

**Kennesaw State University  
Department of History and Philosophy  
Summerhill Oral History Project**

**Interview with:** Peggy James  
**Interviewed by:** Melissa Massey  
**Location:** Peggy James Home, Kennesaw, GA  
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**Transcribed by:** Steven Satterfield

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(Tape 1, Side A)

Melissa Massey: Can you state your name for me?

Peggy James: Peggy A. James

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

P.J: Bartow County, Cartersville, I believe that I, I'm not too sure, I think I was born at home midwife, and that was on Tennessee Street.

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

P.J: Yes I have two brothers.

M.M: And their names?

P.J: Melvin Johnson and Norman S. Johnson.

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

P.J: Grandmother and mother.

M.M: And their names?

P.J: Nancy Johnson was my mother, and Kimmy Wiles was my grandmother, and my mother was divorced.

M.M: Now what did you family do for a living?

P.J: My mother was a cook housekeeper, and my grandmother took care of us, she was the only one working in the household.

M.M: Now what do you think of when you think of Summerhill?

P.J: Well actually, I think of good times really because I really enjoyed it, I was a basketball player and I was a cheerleader so I enjoyed being there and there were good things I think about and bad things.

M.M: Okay, now where did you live when you lived in Summerhill, you mentioned you were born on Tennessee Street?

P.J: Right.

M.M: Did you grow up in that home?

P.J: No, we moved with my mom, we moved let's see, we moved on what they call Gerald Street and that was sort of like downtown Cartersville and then we moved to Jones Street and actually that where we actually grew up there, and from there we moved into the projects.

M.M: Okay, now can you describe the house on Jones Street, imagine walking around in it.

P.J: Yes, it had what, three bedrooms, a huge hall, kitchen, no bathroom, this is why I didn't want to do this.

M.M: Oh, you're doing great!

P.J: Okay, don't feel bad for me. The house had once been, we were told later, it had once been a funeral home one of the rooms on the back side, but it was a nice house and we enjoyed living there, and when the projects were built we moved over there.

M.M: Now what was the yard like outside?

P.J: It was nice, we had a nice front and a huge back with the little house on the hill, which was your bathroom, and that's the part that I really did not like. That was my first time in my life having to use one of those, all the other places I had lived we had a nice little bathroom, water toilets, but this was a little house on the hill.

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

P.J: No I think, well, no not that much visiting, I think we were all, everybody was busy working and as far as the children we played together you know, went to school, everybody had their little job they had to do when they got home in the afternoon, we had to bring in the wood and the coal for the fire that night and the next mornings, and get our homework, so that was about our afternoon after school. In the summer, well, we all tried to find little jobs, babysitting or whatever so, but the neighbors we weren't scattered that much, but everybody was usually at work and the kids were taught to, you stay at home until your parents come home, and so that was sort of how things were.

M.M: Now, you mentioned that you would have chores to do, did you have any certain role in the household, did you have one specific chore that you had to do all the time?

P.J: Oh yes, that was bring in the wood and the coal, my brother had a job, my baby brother had asthma, so I was the one that had to bring in.

M.M: You got stuck with that.

P.J: Yeah I got stuck with that, but it wasn't hard.

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

P.J: Oh yes.

M.M: And you all sat down together?

P.J: Most of the time, there were times where we were not able to do that.

M.M: Now, was Sunday dinner a special time?

P.J: Oh yes, it has always been, and lots of relatives sometimes would show up, you know they were invited or whatever, but when my mom, when our family cooked they cooked for more than the family, especially on Sunday.

M.M: Now what types of food did you have?

P.J: Well let's see, chickens, green beans, turnip greens, always a bread usually, if it was fried chicken with gravy it was biscuits, if it was with greens or something it was probably corn bread, just a normal soul food dinner.

M.M: And that was Sundays that was special?

P.J: Yes

M.M: Now what holidays were celebrated at your house?

P.J: Naturally Easter, Christmas, Fourth of July, mother's day, father's day, and of course children's day, as far as I can remember back that was about the holidays that we celebrated.

M.M: Do you remember any holiday in particular that only the Summerhill residents observed, or was there any special activity on holidays?

P.J: Not that I can remember.

M.M: Now what was your first job?

P.J: My first job was babysitting, and I used to keep a little girl every afternoon after school, walk and play with her and that was about it, and my, I can't remember, that was about all I did during my teenage years, was doing babysitting and hardly no household work just babysitting, keeping kids.

M.M: Now where do most people work in Summerhill?

P.J: During that time, I think, I can't speak for too many people on the Hill because I really don't remember, there were just so many different, like the men, I think they had, I believe the still had a, I believe they had a Good Year at that particular time, they may have worked there. A lot of the men worked in cleaners, dry cleaners, and a lot of the women worked in dry cleaners, housework, basically I can't remember too many more. I can't remember exactly back that far when it comes to what everybody was doing.

M.M: Now will you describe the Summerhill neighborhood for me, like what are the boundaries of the neighborhood and how have they changed over time?

P.J: Well it has improved, because at that during the time of the school there went the houses on the hill, were really, mostly, some of them were shacks and some of them weren't but they all needed some work naturally but since then, when the projects came that was a big help, it's changed things, because all those little out houses, we couldn't, didn't have to smell them anymore, and there well it has changed. Well it has changed completely really but the bad, the old stuff, and the old houses that were just shacks they're all gone so that was one of the good things and now it just, it looks better, but to me it still could use some improvement.

M.M: Now you lived on Jones Street, where, and did they tear your house down in order to make room for the projects?

P.J: No, that house, there's a brick house right there on that corner where we used to live now, they tore the house down, rebuilt, sold the property, I guess then somebody bought it and built the brick house there on the corner.

M.M: Now when the projects were built, were people welcoming them in, or were people upset because they had to give up their homes, what was the feelings towards?

P.J: You know, I really don't know because I was kind of, I was young, a lot younger then, I was in my teens, and I don't know if they did, but we were glad, and evidently, I never did hear anyone say that they didn't particularly want them, because actually we didn't know about projects there had never been any around in Cartersville at that time, those were the first, but I think everybody welcomed them, because at a least we had a bath tub and you had a nice bathroom and wouldn't you didn't have to roam the little hill.

M.M: Right now were you known by any nicknames growing up?

P.J: No just Peggy.

M.M: Just Peggy, now what did you do for fun in Summerhill as a child?

P.J: Do you mean at home or at school?

M.M: Let's do at home first.

P.J: At home, I had asked my uncle to get me a basketball goal and that was basically what I did most of the time was practice shooting basketballs, and at school of course there were no things there like swings and things where you play on, so we just played games at school and other than that, that was about it.

M.M: Now were there any favorite hangouts in the neighborhood?

P.J: After I became a teenager there were, but they had a little place up there they called the Delicacy shop, you've probably heard about that,

M.M: It was on Jones Street is that correct?

P.J: Jones Street, yes, it was called the Delicacy shop it had little ice cream and hot dogs you could buy, and maybe a little small space in the back if you wanted to dance, but it was very small but it wasn't designed for that I don't think. That was about the only place that we had to hang out.

M.M: Now what did the building look like, that the Delicacy shop was in?

P.J: Yes it was a barber shop on one side, and a beauty parlor, and on the other side I think was just a little, it was very, it was like a, let's see, well you actually let's see the Delicacy shop so actually it had ice cream and Sundays and stuff like that so you can imagine, it just had a little counter and some little booths down, booths on one side, so that was about it, I can't remember it too well but it was a nice little building it wasn't a little shack, it was a nice building.

M.M: Now were there any particular customs or celebrations that Summerhill residents observed?

P.J: I don't remember it if there were, I don't remember.

M.M: What is your fondest memory of Summerhill?

P.J: Maybe the homecomings and the, all the activities that we had in the later years, in the beginning we didn't have, but in the later years we had a few more activities like homecoming and things like that, that was lots of fun.

M.M: Tell me, can you tell me more about homecoming?

P.J: Yes, usually the homecoming would be, it was a football homecoming most of the time, anyway we had, we would always get a band from out of town, because Summerhill didn't have a band at the time, so they would get a band from out of town. We would have floats, and I mean miles of floats, and I think everybody in the neighborhood helped out and all the kids at all helped with, spend your whole afternoon when they would let you, making flowers and things for the floats, it was, it was just really fun and it was always very, very nice and very pretty.

M.M: Where was the parade route?

P.J: It would be, let me see, it would start down on, I believe they started at the Presbyterian church on Bartow Street, Bartow and Main, you know where the Presbyterian church is?

M.M: Yes, ma'am.

P.J: It would start there you'd go all the way down, we would cover the whole little town and come up by (unintelligible) they changed the town now so, anyway you go across the railroad track and make you a left, go all the way around, and they would come up by the fire department, right where the overpass is used to be a street, so they would come that way and the route would be all the way back to Summerhill, we'd go the whole route all the way back to school. That would be, what's that Cherokee, is that Cherokee? I believe that's Cherokee and they would go all the way from Cherokee back up, no is that, that's Church Street isn't it.

M.M: Yes.

P.J: That's Church, Church Street, yeah it would Church Street they would go up Church, and turn off and make a right on Bartow and go on back up to the school.

M.M: Now would the larger Cartersville community come out to watch or was it usually just the Summerhill community?

P.J: Oh no, the whole town, black and white, it was just the streets would be just crowded all the way, because it was always a very nice parade.

M.M: Now did you ever go anywhere else for fun in Cartersville in town, like maybe the movies?

P.J: Oh yeah, we went to the Grand Theatre and the Legion Theater those were the names of the two theaters they had, the Legion and the Grand, that was, well actually, stuff for fun that was about it, I've tried to think of someplace else but at the time maybe somebody else might can think of it, I can remember those two places the theaters.

M.M: Now is there anywhere you felt you couldn't go?

P.J: Well you know at, yes, well I don't think we really thought about it, it was just a thing that you grow up and you never went there and you know that that was maybe off limits you don't go there, you just, we just didn't think about it, we just went where we knew we could go and had no problems, well we did I don't know about all other kids you know, but there were plenty of places we knew we couldn't go, but I don't think it crossed our mind.

M.M: Now where did people engage with each other as a community, is it the churches, the lodges; was there a restaurant, a local restaurant?

P.J: It's probably the church; I'd rather say the church.

M.M: Now what were the major community institutions, you mentioned the church was a big prominent institution, are there any others?

P.J: They had, what did they call it, they had like Brotherhood Hall and there was another one, but I can't remember the name of it which was on Bartow Street, those were two places that, but that, I wouldn't say the whole community did, because those were places where you had to become a member, so I won't even consider that because you had to be a member and you had to pay a little dues every so often, so that was like the Brotherhood hall and they had what we call little kids belong to it, and they're called the little Sunbeams and I think we had to pay ten cents.

M.M: Sunbeams?

P.J: Yes

M.M: And these were like the junior members of the brotherhood hall?

P.J: Yeah kids like 7,8,9,10, I was a member I can remember that.

M.M: Now was there any other requirement to join the lodge besides paying the fee?

P.J: No, I don't remember, I don't think so, no.

M.M: Now who were the prominent or recognized members of the community while you were growing up there?

P.J: I have to think back, I'm trying to remember, because see at the church there were certain times of, well the preacher sometimes maybe, I don't remember what preacher was there at that particular time, I can remember a Reverend Dinkins being there, I guess I was about twelve, thirteen, and I can remember another Reverend Bryant in the community at the time, and there used to be there was Dr. Moore, I can remember him he was a doctor, that was Ethel Moore's, well Ethel (unintelligible) she passed away, her father he was a doctor he lived there on the corner of Bartow, and what is that little street running through there, I can't remember the street, but anyways.

M.M: Is it Carter?

P.J: No it's the next one over from Carter, coming this way, and I can't remember, it's with a W, seems like.

M.M: Now did Dr. Moore, his office, where was it located?

P.J: It was right back, right there, his house was on the corner and the little office was sort of like to the back, on the side.

M.M: So it was like the same lot?

P.J: Yeah on the same lot, yeah.

M.M: Now tell me about the role of the church in the community.

P.J: Well, that, actually, I think you're going to have to let somebody else tell you that. I don't want to get deep into that

M.M: Now did you ever attend a church in Summerhill while you were living there?

P.J: Oh yes, I joined Mt. Zion Baptist church that's where I'm a member.

M.M: Okay.

P.J: I joined Mt. Zion Baptist church, I think I was about 12, 13, or 14 maybe when I joined the church, so yes, that's where I went all the time, and I was going there before I even moved, when we even moved there, I used to walk to Sunday school with Mrs. Pearly Lay who was a schoolteacher and she lived on the lower end of Tennessee Street, I mean all the way down and we would walk to Sunday school with her every Sunday, so yes that was our place to go, that was where we had to go on Sundays, we were going to church, your mom gets you ready you were going out of here to church and Sunday school.

M.M: Now do you still attend Mt. Zion since you live down here now?

P.J: No, I do sometimes; it's been quite while since I've been.

M.M: Because you're quite a ways. Now what types of things were preached about?

P.J: I wont go there, because I was kind of young, you know when you're young you don't...

M.M: Right, I understand. Now let's talk about the school. Can you describe the Summerhill School for me, what grade levels were served, was it a large school?

P.J: Well at the time that I remember it, we went to the twelfth grade, but see before I, before my time I don't think it went that far, maybe, I think they had, it went to the eighth grade, for four years I believe they had to go out of town to another school to finish but, I wont say that for sure, but I know that they did have to leave out whether it was the ninth grade or what grade they didn't have at the time, but when I was there it was to the twelfth grade.

M.M: And you attended in the school that's located at Jones and Aubrey?

P.J: Right on top, yes, on the hill there.

M.M: Now how did you get to school?

P.J: Walked, and I mean a long ways.

M.M: Do you ever remember anyone ever getting a ride or?

P.J: Sometimes yes, there weren't that many cars around at that time, but people that knew you, and if they saw you walking they were always nice, they'd pick you up and carry you on, but most of the time , (unintelligible) I guess that had cars were at work, so the kids all walked to school, because it

really wasn't problem, you just, I don't guess we would have thought about you was supposed to ride, we just knew we had to walk.

M.M: Now because most students walked to school from other areas, just in the Summerhill, were there any preconceptions about the city kids versus the county kids?

P.J: No there were county kids that came to the city, they walked too, and I guess maybe there was maybe a few of them got a ride, I do know that they did walk, and I can't remember exactly but they was like out by (unintelligible) out that way, kids walked to school, which was a long ways.

M.M: Now what were your favorite subjects?

P.J: In school?

M.M: Yes

P.J: I liked math and spelling, it was sort of crazy, but I like Latin in it's own way, we had to take Latin in our senior year, so I liked Latin.

M.M: Well I'm there with you, because I like Latin.

P.J: Really?

M.M: Who were your favorite teachers?

P.J: You wouldn't do that to me would you? Let's see, oh you know I really liked all my teachers, I really never had a problem, so I'm not going to say that I had a real favorite, because I liked them all, they all were nice and understanding, they had some very good teachers.

M.M: You mentioned you were a basketball player, you were a cheerleader, did you belong to any other clubs or organizations?

P.J: Well they didn't have any other hardly, at school.

M.M: Do you remember any that they did have at that time, anything stand out?

P.J: No not really, there weren't a lot of things, you know they used to have spelling tests and things like that, the main thing was basically sports, football and basketball and cheerleaders, there weren't too many other things, that I don't remember.

M.M: Now since you were a basketball player and a cheerleader, you cheered for the football team right?

P.J: Yes and I played basketball.

M.M: So you couldn't cheer during the basketball season?

P.J: No, I didn't want to do it either.

M.M: Now at that time was there a track team?

P.J: Not at that time that I can remember no, those things I don't remember they didn't have that I can remember.

M.M: Tell me about the basketball team?

P.J: Alright, Summerhill had a very good basketball team, the girls won championships, well let's see five years that I know of, straight five years district, what they call a district champions you know, and I can't remember too much about the boys they didn't always win the girls used to, they were good, they played good, it's just that somebody was better you know, but the girls won championships, I know straight five years, I can say that because I was there at that particular time, and after that I think they won after, I'm not sure. You know when I left, I graduated from Summerhill, I didn't go back to look at basketball because really I loved so I didn't want to go back and look because I couldn't play anymore.

M.M: Now who was your coach?

P.J: My first coach was Mrs. Elzina Williams, she's passed away, and my second was Stanley Morgan, they last years, I think they both worked together then mostly, our last, last maybe two or three years in high school.

M.M: Now where did you all practice?

P.J: We had a gym at that particular time, next door to the school, the one, it burned down, that's what, but right where there's a building now next to that Rec that was the spot, right in there was where that gym was, it was a nice gym, so that's where we practice, but before I started playing basketball, they didn't have a gym so they played on the dirt. I can remember them playing outside on the dirt, but I didn't, they had a gym when I started, thank the lord.

M.M: Now, you mentioned the football team, who was the football coach?

P.J: You know, I think, I think Mr..., what was his name, all I can remember is the last name, Mr. Curtis that's what we called him, Mr. Curtis and I believe Stanley Morgan, Junior I'm talking about, yeah I think those, I think they were the coaches for the football team.

M.M: Now where did the football team practice at that time?

P.J: You know, the only place I can remember, well you know, the dump was there but we had a little area down there where the boy, where the boys practiced. On that side about where the trash pile was, but it was, I think it must have been squared off where the distance, but they practiced there but the games were held at, I think that's where they practiced, I'm almost sure they practiced there, the games were held down at Tinsley Park, which they, nothing is down there now but buildings, you know, well it's actually where the factories are, that Tinsley Park used to be in that area, because at Tinsley Park that's where they had the county fair every year and just different things, I'm not sure but I don't know if they had, they played golf there or not I don't remember. But I do know that, that's where they had the county fairs would all come there and then that's where the football field was they had it roped off, I can't remember that much about it either.

M.M: Now the stands that are remaining, you know where the tennis courts are, now?

P.J: Yes

M.M: Where, what was that used for, that field?

P.J: That's where the boys used to practice

M.M: Okay so that's where they used to practice. Now where was the trash pile in relation to that?

P.J: Right there too on the, it's kind of it would be hard for me to tell you exactly, well actually the field is there, the whole field and part of the field was the dump, but the dump was on the edge and it was like a drop off over there right where they cleared off for the trails and things it's a drop off, yeah it was.

M.M: So was the field almost built on top of the trash pile, sort of?

P.J: Well some of it is, not all of it, it's mostly edge, well you know where you go, I think there's a gate where you go in there and that's on your lower left on that lower left is where all the way down was where the trash pile was, and the trucks would come in and out all day dumping trash and burn.

M.M: Now do you know why the trash pile was put there?

P.J: No honey, I have no idea.

M.M: No idea. Because the trash pile was there before the school was built or?

P.J: I don't know, when I started school all I knew, it was there then, but before I finished it was moved, but it was terrible.

(Tape 1, Side B)

M.M: Okay, now you mentioned to me before we started talking about the fumes from them burning the trash pile and how you had to close the windows and it was just an awful learning environment, while the dump was still there.

P.J: Yes it was, right.

M.M: I'd been told before that kids would have to be on rat patrol, did you remember anything like that?

P.J: Rat? I don't know about the rat patrol, but I know they had some big rats coming up there.

M.M: Did they?

P.J: I mean when I say huge fellows walking up.

M.M: Now, were the parents instrumental in having the trash pile moved?

P.J: Oh yes, I'm sure they were but back then you, I don't know, I'd rather not say because I'm not sure what the, because, the reason I say that, I'm, I really don't know. But I know that nobody liked having that trash pile on that hill. There were people that lived around there, they didn't like it either but there was very little they could do at the time. So I don't even know what year they moved it but all I know is that everybody was happy when they moved it.

M.M: Right, I bet you all were. Now, did you have a lot of homework?

P.J: Oh yes, in some classes, and some classes we didn't. One thing about it was if you were, if you didn't understand things, you could stay after school and they were always willing to help you, so that was one good thing, but we had plenty homework.

M.M: Kept you busy.

P.J: Oh yes, well you know we had time at school to do your homework if you used your head, you'd do your homework before you went home, because you had the library there and you could go to it, if you need to get some information because you probably didn't have it at home, you only have just a dictionary at your house, no encyclopedias you 'd just do it at school and you'd be better off.

M.M: Now did you all have a librarian at that time?

P.J: During the time I was in there yes, Louise Beasley was our librarian.

M.M: Did you have library skills classes or anything like, or did you just learn the skills as you did your homework?

P.J: As you did your homework.

M.M: That's how, and she was there to assist you?

P.J: Oh yes, because I think, well she had a, she had a few classes that she taught so you know, actually it's kind of hard to remember back this has been so long, but I know that she was our, she took care of the library, so, she did have classes, she taught a class.

M.M: Now what year did you graduate?

P.J: '55.

M.M: And tell me about your graduation ceremony?

P.J: They were, they were always too long for me. You know, they always had good speakers and I can't even remember now who our speaker was at that particular time, but we only had thirteen in the class, we started with sixty and in four time we had thirteen and then one of them was a fellow that had been in service and came back to finish the twelfth grade, so actually we had twelve, twelve girls, no boys, the thirteenth was one boy.

M.M: Now where was the graduation ceremony held?

P.J: Well it was in the gym at that time, but it used to, we used to go to the church, I think, they used to go up to Mt. Zion church, I remember on baccalaureate day, everybody wore white and we marched from the, each class had on white, boys had white shirts and white pants, girls had little white dresses on, and each class was centered out and we all marched from the school up to the church and you know by the time we got al the in there the church was packed, but anyway that was where we had it.

M.M: And did just parents come to the graduation, or was the whole community involved?

P.J: Well the community could come.

M.M: Now you graduated in '55 and the year before that in 1954, they passed Brown vs. Board, the separate but equal clause, how did you all feel about that, what was your initial reaction to that?

P.J: I don't remember when that happened, I'm sure it, well maybe somebody else did, but I just don't remember that, and that was in '54?

M.M: Yes.

P.J: Not sure.

M.M: Do you feel that you received an equal education to that of white students?

P.J: Of course not, we probably didn't we had old books ou know, we used their books when the finished, when they were tired of them, they weren't anymore good for them, they sent them to Summerhill there were books, as being a student you know we had this long hall downstairs and it was like a I guess you would say a basement side that was on the lower part of the school and there were just books and books and books, oh books, when it come from the white school and they was stored under there, and then there would come a time they'd have to go under there and get some of them out and bring the in. We got old typewriters and everything was used, not everything but most of the stuff was used stuff.

M.M: Now the typewriters that you mentioned did you all have a typing class?

P.J: Yeah they did in, we had a typing class, but I'm trying to remember, I don't know when they started having it you know, I can't, I couldn't tell you that, but we did have a typing class, because I remember going to, I took typing.

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

P.J: Well, they were building a new school right, that was fine, the fine that I didn't, when they closed the school completely Summerhill was gone, but I really felt bad then because I didn't like it, but if there was nothing I could do about it, but I just though they could have found, well now that they are doing something about it, but back then look at how many years it stood there without anybody doing it, using it for anything you know, and they had just, we hadn't had that gym very long before they closed the school down, and then seemed like the kids, well I'd guess they'd go over and play but they play now on the, on top of the hill at the recreation center rather than down in the gym. But, I had moved away I think, no I hadn't moved away because I have two kids and my oldest one went to school there, Patrice went I believe about two years or three and then that's when they closed the school during that time.

M.M: She didn't graduate then from Summerhill hill?

P.J: Yeah she graduated; no not from Summerhill she graduated form Cartersville high,

M.M: Okay so she was one that was when they integrated she went over and you think it was maybe her junior year?

P.J: No, no she was a little kid, she was like in the third or fourth grade and she had to go to Cherokee the old school, where the high school used to be, she went over there and from there to Cartersville high.

M.M: She was very young, but how did she react to going?

P.J: To the school, it didn't bother her, see when you're small young like that, you don't know, you haven't been through what your parents have gone through so you don't know, you hadn't been told all of this, you know, and things had changed a lot so it was a different story for them.

M.M: Now after you graduated in '55, what did you do?

P.J: Well actually I had I went to Brady, I was going to take nursing and well after going and taking the test, it was so long before I received, anything from them saying whether I passed the test or I didn't, but anyway they finally did tell me I passed the test, by that time I'd changed my mind I didn't want to be a nurse anymore then I, well I had gotten a job and I was working and I just really, you know if don't go in the beginning you kind of loose it, and I knew my mom couldn't afford to send me to college because she had worked hard getting me through high school, and my two brothers so therefore I just got a job and that's what I, well actually during that particular time I did clean houses, and from cleaning houses and taking care of children I finally got a job, I started selling insurance I worked for an insurance company for about four or five years and then after the insurance company I got a job at what they call Union Car Buy, it was Viscans at first then it changed to Union Car Buy, and it's Clorox I believe it's been had about three names, but anyway I worked there for thirty years, and that's where I retired from.

M.M: So when did you move to Kennesaw?

P.J: Let's see, (unintelligible) are twenty, we've been here what about twenty-three years I believe or twenty-four.

M.M: Now how did education affect your life?

P.J: What do you mean by that?

M.M: How did your schooling?

P.J: Has it helped? Of course, of course it affected my life yes, but without it I would be in bad shape.

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

P.J: For all black? You know I really don't know but, that's something I wouldn't even want to put on, talk on.

M.M: That's fine, now when did your family get their first television, car, and telephone?

P.J: We had a telephone when I was what, about, on Jones Street in that house where I was telling you there used be a funeral home on the back side of it, that was, I guess I was about thirteen, so that's when we got it, and I don't want to try to count back to the year part. But anyway we got a phone then, and I guess TV didn't even phase us, at that, I don't know if people had TVs then, I guess they did, when we, I think when we got our first TV I believe we had moved into the projects, and that's when we got the TV.

M.M: Now tell me about the years of the civil rights movement, were you ever involved?

P.J: Not really, indirectly yes, but there, actually I guess I was, we were here I believe we had moved down here at that particular time, or had we, I'm not sure because I have to try to remember when it actually started, no I was in Cartersville. I was in Cartersville because I can remember first when the president was assassinated and then later years is when in the, I mean Martin Luther King was assassinated.

M.M: Now what was your initial reaction, when you heard about the civil rights movement and what was going on, the protests and the sit-ins?

P.J: I thought it was great because we, it had been many years and we were almost still like, not slaves but they hadn't improved very much you know, still had to go to the back door, go around the building to the restaurant go in the side door or the back door if you were riding the bus you had to go when you get off to each we had to go to the back, and I'm sure people had gotten tired of it, you had to pay for it, so why not get first class like everybody else.

M.M: Now do you remember any major sit-ins or protests in Cartersville?

P.J: No I don't remember anyway, at least, I'm sure they probably had them I just don't remember them.

M.M: Now how did global events like the Great Depression, WWII, Civil Rights and Vietnam affect your life and the community of Summerhill?

P.J: Well see I can't remember that much about the war. Repeat that

M.M: Global events like the great depression, WWII?

P.J: The depression? See I was I think I was a little too young, but I can remember my mom talking about it.

M.M: What would she say?

P.J: Well she said that back, you had to line up and to get like Crisco and certain things, you had to line up and be there early to get sugar and naturally if you were black you were going to be the last to get. So it was kind of, it was hard, it was hard for them.

M.M: Do you know where they would go line up in Cartersville?

P.J: I think in the grocery stores, I'm not sure but I thought it was in the Grocery store and I think I remember she said they had to have, I thought they had tokens or something, to get stuff with, but then there were people that, white people that maybe knew you and they would say give me (unintelligible) and that was an easy way to get it rather than stay in that line all day you know, but I think people had to line up and I think they had tokens and that I know, I can remember it was for sugar and seems like my mom said for Crisco and I don't know what else but it was hard times and she said it was hard times, but being a kid I didn't know it, because you are used to, you live one life there with your family and this it was you know, and other things that you don't know about then you don't know if you're how poor you are, so that was kind of, that's probably the way, and that's sort of like the way about kids going to, going to downtown and wanting to go sit on them little stools and eat some ice cream in the drug store but you knew you couldn't do it and you didn't try because you'd been taught, you knew not to do that.

M.M: Now I have a question about the bell in front of Mt. Zion.

P.J: You're going to have to ask somebody, I don't know why but that bell hasn't been there that long.

M.M: Oh really?

P.J: Oh no, no that's a new church. I mean they redone, rebuilt that church in and the bell I don't know.

M.M: Now can you tell me anything about Slab Stadium?

P.J: I didn't really allowed, I was not allowed to go there, but I peeped, you know how kids are, you know you want to see, but that Slab Stadium was where they had a baseball team, a black baseball team and people they played each other from different cities, Atlanta and different places would come up to Slab Stadium, they called it Slab because it was made from slabs, but it was, it was a place that you saw a lot of people and they enjoyed it, but being a kid I never went there because I didn't know anything about baseball no ways so I probably, I didn't want to go, but I would hear so much noise, people screaming and cheering till you would want to see, so we just peeped through the crack. I don't, I don't know that much about Slab stadium, you'll probably have to get some of the guys, some guy could probably tell you more about it.

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

P.J: Where what?

M.M: Drinking, was known to take place?

P.J: Years ago, they had, they sold beer in Bartow county, they had a little place, that little old place down, what was that place, what is it called, we call it Fred Garrison but it's the Four way, I think that if I'm not mistaken they used to sell beer there years and years and years ago, they sold it by the mug.

M.M: What did you call it, Fred Garrison?

P.J: That's what I, that's what they used to call it, but it's the Four Way.

M.M: And they sold it, wow.

P.J: That's been many moons, I can remember we had to pass this little place on our way home every, going from school and it was right on the corner, but it was a nice, little old place where you could stop and get a hamburger, they had, well actually still the same way still got that little back door where blacks used to go in and eat and I guess have a beer, I don't know. But that little door is still there I think on that little four way. It's on the corner, and everybody talks about it, the little (unintelligible), I can remember that being a place, well then they had a few later years they had the American Legion and that's, but I don't think they had no club, they had other places, but I don't think if they was selling any alcohol it was illegal I don't know. But I know I think they could have it at the American Legion, but other than that I didn't remember any places.

M.M: Now the name Summerhill, do you know where it comes from?

P.J: No I don't, maybe that's terrible but.

M.M: Do you remember your mother referring to it as Summerhill?

P.J: Yes

M.M: Okay so she did refer to it.

P.J: Yes it was Summerhill.

M.M: Now who was the person that has most positively influenced your life, or who were your heroes?

P.J: I'm not going to go there, my mom was my biggest influence.

M.M: Now I want to ask you about the schoolhouse, the first schoolhouse we were talking about on Walford, and you mentioned it might have been a home.

P.J: Yeah it probably was out of a house, you know what I'm saying, because a lot around Bartow County there were a lot of little schools but they would look, they were jus like little houses and it was like a one classroom, all the classes was held in one class in that one room, but I don't know about the one that we talking about down off of Carter and that run to Walford, I don't know about that one.

M.M: Now you mom, she went to Summerhill?

P.J: She went to Summerhill.

M.M: Did she go to the same building that..

P.J: That old school on the hill

M.M: The one on Aubrey and Jones

P.J: Yes

M.M: And she went to that one. Did you ever remember your grandmother talking about a school.

P.J: No, I don't, because probably, they probably, I don't know, I have no idea, my grandmother never talked about it, and it maybe have been that school that you're talking about that was but see a lot of them lived out in the rural area during that time, my grandmother may have been one of those people living in the rural, I don't remember or recall her talking about it, but if she did then they just had one of them one room school you know.

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

P.J: When I was, no not really, there was a (unintelligible) Hall that was on Bartow Street, that was the other place that I was trying to think of where they have that, where I was telling you they have the brotherhood hall and then they had what they called the (unintelligible) hall, I believe is what they called it, It was on Bartow street it was a big two story building, but inside there they also had a funeral home, but I don't remember the mans name at that particular time, but it used to be a funeral home right there on Bartow Street, that's well I can't even say where that was located it's almost right where, no that's not, well it's kind of hard to go back because everything has changed, so I was trying to place it but I can't place it.

M.M: Right, the roads have changed.

P.J: Yes, actually that little road right where that Slab Stadium was I think that is that Wyatt street, I can't remember I believe it's W-y-a-t-t.

M.M: So was slab stadium located where the new housing projects are or what we refer to as the new.

P.J: The ones off of Bartow?

M.M: Yes.

P.J: Yes it was right in there, sure was. Actually there was a store on the corner which belonged to Paul Thomas, and there was several houses and then the big house that was where he lived, and I think there was about four more houses on that street, but right where the little store, back of the store was where slab stadium was, and it went all, well it, actually yes exactly because it went all the way to that property line down to right where the projects are right at the back of that, that's how far it was, all that space in there was slab stadium, it was a nice sized area. They played baseball there, I don't know what else they had there, but I can remember baseball being played there.

M.M: Well that's it.