

The Lemon Street Schools Oral History Collection
Marietta City Schools System, 2019-2021
Jeanie Martin Carter interview
Conducted by James Newberry
January 29, 2020

Complete Transcript

Interviewer: All right, so this is James Newberry, and I'm here with Ms. Jeanie Carter on January 29th, 2020, at her home on Lemon Street, in Marietta, Georgia. And I want to thank you for agreeing to talk to me. Can you tell me your full name and story?

Carter: My full name is Jeanie Martin Carter.

Interviewer: And what's your birthdate?

Carter: My birthday is October 26, '33.

Interviewer: Where did you grow up?

Carter: I grew up around Cartersville and Cassville, Georgia, Bartow County.

Interviewer: What were your parents' names?

Carter: My parents' names was Jody and Mary Martin.

Interviewer: Is that J-O-D-Y?

Carter: Yeah.

Interviewer: What did they do for a living?

Carter: Just basic. I think my mother, she just did basic house work, and my daddy just did basic work. The guys they then did. He didn't have no special training in no special thing.

Interviewer: Did you have siblings.

Carter: Yes. Two sisters, uh-huh, who both are deceased.

Interviewer: What was life like in Cartersville and Cassville at that time?

Carter: Well, we lived out from the city itself, and so we actually went to school in Cassville, Georgia, which was Noble Hill Elementary School, and now it's used as a museum for... A state museum, Wheeler Noble Hill Museum, is the name of it now. So at the elementary school. And we had to walk from the Kingston

Highway, all the way over to the Adairsville Highway, because we couldn't ride the school bus. So we walked, but we enjoyed the walk because we played the whole time, going in, coming back.

Interviewer: Why couldn't you ride the school bus?

Carter: Because we were not allowed to, because of our race. That was the... We could have been going to Cass Elementary, and Cass High too, but at the... They were segregated, so we couldn't go. We had to go all the way to Cartersville, just like all of the people in Bartow... I mean in Cobb County had to come to Lemon Street, and then all the people in Bartow County had to go to [Summer Hill 00:03:09]. So this situation like Marietta was.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative). What sort of subjects were you learning in school at that time, and how did you feel about your education? What was the quality of the education?

Carter: Well, we learned the basic courses, just like the courses that I taught, or that I saw anybody else studying. The only thing is, we just had... As usual, we had secondhand stuff. But anyway, for that, we had good teachers, because we knew that they knew our parents, and we knew that our parents wanted us to learn. So we were better-disciplined students than some of ours are now. And so we got everything that we could learn. But we had basically the same books and stuff like that, but they were hand-me-downs, just like this. Hand-me-down tables, desks, books, and anything like that.

Interviewer: Can you describe the school building that you went to?

Carter: Describe the what?

Interviewer: The school building? What did it look like, what were the rooms like?

Carter: We had three rooms in this building. Prima Den, we called... The kindergarten was called Prima, and we had Prima to 7th grade in there. Half of them in one room, halfway in the other, and the other was the coatroom and the lunchroom, all together. And so anyway, they're still there. I went up there three months ago, and the building stuff, they repaired it, for the museum here now. But it was up there, and we had to walk every day, rain, shine, sleet, snow. But it was fun.

Interviewer: Can you tell me who inspired you at that time? Who were your role models?

Carter: My basic role model, quite natural, was my grandmother. My grandmother, me and my sister and I, my momma passed when I was three and my sister was five. So anyway, in education was my fifth, sixth and seventh grade teacher, Ms. Albaquin, I think it's on there. And she just inspired me, she said, "I just want you to be a teacher like me, I want you... You could make a good teacher." So

those two are really the two that really inspired me to be a teacher. So when I finished I was salutatorian of my class.

Interviewer: At number two?

Carter: Yeah. I was number two here, I wasn't too far from number one.

Interviewer: Can you tell me before we move on, your grandmother's name?

Carter: Maria McClure.

Interviewer: And she was your mother's mother?

Carter: Yeah, uh-huh.

Interviewer: So tell me then, you may have already mentioned this, but where did you graduate from high school? What was the name?

Carter: Summer Hill High School in Cartersville.

Interviewer: And you said that your teacher had inspired you. Did you want to be a teacher at that point?

Carter: I didn't know what I wanted. I sort of wanted to be a beautician, and my grandmother said, "Well you can't be no beautician, all that smoke will give you tuberculosis." So anyway, my teacher, she loved teaching, and she just put me in with those students saying, "You could be a teacher," so...

Interviewer: So then, where did you go on to school from-

Carter: I went to Morris Brown College in Atlanta.

Interviewer: And tell me about your education there.

Carter: Well, it was fine, because I stayed on-campus, and took a while to get adjusted, because I'd never been anywhere away from grandma. But I went and did just fine, I worked my way mostly to school in the cafeteria. And then, so after I finished Morris Brown, I came to the Marietta.

Interviewer: What did you know about Marietta before then?

Carter: Well, I knew some things about it. Well, we competed in some things, that's where I met my husband, at a basketball tournament in the eighth grade. So we had been in a lot of church meetings, and a lot of school meetings where we really knew each other, and we'd come down here to meet, and they'd go up there. So I knew in general about it. And so in that, this is his home town too.

Interviewer: Well to go back, tell me about meeting your husband in the eight grade. How did that happen?

Carter: It was at a basketball tournament, and we... You know how you are, just socializing around and all. And so he met me there, and from eight grade on we'd be there on a conference level, playing. He was playing basketball, I was playing basketball too. So we just got to meet each other playing ball. He didn't have a car, and I didn't have one either, so we didn't see each other every week.

Interviewer: How did you stay in contact?

Carter: Oh, in contact?

Interviewer: When you were in separate cities.

Carter: He was coming to college, where?

Interviewer: From eight grade on up.

Carter: Oh, from here, he'd catch the bus, sometimes. Greyhound bus from here. And when he got in the Marine Corps, he joined the Marine Corps after his freshman year, then he'd catch the bus, and come. So we got engaged my freshman year, we got married my sophomore year in college.

Interviewer: What was his name?

Carter: Huh?

Interviewer: Tell me his name.

Carter: Kenneth.

Interviewer: Okay. And what appealed to you about him? What did you like about him?

Carter: Well, he was just a nice guy, nice to everybody. And I mean, he did a lot of work in school, and in church. We had a lot of things in common, we had a lot of things in common. And so I thought-

Interviewer: Was his family, his extended family all here in Marietta?

Carter: No, they're deceased now. He had four brothers, his dad and momma lived here until they passed. The others lived in the west coast, so...

Interviewer: Well, so coming back to that first job in Marietta, talk about coming here, and interviewing, and how you got the job.

Carter: I was looking for a job, really in the fourth grade, because I did my student teaching in the fourth grade in Atlanta. So I was putting out an application, and my husband was, "Put one out at home," and I put an application here. And he knew Professor Woods at... Professor Woods was his high school principal, when he went through. So anyway, they had some openings, and so he hired me and all. And so I had in the building, that first room which you go in to your right, that was my classroom there. And so we didn't have any aides like we do now, nobody to assist us with all those students. But anyway, I enjoyed it, although I wanted fourth grade, because I had done student teaching. And so anyway, I stayed there till... I don't know the exact date, the year that the Johnny Walker Homes were built, across town there. It was Emily Lindbeck, Preschool now I think, over on Right Street. Well, they moved me as one of the teachers over there, and moved Professor Woods over there too. So I taught over there until they integrated in '67. And then they sent me to Hickory Hills. And so I see it as they sent one, no more than two teachers to the other schools from Lambert Street to the other schools the year they integrated.

Interviewer: What do you mean, one, no more than two?

Carter: They sent me to Hickory Hills, me, only. And then Park Street had two, I knew who they were. They're still around. But the different school, Park Street was one, Barbara Derr, Pine Forest was two. So the better teachers, as evaluated as better teachers, were sent to the schools, the integrated schools.

Interviewer: I see. So you're saying you were the only black teacher at Hickory Hills?

Carter: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: And how was that?

Carter: Oh, it was good. It just so happened I had a principal, and his name was Mr. Carter. And by the first grade, he says to me, "Is Mr. Carter your husband?" I said, "Uh-huh." They believed. [laughs] I had to go back to them, "No, no." [laughs] But anyway, but I didn't stay there for one year, and that was because I got a Fellowship to Emory to get my Master's Degree. So then after I got my Master's Degree, I was transferred to middle school, because I got in at the middle school level.

Interviewer: What middle school?

Carter: It was Park Street, one year. And then they built the middle school over at Aviation over there, and I stayed on Aviation there until I retired.

Interviewer: Did you work at all while you were getting your Masters?

Carter: No, that was a full year.

Interviewer: Okay. Let's return to Lemon Street. Can you remember about how many years you were there, at Lemon Street Elementary?

Carter: That's '57, '60, '57, and I know I was at Park... I mean, I was at Wright Street at '64. So it was somewhere in between there.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative), five or six years?

Carter: Yeah, something like that.

Interviewer: Okay. What was your salary? Do you remember?

Carter: I don't know, but it wasn't the same, because of color.

Interviewer: Okay. Do you have a sense of how much less you were making?

Carter: No.

Interviewer: How did you know that it wasn't the same?

Carter: I don't remember.

Interviewer: Was that something that bothered you at the time?

Carter: Yes, it bothered us. Well, yeah. Because we knew that we were not yet in the... We didn't know at first, you know when you're hired and stuff like that. But we found out after we were hired that our salary was not the same as the others.

Interviewer: And what grade did you teach at the school on Right Street?

Carter: For first grade, until I got to the middle school. I taught first grade until... It was '69, '70, mm-hmm (affirmative), so one year. And that was more 60, 61, mm-hmm (affirmative). That was about, it was '60 year, '60, '61.

Interviewer: What kind of a teacher were you?

Carter: What kind of teacher am I?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Carter: Ooh, wow. Well, you're telling me how I evaluate myself?

Interviewer: Yeah. Your relationship with the students, how you taught them.

Carter: Well, I really hate to evaluate myself. But I feel that I was... I feel I was an excellent teacher. I never did hear anything that... We would always hear something as a teacher to improve in, and if you don't know your weakness you

can't get stronger. But I feel the students responded well, they learned well, and they loved us. I think my husband had an influence on me, and that was... But anyway, I think I did pretty well. They must have thought it too, that she was being one, at the best school in the system, the... So anyway, that's what told me, too, that somebody else thinks you're pretty good too, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Right. So, tell me about your husband, and his job in the school system.

Carter: Well, Ken started to teach at... Both of our jobs were at Lemon Street, our first jobs. He started teaching in the Annex backup, which they've torn down up there, at the sixth grade... Not math, but physical education and health, I believe, mm-hmm (affirmative). So he taught there, until Wright Street... I think after they sent me from Wright Street. You see, then they made Wright Street into a middle school, and then, see, the middle school teachers went there. So he was teaching seven, eight, sixth... Sixth, seven and eight, or seven and eight. And so after he taught there, they built the new middle school over at Aviation. And then he coached tennis for 19 years, and it was PE consulting for the city for 19 years. And then other than that, he taught at middle school health and science, and PE. He did a whole lot in the community. He was in charge of the rope jumpers, and did...

Interviewer: What are the rope jumpers?

Carter: Huh?

Interviewer: What are the rope jumpers?

Carter: Kids jumping rope by music. [inaudible 00:21:52] Hawks game, he went to New Jersey to PE nights and conventions. And different places participate with the rope jumpers.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Carter: He just worked in Sunday School, or was a trustee in the church, or the Free Georgia Program, you name it. He was a boxer in the military.

Interviewer: How long was he in the military?

Carter: Three years, and he came back, and then he finished at Lincoln University at Jefferson City, Missouri.

Interviewer: What church are you a member of?

Carter: What church?

Interviewer: What's it called?

Carter: Turner Chapel, AAME.

Interviewer: So, I want to talk a little bit about... Did you do anything beyond the classroom at the school, like extracurricular activities for students? Did you manage any of that?

Carter: At the school, no. I did it at the church, around a free tutor program for the kids for about 30 years. It was free, we had teachers from different... Different volunteer teachers from the system, and Cobb County. They came and helped on Tuesdays, Thursdays, two days a week, and we'd help the kids with their homework and stuff like that. Started over at that church, and ended up over here. It's for extra activities, and now...

Interviewer: So when you were teaching in those years, just before the schools were integrated, was there a lot of talk at the time about pushing for integration? I mean, what did you hear of that, how was it happening where you were? What were people talking about?

Carter: It was not necessary... It was not at our pushing within the schools. Quite naturally, I always start from outside first, and that's because for the students going to the schools themselves, they loved the Lemon Street. And what it was is the things that were happening in the schools that they were not getting, you see? This property was on the upper level more than the primary level, it was probably more that the kids were not getting some things that they thought they should have been getting. But far as being satisfied, as being together and things like that, most of the kids didn't even think about that. If you were a kid, if you never tell the kids that I'm black, they'll never know it. Most of the time it comes from somewhere else, about the color. Those kids, they'll play all day, all night, and never know the color. But anyway, because I was talking with one lady that you're going to interview, it's one of the few... Called and asking me something. But she was saying how, basically when they didn't know anything about it until, I think it was the last day or something. Anyway, they told them about it, and all of them were just screaming at a holiday, they're crying how they didn't want to leave Lemon Street, you see? It was their school, you know?

Interviewer: Right.

Carter: But they knew that they would probably needs more than they were getting, in order to do what some of them wanted to do, you know?

Interviewer: Right.

Carter: Because it didn't matter to me how they... Those little bitty black kids are just like the little bitty white, that you expose that teaching to them. They've got to be exposed to it in order to learn it, you know? But I did say, and they did say, and that's what I like about first grade, hey, everybody was a child at heart. This was like that Bobby [inaudible 00:26:58] and all this stuff, and if you think about

it... But it was no big issue in the school, about the teachers themselves who wanted to leave from there, from the kids wanting to do that is just mostly what they wanted to be exposed to our kit. And now they know that it would be higher, because I see they went... They went right on over there to Marietta High, '67, once they [inaudible 00:27:48]. Anyway, once they [inaudible 00:27:48].

Interviewer: It must have been a big deal at the time.

Carter: Yeah, oh, they had some good teams. My husband played quarterback, they say he was one of the best, [inaudible 00:28:05], yeah.

Interviewer: What were his high school years?

Carter: His high school year, he graduated in 52.

Interviewer: So right after they built the new elementary school?

Carter: Yeah, uh-huh. He graduated '52. He graduated '52 here, I'd already [inaudible 00:28:23] Cartersville, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Okay. So, do you remember how you got the news that you would be the one going to Hickory Hills?

Carter: I don't remember what the principal told me, or the superintendent told me. I really don't remember how I got it. No, I don't remember.

Interviewer: What were your feelings when you got that news?

Carter: Well, I was not very excited, that excited, because I had been teaching in two different schools, you see? And I was just going to another school. But as far feeling about doing the work, then I didn't have no fear about that, and dealing with the staff, I didn't. And a lot of them didn't at first. I think some of them were kind of skeptical about what I could do. And our principal, Mr. Carter, some of [inaudible 00:29:56] didn't want me to teach their kids. So anyway, he saw the problem, and so he told them, "If a kid come to that school that I... They would come across me." So he had me to teach all the math to the first graders, so you couldn't go there. But I'd taken that math, and at first... So anyway, that settled it. I taught all the math to the first graders, and I forget that I... But she taught how to read, the main course about... And after the first year, and then those that were complaining say, "Oh, I never did think that she would introduce our kids to their integers." Give me the chance. [laughs]

Interviewer: Did she say that to you?

Carter: Huh?

Interviewer: Did she say that to you, or to somebody else?

Carter: No, to somebody else, that they told that... Well you know, I didn't... "I had no idea she'd introduced my kid to the integers." You don't know what's about it too, until you give it a chance.

Interviewer: Yeah. Wow.

Carter: But anyway, it wasn't a big issue or nothing after I was there, and the kids were doing fine. And then the adults made sure they were doing fine. There was no problem with the kids, no problem with kids.

Interviewer: When you think about the Lemon Street schools in particular, I know you didn't attend them, you taught at Lemon Street Elementary for five or six years. What impact do you think those schools, and the sort of feeling about those schools, it had on the community, and the community that you see today? Why did they matter, the history of the Lemon Street schools?

Carter: What? I didn't get you.

Interviewer: What impact do you think they've had on Marietta that, you know, today? How did they shape the community?

Carter: The building itself?

Interviewer: Well, the school.

Carter: The school?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Carter: I think it gives them some background on going to higher ed there, because what's going on now in most of the high schools, or going on in the colleges now, and I think it's a background... A good background for that. And still, I believe the same thing probably would be happening, maybe not as obvious today if it were not for the integration. It was, because before they integrated down here, when we got teachers [inaudible 00:33:47] to have enough teachers around in Marietta, black teachers. So you had to go out, like they do now. Before they integrated here, all of our teachers had to live in the City of Marietta. You couldn't teach it here. And this building right down here where the stop sign is, a big old white building there is where all those teachers had to stay, if you didn't have a... We had a house. And so you had to stay in that one building, all the teachers from out of town had to stay in that building there.

Interviewer: Where is the building? What-

Carter: If you go down the street to the stop sign, and that building right there after you pass by the stop sign, this great big white... There might be a flag still out there, but that's the building that all the... Well, [inaudible 00:35:00] in the high school, all the teachers who came in to teach at Marietta who did not have a home to stay in, had to stay in that one building, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: That was all the teachers?

Carter: All the teachers, if-

Interviewer: Black and white?

Carter: No, no no no, all the teachers down here.

Interviewer: At Lemon Street?

Carter: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: Okay. Why do you think they had that rule?

Carter: I have no idea.

Interviewer: And how long did that last?

Carter: Until integration was over.

Interviewer: Okay. [crosstalk 00:35:34].

Carter: Uh-huh. All of them were... All of the teachers stayed right in that one building.

Interviewer: Why do you think Lemon Street means so much to people still today? Why is the history... Why is it so important to people?

Carter: Because that's the one thing... That's the only school they had, that's theirs. They feel an ownership of it. And it just, all... You had no choice of no other, but just to go to this one. And then it's so dear to them, because that's something so dear to them. I'm not from Marietta, I may as well be, I've been here so long. But that's my first job there. That's my first teaching job, and that's what I was teaching, and they [inaudible 00:36:39], and then they usually have a, "Oh, you taught me at Lemon Street, oh, yeah, Lemon Street." It was just something you just... It was something you love, is so dear. And that's one of the things I... That's all the things some of them did say, that this is a part... This, Lemon Street, this, I did that, yeah. And you know Turner Chapel Church over here, you know that park down below the church?

Interviewer: Yes.

Carter: That used to be Lemon Street Football Field, yeah. That used to be... And they just sold that to Turner Chapel... It was one of the years when I was on the board. On the board, so...

Interviewer: Well let's talk about that. You retired in 1991?

Carter: Retired from the-

Interviewer: Teaching?

Carter: Teaching, yeah.

Interviewer: So tell me about your run for the school board. Why did you want to do that?

Carter: Why did I want to do that? What's the name... It was two people that encouraged me to join... Let me see. Was it Yusa, Ms. Yusa. What our home ed teachers, Yusa, I forget her first name, [inaudible 00:38:23]. Anyway, one guy was on a board, and one of our home economic teachers, both white, encouraged me to be on that. Said, "You'd be a good person on there." So they encouraged me to go in there. And so I finally decided to go over, so I ran two other times. One time, two times, I was unopposed at one time. Granted, I got two thirds of the vote that somebody else had. That was some remark there, here. [inaudible 00:39:35]. But anyway, I was asked, would I run? I was the first black female to be elected, as a position in the City of Marietta. The first black on the board of... Black female on the board.

Interviewer: You talk about people encouraging you to run. What did you want to accomplish as a member of the board?

Carter: A member of the board, hey, one thing I wanted to accomplish, the best... First of all for our kids, all of our kids. Well, the best for our kids, and that's building-wise, educational-wise, and everything, that's all I want for the kids, sometimes. Of course this right here, this article right here, that's going to be... Here, I would make some kind of fun remark, but you know, I just always want whatever, you do your best. And then in education, the kids are what we're working for, you see? It should be. And so that's really what I wanted, was sometimes I had... My quite [inaudible 00:41:20] would be the only [inaudible 00:41:22] part, for August, and all. But I didn't want to accomplish anything myself, but... Because if you do what you're supposed to do, then it'll automatic come, the accomplishments will.

Interviewer: How long were you on the board?

Carter: 16 years.

Interviewer: Okay, so about '93 to 2009?

Carter: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: Okay, so just... You've only been off of the board for the last 10 years.

Carter: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: You mentioned the football field, where it used to be, and you've said that that was something you've dealt with on the board?

Carter: No, not necessarily, no.

Interviewer: Were there any big things that the school board had to deal with while you were on there, any big votes that had to be dealt with?

Carter: No, nothing. I mean, nothing like building schools and stuff like that. Maybe I saw that we built [inaudible 00:42:30] High School, while I was on the board. I was a board chair when it went into Marietta High. Those would still be in Park Street now, there we go. That should be ready, our next school, here, Park Street. I taught one year there.

Interviewer: Well, for these exhibits that are being done on Lemon Street, what do you want to see in those exhibits? What do you think's been missing before, in other exhibits, other tributes to Lemon Street? What would you like to see?

Carter: Well, I don't know, but I know what I would not like to see. I would not like to see no one particular thing over-emphasized. Just like, if we let it happen, in any way happen, if we let sports happen, sports would be all over the day, you see? And that's why I said the other day, when we were, oh, we were coming out of the office out there, and quite nice. And that's good, to... About our guys, went in this year, and all the stuff like that. I was saying that I would like to see more of A students, or B's, accomplish this, accomplish that and all, because probably about one out of 100 would make [inaudible 00:44:27], or go onto [inaudible 00:44:30]. But you go on... We just don't emphasize other things as much as we do sport. And so we need to watch, and just don't overdue one thing, but make sure as much as we can, integrate a lot of the things that came about. Because a lot of people, with whatever they were involved in, were bringing in... Like Zany, when Zany talked to the bank, where he talked about what he liked, his [inaudible 00:45:09], and sophomore schools, whatever, the teachers, you see like that. [inaudible 00:45:18]. But you see, people are going to have a tendency to emphasize what they liked or what they are close to, and I think this is for the whole school. So it should be, you know, emphasize educational-wise, boards-wise, this-wise, that-wise.

Interviewer: Covering everything?

Carter: Yes, uh-huh, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: And are there other people that you think we should speak to? Particular folks that would have a lot of information for us?

Carter: One you're speaking to I know, Vanessa Sheryl. She was probably football, she was in that '67 class.

Interviewer: Oh yeah, I had a great phone conversation with her.

Carter: Jenny Gresham, Jenny Hill Gresham, Dolores Dot Phillip. And those two, they were teaching when I got here. This is the guy, this guy over here, he was probably teaching in the beginning, right across here. But he was the one, he got Gober [inaudible 00:46:42]-

Interviewer: Carl Gober?

Carter: Carl. He hasn't said nothing around here, he was right across the street from here. [inaudible 00:46:51] not go saying nothing, no. No, but he probably... He might have been teaching when I was there, but-

Interviewer: He said he taught two years there.

Carter: Oh, yeah.

Interviewer: Or she said that he taught two years. He didn't say anything. [laughter]

Carter: Yep, he'll come out here. He comes, and he throws my paper out the yard to the door everyday he does.

Interviewer: Oh, wow.

Carter: [inaudible 00:47:22] [laughter]

Interviewer: He didn't say much?

Carter: [inaudible 00:47:26].

Interviewer: Is there anything else you would like to share, before we finish up?

Carter: Nothing, but I'm going to... Just about more things that I have, and I'm going to call you about them, because it's what I think I have, and I'm going to have to look at. I've been doing a lot of paperwork and stuff, you know, with the death of my husband, and he's military, and this, and that. It's just, oh, a lot of it. But anyway, I know I've got a paper, that you might want that. A paper where the board was selling, what was that? Oh, no, that's when they were changing the school, the Lemon Street School then, you know, from [inaudible 00:48:33].

Interviewer: Sort of old?

Carter: Yeah. But no, you could, no, I don't know to tell you or not. He might have a whole lot, Mr. Woods himself's son. He lives right up on top of the hill.

Interviewer: Okay. What's his name?

Carter: Wait a minute, I'll tell you in a minute. He graduated with my husband. Lorenzo, Lorenzo Woods.

Interviewer: So he's Marian Woods' son?

Carter: Marian, uh-uh. He's a professor, M.J. Woods, not married. That's his granddaddy.

Interviewer: Okay, so Marian-

Carter: I mean, that's his daddy.

Interviewer: Marian is his father?

Carter: Oh, Marian, yeah.

Interviewer: M.J.

Carter: M.J., yeah, uh-huh.

Interviewer: Tell me about M.J.. What kind of a man was he?

Carter: Very quiet, reserved. He could get bad though. My son was a... He was my son's... My husband's principal, and my husband was quite active all the way up. And he used to box, so anyway, he and a boy got hitting around there. And so anyway, Mr. Woods had gone out seven times about it. And so anyway, the next time, Mr. Woods took them into the gym, and he got the boxing gloves, Mr. Woods did. And so he gave one a piece, and he told them to get to boxing. He said, "Y'all are tired, see, [inaudible 00:50:32], keep on boxing." [inaudible 00:50:39]. But he was a very conservative, always businesslike-type person. And very nice. Like I said, he was my principal twice over here, and over in Right Street.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative), and he was a... How did you feel about him as a boss, as a-

Carter: As a boss? He was good, he was... He was good, yeah. He was good, he just was outgoing with his [inaudible 00:51:20]. He did what he was supposed to do, but you don't... [inaudible 00:51:25] talk very active and all, he was very conservative. But it didn't mean that he did not do his work, he was active in the community. He belonged to Zion up here, Zion Baptist Church, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Well, I want to thank you for talking to me, and we'll go ahead and conclude there.

Carter: Yeah. I'm going to...