

### Carl Jones

Interview by Alvin Jackson with Carl Jones in July 2008. Jackson conducted the interview over the phone. Topics discussed include Jones's early years, the family genealogy of his and Jackson's families, Jones's school years and classmates at Willow Hill, and the tornado of 1929.

AJ: Today is July 27, 2008. I am in Freemont, Ohio, calling my cousin Carl Jones, who lives in Cincinnati. 513-772-3205. [phone rings]

UW: Hello?

AJ: Yes, is this the Jones residence?

UW: Yes, it is.

AJ: Thank you. I'm Alvin Jackson. I'm trying to reach Cousin Carl Jones, is he there?

UW: Carl Jones?

AJ: Yes.

UW: Just a minute.

AJ: Thank you. Hey, Cousin Carl Jones, how're you doing?

CJ: Ok, how you doing?

AJ: Good. I talked to you a long time ago. I'm Cousin Bonnie Donaldson Lee's grandson. I don't know if you remember, I called you a long time ago to get some information. I'm from Willow Hill in Georgia. Bulloch County. And my mother was the one that got burned up in '51, Bonnie Lee, Solomon Lee, you know all those people?

CJ: Yeah.

AJ: Yeah, we all cousins. Yeah, I'm working on, and thank you, you bought one of those bricks from the Willow Hill School.

CJ: Right.

AJ: And we appreciate that very much. But as you know, I'm, we're writing this book on the school and I always try to get a little additional information, and you went to school there.

CJ: Right.

AJ: Can you help me out a little bit and tell me, about what year were you born?

CJ: I was born in 1920...wait a minute now, 7. '26.

AJ: In 1926?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Ok, what year did you start to Willow Hill? How old were you when you first started?

CJ: I was 5.

AJ: 5 years old?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Who was your first teacher?

CJ: Let me see. My first teacher, I think, Mrs. Ruth Hall was the principal.

AJ: Mrs. Ruth Hall?

CJ: Mrs. Ruth Hall, Cousin Mann's wife.

AJ: She was the principal?

CJ: She was the principal. And, my auntie, Aunt Thelma, she taught there for a while. She was, I was in her class.

AJ: You was in her class?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Who was your first teacher?

CJ: I don't remember.

AJ: Did you ever go to Cousin Ruby Comb?

CJ: Well, yeah I think so. Yeah, yeah. She was a teacher there for a while. During the time that I went to school, she was a teacher there.

AJ: Ok. Was Cousin Beatrice, Beatrice Jones, they call her Totie, was she a teacher?

CJ: Well, I had started school after she was at Willow Hill. I mean, during the last part of her teaching for them.

AJ: You had already started the school or did you start...

CJ: No, no, I started the school before she, before she...

AJ: Taught?

CJ: Before her time was up or something like that.

AJ: Ok. Was Cousin Trudy Comb up there too?

CJ: No, she came up later. Cause I was in the, when I left there, I left there, I finished the eighth grade and graduated to the ninth grade. And then I came here, I came here to Ohio, and I finished school, finished high school at Wayne High School.

AJ: Well, what year did you graduate from Wayne?

CJ: 1940... '44, I think it was. '44 or '45.

AJ: And then what year did you come to Cincinnati from Portal?

CJ: In '39.

AJ: You came in '39?

CJ: Uh huh. Last part of '38, or '39.

AJ: So that was the year that you came to Cincinnati?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: And so, you started the school in the fifth grade and you went all the way to the eighth grade?

CJ: Yeah.

AJ: Fifth, sixth, seventh, ok, so you were five years old and so you went there about eight years to Willow Hill?

CJ: Right.

AJ: Ok, now as Cousin Ruth Hall the principal the whole time you were there? Did Roosevelt Campbell ever come up there?

CJ: Roosevelt Campbell was there a while too.

AJ: Was he the principal?

CJ: No, I don't think so. I think he was the ag, some kind of agricultural teacher.

AJ: Ok, so was Cousin Ruth the principal when he was there? Do you remember another principal, other than Cousin Ruth?

CJ: No. Oh, let's see, no that's the only principal that I remember. Maybe there was other teacher's there, but that's the only one I could ever remember right now.

AJ: Ok. Who all were some of the other teachers? Was Cousin Aldi Wiggins up there teaching?

CJ: No. He wasn't never there when I was going to school.

AJ: Cousin Thelma?

CJ: That was my auntie.

AJ: And then Cousin Beatrice?

CJ: That was my auntie too. She was at another school. Bennet Grove, I think is what it was.

AJ: Bennet Grove?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: But she did teach at Willow Hill a couple of years, though, didn't she? Cousin Thelma?

CJ: I don't recall.

AJ: Cousin Beatrice. Do you remember her teaching there?

CJ: Sure, I remember her teaching there. But, I don't think I was going to school when she was there. But, that was an early age.

AJ: So you started at five years old.

CJ: I think so. I mean, I think I was five or six or something like that.

AJ: Now, how did you get to school? Did you walk to school?

CJ: Yes. I used to walk from home to school.

AJ: Now, were y'all living down where that house that Mrs. Eva Moore lived in that burned down? Is that where you were staying?

CJ: Right, right. That was my grandmother's house.

AJ: Ok.

CJ: See, my mother died when I was some months old.

AJ: What was your mother's name?

CJ: Mamie.

AJ: Mamie?

CJ: Mamie. Her maiden name was Mamie [unclear].

AJ: Mamie Bletch.

CJ: Blake.

AJ: Blake?

CJ: Uh huh. B-L-A-K-E.

AJ: I see. So she died when you was seven months old.

CJ: Uh huh. And my grandmother took in me [unclear] until I was about twelve or thirteen.

AJ: I see. Now, were you the only child your mother had?

CJ: No. I had a sister named Juanita.

AJ: Ok. So she...

CJ: She was older than me. She was four years older than me.

AJ: Is she still living?

CJ: No, no. She died back in, I think it was '34.

AJ: Oh, in '34?

CJ: Uh huh. She was only 12 years old.

AJ: What happened to her?

CJ: I think she had...they said she had pneumonia, but I think she had tuberculosis.

AJ: I see. Now, where is she buried at?

CJ: Scarbo Grove.

AJ: Up at Scarbo Grove?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: And so you remember her funeral? You was a little boy.

CJ: Yeah, yeah. Well, she was twelve and I was eight.

AJ: When she died?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: And so you remember the funeral and all?

CJ: Yeah, yeah. I remember it very clearly.

AJ: Now, so what year did Cousin Sarah die?

CJ: I don't recall. But it was up in 1940.

AJ: So you had already left when she died?

CJ: Yeah, yeah, I think it was 1944, my memory coming to me right now. I think she died in 1944 but I'm not sure.

AJ: Ok. Now, what about Cousin George Jones? You remember him?

CJ: Yeah. I was between five and six years old. He had the store out there, and I used catch them [unclear] and lead them out to the store and he'd give me some, you know they had the cheese, in a big round wooden box, and he'd cut me off a piece and get me some crackers and we'd come back to the house and I'd sit on the front steps and he'd sit up in the chair and watch me eat.

AJ: Now, where was the store located?

CJ: It was located across the road from the house.

AJ: From that big old house that burned down?

CJ: Yeah. A store there, and a 'baccar barn out there.

AJ: And a 'baccar barn?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Now, what year did he first open that store? Do you know?

CJ: No, I don't know.

AJ: You know how long it stayed open?

CJ: No, I don't know how long. Cause I mean, after he died, my grandmother kept it for a while.

AJ: Now, what year did he die?

CJ: I was about five or six years old. I think I had just started school when he died.

AJ: Ok. Now, what, you remember what he looked like?

CJ: Yeah.

AJ: Who favors him, that you know?

CJ: Cousin Ed.

AJ: Cousin Ed favored him?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Ok, ok. And he's about his size and height and everything?

CJ: Right, right. He was [unclear] of Grandpa.

AJ: Ok, so he operated the store and then you, he used to cross the road, he had to cross the road to go to the store.

CJ: Right.

AJ: Now, was that a highway then, or was it a dirt road?

CJ: I remember when it was a dirt road, and I remember when they put the road in there. But later on it was a highway.

AJ: Oh, so you remember when it was a dirt road?

CJ: Right, right. I mean I remember them putting pavement down.

AJ: Wow.

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: And so, did he have the store when they were putting the pavement down?

CJ: He had died I think.

AJ: Oh, he had already gone?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: I see.

CJ: Well, Grandmother, Grandmother was running the store when they put the pavement down.  
[unclear]

AJ: Ok, ok. Alright. Then, so did you know who your grandfather, George Jones, who is his people? I don't know his people.

CJ: I don't know none of his people either. I never did know none of them.

AJ: They came...

CJ: He was, I mean, he was a kind of quiet guy. And Grandmother never did talk about, you know, about where he come from. Well, he come from down around Stilson. [unclear] And I don't, I don't know nobody down there.

AJ: So you never saw any of his people?

CJ: Not that I can recall, no.

AJ: Ok. Did any schoolteachers board with Cousin Sarah and Cousin George? That you remember?

CJ: Yes. Mrs. Dominics. You remember when she was there?

AJ: Yeah, so she used to board with Mrs., she boarded a while with...

CJ: She boarded two or three years with my grandmother.

AJ: Ok. That was before your, after your grandfather had died?

CJ: Yes, uh huh.

AJ: Ok. Who else boarded with her?

CJ: There was two teachers, I can't think of their names. They was young teachers. But I can't think of their names.

AJ: Were they, were they, ok, were you going to school when they were there?

CJ: Yes, uh huh.

AJ: So you were already in school?

CJ: Yeah, I was already in school when they was there.

AJ: And where were they from?

CJ: I don't know. They was from upstate somewhere.

AJ: Was it a man and a woman, or just two ladies?

CJ: Two ladies.

AJ: I wonder who that would have been. About how old were you when they were there?

CJ: I was [unclear]. I guess I was on about eleven or twelve, ten, eleven, somewhere along in there.

AJ: Ok. I wonder who, if you heard the name, would you know it?

CJ: I think so.

AJ: Ok. I'm trying to think some of the teacher's names. So you were born in '26, so that would have been somewhere during the '30s.

CJ: Uh huh. Yeah, right.

AJ: Some teachers. I wonder who that could have been.

CJ: One of them was a little dark skinned lady, she wasn't real dark, but she was real, real neat.

AJ: Was it Mrs. Biggins?

CJ: What was the name?

AJ: Mrs. Biggins?

CJ: No, that don't sound like it.

AJ: Mrs. Shefton? Mrs. Ziggler?

CJ: No.

AJ: Mrs. Garrett? Mrs. Groveton?

CJ: No.

AJ: Mrs. Heard? Mrs. Campbell? Mrs. Montgomery? Mrs. Joiner? Mrs. Davis? Mrs. Reeves?

Mrs. Ashley? Mrs. Richardson?

CJ: No, I don't...

AJ: None of them sound like it?

CJ: No, I don't know none of them, ones I can think of.

AJ: These ladies, they weren't from Bulloch County, though?

CJ: No, they weren't from Bulloch County.

AJ: They...now, I want you to keep thinking about it, and if you remember those names, write them down for me. Cause I'm trying to write up this history. Now, do you know anybody else, other than those two ladies that stayed with your grandmama?

CJ: I remember Mrs. Dominics, I remember her real plainly. And she was, she was very inspiration to me, because for I was [unclear] this here, and that there, she taught me different. And, so I ain't never seen her since.

AJ: She was a good teacher?

CJ: Yeah, she was a very very good teacher.

AJ: Now, what about Mrs. Bertha Campbell? You don't know her, do you?

CJ: Bertha Campbell?

AJ: Yes, that's Mr. Roosevelt Campbell's sister.

CJ: Well, I remember when Mr. Campbell was there. I don't, I don't remember her. I think she must have came after I left from down there.

AJ: What about Mrs. Annie B. Anderson?

CJ: Annie B. Anderson. No.

AJ: You don't remember her?

CJ: No, I don't remember her.

AJ: Ok. What, Mrs. Mattie Davies?

CJ: No, I don't remember her.

AJ: Mrs. Lois Mills?

CJ: Now, Mrs. Meals, I think I remember her. Cause that, one teacher was names Mrs. Mills.

AJ: Is that the one that stayed with y'all?

CJ: Uh huh. Stayed with Grandma.

AJ: Ok. Where was she from?

CJ: I don't know. Upstate somewhere.

AJ: So, Mrs. Lois Mills.

CJ: Uh huh. I think, I think [unclear]

AJ: Ok. What about Mrs. Gladys Shirley?

CJ: No, I don't remember her.

AJ: You don't know that one?

CJ: Uh uh. Mrs. Mills, and this other lady was the same time, they both stayed with grandmother.

AJ: Ok. Well that's very helpful. Now, can you think of anybody else who stayed there?

CJ: No. No. Just Mrs. Dominics, and these two ladies, they was the only ones who I remember that stayed up there. Because the lady, when Mrs. Dominics was teaching there, a lady was the superintendent, lived down ther in Statesboro. A real light lady.

AJ: Mrs. Julia P. Bryant?

CJ: [long pause] I don't know her name, but I mean, she used to come up to see Mrs. Dominics all the time.

AJ: Mrs. Julia Pearl Bryant. She was the Jeanes Supervisor. Or was, it could have been, lets see now, it might have been Mrs. Vivian Walters?

CJ: No, that don't sound familiar to me.

AJ: Was it Mrs. Maynell Dixon?

CJ: That sounds more like it.

AJ: And then Mrs. Theodora Thomas? You know, it might have been Mrs. Maynell Dixon.

CJ: Yeah, I think that's it. That sounds more familiar to me.

AJ: Maynell Dixon. Cause she was the Jeanes supervisor in the late '30s.

CJ: Yeah.

AJ: So, she used to come up and see Mrs. Dominics.

CJ: Right, right, right.

AJ: How would they travel?

CJ: Well, she had a car.

AJ: She had a car?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: And at that time, was it a dirt road or was it a paved road?

CJ: It was a paved road then.

AJ: Ok, and this lady drove a car to see her.

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Did Mrs. Dominics have a car?

CJ: No, Mrs. Dominics didn't have no car.

AJ: Did any of those other teachers have a car?

CJ: Not any that I know of. Not at the time.

AJ: Did you know Uncle Moes Parrish?

CJ: I remember him, just slightly. That was my grandmother's father.

AJ: Right. You remember him just a little bit?

CJ: Just a little bit. I remember Grandma taking me over to his house over there on the other side of Willow Hill. One or two times. I just barely, I was real small then.

AJ: He was an old man then, huh?

CJ: Uh huh. He was an old man.

AJ: Do you remember what he looked like?

CJ: No, I can't remember what he looked like. But he was old and he was dark colored man.

AJ: You remember him as being real dark?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: About what color? About Cousin Johnny Jones color?

CJ: Yeah, uh huh. That's my daddy.

AJ: Oh, Cousin Johnny was your daddy?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Oh, cause I remember Cousin Johnny real good. He used to stay with Mrs. Eva Moore.

CJ: Right, right, right.

AJ: I remember him. Bowlegged.

CJ: [laughter] Yeah, that's him.

AJ: Lord have mercy. That's your daddy?

CJ: Yeah, that's my daddy.

[laughter from both]

AJ: I didn't know. I remember Cousin Johnny real good.

CJ: Yeah, yeah, he was something else.

AJ: He was something else. I didn't know. I'm glad you told me who your daddy was.

CJ: That was my daddy.

AJ: Yes, indeed. Cause see I remember when he used to stay with Cousin Eva, and Cousin Reed.

CJ: Yeah, yeah.

AJ: My goodness.

CJ: He loved it. He went down there, and some days he used to go, it was a long time ago, he wrote me and told me to go get ready [unclear].

[laughter]

CJ: [unclear]

AJ: I got you, I got you. What, now, did your daddy went to Willow Hill too, didn't he?

CJ: I think, I think so.

AJ: Because Mrs. Moore, all of them went to Willow Hill.

CJ: Uh huh. All of them went, as far as I know.

AJ: But you don't know any of their teacher's names do you?

CJ: No, I don't.

AJ: Now, did your grandmother, Sarah, didn't she go to Willow Hill too?

CJ: I don't know. I imagine so.

AJ: She could read and write.

CJ: Oh yeah. Cause see Grandpa Moses, he gave her the land, all the Willow Hill land.

[unclear]

AJ: So she had to go to school there, that would have been the only school she would have gone to.

CJ: Yep.

AJ: So she went to school there.

CJ: Right, right, right.

AJ: Ok, cause I know she could read and write.

CJ: Right. Yeah, she ran a store for a number of years, and so [unclear].

AJ: Who used to help her farm that place?

CJ: Uncle Ed and Uncle George.

AJ: Oh, they all helped.



CJ: Uh huh. And Aunt Thelma, well Aunt Thelma and Aunt Bea, and well, those is the one's I remember. [unclear] Even Aunt Beulah.

AJ: Now, I don't remember Beulah. Who is that?

CJ: Who?

AJ: You said Aunt Beulah.

CJ: No, Aunt Bea.

AJ: Aunt Bea. Oh Beatrice.

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Oh ok. Now, do, did, Mrs. Cousin Eva, when you were small, did she teach at Willow Hill or did she come later?

CJ: No, she came later. Oh, I was there when she was teaching out at Willow Hill.

AJ: So, you were there when, you was up North.

CJ: You're right. I was in Ohio.

AJ: But she, as a young girl, she didn't teach at Willow Hill?

CJ: No, I mean, she was pretty much, well I remember when she used to teach down at Rehovah. She was name of Mrs. McCray.

AJ: Oh, she used to teach at Rehovah?

CJ: Uh huh. Cause I used to carry her down there on Monday morning and go back and get her on Friday.

AJ: What would you be driving?

CJ: I was driving a buggy and I had two mules. One named Riley and one named Mack. Mack was the slow one, Riley was the fast one.

AJ: Ok, you had Riley and Mack? And so you would hook the mules up and take her down there?

CJ: Do what?

AJ: You would hook the mules up and take Mrs. Eva down to...

CJ: Right, I would hook them up and take her down.

AJ: Now, which one of the McCrays was she staying with? Preacher McCray?

CJ: His mother.

AJ: Cousin Vanny.

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Ok. Oh, I didn't, so she taught at Rehovah school.

CJ: Yes, uh huh.

AJ: Ok. Where else did she teach, other than Rehovah, that you know about?

CJ: Where, where what?

AJ: Where else did Mrs. Eva Moore teach, other than Rehovah?

CJ: I don't recall.

AJ: Ok. Now, Cousin Beatrice, where did she teach other than Willow Hill?

CJ: The only place I know she taught was Willow Hill. That's the only place I know of her teaching.

AJ: And then Cousin Thelma taught at Willow Hill and Bennett Grove.

CJ: Right.

AJ: And she had one other place she taught too, was it Lang Grove?

CJ: I don't know.

AJ: Ok. Newton Grove was one of them other Groves.

CJ: It might have been Newton Grove.

AJ: Ok.

CJ: That Newton Grove sounds more familiar with me.

AJ: Ok. Now, who else, did Cousin Leela teach also?

CJ: Not that I know of. I mean, Cousin, Aunt Beulah, she was in Atlanta, she was going, she went to nursing school in Atlanta. She was a nurse, when I first knew her. She came home, and I knew her from being a nurse.

AJ: But didn't she get burned up down by Noah's Ark?

CJ: She got burned up? She was staying at the old home place.

AJ: Oh, she got burned up at the old home place?

CJ: I don't know where she got burnt up at but, I mean, she was staying at the home place.

AJ: I thought she was teaching school someplace when she got burned up.

CJ: Not that I know of. She was a nurse.

AJ: Ok. What hospital, did she work at the Bulloch County Hospital?

CJ: No, she just went from house to house. I mean, to different people. [unclear] She was visiting his wife or somebody up there.

AJ: So she was a nurse for Lonnie Brannen?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Ok. Ok, now, so let me go back to Willow Hill one more time. So, you think, Cousin Ruby Cohn might have been one of your teachers?

CJ: She might have been, yeah.

AJ: Cousin Ruth Hall was the principal.

CJ: Well, she was the principal for a long time. I mean, during the time when I was going to school.

AJ: Ok, and you can't think of any of your other teachers, other than the ones you told me? You can't think of anybody else? Cause you were there from the first grade to the seventh grade.

CJ: Right. Well I was actually from, to the eighth grade cause I graduated to the ninth grade. When I came here, they wanted to put me back, and Mrs. Orr, she told them "No, you ain't going to put him back, cause he's too much advanced." And I went from ninth grade on.

AJ: Ok, so you had already passed the eighth grade at Willow Hill?

CJ: Right. And Professor Lawton, remember him?

AJ: Yes.

CJ: Well, he was one of my teachers. He was the agriculture teacher.

AJ: Ok, so he was your teacher too.

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: And so, what year did you say you left Willow Hill? 19 what?

CJ: I think it was 1939 or '38. Somewhere along in there.

AJ: 1939. Ok, now did Mr. M.M. Martin teach out there when you were there?

CJ: I don't remember Martin. But I remember Campbell.

AJ: You remember Roosevelt Campbell?

CJ: Uh huh. Yeah.

AJ: How many years was Roosevelt Campbell out there?

CJ: I don't know.

AJ: Do you remember him being there more than one year?

CJ: Yeah. He was there more than one year.

AJ: Ok. And so, Mrs. Dominics became the principal after Cousin Ruth then?

CJ: I don't remember, but I mean I know after Cousin Elnora died, he married Mrs. Ruth. He was going with her, he married her.

AJ: Ok, what year did Cousin Elnora died?

CJ: I don't remember what year, I mean she was Cousin Aaron's wife. I mean, she was the mother of all them children. And Mrs. Ruth, she never did have no children, that I know of.

AJ: Right. Did you know Mrs. Evelyn Watson?

CJ: No, I don't think so.

AJ: Mrs. Wilamina Shefton?

CJ: No, I don't, that name doesn't sound familiar.

AJ: Mr. Holloway?

CJ: Holloway, Holloway. No, that don't sound like, I mean it sound like somebody who was there after I left from down there.

AJ: Ok. So Mr. Cooper wasn't there either, was he?

CJ: No, uh uh.

AJ: Arthur Cooper.

CJ: Uh uh. No, I don't, I don't remember him.

AJ: Ok, so you must have left around the '39, '40 year.

CJ: Yeah, uh huh. Somewhere along in there.

AJ: Ok, and so, now Mr. Campbell was, would have been there in '38.

CJ: Uh huh. I was going to school, I went to school under him.

AJ: Ok, he taught you then. [cell phone ringing]

CJ: Right.

AJ: Ok, he taught you then? [cell phone ringing]

CJ: Right.

AJ: Ok. And then, Cousin Ruth, now you said Cousin Trudy, you don't remember her coming there?

CJ: Well, I remember her teaching there, but I don't remember being in her class.

AJ: Ok, so you remember her teaching there.

CJ: Yeah, I remember a time when she taught there.

AJ: Ok. And you remember, you don't remember Mrs. Annie B. Anderson teaching there?

CJ: Uh uh. The name doesn't sound, sound, the name doesn't sound right to me.

AJ: Ok. And then Cousin Thelma taught. I'm trying, because I don't have a record of the teachers there between 1920 and 1930, and that's some of the time, see you started there, I mean between 1938. You started there in about 1930 or '31.

CJ: Yes, I mean somewhere along in there.

AJ: So you were born in '26, '27, '28, '29, '30, so you would have started about '31.

CJ: You're right.

AJ: And when you started, Cousin Ruth Hall was already there, and she was the principal.

CJ: Well, I don't recall whether she was the principal then, but I know she was one, one of the principals.

AJ: Did you ever go to her class as a, was she, did she teach you?

CJ: No. I didn't go to her class. I mean, she was above me. But I mean, she'd give us, when we'd do something wrong, she'd give us a whoopin'. And she'd give us a note to carry home to whoever we was, my grandmother, and I got another whoopin'.

AJ: Oh my goodness.

CJ: [laughter] And so, they was very very strict on us.

AJ: Very strict.

CJ: Uh huh. And she taught, after she married Garfield Hall.

AJ: Ok, so when she first came up she was Ruth, Ruth Sumner or Ruth Love?

CJ: I don't remember, I don't know, I don't remember her name before she came to Willow Hill. It was something else.

AJ: Ok. Tell me your classmates names. Any, anybody you was in the class with.

CJ: John Donaldson. O.C. Rellerford. Those were my buddies.

AJ: John Donaldson?

CJ: Uh huh. [unclear]

AJ: Ok. Was that Cousin Ted's, John Donaldson, who's he?

CJ: That's right. That was her grandson.

AJ: Her grandson.

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: So, John Donaldson. And then O.C. Rellerford.

CJ: Uh huh. I can't seem to recall Mr. Rellerford's name. But, he had his daughter, I don't know what was wrong with him, but his daughter carried him everywhere he went. They had a nice car. He always kept a car. And, Sonny Boy Pope was in my class too.

AJ: Mr. Sonny Boy Pope? He went to Willow Hill?

CJ: Uh huh. Yeah. That's the young Sonny Boy Pope, not Mr. Pope.

AJ: Ok, now, oh the young, you mean...

CJ: His son.

AJ: His son?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: What was his name?

CJ: I think his name was Johnny Pope.

AJ: Johnny Pope.

CJ: I think so.

AJ: Ok, he was in your class?

CJ: Uh huh. Yeah, he was in my class.

AJ: Was Mrs. Sara Lee in your class?

CJ: You right.

AJ: She was in your class.

CJ: Right

AJ: What about Waddell Lee?

CJ: Yeah, she was in my class.

AJ: Waddell Lee was in your class.

CJ: Right.

AJ: What about Rosebud?

CJ: No, Rosebud was behind me.

AJ: She was behind you.

CJ: Uh huh. And...

AJ: Roscell?

CJ: There was a little girl, Verleene Love, she was in my class.

AJ: Ok, who was her mama and daddy?

CJ: I don't know, but they lived down there on old granny's place, so, I don't know who they were. I know we used to go to see them, but I don't remember her daddy's name. [unclear] sister.

AJ: Who's sister?

CJ: Jooby Love. Remember Jooby?

AJ: No, I heard that name. That was his sister?

CJ: Uh huh. That was his sister.

AJ: So he was up there too.

CJ: Uh huh. But I mean he was behind me, he wasn't in my class, ok?

AJ: Ok. Did you play any sports when you went to school? Like basketball, or football, or?

CJ: Oh yeah. I was probably be one of the best.

AJ: Now, what did you play?

CJ: Forward.

AJ: Ok, so you played basketball?

CJ: Yeah, we kids played down in the hill at Willow Hill, and made our court real hard.

AJ: Oh, so y'all took the clay to make the court.

CJ: Right.

AJ: So, now, the basketball court was behind the school?

CJ: No, you know, it was across from the school.

AJ: Is that over where Cousin Jess Holloway's house is?

CJ: Uh huh. Well, you know know, when you go down to Cousin Dan's house.

AJ: Oh, going like you going to Cousin Dan Parrish.

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: So y'all played over that way?

CJ: Right, right. Yeah, we built the court over there. Cause, you know, all of that was sand, so we built a court over there and made it real hard, and you could bounce the ball and you didn't have do all old fashioned. But we learned how to pass because we used to play places was real sandy.

AJ: I see, and so with all that sand y'all learned how to move good.

CJ: Right, right. We had to pass the ball, you couldn't bounce it, cause I mean, it wasn't hard enough to bounce.

AJ: Oh. About what, so that was, that was in the, that was in the '30s, huh?

CJ: Right.

AJ: And so y'all had a boys basketball team and a girls basketball team?

CJ: No, I don't remember having no girls basketball team. I know we had a boys basketball team.

AJ: Did y'all play against other schools?

CJ: Yes, uh huh.

AJ: Who did y'all play against?

CJ: They're called Sand, Sand...

AJ: New Sand Ridge?

CJ: Yeah, uh huh.

AJ: Did y'all play against Polk's Academy?

CJ: Yep.

AJ: Ok, did y'all beat them?

CJ: [laughter] Yes, we beat them. Yeah, we beat them.

AJ: Now, who was on the basketball team other than you?

CJ: John Donaldson, he was the next, he and I was the two starters.

AJ: John Donaldson and you?

CJ: Uh huh. They called him [unclear].

AJ: Called him what?

CJ: Rabbit.

AJ: Reddick?

CJ: Rabbit. R-A-B-B-I-T.

AJ: Oh, he was so fast?

CJ: [unclear] He was very agile.

AJ: Ok. So, now can you think of anybody else on the team other than y'all two?

CJ: No. Alonzo Pope.

AJ: Alonzo Pope.

CJ: Uh huh. He was in my class too. And, and I think, his cousin, little buddy, it sounds like he was in my class or he was before me. We had the classes mixed together. And then, cause we used to on the, you know, two people sit in the bench. And we had [unclear] you know, things where we shouldn't [unclear] and there was three of us always used to sit together cause [unclear] Verleen Love, she always'd sit in the middle and I was on the other side.

AJ: Ok. And y'all sit at the one desk. All three?

CJ: Yes, at the one desk. That was our place. You come to class, that's where we sit. And I remember where we used to go out in the woods and pick up [unclear], you know, out there from the school, and bring them in in the winter time for heat.

AJ: Wow. Now, did y'all have a basketball coach when y'all was playing basketball?

CJ: Yes.

AJ: Who was the coach?

CJ: I, I don't remember but it seems like Professor Lawton and Campbell.

AJ: Campbell.

CJ: Uh huh. I think that was the coach. I don't recall. I mean, not clearly.

AJ: Yes, but that's you've given me a lot of information that I didn't have. Cause y'all made y'all own basketball coach, y'all put clay on top of that sand.

CJ: Right.

AJ: Where would y'all get clay? From down that hill?

CJ: Yeah, right down the hill. You know where that clay [unclear] was?

AJ: Yes.

CJ: That's where we dug it up, and carried it in. We carried buckets full and anyways, we sometimes our mothers let us have one of the mules and we'd fill it up, you know, as much as you could put on a sled, and haul it up there and we made [unclear]. We made a hard coating.

AJ: Yes. And so y'all put up your own goals and everything?

CJ: Right.

AJ: And that's pretty interesting. And so, y'all played against some of the other schools?

CJ: Right.

AJ: And so when they'd come to play y'all, they'd play out on y'all's court?

CJ: Right, right. They liked to come up to our court cause we had a good court.

AJ: Had a nice clay court?

CJ: You're right. Right, you could bounce the ball and everything. They were used to passing, I think, the Sand Spurs or something like that, it was real sandy and they couldn't, they didn't know that they had to pass the ball. Cause when we played them we passed the ball, we couldn't bounce it.

AJ: Yes.

CJ: And, they liked to come up to Willow Hill.

AJ: Cause you could bounce the ball?

CJ: Yeah. You could bounce the ball.

AJ: Oh, that's a good story. I can add that to my story telling, because I didn't know about that one. Now, were y'all the first group that had basketball, or did they play before y'all came?

CJ: Well, the first that I know anything about.

AJ: Ok. That was good, that was good. Cause then later, when I found from my research that Mrs. Trudy Combe started a girl basketball team in later years.

CJ: Well, I remember her teaching there but I don't remember what year it was.

AJ: Yes, yes. Now, did y'all ever have fields day when you was going to school? Where you'd plant the maypole and all that?

CJ: Not that I know of. I'm not recalling.

AJ: You don't remember having the relays or any kind of fieds day where all the schools come together?

CJ: No, I don't remember that.

AJ: So you didn't do that in your day. Did they have any boxed suppers or anything at the school, that kind of thing? Events at the school, when you was coming along.

CJ: Yeah, they had the boxed supper. I remember they had a boxed supper cause I bought, I mean, Eloise Pope, I used to buy her box all the time.

AJ: You kind of liked her a little bit, didn't you?

CJ: Yeah, I liked her.

[laughter]

AJ: So, she was in your class too then?

CJ: She was in my class too.

AJ: Is she still living?

CJ: Yes, as far as I know. She was living last year, when I was down there.

AJ: Oh, yes? So, she's still living too huh?

CJ: Right, right. She's still living. Looking good.

AJ: That's good. So you used to buy her boxed supper up there?

CJ: Yeah, yeah. Her and, she had a cousin named, I don't know what her real name was but we used to call her Cooter.

AJ: Uh huh.

CJ: And, so [unclear] I used to buy a box for her cause I was kind of, kind of crazy about her. But I mean, she always called me cousin so.

[laughter]

CJ: I couldn't say nothing much to her. But Cousin Jude and Cousin El, that was her mother and father, and Trudy and them's father, [unclear] meeting all them, and Grandmother and I, we used to go down there and have dinner lots of days.

AJ: Well I declare. So you take your grandmother down in the wagon?

CJ: In the buggy, yeah. She had a wagon and a buggy, but I mean we went in the buggy.

AJ: So, y'all had a surry? Surry buggy?

CJ: Well we had both of them.

AJ: Wow.

CJ: Yeah, as far as I know. I remember they called them Surry's. What they called Surry's. [unclear] had two or three. I mean, they carried more than one or two. Cause a buggy only carried, it would carry three. But it would be comfortable for two.

AJ: Oh, so you had a buggy, a wagon, and a surry?

CJ: Right.

AJ: You had all of that?

CJ: Yeah. Right, right.

AJ: And you had the surry, you used that on Sunday.

CJ: Right.

AJ: That was the nice one?

CJ: Yes. Well, I mean, the buggy was nice. I mean, cause Grandma always kept a good buggy. And she had a certain mule she had to pull with, so, and she had [unclear] when she wanted to go fast, they'd use Riley. He was fast.

AJ: Use Riley when you want to go fast.

CJ: Yeah, cause I used to stand and hold him, until she got, Uncle George got in the buggy, and he had the line?

AJ: Yes.

CJ: Well, I'd step out from in front of him, and he'd take off.

AJ: Take off.

CJ: Yeah. And that buggy would stand up in front. And you know one of the old dirt roads that was on the side, the side of the highway?

AJ: Yes.

CJ: Well, sometimes Uncle George would have to run him up and down the dirt road about twice before Grandmother could get in the buggy.

AJ: To tire him out?

CJ: Yeah. Yeah, you know, tire him down a little bit. But he'd be coming, no quicker than she got in that buggy, he'd be taking off.

AJ: And she wasn't scared of him?

CJ: No, no. When she wanted to go to Statesboro, and go fast, she had George, George did the driving.

AJ: So they took that buggy all the way from Portal to Statesboro?

CJ: Yeah, right. They used to go on the dirt road. You know by Blandsborough [??]?

AJ: Yes.



CJ: Turn down that road and go down, and go back in there somewhere.

AJ: Yes. Now you pass by Uncle Ben's house then.

CJ: Right. Past the [unclear] and past all they houses.

AJ: Yes. Now, you remember Grandpa Ben Donaldson?

CJ: Yeah.

AJ: You remember what he looked like?

CJ: Well, he looked something like my grandpa, like my grandpa, George Jones. And he was kind of tall, and brown skinned, a dark man. And, so, I remember Uncle Ben. Uncle Ben used to be, used to be, he had a store too.

AJ: Yes.

CJ: And I remember times we used to go out to the store and eat [phone movement interference, unclear] Whatever I wanted to eat, if he had it, he'd give it to me.

AJ: Now was his store as big as your daddy's store?

CJ: They was about the same size.

AJ: Ok. Did they sell the same stuff?

CJ: Some of it, yeah.

AJ: So you went to Uncle Ben's store too?

CJ: Yeah, yeah. I went to Uncle Ben's store. Cause that was after my granddaddy died. That's when [unclear] although he might have had the store before but I know, grandfather was dead, you know, when Uncle...

[first side of tape ends, picks up on second side]

AJ: For just a visit?

CJ: She was going to [unclear] Cousin [unclear] and Uncle Ben and all of them.

AJ: Ok, and then sometimes you would go to the store then, why they visited all them.

CJ: Right, right. Uncle Ben and I'd be sitting on the porch, and he'd "Come on, boy, come on and go out to the store. Let's see can we find you something." And so I would follow him just like I was [unclear]. I was a kid. I remember Uncle Ben real good.

AJ: Now, you don't remember Aunt Roseanne too good though.

CJ: Who?

AJ: Aunt Roseanne, his wife.

CJ: No, I don't remember her at all.

AJ: Yeah, cause she died in '31.

CJ: I don't remember her.

AJ: Now, do you remember Aunt Mariah? That was Cousin Dan Parrish's mother.

CJ: No, I don't remember her.

AJ: You don't remember her?

CJ: Uh uh. Cause I remember Cousin Dan, but I don't remember his mother.

AJ: Ok, you remember Cousin Dan, though.

CJ: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, cause he used to walk down across, across the woods, and we used to take a, when we was little boys, we used to shoot at him with...[trails off]

AJ: Slingshots?

CJ: Yeah, we used a sling shot, but we used some of those

AJ: China berries?

CJ: Some kind of berry. It grows on trees and kind of, they was hard.

AJ: China berry.

CJ: I don't know what they was.

AJ: We call them china berries.

CJ: Yeah, but anyway, he, we run down there, we would hide behind the bushes and shoot at him. And then he found out, he kept on going down through there, and he found out who we was, and he turned us in to Mrs. Ruth Hall. And we got a whoopin' and then she made, give me a note, each one of us. O.C. Rellerford, Rab Donaldson and [unclear] Pope. And we all got a whoopin' after we got home. But we carried a note, and you know, when they give you a note, you better carry it home.

AJ: And you don't even know what's in it.

CJ: Huh?

AJ: And you didn't even know what was in the note.

CJ: No. I did open that note. I carried home to grandmother, "Mrs. Ruth sent this to you." and when she, she read the note, we wasn't nowhere. [laughter] That was bad news.

AJ: And so Cousin Dan found y'all out and went and told Cousin Ruth?

CJ: Yeah, he told Cousin Ruth and she whooped us. And she whooped us in school.

AJ: In the schoolhouse?

CJ: Yeah, in the schoolhouse.

AJ: My goodness.

CJ: And then, when she wrote this note to each one of our parents, we got another whooping.

AJ: Now, when, what did that Willow Hill School look like? Did it have a porch on it?

CJ: I don't think so.

AJ: How many rooms was in it?

CJ: The old school? It had two or three by my memory.

AJ: Ok, it wasn't as big as that Rosenwald building was it?

CJ: No, uh uh, it wasn't. That was built, later on, cause it had a high roof, cause I was working on, at the school, after school, you know cleaning up and stuff like that? And I had access to different things, and we used to get apples from the county? And on Sundays and Saturdays, one of them days, I'd take my [unclear] and climb through the window and get one or two apples, and come on back out and we would eat them.

AJ: Oh, so they would have the apples inside of the school house?

CJ: Yeah, right, a special room inside the schoolhouse and they, you know, just had [unclear] apples. And so, we would [unclear] didn't have nothing else to do. And we'd climb through the window, cause I knew how to get in there cause I worked there.

AJ: Yeah, you worked at the school?

CJ: Yeah, I worked at the school, cleaning up.

AJ: So at the end of the day, when you was a student out there, you used to clean up the school?

CJ: Right, right.

AJ: Who got you to do that?

CJ: My aunt.

AJ: Your Aunt Thelma or Aunt Bea?

CJ: No, no, Aunt Eva.

AJ: Aunt Eva.

CJ: Uh huh. But she wasn't teaching there then.

AJ: But she got you the job?

CJ: Yeah. Yeah. Well, she, her and Mrs. Ruth and all, they was all good friends. And so she got me the job. You know, Grandma had something to do with it too.

AJ: Did they pay you?

CJ: Yeah. What it was, I don't know how much it was but they paid me.

AJ: Ok. And so at the end of the day, you'd do like the janitorial work.

CJ: Right.

AJ: And so you knew where the apples were kept.

CJ: Right, I knew exactly where they kept them, cause I mean I helped turn the apples. [unclear] you heard tell of him?

AJ: Who?

CJ: Dub Heard.

AJ: Dub Heard. Heard. I've heard that name.

CJ: Well, his father's name was Solace. And so, we used to, they had a pickup truck, a brand new one, and we would go to Statesboro and pick the apples up. And then when we'd came back and put them in this room. And so we were delivery boys, [unclear] we'd do that during the class time.

AJ: I see. So they would hand out these apples to the students, during the class?

CJ: Uh huh. They would have [unclear] apples and they would give them out and then we'd carry them back and put them in this room and then when, a lot of times they had so many students, you know, everybody got an apple.

AJ: Oh, that was, I didn't, now where did they get them in Statesboro, from where, the Board of Education?

CJ: Yeah, yeah, somewhere in Statesboro. It's a highschool.

AJ: At the high school?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Statesboro High and Industrial School?

CJ: Right.

AJ: Ok. Did you know Professor William James?

CJ: Yes.

AJ: You knew him?

CJ: Yeah. I mean, I barely remember him because he was the undertaker.

AJ: Yeah, that's what I heard. Was he the first undertaker in Statesboro? The black one?

CJ: I don't, I don't know. I mean,

[cell phone ringing]

CJ: He and Mr. Gross, I, I don't know what it, I know Gross [unclear] it was in Statesboro too. That's who buried, now when my grandfather died Mr. James, he'd taken care of the body. My grandmother died, Mr. Gross had taken care of the body. When my sister died, Mr. Gross had taken care of the body.

AJ: Ok. So Professor James took care of your granddaddy though?

CJ: Right.

AJ: Now, did Professor James have a funeral home?

CJ: Yes. [beep]

AJ: Or did he just come out to the house and embalm?

CJ: No, no, he had a funeral home in Statesboro.

AJ: Where was Professor James's funeral home located? [beep]

CJ: Somewhere not too far from the school. You know where the school was?

AJ: Yes.

CJ: It was named after him. It was right in that area.

AJ: So was it called? James Funeral Home?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: James Funeral Home?

CJ: Yeah, that's as far as I can remember, yes.

AJ: Cause I heard somebody else said that he, he was a funeral, where did he go to, he went to school to be an embalmer?

CJ: I don't know.

AJ: But he was one of the first

CJ: He was one of the first around Statesboro.

AJ: And then after him was Gross.

CJ: Right.

AJ: Then Riggs came in about '37, I think Gross came in '28.

CJ: Ok. Well, well, I, Riggs came in there after that.

AJ: Yes, yes. And so, you remember before they started embalming people. They didn't start embalming until about '20s did they?

CJ: Well, I don't know. I know when Grandpa died, they parked the hearse out there in one of the sheds where Grandmother put the buggy.

AJ: For her to do what?

CJ: Where Grandmother kept the buggy?

AJ: Ok.

CJ: In the, in the shelter like.

AJ: Oh, so they parked it out there?

CJ: They parked the hearse out there at night, until, you know, the day of the funeral.

AJ: Oh, so they used to have the body in the house?

CJ: Yeah. They carred the body back home.

AJ: Now that was your granddaddy?

CJ: Yeah, right. That was Grandpa George.

AJ: And then, when time for the funeral they put the body in the hearse and went up to?

CJ: Scarborough Grove.

AJ: Scarborough Grove Church?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Was that a big funeral?

CJ: Yeah, it was very big. Grandma, when Grandma died, it was very big.

AJ: Great big ol' funeral?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: And Gross had her. Did they bring her to the house too?

CJ: Yes.

AJ: They brought her there too.

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: Ok, you know a lot. I'm learning a lot from you.

CJ: Ok. All my cousins that died during that time, they bring them to the house.

AJ: What about Cousin Leela?

CJ: They brought her to the house?

AJ: And were they able to show her after she got burnt up?

CJ: I don't know. I mean, cause I was in the service then.

AJ: Ok. What service?

CJ: I didn't know she had died until I got a letter. I was overseas. I was over in the [unclear]. And I didn't know she had died until I was in the process of getting ready to come home.

AJ: Ok. Now branch of the service, were you in the Army?

CJ: Army Air Force.

AJ: And what year did you go?

CJ: '45.

AJ: In 1945?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: And when did you get out?

CJ: '47.

AJ: In 1947.

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: And when you got out, she was already gone?

CJ: Yeah. Right.

AJ: I see. That's, alright. And then let me see. Now, when you was up, back up at Willow Hill School, did you take your lunch to school? When y'all took, went to school, did y'all take a lunch with you?

CJ: Right.

AJ: So you didn't have a lunch in a cafeteria or anything like that?

CJ: No. That was later on, when they built that house over by the agriculture house? Where they had home, they started teaching home economics? And then they, that's when they started cooking in those, we eat over there then. But that was in later years. Before then I carried a lunch everyday.

AJ: Ok, so when you left in 1939, they had started to cook some food at the school?

CJ: Right. At the little house out there on the side.

AJ: They had a little house where they cooked the meals.

CJ: Right, right. That was the home economics room.

AJ: And then so they had a stove in that room and all?

CJ: Right.

AJ: And then they, the kids would come over there and eat?

CJ: Right, right, right.

AJ: Ok. But prior to that, y'all had to take your lunches and you had to sit out on a log or something.

CJ: Anywheres you could.

AJ: And then y'all share each other's food, and share your lunches?

CJ: Rarely. If you had something I liked. But I mean most of the time, we had our own food. Unless we had too much, then we'd give it away.

AJ: Ok. Alright then. I'm not going to hold you too long, cause I've learned a lot but I'm still trying to find, if you think about any teacher who was up there while you were there. And you told me Cousin Ruth was there, Cousin Trudy was there, Cousin Beatrice was there, and you can't think of anybody else? You said Mr. Lawton and Mr. Campbell. And you can't think of anybody else?

CJ: Mrs. Dominics.

AJ: Mrs. Dominics was there?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: But you don't, you can't think of, and Mrs. Mills.

CJ: Yes, Mrs. Mills and this other little teacher, I can't think of her name. Her and Mrs. Mills both stayed at our house.

AJ: But you don't, you don't remember, she's a little dark skinned lady. And she came from where? North Carolina?

CJ: Somewhere, upstate somewhere, I don't remember where it was. But she was real neat and nice looking lady.

AJ: Nice looking. And so, did they all, in your grandmother's house, did they have they own rooms or did they share a room together?

CJ: They shared a room together.

AJ: Those two ladies?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: And then Mrs. Dominics had her own room?

CJ: No, she shared the old room by herself. Grandmother had one side of the house, we never did sleep over there, that's where the company was.

AJ: That was a big ol' house?

CJ: Yeah, it was a big ol' house. And then the living room, that's where they kept the bodies, you know, when somebody died. And that's where they always carried them, in what they called the parlor.

AJ: In the parlor?

CJ: Uh huh. And so, we never did, very seldom go in there. And, cause I was, tell you what, I was scared to go in there. Cause I mean, when people died, I thought, you know, they'd come back.

[laughter]

CJ: I never did, in fact, I only remember sleeping in there one time. And I was a grown man then. Cause, well, when there was a storm down there, cause Daddy was all the way down there, and that's where we'd take matches off to the room, cause it was across the hallway, and so me and Tody, that was Beatrice, we got inbetween the mattresses. That's where we stayed until the storm was over with.

AJ: Was that the tornado?

CJ: Uh huh. When all the trees was blowing down, and they missed our house, missed our house, and the lightning come in the hall, and we had the hall door closed, and it come in one door, and went in and got around that wooden door and turned around and went back out. Big ball of lightning. During the tornado of '29. We was laying on that, on a thing right beside it and it passed us.

AJ: Wow. That was close.

CJ: Yeah, that was real close. It was a big ball of fire.

AJ: Came right through the house?

CJ: Right down the hall, and turn around and when it got to that wooden door, it turned around and come back out. It went back out that door, we had a door on each end. And it went back out that door.

AJ: Now, wait. It blew the door open?

CJ: No, it didn't blow the door open.

AJ: It just came through the door, the lightning?

CJ: No, the door was open. That's where it came in. And the other end of the hall, the door was closed. And Juanita, I mean, Tody and I, we was laying on this here, something like a couch. But our feet wasn't on the floor, our feet was, we was up on the couch. And laying down. And when that lightning came in through that door, down to that wooden door and then its like it hit that door and that's what stopped it and it went back out. Cause it struck the board, where the horses was, I mean where the horses had been and I don't think Grandmother had no horses then.

AJ: So, if she had had some, it probably would have killed them.

CJ: Right, right. I mean, I don't [unclear] storm things around the house. It didn't do too much damage.

AJ: But there was a lot of folk in Bulloch County that got killed from that storm. A lot of people.

CJ: Right, right.

AJ: And that was in 1929?

CJ: Somewhere along in there. Yeah. I remember that. I remember that real clear.

AJ: Did y'all get, ok, so you remember that pretty clear?

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: So, did y'all go to Portal very much, or Statesboro when y'all was living up there?

CJ: Went to Portal every, every other day or sometimes, anytime we had anything to do, we'd go to Portal.

AJ: In the horse and buggy?

CJ: Yeah. Or sometimes I'd ride the mule. I'd love riding the mule. The one they called Max. [unclear]

AJ: Max? Oh so you would ride the mule.

CJ: Uh huh.

AJ: I see. Now were there very many blacks who had cars at that time?

CJ: No, there wasn't too many. [unclear] Lee had a car. And my uncle, Uncle George, he had a car. And [unclear] Donaldson, he had a car. And Cousin El, he had a car. El Comb?

AJ: Yes. Uncle Ben had a car.

CJ: Oh, I don't know Uncle Ben having no car.

AJ: Yeah, Uncle Ben Donaldson, Uncle Benny, they had a car.

CJ: Uh huh. Well, I don't know, I don't remember him having no car. But they probably did. So that's all I remember, ok?

AJ: Ok. And when, when the teachers came to Willow Hill, most of them didn't come in cars, did they?

CJ: No, uh uh. They didn't have no car.

AJ: Now, Mrs. Julia Bryant, when some of those Jeanes Supervisors came, they drove a car up to the school?

CJ: Right. Right, right. They had a nice car.

AJ: Yes. Ok. Well, Cuz I'm going to think some more, and I may want to know some more from you but I sure learned a lot today.

CJ: Ok.

AJ: You got a good memory and you got a lot of great history. I particularly enjoyed hearing about that basketball court, how y'all fixed that with that clay. That was a good story.

CJ: Listen, you still down in Georgia?

AJ: Well, I'm living in, I'm in Ohio now. Cause I work down in Columbus for the governor, but I go back to Georgia. We're going to be going down at the end of April for that reunion. We having that reunion again down there.

CJ: Oh, are you?

AJ: Yes, sir.

CJ: [unclear]

AJ: We, we're going down August 29 and 30. Labor Day weekend, we're going down for the reunion that Saturday and Sunday.

CJ: Oh. Well I'm going to Georgia next week. I'm going to Atlanta, cause my granddaughter is getting married.

AJ: Oh my goodness.

CJ: And so I got to go down there and walk her up to the...

AJ: Walk her down and give her away?

CJ: Right.

AJ: Isn't that wonderful?

CJ: Yes.

AJ: Now, how many children do you have?

CJ: Four.

AJ: You have four children.

CJ: Yeah. I got one boy and three girls.

AJ: Now where does your son live?

CJ: Oh he lives here. He lives out on Montana Avenue.

AJ: Ok. And then your daughters live in Atlanta?

CJ: No, no. Just my granddaughter's, I mean my grandson's daughter.

AJ: Ok. Ok. Well that's wonderful for you to be able to.

CJ: See he was a policeman, and he got killed in the line of duty.

AJ: Ok.

CJ: He had a big, big, big funeral.

AJ: Oh my goodness. I imagine it would have been a big one. Getting killed in the line of duty. That would be big.

CJ: You're right. And the police from all over, from all over the land was up there.

AJ: Ok, well I'm sorry, sorry to hear about that. Sorry to hear about that.

CJ: And so his daughter, she's getting married on the second of August. And so we're leaving here Thursday, Thursday morning and we'll go down, and we'll leave Sunday morning coming back.



AJ: Ok. Wow. I wish we would have been around the time we had the reunion, which is going to be the last, last weekend of August. That's up at the Willow Hill School.

CJ: Oh really?

AJ: Yeah, we going to bring everybody back and we's trying to have this every year to have this Willow Hill reunion. And that's why I'm...

CJ: Just keep me informed and if I'm living I'll try to make some, one of them.

AJ: Yes, sir. And that's why we're trying to get all this information, cause we trying to write up the history and all, you know. You don't any photographs from when you went to school there do you?

CJ: No, I don't.

AJ: You don't have any pictures?

CJ: No, when, I had a flood, and there was a lot in the basement and all, and so all that was destroyed.

AJ: Every bit of it.

CJ: All I can remember, cause I had a bunch of pictures here, but I mean, to me, there's no, none been taken since then.

AJ: So you don't have any from when you was in Georgia?

CJ: No, uh uh, I don't have none that I know of.

AJ: You have any pictures of your grandmother, Sarah?

CJ: No. I don't have nothing of her. So, if I find anything I'll let you know ok?

AJ: Particularly on the Willow Hill School. And I thank you so much, Cuz and then I'll be back in touch with you.

CJ: Oh ok.

AJ: Thank you. I appreciate the information.

CJ: Ok.

AJ: Alright. Bye-bye.

CJ: Ok. Bye-bye.