

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

**Interview with:** John H. Morgan, James Stanley (Bibby) Morgan III, William Victor (Victor) Morgan  
**Interviewed by:** Jennifer Jongema  
**Location:** Cartersville School Board, Cartersville, Georgia  
**Date:** April 26, 2003  
**Transcribed by:** Mim Eisenberg/WordCraft; February 2004  
**Edited by:** Melissa Massey, LeeAnn Lands

[Tape 1, Side A.]

JENNIFER JONGEMA: April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003. I'm interviewing James, John and Victor Morgan for the Summer Hill Project for Kennesaw State University.

Okay, first thing, if we could go around and everybody give their full name and your date of birth and your place of birth.

WILLIAM VICTOR MORGAN: Okay. My name is William Victor Morgan [known as Victor]. My date of birth is November 16, 1953, and I was born in Cartersville, Georgia, at [Quillin?] Hospital.

JAMES MORGAN: My name is James Stanley Morgan III. I'm referred to as Bibby. My date of birth is 12 December 1949. I was born here in Cartersville, Georgia, at the Quillin Hospital on [Lincoln?] Street.

JOHN MORGAN: I'm John H. Morgan. My date of birth is 1 December 1948. I also was born here in Cartersville, Georgia, at Howard Quillin Hospital on Lincoln Street.

JONGEMA: What were your parents' names?

JAMES MORGAN: Our parents' names was James Stanley Morgan Jr. My mother's name was Laverta Yvonne (Y-v-o-n-n-e). Her maiden name was Canty, C-a-n-t-y, Morgan.

JONGEMA: Do y'all have any other siblings?

VICTOR MORGAN: No, it's just us three.

JONGEMA: The three of you. Oh, boy. When you were growing up, were [sic; was] there anybody else in the house or was it just you and your parents?

JOHN MORGAN: Just us and our parents.

VICTOR MORGAN: There was some time, for a little while after my grandmother passed away, that we moved back down to the household with Grandmother and Grandfather for about—well, with Grandfather for about a year?

JOHN MORGAN: A year and a half.

VICTOR MORGAN: A year, a year and a half, but we then moved back up the street, back to our own home.

JONGEMA: What did your parents do for a living?

JAMES MORGAN: Both parents were in education. My dad was a teacher and a coach. He eventually ended up as a principal. My mother was a teacher and eventually ended up as a guidance counselor.

JONGEMA: Have you always lived in Summer Hill through your youth? You were born there and raised there?

VICTOR MORGAN: Yes, I was.

JONGEMA: If you could sit and think for a moment, think back to your childhood home and described to me what it looked like, what it looked like on the inside, what it looked like on the inside.

JOHN MORGAN: The house that we were initially brought up in is still standing. It's a large home. Upstairs, downstairs, it was basically the same: living room, dining room. Both our grandparents stayed upstairs, and our family was all downstairs.

VICTOR MORGAN: That could be a little confusing because we this home [refers to photograph or document] that we lived in was built in 1956, and, see, I was born in '53, so they had a few more years in this home. I don't remember living here prior to my grandmother's death for a couple of years, but this is the home that I mostly remember, which is still standing also. We stayed in the same room when we were little, in bunk beds.

JAMES MORGAN: It was a one-level, brick-veneer home. Had a large living room, a dining room—one, two, three—no, two bedrooms and a den; one bath, and the three of us shared a room. We had a bunk bed and a single bed, I believe. I'm just trying to remember. Later, Dad enclosed the carport and made what is now what—

VICTOR MORGAN: A sitting room.

JAMES MORGAN: And a family room. But as long as we were there, we just—you left first. You went to school, and then Victor and I were there. There were two bedrooms, one for Mom and Dad, and one for us. And had a den. It did have a living room, dining room, and a kitchen. That was basically it.

JONGEMA: So initially you lived with your grandparents, with them on the upper level and y'all on the bottom level, and your father built the house in '56 and y'all moved there.

VICTOR MORGAN: That's right.

JONGEMA: Okay. What did your yard look like?

JAMES MORGAN: That was on Jones Street. The initial home was almost on—and that was on the corner of Aubrey Street and Jones Street, right here. [Shows on map.] If you've ever been in that area, that's a hilly area, so it probably was two or three levels, and then actually on the bottom level, there was a bus barn where they used to keep the old blue bus. Had two large pine trees that, if you haven't spoken to Coach [Matthew] Hill, you will get a chance. Coach

Hill used to come up and check the pecan trees, and my granddaddy would give him pecans from the previous year as payment for checking the new pecans. So you'll hear a lot about [chair squeaks; unintelligible] as this goes on.

He planted a garden on one level, the bus barn was on one level, the level that we lived on, and then the upper level, so actually there were what?—four levels? And it was probably just—it was a big yard. And therefore we went up on 154, which is now 142, it was a lot—the house was built on one lot, but there was another vacant lot over there, so we just had a tremendous amount of area to just play in, if you would, and goof off in, and it ended up being the neighborhood play place for folks, so that's what it was.

JONGEMA: Were you close to any of your neighbors?

JOHN MORGAN: Oh, gosh, yes.

VICTOR MORGAN: Yes.

JONGEMA: Did y'all visit regularly?

VICTOR MORGAN: Yes.

JAMES MORGAN: The community raised us. We're community kids. And everybody that was on Summer Hill was a community kid. That's just how that goes, you know. We played in everybody's house, and they played in ours. You got your one cup and you used that all day long. If you misbehaved, you just got it there. You didn't go home to get it. You got it when you got home, but you got it right there on the spot.

JONGEMA: Who were your biggest buddies, your biggest friends in the neighborhood?

JAMES MORGAN: Victor was the baby.

VICTOR MORGAN: I was the youngest. There were lots of kids.

JAMES MORGAN: I would think—

JOHN MORGAN: We had a lot of guys came to the house, like we had [Darryl Green?] and Michael Andrew used to come to the house all the time. [Leon Duckley?].

VICTOR MORGAN: I'm younger, so—

JAMES MORGAN: William Young.

VICTOR MORGAN: Terry [Tinch?].

JOHN MORGAN: Quite a few, quite a few. Everybody just hangs out at [unintelligible].

JONGEMA: Did your family eat together every night?

VICTOR MORGAN: And several other folk, too. [Laughter.]

JAMES MORGAN: Pretty much.

JOHN MORGAN: Yes, that was required.

JONGEMA: That was kind of a given.

JOHN MORGAN: Yes.

VICTOR MORGAN: Right.

JAMES MORGAN: [unintelligible] who was there ate with us also.

VICTOR MORGAN: Like, if it was late football practice and Dad would have to [carry?] kids home, we'd have a lot of guys eating with us, so Mother would cook for everybody. Lots of folks.

JONGEMA: What were your favorite foods or treats that your mother would make?

VICTOR MORGAN: Fried chicken. [Laughter.] There was cubed steak.

JAMES MORGAN: That was the thing in our house. Everybody got whatever they wanted—

VICTOR MORGAN: On their birthday.

JAMES MORGAN: Everybody had their favorite meal on their birthday.

VICTOR MORGAN: I don't know, I say fried chicken, but I think it was hamburgers and chili and French fries, I think. Well, I know fried potatoes was my favorite foods.

JOHN MORGAN: Always fried potatoes was involved with me.

JONGEMA: Typically, on a typical day or dinner, what would y'all eat, and how would that differ if your Sunday dinner was more elaborate or more special? Did that differ any?

JAMES MORGAN: I don't know. Let me think through that. We always had a meal, and it was always, particularly during the week, because we didn't know who was coming—I'm sure there were a lot of vegetables: beans and greens. And then on Sunday—I don't know, Mother just cooked. She was a working mother, and she probably would cook maybe something large that we could do two or three days or a couple of days, and then she would come in and add something to it to spice it up, to change it up. But I would tell you—I don't know that there is anything—I can remember my—there were three boys, and my dad just—it was just important that his boys—

VICTOR MORGAN: His boys ate.

JOHN MORGAN: He'd say, "Eat, boys. I like to see my boys eat."

VICTOR MORGAN: [Laughs.]

JAMES MORGAN: Yes, so we ate. He tried to be a farmer. He tried to grow—and my granddaddy had vegetables, and they would put them up in the summer so they would can. My mother's parents lived off of Burnt Hickory, and we had hogs. They had cotton, they had—leave my chair alone. [Whatever had been done to it caused it to squeak.] They had whatever. We just had it. We didn't know we were doing bad, okay? [Laughter.] But we had chickens. I can remember seeing the chickens—

VICTOR MORGAN: The chickens—wring the neck.

JAMES MORGAN: The chickens jumping around [cross-talk; unintelligible].

VICTOR MORGAN: I can remember, I guess it was the bus barn, because I do remember the bus, but killing hogs and hanging them up and dipping them in the—

JAMES MORGAN: Hot water.

VICTOR MORGAN: Hot water.

JAMES MORGAN: And scraping—

VICTOR MORGAN: Even in [cross-talk; unintelligible]. I remember that.

JOHN MORGAN: I remember blowing up the bladder.

JAMES MORGAN: [Laughs.] I believe Mama remembers something about that, huh?

[Laughter.]

JONGEMA: What were your chores and your roles or duties in your household?

VICTOR MORGAN: I know we had to wash dishes.

JOHN MORGAN: We emptied the trash, washed dishes.

JAMES MORGAN: You know, we didn't do a whole lot of ironing. We had to put our jeans on stretchers.

JOHN MORGAN: Mm-hm.

VICTOR MORGAN: Starch [cross-talk; unintelligible].

JAMES MORGAN: Did you [unintelligible] starch? [Laughter.]

VICTOR MORGAN: Mother would have some kind of liquid starch or whatever and put them on stretchers and you hang them out on the line.

JAMES MORGAN: And it come out with a crease.

VICTOR MORGAN: They come out creased and really nice and neat. When we got older—they were gone, and we had to iron. I started ironing my own clothes and spray starching them, but Mother said, “I’m not putting clothes up on the [street?].”

JOHN MORGAN: There weren’t that many chores that we had to do.

JAMES MORGAN: Other than we kept our room clean.

JOHN MORGAN: Right.

JAMES MORGAN: We made up our beds. When we hit the floor, you made up your bed.

VICTOR MORGAN: You turn around and make up your bed.

JAMES MORGAN: Just the general things. Trash had to go out, the bathroom had to be kept clean. I don’t think we were any different from anybody else. Whatever was standard and common and if it needed to be done, you did it. We cut grass in the summer.

VICTOR MORGAN: It wasn’t a one-person thing. “John, you wash the dishes” and that. We all did [unintelligible].

JONGEMA: Other than Christmas and Easter and stuff like that, did y’all celebrate any other special holidays or days?

JAMES MORGAN: Everybody’s birthday, we celebrated.

VICTOR MORGAN: Big-time birthday celebrators.

JOHN MORGAN: Wasn’t there a celebration of—we didn’t do anything special on the Fourth of July.

JAMES MORGAN: No.

JOHN MORGAN: No. January first, [unintelligible].

JAMES MORGAN: Other than your regular holidays, in our house it probably was birthdays were pretty much—



JOHN MORGAN: A big deal.

VICTOR MORGAN: Yes, birthdays were pretty special.

JAMES MORGAN: That's about it, I would think.

JONGEMA: What was your first job, your real money-paying job?

JAMES MORGAN: [Laughs.] [Cross-talk.]

VICTOR MORGAN: The first job, in which I was making real money, was probably sixty cent an hour, working at the drugstore. [Cross-talk]

JAMES MORGAN: Fifty cent?

JOHN MORGAN: Yes, sir.

JAMES MORGAN: Okay. We were working for our grandfather—

VICTOR MORGAN: And he [unintelligible].

JOHN MORGAN: He would write down everything that we did, and he would write down how much he paid us and what we did, and my grandmother fed us, and we had to pay for our lunch.

JAMES MORGAN: [Laughs.] [Cross-talk.]

JOHN MORGAN: We always had to pay for our lunch.

VICTOR MORGAN: Well, see, I was younger, so I got paid a little bit for—I remember I worked all summer. He had a big old barrel of nails. I worked all summer straightening nails. I was younger than them. But we talked about the pecan. I remember pecans and picking up pecans, but I picked up pecans and then I'd tell my granddaddy I was carrying them home to my mother, and he told me it was too cold for me to go home and to stop picking pecans and go home.

JAMES MORGAN: [Laughs.]

VICTOR MORGAN: I remember carrying pecans home to my mother. We'd stop and go home.

JAMES MORGAN: [unintelligible] is our grandfather was a teacher. There was always a lesson in everything, so on Saturdays, and this was after we moved into our home on Jones Street, our father and mother would be going go grad school in Atlanta, so we stayed with our grandfather. He put us to work. So the lesson would be when you came to the job, you would sign in. In other words, you'd put down the time that you started. And when you stopped for lunch, you signed out. And when you went back to work, you signed back in, and when you finished at the end of the day, you signed out.

VICTOR MORGAN: Absolutely.

JAMES MORGAN: So what you do at that point, if you made fifty cents an hour, at the end of the day, the lesson became: How many hours did you work?

JOHN MORGAN: It's like math now.

JAMES MORGAN: And then how much do I owe you? All right? And then you deduct fifty cents for your lunch, and then you give me my bill. Well, here's the [unintelligible] part. He believed math was an exact fact. It's either right or it's wrong. So if you did the math wrong and if you cheated yourself out of the money, that's what you got paid.

VICTOR MORGAN: That's right.

JAMES MORGAN: If you did the math wrong and you charged him too much, he made you go back and get it right. [Laughs.]

JOHN MORGAN: He had it already figured out what we were supposed to [get].

JAMES MORGAN: So that was the lesson. The lesson was you pay for everything; you ask for nothing, even your meals. So that's what we did.

JONGEMA: How old were you when you first went on your grandfather's payroll?

JAMES MORGAN: Fifty-six. Seven, eight. [unintelligible].

VICTOR MORGAN: I was barely thought of.

JAMES MORGAN: [Laughs.]

JONGEMA: Where did most adults in Summer Hill work?

JAMES MORGAN: Schoolteachers—no, I know what you're saying.

VICTOR MORGAN: At the local mills and stuff.

JAMES MORGAN: [unintelligible] was the carpet mills.

JOHN MORGAN: Over at the bottom of the hill.

VICTOR MORGAN: Yes, the wood [unintelligible].

VICTOR MORGAN: Ninth.

JAMES MORGAN: Ninth.

JOHN MORGAN: And there was a mill over on the other side of the tracks.

VICTOR MORGAN: You know, I'm not really smart about that.

JOHN MORGAN: I can't remember, but I know what you're talking about.

JAMES MORGAN: E-Z Mills.

VICTOR MORGAN: E-Z Mills.

JOHN MORGAN: That's right.

JAMES MORGAN: And I would think there were probably—and then there were some domestics. Some of the ladies worked in some of the homes. Some of the guys probably worked in some homes for some individuals. I remember Mr. [Dudley?] worked down at Mr. Leachman's.

VICTOR MORGAN: Right. Was [Pega Mine?] existing then?

JAMES MORGAN: Yes.

VICTOR MORGAN: Yes.

JAMES MORGAN: Some of them probably worked in the mine. I remember Mr. Brown got killed down there.

VICTOR MORGAN: That's about all I can remember.

JOHN MORGAN: Mm-hm.

JAMES MORGAN: I think they either worked in the community or one guy worked in the courthouse.

VICTOR MORGAN: I just don't remember a whole lot of people traveling—

JAMES MORGAN: To work.

VICTOR MORGAN: —to work out of the community.

JAMES MORGAN: No, you could see them walking every morning to work, yes, for the most part.

VICTOR MORGAN: I mean out of—

JAMES MORGAN: Yes, out of Cartersville.

VICTOR MORGAN: Out of Cartersville, going to work, or out of the county. There wasn't a whole lot of driving to Atlanta, maybe except to Lockheed [in Marietta].

JOHN MORGAN: We had one or two, maybe.

JONGEMA: Now, you said that your nickname is Bibby.

JAMES MORGAN: Mm-hm.

JONGEMA: What's the origin of that?

JAMES MORGAN: Well, heck, I had a big brother, John. If you recall, John was born December the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1948. I was born December the 12<sup>th</sup>, 1949. So the story is, I'm told, that

John's beginning to walk, talk, and I'm the newborn. People would come to the house, and he would say—try to say, "Come see the baby, come see the bibby." So I've had that for fifty-three years, had that name for fifty-three years, Bibby.

JONGEMA: Some things you can never change.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes, unfortunately.

JONGEMA: Do you know if you had any nicknames as a child?

JAMES MORGAN: No.

JONGEMA: No?

JAMES MORGAN: We can't say that on tape. [Laughter.]

JONGEMA: Okay. If you were walking down the street in Summer Hill, in the neighborhood, how would you describe it to me? The cars, the houses, what people were doing.

JOHN MORGAN: Back then.

JONGEMA: Back then.

JOHN MORGAN: A lot of people—of course, older cars. I remember our [Nash] Rambler. I remember our '63—

VICTOR MORGAN: Sixty-three Rambler.

JOHN MORGAN: I remember our '63—what was it?—[Chevrolet] Impala?

VICTOR MORGAN: [unintelligible]

JOHN MORGAN: Chevy Impala.

VICTOR MORGAN: I remember we had an Impala.

JOHN MORGAN: Yes, and a lot of times people would be sitting out on the porch in the summertime, late hours. That's what I can see right now. Visiting one another.

VICTOR MORGAN: Summer nights, catching—I call them lightning bugs.

JAMES MORGAN: Lightning bugs. [Cross-talk.]

VICTOR MORGAN: We called them lightning bugs.

JAMES MORGAN: Put them in a jar.

VICTOR MORGAN: In a jar.

JOHN MORGAN: Folks were walking, going back and forth to the recreation center.

VICTOR MORGAN: Oh, I have fond memories of it, of the recreation center.

JOHN MORGAN: Softball games at night.

VICTOR MORGAN: The recreation center was—the old school that I went to—and I'm the youngest, in grades—my first-grade through the middle of my second-grade year, in that building, and then that became the recreation center. It's where the current recreation center now stands. It was the old school. And we used to just have lots and lots and lots of fun there.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes. Ping-Pong.

VICTOR MORGAN: Ping-Pong, trampoline. The auditorium was the basketball court!

[Laughs.]

JOHN MORGAN: Basketball court.

VICTOR MORGAN: It wasn't standard, but we had the best time in that room.

JOHN MORGAN: Horseshoes, softball.

JAMES MORGAN: And I can remember early in the morning going to—we played piano; our grandmother taught us to play the piano, and we would go to piano practice at six o'clock in the morning.

VICTOR MORGAN: They wanted to make sure—I was the baby, so I had to go after school. They had to go first thing.

JAMES MORGAN: I can remember walking from our house to Grandma's house, but the Milner's always would be cooking that bacon and that coffee. You could smell that bacon and that coffee.

VICTOR MORGAN: Smell as you walked past.

JAMES MORGAN: And it was just—gol-lee!

VICTOR MORGAN: They had to take piano in the morning. Because I was the baby, I'd take it after school, because they had football practice. They had football practice. They couldn't come after school. They had to go before school, like six o'clock in the morning.

JAMES MORGAN: Mm-hm.

VICTOR MORGAN: Go to piano practice.

JONGEMA: As a child [sic; As children], what did y'all do for fun? What type of games did you play?

JOHN MORGAN: Marbles, [unintelligible]. [The girls played?] hopscotch.

VICTOR MORGAN: Marbles. I remember just on my knees, shooting marbles. A lot.

JOHN MORGAN: Basketball, football.

VICTOR MORGAN: And I can remember sitting hours playing Monopoly at the reaction center.

JOHN MORGAN: It was fun. Did we play tennis?

VICTOR MORGAN: No. I didn't play tennis till I was in college.

JAMES MORGAN: We played tennis later on. I can remember playing basketball, playing football, throwing horseshoes.

JOHN MORGAN: Yes, we had that a lot, horseshoes.

JAMES MORGAN: We were playing on that bank near the school. We had Scouts. We were in the Boy Scouts, Mr. Cotton.

VICTOR MORGAN: We'd go camping on the lake in Scouts, at Camp [Western?]. It was on the lake. We had a big Scout troop.

JAMES MORGAN: Wasn't it on Straight and Crooked Street?

VICTOR MORGAN: Skate. Roller skate in the street.

JOHN MORGAN: Your skate had keys. They didn't have these fine boot skates. Your roller skates had keys, and you had to adjust them. And we'd skate down hills and stuff like that.

VICTOR MORGAN: That's right.

JAMES MORGAN: We had a lot of fun. Cardboard off the banks.

JOHN MORGAN: I remember skating—when I got older—probably they had gone to school—skateboard. That's the first [unintelligible]. And came down, rode off this hill on skateboard. Not the steep side, on the other side, with a skateboard. I got a bruise on my shoulder right now, came off that hill on a skateboard. So it was fun kinds of things.

JAMES MORGAN: Fun. We used to make—whatever we could think of, we'd do it.

JOHN MORGAN: I remember getting a color TV.

JAMES MORGAN: Do you remember having battles? We'd get the BB guns out?

JOHN MORGAN: Mm-hm.

JAMES MORGAN: [Laughs.]

VICTOR MORGAN: Cap gun.

JAMES MORGAN: We used to have fun.

JONGEMA: Did y'all have any pets in the house?

JOHN MORGAN: Had a dog.



JONGEMA: Had a dog.

JOHN MORGAN: What was the name? Sandy.

JAMES MORGAN: It was not in the house.

JOHN MORGAN: What's that dog's name? Had a bunch of them.

JAMES MORGAN: We always had a dog.

JOHN MORGAN: I remember Rusty.

JAMES MORGAN: Which was one's the collie?

JOHN MORGAN: That was Sandy.

VICTOR MORGAN: Absolute gorgeous.

JAMES MORGAN: That was Sandy.

JOHN MORGAN: He died in 1964.

VICTOR MORGAN: I remember. That's the last dog. I didn't want no part of a dog after that. That was my favorite baby.

JONGEMA: Do y'all have any hobbies or any particular interests now, as an adult [sic; as adults]? Special things you do or organizations?

JOHN MORGAN: We stay busy.

VICTOR MORGAN: Basically we just stay busy with family and work. We're too busy to have too much of a hobby.

JAMES MORGAN: I don't know if you call them hobbies, but we're probably affiliated with more than we need to be affiliated with. We work on a couple of foundations. John and I belong to New Frontiers.

VICTOR MORGAN: We're very active in our church.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes. Church. Sit on the board of Etowah Foundation. I've been on probably every board it is in Cartersville and Bartow County. Serve on—the latest foundation that just came out. We do too much. We need to stay at home. [Laughs.] We're very active in the community. Do you want specifics? Is that what you want me to do?

JONGEMA: Not really necessarily specifics.

JAMES MORGAN: Okay.

JONGEMA: Like, any organizations. Like, you said you belong to New Frontiers or—

JAMES MORGAN: New Frontiers, NAACP—

VICTOR MORGAN: I'm not as active as I used to be because I'm trying to learn [cross-talk; unintelligible].

JAMES MORGAN: Emancipation Proclamation Committee.

VICTOR MORGAN: I try to listen and say, "Now, how much time is this going to take? Because if I'm going to be a part of this, I need to be able to give my all to it." I just agreed to take part, to be a member of the trustees for the hospital.

JAMES MORGAN: I'm there, too.

VICTOR MORGAN: "How much time is this going to take out of my life?" "Four times a year, at lunch." "Okay, I can do that." Several kinds of boards I've served on. Same with John, I'm sure. "How much time is this going to take of my life?"

JOHN MORGAN: That's what it looks like. [Shows document.] You name it, we've been there, we've done it.

JONGEMA: What were your favorite hangouts when you were living in Summer Hill?

JAMES MORGAN: [Laughs.]

VICTOR MORGAN: We didn't have a whole lot. You hung out at home, for us, or friends' homes. I'm not sure about these guys, but there wasn't a whole lot of places to go, a whole lot of things to do. But we'd have little parties at the house, and we'd invite all our friends there. They were mostly church related. I don't want to say parties. Say socials. The kids and the youth in the church or the youth in the community would get together, because you didn't have McDonald's. There was no McDonald's. There was no Burger King. All those things weren't there.

JAMES MORGAN: There was Bill Johnson's and the Dairy Queen and the Hurricane Inn. But we couldn't go. We couldn't go. If you went there, you went to the side window to get what you wanted, so basically, just like they're saying—every Friday night after a football game, there was always a sock hop in the gym.

JOHN MORGAN: Sock hop in the gym.

JAMES MORGAN: There may be something going on in somebody's house, or there may be something happening in church. Sunday evenings was a good time. Kids hung out at church.

VICTOR MORGAN: So therefore the school was a central focus, and the church was a central focus, as you can tell. So those were the focal places for the community.

JOHN MORGAN: Where you went, right.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes, so much so that at graduation time, baccalaureate was always on Sunday morning, and not a black church in Cartersville had church services. Everybody went to baccalaureate. That whole church.

VICTOR MORGAN: Everybody went, regardless of who graduated. All the churches did not have church. Everybody went to baccalaureate.

JOHN MORGAN: It was always eleven o'clock on Sunday.

VICTOR MORGAN: Always.

JOHN MORGAN: Always.

VICTOR MORGAN: And the band would play, and the chorus would sing, and they would sing religious music and play religious music. It was just that's what was going to happen.

Since we're talking about religion, I can remember in school we would always have devotion.

JAMES MORGAN: Always.

VICTOR MORGAN: Always have devotion. Every morning, prior to school starting, there was a song. Every class would have their own devotion, song and prayer.

JAMES MORGAN: And scripture.

VICTOR MORGAN: And scripture. Every morning.

[End Tape 1, Side A. Begin Tape 1, Side B.]

JONGEMA: [Were there] any particular customs or celebrations that the Summer Hill did? I know you talked about the baccalaureate and the graduation being a big deal.

ALL [singing]: Homecoming. [Laughter.]

VICTOR MORGAN: I'm sorry.

JAMES MORGAN: We were there, but everybody was prepared for homecoming.

VICTOR MORGAN: Oh, gosh.

JOHN MORGAN: We'll always remember homecoming, just big events. Elaborate festivities.

Coronation of queen. Queen's ball, which was part of the coronation. The big football game.

The Parade. Ah!

VICTOR MORGAN: And the floats.

JOHN MORGAN: The floats. We'd invite bands from all the neighboring counties. Main High in Rome.

JAMES MORGAN: Lemon Street.

JOHN MORGAN: Lemon Street band. What was it? Cedar Hill High School band in Polk County, in Cedartown.

JOHN MORGAN: There's a band out of Douglasville. I don't remember who they were, but I remember that.

JAMES MORGAN: There would be four or five bands in the parade. Unlike we do today, we'd spend a week in the evenings getting ready for homecoming. It was just a one-day event. We'd start early in the morning, but by the time four or five o'clock came that afternoon, all the floats were ready, all the cars were ready.

JOHN MORGAN: We had a large parade. There was a Miss everything, Miss SLAAG, which was Student Library Assistant Association [of Georgia] [VERIFY]; a Miss Student National Education Association; a Miss First Grade, a Miss Second Grade, a Miss Third Grade. And all the girls were just dressed up, and they had on matching outfits. The queen of that whatever would wear one color, and the other girls would wear clothes with a major color, and then the others would wear opposite colors. It was just great.

JAMES MORGAN: One time we had a funeral for the other team. Do you remember that?

JOHN MORGAN: Oh, yes, a pep rally.

JAMES MORGAN: I'm talking about—[laughter and cross-talk].

JOHN MORGAN: Casket and everything.

JAMES MORGAN: Casket and even had the preacher preach the funeral.

VICTOR MORGAN: I mean, the other team came [unintelligible]. [Laughter and cross-talk.]

JOHN MORGAN: I was in the last one, in Marietta.

VICTOR MORGAN: That's funny.

JOHN MORGAN: LeBron Morgan and Robert Benham preached that funeral.

JAMES MORGAN: Now, another thing that sticks out was always the area basketball tournaments that were held in our area. I mean, it was always in our gym because we had the nicest gym.

VICTOR MORGAN: Everybody wanted to come to Summer Hill.

JAMES MORGAN: So that always the basketball tournaments in this area—like, Marietta—were held at our gym, and we put people up to sleep in our homes because there was no hotel for the people to sleep [in], so—although there was a hotel in town.

JONGEMA: Yes.

JAMES MORGAN: But that was a lot of fun.

JONGEMA: What's your fondest memory of Summer Hill? It sounds like it may be the homecoming.

VICTOR MORGAN: Homecoming week.

JAMES MORGAN: Graduation? [Laughter.]

JOHN MORGAN: I would think, yes, all of those would rank really, really high.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes, they rank pretty high.

JOHN MORGAN: You'd hear of plays. We did plays. And the assemblies—

VICTOR MORGAN: Every Friday.

JOHN MORGAN: That was Friday.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes, every Friday there was an assembly.

VICTOR MORGAN: With a lesson. There was always a character lesson. Always in the assembly, in each class, it had something to do—but we always went back to how you respect each other, and this is Summer Hill, and you had to live up to this.

JOHN MORGAN: Yes.

JAMES MORGAN: I can't just pick out any. It was just a good time. Of course, I didn't know that and/or realize it until—

JONGEMA: After.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes.

JONGEMA: It sounds like you mostly stayed in the neighborhood.

JAMES MORGAN: Mm-hm.

JONGEMA: But did you ever go into—well, I'm sure you did. When you into Cartersville or surrounding cities, did you feel there was [sic; were] some places that you couldn't go or shouldn't go? And do you remember there being separate entrances or signs or anything like that?

JAMES MORGAN: I'm sorry, go ahead, John.

JOHN MORGAN: I know the movies downtown, the Grand Theater. We could not go in the front door. We had a side door, where we had to sit upstairs. I remember we used to go there all the time. Plus our parents had given us the “don't do this” or “don't go there.” We knew, as we grew up.

JAMES MORGAN: The Brazier. We didn't go to the front window. Ross's, the Four Way [Café], even the bus station. There was a door for us.

JOHN MORGAN: I never been in Four Way, never been in it.

JAMES MORGAN: I've never been in there, either. It's a restaurant in Cartersville.

JOHN MORGAN: [unintelligible].

VICTOR MORGAN: Oh, you're [from Cartersville?]. I've never been in there. I never went to the back door of Ross's, ever.

JOHN MORGAN: I did.

VICTOR MORGAN: I go to the front door. I go to the front door now.

JAMES MORGAN: I do now.

VICTOR MORGAN: I've never been in Ross's, in the back door. I went in the front door. I think when I was coming along, my parents said no. I was the youngest. "You can't go. If they don't want your money through the front door, you won't spend it."

JAMES MORGAN: I'm trying to think of other places. And that's kind of how it was. We always went to town. I can remember [Payt's] Five-and-Ten. I can remember Lays on the other side of [cross-talk; [unintelligible]].

VICTOR MORGAN: [unintelligible] Five-and-Ten.

JAMES MORGAN: I can remember—

JOHN MORGAN: The five-and-dime.

JAMES MORGAN: The [Fair?] store. We used to go get shoes there. But, yes, as a matter of fact, I can remember practicing in old Cartersville High School uniforms for football practice. I can remember getting some of their books to study. We got their books. They got new books.

VICTOR MORGAN: I remember Cartersville High School sending over—probably during my—I'm not sure if y'all remember getting the old band uniforms. They were purple and gold. They'd send them over to our school, and we were blue and white. We ended up giving them to Cedar Hill in Cedartown because those were the colors, and it sort of went with them.



JAMES MORGAN: Yes, I guess we always knew, because of what our parents had taught us, where to go, where not to go, and things of that nature. But I think, as you look at integration, segregation, I don't think that you will find a community that handled it as well as Cartersville and Bartow County did. I think that's directly attributed to Carl [Merrill?], who was the superintendent of schools down in Bartow County. Who was it?

JOHN MORGAN: Ray Hill.

JAMES MORGAN: Ray Hill, and then folks like our father and Walter Johnson—

VICTOR MORGAN: And Susie Wheeler.

JAMES MORGAN: And Dr. Susie Wheeler. They just did a good job. When children become your priorities, all else just passes by. You don't sweat the small stuff. You do what you need to do to help kids, and that's why Summer Hill did what it had to do. That's why the tradition—we talk about tradition, like Cartersville. As you talk to these folks in Summer Hill, that's what you'll hear. You do what you need to do. You do what's necessary. Teachers lived in homes because they didn't have places to live. They ate whatever that family was eating. They shared with that family. Actually, you'll find there are a bunch of men here now who came to teach but have stayed because of their treatment and how they were treated, and a lot of those men, particularly where there were older [someone coughs; unintelligible]—and they tried to put people in homes where there was a husband and a wife, and a lot of those men now call some of those ladies “Mom” and what have you, because that's actually what happened. They became second families, and that's the way that happened.

JONGEMA: You both said that you belonged to New Frontiers. Could you explain to me what that organization is and what they do?

JOHN MORGAN: Sure.

JAMES MORGAN: Frontiers is an organization made up of approximately twenty-five to thirty Afro-American men, whose primary goal, at their onset, some forty years ago, was to foster the betterment of the black citizens in this county. Those gentlemen who are the charter members had absolutely no ties to the school system, nor did they have any ties to, I would think, any job in this community; therefore there was not ever any issue about them losing their job because of the activities that they participated in. So as a result, they could go to school board meetings, they could go to city council meetings not to raise a stink or anything but to stand up and to speak up and say, “We believe there’s an injustice here, and you should look at this” or “We believe this to be an issue,” and you can do that. In those days, if you spoke out, the next morning you may not have a job. Well, they couldn’t lose their jobs [laughs], and so that has revolved into an organization now that gives annual scholarships, donates money back to the community. They’ve grown. They own a building and five acres of land out in the [Tassel?] area.

At Thanksgiving, we feed the community. This past year we fed over—what?—five hundred people?

VICTOR MORGAN: Mm-hm. We’ve done that twice.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes, we’ve done that twice. Usually somebody asks for contributions. We’re always doing that. You know, we just get involved with what’s happening the community. That’s basically it.

JONGEMA: One of the things that keeps coming up over and over in the interviews is the Brotherhood. What is that?

JAMES MORGAN: It’s just family. What did Miss [Hillary Rodham] Clinton say? It takes a village to raise—

VICTOR MORGAN: A child. It's the African proverb.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes, we've been knowing that our [lives]. [Laughs.] And that's what the Brotherhood is.

VICTOR MORGAN: I know some of the conservative citizens of this country make fun of that proverb, that African proverb, but that's just what the community was about, you know? That's right, Miss Clinton, that's it. That's it.

JAMES MORGAN: There's nothing—I'm sorry, go ahead.

JONGEMA: Brotherhood Hall.

VICTOR MORGAN: Oh, the Brotherhood Hall.

JAMES MORGAN: Okay. It was a burial hall.

JONGEMA: A burial hall?

JAMES MORGAN: Well, I say a burial hall. Brotherhood Hall used to be over near the E-Z Mill.

VICTOR MORGAN: It's [unintelligible].

JAMES MORGAN: Well, the older citizens will tell you that the Brotherhood Hall was a place where if someone in the community passed, those folks—they would have a little policy or they would pay into it. It would just help [cross-talk; unintelligible]. That's just it. That's what it was. It was where they assisted each other in times of need. They did have a little hall, and they paid a little dues.

VICTOR MORGAN: Now, they used the Masonic lodge, which they're in. Am I correct?

JAMES MORGAN: Mm-hm.

VICTOR MORGAN: And my grandmother-in-law was big in that. And they pay a little dues, and then they have this little policy, and upon death, they would give the money back. I need to ask her. Are they really called the Brotherhood?

JAMES MORGAN: Mm-hm, mm-hm, it was. I don't know the specifics about it, but as you do this, they'll tell you about it. That's come up many times?

JONGEMA: Almost every interview.

JAMES MORGAN: [Laughs.] Yes. Well, again, that's how they just assisted each other in life and in death.

JONGEMA: Now, the people that were members, was it only male?

JAMES MORGAN: I don't know.

VICTOR MORGAN: I think it was male and female, I think.

JAMES MORGAN: I can research that for you.

VICTOR MORGAN: I can find that out, because my grandmother always treasured—

JAMES MORGAN: And that's [unintelligible].

VICTOR MORGAN: She's eighty-seven.

JAMES MORGAN: That was a big deal, yes.

JONGEMA: Other than the church and Brotherhood Hall and things like that, were there other major community institutions that you would say if this place hadn't been in Summer Hill, the neighborhood would have been different?

[No immediate response.]

JAMES MORGAN: Slab Stadium. I can't say that about that, but...

JOHN MORGAN: I can't think any.

JONGEMA: Okay. Who were the prominent, recognized members and leaders in the community?

JOHN MORGAN: Most of the people looked up to our grandfather, James Stanley Morgan, Sr.

JAMES MORGAN: I would tell you Dad and Susie Wheeler. I would tell you all of the ministers, whoever they were, whoever. If it came out of the pulpit, it was gospel, and so I would tell you that any minister in any church during that time was respected. Schoolteachers were respected, ministers were respected. Let's see. There were some individuals that owned their own businesses. Help me, guys.

VICTOR MORGAN: I don't know. That's a [unintelligible] question.

JOHN MORGAN: [unintelligible] his business.

VICTOR MORGAN: It was in Cobb County.

JOHN MORGAN: It was down in Cobb County.

JAMES MORGAN: I'm just trying to kind of put them in a category, as opposed to trying to call names.

VICTOR MORGAN: Be specific, okay.

JAMES MORGAN: I'll get in trouble because I'll miss somebody. But I know anybody that had anything to do with church, usually the pastor of the church and his wife, usually school officials...

VICTOR MORGAN: I think that's about it.

JAMES MORGAN: The mortician. [Laughs.] James [Patton?].

VICTOR MORGAN: There was [that?].

JAMES MORGAN: Ran the [unintelligible].

JONGEMA: Okay, going back to more of the Cartersville issue of desegregation, were there any areas in Cartersville that you knew—not just specific places but areas: that was the white area, that was the black area, or that you didn't go?

VICTOR MORGAN: That I didn't go?

JOHN MORGAN: Didn't go.

JONGEMA: That was tense.

JAMES MORGAN: There was Summer Hill, there was the east side, and there was West End.

VICTOR MORGAN: We call the east side Richmond.

JAMES MORGAN: Richmond. Let's see, blacks lived in Richmond, they lived in Mechanicsville, they lived on Summer Hill, and they lived in West End. As opposed to not going out, no--

VICTOR MORGAN: I don't think [cross-talk; unintelligible]. That's where the communities—

JAMES MORGAN: Those were the communities where...And then—I think that's how I would respond to that.

JONGEMA: When I think of Summer Hill, do you think of it as part of Cartersville or a separate entity within Cartersville?

JAMES MORGAN: I think it definitely is part of Cartersville, definitely. Of course, we would like to tell you we were in and by ourselves, but...[Laughs.].

JONGEMA: How has the area and the neighborhood changed, and do you think it's for the bad or for the good?

JOHN MORGAN: How has the Summer Hill area changed?

JONGEMA: Mm-hm.

JOHN MORGAN: Population.

VICTOR MORGAN: Population. I think because of the growth, I don't know everybody.

We're not as close as we used to be. Even within ten years. I don't know. Of course, I don't live in that community, but I can go up and sit on the porch. I don't know 75 to 80 percent of the folk that come by.

JOHN MORGAN: That's right.

VICTOR MORGAN: Just don't know them. And Bibby, because he works with a lot of kids, might know more. But, see, I work in the county school district. I just don't know them.

JAMES MORGAN: We've changed. We've changed from the standpoint of when we were growing up, we knew everybody who lived—

VICTOR MORGAN: Probably in Bartow County. [Laughs.]

JAMES MORGAN: —in the projects on—it was Cricket and [Stray?] Street then.

VICTOR MORGAN: That's William and [Wykle?].

JAMES MORGAN: William and Wykle. And then up on the hill—

VICTOR MORGAN: Williams and Wykle.

JAMES MORGAN: We just knew everybody. We'd go in those playground areas. We'd play ball, or they'd come to our homes. There was no separation of anything. Everybody was just—

VICTOR MORGAN: And the connection is even at ninth grade, all the grades from the county schools, like first grade through eighth grade—they all came to Cartersville in the ninth grade through twelfth grade, so there was connection between all the other communities, [New Holland?] and Adairsville and Emerson and [Stallsboro?] and [Pine Log?]. And that brought a connection for the whole county because the county board of education paid the city's board of education to educate the African-American kids after the eighth grade, so we knew everybody.

There was some connections because our parents and grandparents were the leaders of the school, so we knew everybody.

JONGEMA: Which church did you attend?

VICTOR MORGAN: Same one we attend now, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

JONGEMA: And obviously from what you've said, the church had a very strong role in your life and your community. Do you remember any particular instances or sermon subjects or things that were just embedded into you over and over?

VICTOR MORGAN: I think one thing that was embedded historically in our church, even about our beginning first pastor, that has been taught down through the years, about our pastor. When he preached the sermon regarding being free. I think it was 1866, 1863, but he preached—

JAMES MORGAN: Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

VICTOR MORGAN: Yes shall know the truth, and truth shall set you free.

JAMES MORGAN: Right.

JOHN MORGAN: And he preached that sermon, so all the slaves went out and started talking to the people in the community, saying, "We're going to be free," so they took him downtown Cartersville, and they built gallows for him. They were going to hang him. And then I think they asked him, "Jeffrey Milner, is there anything you'd like to say before we hang you?" So he began to preach, and as he preached, they said, "Cut him down, cut him down, cut him down because this is truly a man of God." And that is taught to us at church. You know, our first pastor—that's who he was. I think that's just historically what has been provided to us.

JONGEMA: That's an amazing story.



JOHN MORGAN: That has been always emphasized. But, yes, that church has been where we've reared our family, we've communed there, we have had fourteen pastors there. This is just part of our family.

JONGEMA: Did the church ever take any political stances?

JOHN MORGAN: At one time we did. Now we are moving away from that because—well, because we're there to...Although there are some very strong, sometimes, comments made. I think we sort of do make political statements.

JAMES MORGAN: No, no, no, we don't. We encourage people to vote.

JOHN MORGAN: Okay.

JAMES MORGAN: Our pastors do now—well, our pastor now—basically, he says, “Your parents and forefathers fought for the right and died for it. You need to register, and you need to vote. You need to vote y'all's conviction.” We oftentimes have political candidates come to our church, but they don't allow them to speak.

VICTOR MORGAN: Anymore. At one time they did. No more.

JAMES MORGAN: No. We recognize them, as a guest. If you would come tomorrow, you would be recognized and welcomed as a guest, but in terms of your—

VICTOR MORGAN: Political agenda.

JAMES MORGAN: —saying, “Vote for me” and dah, dah, dah, dah. dah—

VICTOR MORGAN: No.

JAMES MORGAN: [unintelligible]

JONGEMA: Describe the church building and how it looks on the outside and inside. Has it changed any since your childhood?

JOHN MORGAN: Oh, yes.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes. Do you want it, John?

JOHN MORGAN: Large building on Summer Hill. A vestibule (I've always called it the lobby). It's a glass front. I guess we could seat—how many in there?

JAMES MORGAN: About five hundred.

JOHN MORGAN: Seat about five hundred people. Of course, we have a pulpit, and right behind the pulpit, the choir stand and the baptismal pool, and down below, downstairs we have a room where Victor hangs out, where the treasurer and all those hang out, and a couple of bathrooms on both sides, a choir room. A pretty large building. We have, of course, the pastor's study.

VICTOR MORGAN: And also on the one side is the food pantry.

JOHN MORGAN: That's true. We've got a food pantry there, downstairs, on one side of the basement. A pretty large building. We have a—

VICTOR MORGAN: Fellowship center.

JOHN MORGAN: Our fellowship center also is a spacious room, where we most of our Sunday school classes [that] operate in that building, and we have one large open room in there. It's dissected by accordion-folding walls that we pull together. We use it for other occasions, as one huge room. And in the basement of that fellowship center—upstairs is a multipurpose facility. Downstairs also is multipurpose. We have a lot of meals downstairs. We have a kitchen that we have. In what is now called our main—which was at one point the parsonage, is a house, and we have Sunday school in that building also. And the church office, the secretary's office is in that building, with a room that's big enough—we still have a bedroom in that facility, sometimes, in case a visiting preacher comes in and doesn't want to stay in the hotel, but they always stay in a hotel. And then that has a large basement. So we have three buildings on the main campus, and

then we have a thirty-acre parsonage that's on White Castle Road, thirty acres of land and a parsonage out on White Castle Road.

JONGEMA: Okay.

JAMES MORGAN: The main facility has changed in that it used to have two towers in it, and one of them used to have a bell.

JOHN MORGAN: That's right, mm-hm. That bell is now in—

JAMES MORGAN: It's hanging up—

VICTOR MORGAN: Outside, where the—

JOHN MORGAN: What do you call that?

VICTOR MORGAN: —the marquee is. I'm going to call it marquee for no other better word.

JAMES MORGAN: They would toll that bell. When you'd hear it during the week, you knew that that was the funeral procession was coming. It was eerie, but they would just ring it, and they would toll it, as the funeral procession would come. I used to hate to hear that because I just knew somebody...But both of the towers are gone now, and it just has the front with the glass on it, like John talked about.

JONGEMA: Is your church associated with anything like Southern Baptist organization or anything like that, or are you more independent?

JOHN MORGAN: No, it's associated with the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia and the National Baptist Convention, so we're not associated with Southern Baptist Convention, but it is associated with a convention, and the local convention is at Kennesaw. There is a regional Kennesaw Baptist convention, and then there's a state convention, which is the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, and then the National Baptist Convention.

JONGEMA: Okay. Now we're going to talk a little about the school. Describe the school building to me. Did any of you go to the old school up on the hill?

JOHN MORGAN: Yes, we all did.

JONGEMA: Okay, and then they built the new one down at the bottom of Aubrey?

JAMES MORGAN: Right

JOHN MORGAN: Right.

JONGEMA: Describe both of them for me.

VICTOR MORGAN: The older building was what became the recreation center, and it caught fire. I'm not sure when, but I was playing in the building and we smelled smoke and ran and said it was on fire. But I can just remember—and somebody else will have to help describe the building, but I just went there in the first grade and part of the second grade year. I can remember my first-grade class was in the—

JAMES MORGAN: In the basement.

VICTOR MORGAN: —in the basement. It was downstairs, as we called it, downstairs. And my second-grade class was upstairs on the back balcony, on the back side, on the balcony. And we used to eat downstairs in the cafeteria. We called it “we were eating downstairs.” I mean, I didn't ever eat downstairs because we had to go down the hill to eat when I came along. You had to go down to the new school, and when it rained, they put you on a bus and carried you downstairs. I mean, we still called it, even when we were all on one campus, we still called it “you were eating downstairs.” But somebody else has to describe the main entrance to the building. I just went to school on the back side and downstairs.

[End Tape 1, Side B. Begin Tape 2, Side A.]

VICTOR MORGAN: —you'd walk in, and there was an office to the right, but you'd walk in, and walking in was the big auditorium. Around the auditorium were classrooms, around the auditorium. The entrances on both sides of the auditorium were rooms, balcony rooms, what I call—I'm just calling them balcony rooms because they looked out into maybe a courtyard, and they had rooms—you'd go down the stairs on the right side, you go down the stairs—

JOHN MORGAN: The restrooms were right there when you went downstairs to the right.

VICTOR MORGAN: Right. I mean, correct.

JOHN MORGAN: Then when you go straight through, that was the cafeteria.

VICTOR MORGAN: Right. When I was in school, that became my first-grade classroom, where the cafeteria was. I have a picture of that, when it was a cafeteria. Then there were also rooms that open up into the courtyard from outside, on both bottom rows that open out to the outside, to the courtyard.

JOHN MORGAN: That's where the Boy Scout [unintelligible] was, behind the school.

JAMES MORGAN: There was a large home ec building.

JOHN MORGAN: I forgot about that.

VICTOR MORGAN: That was a large building.

JAMES MORGAN: Put it down! I'm just trying to see if there's...You know, I remember the coal bin in the old building. Down at the new building, walk in the main building...The first part of the building was—what is the unit that they put on last?

VICTOR MORGAN: The [music?] [unintelligible] was down the right hall and down the back side.

JAMES MORGAN: Right. As it stands, and where it is now, when they were doing the reconstruction. Tile floors—I'm just trying to think. Go into the main doors, turn to the left, administrative office. Directly ahead, was the cafeteria.

VICTOR MORGAN: Cafeteria, right.

JOHN MORGAN: Down the hall was classrooms. A bathroom module was—after you go down the hall, bathroom module was first, then classrooms down the hall. At the end of the hall were the vocational labs, was the typing—

JAMES MORGAN: Home ec and—

JOHN MORGAN: Home ec, [unintelligible].

JAMES MORGAN: And shop.

JOHN MORGAN: Typing was on the left, home ec was on the left, the shop was on the right at the end of the hall. Then the library was first—

JAMES MORGAN: Next to the office.

JOHN MORGAN: Yes, next to the office, on the right.

VICTOR MORGAN: There was a new section built onto the building in 1962, and that was a straight hall down—they had just a hall down the left side of the building and then a hall all the way down on the back side of the building, and then that's where you had the math and several classrooms. A bathroom unit was on that hall. The library was moved then to the end of that hall, end right of that hall. Then you turned left to go down the hall, that's where the counselors' suite was, the clinic. Further down the hall—

JAMES MORGAN: All the elementary grades were down that hall, the back hall. First grade was all the way on the end of the hall, all the way, straight up, on both sides. First grade on both sides, first and second all the way up the hall. All the elementary schools on the back hallway.

Elementary went one through twelve [sic]. And then high school was down the left side—whatever—in the old building.

JOHN MORGAN: All of us were housed together there.

JONGEMA: How did you get to school every day? Walked?

ALL: Walked.

JONGEMA: Because y'all were real close.

VICTOR MORGAN: Real close. Everybody else walked, too, except the kids from the county. Everybody else walked.

JONGEMA: Go around and, each of you, what was your favorite subject and your favorite teacher, and why?

VICTOR MORGAN: Ahhh!

JOHN MORGAN: Favorite subject definitely was math. Teachers. Awful hard. That's unfair, because they were all family, too, see? They were all family. I really can't think of one I didn't like.

JAMES MORGAN: That'd be real tough for me.

VICTOR MORGAN: My favorite class was math also, and I will not name a teacher.

JOHN MORGAN: That would be real tough, seriously.

VICTOR MORGAN: I'd have to give you a list.

JAMES MORGAN: I think that my favorite class probably was English.

JONGEMA: John says no.

JOHN MORGAN: Not [unintelligible] for me.

JAMES MORGAN: My favorite teacher. While they all were good, I think it would probably be Miss Beasley. She's probably the meanest one, too. And I don't mean mean.

VICTOR MORGAN: She made you do your work.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes. I still can remember lines from poetry that we had to learn and we had to recite. I remember doing *Julius Caesar* in an assembly program. I remember—and I don't know that that's fair to say she was my favorite teacher, because I think [unintelligible] Matthew Hill and—

VICTOR MORGAN: That's the reason I stopped. I said, *Oh, my God!*

JAMES MORGAN: Most of those teachers—I think that's what's different in teachers now is they took personal interest in you, and you became their child when you walked through the door, and then after you left, you were still their child. So I don't know that it's fair for me to—I'll just let you know I can remember being pinched right now, still, right there, by Miss Beasley. Have you heard that one before?

JONGEMA: No.

JAMES MORGAN: You will.

JONGEMA: Behind the knees. That's where she pinches.

JAMES MORGAN: I can remember that. I think I better take the Fifth on that one.

VICTOR MORGAN: [Laughs.]

JONGEMA: All right. Fair enough. Did any of you play any sports?

JOHN MORGAN: Oh, yes.

JONGEMA: For the school?

JOHN MORGAN: We played football.

JONGEMA: All three?

VICTOR MORGAN: I played just one year of football, and that was at Summer Hill, because after my ninth-grade year, I transferred—well, the whole community [unintelligible]. I did not



play any sports at Cartersville High School. So I played just that one year. And basketball.

Those were both junior varsity. They were not varsity sports.

JONGEMA: what year was it that the school was integrated?

JAMES MORGAN: Totally?

VICTOR MORGAN: Total integration.

JAMES MORGAN: Sixty-nine.

VICTOR MORGAN: Sixty-eight, '69 school year.

JOHN MORGAN: Right, because Barbara graduated in '68. She was in the last class.

VICTOR MORGAN: It was the '68-'69 school year, yes, because I graduated high school in '71, so I had three years at Cartersville High School.

JONGEMA: Was Summer Hill known for any particular, like, ooh, they had a good basketball team?

[Laughter.]

VICTOR MORGAN: We had a good basketball team.

JAMES MORGAN: There was basketball and band.

VICTOR MORGAN: Basketball was good. The basketball team—it was a good thing.

JONGEMA: Who were your rivals, your biggest rival?

VICTOR MORGAN: Lemon Street.

JONGEMA: Lemon Street?

JAMES MORGAN: In Marietta, yes.

JONGEMA: Did you belong to any clubs or organizations in school?

VICTOR MORGAN: SLAAGs.

JAMES MORGAN: SLAAGs. That was the Student Library Assistant Association of Georgia. We belonged to—what was that little club we had, we started? We didn't have 4-H back then.

VICTOR MORGAN: No.

[unintelligible]

VICTOR MORGAN: Future [unintelligible].

JOHN MORGAN: Yes!

VICTOR MORGAN: Of course, it was later, but I belonged to FTE.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes.

VICTOR MORGAN: No, FTA.

JAMES MORGAN: [cross-talk; unintelligible] a whole group of guys.

VICTOR MORGAN: FTA, which was the Future Teachers of America.

JONGEMA: It seems like that after school, your time was largely taken up with sports and things like that.

JAMES MORGAN: Mm-hm.

JONGEMA: Did you always have lots of homework?

JAMES MORGAN: You bet. Homework was important, yes.

JONGEMA: Now, all three of you went to college, correct?

ALL: Mm-hm.

JONGEMA: Is that typical, that a high percentage of Summer Hill people went to college, would you say?

JOHN MORGAN: Back then—

VICTOR MORGAN: I think that was an expectation.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes, I would think so. Of course, now, you need to understand that a graduating class probably had forty to fifty—

VICTOR MORGAN: Forty to fifty students.

JAMES MORGAN: I had fifty-two in mine.

JOHN MORGAN: I would tell you that 40 to 45 percent would go to college.

JONGEMA: That's pretty high.

JOHN MORGAN: Yes. I'm not sure, but it just all depends. You're going to have a [unintelligible] entry levels. "Are you going to [unintelligible] school?" That was kind of how—or you went to the Army or the armed forces or something like that.

JONGEMA: Both of you went to Summer Hill from first through twelfth, correct?

JOHN MORGAN and JAMES MORGAN: Mm-hm.

JONGEMA: And then you went first through ninth and then to Cartersville.

VICTOR MORGAN: I went to a school in [unintelligible] the first grade.

JONGEMA: What was the name of that school? Can you remember?

VICTOR MORGAN: We just called it [unintelligible].

JAMES MORGAN: [unintelligible] Mother taught [unintelligible].

VICTOR MORGAN: Mother taught there. And then I went to—

JOHN MORGAN: Bartow.

VICTOR MORGAN: Bartow Elementary School, which is now Hamilton Cross. I went there in the second grade. In the third grade on, I went to Summer Hill.

JOHN MORGAN: I went to first grade at Bartow Elementary, and then I came back to Summer Hill in the second grade.

JONGEMA: You all went to Bartow because your mother taught there.

JOHN MORGAN: Right.

JONGEMA: I want to know what year did you leave Summer Hill, where did you go to college, and what degrees did you seek or earn?

JAMES MORGAN: I graduated—John, I think you—

JOHN MORGAN: I graduated from Summer Hill in 1966, and I went on to Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, seeking a degree in music education.

JAMES MORGAN: I left Summer Hill. I graduated in 1967, and I went to school at Elizabeth City State University in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. My degree was in health and physical education and recreation, leadership activities.

VICTOR MORGAN: I left Summer Hill in 1968, and that was at the end of the ninth grade. I finished Cartersville High School in 1971. And I finished Tuskegee Institute, which is Tuskegee University now, in 1975, with a B.S. degree in elementary and special education.

JONGEMA: Do any of you have master's or doctorates?

VICTOR MORGAN: All of us have master's.

JAMES MORGAN: And I have specialist—

VICTOR MORGAN: I have an education specialist degree.

JOHN MORGAN: I have a master's in human relations and counseling.

JAMES MORGAN: My master's is in special education and supervision, administration, and my specialist is in administration supervision.

JONGEMA: Do you feel that your education was equal or comparable to whites?

JOHN MORGAN: Oh, absolutely.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes.

JOHN MORGAN: Absolutely.

VICTOR MORGAN: In fact, I think it was better at the time.

JONGEMA: Better? How so?

VICTOR MORGAN: Because of the staff. We were their children. And because they put their heart and souls into it. You were expected to do. There were high expectations for every child in the classroom. Don't care where you come from, there were high expectations. I think [unintelligible].

JONGEMA: How did you feel when the old school was torn down? Let's start with the one up on the hill, and then the one where the community center is now.

JAMES MORGAN: Actually, I was relieved. I was glad it was torn down.

JOHN MORGAN: Yes. It was—

JAMES MORGAN: It had been allowed to—

VICTOR MORGAN: Deteriorate.

JAMES MORGAN: —sit there and just nothing had happened to it, so it was just an eyesore.

JOHN MORGAN: I concur. Do you remember walking through it?

VICTOR MORGAN: I would not even go in there because you have to understand that our family had—a lot of their life was there.

JONGEMA: right.

VICTOR MORGAN: And it was like really—because it had been allowed to deteriorate, thank God that they were taking it down. I'm real excited about what's about to happen in September of this year, so I'm real excited. Can't wait.

JONGEMA: Good. When the public housing came in, any thoughts on that?

JAMES MORGAN: In terms of their involvement?

JONGEMA: Not necessarily in terms of their involvement but I know that they tore down houses there to put in the public housing.

JOHN MORGAN: Oh, you're talking about urban renewal.

JONGEMA: Oh, yes, urban renewal. [Laughter.]

JOHN MORGAN: It provided [unintelligible] opportunities for people of color to have a home, and those folks are no different from anybody else right now. They're our friends. They're still in our family. They were our family. That's where we had most of our fun, and they could come to our houses and not be treated any differently, and we could go to theirs and not be treated any differently.

JONGEMA: Were you personally ever affected? I know it was always a conscious issue, but did you ever have a personal involvement with the events surrounding segregation and desegregation?

VICTOR MORGAN: When we were coming up there.

JONGEMA: Any conflicts?

JOHN MORGAN: Help me clarify it.

JONGEMA: Any conflicts?

JOHN MORGAN: In our community?

JONGEMA: With yourself or with your community, intensions or—

JOHN MORGAN: No, I don't think so. For one thing, our parents wouldn't allow it.

VICTOR MORGAN: It was smooth.

JOHN MORGAN: We knew. Even if—and I can't say that I was ever mistreated. I'm sure folks stared at me. I'm sure that folks probably called me names, but I think that our upbringing

was probably of such that we were taught that they were our brothers, even though you can't go near them.

VICTOR MORGAN: [Laughs.] Right. I was never taught to hate.

JOHN MORGAN: I don't think that's been one of the...That's somebody else's job.

VICTOR MORGAN: Never ever.

JONGEMA: Do you think that now there's a place in society for all-African-American schools, or do you think they've become obsolete?

VICTOR MORGAN: I don't think they are obsolete. I think it K-12 they may be obsolete, but I don't think in post-secondary education they're obsolete. I think that that's a choice that people have the opportunity to make if they choose, just like if they choose to go post-secondary to an all-male school or an all-female school. I think that an all-African-American university or post-secondary school—not all, because they're not all, none of them are all majority—that can be an option, because there are some cultural things that folk need to know about that they may not know or some cultural experiences that they may not have experienced in their environment, so I think there's a place at least for a post-secondary...

And I'm not going to say that about—I do miss, in the all-African-American public school, the situation where every teacher cared. The expectations were high. I miss that, because it doesn't exist anymore. It was, like, “Boy, you're gonna get this, and I mean you're gonna get this, and you're not leaving here until you get this, and I'm not worried because your mother is going to come up here and take care of this.” Or, “I'm gonna take care of it and then I'm gonna call your mother, and your mother's gonna agree.” You know, there was no disagreement with what happened just because my daddy was the principal. I got it in classroom

from the teacher. I went up the hall; Dad got me. And then I got it when I got home. So it was three. I miss that kind of stuff. They may have a difference of opinion.

JAMES MORGAN: Well, no, I concur with all of that. I think the one thing that has been an [unintelligible] is because of the teaching mode and requirements right now, that you just don't get that one-on-one handling, if you will, wherein your classroom is maybe twenty-five and thirty students, as opposed to the eighteen to twenty that were there. If I were a teacher, I may even have lived in your house, okay? Which would foster even close[r] relationship. But normally you may teach the same student two or three times a day, which means that you're probably going to have homework from the same teacher. But it meant that you got individual—

JONGEMA: Contact.

JAMES MORGAN: And everybody did.

JOHN MORGAN: If you were weak in a subject, you'd stay after school because you walked. You walked home. The teachers were just concerned about the child. I'm not going to say it doesn't happen now, but it's not as present. It's not like it was.

JONGEMA: Growing up, who were your heroes?

JOHN MORGAN: A lot of people in the community.

JAMES MORGAN: I'd [unintelligible]. But naturally, I grew up in the Martin Luther King [Jr.] era, but in this community, the preacher, Rev. [first name?] Mitchell—

VICTOR MORGAN: [Laughs.] Rev. Mitchell?

JAMES MORGAN: I still say that's my pastor. That was my first pastor, Rev. Mitchell. The teachers. Ralph Lowe. I respect that man to this day.

JOHN MORGAN: I remember Bessie Shell.

JAMES MORGAN: Bessie Shell, [unintelligible name], Ethel Shell. Just my teachers.



JOHN MORGAN: Mr. Williams, my band director. My grandfather. My grandpa and my daddy and my mama are my heroes. My daddy and my mama.

JAMES MORGAN: I would concur. We have an uncle that we never ever saw, but his name was John K. Morgan, who John was named after.

JOHN MORGAN: John H. Morgan.

JAMES MORGAN: He was a Tuskegee Airman [Class 42-H]. He died in Italy. You may have seen some of the Tuskegee Airmen movies and things like that. But never saw him. Could show you his picture, but just always wanted to be a pilot, you know, and when you hear the stories about how the Tuskegee Airmen—those big bombers would not go to bomb their targets unless they were escorted by the Tuskegee Airmen. [Transcriber's note (as the principal transcriber for the Tuskegee Airmen Oral History Project): The bombers had to go to their targets, no matter what group was escorting them. However, when the Tuskegee Airmen were the escorts, not one bomber was lost to enemy fighter attack.] You would think, well, those are black fighters who folks thought couldn't do anything. but when you hear pilots won't fly the airplanes unless they're being escorted by those guys, that just makes you proud.

JONGEMA: Were any of you involved within the civil rights movement, active with SNCC [pronounced snick; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee] or NAACP?

JOHN MORGAN: No.

JONGEMA: More you stood back and watched things.

JAMES MORGAN: Well, no. Again, in Cartersville and Bartow County, that transition was not as it was in other places. When Martin Luther King was killed, I was a freshman in school in North Carolina. I participated in a demonstration, but it was nonviolent. As a matter of fact,

that's all it was. It was silent. We walked from campus to town, and we turned around and we came back. We prayed when we got to town, but that was it.

VICTOR MORGAN: See, he was killed when I was a freshman in high school. Of course, I was at home, by myself. Mother and Daddy were in school. [I?] was scared to death. But anyhow, I just followed the movement from when [unintelligible]. I remember going to Sisters Chapel on Spelman's campus to see his body. I remember doing those things, standing in lines for hours and hours and hours and hours, but they were [often in?] school.

JAMES MORGAN: That was the extent of it.

JONGEMA: Would you say that more often with the Summer Hill community that the beliefs of nonviolence, of MLK, were stressed more than the beliefs of more radicals, like a Malcolm X?

VICTOR MORGAN: I would say that.

JAMES MORGAN: I would say that in the words of Jesse Jackson, we were somebody.

Always taught that. The first time I heard that was, "So tell me something else." I've always known that, who I was and that I was somebody, that power was in knowledge.

VICTOR MORGAN: Knowledge is power.

JAMES MORGAN: And if you could read and understand things and govern yourself accordingly, then it would be yours. And then you couple that with what you got from the pulpit, so...

JOHN MORGAN: Well, I think we're probably a little different than other folks have had it.

This is just a very unique community.

VICTOR MORGAN: Very unique community.

JOHN MORGAN: Very unique, very unique.

JONGEMA: I'm going to ask you about several different events or eras and if they had impact or influence on the community, if you can tell me anything about that. World War II. No, you said your uncle was a Tuskegee Airman.

VICTOR MORGAN: I just remember my uncle died in 1944 and was doing some flying. He was not in combat when his plane went down. But that had an impact on us, and I'm sure it had a tremendous impact on the community in that several of our men were off to war, fighting a war, and then they'd come back and they still had to go in the back doors.

JONGEMA: Do you remember [buzz and cell phone rings] the older people in the community reflecting on the Depression?

JAMES MORGAN: Hello? [Answering phone.]

JONGEMA: Was it not a conscious issue for them or just not [unintelligible] talking about?

JAMES MORGAN: I don't remember much.

JOHN MORGAN: I can't remember [unintelligible] folks talking about [cross-talk; unintelligible] [James Morgan is still on the phone.]

JOHN MORGAN: I just remember just what I've learned. I really don't remember that from Cartersville citizens other than history books and talking about standing in the bread lines and all. But I don't remember anyone talking to me about the terrible times they had during the Depression. I just don't remember anybody talking to me about it. I really don't. Even my grandparents. I don't remember them talking about the terrible times during the Depression. I just don't remember that.

JONGEMA: Were any of you ever in the military?

JOHN MORGAN: I was in the United States Air Force for [cross-talk; unintelligible] years. [James Morgan is still on the phone.]

JONGEMA: Vietnam.

VICTOR MORGAN: Oh, I do remember Vietnam.

JOHN MORGAN: I was in the military during that time.

JONGEMA: Did you—

JOHN MORGAN: But I did not go.

JONGEMA: You didn't go?

JOHN MORGAN: Not to Vietnam.

JONGEMA: What were [chair creaks; unintelligible]?

JOHN MORGAN: Of course, in the Air Force everybody was sent to San Antonio, Texas, for training. Then I went off to Atlantic City, New Jersey. Was stationed down in Tampa, Florida. Then I went overseas to England for a couple of years. I went to Kirkland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I went several places. I was a security policeman for sixteen years, education training officer for the last four.

JONGEMA: Vietnam.

VICTOR MORGAN: I was young, but I do remember it. I remember several missing in action, [unintelligible] in our community [unintelligible] Lorenza Conner. I remember the Richards, Ronny.

JOHN MORGAN: Ronny Richards.

VICTOR MORGAN: Ronny Richard, who was a relative of ours. I remember him coming home. I remember [unintelligible]. But it was just tough. And they were older, so they probably could tell you the impact it had on the community. It was just a terrible time.

JOHN MORGAN: Traumatic.

VICTOR MORGAN: It was just traumatic for many.

JOHN MORGAN: I won't say afraid of Vietnam, but I was in England, I was in Atlantic City, and the guys were getting orders from there to Thailand, and I knew that Thailand—they was going to Vietnam, and I was very frightened, so I went and put in for the United Kingdom. [unintelligible] places. [unintelligible] England, Germany, and I got England, and I was relieved because I don't want to say I ran from Vietnam. I knew about my uncle, and I just felt that if I was going to Vietnam, I wouldn't come back, and I'd rather go somewhere else. That was the reason.

VICTOR MORGAN: I remember the draft.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes, 316 was my number.

JONGEMA: All of you left Summer Hill for education and eventually returned to Cartersville. Do you think that's a reflection on the community? Very much so?

JOHN MORGAN: Very much so. There's probably not a better place to raise your children, because of the ways that this community went through the segregation era and then into integration. I believe it was smooth. I currently live in a community now where, with the exception of two, all my neighbors are white. But I've lived in the same house now for over twenty-five years. They're all my friends. So there's not a better place to raise children. And the school system—I think it's quality.

VICTOR MORGAN: Both school systems.

JOHN MORGAN: My wife teachers, has taught. My wife is retired—

VICTOR MORGAN: School systems with an "s."

JOHN MORGAN: —from the Bartow County school system this year after thirty years, and I've been in this one for thirty-two, so I don't have any complaints, and my kids have been in both of them, so the education system is fine.

VICTOR MORGAN: And you want to live in a community where you feel safe. If you want to do something, you leave the key in the ignition, even today.

[End Tape 2, Side A. Begin Tape 2, Side B.]

VICTOR MORGAN: I have a church family, I have a school family, a work family. I have all my siblings are here, and my mom's here.

JOHN MORGAN: And they all overlap.

JONGEMA: Your mother's still living and your father isn't.

JAMES MORGAN: That's right.

JONGEMA: I'd like to know if each of you are married.

JAMES MORGAN: Absolutely.

VICTOR MORGAN: Yes.

JONGEMA: And your wives' name[s] and your children's names? About your family, your immediate family.

VICTOR MORGAN: Okay. I'm married to—her name is Linda Diane. She was a Marshall. Her maiden name is Marshall, Morgan. We have two children, [Tomaikée Brunee?] Morgan and she's a Williams; and Dorothy Yvonne Morgan. She was the namesake, got named after both her grandmothers. Tomaikée is a stay-at-home mom. I have three grandchildren and a son-in-law. The grandchildren are [Kyra Brunee?] and [Amahrie Renee?] and Alexander James [Tromell?]. He has a James in there. You'll hear about all these family names. We keep the family names going. Alexander James Tromell Williams. They're all Williamses. And my son-

in-law is [Ahmed?] Williams. My youngest [sic; younger] daughter is twenty-one, just turned twenty-one, and she's a student at the [State] University of West Georgia. And that's my family.

JAMES MORGAN: I'm married to Ruby Jean—the maiden is Perdue. I've been married to her for approximately thirty-two years. I have my son, Marcus, age thirty, currently living in Phoenix, Arizona. He's married to Kimberly Gray, has been for approximately a year, maybe almost two years now. Marcus works for General Mills and currently is pursuing an acting and dance career. I have a daughter who's eighteen years old. Her name is [Keya?]. Anticipate graduation from Cartersville High School on the twenty-third of May, and we'll be entering the University of Georgia as a freshman June the twenty-ninth or thirtieth. She's going to summer school there. And so we're really excited about that. But that's the essence of my family. Two children and a daughter-in-law.

JOHN MORGAN: Okay. My wife is named Barbara Ann—maiden name Wells, Morgan. We have two daughters. My oldest [sic; older] daughter is thirty-two, and my youngest [sic; younger] daughter is twenty-seven. We have one son-in-law—we got two son-in-laws now. My oldest [sic; older] daughter—she and her husband has [sic; have] given us our first grandchild. He's three years old. His name is [Rice Riley Wilkins?]. My son-in-law is named Gavin, and another son-in-law is named Eric. Gavin Wilkins and Eric [Valley?]. Barbara and I have been married for thirty-three years.

JONGEMA: I want to ask you about several things that keep coming up in the interviews, and we can't quite nail them down.

JAMES MORGAN: We probably can't, either.

JONGEMA: I hope you can, because we're pretty lost. The old school was at the top of the hill, right?

JAMES MORGAN: That's correct.

JONGEMA: Where was the trash heap located?

JAMES MORGAN: On the football field.

JOHN MORGAN: On the other side of the football field. I know what you're saying.

JAMES MORGAN: No, it was on the football field.

VICTOR MORGAN: They cleared—

JAMES MORGAN: It was the football field. The football field was the trash pile.

JOHN MORGAN: Yes.

JONGEMA: Slab Stadium.

JAMES MORGAN: Slab Stadium was on the corner of—

JOHN MORGAN: Wykle—

JAMES MORGAN: Bartow and Wykle Street. It's now where the housing projects are.

VICTOR MORGAN: I'm glad y'all know, because I don't remember that.

JAMES MORGAN: I do.

JOHN MORGAN: I do.

JONGEMA: Was that just like a playing ground?

JAMES MORGAN: It's a baseball field. I don't know if they were semipro, but we had an uncle who—wasn't it Uncle Henry the coach? Whatever he was, a manager or something. But, yes, they played baseball there.

VICTOR MORGAN: Before my time.

JONGEMA: Your grandfather's house. Where was it located?

JOHN MORGAN: Corner of Aubrey—

VICTOR MORGAN: And Jones.



JOHN MORGAN: —and Jones Street, right across from the old school.

JONGEMA: And it's no longer—

JAMES MORGAN: Still there.

JONGEMA: Still there??

VICTOR MORGAN: That's the house I was talking about, upstairs and downstairs.

JONGEMA: Oh, okay. We've been looking for that.

People keep on talking about “the tabernacle.”

JAMES MORGAN: Does that have to do with Tabernacle Baptist Church?

JONGEMA: I don't think so.

VICTOR MORGAN: I don't know what that is.

JONGEMA: Something about ruins of an old church or something? In the woods?

JOHN MORGAN: I don't know. I don't know.

VICTOR MORGAN: I don't know.

JONGEMA: The barbershop.

JAMES MORGAN: That's the Delicacy Shop.

VICTOR MORGAN: The Delicacy Shop was next door. [unintelligible] ice cream shop. It's diagonally across the street from our home. It was on Jones Street.

JAMES MORGAN: [unintelligible] Dan Wheeler.

VICTOR MORGAN: This is my grandfather and grandmother's house. [Shows location on a map]. This is where the school is. This is my grandfather and grandmother's house right here. And right here was our house, about four houses up. And diagonally across the street is—we called it the Delicksy.

JAMES MORGAN: Delicacy.

VICTOR MORGAN: Delicacy Shop. See, I never could say it, so I shortened it, and so it's Delicksy Shop. And the barbershop was right next door to it. Cap [Wilmar?]. Riley Wilmar and Dan Wheeler ran that, right next to that shop.

JONGEMA: And are those buildings still existing?

JOHN MORGAN: No.

JAMES MORGAN: Dorothy Green and Margaret Johnson could probably help you because their sister owned the Delicacy Shop. Susie Wheeler. Dr. Wheeler could probably help you.

VICTOR MORGAN: I used to go across the street with my penny and ask for—I wanted an ice cream cone, and they'd give it to me and then they'd give my parents the bill. [Laughter.] I gave him my penny.

JONGEMA: As you understand it, could you give me a short history of the organization of Summer Hill, how it was formed and how it went down through the years? Just a brief—

VICTOR MORGAN: I don't know. All I know is my grandparents came to Cartersville either in late 1924, after my father was born, or early 1925, and my grandfather came here as the principal. He brought his wife, Beatrice [pronounced bee-AT-triss] Morgan, with him. They came from Spalding County, Georgia, which was Griffin. My grandfather came in. That's all I know. I'm sure there was school here before that, but he came in as principal, so there's been a Morgan as an administrator in the Cartersville school system since 1924, '25. So that's all I know.

And then the organization was—I don't know how it was organized, but, like, my mother—we just had first grade through, like, eighth grade at first. Like, my mother had to go to Gadsden, Alabama, to finish her high school, and my daddy went to the Booker T. Washington in Atlanta to finish his high school. I'm not sure [when he?] got up to the twelfth grade.

JOHN MORGAN: Bibby is looking for history now.

VICTOR MORGAN: That's all I [know], based on information that's been told to us down through the years. That's all I can remember. Like I said, I know the 1930 census in Cartersville, it shows my father and uncle John, John's namesake, John Henry, as living with their parents, Beatrice and James Morgan. I got that in the 1930 census, so I know they were here in 1930, but the story has been told daddy was an infant in late 1924 because he was born in July 1924. Because I remember he talked about losing his cap on the way. So it may have been 1925, but that's just the way that they tell it.

JOHN MORGAN: This might help you on the tabernacle. I'm going to give you a [hundred-year?] history.

JONGEMA: Oh, great.

JOHN MORGAN: That might help you.

JONGEMA: A lot of people have talked about your grandfather and how important he was in their lives.

JAMES MORGAN: That's him right there.

JONGEMA: A lot of people have used the tone or characterization of him as a "bulldog of a man."

JAMES MORGAN: Bulldog tenacity.

JOHN MORGAN: Bulldog tenacity.

JONGEMA: Could you elaborate on that?

JOHN MORGAN: Big Daddy was just—

VICTOR MORGAN: A big man.

JAMES MORGAN: He was physically a big man.

VICTOR MORGAN: Physically he was a big man, but—

JAMES MORGAN: And when he talked...But he was a man of integrity and—

VICTOR MORGAN: Principle. [Whistles softly.]

JOHN MORGAN: We talked about how he taught us with the money and things like that.

VICTOR MORGAN: [Chuckles.]

JAMES MORGAN: On Friday mornings, the sermons that we talked about came from him.

The whole school would have an assembly, and whatever would be on the program, he always ended up with—

JOHN MORGAN: Words of wisdom, I'd say.

JAMES MORGAN: Yes. And you'll probably hear "if you can't beat a bell cow, gallop in the barn." [??] You'll hear that. That was one of his sayings. And his finger was crooked.

VICTOR MORGAN: Crooked. [Laughs.] [unintelligible].

JAMES MORGAN: But he was just a man of integrity. He was just a man that just believed in doing the right thing. He was there when the stadium was a dump, and they built it with a bunch of men. We ended up playing football on it. He just believed in everybody having a right to a free and appropriate education and that everybody—if you set your goal, then you reach to get those goals, and it could be whatever you wanted. There was nothing you couldn't do, couldn't have if you wanted it. So that was my granddaddy.

JONGEMA: I don't have any more questions. Do y'all have anything that you want to add that I left out that you think is important?

JAMES MORGAN: I can't think of anything. And what I'm going to do is—that's one of our history books, and I served on one of the committees that put that together, when [their sister?]

was 100 years old. But you look at that and listen to us, and if there's some things, call us.

We're going to be here. We're not going anywhere. We've been here this long, so...

VICTOR MORGAN: [Laughs.] I know this says in 1936 he [unintelligible] our granddaddy, but I do have 1936, so I know he was here in...They told the story about 1934, but—

JOHN MORGAN: Yes, he was here earlier than that. That's probably as far--

VICTOR MORGAN: They have records back.

JOHN MORGAN: [unintelligible] check the records. That's what happened to that. And we even talk about the two types of pay, the different pay that the teachers were getting in the boards of education meeting, things like that.

You brought some pictures, didn't you?

VICTOR MORGAN: I brought a few.

[End of interview.]