

TAPE TRANSCRIPT
Durham Civil Rights Heritage Project
CDS, Durham, NC

Interviewee: Evelyn McKissick
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Description of Interviewee:

Circumstances of the Interview:

Barbara Lau: All right, so. Today is Saturday November 15, 2003. This is Barbara Lau, and I'm at the Hayti Heritage Center in Durham, North Carolina and as part of the Durham Civil Rights Heritage Project I'm talking with Evelyn McKissick and Charmaine McKissick-Melton. So. I think that there's some ground that you've probably been interviewed before, you come from a pretty famous family here in Durham. I know that your husband was an attorney who was very active during the Civil Rights Movement and your daughter Joycelyn was the first African-American to attend Durham High School. Go ahead.

Evelyn McKissick: She was not the first to enter, she was the first to graduate from Durham High School. See that's why I had a bigger paper with a suit on it. I sued for Joycelyn to get into school and because of that they wouldn't let her stay. Andree was the first to enter Carr Junior High School. And there were some Brame children, other people that entered Durham High School in August, but she graduated that summer, when school closed. She was the first black to graduate from Durham High School.

BL: Ok, so when she, when Joycelyn went in there were, there were several other students already in the school.

EM: See she didn't go in. They started in August and Joycelyn started in October of her senior year. And she graduated. She was the first black to graduate from Durham High School, but not the first to enter.

BL: Tell me what it was like to be her mother. You were probably the person when she came home from school that she

EM: No I picked 'em up everyday because you know what? They would hold those doors, wouldn't even let 'em in or out of there. And they had so many things happen to them whenever they're there. And I'm telling you this story, you'll cut it off. I don't know how much you want me to tell.

BL: No, tell me the truth.

EM: I'm telling you the truth.

BL: Ok, tell me all of it.

EM: My husband told me to turn the cheek, like the Bible says. Second years, Ms. Silver, see I don't know what to call these names and stuff, Ms. Silver's charge of all the nutrition value in schools, I don't know who's there now. And her son was in Andree's class. Well they had just gotten to Durham High. And he spit in her face when she passed by. She passed on and went on and did fine. And she went as fast as she could go and then

she turn around and come back and spit right in his face. So when they did back what they had done to them, it stopped.

BL: And Andree is your oldest daughter.

EM: No, Joycelyn is my eldest daughter, Andree was the second girl, and she and Henry Vickers integrated Carr Junior High School.

BL : Ok.

EM: They were in the 8th grade when they went there. So one year later when they went to high school, this is what happened.

BL: Well so is that the, you said your husband said turn the other cheek. Is that the advice you gave to your children when they went off to school every morning?

EM: No I did not.

BL: What'd you tell them?

EM: Oh you mean this group?

BL: The kids that were integrating the schools, what'd you tell them?

EM: Well their dad had already told them that, so I didn't need to tell them again. I carried them there to school. I carried them there, and picked them up. And my children gave the so-called children, you understand what I mean, competition. Because that

Andree, whatever they had, there was a contest or what, “Mom I wanna win it.” And she would come in and win it. Yeah I got out and got on the other side of town, got all my friends, to you know, take the subscriptions of magazines or whatever it might be. And when it came to dressing here, they gave the competition anyway. In fact, Henry Vickers and Andreee, when we got to the school the principal said, I can say this on there, ‘We’ve picked out special subjects for them’ I said no, don’t treat them special, I want them to take every subject they signed up in Junior High School to take. One of those subjects was Band. Andreee played clarinet. And Henry Vickers played saxophone. So they had to be in band. And when they got ready to go on to high school, I went on with them. Because Henry’s mother never acted like his mother. In fact I don’t ever know whether I’ve seen her one time. I acted like his mother. I went to get him every morning, and carried him back home every day after school. And like I said, when they needed tutoring, I got people over here, friends of mine, teaching the same subject to teach ‘em. And I carried them to the tutoring classes. And you know, that type of thing. You know this child knows most of that stuff.

Charmaine McKissick-Melton: Tell them, finish telling them about the Band.

EM: Oh yeah. So I fitted, they got fitted for the band uniforms. And they wasn't fitting so I got it fitted so it fitted good. And when they were in the parade, and after the Christmas parade, they cut all band out of the school, because they didn't want to see you two little squats there. In the parade. Here in Durham High, closed up their swimming pool with dirt. So it wouldn't have no, in physical ed, they couldn't get no swimming. You'd be surprised. I don't know if you want me to tell you, you'd be surprised. One day Andree came in the car, and started crying. And she said they tried to put her head in the toilet bowl. I got out of the car, went in there to see, like Ms. Lovejoy.

CM: Guidance Counselor.

EM: Guidance Counselor. And told her what happened. But it was like that all the time. When Joycelyn got to school, after the first week. She had a beautiful yellow dress on. And they had fountain pens and squeezed the ink out, put ink all over that. Then they knocked her in the head at the lockers. And I had to go pick her up she was unconscious, take her to the hospital, take her to the doctor. You don't know what they went through.

And they didn't make the mother feel good, but I didn't stop. I was there right when they called even when she integrated. New York, I don't care what school it is, don't mess with my children. Because I'm going to be there to tell you about it. They come tell you in New York, 'You can't be emotional.' I'm emotional right now. 'You can't be emotional,' it's no way you can't be emotional if you had to go through all the things that we had to go through.

BL: So that must have been really hard. Everyday your kids come home from school, they tell you what happened, often they would

EM: But they would tell me in the car, going back home. And see if I was, my children were the only ones who were financially able to appreciate a lot of things, like going to the fair. They had never been to the fair. When they went to a so-called-school, a white school, school was out, and they gave you tickets to go to the fair. So I called Mutual Savings and Loan, Mechanics and Farmer's Bank, and North Carolina Mutual, and I said now get some money for these children, so they can appreciate everything, and I'm gonna take 'em to the fair. And I took each and every one of them to the fair along with my

children, and stayed there till they had fireworks. And they enjoyed it. I bought one meal for them, and the money from those people bought 'em passes. They did anything they wanted to do at the fair.

BL: So were there other mothers that were involved with you?

EM: No. Do you know of any others?

CM: No, because I'm not sure too many others had the flexibility.

EM: They didn't send, see they didn't send their children. These other people here in Durham, until about the third year, and then everything was eased off, and you didn't have to go through all this situation I'm telling you about now. Then they sent them then.

CM: I think you also would agree, that the majority of people who went at the beginning, like Joycelyn, and Andree, they weren't from the prominent backgrounds, because middle class African Americans

EM: And so their parents wouldn't be involved. Because you see, when she

CM: It could be difficult for their parents to be involved, because they might lose their jobs.

EM: Now Charmaine entered in the third grade. So by that time, Ray Davis (sp?) was here, minister of Union Baptist Church. So his little daughter, Psyche, was in the third grade. And there was Darryl, and not Floyd, Floyd was in the sixth grade. Now that was another thing. In sixth grade they ask for grade mothers, so I held up my hand. To be one. And I'm the only black spot there anyway, and they voted, and 'I think we didn't count that right.' They voted three times before I still got it. And what'd the grade mother have to do? Take care of the class during lunchtime, and whatever subject she had there thereafter. Well I go on there. And one little boy said to me, 'Ms. McKissick, you're nice just like my mama.' They was shocked, so at the end of the year, they called me back. 'Cause I didn't have no discipline problems.

CM: They asked you something else too. I think they asked you something else too. You're not remembering right. Doesn't it remind you about a story about Daddy in France, and African Americans? And growing tails.

EM: Oh, yes! I don't remember who asked that question, I don't know who asked it. This was in a war. My husband was in the Second World War. And in England, the English folks, thought

that black folks' tails would come out at 12 o'clock at night. So they would stay there and wait, 'When their tail come out?'

BL: And the kids in school asked you that too?

EM: One child did ask me that. I don't know whether it was openly, but they did ask me.

BL: Well so, you weren't really like the other mothers, in a sense, like Charmaine suggested, because you had grown up a little bit differently,

EM: Well lemme

BL: I'm interested in how you were prepared for this.

EM: You see, I was born in Asheville North Carolina. The youngest in the family. And I was born with a silver spoon in my mouth. I have never to this point been to public school.

BL: Private schools all the way.

EM: And white kids used to come steal my toys, they lived on the back street, where it was a dirt street. And they'd come and play, but then they want to take it home. They wanna steal your toys. So you see I have never been like the average native black child. Including my husband. When we were in Asheville it was [garbled] mother's 50th anniversary, and I had never seen a celebration like that, he didn't live on the side of town I lived

on. Until he was 11 years old, then he moved over there. And they gave us the bill, and his sisters didn't have enough money to pay their share in the bill, I don't remember how much it was now, several thousand. And so they called the police on us. We had every credit card that you ever remember. In our pockets. I don't care if it was diner's card, Carte Blanc, I don't care what it was. And they were going to see in that, they wouldn't take it. They wanted cash only. Several thousand dollars. Who's gonna walk around with cash in their hands. They called the police. So while they were calling the police, we decided a few things. I said 'Gimme some dimes.' I called, 'cause the president of the United States had sent a message down to congratulate his parents. Like I said, there ain't many people who've been to the White House for dinner, and now live in the poor house. So I got on the phone, and the lady was gonna have an article in the Asheville Citizen Times on Sunday morning. This was Saturday night. I called the house and they said 'She's gone, she's playing cards somewhere.'" I said ' Well if she wants a story, get her over here in ten minutes. There's another side to this story.' We talked about the usual things, in the integration period. But when

they were going to arrest us, were you there?

CM: Yes I was there.

EM: Andree, Charmaine was there, my brother-in-law was there, Dr. McCain from New York, and Floyd. So he said 'If they arrest us,' they were remodeling things, they had all new televisions there. He said 'Let's kick 'em all and break 'em on our way out.' You see, you thought, most people thought all about this picketing and everything, was an impromptu thing. Most of it was planned in my living room, on 125th Street, on Roxboro Street in Durham. Including that sit-in in Durham.

CM: In Greensboro.

EM: In Greensboro. And my husband was the lawyer for all of them. And then when she missed that first point. When they were integrating Durham, he was the one who invited Martin Luther King to Durham. Well day, in 1966, sixth day of the sixth month of '66, we moved to New York. And he was head of Civil Rights Organization. And so we lived there in New York. And he believed in living where the problem was, yeah I had problems in New York. When I was telling you about being emotional, that was in New York City. At a museum of arts school. You got that on.

CM: [Laughs]

EM: Why didn't you tell me.

BL: It's ok, you haven't said anything. You've said a lot of really good stuff. Well let me ask you something, you said a lot of things were planned in your living room, what did you have to do when all these people were coming over all the time?

EM: That's fine, I had all races and all kinds and all people. In fact one night we were at Union Baptist Church having a rally. And I left about 5 or 10 minutes earlier, because we had a lot of people from core organization

CM: National convention.

EM: National Core convention. And Charmaine and Joycelyn came down there, and said 'Momma, Dad just invited the whole congregation down here.'

BL: To your house.

EM: To my house. So I had from the garbage people to the head of North Carolina Mutual there.

BL: Well how do you prepare for something like this?

EM: Oh you just do it.

CM: She was prepared for 50 to a 100. And that was more for a sit down kind of dinner.

EM: A buffet kind of dinner.

CM: I remember that Womble's [sp?] Grocery was at the corner. So she sent me to the grocery to get Ritz crackers. So what was gonna be chicken casserole

EM: Yeah, became all these little things, hors d'oeuvres.

Because one person, I don't remember who it was now, had brought wine, beer, I mean strong drinks for all the congregation. And I had a planter in the living room, with beautiful flowers in it, and they used it like a garbage can. Put cans in there, put cigarettes in there, everything. I didn't see that 'till next morning. Well I stayed there, you know some of those people stayed there. I couldn't have a buffet dinner. I had it either or. I just flew out the plates. And I just you know I the choice of meats, and I put one on one, and one on the other. And people, that's the only way I could serve the people there. But you know, you're just used to doing those sort of things. One Christmas, they were integrating the restaurants in Chapel Hill. And I had a 120 people there for Christmas dinner.

BL: At your house.

EM: At my house. Most of them were not African Americans. They were all races. And they came and sat down. They had a fine Christmas dinner.

BL: You must have had a big house.

EM: I did. Well, it was, yes, it was large, it was a nice house. And I had some rooms, it had these doors you could just open up, and make a bigger room. My um

CM: Dining room and living room.

EM: Dining room and den.

BL: Well how did you feel about that? How did you feel about kind of being the person in charge of entertaining?

EM: I didn't mind it, but I gave my husband, a little problem afterwards. 'Don't do this again.' But then I would just take off one hat and put on another.

BL: So tell me about the different hats that you wore. So one of the ones was the hostess hat. What was another, Mother hat?

EM: Just name it. I was that to all the children of integrated schools, not just mine. There was one little girl, who was in Durham High the year after Joycelyn. And the colors of Durham High were red and white. And she didn't have any proper clothes to wear. So I took her out to school. They would all

come to my school to ride to school, and I'd come back and pick her up. And I went downtown and bought her a red and white outfit from Baldwins, and carried it to her, and carried her to the restroom to see that she was changed, and they gave her no problem. So I was the mother of all of them.

BL: Well, now you were, how many kids would come to your house to get driven to school.

EM: Well depending upon the year.

BL: What about that first year?

EM: Oh the first year, nobody.

BL: Just your family. And you had kids at that point in elementary school, junior high,

EM: No the first year, my children, these were not old enough to go there, they had only integrated the junior high and the high school. So I didn't have anybody but my own children. Oh, Henry Vickers?

CM: Yes, 1959 Joycelyn started Durham High. She graduated in 1960.

EM: She started school year out thought at Hillside. So Hillside Class of '60 still recognized here as a 1960 graduate.

BL: That's nice. So you were kind of the mother to all the kids who were going to school, and you were queen of the entertainment, clearly, that sounds like that was a really big job. Did you, would you also consider yourself an advisor? I mean, did you play in terms of

EM: I did play a role in advising. Each year that those children integrated a school, had any problems, then they'd come to me. And when Charmaine integrated school in third grade, and Psyche Davis joined her, they started a little club, the PDC. That was the initial of their first names, and it was just for the children who had integrated schools. And that was at the elementary schools. She was in the what

CM: The third grade. 1963.

EM: And they kept it all the way until we moved to New York.

BL: And what kinds of things did the PDCs do?

CM: See this is my interview now [laughs].

BL: I like it.

CM: The PDCs stood for Psyche, Darryl and Dorris, Charmaine and Charlotte. And we were all neighbor friends, but we had also integrated the schools. Only one or two in the classrooms, but, still. And we did entertainment things, but somehow I was

always president, big mouth that I am, so actually we had a scholarship fund, we had little yard sales, little bake sales things out in the yard.

BL: Were you an advisor to your husband as well?

EM: On some things.

BL: How did that work?

EM: It worked fine. See when he died, which she forgot to mention too, he was a judge. And by that time, he was ill. And so I had to drive him to the work all the time and I called the bailiff, he was in a wheelchair, to get him out of the car, and they carried him to the room. And I sat in the seat when there wasn't a jury, I was sitting in one of those jury seats, and if I saw him getting tired, or too tired, I would say (clears throat), and he'd say 'Oh we'll take a little break.' That was our code. And then if he was too involved otherwise, I would call the bailiff over and give him a cough drop and say please give that to my husband. And that second you know, and we'd go out for lunch. And if I saw he wasn't reacting like he should have at lunch, I say 'Look, you need to take a break.' So he'd go in and say 'We're going to close court for today.'

BL: But when he was younger and you were living here in Durham were you an advisor to him then?

EM: Well you see, we got married when I was in Asheville North Carolina. And I was young and he was young. I was about 18 and he was 20. And my mother got in the train with us, because we got married secretly. And we went to Greenville North Carolina, and got married by the justice of peace.

BL: There must be a story here. Why did you get married secretly?

EM: Oh, no. Well he was in the army. And he had a furlough, and I just finished designing school in New York. And I hadn't started actually working, I was just out of school. And so, being in the army, he went overseas and stayed for four years. So we decided to go ahead and get married. And we did, and then I decided I left school in New York and had a job offer in [garbled] working in designing, from designing school I had a job in a bridal factory. Finishing garments. So I went to school and I told them I was checking out to live in Fayetteville North Carolina.

BL: Because that's where he was stationed?

EM: He was stationed in Fort Bragg. And I went back to

Fayetteville North Carolina. And then of course got pregnant during that time. So I stayed there long as I could and then went on to Asheville North Carolina. And the doctor that delivered her, was the same doctor that delivered her daddy.

BL: That's great.

EM: Well you see, I'm such an unusual person, because I went into labor, night before she was born. But I went to the beauty parlor, got my hair fixed.

BL: Before going to the hospital.

EM: Before even calling the doctor which was stupid.

BL: But you wanted to look good when you had the baby.

EM: Always. Always. And every child I had would do that, the night before.

BL: So you always knew when they were coming.

EM: No.

CM: Not with me.

EM: She was born on the 31st and she was supposed to be born on July 5th. But that's alright. Now that was another story. My regular doctor said, 'Look Ms. McKissick, I stayed here, and the baby's overdue. So now, if you will take another doctor, I'll go on my vacation.' I said, 'well who do you offer?' and he named

one person. I said no, I can't deal with that. And he called Charles Watts, which is Constance's husband. And I said, yeah, if Charles will take me, I'll go. And as Charles said Dr. Cook was only as far as Creedmoor before I went in labor. And I got on the phone I said look, and he came to my house to examine me and he said yeah. And I said ok and went on to the hospital. And so he said, 'Do you want me to give you some medicine for this pain?' I said 'Will it delay the birth of this child?' He said yes, I said no I'll go cold shoulder. Every child I had I gave natural childbirth to.

BL: Gotta be strong for that.

EM: In fact Dr. Cook delivered Floyd but I went in labor but other people disturbed me. They were so many people in the hospital and next door screaming and hollering, that my pains stopped. And my pains were coming every 5, 3-5 minutes. So the next morning he said you have to go out there next to the [garbled] so I went out there next to her, so when I felt like I was going to have the baby again, I called the nurse and told her to call him. She said 'I can't call him now.' I said 'Thank you.' I got up in my robe and went down the hall and got a pay phone and called Dr. Cook. And I spoke with Barbara, and said 'Tell

Dr. Cook I'm ready now, and don't carry me in the delivery room, carry me in the operating room.' And five minutes later after he was there, Floyd Jr. was born. So I'm not the average person.

BL: In any way.

EM: And see my background of doing things, Floyd got it from my family, not from his. My daddy would go out and look for the poor and take them food baskets on Thanksgiving and at Christmas time before they had Salvation Army he would go out and buy toys for the children and food. I wasn't brought up like the regular children.

BL: What did your Daddy do?

EM: He was the head of the Asheville Country Club of Five Forks, which is now part of Grove Park Inn.

BL: Well you said you went and moved to Fayetteville in order to be near your husband. What then brought you all to Durham?

EM: He was in school. He'd finish law school here, but he didn't pass the bar the first time here. Because he had gone on to UNC Law School to integrate the law school and that happened while we were in New York on a vacation after he finished. And so we rushed back here so he could enter, and when he got over

there, they put black snakes in his bed, and everything else, and they wouldn't let him go into the swimming pool. He climbed over the fence and jumped in there. So we're not the average people.

BL: Well I wanna, I know we don't have a lot of time, but I want to ask you, when you and your husband sat down and talked about your children going to white schools, tell me about that conversation.

EM: Well we had that conversation before we moved from Roxboro Street. And I moved from Fayetteville Street by the college to Roxboro Street, with Floyd as a baby. And even going into the house was not usual. Because I was a house by Neeham Stein. And they had dogs in there and everything, and it smelled like I don't know what. We sanded all the floors and then we shellacked them, we had to do everything to clean it up because I wasn't about to let my baby get down there and crawl unless those floors were changed. And my mother fortunately or unfortunately had just passed. So my daddy wasn't the usual person like I said. So years ago they sold black persons different insurance policies from white. And he had a Metropolitan policy that they didn't sell to black folks. So she had died, and my

daddy had it that at a certain age you go this much and at a certain that, and my sisters were old enough to get the whole thing. But I got the dividends off that check until I was forty years old. So we took that money and we covered the floors, and I called RC George, he used to work at Sears and Roebuck, and I put carpet on all those floors so they'd be clean enough for my children to be on.

BL: So when he sat down, you said you had that conversation before you moved to Roxboro Street. Tell me about that conversation that you had about the kids going to school.

EM: I don't remember, but I wouldn't object, because see, where I went to school, in Asheville North Carolina, I tell you it's a private school, it's a sister's school, was the high school to Bennett College. It was run by the Women's Methodist Society and the Episcopal Church, the AME Church. And so most of my teachers weren't white or other races. We had about four in the whole school.

BL: Were you worried when you decided to do that?

EM: No.

BL: You weren't worried.

EM: Why am I worried?

BL: Worried for your children to go to a white school.

EM: Listen, from my childhood I had played with these white and black children. They stole my toys remember. So why should I worry? Race doesn't bother me. It's the person. It's the person. Even when it comes to voting, I vote for the person, not the party. Because you see, I rather do that thing. See we have a two party system. One year my husband went to the Democratic thing, and I went to the Republican.

BL: So you have a mind of your own.

EM: I don't care for what party it is. Whoever the president is, I would go for that party. He or I would have the foot in the door. If he was a Republican, then I was a Democrat. And we did the same thing to the children. Half of 'em are Republican, and half are Democrat. One year I was vice-chairman of the Republican party in Warren County, and Floyd Jr. was the chairman of the Democratic party.

BL: Got it covered in the family. But even when your children came home and the kids had treated them badly, did you ever have second thoughts?

EM: No see I had gone in there and took care of it before I got home. Because I picked them up from school.

BL: So there weren't times in the year when your kids said, 'Mom I don't want to do this anymore, I don't want to go to this school.'

EM: No, they were anxious of going through what they had to do. One daughter today, doesn't want to remember anything about it. But the other three are fine by it.

BL: She doesn't want to remember anything because it was such a hard time?

EM: Yeah, she's the one that integrated Junior High School. That's the, children that age are more problem anyway, whether they are integrated or in their regular school. That age you have problems with children.

BL: So when there were people in your living room talking about not just integrating the schools, but planning these marches, were you in the living room with 'em or in the kitchen?

EM: Yes, I was right there.

BL: So what kind of role did you play, what kind of role did women play in that process?

EM: Well, not women.

BL: Just you.

EM: How did I play.

BL: Tell me about you.

EM: [Laughs]

BL: That's right, you're not like anybody else.

EM: I'm not

BL: So tell me about the role you played in those discussions.

EM: If there was something I thought I could contribute, I would mention it, if not, I would just listen. Or I'd tell Floyd later, 'Now you should tell him so-and-so.' Because I didn't want to do anything to embarrass him. And you see, when it comes to Durham, you all need to go back and think, about the real integration in Durham. I knew Dr. and Mrs. Moore. And they're the ones, Dr. Moore's the one who had all these people here. He had two daughters. Ms. Merrick and MacDougald. And he got all those folks. And they married, second daughter married into the MacDougald family and the first daughter, Ms. Merrick, Constance's mother, she married Merrick. And so he started this, you're talking about Wall Street, the black Wall Street, it was Dr. Moore that got those people here. And so, often they forget about Dr. Moore. Constance will sometimes mention her daddy, go back that far, but I believe in going back

farther. See Mrs. Moore used to come to Asheville all the time when I was a child. In fact I got pictures of myself with Ron and Virginia MacDougald at my fourth birthday party. So like I said, I ain't the usual child.

BL: So you really had a lot of connections in Durham that were completely separate from your husband's. They were totally

EM: My godmother was here.

BL: And so how did you use those connections to help you in your work? Or did you introduce your husband to these people?

EM: Some of them. Later on, yeah. Because when I moved to Durham, all this Durham was a racist situation. And Joycelyn, my oldest child, was in the fourth grade. These children hadn't gone to school yet. Floyd and

CM: We weren't born.

EM: Oh, that's right, you weren't. So anyway. Joycelyn came home one day, she was walking to school this time. And said 'Momma, Marshall Goodwin's having a birthday party, but they said I can't go.' I got on the phone and called Evelyn Kennedy's mother. I said 'Now what's this problem here?' So that Sunday, I decided I'd go up there and talk to her. And I took Andree with me. And I said 'You go on up, I'll be in there.' And I talked to

Ms. Evelyn Kennedy. So she'd know who I was and where I was and where I came from. And behind us, where we lived on 7th Street was, what was her name. I can't think of his name, now he's still living. Frasier, L.B. Frasier. And his two sons, who I had problem with Floyd and he lived there. And he kept some students, and when he was going to law school, he stayed at L.B. Frasier's house. And so his boys were really the first to integrate the undergraduate schools in Chapel Hill.

BL: L.B. Fraiser's boys.

EM: And while I was there, a person came in. And Mr. Fraiser said 'I want you to meet her.' And she came in, and I said 'Hortence McClinton, Hortence King.' She said, 'Evelyn Williams.' She was my senior mentor in Howard. Where I finished high school when I was 14. And I was at Howard University when I was 15. And she was a senior when I was a freshman. And now she's Charmaine's godmother. And she's living here in Durham.

CM: She's also the first African-American professor that was tenured at the University of North Carolina.

EM: That's correct. So we're not the usual people.

CM: And I hate to kind of close this down but my clock is ticking.

BL: I understand.

CM: We can start it again another day.

BL: That's right, I'd be more than happy to come talk to you again, and ask you more question.

EM: And I want a copy, I want a copy of this.

BL: Thank you very much. Ok.