

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

Interview with: Blanche Miller
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?

B.M: My name is Blanche C. Miller.

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

B.M: I was born in Perry, Florida January 6, 1918.

M.M: And did you have any siblings?

B.M: Sure. I have five sisters and three brothers.

M.M: My goodness, a full house. Who else lived in your household?

B.M: When we were growing up?

M.M: Uh huh.

B.M: All of us.

M.M: All of you.

B.M: Uh huh.

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

B.M: My father was a carpenter, work with the carpenters, I can't think of the name of it. He would travel back and forth from here to Florida.

M.M: Oh okay.

B.M: And some of us were born in Florida, and some of us here in Cartersville.

M.M: What about your mother?

B.M: Her name was Clara Johnson she was just a housewife.

M.M: Can you tell me like what her daily schedule was, do you remember what she use to do?

B.M: Getting up in the morning fixing breakfast, getting us ready for school, the rest of the day preparing for dinner, lunch, and washing and (unintelligible).

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

B.M: Oh I think it's a wonderful place for us to go during (unintelligible), and we had such a wonderful time. At recess we had time to get back with each other, and I thought that was wonderful and in the morning we formed a line, we had a bell Professor Morgan would ring a bell, and we'd all line up to go in school, and everybody would be running trying to be first you know and that was a lot of fun sometimes caused a little friction but other than that we made it fine.

M.M: Now when and how did you come to live in Summer Hill?

B.M: About the school, it's a rose walled school.

M.M: When did you come to live here in Cartersville?

B.M: Oh, I've been here practically all my life as I said my daddy was a carpenter for an old lumber company, and he would go back and forth I guess wherever needed, and some of us were born in Florida and some of us were born here.

M.M: Okay, so eventually you all just moved up here.

B.M: This was home to us, my daddy had a home here, and we would travel, and he and my mother would travel back, we were kind of like a bunch of gypsies (laughing).

M.M: Now where did you live when you first moved here?

B.M: On Ford Street.

M.M: On Ford Street, okay. Can you describe the home that you lived in for me?

B.M: I sure can.

M.M: Okay.

B.M: It was, my daddy always told us it, in which the deeds say this too, it was a Mr. Allen Mary and he bought this home for he and his bride, and something happened to his bride I think she died of something, and he didn't keep the house, and my daddy bought this house from him. It was five room house at the time, and it was from Roosevelt Street to Ford Street, he took in that whole lot on the corner there and since then my daddy built the house on Roosevelt for his mother and daddy, so that was home for us, it's still in the family.

M.M: Oh that's great.

B.M: It was given to my brother when my daddy died, and now his wife, my sister-in-law and her family, all of us are gone, but three of us, there is just three sisters living now, all of the others have done past and gone.

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

B.M: Like a yard (laughing), little toys and junk.

M.M: Do you remember what kind of toys, what were your favorite toys?

B.M: I didn't care too much about those (laughing). (unintelligible), jumping rope, and riding a bicycle.

M.M: Okay, now what was your relationship like with your neighbors?

B.M: Well we, my mother's sister lived next door to us, and they lived like that all their lives. Her name was Jessie Sloan, and my mother's named Clara (unintelligible), and we didn't know one from the other, which one was mother, we had to obey each one of them, we were just a close-knit family, and we still are.

M.M: Wonderful.

B.M: Yeah, very few mornings I get up I don't check to see how my sisters are and the same thing at night.

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

B.M: (laughing) You know back when we came up, we had to draw water, we had to get up wood, we had to bring coal, we had hogs to feed, chickens to feed, we raised all of them, and we always had a garden, and Papa would always plant enough for his neighbors and so you know there had to be a big garden, and we had something to do all the time, we didn't just sit around and cause problems or nothing, because we knew what we had to do and then you know we had to walk to school and that was a long walk.

M.M: I bet it was.

B.M: Yes it was.

M.M: Now what did your father plant in his garden?

B.M: We had a little of everything, collards I mean potatoes, corn, beans, peas, okra, ice potatoes, sweet potatoes, collards, and in the winter time they would take those collards and put them together and kind of cover them up with some kind of bushel thing, and we would have collards all the year, and the same thing with potatoes. They made a bed out of corn stalks, as good as I can remember, and made the bed and put the sweet potatoes in

it, and they would stay there all the winter, and we had a cellar, my granddaddy would put pumpkins and stuff like that in the cellar...

M.M: Oh wow.

B.M: ...and potatoes, and we had cabbage, they would make kroust out of the cabbage and in the winter time my grandmother would help us to make out the corn, I can't think of what I'm trying to say, but anyway they'd use the, they had the, harmony, they would take, I'm getting old and I can't half think, but they would bring burn old wood and pour the ashes in a container and pour water over them and let those ashes make lye, and that's what they cleaned the husk off the corn to make the harmony, and my grandmother would do that all the time. Then in the summertime they would take the cabbage and make kroust.

M.M: Wow.

B.M: See they could keep that all the winter and can it, and what else did we cook, oh yeah we had ducks, geese, chickens, hogs, and cows, you know we had to do half the work to take care of them, they kept us busy doing that.

M.M: Now did your whole family sit down to dinner every night together?

B.M: Just about it. Now we missed it every morning because we didn't have to get up as early as our daddy did, but yeah for dinnertime we ate together. And you know I raised my children the same way. We always eat at the table, and they still do.

M.M: That's nice. Now was Sunday dinner a special time?

B.M: Oh yes (laughing).

M.M: Did you have any special foods that were...

B.M: Most times we did. I often think now how we eat, we can eat some cereal or something like that and go on about our business but on Sunday was special. I guess because our

daddy wasn't there during the week time to eat with us but on Sunday we had a big breakfast. We'd have grits, and potatoes, and fish sometimes for breakfast it was a big breakfast.

M.M: Wow. Now what holidays were celebrated around your house?

B.M: We celebrated all of them. (unintelligible) Christmas, and Thanksgiving, and we had birthdays, and Mother's day, and I don't remember us when we were small celebrating daddy's day though, we might have but don't seem like I remember that, but other than that we celebrated all of the holidays.

M.M: Do you remember the community doing anything special on any holidays?

B.M: Uh huh. What do I remember, I remember now when we were little in Florida they would get together and have box suppers, box suppers where everybody would take their dinner something in a box, I don't remember that too good. I do remember my mama and daddy going, and they would make ice cream in these freezers you know, and they would carry the freezer, but we didn't go to them, but they would always leave a (unintelligible) of ice cream for us. And whatever they had at the dinner where they would (unintelligible) my dad would always bring us some back. We enjoyed that (unintelligible).

M.M: Now what was your first job?

B.M: After I got out of...the first job I ever had was picking cotton (laughing), and the next I had I kept a little boy after school I would take this little boy to the park you know for a little exercise and all, and I think I made a dollar and a half a week.

M.M: That was good.

B.M: That was after school, just for about a hour or two and that was my first one.

M.M: Was that here in Cartersville?

B.M: Uh huh.

M.M: What park did you use to take him to?

B.M: It was just a park in town down here, have you ever been in Cartersville?

M.M: Uh huh.

B.M: The park right there at the railroad.

M.M: Okay, I know where you are talking about.

B.M: (unintelligible) park, where they have the farmers market now.

M.M: Right, now where did you work as an adult during the years that you lived here?

B.M: My first job, I worked for the African American Insurance Company from Rome.

M.M: Okay.

B.M: And after that I left here and went to Virginia and worked at an Army Post, Camp Pickett Virginia stayed there till '45. I come home and went to school in Atlanta and took up beauty culture and after that I come back and went to work as a beautician (unintelligible) beautician.

M.M: Oh okay, now did you have a store here, a shop here?

B.M: Uh huh. I had enough room on my back porch to build a shop...

M.M: Wow.

B.M: ...and that's where I worked till I retired in '81.

M.M: How nice.

B.M: I worked in the beauty shop from '47 through '81.

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

B.M: In homes, in homes during that time because there wasn't no factories or nothing opened up to us. The only thing you could do would be cleaning up something like that, and

during World War II they began to let them go in the factories and things, because there was a need for them and that's the first time any of us ever had an opportunity to do work like that other than just house work or working the fields or something like that.

M.M: Now will you describe the Summer Hill neighborhood for me?

B.M: Uh huh, yeah. I remember when I first started school what we up there was the school was (unintelligible) it was just, did you see a picture of it?

M.M: Yes.

B.M: I don't know whether I had the old school, the (unintelligible) school.

M.M: That's not it?

B.M: No, no, no I don't think I had a picture, it was just a small school, lets see two, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten were about six rooms, six rooms, but anyway it was up there on that hill, Rocky hill right behind the church and down below it was a trash pile, and in summer days we couldn't, we had to let the windows down on the count of the odor from it, and you know you could smell little black (unintelligible) and things burning in it and during the Depression time we were just up on that hill you know what I'm saying?

M.M: Uh huh.

B.M: But down below was (unintelligible) so the PWA I think it was got some men come up there and dig that down and was able to fix where we could have a basketball court.

M.M: Okay.

B.M: A basketball court, and we would go around from you know I guess they would give out food and stuff, but anyway, we'd feed the men that worked down in there. We would get their dinner and that was a payday I guess, and we would go around from house to house and get food and stuff from the family.

M.M: Oh wow.

B.M: And we'd take it to, we had a home-ec room, and we'd cook the food up there and serve the men, and they got it down where we could have a basketball court and football, and you know you just kept working on that's where the tennis court is now.

M.M: Okay so where the tennis courts are, you know the side of the wall...

B.M: Uh huh.

M.M: ...where there's still some...

B.M: Uh huh.

M.M: ...that's exactly what you are talking about.

B.M: Uh huh, sure is.

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

B.M: No I wasn't.

M.M: No, okay. Well what did you do for fun as a child?

B.M: Just made our own fun, we just took what we had and made our fun, and my dad was a carpenter, and he would make up a lot of little things you know, and we like (unintelligible) close to where, and my grand mother lived on, you know where the four lane is?

M.M: Uh huh, yes maam.

B.M: On Martin Luther King Drive and (unintelligible) I mean your road going out my grandmother's home was right there, and it use to be a hill right below her house, and we had a coaster wagon, and we'd get in there and coaster down the hill, just made our own fun.

M.M: Now what did you do for fun when you became an adult here?

B.M: Let me see what did we do? We'd make up our own fun. We'd have those (unintelligible) and then there was a few things like night spots you know (unintelligible) then and had one I got it down here somewhere, Paul Thomas' Slab stadium, they had dances and things there and then Mr. (unintelligible), yeah we did go to (unintelligible) (laughing). The Darrell hall would have dances, and at the Brotherhood hall I don't think it was down there yet, they would have singings and things like that, and they had they had one man down there that would tell people that played the numbers. You ever heard of (unintelligible)?

M.M: No.

B.M: We got to right numbers kind of like lotto.

M.M: Oh okay.

B.M: You could read who ever had the lucky number would win, and they had people go over there buy the number, I said to myself it's just one to ten that's all it will ever be, you could tell them anything, but that's about all we had just what we had made up our own fun.

M.M: Now where were the favorite hangouts, you mentioned Slab Stadium, and Darrell Hall were there any others around Cartersville?

B.M: Uh huh yeah, there was some more. They had a place they called (unintelligible), I never did go there, and a long time ago Ms., what was her name, she was Conyer, she had a tea room where young people would go there on Sunday time, that was really not, and Ms. Maddie (unintelligible), she had something like a tea room too and then on top of the hill they had a place call Tin Top, I didn't go there (laughing), whether they would gather at to have some fun.

M.M: Now where were these tearooms located?

B.M: On, was on Walker Street, yeah Walker Street and that's about it. They done changed the roads and things now so I have to....

M.M: Right.

B.M: ...figure out where those streets were on Walker Street and there must have been on the corner of what's the name of that street, I can't think of it now.

M.M: It's okay. Now were there any particular customs or celebrations that just Summer Hill residents observed?

B.M: Uh huh. We really celebrated May day, and we celebrated (unintelligible) I remember we celebrated Washington's birthday, and you know it's been so long since I come here when you are eighty five years old you know its been a long time.

M.M: You are doing wonderful, you are doing great. Can you tell me more about May day?

B.M: May day we had to make (unintelligible), we had to make (unintelligible), you know you had to dance around there and (unintelligible) and do that, and we had to dress in costumes to celebrate, I don't remember just what is was, but we would dress for that May day. And we had our PTA, we had different things for the children you know and just like the uniforms and things for the bus and all, we would give different parties and things like that to raise money to help buy the uniforms...

M.M: Okay.

B.M: ...and help pay for the bus, but it was more than ever we had. We were, I was trying to think because we had to fix lunches for the children that we'd have the PTA conventions and things like that was a high day for us too.

M.M: Now where were those held?

B.M: Sometimes they would be held here and sometimes be held in different places...

M.M: Okay.

B.M: ...at different schools on occasion, sometimes we'd go so far as Savanna...

M.M: Wow.

B.M: ...uh huh, and I was trying to think of something else we had we would all go to, oh and we would have, close the school we'd have plays, and we would go to them, and then at (unintelligible) on (unintelligible) Sunday before they graduate, we would go to the church and have our (unintelligible) service, and we would have our graduations at a church.

M.M: Okay.

B.M: We would have tea, we had some kind of tea, I forgot what that was for, I have just about forgotten it all.

M.M: (laughing) You are doing wonderful. Now how has the area changed over the years economically?

B.M: Oh so much better, so much better. You know all around, I remember we had outside toilets, and did we have, yeah we did have a fountain out there, and they would take the, they'd send us from the white school, they'd send us the old furniture (unintelligible) and one year (unintelligible) we were out of school for two weeks, I thought that was the best thing that happened to me till we had to make up studies (laughing). Now what was the question?

M.M: How has the area changed economically?

B.M: It has changed so much, because use to be there was run down houses and things like that, I was telling you about the trash pile being down there and where the projects are

now was just houses, wasn't but just one or two houses up there then and woods, and roads wasn't no paved roads then and coming down the hill, going down the hill on Aubrey Street it was a store down there on the corner and woods the same way about Weaver Street, wasn't nothing but woods back down in there, and they build up so much. And you know where across the street on Jones Street Professor Morgan's house the (unintelligible) home and one or two more and other than that you know how the houses and things was run down at the time, and they built up so much since that time, and where Mount Zion Church is they had a (unintelligible) there, and in it we had a building where, during that time of the Depression they opened up that place and the senior citizens I guess those that were old people could do it then, sew and croche, and they made done something with this cotton they put in quilts, and they made under clothes, they made some kind of shirts for the men and what else did they make up there, but anyway they enjoyed that, I don't know how they got up there they must have walked, but it was something for them to do, I don't think they got no pay for it just something to do.

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

B.M: What would be my fondest memory? I just didn't think there was nothing else like Summer Hill. I enjoyed going to school to be with my friends, I loved my teachers, and when I graduated I just kind of dreaded leaving, because I knew I had to leave home, because we just went for the ninth grade when I was going to school and if you got high school you had to go somewhere else like to Marietta or Rome, and I went to Anniston, Alabama to finish high school.

M.M: Oh okay. Now did you go any where else in Cartersville for fun, like movies or local restaurants?

B.M: Oh yeah we went to the movies, no we didn't go to the restaurants, if you did you had to go in the back door, but we had, we was up in the Valcan down here in town we could go to the movie, but we could go to the movie and any kind of festivities they had, but we had to be with our group.

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

B.M: Like what?

M.M: Like you said you couldn't, you didn't go to the restaurants.

B.M: You could go in the back door.

M.M: Right, was there anywhere that you felt you really couldn't go?

B.M: Yeah, most places we couldn't go, especially a public place. We couldn't even go to a restroom in a building and if you go to the store, I know (unintelligible) they didn't want you (unintelligible), no uh huh.

M.M: Now where did people engage as a community, was it the churches?

B.M: The churches and the schools.

M.M: The churches and the schools.

B.M: The churches and the schools, and sometimes they had Bell Hall and the Brotherhood Hall they'd have (unintelligible) for gathering and that was all black.

M.M: Now so the lodges, there was Brotherhood Hall and Darrell Hall were there any others?

B.M: If they did, they all kind of mixed together.

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

B.M: Let me see, some of them I didn't know too well. We had...we had Dr. Moore, Ms. Maddie Knight use to be pretty good, and I can't think of these folks name for nothing (laughing).

M.M: That's fine.

B.M: It won't come to me. As well as I know them I can see their face and can't put their names too.

M.M: Well let's go back to the church, tell me about the role of the church in the community.

B.M: Well the role (unintelligible) that they reached out to help people when they need it to try to bring them and help them to know the difference between right and wrong, and some of them get off on the wrong track, you try to bring them back to where they ought to be and if they need food they provide them with food. If they need counseling there's somebody to counsel, and they have one thing they are trying to do now is bring more young men in things back, and they have on the second and fourth Saturdays each month they have men's breakfast, and somebody to talk to them you know, and I haven't been to one of them because that's for men, and try to show them the right way, you know our men are very scarce now, and it'll be worse than that when this war is over.

M.M: That's true. Now what church do you attend in Summer Hill?

B.M: Mount Zion Missionary Baptist.

M.M: Mount Zion, okay and what can you tell me about the music?

B.M: The music is good (laughing), yeah we have let's see we have, I tell you I enjoy the children we have a children's chorus.

M.M: (unintelligible).

B.M: And I think about the (unintelligible), and we have a date for them, the Sunday for them to sing, the seventh Sunday, and they are might happy to be singing, and they open their little mouths like little birds (laughing). I just love to see them, and we have two or three choirs, and they sing, different ones sing each Sunday.

M.M: Now how many people do you think attend every Sunday?

B.M: I would say about, I'd estimate about two hundred.

M.M: Two hundred...

B.M: Two hundred, two fifty.

M.M: What types of things are preached about?

B.M: God's amazing grace, his saving grace.

M.M: Let me...

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE A

BEGIN TAPE 1 SIDE B

M.M: Do you think that your church takes any political stances?

B.M: So far I don't believe they do, not as a church, but it may be individual.

M.M: Okay, okay and has the church gone through any changes while you've attended there, any that you've noticed?

B.M: A lot of changes.

M.M: What types?

B.M: In the leadership, and the building, and the attendance, and the activities.

M.M: Now the bell that sits out front of Mount Zion...

B.M: Say that again.

M.M: ...the bell...

B.M: The bell...

M.M: ...yes, what can you tell me about the bell?

B.M: You know the bell use to be in the church before Reverend Mitchell. Mitchell comes it was in the church and that was a time of steel...

M.M: In the steeple?

B.M: ...uh huh, on one side of (unintelligible) it was up there, but after they remodeled the church, and we got the glass and stuff in it, the bell that's out there in the yard under the whatever you call it...

M.M: Okay, so that was one of the originals?

B.M: uh huh.

M.M: Okay, can you describe the Summer Hill School for me, the grade levels, the building...?

B.M: The old one?

M.M: The old one, uh huh, the one that you remember going to.

B.M: Okay, the old school was a (unintelligible) school, and I'm trying to think of one, two, three, it had three rooms on east, an auditorium, and three rooms, there was about six rooms in that building, not including the auditorium, and we had a downstairs home-ec, I loved that, and we had outside toilets, and every morning we would have devotions. Professor Morgan would get up and sing, repeat a Bible verse, and prayer, and a song then we'd go to our room and have our lessons. We had first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth grade, and sometimes the teacher would have to double up, you know, we'd go from one teacher to another after we got in the sixth grade I think, but other than that we just had special teachers.

M.M: Now you walked to school, do you remember when they got the Bluebird bus?

B.M: Yes I do, but now that was just for the band and the school activities, that wasn't for transporting children back from school.

M.M: Okay, so it did not transport children.

B.M: nah uh.

M.M: Okay, now what were your favorite subjects?

B.M: (laughing) Reading, I loved reading and math too, and we had home ec too at school, and I liked home ec.

M.M: What kind of projects did you do in home ec?

B.M: Uh...

M.M: Do you remember?

B.M: ...we would, let's see we sewed, we just had to use what we had in that building, we sewed and cooked, and we weaved baskets. I liked that; we had a teacher that weaved baskets, Ms. Lay, she went to Tuskegee and picked up this trait from a man, and she come back and taught us. I just enjoyed making baskets, I enjoyed sewing too.

M.M: Now who were your favorite teachers?

B.M: My first grade teacher was Mrs. Morgan...

M.M: Okay.

B.M: ...that was the first time I had been to her, and I thought she was the wonderfulest thing I had ever seen, but I really loved all my teachers, but somehow she just seemed dear to me. She was so kind, you know when you first leave home like that to be gone all day, it's something else, but she just made you feel loved and wanted.

M.M: Now did you belong to any clubs or organizations?

B.M: No more than the school affairs like PTA, the clubs at church.

M.M: Okay, now what did you do after school, you mentioned taking the little boy to the park...

B.M: In the evening?

M.M: Uh huh.

B.M: I'd take him to the park and walk him around there and if (unintelligible) at the fish, I mean the ten cents store I'd take him by there to see her, didn't have much time, the mother just wanted him to get out and be with other children and all, but other than that that was it.

M.M: That's what you did after school.

B.M: Uh huh.

M.M: Now did you have a lot of homework?

B.M: Oh yeah, oh yeah, we (unintelligible) to get that homework, it took sometimes you would be up late getting your homework done, because (unintelligible) give you books too. We had, they would send us the books that had been used and sometimes the pages would be tore out of them, you know about how that was other schools, but we made pretty good I think, I don't have no regret.

M.M: Now what kind of sports did kids participate in that went to Summer Hill?

B.M: We had basketball, football that's about all the ball, that's about all we had.

M.M: Basketball and football, okay, now you attended Summer Hill School until ninth grade and then you went to Aniston, Alabama, and you finished up there, what year did you graduate?

B.M: Summer Hill?

M.M: Uh huh.

B.M: 1935.

M.M: 1935, now you mentioned you had a son, you have a son?

B.M: I got two sons.

M.M: You have two sons, did they both go to Summer Hill?

B.M: Uh huh.

M.M: When did they graduate?

B.M: The oldest one graduated in '68, and the other one graduated in '70.

M.M: And what are their names?

B.M: Bernard Miller and Calvin Miller.

M.M: Do they still live in Cartersville?

B.M: No, Calvin does.

M.M: Okay.

B.M: And Bernard's in Huntsville, Alabama, he was drafted in the army after he got out of school, and he stayed in the army until he retired now he's in Huntsville, Alabama. He's a postman now...

M.M: Oh okay.

B.M: ...a mail carrier.

M.M: Now were they involved in any clubs or organizations or sports when they were in school?

B.M: Uh huh, they sure were, they were in the band, boy scouts, they played, the oldest one played football, what did Calvin play? (laughing), it was boy scouts, and whatever he had to do, he was a part of.

M.M: How would you say that education affected your life?

B.M: Oh me, if I couldn't read and write, I'd just be lost. It really had affected my life so much that it enabled me to have my dependent, to be independent, there's so much, I would have to depend on somebody else if I couldn't read and write and know how to make decisions for myself, I'd be totally lost.

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

B.M: Couldn't have, we didn't have the means and opportunity that they had. We just used what we had.

M.M: Now how were you affected by segregation in Cartersville?

B.M: To tell you the truth it didn't bother me that much, you know we were, in my neighborhood we were mixed, and we really didn't have this feeling that some people have, because they would, my mother and the neighbor's mother would take care of each other's children, see to them, and if they needed anything they were there to help them, and we had the Andrew's live across the street from us, and they were scared of lightening and thunder, every time a cloud would come up, they would come over to the house (laughing). Across the street we had a lady, Ms. (unintelligible) Franklin, she was just like a mother to us, she saw us doing something wrong we had to mind her, she would whip us just like our mother, and we grew up like that, and we still, you know they are still our friends, so in our neighborhood we didn't have to come into contact with racial question, but when we got out in the real world we had to with other people and all, but we had learned, all we knew was the (unintelligible).

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

B.M: Well lets see, it would be nice, it would be nice, but you know time and things is changing so much, we have to kind of change with the time, and we have, now you look

around in our neighborhood, we have the Mexicans, Philipinos they've got to fit in somewhere, and we can't just sit on our Ts and think things are going to be like we want them, because it's not.

M.M: Right, now how did you feel when they destroyed the school?

B.M: Well let me see, how did I feel? In a way I hated it, in another way I figured it was going to have to be, because something had to give, something had to give, and it looked like it cost so much to have two schools, it seemed like it was too expensive just to have two schools where they could (unintelligible) have one.

M.M: Now when did your family get it's first television, first car, first telephone, and how did it impact your life?

B.M: My family, or my parents family?

M.M: The first time that you were around one.

B.M: A car?

M.M: Uh huh.

B.M: Well I remember the first car we had was a Model T Ford, my daddy bought that car when we lived in Florida, and I remembered us coming home, coming from Florida in that T model Ford.

M.M: What color?

B.M: Black.

M.M: Black.

B.M: Uh huh, and then it stayed around until we got big enough, and we got to drive it (laughing).

M.M: Now what about television?

B.M: Oh me, now I was married and had children when I got a television. I think we got that television in 1951 or '52, because I know both Calvin and Bernard were small at the time about '52.

M.M: Now when did you get married and what was your husband's name?

B.M: Married in August the 16th, 1947, and my husband's name was Lewis Irvin Miller.

M.M: And what did he do for a living?

B.M: He had been in service, he went in service in May of '42 I think and come out, and then when he'd get to come back home and come out in December of '45, Christmas Eve, and he worked at, at the mines.

M.M: Oh okay.

B.M: (unintelligible) (laughing).

M.M: You are doing wonderful.

B.M: The name of the mine he worked at, New Riverside.

M.M: New Riverside.

B.M: New Riverside.

M.M: Okay, now how long did he work there, do you remember?

B.M: No I don't, he worked there until he retired, he retired in '81.

M.M: Okay, alright, now tell me about the years of the Civil Rights Movement, were you ever actively involved?

B.M: No I wasn't actively involved in that.

M.M: Okay, how did you feel when you heard about what was going on at the time?

B.M: It's hard to tell, it's just hard to tell how you feel during those times, but I thought it was awful, awful way to be treated.

M.M: How did you feel about Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, were you aware of what they were doing?

B.M: I was aware of Martin Luther King, but I didn't know too much about Malcolm X, I didn't keep up with him too much after I got into, you know I just feel like somewhere, I believe in God, I'm a Christian, and I believe in God, and I do study the Bible, but somewhere I just feel like God had his hand in the plan, and all we can do what our hands find to do and just believe, to follow God's will, and it seems as if, you know the Bible tells you, it's always somebody, we always have had a leader, and I just feel like that's the portion God had appointed to do to me.

M.M: Now how did global events like the Great Depression, World War II, Civil Rights, Vietnam affect your life and the community?

B.M: Do you know it did a lot of destruction, and it opened up a lot of doors too for people that would be in depress, and it brought jobs to people. People were able to venture out in things they hadn't been able to do before, so it had some good affects and bad affects too (unintelligible) anything there's two sides to it.

M.M: Now you still live in Summer Hill?

B.M: Uh huh.

M.M: You live on Roosevelt Street.

B.M: Roosevelt Street.

M.M: Okay.

B.M: That's on the other side of the railroads.

M.M: Right, who is the one person who has had the most positive influence in your life, who are your heroes?

B.M: My mother and my daddy. You know my daddy lived, if he'd lived to December he would have been, in the year he died, he died in '79, he would have been ninety years old, and my mama was eighty-two when she died.

M.M: Now the main churches in the community of Summer Hill were Mount Zion and Saint Lukes is that correct?

B.M: Is that the old times?

M.M: Right.

B.M: Uh huh.

M.M: Were there any other churches that were very active in the community?

B.M: Yeah, Mount Olive and Alexander (unintelligible).

M.M: Where was Mount Olive located?

B.M: Mount Olive was on Gilmer Street, on the corner of Gilmer and what's that, Gilmer Street and the other one was on Gilmer Street too just right up the street from Mount Olive, what did I say the church was named, Alexander Chaplain, on the same street, and you know Saint Luke was on Bartow Street, and Mount Zion is on Jones Street, but that was the only churches we had.

M.M: Okay, let's go back to SLAB stadium and Paul Thomas, am I understanding that he also had a play ground, do you recall a play area?

B.M: That's where they played ball and all out there in the field, a big place, uh huh.

M.M: Okay, so he didn't have a separate play ground other than SLAB stadium?

B.M: No, no.

M.M: All right, and the dump was located near the school.

B.M: Right down below the school.

M.M: I had heard that kids had to do rat patrol do you remember that?

B.M: In the school, uh huh.

M.M: What can you tell me about the Café, and the Della Contessa, and the barbershop and all those stores?

B.M: Well the Della shop where Dan had a barbershop, and a beauty shop was there, and the Della shop where they sold ice cream and things like that in the Della shop, and what were the other ones?

M.M: The barbershop.

B.M: Yeah the barbershop (laughing), barbershop where they cut hair and that was (unintelligible) cut hair there, and further down there was something else across the street from there, and that was the place where the young girls and things would go and get ice cream and see if (unintelligible) a little bit too, and further on down on Jones Street the Beasleys and the Harris' had an ice cream parlor, and it was nice too where they had tables and things for you to sit around and eat ice cream and co-colas and stuff like that. Oh and one person I forgot was Bill, Mr. Bill Washington he'd make these hamburgers you know so good, and they named him hamburger Bill, and he had a hamburger stand on Carter Street and (unintelligible) Street.

M.M: Okay.

B.M: And he worked in different places before he went in business to him self.

M.M: And what was the name of his restaurant?

B.M: Hamburger Bill.

M.M: Hamburger Bill, okay. Now what can you tell me about the old public housing verses the new public housing?

B.M: The old, the ones they remodeled?

M.M: Right.

B.M: I don't know about the remodeled, I know about the old ones.

M.M: Okay, what can you tell me about the old ones, where were they located?

B.M: On Baker Street, Jones Street, (unintelligible) Street, and (unintelligible) Circle, and they'd (unintelligible).

M.M: Okay, do you remember any animosity towards the public housing when it came in?

B.M: Oh yes, a lot of people didn't want to move, you know they had to give up their homes and all, and a lot of them didn't want to give up their homes and all, but you know one thing, it's so much better because the homes and things were going down, you know and needed repairing, and I don't know whether they was able to do that or not, but it's better.

M.M: Now are there any other older buildings in the neighborhood that you are aware of?

B.M: Let me see.

M.M: That are significant to the community.

B.M: That's what?

M.M: That are significant to the community.

B.M: I can't think of none right now.

M.M: Okay, and are you aware of any place where drinking use to take place?

B.M: Where drinking use to take place?

M.M: Uh huh.

B.M: Uh huh, yeah.

M.M: And where would that be?

B.M: Paul Thomas'.

M.M: Paul Thomas'.

B.M: And (unintelligible) now look I didn't get any there, but I've heard them say (laughing).

We weren't suppose to go to those places, but you know one thing when your mama and daddy tell you not to do something, you've got to do it anyway.

M.M: Now the name Summer Hill, where did it originate from?

B.M: Well I don't know.

M.M: You don't know, okay.

B.M: No I don't, I sure don't.

M.M: Well, we are looking at the map now, now what is this, the Parsonage?

B.M: The Parsonage that's the house opposite to the church.

M.M: Okay.

B.M: Where the Pastor and his wife stay.

M.M: Okay.

B.M: And that's Jones Street, and all of this is on Jones. The trash dump that's on Aubrey Street.

M.M: And the Delicacy, Baker Shop, and lets see what's over here, okay there was a laundry mat over here...

B.M: Uh huh.

M.M: ...a record store, now what is Bell Hall?

B.M: That was a place where organizaion, and that's where that was the Bell Hall, I forgot to put, it's another Hall up there too, Bell Hall.

M.M: Brotherhood?

B.M: Uh huh.

M.M: You can write it in if you want.

B.M: Now let me see Brotherhood would be on West Aubrey Street, it use to be on Walker Street.

M.M: And I have one more question for you.

B.M: Yes.

M.M: Can you describe what a day was like, what was your daily schedule when you had your two boys at home, how did your day usually go?

B.M: Oh yeah, I can always describe those days. When they were small or when they were growing up?

M.M: How about both.

B.M: Both.

M.M: Uh huh.

B.M: At first I wanted a baby so bad I didn't know what to do and when they were born, I think my mother came and stayed with me a day or two, and I thought that was the most wonderful thing that ever happened to me, and I wanted a girl, but I didn't have nothing but two boys, and I said you know one thing, God knows what we need better than we know ourselves, because it sure was a blessing to have, working like I was, to have them kind of to follow each other, and they kind of see after each other, because the oldest boy was so nice about seeing after his little baby brother, and he could be so mad (unintelligible), but it was a joy and a pleasure, and I would get up in the morning and fix my husband's breakfast, and he would go on to work, then I'd have, before they was old enough to go to school, I'd be there to tend to them, and I think I didn't do too much work as a beautician at the time, it was small, but I'd do a little bit of work, and my aunt

would take care of the children for me, the baby for me. Well I enjoyed playing with my children too, taking them places and doing things with them, and they was always, we always tried to teach them what was right and what was wrong and how to treat other people, and I haven't had any trouble with them so far they've been a blessing.

M.M: So far.

B.M: Uh huh.

M.M: Now you were an active member of the PTA right?

B.M: Yes I was.

M.M: And you all met at the Summer Hill School?

B.M: Uh huh.

M.M: And how often did you meet?

B.M: Once a month.

M.M: And how many members were there?

B.M: It's kind of hard to tell when we had a good meeting, sometimes it wouldn't be many, but most times we'd have a good many with children, I don't think we only met but once a month.

M.M: And what type of activities did you all just?

B.M: We would have programs, something to benefit the children, and something benefit the school, and we'd have different projects and things we worked on too.

M.M: Uh huh.

B.M: Uh huh, and the teachers and the parents and the members all kind of worked together for whatever project we had we wanted to do, and just like the bus and the band was always uniforms or something we helped them buy for the school, because the school just didn't

have much to do, but you know we had a superintendent Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Hill they sure were nice about reaching out helping us with the things I know we were getting band uniforms that was the PTA was buying band uniforms for them, we went to him and told him how much we needed them, and you know he helped us get those uniforms, he was really nice. Mr. Aker that was the superintendent too, he was a good one too.

M.M: Okay, Mr. Aker.

(Abrupt end of interview.)