

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

**Interviewed with:** Darlene Smith  
**Interviewed by:** Melissa Massey  
**Location:** Cartersville, Georgia  
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**Transcribed by:** Diana Godwin; September 2004  
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(Tape 1, Side A.)

M. M: It is July 2, 2003 and this is Melissa Massey interviewing Darlene Smith at her home for the documentation of Summer Hill. Can you state your name for me?

D. S: Darlene Smith

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

D.S: Cartersville. March 14<sup>th</sup>, do you need to know the year?

M.M: If you would like to give it.

D.S: 1949, no problem.

M.M: Did you have any siblings?

D.S: I had two sisters and a brother.

M.M: And what were their names?

D.S: Joy (Hendricks?), Marianne Hendricks, and Priscilla Hendricks.

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

D.S: My mother and father and my two sisters and brother.

M.M: And what were your parent's names?

D.S: George and Doris Hendricks.

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

D.S: My mother was a housekeeper and my father was a custodian at (Al Dame?).

M.M: Okay

D.S: US course engineer.

M.M: And what do you think of when you think of Summer Hill?

D.S: I think of the band.

M.M: And what did you play in the band?

D.S: Well I played French horn during concert season, and I was a majorette during football season.

M.M: Where did you live when you lived in the Cartersville community, I know you didn't live in Summer Hill?

D.S: Right.

M.M: Where did you live?

D.S: I lived on Roosevelt Street, 113 Roosevelt Street, which in those days was called Richmond, like Summer Hill is called Summer Hill, our area was called Richmond, east side of town.

M.M: Okay. Can you imagine walking into your childhood home and describe it for me?

D.S: Well we had about ten steps to go up to get into the front door. You go in the door, and we had the living room and then you had a little hall we had a phone cause at that time you only had one phone in your house, because they weren't that popular then. So we had one phone in the hall so everybody used the same phone, and my daddy could sit in the chair and look at you on the telephone and tell you to get off after three minutes you had to get off the phone. So then we had three bedrooms and a kitchen and the family room where my daddy could sit and look at the phone.

M.M: Now what was the yard like?

D.S: We had a nice size yard, we always had like rose bushes and pecan trees, plum trees and my mother always planted gladiolas that came up every year.

M.M: Did you ever play in the yard?

D.S: Oh yeah we played hopscotch, that was a big deal then, you know, jump rope and we always had a good rope because my daddy always got this good knife cow hide ropes so we always had the best rope in the community. Everybody would come and beat the grass out of our yard playing jump rope. You didn't have the store bought ropes you had the regular long ropes that people played, and my brother always played marbles so we all had a spot right there in the front where there wasn't any grass because we beat it up.

M.M: Well what was your relationship like with your neighbors? Did they visit regularly?

D.S: Oh yeah. Back in those days we played outside til it got just dark and then you was called in the house, but we always played, we wasn't in the house with a TV in every room or a computer or a game boy, we didn't have those kind of toys. We were outside playing mudpies and hide-n-go seek and mother-may-I? So we made our own entertainment up which I think was great, so we all played in the same neighborhood together and you know when you did something wrong that neighbor would (scolled?) you and then tell your parents then you got another whipping when you got home, so everybody tend to everybody's kids.  
(unintelligible)

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

D.S: Well, I guess you could say I was the baby. I was the youngest of my siblings, and everybody said I was spoiled, because I didn't do anything. So my thing in the house was just to be the baby, I mean, that's all I done. (laughing)

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

D.S: Oh yeah that was one of my father's things. We had to sit down and say the blessing and everybody eat at the same time. It wasn't that you came in and you ate and you looked at TV and ate and you did this. Everybody sit down and had dinner together.

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

D.S: Yeah, we all had Sunday dinner. They couldn't have no music playing and your TV couldn't be playing you cut that off to have dinner.

M.M: Were there any special foods that you remember growing up?

D.S: Well my favorite food from my mother was fried corn, fried chicken, and hot biscuits, and I also loved fried pork chop, so that was one of my favorites.

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

D.S: The big holiday was Christmas. Christmas was always special to me, and Easter was a big holiday too, because my mother loved holidays. I am a big Christmas person too. Christmas time everybody got a gift, and I was always the type that would save money and buy everybody a gift and wrapped it up. It might have been a pack of chewing gum, but I wrapped it up, so I wrapped up everybody's gift and I still do that today. I wrapped up everybody's gift, we got this big tree, and I really believed in Santa Claus and we always woke up, and we had candy and oranges, and the whole nine yards out, and today I still carry on that tradition,

and I can go a little overboard with that, but I still try to keep that same Christmas because my two daughters are out and grown but still I always buy all the gifts and wrap them up, and they never know what each other is getting until Christmas day. Easter was a big holiday because we were big church goers and, we always got Easter outfits to go to church and since it was three girls my mother use to fix our hair all Saturday evening getting ready for Easter the next day and at those times I always wore my hair in pigtailed, but at Easter I get to wear it down, as you use to call it. I had it fixed and all down so that was special.

M.M: Now were there any holidays that the African American community in Cartersville only celebrated?

D.S: No

M.M: Now what was your first job?

D.S: Working at the swimming pool at the school house. They had something called (co-op?) program or something when they first opened the swimming pool, I was probably about in the eleventh grade I think, tenth or eleventh, and I got a job at the swimming pool. Taking peoples clothes, selling tickets people would go in the swimming pool so that was exciting.

M.M: Now this was through a school program?

D.S: Right.

M.M: Do you remember some other jobs that people got through that program?

D.S: Most of them were working for the recreation department, because they had somebody work up on the hill where there was recreation department but that's

about all I can think of right now, unless they had something to do with maintaining the grounds at school or something.

M.M: Now what did most people do for work in the community at Summer Hill?

D.S: You talking about the adults?

M.M: Yes.

D.S: Those days I think a lot of them Union(unintelligible) which is Clorox now, you know it has changed names several times, but then a lot of people worked there at Union (unintelligible), was a good thing and Good Year tire and rubber company was the ones that wasn't in the homes worked there. (Unintelligible)

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

D.S: Not really.

M.M: Now as an adult living in the Cartersville community what did you all do for fun?

D.S: As an adult?

M.M: (Agrees)

D.S: You know there is not a whole lot to do in Cartersville, beside to go out to eat, go to...

M.M: Where were the favorite hangouts?

D.S: You talking about now?

M.M: No, then.

D.S: As Adults? As a young adult?

M.M: Right.

D.S: We didn't have no favorites, we didn't have any really hangouts. You hung out at somebody's house. You go to people's houses and you have house parties and

things, but we didn't have any special hangouts. When I was a teenager the hangouts that they had, I couldn't go to any of them, because that's how was my father was strict, so my hangout was at home.

M.M: Were there any poplar restaurants that you all went to?

D.S: When we were young?

M.M: Yes, when you were young.

D.S: Now you must remember, I am kind of old, so at that time, I hate to say that, but at that time blacks couldn't go to restaurants, so there was not any restaurants. You know you didn't have McDonalds, and Burger King, Ruby Tuesdays. The only thing they had was a Dairy Queen, and you know we had to go in the back door at the DQ, and Bill Johnson's café you had to go to the back then so if we had to do that, then we just wouldn't go. So we didn't have any restaurant hangouts. They had one when I was smaller it was on Summer hill it was called, well I cant remember, because I didn't go but once or twice to get ice cream called the (Dellacontessa?), it's called the (Dellacontessa?) they sell ice cream and stuff so I just went a couple of times, I was real small then, and as I got older like a teenager didn't have that anymore.

M.M: Did you ever go to the movies or anything down town?

D.S: Yeah, I went to the movies, because my grandmother worked at the movies, so I went there a lot.

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

D.S: Well I think it has changed a lot over the years as far as there are more job opportunities, because like when I was a young, young girl like in elementary

school I guess, my mother worked for domestic in people's houses a lot of blacks worked in people's houses. So as time changes they were able to get into like car (buy?) and Good Year and work in factories compared to working in somebody's houses. So now a days you have more people working in offices and more people teaching schools you know just a little bit more, everybody got more opportunities and they got better educations now.

M.M: Now where did people engage with each other as a community, in the Summer Hill community? Was it the churches, was it the lodges?

D.S: Well mostly it was the churches and they did have lodges, but there were more men in lodges and there wasn't a lot of women, there were some women, but the lodges weren't real popular for women, so they did gather at the churches was one of the main things, was at church, church activities.

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

D.S: Summer Hill the community, or Summer Hill the school?

M.M: The community or the school. Your whole experience.

D.S: Yeah school would be more better...I think homecoming at school because that was community thing not just the school function, that was community, because when we have homecoming at school we had this big parade, and everybody worked on the floats. We didn't have just one float per class like they do now a days. I mean all organizations in the school have floats you know the (slags?), the FBLA, the French club all clubs had floats not just a car so we worked on that in the community, and all the community was looking forward to the parade, see the band march through town and all the floats, I mean, the town would be packed.



Now you go to the parade now a days (unintelligible), Oh is it a parade? Only reason you know it is a parade, the traffic may be stopped some place. You don't see a whole lot of people in town, you say 'Oh, I forgot it was a parade today,' but then you couldn't get through town because the traffic would be blocked, people would have the streets blocked off because they were so excited, because we was having a parade. Because we usually have guest bands come in plus us that march down through town, and we always went from the civic center always back down to Summer Hill. We went all the way through town and back to Summer hill, so that was a grand affair, I mean we worked all day on the floats, all week really on the floats.

M.M: Now you mentioned the guest bands, where were those bands from, do you remember?

D.S: (unintelligible) Cedartown, Rome, Marietta, you know the teams that we were playing, they would come. If we were playing Cedartown sometimes their band would be able to come early enough to be in the parade and if we was playing Rome they would, you know like that.

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

D.S: Of course the Morgans, because they were principals of the school, and Reverence Mitchell, he was the pastor. My father didn't live in Summer Hill, he lived in Richmond, but he was like the president of the boosters club and deacon at the church so I guess he would be that. Later on he was like the member of the

school board, when blacks got to be members, he was a member of the school board, so I guess you would say him, and (unintelligible).

M.M: Now you talked about how you couldn't go into any restaurants, because it was whites only blacks only were there any signs that said that?

D.S: Oh most definitely so.

M.M: Okay and were there any other places that you remember besides the restaurants and stores?

D.S: I remember washer mats, because washer mats when they came inside said no coloreds allowed. I remember walking down Tennessee street seeing that sign, and saying I don't want no washer mat anyway. I remember that at the washer mat, there was a big sign there for some reason that kind of sticks out in my mind, plus the restaurants, yeah.

M.M: Okay...

D.S: And then at the theater we could only sit upstairs we couldn't go downstairs, because they had two separate doors. So we went in, we had to go up stairs to the balcony part.

M.M: We will switch gears here, tell me about the role of the church in the community.

D.S: The role of the church was you know, they always played a big role, the church did, because the church is where you get your start from. And when somebody comes in to town and they don't know where to go they always start at the church because you can meet...course I still think that now a days when you are in town when I meet somebody I always say what church do you go to, what church have visit, well you are welcome to come to my church, and then from there they can

meet other people, and go from there like a family, because our church is all like family once you get there. You know if something was going on in the community like when they was trying to integrate some of the restaurants and schools they already started the church, and the church meet and lets go here and do this and some of the organizations and things like.

M.M: Now what church did you attend while you lived...

D.S: Mount Olive Baptist church and still go to the same church.

M.M: Now where exactly is Mount Olive located?

D.S: It's between Summer Hill and Richmond. It's off (Red Comb?) Drive.

M.M: Can you describe Mount Olive for me?

D.S: The church building itself or the church family?

M.M: Let's do both the church building and the church family.

D.S: The church building, it's a small church, it's a small church, and well we always said we had a little church on the hill we may not be on the main street, because we will be on the main street of Heaven. We have been doing some new work in the church, we have a new fellowship hall which is a big thing and nice fellowship hall, and like I said when I was smaller we just had a few people there. Because I remember when I was a little girl I was the secretary of Sunday school, the Sunday school teacher all, everything rolled into one. I had two or three students, whoever came to Sunday school first that's who was the teacher. My daddy was always a Sunday school teacher and all my sisters were secretary and when they graduated and went off then I became secretary of Sunday school. So we had just a few people, but it was a strong church, because we had a lot of great

people come out of Mount Olive church, you know like we had two lawyers come out of Mount Olive, (unintelligible) come out of Mount Olive. We had a lot of firsts. My daughter was the first black cheerleader at the University of Georgia, she came out of Mount Olive. I am the first director in North Georgia in Mary Kay, and I come out of Mount Olive. We just got councel, first councel in Cartersville come out of Mount Olive, well it might not have been the first but we don't have a lot of councels, and Captains come out of Mount Olive. It's a little congregation, but we got a lot of great people that come out of our church.

M.M: Now we have heard the term (lay leaders?), does that apply to Mount Olive?

D.S: No

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

D.S: What type of things that are preached about at Mount Olive?

M.M: (Agrees)

D.S: Same things I hope are preached in every church. (laughing) I mean our preacher preaches straight out of the Bible, King James version that's where he comes from.

M.M: So it is Bible based.

D.S: Right.

M.M: Does the church take any political stances that you are aware of?

D.S: Not very strong, you know during elections we do let political people come into the church and give their pitch but you know, we not that much on political.

M.M: Now you mentioned the change in the attendance over the years, was there any other changes the church went through while you have attended there?

D.S: Well we split, you know another church came from our church, and we went from having a few people to having so many people we couldn't get into one service so now we have two services, 8:00 service, 11:00 service. So you know I was there when we didn't have anybody and went from a cold stove to everybody coming in and gathering around this coal stove to you know central air and heat and all this type of things so we just go from one thing to you know five people ten people at church from my father paying, because he was always the deacon of the church from him paying the light bill and water bill himself, because we didn't have enough money to pay it, and now it's nothing for us to pay that. I have seen a lot of transitions from that point from the coal stove to the chandelier hanging up and all that kind of stuff, but it is still a small church, and it is still family oriented church, so when somebody new comes into town we get them into that church and they just fall in, feel at home, so that's why I like going there. I have been to other big churches, but I still like to come back, and I haven't always lived in Cartersville, I moved away, but I never joined another church, because I always sent my tithes back home, which you are suppose to give your tithes to where you are going, but I knew I was coming back home eventually.

M.M: Let's talk about the school.

D.S: Okay.

M.M: Can you describe the Summer Hill School to me? You said you went to the elementary school and then you went to the high school. Is that correct? Can you describe both to me?

D.S: Okay. Describe it was a building...

M.M: A building, grade levels...

D.S: Okay. When I was in elementary school I went from the first through the sixth grade at the old original school, and it was a wooden building, all the floors were wooden I know because I when I was in the first grade, first or second grade they built the new school, and the cafeteria was down the hill, so we had to walk down the hill to go to the cafeteria, and when it was raining, I hated the days it was raining, because we got on the bus and everybody's clothes was wet. You know how you have to sit in there and you have to go down the school to the cafeteria then get back on that wet bus and come back up the hill to the regular school, and then you had all these little classrooms that had one big auditorium in the middle, so we had what we called an assembly every Friday, we had an assembly, and we had to march to the assembly. Every class first grade, second grade marched to the assembly, and we always sang God bless America, sang the Pledge Allegiance to the flag. This is stuff you just (unintelligible) I can remember when the teachers always, I don't think she knew anything but God bless America, but My Country Tis of the, we always sung that, and I can remember that distinctly about going to that assembly every Friday doing that, and then when we moved to the...and we had classrooms that had windows so you could see from one class to another, like if you was in third grade you one day I am going to be able to get up into the sixth grade because say they look like big students. So we moved down, everybody moved to the new school, because we always had assemblies, and assemblies were on Fridays like I said and then that was where the principals would do announcements or tell you if you was doing bad, jump on who was

doing bad. And I can't remember if it was once a month or how often but a group would be responsible for the assembly like you do some kind of talent like this club would have us and the ninth grade would have an assembly, and we would go sing and dance, you know do some kind of entertainment for assembly. So we were all like, what they going to do for assembly this time, you know I can't wait for so and so. So that was something big we had, and part of it we would like a pep, you know it would be football season we would have the pep rally. That was good, I remember we had, I always like that time we had like a movie at school. You pay a dime to go the movie, so we was all excited, because we didn't have to go do any lesson so we went to the movie in the assembly and showed this movie for a dime, The Shrinking Man, was the first time I saw it I thought it was so, you know that man got really big, and the Fifty Foot Woman was one of the other movies I remember seeing in the assembly, I don't know how I remember that. That was on TV not too long ago. I go, I seen that when I was young.

M.M: Now you walked to school?

D.S: Walked to school.

M.M: Were there any students who were bused to school?

D.S: Well when I got to maybe, I was in high school, maybe tenth, eleventh grade somewhere in there, this man got this private bus, and he would pick up people in my community and go to school. He came by my house at 7:00, and I wasn't getting up that early to go. So that's the only time you had to pay, I think, you had to pay to get on the bus to ride, his personal bus.

M.M: Do you remember his name?

D.S: Mr. Purdue was his name. Because they would come by and I was still in the bed. So (unintelligible) until I was in the junior class, I think my sister had come back home and she drove to work, so I got a ride with her, probably my senior class I got a ride with her to school. So I thought I had arrived, but from my first grade to my fourth grade I did ride because my father worked at Good Year Mills at that time, and he dropped us off to school on his way to work, but we had to walk back home, but he dropped us off. And the other time (unintelligible) the weather was colder then rain, shine, sleet or snow we walked. Some of the parents may have carried the kids if they had enough room and felt sorry for us some would pick us. You see the whole slew of people going to school, and then a whole slew of people going, but it wasn't anything for everybody to get in the road and just walk back home. So in high school, like I said I have always been active in a lot of things, like I was in the band from the fifth grade to I was in the senior class, I was a majorette all that time. So we had something called recess when I was in elementary school where at 10:30, 10:00, 10:30, you get out and just play hard. You get out and play jack stones or jump rope for thirty minutes or whatever. So when we got in high school they changed it from recess to activity period, so if you were in a club like the French club or the honors club or the FBLA, or SLAG, which was student something with the library, you had activities so me and my friends decided we would get into every club they had at school, we just tried to get in everything, so we did. So you either go from one club meeting to the other club meeting during that activity period and planning period you get to do that. So if you didn't have anything to do, you could go study somewhere. So I loved



my high school years. I loved my high school years. When I was a junior I think, when I was a junior they integrated schools, not completely but you could go to the other schools, somewhere in high school, maybe ninth grade. Anyway, I lived about ten minutes from the white school so I could have really walked right there, rather than walking way to Summer Hill, but after I was in junior class I said well, I have been here so long, I don't want to leave my friends I am just going to stay here, (unintelligible) I done been here this long so I am just going to stay. So I just loved the school, because it was more like not like a lot of students think school is (unintelligible) or hate to go to school, but we had a good time. I had a good time. We, as a school, while we were waiting on band practice to start we use to dance, and we had study period so I always got my homework during study period, so I had footloose, and (unintelligible), but you know like I said we had the activities that we was involved in that you looked forward to. You had the football games, you had the basketball games, you had all that type stuff to get you going, and the parents was involved in it. So it aint like you drop you off and you don't know what happened to you. Mine was there for me, and I say it was community thing, you parents came and worked on the floats, and they was all excited, we just had a good time.

M.M: Now did you have any friends that chose to go to Cartersville high school?

D.S: No, we was all a little clique, we had to stay there together. I mean there was a couple people in my class who went, like I think I remember two going when they first kind of opened it up, they played, one was in the band, one played football, I

think, two or three, but the majority stayed, because you know we got that far eleventh grade, we mine as well finish.

M.M: Now what were your favorite subjects?

D.S: Math

M.M: And who were your favorite teachers?

D.S: In elementary school, any teachers going to hear this? In elementary school, Miss Agnus Hennison was my fifth grade teacher, she was my favorite teacher, and in high school, I don't know if I had a favorite teacher. Mr. Lowe was my math teacher, he was hard, but I learned a lot from him. I had another teacher in elementary school, Miss Magwood, she was from Savannah, she was my Social Studies teacher, now I always thought she was cute. She was my favorite teacher also. So Miss Magwood, Miss Hennison, and I guess I could say Mr. Lowe, like I said I learned a lot from him, he was hard.

M.M: You mentioned that you and your friends tried to belonged to every club so that during that activity period...

D.S: Oh Yeah.

M.M: Can you name some more of those clubs?

D.S: That's hard. Well had the FBLA, which is future business leaders of America, everything had a little name. The French club, of course, its self-explanatory. We had the honors club, we belonged to it because we were striving to, we belonged to it, but we didn't go to that meeting, because there was nerds in there. They weren't (unintelligible).

But we just wanted to know we belonged, we were smart enough to belong, but we didn't want to go there. We didn't go to none of them clubs. SLAG was a club that was from the librarian. Something had to do with the library. Student leaders of America, or something that was. And then we had band practice, what other kind of club we had? Pep club that wasn't not big deal. Like I said everything, you know you had clubs in your classroom. Your classroom meeting clubs. Anything had a little name to it.

M.M: Now do you remember doing any special activities with the clubs, at all?

D.S: Frequently we cooked French food and ate it. This wasn't a club, I don't think it was a club. I think it was ninth grade social studies class we went to Atlanta and seen Ten Commandments which was a big deal to get on a big bus and go to the theatre in Atlanta and see the Ten Commandments. I think we had Ten Commandments. What did the FBLA do? The SLAG always did projects at school, because you had to be quiet in that library, I wasn't always too fond of that. And then we had, like I said we put on different little projects at school, different plays, different like at the assembly, you know they would put on the assembly little entertainment for the kids to do that. And another big thing was the Prom at our school, we had a ball. Now I don't understand it now, the kids at the Prom go to Atlanta to the Prom, or they go to the Galleria or somewhere like that. No, No, No. We had to stay at the school, we got that gym, and we changed it into something beautiful, you know you had the gym, next day we had all the stuff, and we worked hard on it, and we had things like "One Enchanted Evening," all kind of names. No we had themes, you know we had crystal balls

and that was one of our things to stay there and make that Prom beautiful, and we had a great time, and we were not meeting a minute before the time the Prom was over, now a days kids go to the Prom take their picture, if they are a senior they stay till the senior walk, and they out of there. I say, well why are you all leaving? I guess because we didn't go to a lot of places, we wasn't leaving a minute before 12:00, because we wanted to take in all we could take in. We done dressed up, we scraped around got money to buy us a dress, that boy done bought them flowers. We wasn't going to go. Now a day they buy these (unintelligible) and spend all this money, they take them off, we going bowling. Why are you all going bowling? You can bowl any day of the week. We make sure everybody has seen us, and we just had at ball at the Prom. That was the highlight of our year, was going to the Prom, working on the prom.

END TAPE 1 SIDE A

BEGIN TAPE 1 SIDE B

M.M: Okay

D.S: So there was no going and leaving. That was a big thing, was the Prom, because you know junior year you always sponsor the Prom, and you couldn't wait till you were a junior so you could figure out what we going to do, how we going to raise money for our Prom, we didn't pay a whole bunch of money, we raised money for the declaration, for band that came to the Prom.

M.M: What were some of the fundraisers that you did, do you remember?

D.S: You know back then, raffling was a big thing. You raffle off a case of co-colas for a quarter, a dime. You raffle off cake, you had little fillings, or you sale candy

apples. You know you would go to one of the teacher's rooms or homes and make candy apples, came back to school and sale the candy apples at activity period. You sale cupcakes at activity period, you know little stuff like that we use to do. Yeah we use to raise all that money. Raffles was big back then, you know you go through the community raffling off whatever, like a ham or you know they have all got something to do with food. A co-cola or something like that, and you would raise a lot of money doing that, but we always raised money for the Prom because we aint spending twenty-five dollars or nothing. Prom now a days are so expensive, twenty-five dollars for the ticket of thirty dollars, then you got to buy the outfit, and then...no you come there and...so we had a good time, and it was just an honor to go. We couldn't wait to get to the Prom, our time to give the Prom so we could have all this, you know, to get excited. Then you know well I had to be back home when the Prom was over, so you know if you going to have an after dance or something you had to make sure it was somewhere my parents would go, or make sure somebody was there you know we could go. It wasn't like you going here...

M.M: Now what did you do after the school day was over?

D.S: School day was over? Did that include band practice?

M.M: No, tell me about band practice. Tell me about band.

D.S: That was a big thing for us. After the school day was over, we went to band practice, because we practiced about everyday, especially during football season. We practiced everyday, we would go practice the music, and while they was practicing music the majorettes would go figure out a routine, then we would go

on the field, because we had to share with the football team, and hopefully the football team was through with their practicing. We would go to the field, we would go through the routine, march, march that, then we would come back, and then we would get our little books and walk back to Richmond however far that was, and if I hadn't gotten my homework, which I tried to always do that, go ahead and get our homework. My sister helped with dinner, I didn't. Finish dinner, then we had to take turns washing dishes, because I had three sisters, we had to take turns washing dishes and then that would probably it, look at a little TV, because we only had one TV in one room so everybody go together and looked at that one TV and got ready for the next day. Because then we didn't have but one bathroom, so you had to take turns taking baths, and getting all this together, get your stuff ready for the next day.

M.M: Now you tried to mention that you tried to get your homework done before band practice, did you have a lot of homework, did they give you some?

D.S: Oh yes. We had a lot of homework, usually you had some in every subject, so when they came out with study period, which was good, that was fine so we knew we could get our homework then so we could you know goof off after school, so we tried to go ahead and get that done. Well my group of friends I had would always try to get out homework done in study period, so we didn't have that. Then by the time we got in high school we got lockers so we didn't have drag all them books all the way home, because now before when I was in elementary school we had to drag all them things home. So when we go lockers we was able to leave the books at school.

M.M: Now you mentioned your father was a member of the Booster Club, can you tell me more about the Booster Club?

D.S: The Booster Club was a group of parents who helped sponsor the band, because we didn't get a lot of money from the school system, so as a matter of fact, my father was the president of this club, so what they did was raise money, again you know we was always raising money, we had to raise money for uniforms because the school didn't give us uniforms. When we first came out we had just the pants and the shirt then we had the whole suit, so we raised money going and coming any time we could for the full dress uniform. So I was in ninth grade, I think, when we got that, yeah I was in ninth grade, because we had a new band director, and he was real good, and they may have met once a month, maybe.

M.M: Now you mentioned football, was Summer Hill known for any other particular sport?

D.S: Basketball. We didn't have a whole lot of other sports, you didn't have soccer, or tennis. Track, we was good in track. We are known for track. Track, football, and basketball that's about it. We played baseball, but not as a team from the school, no.

M.M: Now what year did you graduate from Summer Hill?

D.S: 67

M.M: 67

D.S: 1967

M.M: And what was your graduation like?

D.S: It was wonderful too. (laughs) I am glad my kids had the opportunity to go to school that has more opportunity, but I wish they would have got what we called the black experience. Course they could have gotten the black experience, there was just something about that. The graduation, because you know you had commencement, that's where you go on Sunday. You know on Sunday, and the band be playing (unintelligible) circumstances everybody wore white dresses, you know you had to wear a white dress, you get your white dress for commencement, and you know the big thing was you practiced like a week before graduation marching, so you go to get out of classes just because you was already you know, you looked at all these other people that got to that point, and you couldn't wait to get to that point, got to get out of class, practice for graduation. So we did commencement, course you always had a class night before commencement. Class night is when the graduating class would put on this program for the school, you know we were big on programs. Back then the community turns out, you know graduation night you probably on go if you got a child, or some relative graduating, if you don't have somebody graduating, you aint going. Then everybody went to the graduation, whether you had a child, that was just part of the community, is to go to the graduation. Go to the (bacca?) lodge, I mean it would be packed, hot, but packed. Okay, like I said you had the class night, then you had the graduation, well like I said everybody in they brother and sister was at graduation whether they had anybody or not.

M.M: Now it was held where?

D.S: In the gym.



M.M: In the gym, and class night was held in the gym?

D.S: In the gym. Everything was held in the gym, the same one we got up there now. It was held in the gym, of course they had a speaker, this, that, and other. So we just had a great time at graduation. I mean you had a little party, you didn't go to the (unintelligible), because your parents wouldn't let you go on no trip, you went to somebody's house for a party. That's where you went, you didn't go on all these trips, you went to somebody's house for a class party. So like I said we was crazy about graduation too, it was good. We didn't have a big class, like my class maybe had fifty-three, which was a big class in those days to graduate.

M.M: Right. Now after you graduated in 67, where did you go after that?

D.S: Well I was hot and heavy to be an airline stewardess, so at that time I went to airline school, you know I was gone...you know there was a correspondence course I took at home and then I went to Kansas city to airline school, little did I know I wasn't old enough to be a stewardess, because you had to be twenty-one to be a stewardess, I was only eighteen, so I thought well why am I here, but they told you all about the airlines, you know you didn't do just stewardess, you did reservations, ticketing, and all that kind of stuff. So at that school they had people from the government coming to take your government tests to get a job in DC, what's that test called now, I don't know anyway, Civil Service exam, I took the Civil Service exam, so after that I graduated from Atlanta airline school, I came home and then about three weeks I went to Washington, DC to work for the defense department for the government.

M.M: And how long did you stay in Washington?

D.S: I stayed there for about two years, and then I thought I had to get married. So I got married, my husband was in the service and went off in the service.

M.M: And when did you move back to the community at Cartersville?

D.S: 1970, I think I moved back to stay back in 1972, yeah 1972, I moved back to stay. So I was gone from 67 to 1972, back and forth.

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

D.S: Education affected my life, or the lack of education?

M.M: Education, the quality of education you received.

D.S: Well, you know the quality of education could have been a whole lot better, I could have been more prepared for different places, but you know there is two kinds of education, common sense and book sense. I think Summer Hill prepared for book common sense rather than the book sense. I do now regret going to college, and a couple of times I was going to go back I thought no I aint going back, no go. I think we could have had a better quality of education, but I think what we had was good, course I think a lot depends on the person, and the determination the person has about the quality of education, but I definitely think you need an education, by all means. You definitely need an education, people need to also go on to college and further that education in college.

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

D.S: Is there are place for the?

M.M: (agrees)

D.S: You talking about like colleges, high schools...

M.M: Colleges, high schools...both

D.S: Oh, that's a hard question to say. Now there is a place for colleges, yes there is a place for colleges I'm sure, but you talking about all black schools? I don't know I wouldn't say that for the lower education, because you need to learn how to mingle with everybody, you know you need to know how to get along, but when you get to high school or college you can choose whether you want to go to one or the other. You know if black schools had the same opportunities as the white schools have well then it would be fine, but when we was in school we didn't have it, because we always got the old books, we got books with no backs, a couple pages missing out of it, everybody's name already wrote in it, we never got new books. When we first got a band, they wanted to give us their old uniforms from Cartersville high, our colors were blue and white, and theirs was purple and gold. So what were we going to be marching around in their purple and gold uniforms for? No we didn't accept those uniforms, we was proud enough we was going to work hard to get our own uniforms. So we always got the hand me downs that they got, so if the schools were equal, and we had the same opportunities that the white schools had, then I think it would be place for black schools if we had the same opportunities, but if we don't have the same opportunities, that's the only reason we want them to go over to the white schools is to get the same opportunity, not that we just wanted to be you know, we wanted the same opportunities that they had you know we wanted the same track scholarships that they had. Our kids play football they had to change helmets, because there weren't enough helmets for each player. Cartersville high had practice helmets and game helmets; we didn't have enough helmets when one

came off the field throw it to that one and he would run on the field and get it. The whole team had to be on the field at the same time, course we know they didn't, they wouldn't have enough things, and like basketball, I played basketball for one game, I wasn't good enough, and I didn't want to sit on the bench, I wasn't a bench warmer for anybody. They didn't have enough uniforms, because the uniform I had was number 12, and number 12 was good so I thought I aint ever going to get on the floor, because she is good she won't ever come out, so forget this, we didn't have enough uniforms to go around, because you had one this and one that, so that's the reason we wanted to go to the white schools, because we wanted the same opportunities, we wanted to stay together us the same thing they gave them, otherwise we would have still been where we were we had the same...

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

D.S: How did I feel? I didn't feel anything, because I wasn't going over there, because I know if I would have went over there I would I have to start from scratch, and make new friends. I thought that was a good thing, especially for the young kids coming up, that was good. Because I knew a lot of things we weren't able to do that they were able to do, and you know it just wasn't fair.

M.M: When did your family have their first television, telephone, and car?

D.S: My family had, my family is kind of on the (unintelligible) hole of everything. They had a car when I came along, because I have a picture when I was two years old when we was standing, well right there, standing in front of a car. My daddy has always had a car, as soon as he was able to start working he bought him a car.

So we have always had a car. We had the first television on my street, because everybody was crowded in our house, and I thought, I can't look at what I want to look at. When I was on Rose street we had the first TV, but we had a TV up there so I know we had a TV when I was five years old, because at our old house we had a TV and I was five, I don't know when we got one, but we had one when I was five, so I know when we moved to Roosevelt street I was six, and we was the only one that had it. And we had a telephone when our neighbors didn't, because I remember calling them to the telephone, you know how somebody would call, could you call so and so to the telephone across the street. We would go out and start hollering (unintelligible) telephone, they would come use our telephone. So we was fortunate enough to always have the basic stuff, we always had a telephone, and from when I can remember we always had that.

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

D.S: As a child or as an adult?

M.M: Both.

D.S: Both. Well as a child I guess racism affected my life as not being able to get the quality of life other people had as far as going out to eat, or going to sitting where you wanted to sit in the movies, and it helped my mother if she worked, she had to work in somebody else's kitchen rather than working along with somebody because, she had the same kind of education the other people had. She had to go work...and I remember going to...my grandmother use to work in somebody's kitchen, I remember going to work with her, because I wasn't old enough to go to school, and playing with the little girl there, and she treated me fine, because

otherwise we were separated. Then when she went to school, and I went to school she was suppose to be better than me then, but we played and came up together. So that was a difference. My father when he worked at Good Year Tire rubber company he was custodian out there, and I'm sure he could have worked in the factory as well as anybody else, but that was his job, until he to the course of engineer, and then he became a carpenter, because he always was a hard worker, so he moved his self up, and then like when I got older, you know, we just always like when I came back home I was determined I was not going to work in somebody's factory, I said I was going to work in somebody's office. So when I worked in a carpet mill, I worked in the office, I was the first black worker down there, and I have always worked in an office, I always was just determined that I could better myself, I didn't have a college education, because I went to airline school, then blah, blah, blah...you know, I was always going for the glamorous life. So I have always (worked out?), I was lucky enough that I didn't have a lot of just, well I was dumb enough and didn't know it or what, discrimination against me at the time, you know, I knew where my boundaries were, I always worked in an, you know, office next to somebody else, I never worked in the plant or something like that.

M.M: Now tell me about the years of the civil rights movement, were you ever involved, what was your initial reaction to when you heard about what was going on?

D.S: I wasn't involved too much. I remember when I was in high school, I think it was in high school, my father was in a club, the New Frontier Club.

M.M: Oh, he was?

D.S: He was one of the one's who started the New Frontier Club. So they were going to integrate, some restaurant, was it Bill Johnson, the steak house, it was some of the steak houses they had in Cartersville. They was going to do a sit-in, you know, because I wasn't (unintelligible), some of the men, I don't think my daddy did, but some of the men went to do a sit-in so they could sit down and try to start that going then. And then when during Martin Luther King time, I was in Washington, DC when he was killed. I was up there doing all the rioting and all that type stuff, as far as marching in some of the thing, I didn't never do any of that. It seemed like I was never in the place of where it was going on or something.

M.M: Now you just said about your father, and the New Frontier sit-in, did they actually go ahead with the sit-in?

D.S: (Agrees)

M.M: It did actually happen, and it was at one of the steak houses. Were there any...

D.S: Mac steak house, I think that was the name of it.

M.M: Were there any other demonstrations or sit-ins in Cartersville that you were aware of?

D.S: People use to go to the Dairy Queen (DQ) and order food, and then they would say you have to go to the back. Then they would say, if I gotta go to the back I just don't want it. They have done that on a regular bases, because you could go to the little window, you know how DQ go to the little window, you could order your food, but you couldn't get it, that was dumb. You couldn't get it at the window, you had to go around to the back and get it. Now what sense does that

make? I know when they think about it now, they thought what were we thinking. And one of the other big things I couldn't understand, course it aint got anything to do with that I guess, I don't know, I couldn't understand the white race, and I guess that's you included, you have (unintelligible) parents, they allow the black women to work in their kitchens and raise their kids, I mean you couldn't get no closer contact than that, but they didn't want them to sit next to them and eat. I mean I wouldn't trust in my kitchen, I wouldn't want you in my kitchen preparing my food, I don't know what you are doing to my food and raising my kids, one on one with my kids, when you don't want me just coming in and getting a hamburger and going, coming to the window and going on home, because you (unintelligible) where you could eat, all you do is got the hamburger and went on home. Now does that make sense?

M.M: Very good point.

D.S: That was dumb. I can't pick up this little basket of Burger King and walk on home, but I can cook your meal for you. There was no logic to that.

M.M: Now can you tell me more about New Frontiers, do you remember what year it began?

D.S: To tell you the truth no, you have to have somebody in the New Frontiers. I don't exactly know, I just remember I was at home. I was a teenager when it started, and it was like maybe four of five men maybe started it, I think at that time they put up so much money, because they was trying to buy, which they never did do at that time, buy some kind of business and start a black business and start and go like a taxi cab stand or something they was trying to start. That's why they



started, course it is all different now but when they first started, I remember that, because they was going to put in so much money to get a business.

M.M: How did global events like the Great Depression, WWII, Vietnam, (unintelligible), civil rights affect your life and the community of Summer Hill?

D.S: No I don't know about WWII and all that kind of stuff, because I'm not that old, but Vietnam, I do remember the Vietnam War, I said WWII, I wasn't here. My father was in WWII.

M.M: Did he go over seas?

D.S: No he didn't go over seas, he missed it, because he had fat was around his heart so he got to come home. So he didn't do that, I remember them saying that. But Vietnam was a disturbing war, because I was in high school, and I had some classmates who went to the war, and had one to get killed in the war, couple to get killed in the war, so we was all distraught about somebody we know going overseas and getting killed and that type of thing. My present day husband was in the Vietnam war, he went to Vietnam war and got wounded in the war and had to come back and this type thing. Vietnam war was hard, because I remember him saying he went over there and got shot in the war and then he came back home and some much prejudice here when he had to go there and fight for you all, and then you still come here and couldn't do things that, you know, sit next to you here and sit next to, that's just not fair and that doesn't make sense. If I am good enough to go there and fight for you, I should have the job that I am qualified to have, but there is still a lot of prejudice around with jobs and things they covered up, but there is still some, they don't call it that, but they say we are giving this

job to somebody else, or something like that, but it does make you wonder when you go over there and fight for that type thing, and then come back, come back home and be treated worse than you were over there. That's something to really think about.

M.M: Now let's talk about the churches again.

D.S: Okay.

M.M: There was Mount Zion Baptist, St. (unintelligible) Methodist, Mount Olive Baptist, were there any other churches that were major churches?

D.S: Oh there was Alexander Methodist, its on MLK or Moon street, it was a small church, but it was a strong church, real strong church, Alexander, because they use to gather up a lot of kids for vacation Bible school, Sunday school, that type...Macedonia was another church. Its on MLK, and then there was a church, we always called it a sanctified church, but it was a holiness church that was on the bottom hill from us that was another active church.

M.M: Now what can you tell me about (Slab?) stadium?

D.S: (Slab?) stadium was before my time. I remember hearing about it but,...

M.M: Do you remember anything specifically hearing about it?

D.S: No

M.M: Now the dump, it was located right next to the elementary school, is that correct?

D.S: (Agrees) Now they had cleaned up the dump when I came along, but I remember people talking about the dump, playing at the dump, but they had cleaned that up when I came along.

M.M: Now you mentioned that you went to the Della Contessa like two times, because you always had to go straight home, but the café, the Della Contessa, and the barber shop what can you tell me about all those buildings? And the Wheeler Morris shopping center?

D.S: Wait now the Wheeler Morris shopping center is in our day and time. The Della Contessa that's about all my thing, was I was excited because I went over there to get some ice cream. Probably wasn't supposed to be over there then. Yeah that was all my beaten path, the Wheeler Morris shopping center is kind of self explanatory, there is nothing much you can say about that, just a black owned business, the hair dresser, what is over there now, I am not over there that much now anyway, because I am over here now.

M.M: Now I heard there was a laundry shop and a record store, who owned those, do you remember?

D.S: (unintelligible) and Dan Wheeler owned the laundry mat, now I am not sure who owned that record shop, I am not sure who owned that.

M.M: What can you tell me about the old public housing verses the new public housing?

D.S: Talking about the projects?

M.M: (Agrees)

D.S: Well I really can't tell you anything about that, because all I know is people use to live in the projects and people...you know, because we always had a house, we always lived in Richmond, in a house, so I don't know too much about the public housing, just know people lived there.

M.M: Now were you aware of any animosity towards the urban renewal project public housing area?

D.S: You know when I was young when that came through, and I remember people saying they was forcing people out, and then some people was excited, because they was getting new houses, so there was pros and cons on that.

M.M: Now are there any old buildings in the neighborhood that you're aware of that were significant to the community that we have not discussed?

D.S: Old buildings that are still in existence?

M.M: Or they are not in existence anymore.

D.S: Besides the school house, which is gone, it was a, but it wasn't on Summer Hill, but right there at the foot of Summer Hill, it was something called Old hall, that the Mason hall called...

M.M: The Brotherhood hall?

D.S: Yeah, no it's up there on Summer Hill now, but it use to be down by the railroad tracks, you know where, I don't know if you know where the knit mill use to be, (unintelligible)...

M.M: No.

D.S: It's not...down by the railroad tracks down in that area, and that was when I was young when that was there, but I just remember going to the brotherhood hall.

Something happening at the brotherhood hall.

M.M: Do you remember things that use to happen at the brotherhood hall?

D.S: They use to have a lot of gospel singing there, singers that's what they had, sings...

M.M: Now was your father a member?

D.S: (Agrees)

M.M: And how often did they meet, do you remember?

D.S: They use to meet, I don't know if they use to meet every Friday, but I know it was a Friday, because I was glad he was gone to the meeting, let's get wild while he was gone to the meeting. I know it was on a Friday, but I don't know how often. I know they use to meet on Friday night.

M.M: Now are you aware of a place where drinking use to take place?

D.S: On Summer Hill?

M.M: (Agrees) Around the community of Summer Hill.

D.S: Remember now I was at home. (laughing)

M.M: Did you hear about any?

D.S: (laughing) No, I don't know nothing about all that. I lived a sheltered life, not by choice.

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

D.S: No I don't, do you?

M.M: No

D.S: No, it was just here when I came along it was here.

M.M: And who are your heroes? Who is the person who has most positively influenced your life?

D.S: My father.

(END OF TAPE)