

Shared Stories: African Americans in North Mecklenburg

Interview with Maggie Smith, September 26, 2016.

Conducted by Nancy Fairley

Summary: In this interview, Maggie Smith shares countless details about her time in Davidson, from her childhood to her life at the time of the interview. Her words illustrate a vivid picture of social life in Davidson, with mention of parties, celebrations, holidays, and town events. She is detailed when talking about her childhood and different foods she would eat then. She mentions opening “Maggie Smith’s Daycare” and maintaining it for over 10 years, taking care of many children of faculty and the overall community. Among some of the places Ms. Smith mentions throughout the interview are Lytle Grove School, Ada Jenkins Center, Torrence-Lytle, Ralph Johnson’s apartments, Gunsmoke (firearm incidents), Minnie Mayhew’s (parties), as well as the cinema in Cornelius.

Nancy Fairley: This is September 26, 2016. This is Nancy Fairley in an interview with Ms. Maggie. She’s going to list her full name and whatever information she wants to give us. Okay.

Maggie Smith: Okay, my name is Maggie Smith. You want me to tell you where I live?

Nancy Fairley: [inaudible] If you want to give your age, that’s okay, too.

Maggie Smith: Okay, I’ll be 79 in November.

Nancy Fairley: Where were you born?

Maggie Smith: I was born in Mecklenburg County. I was born down behind the Bradford store that’s on [Highway 73. In a little house down a little dirt road. I was born down there. And I had a

midwife, her name was Zettie Potts. Dr. Woods might have been a doctor, but Dr. Craven was in Huntersville, so he could get Zettie Potts to deliver me. She always told me, I brought you into this world, girl. Did you know Carrie Lee up there? Carrie Howard. She stay right there in that house. Carrie and Tom. Well, that was Carrie's mother.

Nancy Fairley: Was she a midwife for different people in Davidson? Did a lot of people use her?

Maggie Smith: No, they were more in Huntersville. I went to school down at Lytle Grove school, down below Columbus Chapel Church. We used to walk down there.

Nancy Fairley: That was an all-black school at that time?

Maggie Smith: Yes. They had two teachers, Eva Davis and Eliza Russell. They were the two teachers. They kind of divided the grades up. And I think it went from the 1st to 5th grade.

Nancy Fairley: Oh, so you guys sat in a place in which you went to school where there were, like, multiple grades of students in one room.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. And then, let's see, we did a lot of moving.

Nancy Fairley: What did your parents do for a living?

Maggie Smith: They worked cotton. My daddy worked in the mill for a while. Like, you know, when there wouldn't be no cotton he worked in the mill. My momma, she did, as we got older she did, like, [home nursing] jobs. She'd go stay on a lot. She stay out all night while she raised about four or five children. This lady's husband died, so my momma went and stayed with her during the night.

Nancy Fairley: And then your mom came home?

Maggie Smith: That was when we were little.

Nancy Fairley: So, who's in that photograph up there?

Maggie Smith: That's my dad's mother. Her name was Jennie Black She used to be a nanny in Atlanta. [where she had photograph taken] Me and my sister were the only grandchildren she had. Her other children, she had more kids, but they didn't have children. She always brought us a big box of clothes when we were going back to school. Finally, my Daddy went down there and moved her and she started working for the Puckett's in Davidson. They had twins, I think those were the last babies she tended to. I guess that's where I got my [love] for children, and my sister, from her she always kept somebody's children.

Nancy Fairley: So you went to elementary school, primary and elementary school and then you came to Ada Jenkins?

Maggie Smith: I came to Davidson, I went to school there one year. And then we went to high school, to Torrence-Lytle.

Nancy Fairley: Okay, so that's where you graduated from?

Maggie Smith: No, I didn't graduate. I had a son the year I was supposed to graduate. I got married when I was 16. The year I was supposed to be graduating I got pregnant, so I didn't graduate. I got married when I was 16. I had my son when I was 17.

Nancy Fairley: And Mr. H. what did he do?

Maggie Smith: At first, they used to work on share-crop out there on highway 73. We stayed in a house out there. We stayed out there with them because they had 4 boys. I married one of them so, the other 3 were there. I was like their sister. I would stay at home. I got married [unclear] The ball game was coming on, I was supposed to staying there to watch the ball game so I could tell them the scores, since they would be in the fields picking cotton. I would come home to start

the dinners. [unclear] I wasn't supposed to be anything because I was pregnant. I would lay around and do nothing. I had two children, a boy and a girl, Terry. Derry and Terry. We stayed there, after than we move over [unclear] but we still all stayed together, with my husband, his mommy and daddy and one of his brothers and my two children. We all stayed in the house. His brother got married and he moved out. I had another baby, that was [Pokey?]. We still stayed together. Then they stopped working cotton. Mr [unclear], when we moved over here, started worked at Davidson College and Mr. [Alex?] worked in Mooresville for some lady. After they moved over, we moved over here but we moved in an apartment. They were down there in the lake, where the lake is now. They were Ralph Johnson's apartments. Then they moved the apartments, up further on the road [unclear] And that's where, that's the area known as Gunsmoke. There was shooting going on. Bill Anderson stayed there and those boys would do some shooting.

Nancy Fairley: Shooting up in the air?

Maggie Smith: No, shooting at people. Robert White was over there on my other side. One night they were out there and he was racing and that road was completed then [Griffith]. He was racing down through there and he ran into this cop. And killed [unclear]. But then she did a u-turn in the road, this was right during the time when Martin Luther King had been killed and she said she saw police standing in the road up there [unclear]. That's where they would hang out at, she saw all those people in the road, so she turned around. He was speeding down through there and ran into her car. Yeah, they used to shoot.

Nancy Fairley: Brenda told me there was section of town called Gunsmoke, but I never believed her.

Maggie Smith: Where they be shooting outside the apartments you can see where the bullets hit the apartments. We'd be in the house.

Nancy Fairley: You know how now, there are drive by shootings. So if they were shooting and would shoot at the house, what was that about?

Maggie Smith: They would be out in the yard shooting. I don't think anybody ever drove by shooting. I think they were just there and be shooting. [unclear] never shot nobody. One Sunday Mr. Bill (Nouser??) he stayed right there on the corner. [unclear] Brandon stayed [unclear] We stayed on back further. Doug came up there to get Frances and he said "I know she is in your house." He had a gun and he was [unclear] "don't go in my house with that gun." He was going to go on, so he shot him in the leg. [unclear] he was the ambulance and the undertaker too. So he came and got him.

Nancy Fairley: So you had a black ambulance? MS: No, he was white. Cathey-Hoyle. It's the building up there by the United Methodist Church.

Nancy Fairley: Okay. So, he came to pick the guy up and took him to the hospital?

Maggie Smith: And he ran out of gas before he get to Mooresville, [He] had to come back, had to get somebody to bring him some gas. [We thought] alright, you know, he just got shot in the leg. But when they got him to the hospital he had lost so much blood, he died. And that's the only person I ever know, you know, that got shot there and died. But they would just shoot. We would run behind the houses and that's why they called it Gunsmoke.

Nancy Fairley: So, where did Mr. H. go to school?

Maggie Smith: I think he might have gone to Ada Jenkins. In his early years, you know.

Nancy Fairley: So, when you were a teenager, what kinds of things did you do? And when you were a teenager, did you belong to the Presbyterian Church?

Maggie Smith: I belonged to the Presbyterian in Huntersville, Friendship. My dad had, they called it a Hoover cart. They'd hook one mule to it and we'd drive to church. Tied the mule up out there and we'd go to church. And we would get [loaded on] the back, on in the front, and we'd go on. And then, after I got married I went to the Baptist church.

Nancy Fairley: Is that Gethsemane?

Maggie Smith: Yes.

Nancy Fairley: Where was it? And was it in that location?

Maggie Smith: It was over there on Potts Street, down in a little hole down there. I went there. Rev. Morris was the preacher. He was an old man and he didn't want to change. He got a salary. It wasn't much, but back in those days they didn't pay a preacher much.

Nancy Fairley: Yeah, they'd have another job.

Maggie Smith: He had another job. He had a barber shop. He had some houses that he rented. So—

Nancy Fairley: He had a barber shop?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm, down on Mint Street, that's where it was.

Nancy Fairley: You know, now where's Mint Street? Is that in Davidson or Huntersville?

Maggie Smith: In Charlotte.

Nancy Fairley: Oh, Mint, M-I-N-T. Yeah, I know the block, I know where you're talking about.

Maggie Smith: Kind of rough back there. But he had a barber shop back in there and everybody knew him. So, that's when I left and started going over there. We got Rev. Hurst come in at Reeves Temple and, you know, I've been ever since.

Nancy Fairley: I knew her a little bit. I liked her.

Maggie Smith: Yeah, I've been trying to get in touch with her, but I can't seem to find her no more.

Nancy Fairley: I used to see her on TV a couple times. Oh, that just warmed my heart. And I would say, I know her, I know here. But she was a good lady, too.

Maggie Smith: She was a good lady. We had a lot of good people. Very few of them stayed there.

Nancy Fairley: That's the only thing I don't like about that church, is that you [with Reverend Hurst] things were happening and then they changed and bring Reverend Hall. Alright, things are happening. Boom, now we got Reverend Wall. So, yeah.

Maggie Smith: So, now he'll probably stay there three or four years and they'll probably [change]. People get started complaining. They're never satisfied with [the reverend]. To me, it's not the preacher, because the preacher move on.

Nancy Fairley: We're supposed to be the ones who make up the church, and if we spent more time learning to love each other we wouldn't have all this craziness.

Maggie Smith: That's right.

Nancy Fairley: What kinds of jobs did you have after you—when did you start working?

Maggie Smith: I started working when Melinda was six years old. She started going to school, so I started working. I worked at General Time, but first I worked at Draymo's. They used to make curtains and the fiberglass made me break out. I worked at the iron factory—that's what they called the shirt factory. They made shirts. But, I couldn't seem to get that crease in them pants and they kept bringing them back. So, I said, well, they won't bring me nothing back next week. And it was hot in there. You had to put that steam down there and all that steam come up.

I stopped working there and then I started working [unclear] a little while, but that didn't last long because I had to work 3rd shift, and that wasn't good. I started working at General Time. I worked there for 10 years. I worked on the line. We made clocks that go in automobiles. It was a good job, but you get tired. They'll pile you up and then work you on your break, work you on your lunch, you go back in there and you have piled up clocks, then you try to catch up.

Nancy Fairley: Now, were these factories all out here in Mecklenburg, or did you go into Charlotte?

Maggie Smith: No, right over there – right over there where the school is now. Used to be.

Nancy Fairley: On South Street?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. Where that school is. That used to be General Time. They made clocks for automobiles and they made clocks like that up there. But in a back, put in a clock. And then they closed it down. I stopped working before they closed down. I went on 2nd shift to get off the line, and then they closed 2nd shift down. I worked there for 10 years and closed 2nd shift down. So, I said, well, I've worked long enough so I just draw my unemployment for a while. And then, they put an ad in the paper they were training nurses assistants down at Huntersville Oaks. They had a nursing home there.

Nancy Fairley: The old one, but I remember the old one. Dovie Howard was still in the old one before they tore it down.

Maggie Smith: So, I said, why don't I go down there and take that course. And I went down there and took the class. I think I went for six weeks. And then I said I think I'd like work there. So, I went to work on 1st shift. I worked three days a week. I think I worked Monday, and Wednesday, and then I had to work Saturday and Sunday. I worked there for 10 years. It was good as long as me and Ms. Bessie Dwyer worked together. And Wilba. What is Wilba's last name? She was our nurse. She was the RN. But we all worked together, then they start splitting us up. So, I said, this ain't going to work because I ain't going to be lifting those big people by

myself. So, this lady had asked me about keeping her son. Marybeth Kuzmanovich.

Nancy Fairley: I know who you're talking about.

Maggie Smith: So—

Nancy Fairley: Her husband used to be—

Maggie Smith: Zoran.

Nancy Fairley:—in the English department. Okay.

Maggie Smith: He's still, I guess.

Nancy Fairley: Yeah, he's still there.

Maggie Smith: And so, I did—I had some more friends that had some children they need somebody to keep. She said, why don't you open up you a daycare. I said, well I hadn't thought about it. So, she went down there, bought my license. I think she paid \$20 for it. I didn't have to go to school or nothing, they just came up here, inspected my house, and I opened up me a daycare.

Nancy Fairley: Okay, so what was the name of your daycare?

Maggie Smith: It was

Maggie Smith's Daycare.

Nancy Fairley: Alright. See, I didn't know you had a business.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. I did it for about, I guess, 10 or 12 years. I had infants, up to two

years. And when they get two years old they would go up to [00:20:41 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Oh, okay. And that was [00:20:45 unintelligible] daycare center up there at the time.

Maggie Smith: Right.

Nancy Fairley: Yeah, yeah. I'm pointing the wrong way, but yeah. Oh, wow.

Maggie Smith: I kept Marybeth's three children, I kept Linda Mullen's two children, I kept [00:21:06 unintelligible]—I kept somebody else that work at Davidson College. I can't think of his name. I kept his children. Usually I would have the oldest one, then I'd get the next one, the baby. So, I always—all of them mostly was white though. Very few—I kept [00:21:29 unintelligible]—what was Moby's name? That was his last name. I kept his son. I kept [00:21:41 unintelligible] twins.

Nancy Fairley: Twins would be—who? I know her daughter had twins when she married [00:21:53 Curtis], who are the other twins?

Maggie Smith: That's the one's I kept.

Nancy Fairley: Oh, the Curtis' twins. Yeah, yeah, her granddaughters.

Maggie Smith: I kept Hollis Ann sister. What's her name? [00:22:12 Emma]—I kept her daughter's twins because she was going to school and she was wanting to finish school, but she didn't have nobody to keep them. So, I kept those twins. And then my husband got sick and didn't keep them no more. He said they would get on his nerves. But my momma got sick during that time, and she got better. I brought my momma home and I tend to her. She got better ,so she [00:22:48 unintelligible]. And then she got better, and then my husband got sick.

Nancy Fairley: I was [00:22:57 unintelligible] Mr. Ace's—I met him [00:23:01 unintelligible].

We all liked Mr. Ace. Mr. Ace reminded me of my father. So, well, he was a friendly, outgoing guy [00:23:14 unintelligible] couldn't help but get to know him. But, he always reminded me of my father and that, so he was kind of special to me.

Maggie Smith: That's [00:23:22 unintelligible] say though. He said, that was the first black man that he seen when he came over to Ada Jenkins. Saying, he took time and he sit down and talked to me. He worked over there [00:23:34 unintelligible] they had over there.

Nancy Fairley: Yeah, yeah, I remember that.

Maggie Smith: Then he got sick and he stopped for a while, then he went back, and then he got sick again and he couldn't go back no more.

Nancy Fairley: Okay. Now, I hear that a lot of people—okay, so you gave me the name of the lady who was your midwife, brought you into this world. Were there any restaurants or places to go dancing? What did people do on the weekend?

Maggie Smith: Well, they usually had parties. People used to have parties at their houses and go over there and dancing. People would get in fights [00:24:16 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Right. So, would you pay something to come into the party?

Maggie Smith: No, they'd have them, you know, like, in their yard. [00:24:23 Unintelligible] fishing, drinking.

Nancy Fairley: Okay, so, somebody would be [00:24:28 unintelligible]. That happened during the spring and summer.

Maggie Smith: Spring and summer. It used to be a place down on [00:24:37 15] they called [00:24:38 Flinna's].

Nancy Fairley: Called what?

Maggie Smith: [00:24:40 Flinna's].

Nancy Fairley: [00:24:41 Flinna's], okay.

Maggie Smith: It was like you could go there and dance, but the white peoples danced one side and the black people danced on the other side.

Nancy Fairley: Are you serious?

Maggie Smith: Yeah. It's right there—it's before you get to New Friendship. It's a building—I think it might be a restaurant now. It's a big white building on the left hand side of the road.

Nancy Fairley: So, they had a side for the whites and a side for the—

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm.

Nancy Fairley: Now, you weren't dancing to the same music were you?

Maggie Smith: [00:25:13 Unintelligible]. Couldn't have been.

Nancy Fairley: No, that's what I was thinking, too. You had a jukebox on both sides.

Maggie Smith: And then, like, in the spring, in the year, they would have picnics.

Nancy Fairley: And who would have [00:25:26 unintelligible]?

Maggie Smith: Churches. They used to have one, the [00:25:30 unintelligible] Society used to have picnics up here. They don't do it no more. I don't think the churches do them. When I was going to Friendship, we used to have, like, a picnic two days [00:25:42 unintelligible], Friday

and Saturday, but I don't think we ever danced [00:25:50 unintelligible] church.

Nancy Fairley: Yeah, yeah, they would just have games and things.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm.

Nancy Fairley: Now, you [00:25:55 unintelligible] ground?

Maggie Smith: On the church ground. Used to have it at Columbus Chapel, and they would alw—that Sunday they would have a [00:26:02 unintelligible] at Torrence Chapel. It would be big at Torrence Chapel. But, they have stands everywhere and you could make pictures. And out there where those houses are built across [00:26:16 unintelligible], they used to park cars over there because people would be coming to the camp meeting.

Nancy Fairley: Okay, now, I know they still have that outdoor arbor.

Maggie Smith: Uh-huh, but they don't have the camp meeting like they did.

Nancy Fairley: Yeah, they have a different little—something called tents or camps.

Maggie Smith: Yeah, those are [00:26:32 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: {00:26:33 Unintelligible}?

Maggie Smith: They don't do that anymore.

Nancy Fairley: So, you would go out to one of those tents, and—

Maggie Smith: Yeah, you could go out there. Stay out all day. But, we usually would stay at home. Our parents would go and they would always cook us a big dinner. And as soon as they got out of sight we'd eat up all the food. And then there was Tucker's.

Nancy Fairley: Tucker Grove.

Maggie Smith: And then there was a place on down below [00:27:05 Walmart], they used to call it Bess Sadie.

Nancy Fairley: Say again?

Maggie Smith: Bess Sadie. They would have a picnic, like—I think it was a lot of sisters and brothers that [00:27:17 unintelligible] picnic maybe three or four days a week. But, they would dance down there. But, so they got so they start fighting and going on so much, I think they stopped [00:27:30 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Now, is that a church also off of [00:27:34 unintelligible] 73, like, you're going toward Tucker Grove? Where's that church located?

Maggie Smith: [00:27:43 unintelligible]. No, it's down, like, down 115 where you turn and go out there to Walmart.

Nancy Fairley: Oh, the new Walmart. Okay, I got the old one.

Maggie Smith: [00:27:55 Unintelligible] side there, right at the railroad track.

Nancy Fairley: Okay.

Maggie Smith: And that's where people went.

Nancy Fairley: Yeah. Now, [00:28:07 unintelligible] Davidson—how you doing?—I think it was Ms. Minnie's house. There was a jukebox in the basement and people could go there and dance.

Maggie Smith: I never went there. My mother-in-law, I remember they used to go up there.

Nancy Fairley: So, that was more for adults?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. Now, young people might have went, but I never went there.

Nancy Fairley: What did they call that? [00:28:31 Unintelligible].

Maggie Smith: I don't either, but that's where [00:28:35 unintelligible] people used to go and [00:28:36 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: So, it was owned by Ms. Minnie. What's Ms. Minnie's last name?

Maggie Smith: Mayhew.

Nancy Fairley: Mayhew, okay. I also heard that there was a little restaurant. Tom Crook or somebody like that had a little restaurant and you could buy bologna sandwiches and things like that? Said it was over there near where Ruby used to live.

Maggie Smith: The only one I know is the one up on the hill. It used to be [00:29:08 unintelligible] store when the school was there. [00:29:14 Unintelligible] used to run the store. She would sell, like, root beer, candy, [00:29:22 unintelligible]. I don't know whether she sold any meat or stuff. She might have.

Nancy Fairley: [00:29:27 Unintelligible] she had bread or milk, but she basically sold [00:29:32 unintelligible].

Maggie Smith: And Ms. Annie [00:29:32 unintelligible], she was a big old lady. Two or three big old cookies for a penny.

Nancy Fairley: Yes, I remember that.

Maggie Smith: And then James [00:29:42 Rayford] opened up that store over there. Somebody else had [00:29:51 unintelligible]. Or was it after James [00:29:55 Rayford]? It might have been after. But [00:29:59 unintelligible], like, fish and chicken. Used to have good homemade cakes.

Nancy Fairley: I love cake.

Maggie Smith: They [00:30:10 unintelligible]. They didn't stay long. But, I just [00:30:18 unintelligible], he sell pizza and stuff.

Nancy Fairley: I never seen anybody over there. That's what I can't understand. [00:30:24 unintelligible].

Maggie Smith: Well, I think the people [00:30:28 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Like, order and takeout.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. And usually lunch time they usually come and, you know, get food. My son gets pizza from over there. He said they're good, but I don't like pizza that much.

Nancy Fairley: Okay. Now, so who did your hair when [00:30:48 unintelligible]? Who did your hair?

Maggie Smith: Okay, I [00:30:53 unintelligible] I might have went to Catherine Carr, maybe one or two times. But, my sister [00:31:02 unintelligible], she would fix her hair and my hair. [00:31:05 Unintelligible], my sister gave me a perm, too. And then—

Nancy Fairley: Gave you a first perm.

Maggie Smith: I thought [00:31:14 unintelligible]. I had so many sores in my head, seemed like I couldn't [00:31:17 unintelligible]. Then I started going to Charlotte down on [00:31:22

Bedford] Road. Mary Battle was my beautician. I went there for a long time. Then I got tired of driving back and forth to Charlotte. Then I went to Huntersville to—what's this girls name?—I can't think [00:31:42 unintelligible]. Then I went up to [00:31:45 unintelligible] daughter for a while. Then I had real long hair then. Then, after [00:31:52 unintelligible] I didn't have time to go to the beauty shop and [00:31:55 unintelligible]. Because, you know, they would never—they'd give you an appointment but they always have somebody there when you got there. So, I told [00:32:03 unintelligible], I'm going to cut my hair. And I cut it off. [00:32:07 Unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: [00:32:07 Unintelligible]. Oh my goodness. Okay, alright.

Maggie Smith: Yeah, because me and my mother-in-law had went to Charlotte down there, it was like Dalebrook. We get our hair fixed. And they called us, said, y'all better get home because it's snowing. I guess we'd go 10 miles an hour from Charlotte to Morr—up here.

Nancy Fairley: To get back up here?

Maggie Smith: It was really snowing.

Nancy Fairley: Now, okay, so you had those picnics. The adults went—Ms. [00:32:44 unintelligible] people would be having even for Christmas. What do you remember about Christmas? She said people went from house to house.

Maggie Smith: Yeah, it was—well, usually families have dinner and they'd invite their friends and they'd eat. Sometimes it's be on Saturday, sometimes it would be on Sunday.

Nancy Fairley: Okay. Well, did you all used to get Christmas box? How did your family give you your stuff from Santa Clause?

Maggie Smith: Okay, when I was—

Nancy Fairley: When I was growing up we had Christmas box. Every child would have a shoe box with some things in it.

Maggie Smith: Yeah, we had a shoe box and we had [00:33:22 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Candy.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. We'd get a baby doll and maybe a tea set or something. We didn't get but one toy. We had [00:33:31 unintelligible] clothes, and that's how we'd get ours. [00:33:34 Unintelligible] I was about eight or nine years old and our parents had went off and left us at home and we found the toys. So, was no more Santa Clause. And we used to go to town, like, when it get near Christmas, and we could go see Santa Clause.

Nancy Fairley: So, they would have a Santa Clause in Davidson?

Maggie Smith: No, we went to [00:34:00 unintelligible], over that way. They'd have a Santa Clause at, seemed like a [00:34:06 Montgomery] [00:34:07 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Yeah, yeah, okay. And y'all took pictures with him?

Maggie Smith: Nuh-uh, I was always scared. We'd just go see him.

Nancy Fairley: My brother, he's about five years younger than me, we have a picture of him with Santa Clause, that boy looked like he was scared to death of that big white man with that big [00:34:28 unintelligible]. My mother said she stopped [00:34:31 unintelligible]. You know, until they get a black Santa Clause, I'm not wasting my money.

Maggie Smith: We'd be scared. We'd just go look. We didn't make no pictures with him. Then, when we moved [00:34:44 unintelligible] started being at different places, but never took my children.

Nancy Fairley: I never took my daughter, too. [00:34:57 Unintelligible]. You know, and she'd get gifts from quite a few people. She said, yes, [00:35:07 unintelligible], there's always one from Santa Clause. I said, well, I need you to know that Santa Clause is paid. I said, that's why—you think Santa Clause gives you more than the girl next door because you [00:35:22 unintelligible]. I said, it's based on how much money your parents can give Santa Clause. And so, that sort of turned her off about Santa Clause. So, eventually she realized what the deal was. But, when I was a kid, Santa Clause would come to their house at 10:00 at night. He never came to our house until midnight because we would always [00:35:46 unintelligible] skipped us and went someplace else. And [00:35:51 unintelligible] upset because these people give their kids their Christmas toys by 10:00 at night. And then, so they would play around about an hour and then they'd go to bed. My parents always stayed up until midnight to give us our toys.

Maggie Smith: Well, we would usually go to bed and we'd get up soon in the morning. But then, when my children started getting them, they would get up maybe 12:00 and we couldn't get them back to bed because they wanted to stay up and play with their toys.

Nancy Fairley: Play with their toys. That's right, that's right. So—

Maggie Smith: It changed so much.

Nancy Fairley:—did you guys have programs at the all black schools like [00:36:34 unintelligible]? You could do, like, a play, or some kind of—and everybody on the school would come and see that? And I think they did it, like, one every two or three weeks. Because each class [00:36:53 unintelligible] some program.

Maggie Smith: They did. Kind of, like, at the end of the year, each class would do a program. Maybe at May Day or Easter, something like that, classes would do a program. But, at the end of the year when a class got ready to graduate, they would have, like, [00:37:14 unintelligible], they would have a play on Friday night, then on Sunday they would [00:37:26 unintelligible]. And all the girls had to wear white dresses and the boys had to wear black pants and white shirt. But now, they wear anything.

Nancy Fairley: Yeah, yeah. Did y'all [00:37:38 unintelligible]?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm.

Nancy Fairley: Okay. They [00:37:42 unintelligible], everybody had on the same color shoes. Now, you get purple shoes, red shoes, white shoes, all kinds of shoes. That's true.

Maggie Smith: Yeah. And we used to have—we had a dance, you know, end of year, where the children would go, but couldn't nobody go but the 11th and 12th grade.

Nancy Fairley: Like a prom?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm.

Nancy Fairley: Yeah, the same thing at my school. The 11th grade [00:38:07 unintelligible] prom for the people in the 12th grade. And then when your class that had given the prom, you'd [00:38:15 unintelligible] the next class behind you. And they also let the girls and boys who were, like, good students from the sophomore class be the waiters to serve [00:38:28 unintelligible] little sweet snacks they had at the prom.

Maggie Smith: But, we would always have ours, like, at school, at the gym or somewhere. We didn't have to always go somewhere like they do now.

Nancy Fairley: Nuh-uh, we had ours at the gym, too. And we had fun decorating. [00:38:44 unintelligible].

Maggie Smith: Used to have May Day.

Nancy Fairley: So, what did y'all do on May Day?

Maggie Smith: We did different programs and we wrapped the May pole. That was the fun.

Nancy Fairley: At Ada Jenkins or the other schools?

Maggie Smith: Yeah, we did it at Ada Jenkins. I don't remember doing it at the other school. We sure did. But now, they don't [00:39:10 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Yeah. Now, did you guys have a parade to go with your May Day? Because, in my home [00:39:17 unintelligible] Christmas parade was the white people parade, May Day was the black people parade. And we went through town. The police would make a siren. So, we'd [00:39:30 unintelligible] floats. Then, each class would have a theme and you would be dressed up according to [00:39:42 unintelligible] and you'd walk through town and, you know, behind the float for the 3rd grade and all of that. You know, so it was a big deal thing at my hometown.

Maggie Smith: Well, we had [00:39:54 unintelligible]. I guess my children were little, they had, like, the Christmas parade, and they'd do something on Halloween, and then they had, like, [00:40:07 unintelligible]. And something else, something [00:40:11 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: So, when you were little they had [00:40:12 Towns Day]? Or is that something—that's something more recent.

Maggie Smith: Nuh-uh, that's just something they started doing after my children got pretty good size.

Nancy Fairley: And at Christmas in Davidson was also [00:40:24 unintelligible], right?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. Just gets bigger and bigger every year.

Nancy Fairley: I tell you. Now that all these wealthy people have moved to Davidson. It's very interesting [00:40:36 unintelligible].

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm.

Nancy Fairley: Now, when I first came here in the 90s and this [00:40:44 unintelligible]. You could walk through Main Street and you could be over and finished in 30 minutes unless you just wanted to hang out and talk to somebody. Now, they sell all kinds of things. It's really amazing.

Maggie Smith: Go all the way down—almost to Cornelius.

Nancy Fairley: That's true, that's true.

Maggie Smith: I don't go up there anymore.

Nancy Fairley: I don't either.

Maggie Smith: It's too many people.

Nancy Fairley: My daughter takes my grandson, so, Mom, you don't—I said, no, no, I don't want to go. I had my years of going.

Maggie Smith: I like to go when the Presbyterian be selling some chicken or fish or something, I go get some of that. But have nothing—

Nancy Fairley: Yeah, and I'd eat and go home.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. [00:41:26 Unintelligible] go home. But, I used to be—yeah, I used to participate a lot in the Towns Day thing. Go up there and [00:41:33 unintelligible]. Because I think I done been on about every board in Davidson. So, I'd be always up there doing something.

Nancy Fairley: Now, do you remember before the Civil Rights movement, did you know [00:41:50 unintelligible]?

Maggie Smith: Not really.

Nancy Fairley: I meant to asking people that. Because I have vivid memory for myself the first time my parents voted in '68. Now, I was off to college, but when I called home they were so excited about the fact that they voted. So—

Maggie Smith: You know, I never heard my parents say anything about voting. I never did. They might have, I don't—

Nancy Fairley: Do you remember the first time you voted?

Maggie Smith: Well, I think I might have voted—I can't remember. Maybe when Jimmy Carter or some of those people—

Nancy Fairley: You know, there was [00:42:40 unintelligible]—

Maggie Smith: Yeah.

Nancy Fairley:—and you didn't have voter rights act, so black people in the cities, in the north and the west coast [00:42:48 unintelligible]. And a few black people always voted in each town. They had so many rules that you couldn't get to vote. And then, you had the Civil Rights voting act [00:43:02 unintelligible] '64 or '65. So, '68 is when people started voting in my hometown.

Maggie Smith: Probably—I don't know, I don't remember. For me—

Nancy Fairley: See, because [00:43:18 unintelligible] it was 21 at that time.

Maggie Smith: I didn't pay that much to the election and stuff really.

Nancy Fairley: Your kids were small.

Maggie Smith: But I still didn't pay—and I didn't pay that much to it to know—I remember when Kennedy was in and I remember when he got killed. I remember when Martin Luther King got killed. And, you know, things kind of died down then and then you didn't hear too much about it. And then, I think I just [00:43:54 unintelligible] voting.

Nancy Fairley: Okay. Now, tell me about—so, when you were little did people have wood stoves or did they have gas stoves? What do you remember?

Maggie Smith: We had a wood stove. We had to cook with a wood stove. We had a stove in the kitchen and it had a tank on it. We kept that filled up with water. That's what we'd take our baths and stuff in, used the hot water. Always kept our [00:44:30 unintelligible] stove for—we heated our house—we had a fireplace. Some place we might have had a wood stove, but the fireplace you could put that old log on there and let it burn all night long and the house would stay kind of warm. And then, finally we got an oil stove, I think, to cook on. That [00:44:58 wood] stove was the best stove. My mother-in-law used to cook pies [00:45:05 unintelligible] sweet potato pie. And we stayed on [00:45:08 unintelligible] over here at the church. That pie in the stove and then we'd go back and it'd be good and juicy ready to take out. Cook bread and stuff. Mine would burn up.

Nancy Fairley: [00:45:22 unintelligible], I was born in '50, okay, but Momma and—still cook biscuits for breakfast. Okay, I don't know what we did for lunch because I can't remember that, I'd go to school, but I know that my mother cooked [00:45:47 unintelligible]—cooked bread in the evening. And occasionally we'd get something called a fiddle cake. That's as close as we'd get to pancakes I guess. And then, hoecakes, on top of the stove made out of cornmeal. So, and biscuits and cornbread.

Maggie Smith: We had that all the time. We had to put it in there.

Nancy Fairley: Yeah. I'll tell you—

Maggie Smith: Breakfast and supper. I can't remember if we ate during the middle of the day or

not.

Nancy Fairley: See, I can see myself when I was—I know my mom used to take us—she would put us on a blanket in the—even in the winter, and we would pay while she washed the clothes. So, I know we had to eat, but I can't remember lunch until I started going to school.

Maggie Smith: I don't either. I think we might have ate earlier, you know, maybe like 3:00 or 4:00. We didn't eat late at night. So, we just had those two meals, but we'd always have a good breakfast. And on Sunday morning-Saturday mornings, we had mackerel fish that was [00:47:09 unintelligible]. They was so good. And then, we'd have [00:47:14 unintelligible], and then we'd have some fish and grits that morning. On Sunday, they would always [00:47:22 unintelligible] some chicken and we'd have some gravy and grits with chicken. We didn't really eat the chicken, we just eat the grits and gravy and we had biscuits so we could sop that gravy.

Nancy Fairley: With the biscuits.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm.

Nancy Fairley: Now, when people wanted to get their cars fixed, was there black [00:47:51 unintelligible] mechanic, or did everybody get their cars—back then, like, men knew about cars.

Maggie Smith: Everybody kind of fixed their own. Yeah, you didn't know how to fix it maybe your neighbor know how to fix it.

Nancy Fairley: Come over and show you.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. And my daddy used to have a car and he had so many patches on that tire I don't think you could put no more. And they used to buy patches and [00:48:16 unintelligible] inner tube and you had to put some glue on it and put it on there. And then they had a pump, they'd pump it up. And take wire and tie stuff up in the car. I don't never remember going to the garage.

Nancy Fairley: Me either, that's what I was thinking [00:48:36 unintelligible] taking out the differences. So, Ralph Johnson was the one who owned a lot of houses. Anybody else owned a lot of houses in Davidson that they rented out? Because I only hear people talk about Ralph Johnson.

Maggie Smith: He was the only black man that I know of.

Nancy Fairley: Who owned the houses. Okay.

Maggie Smith: And then he [00:49:01 unintelligible] I think after they moved that water down there [00:49:05 unintelligible]. So, I don't—Ms. Mary [00:49:11 Kie] used to rent houses, but that was [00:49:13 unintelligible]. I think Ralph Johnson was the first black person to have houses.

Nancy Fairley: To rent.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm.

Nancy Fairley: Wow. I heard that black men got their hair cut in the evenings after the white people got theirs cut in the daytime?

Maggie Smith: Yeah, because the same barber would cut it. See, Jim McClean knows up there on Crane Street right there where Cathy and Rob's house is. I think that barber shop might still be back there. I might be, they might tore it down. It was a black building, they used to go over there and get their haircuts. Ms. Emma stayed in the house in the front, and Joe—they build the barber shop back there. Joe and [00:50:07 Costa] cut hair back then. And sometimes, you know, you'd go to people's house and they would cut your hair.

Nancy Fairley: That's what we had in my—we had one black barber shop. In fact, we had a black [00:50:19 unintelligible] in my hometown. So, there, you had the barber shop, the nickel

and dime store, a restaurant, and a little hotel. And so, I think—and the [00:50:40 unintelligible] the only black undertaker in the town. That's what we—and it was right—if this is Main Street, it would be perpendicular to Main Street. So, black people—now, did you all have a movie theater that you all went to?

Maggie Smith: Yeah.

Nancy Fairley: Where was it?

Maggie Smith: They say there was one in [00:51:05 unintelligible], but I don't know about that. But then somebody burnt it down. We used to go to one in Cornelius back down in there where the laundry used to be. [00:51:18 Unintelligible] might still be back down there, the never did put some more stores there. But it was, I think, the white people sit downstairs and black people sit upstairs. And then, Mooresville was the same way. I don't remember one being in Davidson, but they say it was one. So, I [00:51:35 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Yeah, but you went to the one in Cornelius. So, let me ask you a question. When I was a kid growing up, if we went to the movies [00:51:42 unintelligible] the movie theater. But you went to the movies, sometime afterward we'd save the ice from our soda and throw it down on the white people and then run, run, run out. Y'all did that?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. Throw popcorn down there.

Nancy Fairley: Like, at the bottom of the popcorn back, if there were, like, kernels, and we'd just throw it and just—

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm, because they wouldn't know who throw them. Yeah, I think we paid a quarter to go to the movies. It wasn't much.

Nancy Fairley: No, it wasn't much back then.

Maggie Smith: But we went to the movies.

Nancy Fairley: Now, when women worked as—like, your mom worked as a nanny, do you know how much she made a week?

Maggie Smith: I don't know. It wasn't nothing.

Nancy Fairley: Wasn't—because, you know something, what I remember? In the 60s, a woman in my hometown who cooked and clean for [00:52:41 unintelligible] family, she made [00:52:44 unintelligible]. If she made that she was lucky.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. [00:52:49 Unintelligible]. I remember we could go to the store and get a loaf of bread for \$.15. You'd get [00:52:56 unintelligible], pack of weenies. Stuff didn't cost much. And then, we grew all our vegetables. We had cows and we had milk and butter.

Nancy Fairley: [00:53:09 Unintelligible] your own buttermilk?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. And all we'd have to buy at the store would be, like, oil and sugar.

Nancy Fairley: And did you'll make [00:53:21 unintelligible].

Maggie Smith: We made [00:53:23 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Okay, we'd make soap, too. Yeah. Oh my goodness.

Maggie Smith: Didn't have to buy much soap. You know, if you wasn't making much money, you didn't have to spend much because you wasn't making much. Because they [00:53:39 unintelligible] and they add up the cotton and stuff and they'd [00:53:43 unintelligible] that money, so they wouldn't [00:53:45 unintelligible], you know.

Nancy Fairley: [00:53:47 Unintelligible] tell them that, no, I didn't [00:53:51 unintelligible]. I

heard that, you know, you could get yourself near hung.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. Used to [00:53:59 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Mm-hmm, and went on about your business.

Maggie Smith: But we were [00:54:03 unintelligible] do like a heel and put those potatoes in.

Nancy Fairley: Yes. Y'all put that pine needle on it?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. And Mr. Kim said he tried to do something and it—sit right over there before he died—he said, and all my potatoes were rotten. He said, but we used to do it.

Nancy Fairley: We used to do that.

Maggie Smith: We used to have an ice box. We'd sit out on the porch down where the ice plant is—that's when we stayed out in the country. [00:54:28 unintelligible] on the truck and they'd bring us, like, 50-pound ice or 100 ice and they'd put that in that ice box. Wouldn't have to be at home, they'd just throw it up in there and you can come up there and [00:54:40 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Okay, okay.

Maggie Smith: We put our food out there and—

Nancy Fairley: And it was fine. And when I was a kid they used to hang sausage up in the barn so that it would dry out. They would salt hams and things. Something I ain't never heard of, [00:55:08 Misses] told me that her mother would cook sausage and [00:55:14 unintelligible] the grease, put it in—she would can it.

Maggie Smith: My momma used to do that.

Nancy Fairley: I never heard of that over where I come from.

Maggie Smith: Used to put it in a pressure cooker and they would—they—like the spare ribs, they'd can them and they'd cook them and put them in a jar. One time [00:55:30 unintelligible]—my momma was telling me this because I wondered why they tried to do it. They did some [00:55:36 liver mush]. You know, they used to make all [00:55:38 unintelligible]. Tried to do that, but that meal in it made it come out the jar. So, they'd just have to keep the [00:55:46 liver mush] like they did the hams and stuff until you [00:55:50 unintelligible]. But, they'd put sausage in a jar. But, [00:55:55 unintelligible]. Ms. Cecilia used to can everything.

Nancy Fairley: Ms. Cecilia Conner?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. We used to get that [00:56:04 food] over at the hut—what did they call it? —[00:56:07 Gleena]. Ms. Cecilia, we got a lot of white potatoes one time and I had saved a lot of mind. She said, [00:56:16 unintelligible] can my potatoes. I said, how do you can them? She said, [00:56:20 unintelligible] put them in the [00:56:21 unintelligible] pear ball them a little bit. And say, when I get ready for them I just take them out and cut them up.

Nancy Fairley: That's amazing.

Maggie Smith: She could can anything.

Nancy Fairley: I guess that's how people made it in the olden times.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. And, like, I would use my jar lids and throw them away. She said, no, [00:56:40 unintelligible] throw them away because if they not broke you can used them again. Say you got, like, a peanut butter jar, she canned stuff in there. [00:56:53 Unintelligible] jar.

Nancy Fairley: They used to save every jar. If they bought it from the store they saved that jar. And we always saved the bottles so we could go get [00:57:06 unintelligible] bottle drinks, you would get the bottle. You could take your own bottles.

Maggie Smith: Yeah. Now, everything's in plastic.

Nancy Fairley: Yeah. [00:57:17 Unintelligible]. Now, I'm trying to think—do you know—did you ever—when did you move to this community here?

Maggie Smith: Oh, it's been about, let's see, probably about [00:57:43 unintelligible] five years over here because I stayed over there in the apartments, and then we moved over here. We moved in December or January [00:57:55 unintelligible]. First of January. Because we supposed to be moved for Christmas and we had brought all our stuff over here, all our dishes, and then they didn't get through. So, we had to spend Christmas in the apartment without the Christmas tree and everything.

Nancy Fairley: Oh Lord.

Maggie Smith: But when I moved over here—let's see, Lacy's house was here, [00:58:21 unintelligible] house was here, and Dora's house was here. James [00:58:25 unintelligible] house was here. Wasn't no more houses on this street.

Nancy Fairley: Wow. And what about that two-story house that [00:58:36 unintelligible] down this road here? What did—

Maggie Smith: It was built long after we moved here.

Nancy Fairley: Oh, okay, okay. Now, did he own property in Davidson?

Maggie Smith: I think—

Nancy Fairley: One of those people who owned property and rented it out?

Maggie Smith: He just now started doing it. It hadn't been—

Nancy Fairley: Oh, just more recent.

Maggie Smith: Recent, uh-huh. Because that house—somebody else built that house and he bought it, I think. And he has a house over there next to the church, he bought that from somebody else. But, none of these houses [00:59:13 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Now, when people—like I said, I went to all black schools—I was [00:59:22 unintelligible] in our community. Did you have that too?

Maggie Smith: Yeah.

Nancy Fairley: Did you know where they lived?

Maggie Smith: Uh-huh. Ms. Brown and Ms. [00:59:27 Balkin] lived over there on Mock Circle. They lived in a little white house where Mary and [00:59:32 unintelligible] used to stay.

Nancy Fairley: Oh my goodness.

Maggie Smith: They stayed there. They stayed there together. Some of our teachers came out of Charlotte. But those two, they lived there.

Nancy Fairley: What about [00:59:45 unintelligible], did they live in that [00:59:47 unintelligible]?

Maggie Smith: Well, [00:59:51 unintelligible] might have because they had a parson in front.

Nancy Fairley: Where was that?

Maggie Smith: Right over there, it's on Mock Circle where that last—well, might not be nothing there now. I think it might just be an empty lot because the church owned it and they couldn't

afford to fix it up, so they sold it to the housing [01:00:16 unintelligible]. Everybody [01:00:18 unintelligible]. You can't fix it up, we can't leave it standing now.

Nancy Fairley: And [01:00:23 unintelligible] pay tax on it.

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. But they wanted it down because they wanted the land. And, yeah, we go ahead and said—they talk about it was [01:00:36 unintelligible], but you have to have money to fix up historical.

Nancy Fairley: Like, the hut is a historical thing, but you—

Maggie Smith: Yeah, but we don't have the money to fix it up. They say it cost \$40,000 to build a foundation, and that's what we need. We need a foundation before we can do anything else.

Nancy Fairley: That's a lot of money.

Maggie Smith: But, I think they—somebody had went and looked into it. You can get permission from [01:01:13 unintelligible] to tear it down. [01:01:18 Unintelligible] tear it down yourself you might get in some trouble.

Nancy Fairley: Trouble, yeah, yeah. Because they said the place is over 100 years old.

Maggie Smith: Yeah, they had wrote a—Davidson College students used to come—I think some of them might have stayed there.

Nancy Fairley: Actually lived in the hut?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm.

Nancy Fairley: Oh, wow.

Maggie Smith: Because it's—let's see, I think I had a paper one time where Chris had pulled up all this stuff about that hut, all the information who build it and what they did in it. And [01:01:55 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: Talking about Chris—

Maggie Smith: Alexander.

Nancy Fairley: Oh, okay. Is that the Chris that was in the pulpit yesterday?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm.

Nancy Fairley: Okay, [01:02:08 unintelligible] the last name. Chris Springs is June Springs' son [01:02:14 unintelligible].

Maggie Smith: Yeah, [01:02:15 unintelligible].

Nancy Fairley: So, there's always been just three churches in Davidson?

Maggie Smith: That's all.

Nancy Fairley: I mean, for the black folks.

Maggie Smith: Yeah. I think it was just one church. Might have been two. It was the Presbyterian and the Baptist. [01:02:45 Reed's Temple], some of them come from Torrence Chapel.

Nancy Fairley: Okay, they come out [01:02:52 unintelligible] that church.

Maggie Smith: And some of them might have come from Union Bethel because Torrence Chapel used to be the only AME Zion Church I think. Then some of them come out of that,

[01:03:05 unintelligible] church, and some of them went to Union Bethel.

Nancy Fairley: Okay, okay.

Maggie Smith: You know how you get little families together and they say, I ain't going to stay at the church, I'm going to start me a church of my own.

Nancy Fairley: Now, people talk about the Masonic lodge that was here. Who built that? Was it owned by black people or was it a Masonic lodge for white people on this side of town?

Maggie Smith: It must have been for black people because when Ralph Johnson wrote his book, he said he can remember this building that was up over the Methodist church, and that's where they initiated the Masons at. And he said they told him to get in the Masons he had to ride a goat. And he said, he would peek and see if he could see a goat in there, but he never did tell. But that's what people told him. He said, that's the reason he never wanted to join the lodge because he didn't think he could ride the goat. But that was the only one I ever know of because they say you have to have it up high. But now, they bought some land—they might still own it—right down there.

Nancy Fairley: Where?

Maggie Smith: Right beside that water place. It's a little spot of land and it belongs to the masons.

Nancy Fairley: Oh wow, okay.

Maggie Smith: But they never got enough money, enough for interest [01:04:36 unintelligible] because they say you have to do it on a second floor. You can't—

Nancy Fairley: Yeah, I know—you might have a first floor which is where people come to dance or to have a social event, but they office will always be on top. Yeah, I know that, I've

seen that. Wow.

Maggie Smith: I don't even know [01:04:56 unintelligible]. I recon they do. But, it's one built in Cornelius. I remember them building that one down there.

Nancy Fairley: Me too. Now, where did you all go shopping for clothes? I know your aunt sent you—because my aunt used to do that. She worked at Washington DC, and what we learned later is that she would go to the thrift shops and buy up the white people's clothes and send it to us. Almost like new. I mean, we were very happy. We didn't know where they were coming from.

Maggie Smith: Know where they come from. Well, we used to get a catalog. We used to get a catalog from Sears and we could order stuff. But you have to send the money with—I think you might have to send a money order.

Nancy Fairley: Money order, uh-huh.

Maggie Smith: [01:05:46 Unintelligible]. And we got old [01:05:51 unintelligible] catch the bus and go to Mooresville and go shopping, or we could catch the train—a train used to go to [01:05:59 unintelligible] up to Mooresville.

Nancy Fairley: Wow, that's amazing.

Maggie Smith: But I never rode the train.

Nancy Fairley: Why did they stop the train, bus, and stuff like that?

Maggie Smith: I don't know. I always rode the bus, I never rode the train. But we would go up there.

Nancy Fairley: You know, if we had [01:06:15 unintelligible] Charlotte more. I don't like driving. As I get older I don't like driving.

Maggie Smith: You can catch a bus, but you have to do a—you have to transfer it. You can catch the bus from up here [01:06:28 unintelligible] you get to the bus station in Huntersville and catch that express and it will take you into Charlotte. [01:06:36 unintelligible] make sure you catch the express to come back so you can catch the bus to come up here. Because a lot of people ride it. The nutritionist center [01:06:47 unintelligible] ride the bus. We went to Charlotte, caught the bus at Ada Jenkins and we went to Charlotte. And it's interesting how they wouldn't go [01:07:00 unintelligible] all the way out to Cornelius and go down the [01:07:07 unintelligible]. And right there where Sanford Road [01:07:12 unintelligible] there, and then they go back over there to the bus station, and then you have to catch the express bus and go to Charlotte. And they took us to Charlotte and [01:07:26 unintelligible] off that bus, and then on the train station right there we caught the train and we rode to the end of the—

Nancy Fairley: End of the line?

Maggie Smith: Mm-hmm. Then they brought us back and we caught the [01:07:38 unintelligible] and brought us back up here.

Nancy Fairley: I hate the fact that the [01:07:49 unintelligible] places—I mean, the [01:07:51 unintelligible].

Maggie Smith: But this says it's going to be [01:07:55 unintelligible] more things to do because Park and Recreation is going to do the programs.

Nancy Fairley: Let me check the time. I got to go and get trained for [01:08:07 unintelligible]. I just do this because there are not a lot of black people who are—

Maggie Smith: Who are doing it. All of them that did it are—

Nancy Fairley: They've gotten older like Mrs. Biers. When I came here [01:08:19 unintelligible] and then that woman, Myra, used to be out there. And it's time for [01:08:28

unintelligible]. So, someone called me and asked me [01:08:32 unintelligible]. Yeah. Well, I really enjoyed talking with you. If you think about anything else please let me know. We're trying to figure out—okay, black people had jobs, but they also had little businesses on the side. So, we've been looking at those small businesses. Like, Mr. Joe McClean, he used to grow watermelons and things to sell. His real job was to barber, and then did this on the side. So, if you can think of any kinds of little businesses—hey—people would have had in their home that—on the side business, please let me know.

Maggie Smith: Okay, I will.

Nancy Fairley: Alright. I think you very much for your interview.

Maggie Smith: Yeah. They were always particular about signs that you put up, you know, for the daycare. So, I never put up one.

End of recording.