

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

**Interview with:** Lurlene Lowe  
**Interviewed by:** LeeAnn B. Lands  
**Location:** Gray's Chapel, Adairsville, GA  
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**Transcribed by:** Steven Satterfield

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(Tape 1, Side A)

LeeAnn Lands: 31<sup>st</sup> of July and we're at Gray's Chapel AME church in Adairsville, and can you state your full name for me.

Lurlene Lowe: Lurlene Lowe

L.B.L: And that's your maiden name?

L.L: That's my full name.

L.B.L: And where were you born?

L.L: I was born here in Adairsville, on own Popper Spring Road. My mother lives there today at 711 Popper Spring Road.

L.B.L: And what year were you born?

L.L: 1947.

L.B.L: Okay. Do you have any brother and sisters?

L.L: Good gracious my mother, well I'm the twelfth child of thirteen children, six of us are living now, the oldest one is 72 and the youngest is 53.

L.B.L: Did you all go to Summerhill, everyone?

L.L: Every last one of them except for my baby brother.

L.B.L: Wow, and how about your mom?

L.L: My mom she would, if she went to school she went down in, she was born in commission in Cartersville, so I imagine that's where she went to school at. Her name's Lucille Davis Carter and she's a sister, well I think it was like eight sisters and brothers of them, and there's only two of them living, and she's 92 and her sister is 94.

L.B.L: Wow, what did she do for a living?

L.L: Well, we mostly picked cotton.

L.B.L: And you did to, the children?

L.L: Oh yes, the children did to.

L.B.L: The house that you mentioned what street was it on?

L.L: It's over on Popper Springs.

L.B.L: Okay, did ya'll own that property?

L.L: Well, that man that we live up on his farm on 41, he sold that property to mother for 500 dollars.

L.B.L: Do you remember what year she bought it?

L.L: Yes, let me see my son was about, 35 years, in 1969.

L.B.L: So ya'll had already been living in it, and she wanted it.

L.L: I was born there, I was born there.

L.B.L: And she bought it later in life, that's neat. And your father was living with you at the time?

L.L: Yes, my father died when I was eleven years old.

L.B.L: Do you remember what he did for a living?

L.L: He'd pick cotton also, and he just worked, he was a janitor up here at Adairsville High School.

L.B.L: When you guys were picking cotton, you were sharecroppers or tenant farmers?

L.L: We were just picking for other people.

L.B.L: Did you go to elementary and junior high in the county, or did you go down to Summerhill for that as well.

L.L: Well I started out here in Adairsville, we had a little school up there by Friendship Baptist Church, I started out there, me and my sisters and brothers, and then they built Bartow Elementary, at first it was another little school up on a hill, like Cass was, right there by the school bus shop, real light building up in there, we went there for a while then left from there and they built Bartow elementary, and I graduated from there and I played basketball and everything, I was a sports person.

L.B.L: So you went to Bartow up till eighth grade?

L.L: Right.

L.B.L: And then you started going down to Summerhill.

L.L: Summerhill

L.B.L: How did you get down to Summerhill?

L.L: The school buses.

L.B.L: School bus okay, and there were a lot of people that went down to Summerhill everyday?

L.L: Oh yes, a lot, the bus was full.

L.B.L: What do you think about when you hear the phrase Summerhill?

L.L: It make you think back, it really do, it was good times and bad times, when you start meeting these boys you know, you start messing up, so really Summerhill was a good school to go to, it was.

L.B.L: What were the good parts that you remember?

L.L: Playing basketball, working in the lunchroom, I liked Home economics, I liked to work in there, I didn't like chemistry and all that stuff, and that's, everything you do there you just enjoyed it.

L.B.L: So you played basketball all the way through Summerhill?

L.L: Yeah, I quit in the eleventh grade, but I played basketball from elementary all the way to eleventh.

L.B.L: Who was your coach?

L.L: Matthew Hill

L.B.L: Did you guys have practices everyday?

L.L: No.

L.B.L: And who did you play, there were other women's basketball teams in the area?

L.L: Oh yes, Louise we used to play, Louise played with me, we used to play a ministries from Marietta, Rome, (unintelligible).

L.B.L: What was the name of the Rome school?

L.L: Pepperell

L.B.L: Pepperell?

L.L: I believe it was.

L.B.L: Yeah, I think we have a picture of them, just by accident we ended up with a picture from the wrong school, and I wasn't sure what their High School, we hear about Linden Street a lot because being down near Cobb.

L.L: Yeah we had a lot of good days.

L.B.L: Did you play any other sports?

L.L: Well I played softball, because ladies didn't play baseball, we played softball, played volleyball, basketball, and once they had us trying to play football.

L.B.L: Now did Summerhill have a softball team and a volleyball team?

L.L: Yep

L.B.L: It wasn't just P.E., you actually had teams?

L.L: Well we, yeah we had teams, yes because certain ones could go to certain, well mostly the real good ones, like me, because I was a good athlete.

L.B.L: And you guys had uniforms, did you have to buy your own uniforms?

L.L: I don't think we had uniforms, back then.

L.B.L: You just played in blue, or?

L.L: Just in clothes, regular clothes I think is what we did.

L.B.L: And you said you worked in the cafeteria?

L.L: Yep.

L.B.L: And that was just during lunch time, how did that work?

L.L: Well, I'm not sure was it during lunch time or was it to pay for my lunch, one to two.

L.B.L: And it was one lunchroom, that served the elementary, junior and high school.

L.L: Yes, sure was. If I remember episodes back, I enjoyed the lunchroom with this lady, I don't know if she's still living or not. What was her name?

L.B.L: One lunchroom lady?

L.L: Well no it was one of them lunchroom ladies (unintelligible).

L.B.L: But, one person handled the whole lunchroom?

L.L: No, it was about three of them. Besides the students that washed the dishes and stuff.

L.B.L: So there were a number of students that worked in the lunchroom?

L.L: Yes.

L.B.L: Did you have any other part time jobs?

L.L: When, during that? Yes, I worked at this, there used to be a restaurant here in Adairsville, named Sequoyah restaurant, I worked there.

L.B.L: What'd you do around the house growing up, you mentioned picking cotton, but what else were you responsible for, in the household?

L.L: Well the girls, done the dishes and stuff, and the boys they got the wood and all that, me and my sister we used to take turn, like tonight is her turn to wash dishes, and the next night mines, and we kept the floors scrubbed.

L.B.L: Did you guys have your own garden, or did you keep any animals?

L.L: I think my father, if I can remember right, I think he had some hogs and like I said we worked on the farm up there for (unintelligible) and we slopped their hogs and cows and dug up sweet potatoes.

L.B.L: So they had more that just cotton, they had a whole .

L.L: Well they didn't have any cotton; we used to pick cotton for someone else. (Unintelligible) buried now, his daddy name was B. Arthur, B.I. Champion, moved back to Cartersville worked my daddy when we were down there, and he, Mr. B.I. Champion came down to Cartersville to (unintelligible) and got my momma back up here and moved us back up here, so and we came back, I guess the same house that we lived in up on the highway we lived at three times, in that same house.

L.B.L: Three different times?

L.L: Three different times and now that house burnt down not long ago, and every time I take Momma for a ride, she says I want to go back up there where I used to live at, we used to take her up there and after it burnt down she just forgot all about it.

L.B.L: What did you think when they tore the old Summerhill school down?

L.L: I said lord there goes my school, but it's still, if you go by there now, you just you know, think it's still there, you just look and say 'well there's Summerhill,' you can remember the things that you did, sit on the outside out there on the wall, going out there talking and it's just awesome.

L.B.L: Which classes did you like best, you mentioned Home Economics?

L.L: Home economics, and physical education, I loved that. I did not like chemistry.

L.B.L: Did everybody take chemistry?

L.L: No, I didn't like that biology and all that, I never did like that.

L.B.L: Who were your favorite teachers, or the teachers you think had the most impact on you?

L.L: Mr. Hill, and Mrs., what's her name, she was real tall and had long, thick hair, Mrs. Alexander, no it wasn't Mrs. Alexander, I can't think of her name. I seen her not long ago, right here at Gray's Chapel. I'm looking right at her right now.

L.B.L: Yeah, it's funny how we forget names, just like that. Now, she live here in Adairsville, or she down in Cartersville?

L.L: No, she's down in Cartersville, but I think she's done moved.

L.B.L: What did she teach?

L.L: She taught, she was who taught home economics. I remember Mrs. Maurice, I remember Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Greene Dorothy Greene, they done me up here at Bartow Elementary, Mrs. Greene, because they used to teach school up here too in Adairsville.

L.B.L: You've mentioned that you stayed in Cartersville a lot, what else do you remember around the school, do you remember other businesses?

L.L: They had a store up there.

L.B.L: You remember the store, now is that called Padgett's Store?

L.L: No.

L.B.L: Okay, it's a different store.

L.L: Right up on the hill by Mt. Zion church it was a store up there, they had a barbershop there too, and then on down, I believe Bartow Street, where we picked up sugar from right there on the corner was a store called Coffee Corner, I remember that one. And then right over here, down the hill down that way, get down to Irvin Street, you used to be (unintelligible) right there. Are you from Cartersville?

L.B.L: No, I've just been up through Summerhill so much, I remember those areas, but not when you get far outside the neighborhood.

L.L: Okay.

L.B.L: What did you do after school, did you come back home?

L.L: Sometimes I stayed in Cartersville with my sister, I had a sister that lived there then, I stayed down there with her.

L.B.L: Where did she live at?

L.L: She lived on Weaver Street, up in the apartments.

L.B.L: Up in the public housing apartments?

L.L: Yes.

L.B.L: And those are the gray ones up on the hill?

L.L: No, they're brick looking.

L.B.L: Are they? Okay. Did you ever hear about the oldest school that was up on Summerhill the really, there was the one, you know your school sat down the hill, and then up the hill where the football fields and bleachers were would have been a school that was from the 1920s.

L.L: Yeah, plus the, what they got on there now?

L.B.L: It's a gym.

L.L: Right up on top of the hill up there.

L.B.L: And the other brotherhood hall.

L.L: Yeah because he used to go to church back then, what was is name? What was his name that used to go up there and DJ for him at church?

L.B.L: Do you remember that school?

L.L: Faintly, I don't know, I don't think so, because when I first started there I was at Summerhill, I remember the building being there until they fixed it up.

L.B.L: What did you think when you heard, about doing the history project about Summerhill?

L.L: I said 'Lord, I don't have anything from way back from there. I told my brother about it, and he said, I got a football, a trophy he says, from way back there, I said well 'you need to get together and he said he don't know where he put the thing,' He put it in a corner somewhere down in his house, I said Ricky you need to get together and come on up in here, so I don't whether he's going to bring it today or not.

L.B.L: Yeah, you encourage him, we need those trophies, so many people have thrown out things you know.



L.L: Yeah I threw away my, what'd I have, there was something I had and I just threw it away, a skirt I made down there.

L.B.L: That would've been wonderful.

L.L: A two-piece suit, I made.

L.B.L: Yeah, we've heard so much about people making things in the home economics class, yeah. If you hear anyone else has kept that we'd love to have some stuff that was made.

L.L: It was a two-piece, and we had to get on the stage and model our clothes.

L.B.L: So each of you had to make your own outfit, and then model it.

L.L: Yes.

L.B.L: For the class or for the school?

L.L: For the whole school, in the gymnasium, yeah.

L.B.L: So you had a program, or did you do that like in your Friday morning programs or was that a special thing?

L.L: It was a, I liked to call her name then, she had us make something and that we going to get up in front of you know everybody and model, and I said oh no! I made it alright, but I just thought, no, I don't' want to get in front of all these people with this. The first one I had made too, and it was the last one and I flunked too.

L.B.L: You did not.

L.L: Oh yes I did, she probably did because I didn't want to model, but I finally did.

L.B.L: That's tough. What did you do when you visited your sister in Cartersville, did you just hang out at the house, or did ya'll go out and do things?

L.L: Well I stayed with her, when she worked in the evening, I stayed there with her children, and then on the weekends we used to go out.

L.B.L: What'd you do when you went out?

L.L: We went over across the farm, we just called I the farm over to Queens, it was a café over there, and then there was another café over there they just called Corn Rogers, then there was an American

legion over there, and then on time when the fair come around, we'd take the kids to the fair and everything.

L.B.L: Did they do things at the American Legion?

L.L: Dancing and everything. Back in them days, I was a good dancer.

L.B.L: You had dances at the school?

L.L: No I didn't dance at the school.

L.B.L: Were there any other special programs at the school, besides classes, that you did?

L.L: I said I played basketball and everything and worked in the lunchroom, sitting outside talking to them boys, that's what got me in trouble.

L.B.L: Now you stopped in eleventh grade, to get married?

L.L: No, I just got tired of school, I got three months from passing to the twelfth grade.

L.B.L: Three months?

L.L: Three months.

L.B.L: Past, I'm sorry past the twelfth grade?

L.L: Three months from passing to the twelfth.

L.B.L: So it was like Spring your junior year. And your brother and sisters stayed in, and some didn't?

L.L: Didn't none of us graduate, because most of the time we'd stay out too much to pick cotton and stuff, had to help momma, like I said I was eleven years old when my daddy died.

L.B.L: Did the school have a problem with the students staying out to pick cotton, I mean ya'll weren't the only ones who stayed out.

L.L: Yeah, they had a problem.

L.B.L: Did you get in trouble?

L.L: They wouldn't pass you, if you stay out so many days.

L.B.L: And they enforced it, they failed people?

L.L: Oh yeah, sure did, I know they did me.

L.B.L: Were there a lot of students up here in Adairsville, that had to stay out for farming?

L.L: Oh yes, a lot of us about everybody used to stay out and pick cotton, except the ones that were fortunate, but the ones that wasn't fortunate like the rest of them, they had to pick cotton, we used to have pick cotton everyone would like go to Lincoln Park in Chattanooga, and we'd pick cotton (unintelligible). And back then you were only getting paid like fifty cent a pound.

L.B.L: Even children and adults were paid the same thing?

L.L: Oh yeah.

L.B.L: So just on weight you pull in.

L.L: Yeah and then lunch time would come and we'd sit under trees and eat that hook cheese and pork beans and (unintelligible) soda crackers, we used to get them little raisin pies for desert.

L.B.L: So you packed your? Pack everyday.

L.L: Yeah momma used to make those strickling biscuits, ham biscuits you know, oh that was the best tasting lunch, don't nothing taste like they used to taste back then.

L.B.L: When you lived up here, outside of school, what else did you guys do for fun?

L.L: I was on a softball team here, me and my sisters.

L.B.L: A community softball team?

L.L: Yes, we'd play softball and dance.

L.B.L: Where were the dances held up here?

L.L: In our homes, we used to go, you know, we'd just go to visit each other, and we'd used to play our music, and we'd used to dance and just have fun.

L.B.L: Mrs. Reeve mentioned that earlier.

L.L: Who did?

L.B.L: Mrs. Reeve, her middle name is Mae, I can't believe I've forgotten her first name. As soon as I see her on the list, I'll be able to tell you.

L.L: Lucy?

L.B.L: Lucy Mae Reeves.

L.L: Reeves, yeah.

L.B.L: Church? Did you belong to Gray's?

L.L: I've been to church, my daddy joined the church when I was five or six years old, and I've been there ever since.

L.B.L: Wow, so everyone went to church, the family, kids, mothers, fathers, it was a part of your entire life?

L.L: Yep, every Sunday we were in church.

L.B.L: Was Sunday the only day you came over to the church to do things?

L.L: That's the only day they had.

L.B.L: Yeah?

L.L: And like on Easter, you know we say Easter speech, they used have other day speeches too, like Christmas, you know like Christmas time they say Christmas Speeches and stuff.

L.B.L: Growing up either in Cartersville or up here in Adairsville did you have much contact with the white community?

L.L: Yes, we were brought up with them.

L.B.L: Lived near each other, play?

L.L: Play together, the people I mentioned about when we were living near their farm up there, well, Charles Chamblee, grandchildren (unintelligible) they call us their sister and brothers. We were brought up, we used to play together, play ball together, and they come down and eat breakfast with us.

L.B.L: School. That would make school unusual, in that all of a sudden you weren't around white families.

L.L: Right.

L.B.L: That's interesting.

L.L: There were some whites we got along with, some didn't, you know just like it is now, ain't nothing going to change about that.

L.B.L: Did you think about that at the time, did you notice it?

L.L: I didn't pay it no attention, the ones I worked with and everything we all got along, it's the way you carry yourself.

L.B.L: It is, it is.

L.L: If you're a Christian person, and you were brought up in church you know, you know what to do.

L.B.L: Now after you got out of school, did you start to work for somebody else, or did you continue farming, or what did you do?

L.L: Well after I quit school, I hadn't picked cotton for a while since I quit school. I was (unintelligible) work in restaurants, it's a restaurant right down here called Little Rock Café, I was working down there, I used to clean houses, and then when I left from Sequoyah I went to (unintelligible) and worked up at Holiday Inn in Calhoun, when they first opened.

L.B.L: So, all over the place?

L.L: All over the place

L.B.L: Are you still working now?

L.L: Oh no, I'm just wilting now, Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis and all that.

L.B.L: And you have Dexter your son, you have other children?

L.L: I've got a daughter and I've one (unintelligible) in four months, so if he lives he'll be at thirty-five, and he's thirty-six, and my daughters thirty-one.

L.B.L: And where did they go to school, in Adairsville?

L.L: Adairsville

L.B.L: And by that time it would be Adairsville High that they would have gone to?

L.L: Well they went to Adairsville Elementary, on up to the middle school, and then they graduated from Adairsville High.

L.B.L: How do you think your education compared to your children's education?

L.L: I think I know some things more than they do. Some of the stuff that they teaching now days I didn't know anything about that, they gave it another name I guess but, some stuff I know they don't know. I think I done pretty good in high school, even if I did quit I still learned a lot.

L.B.L: You still learn a lot, is that what you mean?

L.L: I learned a lot then, and I still easily learn, like you put me on a job, I can learn that job just like that. That's the reason I don't understand why, you have to have a high school education to work. Don't make sense because the ones that went to get the high school education, they can't do the job I can do.

L.B.L: So what do you attribute that to, do you think it was, the fact that you can learn jobs quickly, do you think that's because of the quality of education, do you think that's just your individual ability to work, what do you think that is?

L.L: I think it's about me paying attention to the job, and that I want to learn, and jobs I didn't want I didn't learn or I didn't want to learn I didn't learn. If I see something I want to do that so bad, I said just give me a chance, I told one boss man 'just give me a chance to do it, I'll show you I can do it.' I winded up doing best job out there, sure did.

L.B.L: Do you think your sons and daughters appreciate school as much as you do, I mean you, and you still are attached to Summerhill?

L.L: I think they did, because if they didn't they'd have quit like I did, I had to tell my daughter, I said 'If you don't finish school, you're getting out of here.' You know you have to tell them, and somebody told me, she said 'My momma think I ain't going to finish school, I'm going to show her,' and she did and he had been sick so long that I had (unintelligible) had to do surgery on him, I had him back and forth like in seventh grade and then he went on to school till he was like, what year did he graduate he graduated in 1988, he always had his sickness but he still graduated.

L.B.L: Are you going back to Summerhill to participate in the reunions, and whenever they have those functions?

L.L: I did one or two times, I just, I can't afford it.

L.B.L: To go back?

L.L: You know pay what they want.

L.B.L: Oh right, they charge for the dinners and things like that.

L.L: Like 60 dollars or something like that, that I might could go on bills.

L.B.L: What is it that makes you want to, that makes you go back to reunions, and still participate?

L.L: Just to see people I hadn't seen for, since school. Now the only reason I don't go to the reunions them now, most people I say I want to see I see in church. I see a lot of people I hadn't seen in a long time in church. Because a lot of us have changed, back then you know I was in church but I was still on the devil's side, but after I got older, I said 'it's time to serve god now,' and I rebuked that devil and every time he throws a stumbling block in front of me I rebuke it.

L.B.L: That's good sometimes, good for you.

L.L: Yes, I just love the lord.

L.B.L: You were coming through school at a time where there were some pretty important events nationally, do you remember when Brown vs. Board of Education was ruled in the fifties that said that schools had to be desegregated, do you remember that occurring, do you remember if there were any discussions about that in schools or amongst the families or the churches?

L.L: No, because when they wanted the black and whites to be together the church was in for it, because if you read your bible and go by the bible, you'd be wanting that to happen because you have to love one another in order to make it to heaven, and so I think god put us on this earth for that reason and you don't live on this earth and hate one another you can forget about going to heaven, because you've got to love your brothers and sisters, if you said that you love god and hate your brother, then you're not down with what the bible says.

L.B.L: SO you remember your preacher at Gray's Chapel at the time talking about that?

L.L: Oh I'm not, (unintelligible) Friendship Baptist.

L.B.L: So your preacher at Friendship Baptist talked about it directly from the pulpit?

L.L: I can't remember that far back, but I remember them (unintelligible) was happy when whites and blacks you know went to school together.

L.B.L: You do remember?

L.L: Oh I remember the first black girl that went to school up here.

L.B.L: At Adairsville High, was there any problem with that?

L.L: At first there was, and I remember all like this restaurant that I was talking about

(Tape 1, Side B)

L.B.L: Okay, Sequoyah Restaurant.

L.L: Sequoyah, I remember we was working out there, me and my three sisters were working there too, and my brother come home from the service and because they were the blacks couldn't eat at the front, they'd come in the back and eat, and my brother asked this guy, his friend, would he go out there with him and go through that front door and eat, and he told him yes, and they went in that front door, and my brother told them that he served his country for them, and that they were going to wait on him, and so somebody came back there and said 'It's two black guys out there in the front, they know they aren't supposed to come around in the front,' and I looked out there and I said 'that's my brother,' I said 'oh yes he can because he in the army,' and so every since then they started serving the blacks.

L.B.L: Really? So your brother desegregated Sequoyah Restaurant, that's exciting.

L.L: Yes, Sure did, him and this other guy.

L.B.L: So your brother served in the army, but did he go to war, do you remember?

L.L: Yes, he did he went to Vietnam and everything, he graduated from Summerhill, I mean he didn't graduate, yes he did! Did he graduate I'm trying to think? I don't know whether he graduated or not, all I know is he got out of school; he went straight to the army.

L.B.L: And what's his name?

L.L: Melvin Lowe, Sergeant Melvin Lowe

L.B.L: Now would this have been before he went to Vietnam or after he went to Vietnam?

L.L: You mean the restaurant? I believe it was before if I'm not mistaken. Because he just retired in the last few years from (unintelligible) going back.

L.B.L: And he's still around?

L.L: Yes, he's in Atlanta.

L.B.L: You warn him that we're going to call him.

L.L: He'd be glad to talk to you.



L.B.L: Yeah, well I live down in Atlanta; it wouldn't be hard at all.

L.L: It's in the book under Melvin L. Lowe, if I'm not mistaken its two Melvin Lowe's in there, but his is Melvin L. Lowe.

L.B.L: Do you remember any other incidents like that where, or actually before we go on to that, what did you think about that at the time, did you think he was just making trouble or were you?

L.L: I was kind of afraid for him, I really was, although we worked in the kitchen you know, the blacks worked in the kitchen serving the whites, we was scared for him. But after everything, everything got all right because the (unintelligible) if I'm not mistaken and somebody said 'No, let him say.'

L.B.L: Now why were you scared, were there other...?

L.L: Because of things that they might have done to him, because he wasn't supposed to be in the front, like down in town here, we couldn't park up on the street, we had to park down and walk up on the street and go to the stores, couldn't drink out the water fountain, I remember all that.

L.B.L: Were there incidents of violence against blacks, that made you think that there, that your brother might have something done to him though?

L.L: I guess it because we knew that we wasn't, he wasn't supposed to be in that front. Because no other blacks were in the front, we had a place in the back where the blacks could come and eat.

L.B.L: So it was just a sense that something might happen to him?

L.L: But it didn't

L.B.L: And so you remember when the first black student went to Adairsville High, and then, so that probably was late?

L.L: It was a girl and a boy.

L.B.L: So probably late 1960s, you think?

L.L: No, earlier than that, because my son was born in 1968, this girl she's in her fifties, and the guy he's in a nursing home.

L.B.L; So there were tensions there, but eventually, obviously, Adairsville desegregated when Cartersville did. And so a that point the students who lived in the Adairsville area would not have gone to Summerhill anymore they would have come up and gone to Adairsville High School.

L.L: Right

L.B.L: Okay

L.L: The buses started coming up here this way, buses start running like picking up Kingston, Pine Log, and areas like that.

L.B.L: And there were a lot of students form up here that went down to Summerhill High.

L.L: Yep

L.B.L: And you rode the bus right?

L.L: (Unintelligible)

L.B.L: The blue bus?

L.L: The call them Blue bird, but they were yellow, but my brother drove, my brother has been driving the school bus for forty something years, he was driving the bus when I was going to school.

L.B.L: Really? Not the same brother?

L.L: The one I was telling you about with the trophies, no not the same one that went in the restaurant.

L.B.L: The same with the trophies. So he drove you to school?

L.L: He drove me to school.

L.B.L: What was his name?

L.L: Leroy Carter, he drove the bus for years, he'd been driving, he just retired, matter of fact he just retired last year, he started driving buses, I believe it was back in 1960 if I'm not mistaken.

L.B.L: Do you, Reverend Harris was telling me about the black history month that they do at the church here, do ya'll do anything that's history oriented at your church, Friendship Baptist?

L.L: Oh yes, the read the history of the church and everything, and different ones in the church read the reflection, and one might read the scripture and stuff like this and then the history of the church, I got a movie about Adairsville, my brother had it yesterday, when I was a little girl my sisters, me and my sisters had walking to the church, and everything then the picture of the church we was going to before Friendship was looking like it is now, it was an old looking church.

L.B.L: Do your sons and daughters know the history of your family and your church and everything?

L.L: Yeah we tell them, and look at that movie that we got, we show them the movie and everything.

L.B.L: Why do you think it's important to do that?

L.L: To see how we came up, I know that when we was coming up it wasn't as bad as it is now, and that we were brought up in church and we still go to church, my daughter she had stopped going and now she started back, and he's a deacon in church.

L.B.L: Now you said to let them know things aren't as bad as they are now, do you mean...?

L.L: Let them know that back then, well back then some things were good, because we walked to church and everything, and now they, well it wasn't as good for them because now we riding, you know, and back then they was riding horses and buggies to church, but when we were (unintelligible) we walked all the way from the highway to the church, and there was three churches here in Adairsville, Gray's Chapel, Friendship, and another one down of Railroad St. called Cagle's Chapel. Them was the only three churches that was in Adairsville, and each Sunday we could visit each other, you know like Friendship had their church on every fourth Sundays, and Gray's chapel was like the first and third I believe, and Cagle's was like the second Sunday.

L.B.L: What kind of church is Cagle?

L.L: It's something like a Methodist church.

L.B.L: So do you think, kind of on the same subject, do you think that community ties are as strong now as they were in the past, do you think your son has a strong community, or weaker community?

L.L: Weaker, I think it's weaker, I really do. Because back then, when our parents used to teach us, you know how to treat elder people, yes ma'am, no ma'am, yes sir, and all this. These kids now day, yes, no, you know. But my children will do that though, I raised them like we was raised, but it's just ridiculous when mine speak to (unintelligible) you know, but these days times people children only listen to their parents and believe in god and know how you're supposed to treat your elders, whatever, you know do wrong, you know you be disobedient. So I told a guy about his son yesterday, about how he do me and stuff, coming out playing this loud music and all this stuff. And then they want to wear their pants down, if my daddy ever lived when people walked around with all their pants down like that, and they don't want you to whoop your kids no more, see that's messed them up, that's why there are so many in prison now.

L.B.L: Yeah it's bad. If you were to write the history of Summerhill, what would you definitely want included, what would be important to include?

L.L: I would want to include that prayer back in school, and discipline the children; because when we were going to school we got whooped.

L.B.L: Tell me about the prayer in school, when did you guys pray in school?

L.L: Every morning when we would get to school, we'd have devotions, they'd tell us to bow our heads or whatever to pray, lot times we'd say silent prayers you know, then we'd get in the lunchroom they'd bless the food and everything, they don't do that now, So that's they reason why I said about them taking that prayer out of school and stopped disciplining children and stuff it just made things worse, because you've got to put God first in everything.

L.B.L: Now did you do that, the prayer, did you do that at Bartow and your other schools too, and then it continued at Summerhill?

L.L: Right, sure did, all the way up there.

L.B.L: And how about on the gatherings you guys would have on Friday mornings was there any kind of devotional there?

L.L: Yeah we used to go to the assembly, and have devotions in the assembly and stuff.

L.B.L: And the chorus, the chorus sang at the assemblies, or did Mrs. Morgan play the piano, or...?

L.L: You know what I do remember her playing that piano, it hadn't even came across my mind, I knew we used to have a piano but I forgot who played it though, but yeah.

L.B.L: I think that's right, Laverda Morgan did.

L.L: Mr. Morgan's wife I believe, because Mr. Morgan was Senior Mr. Morgan was principal, then his son was principal, and I think their momma was something in the office; they were some good principals too. Walter Johnson was the principal down at Bartow Elementary.

L.B.L: Right, I remember hearing that.

L.L: I used to carry his , every time we got to school my cousin, we were friends we always run together, and he'd ask us to carry his little girl's hand during recess and lunchroom time where we'd watch her, I'll never forget that.

L.B.L: So school for you was more than just, you know the Home Ec. And the chemistry and things, it was all those other lessons you go too, you took all that back home.

L.L: Oh yes, because after I quit school and everything I continued playing the softball, and I still love basketball too, but I don't like it on TV, I just like seeing it in person you know. I just love when they used to have those parades going downtown, Louise was a majorette, did she tell you that?

L.B.L: I don't remember her saying that.

L.L: Yeah, she was majorette, and Darlene Hendrix.

L.B.L: We have her majorette outfit, she donated that to us.

L.L: Yeah I heard that.

L.B.L: Yeah we were really excited to get that.

L.L: I said 'God how can she keep that, that long, does Louise still have hers?

L.B.L: Not that I know of, she's Darlene Hendrix we got that

L.L: Was there Harriet Craig's, one of them Craig's was a majorette too.

L.B.L: We have a band uniform from Lily Williams, I think maybe Robert Brown has a band uniform but he hasn't donated it yet, Darlene Hendrix's husband gave us his trophy.

L.L: James

L.B.L: James gave us his trophy, Rudolph Jones, gave us a basketball trophy and a picture of when his class went to Washington, he wasn't in the same class as you right?

L.L: With my sister, I believe it was my sister.

L.B.L: So it was his class in front of the US capital, and I hadn't seen that picture before, he's the only one who showed it to us.

L.L: First time I heard of it.

L.B.L: No one else had mentioned going to Washington before.

L.L: I think he was in the class with my sister and my cousin Shirley Henderson; she's a Riches now.

L.B.L: Yeah, if you think about it ask them, we have the picture down at the complex; you can see if they're in it. It looks like a big class.

L.L: I don't think my sister got to go with them, if she did I don't know how she got the money.

L.B.L: There's a lot of people in it, so the school must have helped out or the PTA or something, because it was a lot.

L.L: If I'm not mistaken way back yonder I think, like they got these field trips and stuff now, I don't remember us having to pay, but now everything you do you have to pay.

L.B.L: I think we say an article of the PTA raising money to buy band uniforms, which probably would have included the majorette outfits, and that would have been late fifties maybe, late 1950s.

L.L: Late fifties, because I'm thinking it was sixty-three somewhere along in there when I quit.

L.B.L: Right, you would have left right when they were discussing desegregating Summerhill, now when you were in school there do you remember any of the building burning at all, the older gym, it wouldn't have been the John Warden gym, it would have been the older gym up on the hill, do you remember losing any of those? We are having a hard time pinning down when those buildings came down.

L.L: When they tore them down or when they caught on fire?

L.B.L: Yeah, either one, whether they were town down or caught fire.

L.L: I remember when they were tearing down, tearing down Summerhill, because I used to drive the bus (unintelligible) and let some kids off at that daycare.

L.B.L: Oh yeah?

L.L: Yeah, I drove a school bus for Bartow County for like four years in the seventies, drove (unintelligible) to Head Start for five years.

L.B.L: Now that wouldn't have been this school though, it would have been the school that was up here.

L.L: Well, it's right here where I took the kids to the daycare, I'd come down that hill and pull in there go take them, lift kids off, and go back out. My whole family really drove school buses, except my sister she said she didn't think she could handle the kids, and I said there isn't a thing to it, it's just how you talk to them.

L.B.L: Right

L.L: Exactly Right.

L.B.L: I didn't ask you about the other events, the other big national events; do you remember Vietnam and how that affected yours and your families' life?

L.L: I remember, when my brother went to Vietnam, we all was scared that he might never make it back home.

L.B.L: SO every day you though about him being away?

L.L: Yes.

L.B.L: Was he away just a year, or?

L.L: He was away a long time

L.B.L: This is your brother that was in the army.

L.L: Right, the one that wasn't arrested

L.B.L: SO he would have been in longer.

L.L: I know I was in Summerhill when Kennedy got shot.

L.B.L: Yeah, you heard about it, when you were school?

L.L: I was there in school.

L.B.L: What did they do?

L.L: They brought a TV in there for everybody to see it.

L.B.L: Really?

L.L: Yes, we went to the gymnasium, one of the places and everybody seen when he got shot, they showed it on TV, everybody just cried.

L.B.L: SO you remember Kennedy being important to America?

L.L: Yep, everybody cried, the whole class just cried, Darlene Hendrix was in my class, but I'm older that she is though, because I guess, because I flunked the seventh, really I went to school twelve years.

L.B.L: You know I went through the newspapers, I was going to tell you this earlier, but we got on another subject but I was through the newspapers to look for things about Summerhill and in the late 1950s, I have an article about the women's basketball team, but I don't know if you would have been playing yet, it may have been earlier then when you were there.

L.L: It'd have to be late, let me see, no because like I said my father died in 1959, and I was eleven years old when he died.

L.B.L: You were eleven in 1959?

L.L: Yeah he died in '59 I was eleven years old.

L.B.L: But you left Summerhill in 1963, so you left Summerhill...

L.L: I might have left in 1964 or 1965 or something like that, but I remember I was eleven years old when he died.

L.B.L: Yeah so you wouldn't have been playing yet.

L.L: I played at, not at Summerhill, let's see I flunked the seventh at Bartow, but I still graduated from Bartow, and then after that I went to Summerhill for the ninth grade, and I'm trying to think what year it was that I graduated from Bartow, we went to school here, we were going like in the (unintelligible) or something like that because I think when I first started Bartow elementary I started like in the second grade, first or second.

L.B.L: You were In Mrs. Harris's class too?

L.L: At Summerhill.

L.B.L: I can't remember when she finished either.

L.L: I think she finished around...

L.B.L: Was she the last class?

L.L: She was in my, Darlene was in my class, I'm trying to think, like I said I flunked the seventh so that made me catch up with them, made them catch up with me I guess, because I'm 57, and I think Louise be like 56, 55 or 56.

L.B.L: We'll ask her.

L.L: All I remember is quitting.



L.B.L: But you were glad to quit.

L.L: Oh yes, I sure was, I loved school when I first started in but, at the end I just got bored, and Mrs. Alexander didn't like me, and I got tired of her not liking me, you'd ask me a question, 'do snakes have feet?' and I told her 'yeah.' She got mad and took me to the office, she stayed on my case. I remember me and my sisters, me and my cousins we used to throw spitballs at her. That was mean wasn't it? Something else too, you know these kids now, bus drivers driving then, you could do a whole lot of stuff it was a good bus driver then, because this bus driver here he's dead now, we'd throw spitballs at him. (Unintelligible imitation of bus driver) 'Alright.. Going to take you to the office.' The used to jump on bus drivers back in them days too.

L.B.L: Did you do anything else to your teachers?

L.L: Oh honey, I don't know, I just used to laugh. (Unintelligible) everything was funny to me, (in an imitating voice) 'Mrs. Lowe, how you doing?,' laugh, 'What's so funny?,' you, I was bad back then and we used to smoke in school.

L.B.L: Really, where did you go to smoke?

L.L: In the bathroom

L.B.L: The bathroom?

L.L: I never get this (unintelligible) long time, I need to remember who I'm talking to, I better not tell this.

L.B.L: No, no, we got to hear.

L.L: They never did find out either.

L.B.L: One of those stories.

L.L: Leave it like it is, they never did find out about the principals or teachers either.

L.B.L: Is there anything else you want to tell us about Summerhill that we hadn't already talked about that you think is important.

L.L: Mr. Hill, I want to talk about Mr. Hill, he was one good man, I mean he taught you, he wasn't mean, he was just an easy going person, and I guess that's the reason why we learned a lot, you know and want to play with us and be in physical education because of him, he was such a good decent man, and still is, he really is and Mrs. Morgan I loved her to death too. (Unintelligible) up here by the school

on the elementary side and sit in the classroom, with some of the younger kids, I believe, I can't remember before that, but I believe I did, and Mrs. Alexander, and back then you know when like you get a whooping they had to have a witness, I mean Mrs. Greene put me across her legs and Mrs. Marshall was the witness.

L.B.L: Mrs. Greene?

L.L: Dr. Greene, Mrs. Marshall was the witness, got home, and honey child I got another whooping, back then you get another whooping if you mess up in school you get another whooping when you get home, I guess that's why we turned out as good as we are, and Mrs. Carter she'd whoop us in the hand with a ruler. They disciplined us back in the days.

L.B.L: So you were hit on the palm with the ruler, and your other whooping was across your legs?

L.L: Yep, that day they had witnesses. Daddy told me (unintelligible) if she don't do right, whoop her behind, he said when she get home, she's going to get another one, and I appreciate that, really do. Because if we hadn't of, we'd be like the kids are now, disrespecting our parents, killing and stuff like this, you hear so much on the news in Atlanta, I don't see how ya'll live there now, they couldn't get me a house there, they just changed.

L.B.L: Well it's not everywhere.

L.L: What part of Atlanta do you live?

L.B.L: Downtown, but you know there so many people in Atlanta, and you hear those stories and you don't realize that it's only a few people that are bad like that.

L.L: You'll never know where they're at though.

L.B.L: Well, we sure appreciate you coming out here today.

L.L: I didn't think I was going to be in the (unintelligible), now what's going to happen after this.....