rooms in the house, because we did not have a bathroom inside the house, it was on the back porch, but the rooms were very big, and all the kids slept in the same room. We had bunk beds for the boys, two slept in each bunk bed, and on tops. Then on the other side of the room the girls slept in a full bed.

M.M: Now what was the yard like?

D.G: Oh now we had a big yard that you could just play, because we had a chicken coop, and you know we use to have to run the chickens down, so the yard was real big. It's the property that sits behind St. Luke's Church.

M.M: Okay.

D.G: All the way till right behind the church. It was only three houses that touched down to you know where Moore Street come in?

M.M: Right.

D.G: We just run and play and everything just grew up. We had cherry trees, and palm bushes, and blackberry vines, you know just all that stuff.

M.M: What kind of games did you play or what did you do?

D.G: You know everybody played cowboys and Indians (laughing). Yes we use to like to play that and then we would, we had a rope, I would get a rope for Christmas and a doll, and my brothers they probably screwed the heads off the dolls and you know stick them up on, that's how they practiced being Indians, with my doll heads. We had this (unintelligible) we had a big tree that sits sort of up on a hill up above the house, and you could put that rope up in there and tie it up there, because my brother would nail us steps up on the tree, and you could swing out across the house and come back, so it was wonderful being a kid (laughing).

M.M: Now what was your relationship like with your neighbors did they visit regularly?

D.G: Yes we would we were at each others house everyday, because we would play a little bit in our yard and then we'd say, well lets go across the street over to the Henderson's. They had red dirt, so then we would make mud pies and things like that, and their porch was high to the (unintelligible) it should have been a basement but they didn't finish it out so see we could sit up under there you know out of the sun and you know make the mud cakes and leave them out in the sun to dry (unintelligible) so it was fun. We got along with all our neighbors, and the lady that use to, the beautician, she lived at the end of the street, she would fix our

hair on Saturday's, and it would take all day long, but the rest of the people were sort of older, but they had children, and their children were grown and so their grandchildren would come back during the summer so we all got along and played in everybody's yard you know when it was time to clean up if you made a mess then we went from yard to yard and picked up paper, you know stuff like that. We'd have to do that on Saturday evenings to get ready for Sunday because you didn't want a mess you know in your yard.

M.M: So every Saturday.

D.G: Yeah when the sun started going down we had to clean up, put everything away for Sunday.

M.M: Now what was your role in the household?

D.G: Well I had to have ones after my sisters, because my sisters are younger, well I have two brothers and two sisters that are younger than I am, so I just you know watch after them. I had to wash on Saturday (unintelligible). I'm the oldest girl, and I had to help my mama wash the clothes, couldn't put them on the line, because I wasn't tall enough (laughing). I washed them and help drag them out there, and daddy put them on the line, and I had to help clean up. I had to learn to cook when I was twelve. A full course meal not just a sandwich and a snack.

M.M: Wow and did your dad teach you to cook, since he was a cook?

D.G: My daddy did not have patience with anybody in the kitchen with him, because he was going to mess up everything. He used every pot and pan in the kitchen. He didn't want you in there in the way. Now when he first cooking got everything in the stove, he wanted you to come in and clean up.

M.M: Now did you share dinner or supper with your whole family?

D.G: Yes.

M.M: And was Sunday dinner a special time?

D.G: Yes, we always, well during the week we didn't have much meat. Well we would have like bacon and sausage or something like that for breakfast. A lot of times at dinner we didn't have any meat, we'd just had pinto beans and corn bread or some kind of dried beans and corn bread, but on Sunday we would have, Sunday morning we would have (unintelligible) rabbits, we'd have rabbit and gravy and biscuits and stuff, then in the even we'd have chicken, or if it was hog killing time you know we'd have pig feet (unintelligible) and stuff like that. I can remember eating a lot of meat on Sundays but not during the week.

M.M: Now what holidays were celebrated?

D.G: Everyone like we do here, I mean you know now. We'd celebrate everything from well back then we use to celebrate like the..., we use to celebrate February the twelfth, and what is it the 14<sup>th</sup>, Washington's birthday and Lincoln's birthday in February. I remember that when we were little growing up, and then it seemed like Easter would come in March or April whatever it was. We always celebrated Easter, Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Christmas, Thanksgiving, you know all the regular holidays, and then if it was like birthdays we would do, when it was your birthday you could pick a special thing that you wanted to do. You invited some of your friends over and had some cake and ice cream. Sometimes you know my daddy would cook hotdogs on the grill you know like that, if that's what you chose. I, well I had a (unintelligible) because my birthday was in

September, it was still nice in September, but three of my brothers their birthdays are like in November when it gets cold and messy, and then January, so they didn't have a choice. Then my sister's birthday was in November too. So the ones who had a birthday like in the spring and summer you know they had it made, and you could do things and invite folks over. They didn't want people coming over you know when it was cold and messy in the wintertime.

M.M: Now you mentioned you celebrated Washington's and Lincoln's birthday do you remember doing anything special?

D.G: Well at school we always made little statue heads of them and painted them, you know in class and then we would put on a presentation and you know you get up and recite something about them or do you know little things at school. You know you always bring it home and show it to your parents, and they'd put them all on the shelf, because I remember mine fell off and broke one time, and I cried. So I went back to school, and I told my teacher, I said mine broke, and so she let me make another later on you know.

M.M: Now what was your first job?

D.G: Babysitting. During the summer I had to baby sit because a lot of people worked, and I would keep their kids.

M.M: Now where did most people in Summer Hill work?

D.G: Most of them, well a lot of them were school teachers, a lot of them were, and then some of them worked at Lockheed, and you know just around in the city, a lot of people were fortunate enough to get on at Lockheed. Well I don't think it

was called Lockheed then, it was called... my mama called it something, I can't remember (unintelligible).

M.M: (unintelligible)

D.G: Well I can't remember, it wasn't Lockheed at that time, but a lot of them worked there, because I know every year we started to school you have to fill out these papers to tell if your parents worked at a government agency and things like that, and a lot of my classmates their parents worked down there. I guess the company could give so much to the schools.

M.M: Now you mentioned that your mother was a homemaker, can you describe her daily schedule?

D.G: Well she got everybody up in the morning, and I'm telling you we got up real early, because we had to do our chores before we could go to school. Had to bring in wood and stack it behind the stove, bring in coal, and go to the hen house and gather the eggs and bring them in. We did all that before daybreak and then when like daybreak came then you know you washed up and change your clothes, then we walked to school. So you know my mother would get us all up, and we'd get out and do our chores, and she would cook breakfast then she'd get us all fed, and she'd fix something for lunch then we would go out. Then here ride would come and pick her up where they'd go you know clean house. She would get home about 2:30 or 3:00 before school was out and then she'd have something on cooking on the stove. We'd do the rest of the chores sweep off the front porch and back porch, you know, take out those clothes because you have to wear them every other day to school. We just you know do the rest of the little chores, clean

up the bathroom (unintelligible) on the back porch (laughing), but it still had to be clean. I mean my mother did not want it to smell at all, so you know we had a pot inside the house, which you used at night just to urinate in, and we cleaned all that out. I remember making soap one time, lye soap. I thought I'm not going to use any of this, but that was the best soap they had for cleaning, and we use to take a bath in that soap, and you never had any problems with psoriasis or acne or anything.

M.M: Can you tell me how you made it?

D.G: I don't know how they made it, because they (unintelligible) stir it up, and then they would get it out of there, and we'd have to shape in little bars (unintelligible). It was just awful, because I'd always thought well what if I get caught on fire around this pot, because it was a big ole black pot sitting in the back yard, but they didn't want us touching it you know, that (unintelligible).

M.M: Did your mom wash your clothes in that pot?

D.G: Yes.

M.M: And hung them up on the clothesline?

D.G: Yeah, before we got a washing machine (unintelligible), but I always thought well the white folks are (unintelligible) white. And then we had the scrub bowl, went from the wash pot to a scrub bowl and then we moved on to a washing machine, but they all stayed on the back porch. We didn't have any room in the house for that.

M.M: Now can you describe the boundaries of the Summer Hill neighborhood for me?

D.G: Well we could go from our house, which was on St. Francis Street, we could go as far as down as (unintelligible), because it was an old (unintelligible) store down there, and then it was on the corner of (unintelligible) and Hill Street.

M.M: What did they sell?

D.G: Cookies and candies and you know all these little things you know at the store, so we could go as far down as (unintelligible) Road, and let me see Hill and Hattie Street those streets come up behind the school. Well Hattie Street does, it would come up behind the school, the gym part was on that end, and then you know you'd come back up Aubrey Street and you could go as far as Irvin Street. If you had to go anywhere else from that area an adult had to go with you, like if you had to go to the Richmond area like when the fair would come over there at the American Legion Fair Grounds, you could go over there, but an adult had to go with you. And then we could go to (unintelligible), because my grandparents and uncles and things they lived in the west end area. Now we could walk that area by ourselves, but they would call and say well the kids is coming out there and play and send them back home you know before it gets dark. They would call and say well they leaving, you know and walk back to Summer Hill, which that's the area that's out like (unintelligible) Street, Walker Street, you know (unintelligible).

M.M: Yes, so that's west end, (unintelligible) Street.

D.G: Uh huh Lee Street, (unintelligible), Walker Street those are the west end area, Main Street, and then Richmond consists of Martin Luther King Drive, which use to be Moon Street when we little.

M.M: Okay.

D.G: They changed the name to Martin Luther King Drive, and Nelson Street where the Cartersville Plaza is (unintelligible).

M.M: Now growing up were you ever known by any nicknames?

D.G: Yes, they use to call me Little Bit, because I was real little. I was short, you know real tiny, because when it was time for me to go to school at six, the doctor did not want my sister and I (unintelligible) to go to school, he said we were too little. (Unintelligible), because I'm tired of them crying, they want to follow the rest of the kids, go to school so they're going, so we went. So when I graduated in 1968 I didn't weigh but ninety-eight pounds, they use to call me Little Bit.

M.M: Now as an adult in the Summer Hill community, what and where do you all go for fun?

D.G: Well we use to go to that little park up there, and they remodeled it and put basketball goals. Back then they didn't have, well they had a few basketball goals, but...

M.M: The one on Jones Street?

D.G: Uh huh.

M.M: Okay.

D.G: We use to get up there, laugh and talk. Sometimes you would bring a sandwich you know, and just sit out there (unintelligible) and watch the little kids playing and stuff like that. Most of the time I just walked across through there from the other end of Jones Street, just walk and get exercise and visit with some of the older people in the neighborhood, you know, if they have...and like during the

summers they start having basketball games (unintelligible) summer league (unintelligible) they have it at both gyms, well they have it at all the gyms in Cartersville, but some years I helped with the projects, you know like go and help chaperone, you know help (unintelligible) the kids and stuff like that. I did that some, and it was fun.

M.M: Were there any other favorite hangouts in the neighborhood?

D.G: When we were little they had a Delicacy shop, it was on Jones Street, where you'd get ice cream, hotdogs, you know hamburgers stuff like that. They would only let the little bitty kids go right after school, because then the teenagers would come and make us come out, and the teenagers would dance and stuff you know, I mean you know the older kids.

M.M: Right.

D.G: We would just go in and get an ice cream cone or hotdog or milkshake something like that.

M.M: Do you remember what that building looked like what the structure was made of?

D.G: I don't remember what the structure was made out of, but I know on one side it was a barber shop and then the other side was just you know, they had (unintelligible) near the wall and then it had the stools, the bar stools that would sit up to the counter, and they you know they cake and cookies and ice creams, milkshakes, hotdogs...

M.M: Now was that located exactly where the playground and basketball court is today on Jones Street?

D.G: No it's up a little bit, where that vacant lot is.

M.M: Okay, so it's where the vacant lot is.

D.G: Uh huh.

M.M: Okay, now were there any particular customs or celebrations that only Summer Hill residents observed?

D.G: Yes, because during the summer we would have a parade the kids on Bartow Street, I mean on Weaver and Williams Street, Weaver would have a contest would have a contest against the kids on Jones Street and (unintelligible) Street. We would get together, and we'd play up having these parades, and we had it down on Weaver and Williams Street, because we could block that off, and we'd get us some cardboard boxes and some sticks, and you know the boys they would beat the drums, and we'd hum and march. We would make tassels for our boots, you know we were acting like we were majorettes, and we'd make them out of toilet paper (laughing). Tie them on the front of our tennis shoes, and everybody had well you know those kids had shoes that's back in style now, but that's what everybody wore. We'd make us some little grass skirts, and we'd act like we were majorettes in a band, and we'd march, and we'd have, we'd have the babies, we'd have a boy and a girl, and we'd pull them in the wagon and they'd be Mr. and Mrs. Weaver Street. You know (unintelligible), and we'd all line up, and we'd march. Then we'd have a football game our boys would play against theirs in the back yard, because in our back yard on Weaver Street they had the basketball goals back there, and you know the area was just a big area, you could play football, baseball, because they had to do that, because we use to play ball in the street then you know more and more people started getting cars, and they'd

complain about us, (unintelligible) no you can't park this side, you've got to move it down, but they'd start complaining for them to have an authority where we could put basketball goals in the back yard, you know came in and smoothed everything off back there so we could play in the yards instead of in the street. We did that every summer, it seems like it was about in June.

M.M: Do you all have any photographs of that?

D.G: No, and everybody would come out, and they'd sit on the porch, and it was like it was just a big parade (laughing).

M.M: That's wonderful.

D.G: We had fun doing you know a lot of things.

M.M: Now how has the area changed over the years economically, or...?

D.G: Well a lot of people have flocked into the area and they're not friendly. I don't know what area they come from you know a lot of people have moved to Georgia from up north, and they are not friendly and they are not use to use southerners. You know we have southern hospitality, but they're not use to it, because you know you can go through town somewhere, and I'm normally, I'm a person I speak to everybody, I don't have to know you, I'm just going to speak. It doesn't cost me anything to speak, but a lot of people that have moved into the area, do I know you, I say well no, but you know I'm just speaking because I'm passing you. Anytime I pass anybody, my duty is to speak to them, and you know it has changed, and a lot of times you don't even know your neighbor, and I'm not use to that.

M.M: Right.

D.G: And that's hard you know for me, and my daughter she's like that, she's thirteen, she says mama I spoke to them, and they didn't speak back, I said you've done your job (unintelligible), the only thing else you can do is pray for them, because you haven't done anything to them.

M.M: Now you mentioned going to the movies at the Grand, was there anywhere else you went in Cartersville for fun?

D.G: Well on Saturdays they had this, they would have baseball games, and they would have them, they called it SLAB Stadium, and it was right down Bartow Street before they put the projects in, the whole area it was just a big baseball field and every Sunday after you finished church you would go to SLAB stadium and watch the ball game, and they would see you know barbecue and hotdogs and drinks and stuff, ice cream and stuff. You know they made homemade ice cream. We watched the ball game and when they decided to put the projects down there, they moved it down to Industrial Park, which is way down off of Irvin Street, south of Irvin down that way, and then you know we'd have to walk. Some people had wagons, so we would get on the back of the wagon and go down there and watch the ball game, but it was always some ballgames from May all the way through to you know till it was time to go back to school in August. They had every Sunday had a ballgame, so people would come, teams would come from Adairsville and Kingston, Marietta, Acworth from you know all those areas and you know play ball, and the adults played the ball we just watched.

M.M: Do you remember when SLAB stadium was I guess demolished or destroyed for the public housing to come in, do you remember that time period?

D.G: Yeah, and it was heart breaking, because we didn't want them to move it. They said they was going to give us more room, because you really didn't have any parking you know, parking areas down there, and a lot of houses was there and so see like if somebody had enough strength to (unintelligible) they would break out windows, and you know it was really in a congested area, so that's why they decided to move it because it was dangerous.

M.M: Now to my understanding there was also a shop near SLAB stadium where people buy hotdogs or whatever.

D.G: Well it was man across the street, he had this little what we called a juke joint (laughing) back then, and he did, he would barbecue and cook you know stuff like that (unintelligible), and they had you know the ball games and stuff. And there was a barbershop right across the street, which is still down there now.

M.M: Oh okay.

D.G: They remodeled it a little bit.

M.M: Now when the ball field moved to the Industrial Park, did the businesses also move?

D.G: Well down in the Industrial Park there was already some businesses down there, it was like carpet mills (unintelligible), that was down there it was like carpet mills, rug mills and stuff like that, so no businesses really moved down there. I guess really not any businesses down there now.

M.M: So the shop didn't move?

D.G: No the barbershop stayed where it was.

M.M: Now what is your fondest memory of Summer Hill?

D.G: Well a lot of the things that I participated in, because I was a girl scout under the leadership of Minnie O'hara and Anne Carter Johnson and Miss Maurice Williams. We would do lots of things you know, we always sold those Krispy Kreme doughnuts, and then we always had a hayride or something you know up to Miss Minnie O'hara's parent's house, they live off of Rolling Spring Road and then we would go camping. We would go to, they had a camp in Rome, it was Camp (unintelligible) in Rome, and then they had some camping areas up at Lake Alatoona, and we always did two events you know two events a year like camping out.

M.M: Right.

D.G: And so that was a lot of fun and then I played basketball, I was a cheerleader, I ran track so you know I stayed busy doing a lot of things, because I liked sports, which I still do now. So I really you know stayed busy, because if you stayed around the house you'd end up doing a lot of work. I would get my work done early, because mama would say, if you get your work done you can go play, be back before the sun goes down. (unintelligible), and they used to have at our old elementary school up on the hill, which is the Aubrey Street gym, they use to have dances, and you know they'd play music and that night you know you could dance, and you could play basketball, checkers, pool, and stuff like that (unintelligible). Then after the basketball games down at the high school Coach Hill, which is Matthew Hill, he would have a Sock Hop for us and then you paid by your waist size, I always liked that because my waist was really small (laughing). I didn't ever have to pay over twenty cents is all you know, fifteen or

sixteen cents to get in, and you know I always thought that was fun, because we would really laugh at the ones that was a little bit bigger, oh you have to pay a dollar (laughing). I thought that was funny, we would put all of our pennies together, you know all the friends, we could get in and it was fun.

M.M: Now where did people engage with each other as a community, was it at the church, a lodge, a restaurant...?

D.G: Nah, the church. The church kept the community together, because they would have like bake sales and chicken dinners and stuff like that trying to raise money to you know for our building fund to redo stuff inside the church and stuff like that, and we all worked together. I go to Mt. Zion, which is on the corner of Aubrey and Jones Street and then we would go and visit St. Luke's, which is on Jones Street where Bartow Street comes in, so we visited both churches, and we helped out at all the churches. Then we had cleaning projects, and we would all you know we would gather and sweep the churches, clean out the yards, and you know they would do they would do a lot of things for the kids in the community. That's where everybody met up in church. They would have a lot of singings and different little things, you know Homecoming, you know at different churches and stuff like that. Then if it was a funeral in the community, everybody in the community got together, and we prepared food you know for families and stuff like that (unintelligible), we would help bury some people that didn't have you know sufficient insurance and money to do what needs to be done.

M.M: Now who were the prominent or recognized members of the community?

D.G: Matthew Hill, he was a coach for a long time, he taught at Summer Hill, he went to the Cartersville middle school, and then he went back to coaching at the middle school so you know he was always there.

(End Tape 1, Side A. Begin Tape 1, Side B.)

M.M: Okay.

D.G: Joe Weems, he taught me in the sixth grade (unintelligible). Mel Harris, she was my first grade teacher, Miss (unintelligible) Morgan, she's still here. Margaret, Margaret (unintelligible) and Dorothy (unintelligible), they're still on Jones Street. A lot of our teachers were (unintelligible), Reverend E. H. Mitchell which is deceased now, but he was our pastor for like thirty-one or thirty-two years at Mt. Zion and then he (unintelligible) diabetic, but he did a lot of work in the community. He helped a lot of kids go to school, fed a lot of kids at his house, and you know just did a lot in the Summer Hill community and all over Cartersville and Bartow County. A lot of older people are still living so see they still help out now taking care of kids, and doing you know what they can, and Miss Nancy Beasley.

M.M: Now let's go back to the church, the role of the church was sort of a focal point in the community...

D.G: Uh huh.

M.M: ...and you attend Mt. Zion...

D.G: Yeah.

M.M: ...can you describe the church, music, people in attendance, has the building changed?

D.G: Yes, the building was remodeled in 1959, because it was a wooden building, and I always liked going there except for when they'd make you sit on that front row. The floors, I don't know, I guess they were really hard wood floors, but the older people had a way of they'd slap their feet against the floor, it made such a humming sound that you know it just really, it was good to hear. Then they would hum and sing, because I don't think, well they had an old piano back then, but they used mostly the notes and did the old hymns without music. They would clap their hands and then they would tap their feet (unintelligible), and they would hum and stuff.

M.M: Did they do note singing every Sunday?

D.G: No.

M.M: Or was it special?

D.G: Well special Sundays they did note singing, but I enjoyed that. It was just an old wooden building.

M.M: How many people do you think were in attendance?

D.G: Probably about thirty or forty back then.

M.M: Okay.

D.G: The old building, the building is where the fellowship hall is, that's where the church was.

M.M: Okay.

D.G: They remodeled and built that one over there, but if they were having a meeting about something, if some kid got in trouble or something like that, they'd have a meeting at the church, and they would sort of decide, well what are we going to do about it, there are our kids and we've got to back him up, but you've got to tell the truth about stuff. You tell the truth and we'll back you up (unintelligible).

M.M: Now what types of things were preached about?

D.G: Stealing, they didn't want you to steal and you know if you went to jail you might not get out (laughing), but they always preached about you know (unintelligible), and you know in line with those ten commandments really they reinforced those a lot. (unintelligible) there is no such thing as a little lie and a big lie, it's just one lie and do not tell lies.

M.M: Now did your church ever take any political stances that you are aware of?

D.G: I'm sure they did, back in the sixties, I'm sure (laughing), I'm sure a lot of people marched you know in Atlanta and downtown too, you know (unintelligible), and you know about combining the schools.

M.M: Do you think they take political stances now?

D.G: I think so, because mostly when it's time for an election the preacher does encourage everybody to vote. Be registered and be able to go and vote, he said you can't complain about what's going on if you have not voted on it. You can change things if you go and vote, and that's a lot of your fore-parents died and fought and walked for you to have this privilege, and you can take advantage and use it. You know I'm not going to tell you how to vote, but you know you can

read the papers and see what's going on, and you ought to be able to go and vote, you have that right.

M.M: Now do you recall any areas being white only or black only and were there signs that said that?

D.G: Yes, downtown. You went to the bus station, and in the restaurants even at the Grand Theatre, the black people had to sit up in the balcony and the whites sit down you know in the main area, but I had no problem with that, because I was short and little and see I could see from up in the balcony real good, because I said well if I was sitting down on the main floor and somebody was taller than me I couldn't see what was going on, so it was a thrill for me. So you know a lot of that stuff it's just the way you look at it, you know I want you to call me by name, not by anything else, and until you know me you shouldn't judge me by the color of my skin. You should know me that I'm Dale until you sit down and talk to me or be around me then you shouldn't form an opinion about me and should do the same with you, now that's the way I feel about it, but you know we'd go to the bus station, the water fountain up front would say whites only, and (unintelligible).

M.M: Let's talk about the school; can you describe the Summer Hill School for me, what grades were served, what the building was like...?

D.G: Well when I started to school I was up on the top of the Hill, Jones and Aubrey at the top, because that's where the elementary part started, and the first grade was down in the basement floor, first through the third grade I think was in the basement, and then as you'd come up the steps there would be some rooms up

there, and I think they was fourth and fifth grade and then the sixth grade was up in the top of the area, but you would have to know the school to visualize, but it was you know, it was like that, the bigger kids thought they was something, because they were upstairs where all the light would come in, and we were down in the basement (laughing), but we had fun. We were down in the basement, but on the backside of it Miss Pearly Lay and Bessie Shell they had a store, and you know you'd go and buy cookies and stuff at that store. Back then the drink bottles you know you had to pay for them, we would gather those up and you know turn them back in (unintelligible), and then we use to buy stuff and if you didn't have any money, well they'd say, well okay baby I'm going to let you have something, but all I want you to do is sweep off the stoop, sweep the stoop and make sure there's no paper or bottles on there, so you know we would work to earn money like that, because we didn't, my family didn't have a lot of money, but that was always fun. Then you know we had recess out there and everybody played and you know the teachers would sit on the little stoop and watch us play with jump ropes, we played jackstones, and we played hopscotch.

M.M: Now was the dump there when you were there?

D.G: The dump was way back over the hill.

M.M: Okay, so they had moved it?

D.G: They hadn't moved all of it they had started moving it.

M.M: Okay, do you remember why and what made them move the dump finally?

D.G: No, I really don't. I guess because kids would go back there, and they were scared they would get hurt or something you know on old rusty cans and stuff like that.

M.M: Have you ever heard why they put the dump there in the first place?

D.G: No.

M.M: Okay, now you walked to school...

D.G: Uh huh.

M.M: ...and most kids walked to school, so were there any, they walked to school from other areas, were there any perceptions of city students verses country students that you were aware of?

D.G: Well yeah because when the county kids came they would come up in the ninth grade, and they were mad at us, because they'd say yall city kids (unintelligible) well we haven't even thought about that, I mean yall get all the privileges, yall get to ride the bus. We walked to school, yall get to eat in the cafeteria, and we have to bring our lunch or either have money. See a lot of them in the county they ate free, we didn't.

M.M: Do you remember the name of the program that they (unintelligible)?

D.G: No, but I know that a lot of them ate free. Well yall got it made because yall, see my cousin lived out in Sugar Valley, and when my mother got sick and had surgery my grandmother (unintelligible) we had to stay with my grandmother out there for about a month, and you know we had to ride the bus like that. The first time we rode the bus, and the bus would run late sometimes, and Mr. Simpson he'd say oh you are going to have stay in school, you're going to have to stay

after school, because you was late, and I said I have no problem, I can't help because I was late. I'm out at my grandmother's house, she's in Sugar Valley, I had to wait till the bus come, that's because my mother's in the hospital. Oh you did so and so, I said no I don't have to tell lies about it, I said call and ask Mrs. Morgan, and he talked to Mrs. Morgan, and he came back and said, well I'm sorry, (unintelligible) I told him I said we're going to be out there a month. So I might be late some more, but you know, because I've got to catch the bus, he was so mad at me, my mother was in the hospital sick in Atlanta, and you know I can't stay after school because I'm staying out there with my grandmother.

M.M: Now what were your favorite subjects?

D.G: I really liked home-ec, and I liked spelling, we would have spelling b's, and I didn't like reading (unintelligible) I liked (unintelligible).

M.M: Who were your favorite teachers?

D.G: Miss Minnie Smith, but she's O'hara, my first grade teacher. Miss Pearly was my second grade, and Miss Bessie Shell was my third grade, those were my favorite teachers in elementary school. Then when I got to, you know like, I mean that was my teachers in primary school, when I got to elementary school Mr. Joe (unintelligible) he was pretty good, and Mr. Robert (unintelligible) who's dead now, and Miss Roberta Morgan, and Miss (unintelligible) Hill (unintelligible), and I liked that I could cook (unintelligible) do you, and I said oh yes I would take everybody's turn at cooking and stuff, I cooked at home I liked to cook, I didn't like no parts of sew, I couldn't sew a straight line (laughing), so you know we had to make a little apron, we had to make a little jumper you know stuff like that,

shorts but my lines would be crooked, and one time she said (unintelligible) I said nah just let them stay it'll be alright (laughing).

M.M: Now did you go to high school down the hill?

D.G: Uh huh.

M.M: Now when you graduated from the elementary school, what was your graduation ceremony like?

D.G: I don't think when I went down there I don't think we had a graduation.

M.M: Okay.

D.G: I think they stopped that the year before I, a lot of people said they could not afford, you know these little cap and gowns they wanted them in, well I think they stopped it because I don't remember wearing them.

M.M: Do you remember ever doing like just a ceremony without a cap and gown to signify that you were going from the school on the hill to the school down the hill?

D.G: I think they just had a party, you know we had a party that day and then around about lunch time they took the class, the class that was going, we got on the school bus, and they drove us down there and let us look at the school. They shuttled us around the area where our class was going to be, we met the teachers like that. That's about it, they didn't want us wondering around in the hall (unintelligible),...

M.M: Right.

M.M: ...and which they still do that now. When they go from like, go from primary to elementary school they pick a day and that day they have a little party, and they

take them from that school to the next school and show them which area of the hall they are going to be in, you know, meet some of their teachers and stuff like that. They still do that, because my daughter when she went from the elementary school to the middle school they did that, and then they go from the middle school to the high school; they have a day where they take them over and show them around.

M.M: Now you said you stayed busy so what clubs or organizations did you belong to?

D.G: The girl scouts was all you know.

M.M: Well that kept you busy.

D.G: Yeah, because we always had to do, you have to earn them little badges and do all that little stuff. You have to collect leaves and do all that, so (unintelligible).

M.M: Now where did you all meet, the girl scouts?

D.G: We would meet down at the elementary school, and we would meet I think once a month, you know unless we were working on a project and then we would meet more often and help plan that (unintelligible), but Mrs. Anne Carter Johnson and Mrs. Maurice Spoon (unintelligible) they would pick us up, because you couldn't stay right after school, they you know, they had to finish doing what they had to do and then meeting would be around like 4:30 or 5:00, and they would come and pick us up and then we would meet, and they would bring us back home.

M.M: Now what did you do after school?

D.G: After school I rushed right home, because I told you we had to change clothes, you could not play in those clothes you had to go home and change into play

clothes, and do your chores and then you could go back and play. We would all go back up to the recreation department, which was the old school.

M.M: Did you have a lot of homework?

D.G: But we had study hall, seems like we had study hall in the afternoons. If you do all your classes that morning then the last few during the day you'd have study hall, and we would, I would try to do all my homework before I got home, and then see my mama would check time you walked in that house, you done your homework, and I'd say yes, and she would check over it, what she could check, if it was something she didn't understand she would send us next door.

M.M: Now what kind of sports did kids participate in?

D.G: Basketball, football, and track. Then for fun we would ride bicycles, and we'd skate. They made those skates with the keys. They would adjust for everybody shoe size we had fun.

M.M: Now you graduated in '68...

D.G: Uh huh.

M.M: ...and what did you do after that?

D.G: I went to work. They came and they said, they are giving a test for Bell South (unintelligible) down on Tennessee Street, North Tennessee Street, and they said anybody that wants to go take this test when the test is over I don't have to come back to school no more, because I had the rest of the day off, and the test was at 9:00. So I said, that will be fun I said let's go, so we just went to take the test, and we got finished and they said, well I want to see these people, and she was interviewing them then, I said, I don't really want a job I just came up, but

anyway in May they called me and told that I had got the job if I wanted to come to work, then you know to come in (unintelligible). Then I had to wait, and I started in June and then I work until 1999 I retired. (unintelligible), well I worked part time in a daycare for about a year and a half.

M.M: Well employee, do you feel that you received an equal education to that of white students, were there any differences that you were aware of at the time?

D.G: No, because it really didn't bother me, I mean well the books I had to read I read those, and I tried to keep up with what I was reading and made little notes and stuff like that, so it really didn't, to me it really didn't have an affect on it, but I guess after I graduated, well get close to graduation we found out a lot of things they had advantage of learning we didn't. I told my son, I said, I feel like anything that you want to do if you want to do it bad enough, you'll find a way to do it to accomplish it. The first thing you need to do is pray and ask the good Lord to direct your path, and He will let you accomplish anything, if it's His will and not ours, and you need to learn to (unintelligible). Everything is not meant for you and if you had it you probably would kill yourself, you'd go crazy, because you couldn't have it. Only the good Lord knows, and He will supply all you need and that's it, because when I took that test I didn't think I would pass it, but she said I did and you know went on from there and then I worked in Cartersville for nine years and then they said well this office is going to close, I tried to go somewhere else, I didn't have a car. They said Mrs. Dale what are you going to do about it, I said I'm going to pray it from the hands of the good Lord, and I called the Credit Union, and they said oh yeah we can finance you a car, but (unintelligible)

because I needed for Marietta. I went to Marietta, and I stayed down there four years, and they said well the office is going to close, we've gotta go some where else. I said well Lord you gave me, help me get this little car, helped me make it to where I needed to go to my next destination it was in Mableton. I drove down there the trucks was so bad, because then we were on 41. They were about to blow me off the road, I said well I need to get a bigger car so they handled all this, and you know when it's storming and raining and stuff it was really bad.

M.M: Right.

D.G: So I got a grand, (Unintelligible) grand prix, and I worked in Mableton, and we'd have to work every holiday because a lot of people would be off, it's suppose to rotate, but a lot of people were off and stuff like that, so I missed out on a lot of Christmas's and Thanksgivings you know having celebrations with the family. I got tired of it, I said so I'm going to put in for another job, they said wait we've got a lot of them down town at perimeter so I put in one for one at perimeter that was in 1976, and they said well you've got to go down town and take the test. I don't know back then I didn't know anything about down town, but they tried to give directions, well they changed the street names and so I got lost.

M.M: That's not hard to do.

D.G: I said Lord, I'm down town lost and suppose to be taking this test at 10:00, and I see the building, but I can't get to it, so I just pulled in the fire department, and your not suppose to go in there. There was a man he was watering down the drive way, he said ma'am your not, I said I know, but I'm out of time, and I've got to take a test, and I am lost. I said I can't even find this street, he said that street

named changed, and it changed to (unintelligible), he said since you are from out of town, and I was just nervous I was just about in tears, he said come on I'm going to let you go through here and show you how to get back up there, and I got up to the building. I couldn't go anywhere, because I wasn't familiar with that area I didn't know where to go park. I parked right outside the building with a big sign, No Parking, park and be towed away (unintelligible), I said Lord you let me get here, please don't let anything happen to my car while I run into take this test. So I took the test, and I was coming back out and they said well where did you park I said right outside the building. She said oh they down towed your car, I said no I put it in the hands of the good Lord, and (unintelligible), when I got back out there, my car was there and I came on back in town, and I told them the Lord will do what you ask Him if you are sincere about asking, I said because that's the only thing that saved me and my car was putting it in the hands of the good Lord, because I could not go anywhere, I didn't know where to go to park, then if I would have went and parked, I'd been lost and couldn't have made it in, so they told me I passed the test, so I went to perimeter. It was a long ride, but I worked at perimeter for twelve years, drove from Cartersville to perimeter as an engineering assistant, but I called and they said Dale with your job you've got to take this test to keep your job, I said (unintelligible) I said well Lord you brought me this far, surely you're not going to abandon me now, and after the test I passed the test, and I kept my job. Then they moved me from perimeter, I came to Kennesaw and stayed for four years and then they moved me back out on Thornton Road, I said Lord I'm in your hands and that's all I can say, so just help me get down there and

take care of me, and He did. I worked and retired from there in '99, and I worked thirty-one and a half years. That's what I told them, I don't know what's in store for me, but whatever it is the Lord will provide and sometimes the answer might be no you just have to accept that, but if it His will he'll say yes (unintelligible) He will tell you that. I said a lot of times if I've gone to a meeting, and I get to arguing or disagreeing with somebody, I don't feel good about it, I pray about it, I say now Lord if I'm wrong do not let me (unintelligible), and then I would get up and I would apologize, and if I'm wrong I could go to sleep and not worry about it, and that's what He does for me.

M.M: Now how would you say education has affected your life?

D.G: Well you can't do anything without education. If you can't read you can't follow directions and do anything. I have to reinforce that to my daughter all the time (laughing). Well mommy, I say oh yes, you cannot do anything if you can't read, because everything comes with directions. If you can't read them you can't follow them, you can't do anything, so reading is very important, and I think everybody given a chance should try to improve on their education if they can. The cost is not for everybody, everybody can't afford it, and a lot of things that you are interested in doing in life does not require for you at the college. You can go to a trade school, or you can get some material off the internet and read and learn, and get you know what you are interested in doing in life.

M.M: Right.

D.G: So college is not for everybody. A lot of kids go off to college and are playing and wasting money and valuable time when they could be on a job working (unintelligible).

M.M: Now do you think there's a place for all black schools in today's society?

D.G: You mean all black schools?

M.M: Uh huh.

D.G: No, no that should be done away with, that's old history. Everybody should blend in and come together. Now I think they should teach about black history, because kids needs to know where they come from so they can get to where they are going, you know if you're not comfortable with where you came from, you wouldn't have great self-esteem to be able to accomplish what you want. It's nothing wrong with saying that your parents, fore-parents were slaves, and they did all this stuff, because they learn to correct (unintelligible) and let God lead them and learn to appreciate the better things in life.

M.M: Now how did you feel when they destroyed the school?

D.G: I didn't like it, because I thought they could have made a community center before now, you know something for all the kids to do and learn and stuff, and then if they had done that sooner it wouldn't had let a chance, wouldn't have had a chance for a lot of drugs you know to come into this area, you know a lot of people bringing in drugs and doing things you know, you know and kids wouldn't have, you know a lot of kids have gone astray, because they didn't have anything to do, or anybody to take up time with them. They just latched on to the first person that looked good like people coming from New York or whatever, you

know enticing them to do things that they had no business; because I think that's what kept us intact. If people took interest in them there's always something to do to have fun, and you know you're acting like a child. You've got to have your childhood, because if you don't get it when you're a child then when you get old you start acting like a child and that's a fool (unintelligible). So I see a lot of people that they are doing things that they should have done when they were children, and that's why I always try to tell my daughter, listen to me, I don't want that cussing, but you know a good nice song you know you can listen to and bands you know and stuff like that, because you're thirteen, and I want you to act like you're thirteen, because if you don't have fun playing basketball and track and act like you're thirteen then you want to be grown, then you want to do grown folks things, see that's what's happened to a lot of our kids, now these kids want to be grown their parents are having children at a young age and expecting for these children to be babysitting for these children so see during all this..., my daddy and mother you know they taught us to cook, but they didn't make us cook all the time, they were in there with us, and we had to cook, so I just cooked certain things. Me and my mama would cook certain things like that, she didn't just put it off on me, and then I would have to help watch my sister if we were out playing or (unintelligible), but that wasn't my job to wash their clothes and iron their clothes and give them a bath and get them dressed, see that's what's happening today. A lot of these kids are having to help raise their brothers and sisters so they don't have anytime to play, so they're filling an adult role and then they want to play being an adult and that's how they're having children at fifteen

and sixteen, because that's all they know. They want somebody to love them and that's the wrong kind of love because they will mess up their lives for the rest of their life, and it's hard because you don't know how to do, kids don't know how to do a lot of grown folks things, but they you know, people expect them to know how to do just because they have a child, but they're not grown so I always try to let them play and have fun, and you know try to tell them you've got a long time for that, if you've got any sense do not have any children, because they're hard headed. That's a lot of money, a lot of (unintelligible), and you're a taxi cab, and you're everything so you know don't, just wait until you get grown and (unintelligible), don't let nobody make a fool out of you, you can be a fool for yourself, do not let anybody make a fool out of you.

M.M: Now when did your family get your first television, car...

(End Tape 1, Side B. Begin Tape 2, Side A.)

M.M: Okay, when did your family get their first television, car, telephone and how did they impact your life?

D.G: I'm sure it was in the 1959 or '60 somewhere along in there we got the first TV, and it's a big ole' black and white TV, and you know we'd sit in the living room so we'd have to line up against the wall and look at it. I remember looking at Howdy Doody, Frankenstein, and something else, you know the monster Frankenstein, something else, because it would hold our attention we wouldn't talk, and we wouldn't say nothing you know (unintelligible) about that ticket.

Then we got our first car, my daddy had bought it from somebody, it was a used car. My daddy he had driver's license, but my daddy could not drive. I don't know why they gave him license in the military, so my oldest brother had to learn how to drive, and he would take us everywhere, and he wanted to boss, he wanted to take all of his friends and let us walk. I said I'm going to tell daddy, and he's going to take them keys from you, because I'm not walking in the rain (laughing). Then my mother she finally, she said, well I'm going to learn to drive so I can you know boss this car, because he is getting a little carried away with it (laughing). So she (unintelligible).

M.M: Now how did racism affect your life and your family's life?

D.G: It was just awful when you would go to town, you know they expected for the blacks to get off the sidewalks and let, you know, the whites pass and then you know the water fountains at a lot of places that said blacks only was nasty or stayed tore up, and then you know you'd have to come all the way back home to get some water you'd be thirsty in town. I didn't like that, I thought it was awful, but I guess that's the way it was you know back in those times, and then when you go in the stores the sales people would follow you around like you was going to steal you know stuff, and I told them I said my mother taught me not to steal, you know and that would sort of bother them, but you know after I turned about fifteen or sixteen, we lived in the projects, the kids that lived on Irvin Street, you know the white kids, they saw that we were having a lot of fun playing ball so they would come over their self and play with us, and you know bring stuff over, you know food and fruits you know stuff like that, and we all shared it so it

wasn't that bad, you know because they would sneak over there and play with us, and spend the night and stuff like that, but I guess like if we went to something on Sunday's you know they didn't want their friends to know that they associated with us, but...

M.M: But you had fun.

D.G: ...yeah we had a lot of fun, and they saw that we were having fun too, so I think you know they were ready to integrate.

M.M: Now tell me about the years of the Civil Rights movement, were you ever involved, was your family ever involved?

D.G: My brother was, my oldest brother, because he you know he was grown and going to Atlanta, because my aunt lived in Atlanta, and a lot of my people, he went down, and he marched for King in one of those riots just so happened that he didn't get locked, but my cousins and them got locked up (laughing), and he said, but it was awful, he said, yall they was spraying those water hoses, spraying that water, he said I didn't know that water was so harsh. You know because we use to play with water, I guess it wasn't full force like that, but he said that was awful, see my daddy wouldn't let us because we were too young to go, but my brother was older.

M.M: Right.

D.G: I think they marched in Cartersville once.

M.M: Oh they did march in Cartersville?

D.G: Uh huh.

M.M: Do you remember when that was?

D.G: It seems like it was in '66(unintelligible), when they first took Mr. Stanley Morgan's job away, he was the principal at you know the school, my school (unintelligible), and you know they had a long protesting march.

M.M: Where did they march?

D.G: They marched in front of the, well down town in front of like the old courthouse buildings you know the post office use to be down town on Irvin Street, and they marched around the square you know I think.

M.M: Now what was the larger Cartersville community's reaction to the march?

D.G: Well a lot of people participated black and white, because you know they thought they was just throwing him out of his job, it's because they were integrating the school, and they did move a lot of teachers around like that some you know they dismissed and stuff like that, you know a lot of people didn't like that, because you know they had families to take care of too and that's all they had done you know was teachers and stuff like that so it was, it was you know just shaking everything up in the community and all.

M.M: Right, now how did global events like the Great Depression, World War II, Civil Rights, Vietnam, sub urbanization affect your life, your families life, and the community of Summer Hill?

D.G: Well I'm sure it had, well I know Vietnam because my brothers went to Vietnam in '67 and '69, '70, well from '67 to '70, because even my husband was in Vietnam too, and a lot of our boys got killed our boys that were (unintelligible) they shipped them off, and I thought that was awful, because they were young, and you know I remember crying a lot and going to a lot of funerals and stuff like

that. Now World War II, I was a little child so it didn't bother me (laughing), the Depression either, I mean you know, you can't miss what you never had so that really didn't bother me, but when it came to Civil Rights well it was time for a change, it really was, because you know if, because they'd have women out too, if women can do the same job that a man, they should get the same pay.

M.M: Right.

D.G: So see that helped everybody out, you know not just blacks, but I'm glad they put in affirmative action too, because they did give a lot of blacks a chance to be tested on stuff to show that they were capable of doing it, you know I was glad of that. It was a lot of white people that marched with the Civil Rights, they went you know to Alabama and stuff like that, and it was a good thing, because Alabama is a real prejudice state to this day still, you know a prejudice state. I think you know everybody was sick of that when they bombed that church, and it killed all those kids, it was time for a change.

M.M: Now back to the church, the bell that is in front of Mt. Zion, is that the bell from the original structure, do you know?

D.G: I don't know, I know they had an old bell in there, but I don't know if they kept that one or not, because I remember all the churches back then had bells, and we would help ring them on Sundays especially (unintelligible).

M.M: (unintelligible).

D.G: It was, if two people was ringing that bell, but then if you was short like that rope would (unintelligible) a little bit (laughing), but it was fun, because we use to

swing on it (unintelligible) pigeons start getting up there and roosting and stuff like that and then they would make little bombs (unintelligible) (laughing).

M.M: Now the public housing, the old public housing is on Jones Street correct, and then the new public housing is down on Weaver and Bartow.

D.G: Weaver and Bartow.

M.M: Now when the public housing came in, do you think there was any animosity in the community?

D.G: I really don't know, I don't know what you know what the people thought about it, they probably was jealous, because you know it was new housing and stuff like that, and then I don't know how they went about letting people in. I know they let us in first, because urban renewal had come through and tore a lot of that stuff down on St. Francis Street...

M.M: Right.

D.G: ...and you know across Jones Street and stuff like that, so...

M.M: That was including your house, right?

D.G: ...yes, so they had to let us in first, because urban renewal had bought up all that property, and we didn't have anywhere to go.

M.M: Right.

D.G: So that's how we got a chance to get in there, even that other street that the houses is on Mull Street, and it was another little street in there that I want to say it was (unintelligible) Street, but I don't know, but you know urban renewal came through and tore all that down so that's how we got a chance to get in the projects first.

M.M: Now are you aware of any place where drinking was known to take place?

D.G: Yeah, all over Summer Hill area, they had little juke joints they called them, and you know people would sell stuff out of their houses I guess.

M.M: Now the name Summer Hill, do you know where it came from?

D.G: No.

M.M: Okay.

D.G: Now see my mother went to Summer Hill school back in (unintelligible), because I think my mother graduated in the class of 1940.

M.M: So she graduated from the school on the hill?

D.G: (unintelligible).

M.M: Are you aware of any, has anyone ever mentioned to you that there was a school before that, Summer Hill school before that building?

D.G: No, because I thought the only thing they had was Noblehill up in Kansas.

M.M: Okay.

D.G: That's the only two schools I've ever heard about is Noblehill and then Summer Hill.

M.M: Now who was the person that has the most positive influence on your life or who are your heroes?

D.G: Well all my teachers that are still living. Matthew Hill, Mrs. Roberta Morgan, Nancy Beasley, Minnie O'hara, Anne Carter Johnson, which she died a couple of weeks ago, and Mrs. Pearly Lay, and Mrs. Bessie Shell. They were always like, they never had any kids of their own so they were everybody's mother, and they

had sweet little soft voice that would talk to you and always gave you a hug, and you know always encouraging.

M.M: Now are there any older buildings in the neighborhood that we haven't talked about that you can think of?

D.G: (unintelligible)

M.M: Well that's it.

(Abrupt end of Interview.)