Adairsville Oral History
Carl Hollaran Interview
Conducted by Jonathan Harrison, Jessica Smith, Móirín Cody, and James Newberry
October 11, 2016
Transcribed by Jonathan Harrison, Jessica Smith, and Móirín Cody

Full Transcription

Smith: Please state your full name and your date of birth for us please.

Hollaran: Carl Ellis Hollaran, JR., born July 8th, 1937.

Smith: Fantastic, now-

Newberry: And, Jessica I want you to set the scene. So, where are we, who you are, and the date.

Smith: This is Jessica Smith, Móirín Cody, and Jonathan Harrison here at Mr. Hollaran's home in Adairsville, Georgia on Tuesday, October 11th, 2016.

Now, Mr. Hollaran have you lived in Adairsville all of your life?

Hollaran: Yes ma'am.

Smith: You told us a little bit about your parents. Now, what were their names?

Hollaran: My mother's name was Jessie Meeler Hollaran, and my father's name was the same as mine: Carl Ellis Hollaran, SR.

Smith: Fantastic. So, what brought them to Adairsville?

Hollaran: Well, my father was raised right out from town on a farm out there, and my mother was raised up in Sonoraville, Georgia, which is up above Calhoun in Fairmount, Georgia

Smith: What did they do for a living here?

Hollaran: My father had a business in Florida, and he had also, before they married-he didn't marry until he was 37 years old and my mother was 24. And, so, my father saw milled and all that kind of stuff. And, he was kind of a "playboy." He loved horses, and he always went to the Kentucky Derby every year. That was one of his things that he did. And then, my mother, she- my father didn't graduate from high school, but my mother did. She taught school along, you know, a little bit while we were growing up. Then, after we grew up, well she substituted until she was 85 years old.

Smith: Oh, wow. So, did she teach school here in Adairsville?

Hollaran: Did I?

Smith: Did *she*?

Hollaran: No, she went to school in Sonoraville.

Smith: Yes, sir. Moirin?

Cody: Do you have any siblings, and do they still live around here? Or, where do they live?

Hollaran: Well, I have a sister, a sister younger than me, one year younger. She lives in Cummings, Georgia. And then, that's Nancy. Then, my sister Brenda that was next to her passed away. She had breast cancer. And then, I have a brother, Leemon (Leigh- mon) who lives in Carterville, out from Cartersville. Then, I have a sister, Anna, who lives in Rome, Georgia. She was a lifelong schoolteacher.

Cody: You said in our pre-interview that you were able to walk to school when you were younger. Where was the school, and how long did it take you?

Hollaran: Ok, the school was just- [Mr. Hollaran begins to explain the location of the school with his hands pointing in the directions from where his home is located] If you go down this street [Elm Street], turn right, and turn left. Then, go up to the hill there- there's no school there now. It's already been torn down. But, they are going to build a new grammar school there. That's where the school was. I lived over on Franklin Street. You have to turn left, and then go out to the- then you'll run into College Street. And, that's where our house was on the corner.

Cody: And, the school was within walking distance?

Hollaran: Yes, ma'am: just across the street.

Cody: Did you walk with anybody, like your siblings?

Hollaran: Well, I mean, my siblings. Well, you know. Well, I was the only one. I was the oldest. So, I was the only one to start then. Then, when, my father died when I was 19. And my youngest sister, Anna, she started the first grade the year he died.

Cody: Did you pass any other buildings on your way to school?

Hollaran: No, just…

Cody: Neighbors?

Hollaran: No. The school was just right there. Here was the school [shows with his hands], and there was my house.

Cody: Nice.

Harrison: How many people were in a class at a time?

Hollaran: Back then about 10.

Harrison: Ok.

Hollaran: 10, 15.

Harrison: A lot different from now-

Hollaran: They had just begun a school bus, and the first school bust was just a truck like thing with a 2x12, or I guess it was a 1x12, down each side and two in the middle. And that's, you know, you sit on the school bus back to back. You know, like this was the middle of the school bus [shows with hands], where you are sitting on the school bus side, and then like that [makes a rectangular shape mapping out the bus with his hands].
'Cause I would ride it out to the country to my aunt's house out at the home place. And, uh, that's the reason I know so much about it!

[laughter]

Harrison: So, sort of a multi-use vehicle as opposed to a traditional school bus.

Hollaran: No, it was not a traditional. I know; I eat breakfast with a man who is 92 years old. And, this morning, he said, "First school bus we had- I don't think it had any headlights!"

[laughter]

Harrison: Well, at least you had a way to get to school though.

Hollaran: Oh, yeah. They didn't bus children as far as they do now. They would just, uh, what? I guess it was about three to five miles was as far as they would bus then. Now, they sometimes they bus them for 20 miles.

Cody: It served the local community of Adairsville?

Hollaran: Do what?

Cody: The bus: did it serve the local community?

Hollaran: No. Everybody in town walked to school.

Cody: Yeah.

Hollaran: You had to live out in the country to ride the bus.

Cody: Ok. Could you tell us a little bit about the economy of Adairsville when you were growing up?

Hollaran: Well, there wasn't really a lot of things that were here right in town except the stores, and the cotton gins. And then, then back there they had, uh, big peach crops. At this time of year, you'd have- peaches would be gathered, and then the cotton was gathered. I can remember seeing horses and wagons with cotton on them. All the way- the gins were [points] on south Main Street, and they would be backed up all the way here to the end of my street and maybe sometimes further. Of course, this wasn't a street then, but anyway, you know. It was that.

Smith: So, were peaches and cotton your two biggest commodities?

Hollaran: Commodities, yes, yes.

Smith: Oh, fantastic!

Hollaran: 'Cause we didn't- we didn't have a factory. They wanted to put the, uh, Shannon Cotton Mill here. But, some of the upper class didn't want it. So, it didn't come. They didn't want their children going to school with "mill hands," but they did anyway. [smiles]

[laughter]

Harrison: Was this a city decision or county or-?

Hollaran: This was a, it has been a city for years.

Harrison: Ok.

Newberry: But, who made that decision to keep the Shannon Cotton Mill out?

Hollaran: Who made that decision?

Harrison: Was it a city council or-

Hollaran: No, no. Well, they didn't even have a city council back then. It was just, well- Mrs. Lena McCutchen, her husband had a dry goods store in town. He had three different stores in town, and he sold clothing: overalls, jeans or pants, and shoes, and all of those things. And, he sold groceries. And, then he sold material to make

bedspreads with and the thread. They used to come to his store to buy the material and the thread, and turf those [inaudible word]. Then, a man out of Dalton came and picked them up and sold them. He'd ship them up north, and sell them that way.

Cody: What time period was that?

Hollaran: Well, that was all up until the late '50s.

Cody: Mmmhm.

Hollaran: Because that's all, but what I started to tell you about the reason the cotton mill didn't come- Mr. McCutchen's, who had the store that I was telling you about, wife- she was from Alabama. She came here, and she had two daughters. And, they had two daughters. Well, she didn't want her family to be involved with mill hands, but I don't know how she thought her husband would make a living if he didn't sell this merchandise to someone, you know? But anyway, you know, that's the kind of thought she had. She's one of the "bucks" that kept it from coming here.

Cody: Who were the mills hands? Were they…

Hollaran: Well, they were just ordinary people, you know, that needed a job. And, I- when they first started that mill they worked for 50 cents an hour. No, wait a minute: 50 cents a day!

Cody: Yeah?

Hollaran: That was all you got for pay was 50 cents a day.

Cody: Was it a mixed race?

Hollaran: No, no.

Cody: Whites or blacks?

Hollaran: No. It was all white at the beginning, and yeah. But, now Adairsville's been mixed all of my life because right over [points across street] here, right here at that house I was talking about, here. The, uh, a black family lived right there beside it, and then the Tahoons [uncertain of spelling] lived down at the end of this street where this great, big two story house across the street from them. And, all the white people lived all the way around them.

But- Mary Tahoon was "Mary Tahoon," and you better not cross her or she'd get you.

[laughter]

Smith: So, Mary Tahoon, she was an African American woman?

Hollaran: Yeah, mmhmm.

Smith: That's fantastic. I remember you telling us how different Adairsville was as far as race relations went, and how you kind of intermingled with each other. And, then when you went to South Georgia, you said it was completely different.

Hollaran: Oh, it was completely different there. They didn't dare come in the front door. They didn't dare do anything without their were invited. They would dress altogether different than they did here and everything, you know.

Cody: In the South that was what happened?

Hollaran: In the southern part of Georgia, yes. Down that way. Down in [inaudible: Tomelson?], Georgia. They were very, very formal people. You know, some people, the big majority of them back in the '50s and '60s were black, but then the farmers, or people who owned the property, then they were very formal people. Like, they rang the bell for dinner at night and all those things.

Cody: Yeah, so-

Hollaran: And, we didn't do that. We, just [chuckles]-

Harrison: If dinner was ready, you showed up.

Hollaran: Uhuh.

Cody: And, so it was different here in Adairsville?

Hollaran: Uhuh.

Cody: Could you describe some interactions you had?

Hollaran: Well, I had a lot of them.

[laughter]

Cody: Maybe some examples. Just one or two.

Hollaran: Well, uh, I just always liked people, and I always enjoyed knowing people. And, I knew everybody in town at one time. I could tell you everybody's named, who lived in every house, and about how old they were.

And, some of the younger children I had delivered because we did an ambulance service. And, we had this one lady, she had 16 children. She lived across the street from the funeral home. Well, she would never call until it was time. And, she'd call me, and she'd say, or she'd call the funeral home rather, and she'd say, "I'm ready."
Well, we'd get about half way over to Rome, Georgia, and she'd say, "Here it is boys!"

[laughter]

Hollaran: And, so, I don't know. And, this black lady, who cooked at the house, she, when integration started, she said, looked over at me one day, and she said, "You know, Carl, it don't matter how hard they try, they ain't going to make none of us white." She tell, you know, just like that out of the blue. But, she was watching the news. She just came out of the kitchen, and was standing there just watching the television, and that's what she said to me. I thought that was funny!

Harrison: It was.

Smith: That is, that is. So, you mentioned that you helped deliver some of the children, and you said that you worked at the funeral home as well? What other, um, jobs did you have about Adairsville, Georgia?

Hollaran: Well, here in town. I started when I was 13 delivering groceries on a bicycle. Back in those days, everybody here in town ordered their groceries by phone, and then somebody delivered them to them. Then, I did that up 'til I was graduated from high school. I didn't ride the bicycle, but I drove the little pickup truck.

But, anyway, then I worked at the funeral home, and that's about all I did. Well, I did help my best friend with his daddy to take inventory of the cotton. You know that big building you saw across the street there?

Smith: Yes, sir.

Hollaran: Well, that was one of his warehouses we stored cotton, and he had to inventory it to turn it in to- he had a lot of government regulations about everything, so he had to do all of that.

Newberry: Which building was that?

Hollaran: The one right there across from the Sans Souci.

Newberry: Ok.

Cody: So, as a funeral home you wouldn't expect to be delivering babies. How did you start that?

Hollaran: No, we didn't have an ambulance service back then. See, we didn't have ambulance service here in Adairsville until the late '70s.

Cody: Mmhmm, and so-

Hollaran: Or maybe early '80s.

Cody: They just asked you to help them, or-

Hollaran: No, we actually did that. That was- we had a siren and everything on the, you know, everything.

Cody: Did the salary come from Adairsville city or-

Hollaran: No, just the funeral home.

Cody: Oh, cool. Do you have- you told us that you used to go to Atlanta by the train service to watch movies and do other things. Could you tell us a little bit about the train service of Adairsville and any memories you have of it?

Hollaran: Well, see back when we were going doing that we still had a steam engine. We didn't have diesel. And, uh, we would- the train would stop in town. We would be at the end of the depot, and we would let them know that we were there. He'd be watching for someone, you know, they didn't just come through, "zip" because he'd stop in every little town. You know, he'd stop in Calhoun, Adairsville, Kingston, sometimes at Hall Station- a little place right between here and Kingston- and, then, he went on through to every town between here and Atlanta.

Cody: Who was it that stopped? The train conductor?

Hollaran: No, the engineer on the train. He'd stop the train.

Cody: Ok, and did you go with anybody?

Hollaran: Yes, my best friend. We started when we were 13 years old. That was the first year we went. And, then we would go every year after that, and we used to get out school clothes at Muse's in Atlanta. They kept our sizes and all those things, you know. Back then you could go in and tell them who you were, and they had you a record of everything. And, then they would ship them back home, and we didn't have to fool with that.

Harrison: You mentioned you would go to Atlanta via the train service to see movies. Just for a little context, what were some of the "hot ticket" movies around this time?

Hollaran: Well, I don't know I can't remember, you know.

Harrison: That's fine.

Hollaran: We usually went to The Fox Theatre. That's where we went to the movie.

Harrison: Ok.

Smith: Wow. So, like you said, you would go to the movies or get your school clothes. Did residents of Adairsville, including yourself, kind of use the depot as a meeting place whether they were using the train or not?

Hollaran: No, no. Mostly, they- used to on the end, on this end of the depot [uses hands to point at either end of depot], you know how the depot is. Well, on this end of the depot they had two wagon things that they pulled by hand, and that's where if you wanted to ship something you'd put it on that wagon, and then they'd take it around to wherever which door they wanted it on and all that. But, they didn't, I, not too many people would hang out at the depot.

Smith: Oh, okay. Where was the-.

Hollaran: There used to be a park like, you know how that gazebo is there in town now in front of the stores. Well, there used to be a park there, and that was where everybody gathered was over there.

Newberry: Where was the park?

Hollaran: Right- well, see they did away it, and they put all street. And, it was between the stores and that bottom street that comes right by the depot.

Newberry: Ok.

Cody: On the side with the train or the opposite side of the train tracks?

Hollaran: On the side in front of the stores.

Cody: Ok.

Hollaran: Like, this where you are sitting is the stores, and this was the street, and this was the park [uses hands to show it all in relation to one another], and this was the street down here. The street just went straight through back then.

Harrison: You mentioned there was a coal driven train or a steam driven train. I think in our pre-interview we had talked about it obviously had to stop and take on water, but the water tower is no longer there by the depot. Where was it roughly in relation to the depot?

Hollaran: Alright, you remember where you were at the Sans Souci?

Harrison: Yes, sir.

Hollaran: Alright, well do you remember that brick building right across the street?

All: Yes.

Hollaran: Alright, it was right at the end of it, right next to the railroad tracks.

Harrison: And would it have to, obviously it would take on water there, the water tower. How long would these trains have to go before they had to take on water again?

Hollaran: I don't think they took on water until they somewhere down around Kennesaw or somewhere in that area.

Harrison: Ok.

Hollaran: Maybe in Marietta.

Harrison: So, somewhere around 20 or so miles give or take?

Hollaran: Mmhmm. 'Cause I know they didn't in Calhoun because I don't remember a water tower there.

Harrison: Ok.

Cody: And, how tall was the water tower, and like how did it work?

Hollaran: Oh, I guess it was maybe, oh 10 or 12 feet high. It wasn't real, real high. It was about the height of the train with the engine and all up on the track. And, then they had a hook that they reached out and pulled that big, ole round thing in. And the water then dunk into the train, and that put it back. And when they'd- that cut it off and on when they moved it back and forth. And our water comes from a spring here. And it was, began with a ram pump. That was a something, I don't know how to explain it, but, anyway, you had no electricity to it. It was pumped up on the mountain up here, on Boyd Mountain. Then you had- I could dig a hole, and when I'd turn the water on, that's how much force that was.

Harrison: So, for trying to explain a water pump. Was it manually driven, or how was it-

Hollaran: No, it just had centrifugal force, and it just, you know. It was just like your water faucet only when you pulled that into the train, well when you pushed it back that would cut it off.

Harrison: Ok.

Cody: It's not there now. When was it there? What time period?

Hollaran: Seemed like it was there in 19- about 1949 or somewhere along there.

Cody: And that's when it-?

Hollaran: That's when I guess that they-

Cody: …they took it down?

Hollaran: Well, when they began with the diesel engines, well they didn't need it anymore.

Cody: Was the train service still going on at that time?

Hollaran: The train service went on up 'til about 19- well, let's see '60…I would say they were stopping in 1960. Let's see, no, [counts the dates out loud]. It was between 1955 and 1960. I can't tell you exactly.

Harrison: So, that being said, you have experiences both with riding the steam train to Atlanta as well as the diesel train?

Hollaran: Right. Mmhmm.

Harrison: Ok, so that's an interesting transition.

Cody: And, did you notice the economy of Adairsville change when the train service stopped?

Hollaran: No, that didn't really have a lot of effect on it. No.

Cody: No?

Smith: You also mentioned that you were in the service, which, again, thank you very much for your service in the military. I remember reading in your bio that when you left to go to the service the train service was still here. Did you leave to go by train?

Hollaran: No. I, when I was inducted, I had to go to Atlanta, and then from there I was took care by the military. But, see what I guess maybe why I mention this: I thought I would get to see some country when I come back from Korea; I was in San Francisco. Well, I visited with my aunt and uncle. He was an officer in the army. And, I visited with them out there, and I thought, "Well, I'll ride the train home." Well, I road the train, but I didn't see anything but the backwoods of, or the backdoor of all the stores or whatever. And that's all I saw. I wish I would have flown home, but anyway I didn't. 'Cause that was a miserable trip.

Harrison: What made it- oh, go ahead?

Newberry: I was going to ask you to focus more on the depot to and ask about the way it looked and how it was arranged.

Smith: Oh, yes. I remember a bit earlier when we were talking about how races here intermingled- we noticed that there are two different waiting areas in the train station, and we assumed one for African Americans and one for whites.

Hollaran: It was. Of course, it was back then. Yes, of course before integration.

Smith: Do you happen to remember, maybe, which one was which?

Hollaran: The one on the front on [shows with hand] this side next to the stores was white, and the other one is black.

Smith: Oh!

Cody: Thank you.

Smith: Thank you very much.

Cody: How did you go and get your tickets when you were there?

Hollaran: We didn't. The conductors knew us, and, we just, we paid them after we got on the train. We didn't have a ticket.

Cody: So, what was the waiting room used for?

Hollaran: I don't know; I never did go in there. Oh, you know, if I went to the depot for something, you go through there, but I never did go wait in the depot 'cause we just always stood outside and waited for the train. So, he'd be sure and stop for us.

Cody: Mmhmm. Um-

Hollaran: Because back then the conductor, I mean the man at the depot, that managed the depot, he left at 5:30. He didn't come until about 8 o'clock.

Cody: So, who actually would use the depot that you know of?

Hollaran: Well, anyone that wanted to ship things, you know. And, then things that came into town, like the stores and things, they would get their merchandise that way sometimes. Now, Mr. Satterfield had a crest farm out here, and he shipped crests in wooden barrels. They were little barrels about so high and so big around- [shows with hands] he put ice in them and then he put watercress in there, and sealed them up and put them up and shipped them out of the depot, and made a fortune out of them.

Newberry: What was his full name?

Hollaran: I don't know what his full name was – Claude Satterfield. I'm sorry, I have my senior moments. (laugh)

Smith: So would you say that the depot was very crowded on a daily basis, or not so much?

Hollaran: No, no, its just that the town wasn't big enough for it to be crowded. At one time the city limits, it was a half mile circle and that's all there was here was that little half mile. If you were anybody you had to live in that circle. If you were outside it, ooh.

Cody: How did you interact with the townspeople that were in this circle?

Hollaran: Oh, well I always got along with all of them.

Cody: How did everyone get together and interact? Was it at the stores, or at church?

Hollaran: Mostly at church or church socials, or something like that and then you know, back when I was growing up we had a lot of guests come into the house and all that. I know when I had my 16th birthday, we had it in the yard there at my house and every teenager in town came because we didn't have anything else to do.

Smith: Speaking of having other things to do, was there normally- like there was a fair the day that we met you, were there fairs often?

Hollaran: No that started afterwards. We used to have a carnival come and they would have elephants and lions and all those things back when I was growing up, but that downtown festival, it started later on. I would guess about the late fifties.

Cody: How many people came to the carnival?

Hollaran: Well, mostly everybody in that area would come because it was something exciting and something for everybody to do once a year.

Smith: Did the carnival arrive by train?

Hollaran: No, it was on trucks.

Cody: How did they get up here? What kind of roads did they take?

Hollaran: I don't know, the only road when I was growing up was this road right here, that little two-lane road. It went all the way from here to Atlanta Georgia. Then they built US 41, right out here and then after that they built I-75. If you were going to go to Atlanta, you might as well stay for the whole day or night, or just plan to stay the night and come back.

Harrison: That being said, taking the train from Adairsville to Atlanta, about how long would it take?

Hollaran: How long would it take? Well we would get on the train at about 5:30 and we would get to Atlanta at about 8:00.

Harrison: Morning or evening?

Hollaran: Morning.

Harrison: Okay, and you would like you mentioned, stay there for most of the day, do your shopping, see a movie, things like that, then take a train back to Adairsville?

Hollaran: Yeah, the train was supposed to get here at 11:00 at night.

Harrison: Did it usually run on schedule?

Hollaran: Yeah, pretty well on schedule.

Cody: Did it run during the day?

Hollaran: No just those times. Way back before that though it was very busy. That's what everybody did. The southern railway was over at Plaineville Georgia and that the one my mother and father used all the time because they would go out to the farm and then go over there rather than catch it here because they liked that train better than they did this one.

Cody: Could you describe the train that you used?

Hollaran: It just looked like a train, all black cars. It wasn't a fancy color or anything like that.

Harrison: You had mentioned, the first part of your life the train service was steam driven and that transitioned to diesel; did that change the amount of time that it took at all or was it about the same?

Hollaran: It was all about the same. It had the very same stops.

Smith: So would you say that the train service overall was used more as a passenger train like you and your best friend used?

Hollaran: It was used both ways. There was a lot of cotton shipped on the train and there was a lot of peaches. That's where they shipped all the peaches. I can take y'all downtown and show you right where they graded the peaches and packed them and put them on the train.

Harrison: So you're saying, and especially since this is such a rural area, you would have a lot of freight on the train as well as maybe a couple passenger cars as well, as sort of a multi-use idea.

Hollaran: Yes

Smith: So what would you say, I remember talking about other smaller communities in the north Georgia area that were because of train service and some of them have maybe died, or fallen away, but Adairsville has persisted and looks to be doing quite well. What do you think has caused Adairsville to have lasted throughout these years?

Hollaran: Well I guess it was because it was just kind of central. Its ten miles to Calhoun. Its 20 miles to Cartersville. Hall station died away and that was one place that the train was used for, they mined Boxite down there and shipped it on the train. That way, you know, earlier on. They don't do that anymore. I guess they mined it all or something.

Smith: Would you say Adairsville has changed a lot over the years?

Hollaran: Oh yes because, when I left in 1960 to go into service all the stores were occupied and everything, but when I came back in 1962 in October, all the stores were closed except for the furniture store. Everything. I almost fainted. All of a sudden it was just gone. Whoosh.

Cody: Do you have any idea why that happened?

Hollaran: I don't know. I still don't understand it. I don't know what happened.

Cody: Have you talked to with anybody that knew about it?

Hollaran: Well no, no one really seemed to give me a good answer as to what happened.

Newberry: What was the approximate time that the highway went in out here?

Hollaran: Let's see, I would say, I think 1965.

Newberry: Okay, so that highway went in after you had gotten back from the service.

Hollaran: Yes.

Harrison: You had mentioned, especially during peach season a lot of things would leave Adairsville; peaches, you mentioned the Satterfields sold watercress, were there certain seasons, or times of the year where there was a lot more going out than other times?

Hollaran: I would say those times were the largest times because that was what like that mountain you see over here that is all pine trees now, that was all peaches. Then there was another right below town here and that was all peaches there and then if you go over on this mountain there's huge fields that were nothing but cotton, and see cotton is gathered this time of year (late summer/early fall).

Cody: When were peaches gathered?

Hollaran: Just a little bit earlier than this. (late summer/end of summer).

Harrison: Were there any other lesser exports that other times of the year that were going out of this area?

Hollaran: No, not really. Not a whole lot.

Cody: You said that when you returned from the services in 1962 the stores had closed. How long did it take for business to come back to Adairsville.

Hollaran: Well it hasn't much come back and what little stores that are down there, the little jewelry store and thrift shop, she does a pretty good business, but other than that, not much or nothing.

Newberry: Before you left for service, in the 1950s, walk us through some of the stores that were down there.

Hollaran: Okay, on the first corner was Ms. Maddie Newton's grocery store. The next store was Ms. Satterfields shoe store. Then the furniture store was two stores, with two doors to the front of the store. Then the next store was the drug store and the Georgia Power office was there. Then the post office and then the beauty shop. Then the barber shop and then Ms. - well excuse me, before the barber shop another dress shop clothing store and all that, then the barber shop. Then Mr. McCutcheon, who I mentioned before, his store you know with all the merchandise and everything there and then the hardware store was the next store and then on the end of that was a dime store and they had candy and little things like that. And that was it. Now on the other street over there, the Stevens ran a coal yard because a lot of people burned coal up until we got gas here in town and then they had a store. Then there was a little theater there and then there was a grocery store up here and then the corner store was Ms. Bogle's little shop. She had been there for 110 years, but then she passed away.

Cody: You said the post office, when did the postal service run?

Hollaran: Well, the post office moved from right up here on the, well in that building across from the Adairsville Inn, it’s a little brick building there. Then they built this post office out here. The years, I couldn't really tell you.

Cody: Who would go and get their mail from the post office?

Hollaran: Everybody here in town. We did not have postal delivery.

Harrison: Was it pretty common to run into other townspeople while everyone was getting their mail?

Hollaran: Oh yeah. You would run into people up and down the street all the time and you knew people real well and you could tell like – one morning Ms. (?) was coming down the street and I said Ma'am, what is wrong this morning? You don't look like you are too happy. She said "I'm not". I said well what happened? She said, "I asked Cressy for some money to go to Atlanta and you see what the S.O.B. gave me?" She had one silver dollar in her hand.

Cody: How much was a silver dollar back then?

Hollaran: Well, a dollar. You know, (laughs). That was just part of the money back then because he never, when you started to pay a sales tax Mr. Cressy kept a gallon jug there with a hole cut in the top and that's where the pennies went and he didn't put anything there but the pennies and that's all it took. They covered it with the pennies.

Harrison: So, how much did it cost to see a movie in Atlanta. You were talking about the lady had a silver dollar. What might that have gotten her at this time?

Hollaran: The first year we went, it seemed like the movie was 75 cents. Then later a dollar and maybe a dollar and a quarter.

Harrison: And how much did it cost for a train ticket to Atlanta?

Hollaran: Three dollars.

Harrison: So, she couldn't even make it to Atlanta then, the lady with the silver dollar.

Hollaran: No, well see they had plenty of money it was just the fact that she had maybe wanted three or four-hundred dollars and he didn't produce.

Cody: So it seems like going to Atlanta was a little more expensive and you were able to do it a lot. Could you describe your family's economic status?

Hollaran: Well we were just ordinary people. We weren't rich, but we weren't real poor either. We were I guess considered middle class. No one here, well I guess there were three or four people that were rich, but not that many you know.

Cody: How did they become rich?

Hollaran: Well, Mr. Veech had a store that, they lived where the Adairsville inn is, that was their home. From that house all the way almost to the depot there, if you walked right down in front of the Methodist church you'd go right beside the end of his store and he made a lot of money during the war, from the black market. I have seen him with as much sugar as he could stack in that second floor of the store and things like that.

Cody: What war?

Hollaran: World War Two and then Mr. Cressy McCutcheon he made a lot of money off materials and all those things because he wasn't supposed to be selling that, but he did.

Cody: When was this?

Hollaran: This was World War Two. See I could remember when during World War Two Mrs. Franklin that started the San Sussi Club. Well, she was a big Red Cross worker and I can remember her going to the schoolhouse to do things and helped make things and then during the war during World War Two everything was rationed. You had to have a stamp to get sugar, coffee, gas, just a number of things and if you didn't have a stamp you couldn't get any because it was rationed, but Mr. Veech, he sort of under-handed it you know. "If you needed something just let me know" he would say.

Smith: You said she went over to the school to help make things, what kind of things?

Hollaran: They made some kind of blankets and things like that.

Smith: So to get them to the soldiers did they use the train service to ship that?

Hollaran: No, I don't think so. Not that I know of.

Cody: Where did the blankets go to?

Hollaran: They went to servicemen in the Army, Air Force, or where ever I guess they needed them.

Cody: So was the Sans Sussi Club created to make the blankets and such?

Hollaran: No, that was mostly a social activity. That's where all the ladies on that side of town and one or two on this side of town could go and have a party.

Newberry: Okay, talk about the sides of town. You were pointing to this side of town and that side of town. What is the difference?

Hollaran: Well, Summer Street over there, and this is Cherry Street, the only real nice house on that street was the children house, the one I talked about having the pretty staircase. It was right over there. Then on Summer Street there was a lot of nice houses up through there. Then there's a lot of these streets that are here now were not here. Like this street was not here. Then on that side of town it was pretty much like it is now only it was a lot nicer. Park street, the street that goes up across the railroad and then by the Sans Sussi, that was known as Society Street. I lived on this side of Society Street.

Newberry: Okay, so that side of town and this side of town. Is this cut in half by the railroad?

Hollaran: Kind of. Yes.

Newberry: Okay, and this Society street that goes west, it crosses the railroad and goes west by San Sussi, are you saying that was Society Street?

Hollaran: Yes.

Newberry: So why was it Society Street?

Hollaran: It was where more of the wealthier people lived. Mr. Cressy McCutcheon's home was there. It burned though and is not there anymore. My aunt and uncle lived in the first little brick house there right by Sans Sussi, but that was not there when I was growing up. Then Mr. McHale would be the banker. He lived on the left side there in a house. Then the Hayes' lived there. The Broadman house, Barton house, and then let's see, the Terril house, and then the Bishop house and then the Hutchinson house, he was a Doctor. Then over on the street in front of the schoolhouse was Dr. Yarborough's house. Then Dr. Shamblee, and then the Franklin house. That was all that was on that side of that street and the school was on the other side. Then our house was on that side on the corner and then that street that goes down by it now was not a street. You could go down to that house but it wasn't a street but a dirt road. Then across the street on the corner from the Franklin house and our house was just a cow pasture and everybody had a cow back then. If you didn't have a cow, then you didn't have milk.

Smith: So everyone had a cow; was there no milk delivery service?

Hollaran: No. Not at all. Mr. Satterfield, his wife, she had where their house is here on Summer Street, well this was their cow pasture here. She started bottling milk I can remember in glass bottles and putting stoppers in there and they would build cream about that high on them at the top. He was the first one to sell milk in his store.

Smith: And about when was this?

Hollaran: I guess when I was about 12 or 14 years old. Then, well right there where we were at the San Sussi, you know those brick or concrete posts that come up to the – did you all see those?

All: Yes.

Hollaran: Alright, well that was Dr. Yarborough's cow pasture. All that was his cow pasture, his house was on that street over there.

Harrison: So, you mentioned a couple doctors lived in town. Did they have offices or were they house call?

Hollaran: Yes, they came to your house. Dr. Hutchinson had a little house out behind his house that he did his office out of. Anyway, we had Dr. Bradly and he was over on this side of town right behind the Baptist church here. He had a extra room in his house. Now Dr. Shamblee just had on ordinary house. He didn't have anything extra and when I said Dr. Yarborough, he was really a druggist, but they called them doctors back when I was a little boy.

Cody: Where did they get their education to become doctors, or druggists?

Hollaran: They went to different places. I think Dr. Hutchinson went somewhere in New York and I'm not really sure where they all went. I actually never knew Dr. Shamblee. I knew his wife well, but never knew him. He died at an early age.

Cody: How did you meet his wife?

Hollaran: She was just always around. She'd be in town to buy her groceries and those things. Then she would order groceries and I'd deliver them.

Cody: Did you do that for a few of the other doctors?

Hollaran: Oh yeah. I did that for everybody in town.

Cody: That's how you got to know people right?

Hollaran: Uh huh. Yes.

Harrison: Your grocery delivering job, were you compensated by the store, or did you rely on tips from the people you were delivering to?

Hollaran: Oh no. There were no tips back then. I got my three dollars for working all day.

Cody: And that was from the store?

Hollaran: From the store, yes.

Smith: Are you still involved in any roles in the community? Do you still work at the funeral home at all?

Hollaran: Occasionally. I don't too much anymore.

Cody: Where is the funeral home?

Hollaran: Well the funeral home was that great big building up here on the hill, right there behind the stores. [Points to the left] Had you noticed that? Alright. It's for sale now. Now the funeral home is out on Summer Street. It's almost out the end-, there-, almost at Highway 41.

Cody: And who owned the-

Hollaran: The Bartons

Cody: -the funeral home? The Bartons. And was it a family owned store? Did they past it down to their children?

Hollaran: Ah, yeah, yes. It started in 1937. Well actually 1936, and its been hanged down. Yeah.

Cody: Was that a common practice for a few of the other stores in Adairsville?

Hollaran: No. [Shakes his head a little] Like Mr. Christian McCutcheon, he had daughters and they didn't do anything like that. Mr. Saddlefield's son was a baseball player and he died at a pretty early age. His wife still lived here in town. He had no body to hand his down to. Mr. Veech (1:15) the man I mentioned, did not have any children.

Smith: So when they couldn't it down, the business would just close?

Hollaran: [Nods head up and down and gives affirmative mumble] Well I-. Yeah Mr. Veech just-. After he died, he died at a pretty early age too, well than his wife tried running it, but she didn't- wasn't too successful with it.

Harrison: So backtracking a little bit, you were talking about how in Adairsville, as a posted to a lot of places how a lot of intermingling between races, during segregation times was it very enforces or was it something like that, okay well, there is segregation but were still going to, you know, intermingle with each other, and then were there any parts of town that were less, for a lack of a better term, less supportive of intermingling or anything like that?

Hollaran: Well we had what you called Saint Elmo? [Gestures to the left] You go out across town here and that's where the black people mostly live. The big majority of

them. And there was some of them that were successful. They worked, you know, and made money, and everything. And they had nice homes and all those things and didn't ever- I don't know. We had a person work in our home and in the yard, and all those things, but you didn't never- I just thought of them like Maddie May. I just thought of her like my second Momma. [happy giggles from everyone] You know what I mean. I loved her to death and I still have a lot of black friends. And then Annie Lot, the lady that I was talking about a while ago, that said that about them, you know, I loved her. You know and everything. I'm still-. Mary Hunes' daughter, I mean, granddaughter, I just talked to her yesterday at the grocery store. And she'd come back here to the house and you know, we just-, I just never really had it that way. And then Fred Tribvune, who worked at the funeral home, he was- he use to take us, when we were too young to do anything else. He'd take us out to the farm, out to Happy Hallow and spend the night with us, and we'd fish in the lake, pond, lake, and catch fish. He'd fry 'em for us and spend the night with us and bring us back home the next day or with it was school week, he'd have to bring us back in time for us to get ready for school.

Cody: Was there any stores in Adairsville downtown that had different entrances or waiting rooms for African Americans and White people?

Hollaran: [Shakes his head 'No']

Cody: Did a lot of African Americans come and use the stores?

Hollaran: Oh Yeah! That was the only place they had to buy.

Smith: Did a vast majority of them work there, as well, in the different-?

Hollaran: Well. A lot of them worked at the, there was several of them that worked for Mr. J. M. Veech and there were serval that worked for Mr. Joe William Veech at the cotton gin and things like that. For all those things.

Harrison: So you have a lot of integration in the town, when it actually came back to getting on the train, would at that point you would literally have to say you were having a conversation with a friend who happened to be black would they then have to get on a separate train car?

Hollaran: No. No, a black never got on the train with us. Now they did back earlier before we did but not then. It would be just us two. That was all that was down there.

Smith: Just you and your best friend that would go on to the movies?

Hollaran: [Hollaran nods his head for 'Yes']

Smith: So, you said it would be just y'all two, so there wasn't a big crowd of kids that were going to Atlanta?

Hollaran: No.

Cody: Has there been any big events that have happened in Adairsville during your lifetime?

Hollaran: Well… What do you mean? I guess, there was a United States Marshall got killed, here. And well when you talk about an event! And the only place that there communications would work was up here on the funeral home hill, and everything was going on up there, and all over town. You see we had moved out of this house over here [points to the direction of his childhood home] and down to the foot of the mountain over here [points southeast of town] and that's where they found them was out behind our house up there on the mountain, back there.

Smith: What is the name of the mountain?

Hollaran: It took them about a month to find 'em? It was awful.

Cody: What's the name of the mountain?

Hollaran: Boyd Mountain

Cody: And, you mentioned communications, what exactly do you mean by communications?

Hollaran: Well, there, there radios and things, you know. In their cars. And the State Patrol, and the Sheriffs and all that. They just had to be up that high for it to work cause we didn't have all these telephone poles and everything back then.

Cody: And what time is this, would you said?

Hollaran: This is about 1950-, wait a minute. Let's see… What year was that? That was 1956 or 7.

Cody: Okay.

Harrison: So the Marshall getting killed was that-, well obviously something like that doesn't happen every day in Adairsville, was it a pretty notorious crime? Was it or was it kinda a random wrong place, wrong time?

Hollaran: No. They were transporting two prisoners. He was. And they someways got his gun and shot him, right there, below town, right here.

Harrison: So it brought a lot of news to the town?

Hollaran: Yeah. Everybody was here.

Harrison: A lot of Publicity?

Hollaran: [Hollaran shakes head for 'Yes']

Smith: Transporting him? Were they transporting him through railroad or by car?

Hollaran: Car.

Smith: By Car.

Cody: Do you know where they were coming from? And where they were going?

Hollaran: They were coming from somewhere in Tennessee and they were going down to the prison in Atlanta.

Newberry: You talked about the body being on the hill behind your house.

Hollaran: Oh no, the two men were up there.

Newberry: They were hiding out?

Hollaran: Yes.

Cody: And how do you know this? Was it published or did you…

Hollaran: Oh, I was involved in it. I was right here when it was all going on.

Cody: Did you help? Who came to investigate or recapture?

Hollaran: Everybody in the United States. All kinda of detectives, you know whose kinda of things.

Newberry: How did you get your news?

Hollaran: Well, Radio when I was younger, and well television when it came. I can remember when the first television was this big [Holds hands to about 13 inches apart]

Smith: Did many people have televisions in Adairsville or was it just…

Hollaran: No, when the first television we had it was down at the furniture store. The Bartons owned the furniture store. That was the first television and it came to Adairsville. And I guess we hauled 2,000 televisions a year back and forth to Atlanta. Well you know back than you had tubes in your television and now you have it all digital connected together and everything. Well when you drove a

pickup truck you took 4 televisions all the way to Atlanta to get them repaired. By the time you got back home on all these rough roads everything was jarred lose and it wouldn't work.

[Everyone laughs]

Cody: So there wasn't anyone that came to fix them or anything?

Hollaran: Well, Mr. JT Winns was supposedly known how to do it but you'd take him something, like, I think my mother gave him an iron and it's still sitting down there maybe on the store.

[Everyone laughs]

Cody: Which store was that?

Hollaran: JTs little radio shop.

Cody: Was that there up on the hill?

Hollaran: No the was down in town there on that side street.

Cody: Which side street?

Hollaran: Well the one-, you know like, there's a side street-. The stores goes up and down right there. It was over there in that section.

Cody: Okay.

Smith: So you got your information from the radio and there was one television that everyone kind of crowded around. What about the telephones? Was there like a switch board operation going on?

Hollaran: It was right down here on this- right there, past that big old house right here.

Smith: When did everyone start getting telephones in their homes, do you think?

Hollaran: Well most everyone in town had one but then, I would say, 10, what 5, miles out of town, they didn't have telephones till the early 60s. Some of them didn't even have them then. I can't remember, you see our first phone was 82, the furniture store was 70, the funeral home was 71, the grocery store was 28, and that was all the numbers we had. Then I got to be our number was 3582, then it was 33582 and it got to be 7733582.

Smith: Was that because people started getting more phones?

Hollaran: Yeah, it was because people were getting more phones, but now Ms. Maxwell, who lived in the house below us, she still used her crank phone until she got dial.

And my cousin still lives over, he bought the house and lives there. And the phone is still in the hallway over there. Just like it was when she lived there.

Cody: Does it still work?

Hollaran: I guess it would if you connect it, you know.

Cody: And when did people start getting television in their homes?

Hollaran: 1955 some in ’56. ’54, ’55, ’56. But you see, you couldn’t get any reception, pretty much. You might get- it was according to where you lived. You had to have any antenna. You could turn your antenna in a different direction and pick up. But you had to pick up Atlanta or Chattanooga. One of the two.

Cody: Which one did you pick up?

Hollaran: We picked up Atlanta.

Harrison: So, the last time we will be talking about the train again, throughout the years it was pretty consistent that it would be pretty busy harvest season, not so much during other times. What’s its main role now? For the modern day. I think in our pre-interview you mentioned coal comes through town because of the power plant in Carterville. Would you say that that’s its primary use, and does it still stop at the depot now?

Hollaran: No, there’s nobody in the depot at all. Nothing about it. It’s just a museum now. And then a lot of the things the car that are being shipped going to Savannah to be loaded on to ships that’s a big one. Sometimes a 10 mile train, like that.

Harrison: Just cars.

Hollaran: Yeah, just cars. But there is no passenger train anymore. All just coal cars, or regular cars with commodities on it.

Harrison: Do you know by chance is it primarily used by said CSX or Norfolk?

Hollaran: Oh yeah. It’s about CSX. 100%.

Smith: Is there anything else about Adairsville that you feel is important that you would like to share with us?

Hollaran: No, I don’t know. Nothing really, really important anymore. I live here because I have lived here all my life and I’m retired and I’ve got this little house and everyone’s like ‘Why don’t you get a condo?’ and I’m like ‘Why would I buy a condo? Pay all that money for it. I own this. This is mine.

Harrison: It is a lovely home by the way.

Hollaran: Thank you.

Cody: Is there anything special about living here in Adairsville that you wanted to say?

Hollaran: Well I guess it's because this is where I've been all my life, you know. If I moved to New York, I would be in just a lost world.

Cody: So everything here is familiar and you like that?

Hollaran: Oh, yeah.

Cody: And you like the people?

Hollaran: And I know most of them, not everybody now. But I know most of them.

Cody: Does it give you a sense of community?

Hollaran: Yeah.

Smith: Well, thank you very much for your time Sir. We appreciate you talking with us.

[End of Interview and Transcription]