

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

Interview with: Frank Smith
Interviewed by: Jenny Sammons
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(Tape 1, Side A.)

J.S: Okay, can you please state your name for me?

F.S: My name is Frank Don Smith, Jr., and I'm also known as Tony Smith, and I'm going to say everything to the best of my present recollection which is pretty bad, because my memory has always been bad particularly as to names, a lot of names I just can't call.

J.S: Recall.

F.S: I see somebody's face and can't get a name.

J.S: Well that is okay, right. We appreciate you being here.

F.S: Thanks, and this is a little map.

J.S: Yes, we will now talk about the memory map.

F.S: That's what it is, so with reference to the memory map I would just say what's now St. Francis place when I was a little kid, because when I was about six months old in 1941 is when I first moved in here, 79 Casseville Road but the driveway is off St. Francis.

J.S: Okay.

F.S: And so I remember back then since I moved out, and my parents died, and I moved back into it so I've been familiar with it for over sixty-one years.

J.S: Oh my goodness.

F.S: Anyhow, St. Francis place used to be named (unintelligible) street and there was no church across the street from it, it was just a vacant lot, and there was no paved road back behind Casseville Road. Casseville Road was paved because it was the old Dixie highway. It carried all the traffic that I-75 now carries everybody going to Michigan to Florida and back.

J.S: Wow.

F.S: So all the kids could sit here and count Indiana car tags or something like that (laughing), but any how it was dirt all back in here, and very, very undeveloped and a lot of the houses were very different from the type of house you will see there today.

J.S: Okay.

F.S: Mostly old, very old wood frame houses, and of course the school is more or less where it is now, Aubrey Street School is being redeveloped now, but when I was a little kid, Summer Hill High School was up on Aubrey Street.

J.S: Right.

F.S: And the AME Church was the biggest thing on the hill, it was kind of the big focus...

J.S: Uh huh.

F.S: ...of the hill, and then I guess it was some years I was ten, maybe 1950s the Roman Catholic Church moved in here, and they built the current what they call the St. Francis Roman Catholic Church, and that's when (unintelligible) Street was renamed St. Francis place.

J.S: Okay, okay.

F.S: And a lot of the folks who lived up in here worked and did labor to build the church as laborers.

J.S: Oh really.

F.S: And it was, stayed as a Roman Catholic Church for many, many years and then as I say Casseville Road used to carry all the tourist traffic that I-75 now carries that's why the church was located there, because a lot of the people driving from Michigan to Florida were Roman Catholic, and they would stop and do maps.

J.S I see, okay.

F.S: Then when I-75 came out somewhere else, the Roman Catholics decided they needed a new church nearer the interstate, more accessible to the interstate, so they sold this and a few years back it was sold to what's now the Greater New Fellowship Baptist Church, and it was sort of, I don't know they call it a splinter, but it was part of the Mount Olive Church, and Kelvin Elston was then the pastor, and Kelvin and a bunch of them left the Mt. Olive Church and moved into this church. Kelvin is no longer the pastor there, but it's got a growing congregation and really is very, very active and growing church. So, maybe you could ask questions, or I'll get lost.

J.S: All right, excellent thank you very much. This is back tracking a little bit, but when and where were you born?

F.S: I was born off this map in what was then the Howell (unintelligible) Clinic in Cartersville, Georgia.

J.S: Okay.

F.S: It was a new thing apparently the preceding hospital was an old house next door to this law office, and I was the first baby born in the new, then new hospital.

J.S: Really, wow.

F.S: Which was an old building that had moved down from what they call Aubrey, Georgia from the guy whose office we are in, Jamie Neil, he and his three brothers and his father own that old building as a surplus building, they moved it down to Cartersville and made a hospital out of it.

J.S: Okay, excellent.

F.S: And it lasted until the hospital was built where Star Crest nursing home now is, and it moved out to it's present location the Cartersville Hospital.

J.S: Okay, okay well did you have any siblings?

F.S: No, just me.

J.S: No your an only child.

F.S: Yes.

J.S: Well then who else did your household consist of?

F.S: Well I was there and my parents were there, and the people who really raised me actually were Jack and Ellen Kellogg who were workers that worked for my

parents, and Jack and Ellen not only worked with me they helped build this church over here.

J.S: Wow excellent, now did they live in the Summer Hill area?

F.S: Yeah, they lived right up the street in one of those wood framed houses I was telling you about.

J.S: Okay, excellent.

F.S: And Jack is the one who taught me how to count to twenty, I would have never learned to count to twenty if he hadn't been patient enough. He'd sit there, I'd follow him around all the time, and he would very patiently say, no, no, fourteen comes after thirteen (laughing).

J.S: You missed a number, goodness. Well what did your family do for a living?

F.S: My father is a lawyer, but he was in the mining business at that time, and he mined berates, manganese, and iron ore. In 1941 was the beginning of World War II, and there was a huge demand for iron ore, because they had to build ships, airplanes, tanks, guns, and stuff, so he didn't serve in the military, because he was producing the iron ore that was needed to go into the steel mills to make the tanks and stuff.

J.S: He certainly did his part.

F.S: So he spent WWII doing iron ore, and when I was a little kid I'd go out to the iron mines and that's where I would play, and my mother had been a school teacher before she married him, and then she stayed home and tried to look after me, which was sort of impossible.

J.S: (laughing).

F.S: She taught bookkeeping and shorthand.

J.S: Okay, well when and how did you come to live in Summer Hill?

F.S: Well I was born and then my father bought this house to move into, because he and my mother were living either the Braden Hotel or another apartment building they wanted a house, so he bought this house, and we moved in.

J.S: And you're still there.

F.S: Still there, yeah, just got stuck.

J.S: (laughing), well can you describe your house for me?

F.S: Yeah, it's slightly different from what it was, it had a bunch old trees, large oak trees at that time, and of course over sixty years some of them died and fallen, and new ones have grown back up, so the tree thing is different. There used to be a little screen porch that's now screened in, and then they added in, in the 1970s they added in another bedroom, other than that the house is pretty much as it was itself. Detached garage built on some field, and the house was built around late 1880s by a guy named Peacock, it was I guess one of the first houses right in that general area on that side Casseville Road.

J.S: Okay, well what was your relationship with your neighbors?

F.S: Didn't have much to tell you the truth, my mother was sort of you can't play with kids, you stay home.

J.S: Really.

F.S: So that's sort of the way I grew up, which was quite isolated actually.

J.S: Okay, well what was your role in the household, did you have any jobs that you were required to do?

F.S: Not particularly no, I just was pretty lazy.

J.S: (laughing) got to play a lot.

F.S: Uh huh, just go to school, study, and play.

J.S: Right, right, well did you share dinner with your whole family?

F.S: Yeah, we would always eat breakfast and come home and daddy would come home from the mines, and we would eat lunch and then he'd go back to the mines, and come back from the mines and eat supper, so we always ate three meals a day together, uh huh.

J.S: Was Sunday dinner a special time?

F.S: Yeah, it generally was. Sometimes we would eat out at various places, and Sunday's were generally spent wondering around visiting relatives all over the county.

J.S: Okay.

F.S: Sunday, after you go to church, you go to Sunday school and church, and then eat somewhere, usually go out to eat, because we didn't prepare at home, but then we would go out and visit relatives in Taylorsville and out here in Cartersville and just wonder around visiting folks, took me as a little kid a long time, who is that, why are we here.

J.S: Right (laughing).

F.S: Oh that's your aunt, that's your great aunt.

J.S: Say oh okay.

F.S: Sooner or later, you understand.

J.S: Right, well what holidays were celebrated at your house?

F.S: Mostly, well Easter was the big day, because getting dressed up and (unintelligible) and church and stuff like that. Christmas was big, I guess and Thanksgiving was always big. I guess Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas were the three big ones, also called some family visiting certain, my mother's family would come up and visit on Easter, and we'd go visit them on Christmas and somebody would come visit on Thanksgiving, swap visits that way. Didn't have any brothers and sisters, so I'd meet my cousins that way.

J.S: That's right. Now we are going to move on to work.

F.S: Okay.

J.S: What was your first job?

F.S: Lawyer, I stumbled through law school at the University of Georgia one year and Emory (unintelligible) part time, and I worked part time while I was in law school for Bill Ingram who is a local lawyer here at that time, and I'd drive back and work up here during the day and go down to Emory at night.

J.S: That's kind of a distance.

F.S: That was around Vietnam time, and I joined the air force reserves and that's kind of a job, and then we got called up for the Pueblo Crisis and that's kind of, we didn't do much good, but we were sitting around in uniforms looking at each other, so that ended, and then just been a lawyer ever since.

J.S: Well let's see, where did most people in Summer Hill work would you say?

F.S: Various places. Some of them would work in the mines some of them would work in mill, textile mills. The big employers in agriculture, now when I was a little kid

people would pick cotton, we used to have a lot of cotton here, and I was lousy at it, I tried to get a bowl of cotton and say wow look at this.

J.S: (laughing).

F.S: I'd have about this much, and they'd have this much.

J.S: (laughing) It just wasn't for you.

F.S: So I was no good at that, but there were just not on Summer Hill, but just between Summer Hill and (unintelligible) Creek, which is over here was a big cotton field, and that was before they had any ideas about hazards of pesticides. This big airplane would come in, and it would spray the pesticide all over the cotton field, but it would get us on Summer Hill too, and you would go (coughing).

J.S: Ugh, right, that couldn't be good for you.

F.S: You'd be sick for about a week.

J.S: Oh my goodness, awful.

F.S: But then later on soybeans later replaced cotton as the predominant cash crop around here, and then cotton went away basically, had been pretty big but it slowly went away, but the cotton picking is not the most fun job to have.

J.S: Yeah, that's what I've heard.

F.S: But most people that probably lived here or anywhere else in town would wind up working either in the mines, the mining business lasted til about the middle 1960s and then the environmental stuff cut it back far, or in the mills, textile mills.

J.S: Okay.

F.S: In government of course people would work as meter readers, stuff like that.

J.S: Okay.

F.S: Yeah, sorry.

J.S: Oh no, this is going great. Well will you describe the Summer Hill neighborhood for me?

F.S: Well it was interesting, it was sort of like a big coherent place. It was...there's lots of neighborhoods in Cartersville, but it was probably the most coherent neighborhood in town, and I don't know this for a fact, but the rumor always was that a General Summers owned the hill, and after the Civil War, said okay everybody who's been freed needs a place to live, so I'm dedicating the hill to anybody that's been freed, and they could go up there and have a place to live, so it sort of had a community atmosphere to it from the beginning and this is just hear say to me, when General Summers formed it by saying this is a place where everybody can go, because when you're freed you're own your own gotta have a place to stay.

J.S: Right, right.

F.S: So everybody sort of, it was a pretty coherent community and actually I think it's probably the most coherent community now in Cartersville, probably in the state. I don't know of any other that really sort of hangs together that way.

J.S: Wow.

F.S: That's my impression though, I'm biased because I'm from there.

J.S: Right, well.

F.S: But anyhow that's what I think.

J.S: What was it like growing up in Summer Hill?

F.S: Well as I say I didn't get to go outside much I stayed in the house, so I didn't do much, I was just there. I was sort of preferially there.

J.S: Reading your books.

F.S: Reading books exactly.

J.S: Well were you known by any nicknames?

F.S: Well Tony is my nickname.

J.S: Okay, well let's see. This is a little redundant again, but what did you do for fun in Summer Hill?

F.S: That's okay, well I would run around and play in the yard, but I didn't go much past the yard, because I wasn't supposed to. In my yard I would run around and play, catch butterflies or swim, whatever.

J.S: Were there any particular customs or celebrations that Summer Hill observed, do you recall any of those?

F.S: I guess football games were the biggest single social event, except for church events. Now church events were big things, but if you take them aside, most of the parades and all that were Cartersville organized would go somewhere else the whole Cartersville parade would go down Main Street or something like that.

J.S: Right.

F.S: But I guess the Summer Hill football games were probably the big social event. As Jack said when he saw his first he said, that's just a friendly fight (laughing).

J.S: Well it is pretty rough.

F.S: That's exactly what it is. We had big rivals like (unintelligible) Hornets from Marietta they were big rivals of Summer Hill.

J.S: Right, I've heard them mentioned. Now did you ever attend a football game?

F.S: I wasn't allowed out of the yard, listened to them, because I could stay in the yard and listen, but I didn't get out of the yard much.

J.S: How would you say the area has changed through the years?

F.S: Well a huge change is just, a huge physical change is that the roads are paved, I remember when that was done. There was a project that came through and paved it, all the dirt roads before you could see a car coming by the dust cloud behind it, and also then when they started getting credit where you could build a brick house and not just live in the wood frames that were there all the time, people could build new houses if you drive up there you'll see an awful lot of really nice new houses and that's a huge change. When I was up there before it was dirt roads, and old wood houses but you had a nice atmosphere too in a way, they were sort of homier than the new ones, because I would go with Jack and Ellen to their house, but so I always saw the old wooden houses, very, very sort of home type.

J.S: Right, just real comfortable.

F.S: The new ones are much shinier and prettier, I guess they are really nicer in some way.

J.S: What would you say is your fondest memory of Summer Hill?

F.S: That's a long time.

J.S: What are some of your fondest memories, if you can...?

F.S: I guess building, watching that church get built that the Catholics built. See all the (unintelligible) play back and forth there and Father Cab was the first priest who was in there and seeing how he got along, and he was also did some good things

too, very good things. I know when Jack got cancer, he was (unintelligible) I was in college then and no white hospital would take him, and I got very upset and got my parents upset. Every place that you would go, we won't take him because he's African American, and what we did, we went to see Father Cab, and said to Father Cab you know we've got a problem here, Jack is dying of cancer, and we can't find any hospital or hospice that will take him, and he said well we've got one and let's see....oh I told you I blank on names...

J.S: Oh.

F.S: ...it's in Atlanta, we have a Catholic place, and we will take him, and we will look after him the rest of his life, so they did that.

J.S: Excellent.

F.S: And I never really, I've always had a little resentment that people wouldn't take him, but I've always been really thankful for the Roman Catholic Church, because they did find a place for him, that was a while back.

J.S: Let's see, did you ever notice any places that people engaged with each other as a community, any...?

F.S: Well the whole place was sort of...

J.S: (unintelligible)

F.S: ...community, and the school obviously and the churches. Churches and schools are obvious things, but you walk around, and you run into people so...

J.S: Okay, well that's good. Well do you recall any areas that were considered whites only and blacks only?

F.S: Yeah, I just told you we couldn't get Jack...

J.S: Right, the hospitals right, uh huh.

F.S: And of course the schools were that way. I remember when I was growing up there I ask my parents you know why do I go over here from there, you're a little kid what are you going to do.

J.S: Right.

F.S: But it never made a whole lot of since, it was that way for a long time. One of the oddest things was that little kids, and sometimes I wasn't allowed out of the yard here, but my mother would take me over to visit one of her friends, and they'd be over in some other neighborhood in Cartersville where I could play with them, and then we would go out and just play, because mama wasn't watching me too close, and one of the oddest things is like when I was junior high age more or less, you could go down after school, and you could play black kids, white kids all play together all after noon, have a good time, nobody would think anything of it you know it didn't matter whether African American, came from Scotland, England, or France or wherever, but then when it come to go to school you had to go to different ones, it never made any since at all, but any how that's the way it was. You could informally out in a vacant lot and play, but you couldn't do anything official.

J.S: Formal setting, right.

F.S: So as soon as it got official these regulations kicked in, well on personal relationships and work places and things like that it's just, they were just people, everybody was somebody individual, and it's odd.

J.S: Why do you think your mother was so afraid to let you interact with the other children in the neighborhood?

F.S: That's what I asked my psychiatrist. Don't really know, she was really fearful for a lot of reasons. I was a very difficult birth, and it was thought I would die. She was always afraid I would catch some disease and die. She didn't want me to go to public swimming pools because polio was active then, and she thought oh he'll get polio and die, I can't let him go to the city swimming pools something like that, and she was just very possessive, protective, controlling whatever. Now what's in the actual back of somebody's mind that makes them do that is really kind of hard for me to say.

J.S: That's a tough question.

F.S: The difficult birth has something to do with it, control in fact I'm the only kid.

J.S: Be lots of factors.

F.S: Fear of loss, there's lots of factors in there, and my psychiatrist and I are working on that, but we don't know yet, sorry.

J.S: Well you answered that well so, what would you say your relationship was like with the other residents of the community. I know that as a child you didn't get to interact much, but as you grew older did you get to know people?

F.S: Oh yeah sure, and you see people and other contacts and everybody's more or less everybody. Like you know lawyer and have to go up there to those apartments and interview somebody. I remember one of the criminal cases I had, had to go up and interview, and I've forgotten the outcome of the case, but I do remember I think Jerry White was the prosecutor, and I went up there and just walked around

and asked everybody who was there, and said okay yall come down and tell the truth and whatever the court will define what the truth is and yall do that. Well Jerry against one of the folks who lives up there on the witness stand, oh lawyer Smith over there came up there and talk to you, yes, tell you what to say, well he gave me some advice, what did he tell you to say, he told me to come in here and tell the truth (laughing).

J.S: (laughing).

F.S: Everybody's more or less fine.

J.S: Yep. Alright this kind of touches back again on what we were talking about earlier, but if you wouldn't mind telling me a little bit about the role of the church in the community.

F.S: The churches, of course you've got, there's several churches the AME was always kind of the big central church, and we'd go there maybe for funerals and stuff like that, but not for, I didn't go there every Sunday or something like that. And Mt. Zion was a church that's over not in Summer Hill, it's where the store is here, it's back on the other side of the rail road tracks back in here on a little hill.

J.S: Right.

F.S: It was a major church, it was not in Summer Hill, but it had a lot of people were there attended it, and that's why when the Roman Catholics left here, Kelvin Elson and some of the people from Mt. Zion came him, because this was closer to where they lived, so it became sort of the neighborhood branch of the Mt. Zion Church so to speak.

J.S: Okay.

F.S: And it's been very, very successful in growing and active, I mean I like the music actually, that's my favorite thing, I love to listen to music, but at any rate it's grown dynamically, and it's a major part of the community. You live up here and everybody goes off to work, he goes here, and he goes here, he goes here, the church is sort of the glue that holds it all together. I rambled sorry.

J.S: Well you covered a lot of that; do you recall the churches ever taking any political stances through the years?

F.S: Not really, no. Local politics was always kind of, if you grew up the last sixty years in Georgia politics back in the days of the one party system it was really ruthless cut throat politics you know the winners got the spoils and they did everything. If your guy got to be governor then all the things fell into place and then if you didn't get to be governor then you'd go fighting against somebody else to kick him out next time so you could get all the stuff. Generally I would say that the, you had racial block voting at one time and even so you can still say if you don't have a vote today, you'll see a predominance if you do a racial breakdown on it, you'll see differences in the way people vote on some things, and it's really kind of fascinating in a way, because actually the African American community holds together better than any other community. The churches play a major role in that, so the churches in African American community, not just in Georgia, not just in Summer Hill, but all over are really predominantly powerful, that's how Jimmy Carter got to be president, because I would get a call from a preacher in Detroit, I didn't live here then I lived in another part of town, but it was a black preacher up in Detroit, how your things going on, we (unintelligible), but everybody new

everybody else, and everybody was trying to get him to win, and he had to succeed, he had to defeat George Wallace in the Pennsylvania primary, and he did, but he had solid financial support, and he had completely solid African American church support, and that's a very important thing. Generally speaking it's probably the most cohesive thing I know of that magnitude except for maybe the (unintelligible) it's pretty coherent too, those are two major coherent groups I know of and favorably (unintelligible) to both groups so I'm not running you down by calling them that.

J.S: Right. Let's see, I kind of want to talk about the Summer Hill School a little bit...

F.S: Yeah.

J.S: ...and then I'll talk to you about where you went to high school, I assume probably Cartersville.

F.S: Sure, uh huh right.

J.S: Did you have any friends that attended Summer Hill School that you remember names or anything?

F.S: (unintelligible)

J.S: Well although you didn't attend there, can you describe the school for me?

F.S: Well it was just a school that was up here on Aubrey Street and there was a football field nearby, I don't really know how else to describe it.

J.S: Okay that's good, that's good. Well where did you attend school?

F.S: Cartersville High.

J.S: Okay, and how did you get to school?

F.S: Well my mother drove me and let me out and picked me up and drove me back.

J.S: Okay.

F.S: Wasn't allowed to walk to school.

J.S: How far was the school from your house?

F.S: Well when I went to grammar school that was the Cherokee (unintelligible) school, which was easy walking distance, it was just right down here, but of course the other school was up here. Anyhow that was grammar school and what was called junior high school then they high school that's across town on the other side of the rail road tracks near the highway 41 now.

J.S: Okay. What were your favorite subjects in school?

F.S: Math and science.

J.S: Math and science, and who were your favorite teachers?

F.S: Now my very favorite teacher was (unintelligible) because I couldn't read until I got into the first grade, and she taught me how to read, and then I could sort of go on after that, so she was sort of my favorite. There are lots of teachers that I liked all through, but learning to read was the biggest deal, before I could do that I was frustrated.

J.S: Well did you belong to any clubs or organizations?

F.S: I was in the key club, and let's see what else, we had a chess club, I played chess every now and then, and that's about it, well Latin club I guess.

J.S: What did you normally do after school?

F.S: Go home.

J.S: Go right home (laughing).

F.S: Straight home.

J.S: Did you have a lot of homework?

F.S: No, but I would then work on my own, because I generally done my homework at school.

J.S: Okay.

F.S: So then I would fool around with Math and Science at home.

J.S: Well just out of curiosity why did you choose law being such a big math science person?

F.S: Well I went to college and majored in math and got a math degree, but then I thought that was in the 60s then I thought whoa I'm the only kid, daddy's got this mining business that's there, there's nobody else to sort of look after it, and I don't know anything but how the world works at that, because I just buried my head in math and science, so if I've got to find out how the world works, I need to maybe to go law school, because that's how you find out the legal framework of societies.

J.S: Right.

F.S: Like (unintelligible) science fiction said about Lazarus, every time you go to new planets study law not to practice law, but just to find out the ground rules.

J.S: That's right, okay. Well back to, well I guess we were talking about school, but how about sports, did you ever participate in any sports or anything?

F.S: No, if I could get somewhere where I could go with little kids and play pick up football in a vacant lot that's different, I liked that, that was fun, but I didn't...I played a little, little league baseball, but it was too organized, just too organized.

J.S: Well how would you say you were affected by segregation in Bartow County?

F.S: Well you weren't allowed to officially associate with a big chunk of the population, and it was in Bartow County it wasn't as bad as some places. I know daddy one time had, he was in the mining business and minors black or white, or African or English or whatever, and he had a guy with him driving all the way around it was either Forsyth County or Dawson County, and they were looking for some mining prospects over there, and daddy got out to get some gas for the car, and he started pumping gas. That nigger he called you, he's my friend we work with him, the sun better not set on him in this county or yall both in trouble.

J.S: Gosh.

F.S: What are you going to do...

J.S: Yep.

END TAPE 1 SIDE A

BEGIN TAPE 1 SIDE B

J.S: ...going great.

F.S: Oh okay it is.

J.S: Yeah.

F.S: Working.

J.S: Yeah okay.

F.S: Anyway where did it get cut off in there...

J.S: No I think we pretty much have it.

F.S: Okay I lost my place.

J.S: I know well we can move onto the next question, you were just talking about the segregation.

F.S: Yeah, officially if you got put into categories like that then you don't get to know anybody. I went to college in New Jersey, and the racial relations there were so much worse than the ones down here, even though New Jersey was not only integrated, the actual feelings up there the white people thought the black people were inhuman basically, they didn't even count them as human beings, and it was odd, but that's because they had defacto.

J.S: Right, uh huh.

F.S: Segregation, you know down here there were rules, and the rules meant you couldn't associate on a certain level, but the other levels like back yard football game where you could, so you know everybody was just somebody else.

J.S: Right.

F.S: Anyhow, I ramble on, I'm sorry.

J.S: No you're not rambling this is all great. Just go back would you tell me about your college career again, I know you went to University of Georgia, but would you go back and tell me your...?

F.S: Oh, oh yes, I went to Cartersville High School I got out of there in '59, I went to Princeton and studied there and got a Bachelor's degree in math in '63 and then I went down to University of Georgia law school for one year, but then it was too far to commute, and I wanted to work during the day and Emory had and accredited night school so I transferred to Emory and went to night school and worked in the day time with Bill Ingram who was a lawyer at that time.

J.S: Excellent, thank you for explaining that again. Let's see where were we, did you have any feelings of sadness or anything when they destroyed the Summer Hill School?

F.S: Yeah, it was sort of like it was always there. I mean I really, you just see something go away and you miss it, so yeah.

J.S: Do you think there's a place for all black schools in today's society?

F.S: A friend of mine (unintelligible) is a black Muslim in Atlanta, and his kids go to Muslim schools in Westend, and that's predominantly black, and it's black Muslims so this is it. (unintelligible) is from (unintelligible) and his wife is from Atlanta, and their kids are their kids, again these are all nice people just like everybody else, but I really think, what I want to say, is there's some place for the black Muslim schools, because they teach a lot of pride that's not taught otherwise, so from (unintelligible) point of view I can see that you really have an advantage because you're teaching pride and culture and so and so and so, on the other hand if it ever leads to such separateness that you never interact at all then there's a problem because it gets like up in New Jersey where people don't know each other, and people don't like each other because they're not familiar.

J.S: Right, right.

F.S: So there's got to be some way along where there's interaction, but then I don't have any problem with the black Muslim schools in Atlanta, because from what my friend says they're doing well, so anyway.

J.S: Well to move away from school and into larger historical trends, when did your family get their first television, car, or telephone?

F.S: Cars we always had all my life, they were hard to get during WWII, but daddy had one, and he used it in his mining business to go travel around for mining. They were not very common then they were really hard to get. Then more and more people got cars later. And TV early 1950s I think is the first TV I ever saw, so as an early kid I grew up basically listening to the radio, and you'd have instead of you know watching something on TV you'd have the (unintelligible) and stuff like that, which has it's advantages and disadvantages. The advantages are you get to use your imagination more. The disadvantage is that you don't get to see the big special effects.

J.S: Right.

F.S: Of course the first TVs didn't have big special effects, they're kind of gray on gray.

J.S: Yeah (laughing), but I'm sure they were a big step from the radio so.

F.S: Oh huge, I mean you'd sit there and this is unbelievable, the picture actually moves around, there's Cecil and Beaney.

J.S: Tell me a little bit about the years of the Civil Rights Movement, did you ever become involved or...?

F.S: I was just sort of on the sidelines, because I just stayed in science and math. I sort of escaped from the real world there, and then after that I was in the air force, well the interesting thing about this kind of interesting in a way is air force courses everybody, Major Wong, a Chinese guy was my base commander when I was in basic training, and you know Sgt. (unintelligible) a black guy from Louisiana who's one of my TI, funny guy, but anyhow we were at Dobbins Air Force Base,

and we were activated for the Pueblo during the Vietnam War, and we weren't allowed to go because Lindon Johnson sort of lost his nerve to send a big bunch of forces over there.

J.S: Right.

F.S: And we had been activated, couldn't deactivate us that would look bad politically, because the war wasn't over, and in fact there were some secret orders to send us off to the Johnston Islands and a whole bunch of islands across the Pacific and use our airplanes (unintelligible) globe masters to ferry 250,000 more army troops to Vietnam to escalate. Those orders actually came down, and they were secret but you don't have, I was an enlisted guy some enlisted the other guy, don't tell anybody we done got these secret orders we're going to go to Johnston Island (laughing), but then they got cancelled within a week, because Johnson lost his nerve, and then we just had to sit there like idiots and look at each other at Dobbins, and that was in 1968, and King was assassinated then, and his funeral was to be in Atlanta, and everybody was all round up about oh gee will there be a horrible riot and so and so and so, so we were put on alert since we were military transport thing, and we were supposed to use our airplanes to fly in huge numbers of army people from other places to Atlanta to control to horrible mobs. Well I was in sort of halfway between the motor pool and the supply warehouse, and half of us were black and half of us were white, Frank Redding he was a black guy from Atlanta, he used to run numbers down there before the lottery became legal, but anyhow we were told that the (unintelligible) that the parade would be going down Peachtree Street and it's a huge horrible riot, he knew better he lived down

there, I knew better, but what's going on, so he had these little cards he would pass out to his white friends I got one of them, I can't find it (unintelligible) it had a little black character guy said in case of riot you are a honorary nigger (laughing).

J.S: (laughing).

F.S: And I have lost the honorary nigger card, I'm in bad shape.

J.S: That needs to be in a scrapbook somewhere.

F.S: It does, but Frank he was a black guy who ran numbers in Atlanta, and we were both in the same outfit, and this is the way normal people took it, but the people up at the top like the people in Washington D.C., and the big government people they didn't realize that everybody got along with everybody else on a fundamental level, and you're more likely to have a riot in some place like Detroit where people don't know each other.

J.S: Right, okay.

F.S: But anyhow that's kind of...

J.S: Interesting.

F.S: 1968 was a tough year.

J.S: Sounds like it.

F.S: Yeah.

J.S: Let's see, how would you say global events like the Great Depression, WWII, Civil Rights, Vietnam how did they affect the community of Summer Hill?

F.S: Well they affected everybody I mean, of course the Civil War is what created it basically, because the Civil War was when you could go do whatever you wanted

to do and then General Summers put this land out there and said that yall can go live there basically, so that was the huge, actually the founding of Summer Hill if I remember, if I'm not mistaken and my history wasn't lied back then (laughing).

J.S: Right.

F.S: Really the Depression is bad because in some sense nobody has any money, but then nobody else has any money either except real rich people who are just sort of off in another world, and you just kind of have to live the best you can, grow some vegetables and do what you can, get some jobs and make a nickel or a quarter here or there if you could do it. And then WWII comes along and that actually was the start of desegregation, because Harry Truman's order to desegregate the military, and that was the fundamental key to the whole thing was Harry Truman's orders. Harry Truman, he did two things, he let Israel get founded against a lot of other people's advice, and he desegregated the military, and those were the two things that really sent everything sort of on a more positive track in those directions, and as to how it impacted everybody I mean at one point you didn't go to school here anymore you would go over at Cartersville High School.

J.S: Right.

F.S: That's major, not to mention that you couldn't use all the drinking fountains in the court house, so those things are pretty major, and then I guess the boom of the 80s and 90s has brought a lot of money into the area that wasn't here before, but it's the latest things that really causes demographics. A lot of people have a lot more money than they used to have, now whether that will last or not, we'll see.

J.S: Who would you say was the person who had the most positive influence on your life?

F.S: I guess Jack Kellogg actually. He taught me how to county to twenty, and he was very patient with me.

J.S: Well I think we are done.

F.S: Oh okay.

(End of Interview.)