PETERSBURG
VOICES OF CIVIL RIGHTS:
THE ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEW OF EDWARD B. FARLEY

conducted by

Hermanze Fauntleroy

Petersburg, Virginia

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(Interview of Edward B. Farley
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BY MR. FAUNTLEROY:

Q I am Hermanze Fauntleroy and today I'm interviewing Mr. Edward B. Farley, who is a Petersburger, member of a family that has some real history in the City of Petersburg. Mr. Farley is a veteran from World War II, in particular, and Korean War, but he was a member of the armed forces that invaded Omaha Beach and had quite a time in terms of being a part of that.

Mr. Farley, in terms of your recollection of the segregated Petersburg, what is your opinion in reference to the difference that you see today as related to what was then?

A Well, I see so vast differences, sometimes it boggles the mind. Being 82 years old, I lived through so many changes, and I recall -- I was raised on the Avenue. And during that time the Avenue was the commercial center for black businessmen. And when I go down there now, I feel like crying sometimes, because when I went on the Avenue in 1933, all the people now that were on the Avenue in 1933, all of them gone. The last one to

go was a fellow by the name of -- they called him Tater Pie. He worked in Bob Lee's shoe shop.

But going back to your question, everything has changed. The whole culture has changed, seemingly. And there's a different way of living now, different set of values. And I don't want to criticize anybody at all. I go through neighborhoods, I see the vast changes. I come up on this campus for the first time in a long time, see all these new buildings up here I never seen before. Some of these buildings are named after some of my teachers. I mean, one of the buildings now was named after the wife of one of my teachers, Dr. Harris.

So Petersburg back in the thirties, living in a segregated area, segregated time, the blacks kept to themselves and the whites kept to themselves, of course. And you wouldn't find any whites living in black neighborhoods, and vice versa. One over here was all white. That was off limits at 7:00 o'clock, and the only people you saw coming out the houses were workers, the maids, the butlers, the chauffeurs.

But now all that changed now. The city now really integrated in all phases; housing,

neighborhoods integrated, schools integrated. My mind go back to the old 5 and 10 cent store on Sycamore Street, that's all gone now. But I remember a time you could go in there to buy things, but you couldn't sit at the counter to eat the food. You could order it, stand up and then take it out.

So when I ride down Sycamore Street I see all the old buildings now, some of them vacant, and years ago they were all filled up with the clothing stores, confectionary stores. And I think of one, the block above me, I think it was the Globe. There used to be a clothing store way downtown by the name of Soloman's Clothing Store.

And at one time there were three theaters down there. I know one was called the Century, and the Century Theater, the whites sit downstairs and the blacks would sit up in the balcony. The other two theaters, the blacks were not allowed to go in at all. So it's a vast change.

And comparing the -- by using the word "progress," we have made progress. We have made tremendous progress, but we got so much more progress to make. The job is not finished, not at all.

But Petersburg is a beautiful city,

and when I go through the various neighborhoods, my mind go back in time to the people that lived in various houses, they all gone now. All of them gone.

Q You mentioned the Avenue and that area, in fact, that whole area that included South Avenue, if you will, your family had businesses in that area, didn't they?

A Yep. I came down on the Avenue in 1933, or either '32, one of those years, and my father had a pool room. And he and I lived on top of the pool room. And he had the pool room in the back, and he had what they call a confectionary store at the front where you sold candy, pie, and milk shakes. Then later on, he converted -- when I went to the Army -- no -- when I went to school, I went away to school, a place called St. Emma, and when I came back in 1943 he had got rid of the pool room and put a pool up the street, and converted the pool room where it was into a restaurant, and he ran that for quite a number of years, until he died.

Well, since you mentioned that Avenue, all the buildings, there were so many buildings and I think of so many names: Ms. Virgil Spark, now Wilkinson; a lady by the name of

Ms. Lottie, Ms. Lottie had a small restaurant beside Wilkinson; then they had Johnny Morgan Barber Shop; then they had Snap Thompson, snap Thompson was an old man, he had a shoe shop; that where Bob Lee worked. That was where he got his first job. Snap Johnson taught him to how to fix shoes. And then later on Tater Pie came in there. This was during the late thirties and early forties.

Then I remember Dr. Darden, and there was a dentist in that same building. I'm trying to think of his name, but I can't think of it right away. Then there was a funeral home on the Avenue. There were two funeral homes. One was Wilkinson, the one I just indicated. And it was -- there was a funeral home, I can't think of that man's name, but he wasn't there too long. I wish I could think of it, but just so -- since I'm thinking about it, this man who owned the pool room -- I mean the funeral home, his son and I were in World War II together, up in a place called Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, and he knew my whole family. And I remember one time he took me to New York, because they had moved and I went and met his mother and his sisters there in New York City. I wish I could remember his name now, but I can't.

Then Mr. Hurt, he first came down there, opened up a confectionary store near my daddy's restaurant. And then he was a very remarkable man, Mr. Hurt, very intelligent, very well informed. He may have certain peculiarities, but we all have them. Then later on he moved up the street near my -- near the pool room that my daddy move up the street that I ran.

And I'm trying to think of some more. Then I remember's Ann's Beauty -- Ann's Beauty Parlor. Ms. Ann had a beauty parlor in the Mutual Building. That's torn down now. The Mutual Building had about three floors on it. And Dr. Shields had an office there, and Dr. Williams had an office there, and on the top floor it was the north -- it was the North Carolina Insurance Company. I remember that very, very well. And of course, there were some more barbershops up the street, and got to put in place the time.

Then there were a few small buildings that were -- we called them dice houses. People would play dice. There were gamblers playing. The gamblers hang out there. They played cards and they played dice.

And I look back at all the old people

there, I think about them because they were so nice to me. I was the only little boy living on that street during that time. I didn't have any playmates on that street. And later on, a fellow by name of Lewis, Commodore Lewis. Commodore Lewis a barber. He had a son named Benny Lewis. Benny just turned 80 years old a couple of months ago, and he would come down to see his father, and then at that time we became friends, and we still remain friends to this day. I go see him every week. And he's still the same fellow. He's very tall. He was a very happy boy, but he lived by himself, of course. And his momma passed -- his mother lived to be 90 years old, and she passed away a few years ago, so Benny lives by himself now.

Q If you compare the Avenue area, which as you've indicated was full of black businesses at that time, and as I recall I think there was a market there --

A I forget that part.

Q -- but in comparing that to Sycamore Street, which was segregated, what would you say about the black businesses in terms of their operation and the number of black businesses, whether or not it was an area that was quite

productive?

A They were very productive. On the Avenue, all the businesses flourished. My daddy's restaurant, oh, well, especially on weekends. And you mentioned the market across the street from my daddy's place, the farmers would come in on Saturday and set up their booths. I know you could rent a booth for 15 cents and get a permit. And farmers from Dinwiddie, Chesterfield and Prince George would come in there.

And I look back in time, I can look up from my window, because I lived on the second, floor I could look out from my window at 5:00 o'clock on Saturday morning and see the farmers coming in with horse-drawn wagons. Very few farmers had cars. If you had a car, you were very prosperous. But most of them had mules and wagons, and I met many of them.

And going back on the other side of the Avenue, I recall an event, and you don't see that nowadays, Halloween was a big day in Petersburg, a big day. Around about 6:00 o'clock they would shut off -- they would shut off South Avenue. No cars were allowed on South Avenue. And by 8:00 o'clock you see four and five hundred people

coming down there celebrating Halloween, the people dressed in all their Halloween regalia, and it was magnificent. Oh, it was joyous, but that's been gone. That's been gone.

Q You indicated that you attended St. Emma Military Academy. Were you in elementary school in Petersburg?

A No. I left -- well, I -- well, I don't mind saying now, when I was small, I was what the old folk call "a little devil," using that term, and I was mischievous, and really, I didn't start really paying any attention to school until I was in the eighth grade. They had no ninth grade then, I don't think. And I had some wonderful teachers, but I didn't respond too well to what they tried to teach me.

It wasn't until I got into first year of high school that a man by the name of Mr. Samuel Griffin, taught science, and I don't know why but that was the first subject that I liked. And that's when I first start studying, science. I loved science.

And then later on, Mr. Griffin had a great part in my right. He was the one that told my father to take me out of the public school and put

me in a private school because growing up on the Avenue, and I was entering my teens, that would be the best environment for me, which was a very, very wise decision, and I'm so thankful for that.

But going to St. Emma was a brand new world for me, a beautiful world, a wonderful world. And I loved it. I was never homesick, because then I went into a religious community, plus it was a military school where I learned discipline, which I needed very, very badly. And I stayed there until I went to the Army. And at St. Emma you would stay there nine months and only come home in the summertime. But I loved it. It was just like one big, beautiful family.

We had all priests for teachers, and a few black instructors. We had a trade building. The first year I took up electricity. The second year I took up brick laying. And I look back now, I wonder how in the world I got the brick laying, pushing a wheelbarrow full of mortar but it was beautiful when I look back in time. Really wonderful. And St. Emma really changed my life. It gave me a different focus on my life. It gave me values I didn't have. Even today I still have some of those values.

And since you mentioned St. Emma, coincidentally, two weeks ago a young man called me from Michigan by the name of Roberts, and he identified himself, and he was in the class of 1963, because I left St. Emma in 1943. And he wrote a book about St. Emma, and he sent it to me. And Lord, when I opened that -- saw that book, I felt like crying. The book got -- he did some wonderful research on St. Emma from the time it was instituted until 1963, and I still have that book at home now.

Plus, since you mentioned St. Emma, I met some wonderful friends there. And some -- one boy by the name of William Clark. We remained friends until he died. Clark came from Lexington, Virginia. He was a very smart boy, wonderful mind, and he went into the Army, he went to the Pacific, and we kept in contact. When he came out of the Army, he finished college, and then ironically, Clark went back to St. Emma as a coach. I used to visit him there. And he met a young girl who lived in a place called Belle Meade that was close to St. Emma, and he married, and I was the first -- I was the best man at the wedding.

Then a few years later Clark moved to Williamstown, Massachusetts, where he became

principal of a school there. And then later on he became superintendent in Williamstown. And, oh, about -- oh, when he retired, his wife came to my house and stayed about five days. And this is very emotional. I went to North Carolina to do some -- to visit, and I was away for about four days. When I came back, Clark had died and buried. And his wife, she died a year later up in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

When I was married and had three children, way before he died, when he was working up there, before he retired, we went to visit Clark. We had a whole week up there with him. I miss him. Oh, I miss him.

Q You spent several years in the Army, I know, and of course you were there during World War II. And as I indicated when we first began you were a part of the invasion, and participated in the Omaha Beach situation. When you returned to Petersburg and having been in the Army during the time that you were there, and at that point in time the Army was segregated also, how did you envision Petersburg from what you left when you went into the Army?

A Well, when I came back, it was so

surprising. When I left Petersburg, there was a train station in Ettrick, the first one, the first building. I will never forget, when I got on the train and came down to Petersburg, and the conductor said "Petersburg," like they holler the names of places off, I looked out the window and saw a building that I had never recognized, and I said this is not Petersburg.

So the conductor said, yes, it is. You better hurry up and get off.

I said, are you sure that's Petersburg?

And he said, sure.

So when I got off the train, I didn't look at the building at all, because that was put there during the war and the first -- the old building, they closed that down, and the only time I realized I was in Petersburg, when I saw the cab stand, when I saw the cabs out there. The cabs would come to pick up the passengers. When I saw Richmond Cab Company, and Manhattan Cab Company that's when I knew it was Petersburg.

And it was nighttime. And my father didn't know when I was coming in. He didn't know. I got on the Avenue around about 11:30. And when I

saw my father the first time, we hugged, and he cry, and I cry, because both of us were happy.

During the next day I found out that a lot of the people there who I knew, some of them had died. My father still had the pool room, and up the street he had the -- I mean he still had the restaurant. Up the street he had the pool room. And the Avenue was still the same because there was still segregation. The market was still there. And I just -- my daddy gave me the pool room to run, so I ran the pool for a number of years. I ran the pool room for about 35, 40 years, way past when he die.

But time done change, as we all know, until 1954, and it's very ironic, when they passed down the Supreme Court decision on Brown, the Brown case, that was in, I think in May of '54. And my first child was born April the 15th of 1954. Now she's 52 years old now. She'll be 53 this coming April.

And that's when -- things didn't change over night now. They took a long time to change. The schools didn't integrate right away, not at all. Then I went to college, and I got married. That was after I came out of the Korean

War. I went back to the Korean War in 1950. I only stayed there nine months. When I came out, I got married. Then I got my life together. My mind was much more stable. And then I came up here and finished college.

And then time began to change very gradually. I first started working, and I worked there for 31 years in Dinwiddie and that was still segregated. I think Dinwiddie they integrated about 19 -- about 1970. So for about 12 years it was still segregated when I went there. And that was a joyous experience for me, when I worked for 31 years in Dinwiddie being a school teacher. And I look back in time and to really laugh, and I look at it in such a jolly way, very few people in Petersburg thought that I would ever even go to college, much less finish, and on top of that be a school teacher.

I think of an old school teacher whom I knew so well, was very well known, Ms. Roberts. And I never forget when I got my job teaching, I used to go visit her. And I think about her -- she know my whole family because I was born on Regard Street, and I never forget her, when I walked in the door, and we were in the kitchen sitting there, she looked at me and shook her head, she said, I don't

believe it. Said, I don't believe it. You are a school teacher. I don't believe it. She said, I hope before I die that I will come out there and visit you in the classroom, but that never did happen.

Q You think you might want to take a break?

A Yeah, I think I need a break.

Q Okay, let's take a break and then we'll come back and talk some more.

A All right.

Q Okay.

A Yeah.

(Recess)

Q When you came back from the Army, of course, and as we said, segregation was still rampant, then about 1960 things began to change somewhat in Petersburg in terms of the picketing, and the sit-ins and schools of course were as you indicated were still segregated. What's your opinion in terms of how that period of time might have affected Petersburg?

A Well, looking back, I think it affected Petersburg in a very positive way. I remember when they first started. I never forget the name of a man by the name of James Mayfield. He really

started the movement, he and a fellow by the name of Mr. Gunther. Mr. Gunther worked on the campus of Virginia State College. I remember they started with a small core of children. They would meet in front of Hurt Confectionary Store, and that was next door to my pool room. And Mayfield started the movement.

He started going to the 5 and 10 cents store, sit-ins, and there were only one incident of violence. Just one incident. There was a confrontation that Mayfield had with a white person and Mayfield was arrested. And this was a very historic event. I never forget that day.

We went to the courthouse; oh, it was packed, right on Bank Street, the old courthouse. It was really packed. And what happened in that courtroom was really history. It was history.

At that time, I don't know whether it was the SCLA or the NAACP, but one of those organizations sent down a lawyer. I never forget his name. Little, short fellow. His name was Len Holt. And Len Holt magnified that courtroom. I compare him to Charles -- Clarence Darrow. He was really a black Clarence Darrow. I never in my life seen a man articulate himself in a courtroom the way

he did. He was -- he summoned the entire city council to testify, which were all white, and when he would ask them questions it was astounding. And the prosector kept objection -- kept objecting. And Len Holt would rattle off certain case verbatim, without any notes, to support his arguments.

He was magnificent. I compare him to Clarence Darrow. And at one point the prosector kept objecting. And I never forget the judge, he stopped the prosector at one point and said, listen, that -- stop objecting. There's no need now, because Len would support his cases by previous cases, verbatim. And of course they found him not guilty.

But that scene, that was a place in history. And I think about Len Holt now. I wonder where he is. He had a brilliant mind. I mean, everybody applauded him. Even the judge respected him, his knowledge of law, and the way he articulated in that courtroom. It was a scene from Clarence Darrow's Scopes case. I compare it to that in Tennessee, I really do, because -- this may be very, very not relevant, but there was a Broadway show in New York, and I saw it advertised in the paper, called "Inherit the Wind," and it was about

Clarence Darrow and the Scopes case, so I got on the train and went up there just to see that performance.

And Paul Mooney, which very, very young people don't know, Paul Mooney was a very, very famous movie star during the twenties and the thirties. And that my first live play I ever seen in my life. And that was magnificent. And I seen two or three other plays by "Inherit the Wind," and the last one I saw, and this was very, very ironical and I say historical, too, they had a play at the Landmark Theater in Richmond some years back, "Inherit the Wind," and the person who represented Clarence Darrow in that play was a black man, and that was something, because during the intermission I was talking to him, and I was talking to the producer, and I mentioned to the producer about the first play I saw in New York with Paul Mooney, and he took me to the -- said come here, I got something to show you.

He took me in his office and up on the wall he had the old movie picture of Paul Mooney playing the role of Clarence Darrow, "Inherit the Wind." But it was very, very ironic that this time, he selected a black man to play the role of Clarence

Darrow, and he was very good. Very good.

Q You mentioned James Mayfield, and the fact that he was quite instrumental in causing the movement to really, really get started in Petersburg. The court case that Len Holt was involved in, and others in Petersburg, because he really supported the Petersburg movement quite well, he, Holt, that is, I think caused the movement in Petersburg to really, really gain some ground. Do you think that that particular situation may have caused some changes to begin to take place in terms of the whole segregated environment here in Petersburg?

A I think that case initiated some very, very important changes. Now, I must make a statement and give the white people credit, if I call that credit -- I call that credit -- that was the only incident of violence. There was no more violence at all. They still continued their fight for rights. They still demonstrated. And two other names come to my mind, Carl Winfield, and some thing about Carl Winfield and George Wells. He was also instrumental in that.

But the movement, the movement begin to escalate at a much faster pace, and they had a

few incidents when Wyatt Tee Walker came in, when he came to preach at Gillfield, he joined the movement. And I remember that time where he was arrested to integrate the library. I remember that particular incident.

And I have a document there from Wyatt Tee when he was the president of the organization, and I contribute some money to it, and he wrote me a thank you note, and I got it in this envelope, and I keep it and cherish it. Wyatt Tee. He was a magnificent man when he came in.

He was a very, very unusual minister. And when I say "unusual," he mingled with the people on the Avenue, and he was the only pastor to do that. He came to my pool room very, very often and associated with the boys on the Avenue. And that really was uplifting to their dignity that a preacher would come to a pool room and play pool and communicate with the people in the pool room, because by custom during that time there was a little class reaction concerning people on the Avenue.

Oh, I knew, looking back in time, a lot of young people, they weren't allowed to come on the Avenue. When I say young people, like 15, 16,

17, 18 years old. If you did come on the Avenue, you would go to the doctor's office or you go to O.P. Hair, and you hurry up and leave the Avenue. You didn't never -- a certain class did not ever associate with the people on the Avenue. And I look back at that and smile, because that was a time.

But Wyatt Tee, he really integrated the Avenue socially, and he got such tremendous respect, and that's why he had such a great following.

Wyatt Tee was magnificent. He really was. Down to earth. Could communicate with the people. And at that time, that was much needed, very much needed.

Q Well, as a leader in Petersburg, how do you think he effected the change that took place?

A How he effected the change? Well, Wyatt Tee was a -- came from the north. He was a young fellow. And the activity began to increase. He got arrested for integrating the library, then later on the schools became integrated.

I remember Dr. Norris, when they filed a petition to integrate the college out there, the community college of William & Mary, when they first petitioned to integrate it, they entered my

daughter's name and Dr. Norris daughter's name as a litigant. I remember that.

So things began moving fairly fast, I say. Not fast, now; fairly fast. And I must reiterate, there was very, very little violence. Very, very little violence, if any. That why I give the white people some credit. But it wasn't -- it wasn't easy. Because I remember when they proceed to integrate Wilcox lake, Wilcox Lake was a public owned lake, which was well known during that time, but that was segregated. Only white went there.

And my brother was one of the participants, Richard Farley. He was one of the participants in boycotting Wilcox Lake. And I look at it and smile, no need to crying all the time. Wilcox Lake close up and never did open again. Whenever I pass by there now, I think about my brother. I'm all right now.

Q Wilcox Lake was closed rather than permit blacks to use it?

A Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

Q And as you indicated never did open again. You indicated that you went to, after graduating from Virginia State, you began your teaching career in Dinwiddie, which was still segregated.

A Oh, yeah.

Q Yeah. When Dinwiddie school system was integrated, and obviously had some impact on Petersburg, how was that accepted then?

A I say this for Dinwiddie, it was the most beautiful integration I ever seen. I remember we had a superintendent there, I can't recall his name, but he was from South Carolina. He was a wonderful man. Beautiful leadership. And I remember the first day of school when they integrated, it was magnificent. No type of confrontation at all. The black children and the white children, I remember the first class when they came in. Naturally, some were very hesitant, sitting near the black, and vice versa, but it wasn't too obvious.

The children were really, looking back now, they were a little bit frightened, the black and the white, but they treated each one, each other very, very friendly. They would smile. They were very nice. And I give that credit to the superintendent because we had a lot of orientation with him, with the white teachers and the black teachers. And they got along very well, the white teachers and the black teachers. It was a beautiful integration in Dinwiddie.

I don't know if Petersburg schools were, but -- because I wasn't in Petersburg school, but Dinwiddie to me, they made high honor the way they integrated, and when I look there afterwards, there were no racial confrontation, not one, and that was beautiful.

Q Did your daughter and sons attend Petersburg public schools?

A Well, my family are Catholic.

Q Yeah.

A And they attend the private schools, St. Joseph. But then later on -- oh, later on, my oldest daughter, when she became a senior, she wanted to go to an all-black school, and it was all black there. And she convinced us, her mother and me that she wanted to go to the other school. And at that time I had four children in the Catholic school, so I bowed my head and relented. So they left, they left the Catholic school, and all of them finished the public school, and at that time, of course, the school -- new school on Johnson Road then, so they went there.

Q How do you view Petersburg today?

A Well, looking back there were a lot of positives, more positive things, a lot of

advancement, lot of progress, and the only thing I feel sorry for, and I'm not going to the blame game, I feel sorry for the children. I feel so sorry for them because the crime rate is so high, family dysfunction is so high. One-parent family. And I see the children on the corners now, sometime I communicate with them, because I knew some of their fathers and mothers, and I feel sorry for those kids. I really feel sorry for them.

I have visited some of them in jail. I knew some of them who have been killed. And that's the only negative thing I think about when I think of Petersburg. And of course being a school teacher, I look at the educational factor, which can be much better than what it is. But we live in a society where things are interrelated, one thing can affect another, and there's no one cause, there are multiple causes, and I don't want to -- the blame game is -- that -- don't need to be playing the blame game. That's not a positive thing at all.

We need to do a lot of reconstruction in our homes, in our neighborhoods, in our schools. We got to help those children because when they first integrated they weren't that way at all. During the sixties, there wasn't as much crime in

the city as it is now, so somebody got to find a solution, but my heart still go out to the children. I feel so sorry for them because I do not believe, and I know a few of them, they do not enjoy doing what they are doing.

But they tell me a many time, what else can I do? They don't see the alternative. And that is what we have to teach them, that there are alternatives. You don't have to do what you are doing now. There's hope, as Reverend Jackson used to say. There's hope. But we got to do something that's concrete, something the children will understand, something that they will comprehend to change the way they are living. So that's the way I look at it.

Q Mr. Farley, I certainly appreciate you taking the time today to come and talk with us and be a part of the situation that will become history, if you will, in terms of the types of discussions that we have, not only with you, but with other persons also, something that we can file away, if you will, in terms of our library, and hopefully some of the young people that you are talking about might want to go take a look and listen and look at people like you.

So we're going to continue to work in that direction, but certainly, I personally appreciate your coming, because I know you and I know everything that you've said, you mean it. And I knew you -- or have known you for quite some time. So thanks a lot for being here. And we'll continue to work, and we may be in touch with you again to talk some more, because you -- you are history.

A Well, if I may end on these words, I've been knowing you ever since you were a little boy, and nowadays old folks don't look at things and use the word, is it proper to say a certain thing or not proper, but at my age now, I really don't care. I remember some type of award was given to somebody, in the City of Petersburg for civil rights, maybe you have forgotten it, but I haven't. I call you up and I mentioned to you the fact that why they do not honor you.

And you did tell me that you were honored at some event, but I was very disturbed because you were also in that movement. I remember when you came into the movement. And you still in the movement. You haven't changed. And you belong on that same team along with Mayfield, and Gunther and George Wells, you belong on that same team.

And I remember when I went to Mr. Bland, Nelson Bland, Sr., I wrote it down so I won't forget it, a lady by the name of Cassie Walker, Herbert Coulton and Clyde Johnson, we went to Reverend Dr. King's funeral, first time I ever been to Atlanta, Georgia, and that was very unforgettable, historic event. And the only person I saw there that was not from Petersburg was a fellow by the name of John Edmonds. I met him on the street. And John, of course, has passed on. I will never forget that event.

And since that time when I came back, and years later, when my children grew up, left school, even before they left school, I used to say to them, when you grow up, the south going to be an economic Mecca. Years ago, all blacks went north. Now, that was history. I said economic Mecca now going to be the south. The south going to improve. Now go south for economic endeavor.

And today one of my sons lives in Atlanta, Georgia. He is the president of his own company, and he's doing wonderfully well. And I go down there often to see him. And of course whoever thought that I would ever go to Atlanta, Georgia.

And one more item -- so many things

come to old folks' mind -- and relates to this college, I knew a man by the name of Mr. Singleton. They have a building named after him. Mr. Singleton was the lead of the Commerce Department, and Mr. Singleton was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. I remember that. That's all I want to say.

Q Well, again, thank you very much, and you've closed this session for us I think in a very productive and wonderful way. So thanks again.

A It has been my honor.

Q Thank you. Thank you.