

**Lemon Street Schools Oral History Collection
Marietta City Schools System, 2019-2021
Francis Juanita Carter Interview
Conducted by James Newberry
February 18, 2021**

Full Transcript

Interviewer: We're going to start now. This is Interviewer and I'm here with Frances Juanita Carter on Thursday, February 18th, 2021. We're on Zoom and Dr. Carter is online from her home in Glenarden, Maryland. So, I want to thank you for speaking with me today. Do you agree to the interview?

Carter: Yes, and you're welcome, sir.

Interviewer: Thank you so much. So, tell me what's your full name?

Carter: All right. [phone rings] That was an interruption.

Interviewer: So, tell me what is your full name?

Carter: My full name is Frances Juanita Carter, Carter

Interviewer: And what's your birthday?

Carter: March 14th, 1937.

Interviewer: And what were your parents' names?

Carter: Geneva and Harold Carter.

Interviewer: And what did they do for a living?

Carter: My father was a foreman at the Atlanta Steel Company and my mother did domestic work.

Interviewer: Do you have any siblings?

Carter: Yes. I have one sister who is still alive and one who is deceased.

Interviewer: And what were their names?

Carter: Harriet and Diane.

Interviewer: And did you-

Carter: [crosstalk 00:01:41] They married.

Interviewer: I see. Where did you grow up in Marietta?

Carter: I grew up on Shepherd Street at that time. It was Shepherd Street, Woods Drive. It is Woods Drive. Now at that time it was Shepherd Street.

Interviewer: And who were your neighbors, the people in your community?

Carter: My neighbors were up Catherine Grady and the Coleman's, Rushi Coleman, [Dot 00:02:13] Christian, Sam [Gaulstin 00:02:17] and the Clark's.

Interviewer: And who did your family socialize with?

Carter: All the neighbors and the church goers.

Interviewer: Where did you attend church?

Carter: I attend church at Mount Zion Baptist Church, which is right up the street from me. I could look at the kitchen willing to almost into the church.

Interviewer: [phone rings] You get a lot of phone calls, don't you?

Carter: Yes, I do. I have brought children up I think they call me every day and my friends of course, everyday.

Interviewer: Well, can you describe Marietta in the 1940s and '50s for me, what it was like at that time?

Carter: In the '40s and '50s, Marietta was a segregated place, but we all got along very well. Not any confusion because I remember when they integrated the schools there were not traveling at all, the Blacks were on one side of the world and the whites on the other side of the country. A segregated place, but a friendly place.

Interviewer: So, when you talk about whites being on one side, Blacks being on the other, how much interaction did you have with white people and where did you interact with them if at all?

Carter: We interacted with them, look, if you worked for them, that was the interaction. All right?

Interviewer: You mentioned your mother was-

Carter: I'm going to put it this way too. They were very friendly to work with.

Interviewer: And you mentioned that your mother was a domestic?

Carter: Right. And even after she no longer worked with them, they still visited us. She always got very large gifts from them for all occasions and they are all dead now. Like I said, it

was a friendly world. If you worked for them, they were good to you. As a matter of fact, when I was growing up, I grew up with one of my mother's workers, daughters, because she said, "Bring her to work with you so she can play with him with her daughter."

Interviewer: And what was the family's name?

Carter: Which, the ones with whom she worked?

Interviewer: Yes, ma'am.

Carter: The Cosmin.

Interviewer: I see.

Carter: The Cosmins and she worked with the Jacksons and finally with the [Bollocks 00:05:27], as a matter of fact, when he was on his sick bed, almost it's back there, he told him, "Please, bring my mother to see him."

Interviewer: What was the last [crosstalk 00:05:41].

Carter: It was a friendly world.

Interviewer: And what was that last family's name again?

Carter: The last family?

Interviewer: The last one you mentioned.

Carter: The Bollocks.

Interviewer: I see.

Carter: They were the ones who just died, and I think last year, the Bollocks. And when I visited Marietta, my mother always, we always had to visit them, "When you come home, be sure you come up to see us." It was that kind of world.

Interviewer: So, where did you do your shopping or where did your parents do their shopping for groceries and other things?

Carter: On the grocery store and on the square and believe it or not, some of the stores where we shopped were the ones where the Blacks shop predominantly.

Interviewer: Where were those?

Carter: And you probably never heard of it before. The Piggly Wiggly was one of the stores. If you say at that too, most of the people in Marietta now, the younger generation, they don't even know that name.

Interviewer: Where was the Piggly Wiggly?

Carter: And I'll tell you something else. You did a lot of shopping from the Blacks who had gods and what have you. And they came in with their groceries and send vegetables on weekends and we did a lot of about shopping with them. As a matter of fact, my grandfather was one of those people who had his big farm out there. And he came in with his fruits and vegetables. Oh, yes. And I lived there in the time of rationing. The younger generation wouldn't know anything about that, you got your little tickets to get your five pounds of sugar to last you for five years. That's a joke, but we didn't get to every month year, we got through this.

Interviewer: Was that during the war?

Carter: I guess so. I don't know. Remember, I was young. I didn't know where they was shooting of what they were doing then, but I know food was rationed. So, I guess, it was a war, right?

Interviewer: That's right.

Carter: Yeah.

Interviewer: So, you mentioned your grandfather bringing in fresh vegetables.

Carter: Right.

Interviewer: Where did he come? Where did he park his truck or his vegetables?

Carter: We had wagons then, remember? Look, Mr. Newberry, you probably don't know anything about the horse and buggy and the wagons, do you?

Interviewer: Not very much, no.

Carter: Because I saw you a minute ago. I can't see you now, but you're very young. And they came in with their mules as they call them, and they had wagons.

Interviewer: And where would they set up to sell their produce?

Carter: Oh, they would ride around through the neighborhood. You were there waiting for them to come in on Saturday. They came through the neighborhood. Remember we had minimal living places, the streets and what are they? Like the projects, Baptist Town and Lemon Street. That was certain places where Blacks lived, so they didn't have really that far to travel I guess, you would say we lived on the east side of Marietta. Most of them on the east side. And you know where Lemon Street is because you're working with them now, right?

Interviewer: Right.

Carter: Well, where they've built all those new homes, those were the projects.

Interviewer: Right.

Carter: And that we have many, many, many Black people live back there's where all of my friends were.

Interviewer: So, did your parents own their house?

Carter: Yes, we always did.

Interviewer: Okay. So, who were some of your friends who lived in the Fort Hill Homes projects?

Carter: Do you want to hear some of those names?

Interviewer: Yes, ma'am.

Carter: All right. The Bartlett's, the Freeman's, the Moons because he was the principal of the elementary school, Mr. Moon at one of those times. [inaudible 00:10:18]. The Freeman's, the Moons, everybody lived there and the name I would come up with probably lived there.

Interviewer: And I know that the Fort Hill Homes, they had indoor plumbing, they were considered fairly nice, right? Sort of middle-class.

Carter: Yes. When we started out on Shepherd Street, which is now Woods Drive, we didn't have inside plumbing at that time. I remember dancing down the steps every day, up to the little outhouse that we shared with the bravest Cat Grady who lived next door to us. And as time went on and look times got better. We managed to get inside plumbing, but as a little girl, I remember going down those steps of our house as they would call.

Interviewer: And can you describe your home? The rooms, how big was it?

Carter: Well, when we moved in that house there were three rooms. And would you believe that the Williams, the last and name for families. Cogen Williams, as a matter of fact, he just was nine or something. Eight or nine years old. Would you believe he and his wife lived with us in that three-room house? People share their homes no matter what the condition or how much space. It was a better world in those days. I loved growing up there. Like I said, it was a friendly place and they lived with us in that three-room house.

Interviewer: Did you travel at all? Did you go out of town any time?

Carter: You mean when I was coming up young?

Interviewer: Yes, ma'am.

Carter: No, we didn't travel very much. Remember now that was in the good old poor days as people call it because I told them I was never poor really. You didn't have a car; you didn't know anything about having a car. I remember when we got a television, everybody came to our house to watch the TV because we shared everything no mother had that much, so we didn't really travel much.

Interviewer: How did your parents get to work?

Carter: Those who had cars or managed to buy cars shared them or they rent on the bus. The mode of transportation, we've always had buses. You walk to the bus station and catch the bus.

Interviewer: And did you have any relatives who lived in other parts of the country, maybe up north?

Carter: Yes, my uncle Maurice lived in Detroit and on Tuesday, but in those days as I was a young child coming up, we did not visit them. But when I got older look when we became affluent, you like that term I use?

Interviewer: I do.

Carter: To be affluent. We would visit them in Detroit, Michigan.

Interviewer: So, at what point was that? When were you becoming a fluent?

Carter: I used the word affluent. I liked that word had made us affluent, all right?

Interviewer: I understand. At what point were you able to make those trips?

Carter: Well, in my early, early teens and we would go to Rockmart, Georgia. We had relatives there and we would go. Well, at all as we became affluent, I liked that word, we managed to get a car and so we could travel. And I had an aunt, the Waits, Roland and Mary waits, and he had a car and everything in the days when we shared everything and Uncle Roland could not read anything, he could travel anywhere. I don't know how he read the signs or the directions or anything, but he could go anywhere.

Interviewer: And where did Roland and his wife-

Carter: Oh, they lived at what was called the Race Track. At that time, it was called the Race Track. I don't Haley Street in Marietta.

Interviewer: I see.

Carter: And the [Duramans 00:15:03] lived out there and at the Race Track, not far from Woods Drive. And the Duramans, the Waits, the Campbells. That was one of the main strips where I would say that the affluent one lived. [inaudible 00:15:24]. Okay.

Interviewer: And tell me about starting-

Carter: Are you looking at me laughing as you asking me these questions?

Interviewer: No, it's the-

Carter: [crosstalk 00:15:35] on this.

Interviewer: I am too. So, tell me about starting school.

Carter: Well, I started school ahead of time because I grew up with boys. The neighborhood had all boys in the neighborhood that's how I learned to fight because I had to fight my way through. And of course, when my uncle went to school, I would scream and yell every day. So, my mother talked to his first-grade teacher. She said, "Send her down to school with them, it's okay." Like I said, we lived in a friendly world then. So, I went to school ahead of time, remember there were no day cares then. People kept each other's children and so I went with my uncles to school ahead of time. That's why, by the time I got to school I finished version of second grade, I was a repeat.

Interviewer: So, were you about five, six years old?

Carter: Yeah. About five because we began school at six, so I was... Well, look, in fact a little thing. That's why I guess, I was really alert by the time I got in school and they should not have let me go to her.

Interviewer: Why not?

Carter: I was head of everybody, and I was tearing up the classroom because I already knew that.

Interviewer: Were you bored?

Carter: No, I was just bad. And of course, I've skipped a couple of grades because I remember I went from third to fifth and fifth to seventh or somewhere. And so, they were moving me around, they didn't have these advanced classes for Blacks and all of that then, because we use the books that they no longer wanted, the pages missing and everything and that didn't bother me.

Interviewer: Was that something that you were aware of at the time? I mean, did people just accept it or did they complain about it? What was the situation?

Carter: May I say this to you? You accepted things as they were, all right? Way back when remember they were not having civil rights marches, all right? And Blacks or what? We knew that we should have had, that was before that time and I grew up, all right? That was before that time and you kind of accepted your way of life. Like I say to you, I don't remember being disgruntled or unhappy [inaudible 00:18:43]. I had a happy childhood over on the east side where the Blacks lived, all right? Does that sound strange to you?

Interviewer: No, it's something that's come up a lot that-

Carter: Yeah, that was a way of life and you accepted that as it was.

Interviewer: Did your parents ever... Did they follow the news? How did they keep up with the news?

Carter: Well, we had radios and believe it or not., my father went to seventh grade I think, but he was smarter than I was in the 12th grade. And my mother liked me, she finished school. She was the valedictorian of the class. I was bad when I finished, my sister was valedictorian. So, we were valid smart people and the greatest nights still were Treville, as a matter of fact, I talked to her last week. She stays in [inaudible 00:19:46]. She helped to integrate the schools because of course they wanted the bright Blacks and so were pretty intelligent.

Interviewer: What can you tell me about Treville?

Carter: We had radios during that time, before the TV.

Interviewer: I know that trivial went was the first along with Daphne Delk?

Carter: A Daphne Delk out and Treville Grady, that was the one I was talking to just last week.

Interviewer: And where does-

Carter: [inaudible 00:20:20]. Those who are still around, still keep in touch with me, okay.

Interviewer: And where does Treville live?

Carter: I have god children. [phone rings] Okay. That's one of my god children. Please, excuse me. I'm hanging up. All right. I'm back.

Interviewer: Where does Treville live now?

Carter: Oh, Treville is in the Duluth, Georgia.

Interviewer: I see.

Carter: And she stays in touch with me too.

Interviewer: Well, have-

Carter: And expect [inaudible 00:20:51]. Have you met Alla? Alla, she met [inaudible 00:20:55] in them.

Interviewer: I haven't.

Carter: Uh-huh. I don't know why because she's very popular around there in Marietta. [phone rings]

Interviewer: If you need to answer the phone, feel free.

Carter: No, no, no. I'm not going to do that. If I don't answer or hang up, they think something is wrong. Now, this one that's calling me now, I taught when I first came here and started teaching back in the '60s and she's still in my life.

Interviewer: Wow.

Carter: That's the one who's calling me now. And I had a student that I taught 100 years ago. Let me see if it's him. And that's Michelle, she's still calling me, and I just got this huge box of candy and a card like I've never seen. That was a student that I had at, when I taught in Washington that was back in the '70s. Okay and they still bothering me. No, I'm serious. I got this huge box of candy and is it all right if I-

Interviewer: Go ahead and answer.

Carter: Hold on one moment. [inaudible 00:22:14] and nothing is wrong with my phone Michelle, I'm on a Zoom call I'll Call you back when I finish up. All right. Did you hear what she said? What's wrong with your phone? You see what I mean?

Interviewer: That's persistent.

Carter: [crosstalk 00:22:29] tell you look, Mr. No, Dr. Newberry, [inaudible 00:22:34] will tell you about me as a teacher. I told you, look and they've been calling this store five times back in the '60s.

Interviewer: That says it all.

Carter: Okay. And the other men be candid that was a step. And anyway, I'm back with you. I'm enjoying that.

Interviewer: So, describe the elementary school building, the wooden building that you went to.

Carter: It was just as raggedy as it could be, but I loved going to school there. It was a two story; I remember the steps. You could go up either side up to the second level, right?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Carter: And the floors was around in a circle, I can just visualize it. If I had to draw a picture of it, it would be an exact replica of that school, an exact replica, because I remember it that well.

Interviewer: And what do you mean by raggedy?

Carter: Do you know what raggedy mean? James Newberry. It was an old building [inaudible 00:23:49].

Interviewer: How did they heat it?

Carter: I mean, it was clean, and they painted it far up, but it was just an old wooden building.

Interviewer: Okay. And-

Carter: I mean we enjoyed going to school there, we were children. We like that teachers and they would slap us around and it was okay.

Interviewer: So, what was the discipline?

Carter: The discipline was good. Remember, now that was back in the day, the parents knew the teachers, the teachers' home was right around the hill from me and the parents and the in-basket they just ate dinner. And what have you it was a friendly world. I told you, my first-grade teacher always took me home with her on the weekends. She would tell my mother, "I have Juanita [Carter 00:24:50]. Taking her home with me weekend." This was a happy place.

Interviewer: What was that teacher's name?

Carter: Harriet Banks. She lived on Houston Street in Atlanta. There's some things you just never forget.

Interviewer: And-

Carter: And that Street from Howard, was the Howard High School in Atlanta, Georgia. We could walk up to the school from my house, Harriet Banks.

Interviewer: So that was time you spent out of town in Atlanta?

Carter: Right? But remember now, you cannot move or walk to Atlanta. So, you call that out of town. Mr. James Newberry, was that out of town?

Interviewer: I wouldn't walk it. It's a little far from me.

Carter: I really like talking to you. We could walk it together.

Interviewer: Did you take the bus, or did she have a car?

Carter: Oh yes. She had a car. Remember now, if you were a teacher you were affluent. We're not going to let that word get away from us, okay?

Interviewer: Okay.

Carter: All right.

Interviewer: And where had she gone to school?

Carter: Then you can add me-

Interviewer: Ms. Banks?

Carter: [inaudible 00:26:06] look at me.

Interviewer: I can see you.

Carter: Okay. I want to see you. What can I do to see you?

Interviewer: Well, there's a little button that says view.

Carter: It says what?

Interviewer: View.

Carter: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: And it gives you an option for a speaker view or a gallery view. If you click on gallery, you can see me.

Carter: But I can't see that right here. It's just telling me what's going on, Frances is speaking as if I don't know I'm speaking. I mean, it's telling me so that's okay. I made it be before you leave me today, we can figure out a way for me to see you again, so when I come to Marietta, I can look you up.

Interviewer: Yes. I think for the interview at you're the feature.

Carter: But I prefer that you see me. Okay.

Interviewer: Yeah. We'll adjust at-

Carter: More questions.

Interviewer: Will adjust at the end so that you can see me.

Carter: All right. You and I said, I'm ready for some more questions. I am enjoying this.

Interviewer: Well, I've got several pages worth.

Carter: That's all right. And I got [crosstalk 00:27:19]. How much time do you have?

Interviewer: Oh, I've got about an hour. We'll be good.

Carter: Well, we will utilize every second of that hour, okay?

Interviewer: Okay.

Carter: Lets go.

Interviewer: Tell me what you learned? What were the subjects you were studying in school?

Carter: Well, all the way through school?

Interviewer: At least at the elementary.

Carter: I can tell you about the school's back then. Now, students can be selected. We took everything, about chemistry and biology, anything is all your sciences, typing. When you came out of high school everybody could type. You took all of the classes and I thought that was excellent. We took everything. And I was in on everything to try to figure out a way to bring up a few the chemistry lab and everything. And we took everything and enjoyed everything.

Interviewer: Do you remember the principal at the elementary school?

Carter: Let me see, Aaron Adam. I think I might have gone out of elementary school by the time, but Aaron Adams... Have you heard his name while you were interviewing?

Interviewer: Yes, ma'am.

Carter: Was one of the principals there. I don't know that was still there or not.

Interviewer: What about Professor Woods?

Carter: Woods, oh I knew him very well. He worked me to death. Mr. Wood lived right around the corner from me, remember his own that's why the street, became Woods Drive.

Interviewer: Right. How did he work you to death?

Carter: And he knew that I was outrageous, so he would always find something for me to do to keep me busy and of the school year. The teachers had to make sure that their role books and everything tallied, and he would come and tell the teacher, "Let that Juanita come in my office and check my books for me." Mathematically of course, they keep me busy and we all liked him very much. Mr. Wood. Oh, I can tell you he was my neighbor.

Interviewer: Right. Was this when you were a student that you were checking his books or was that as a teacher?

Carter: Yes, I was a student.

Interviewer: So, you were just very what precocious?

Carter: I guess, I was because Mary Jane [Fred 00:29:59], my English teacher, I would teach her class that she had she was like, "Look up. I mean, Juanita, after today, we're going to do personal pronouns or whatever." She say, "Go teach that for me." I would get up and go

teach her class. I mean, they would keep me busy. mm-mmh. Of course, after I had finished to Don cottage had come back to Marietta without even when I was here taking teacher courses, the teachers would call on me to teach something for them when the students didn't seem to get it. And she would call me to her desk and say, "Look, I'm tired of trying to teach them, would you go explain this to them." I said, "Yes. Ma'am." "I will meet you there." "Yes, ma'am."

Interviewer: So, what did Ms. Fred do while you were teaching her class?

Carter: She would just be at the desk chilling, I mean, she knew I knew what I was doing.

Interviewer: So, tell me about the-

Carter: [crosstalk 00:31:11] and Mr. Scott, have you talked with him? Lewis Clark Scott was our history teacher.

Interviewer: Yes. I almost got an interview, but he decided not to a few days before.

Carter: Oh, when you didn't speak with Lewis Clark Scott?

Interviewer: No, I spoke with his niece.

Carter: Oh, he was the love of the school.

Interviewer: I know.

Carter: I mean, it was crazy.

Interviewer: I'm still trying.

Carter: You know what I said, I nearly drove him crazy.

Interviewer: How did you do that?

Carter: I was into everything and then he had the nerve to tell somebody I was the smartest student he ever had. I said you just telling the story on me. I did everything I could to drive him up a wall. One day he was getting ready to come into class and I could control the students, okay? I said, "We're going to fill up." We had gotten some new chairs and they pack them with the straw. I said, "We going to pack all of his desk draw, so when he opens the drawer, the straw jump up at him." So, they were rushing to get all the draws stuff. So, when he came in, everybody was so quiet just sitting in there. He said, "All right, let me check the role." He snatched the draw open and the straw jumped at him." Was snatching, the straw was going everywhere. "I know who did this, that Juanita Carter. I know who did it" He was right. Nobody shared anything. We were just usual. "I'll just punish the whole class." And she won't tell him. That's how I sought to drive him crazy. I loved him very much.

Interviewer: Can you tell me about his teaching style and his personality?

Carter: Mr. Scott, that, let me tell you, he would come in there with that and reach on a board and get, he built up every book as he taught he wrote, so you didn't miss anything because if he was talking too fast, he was on the board. Excellent teacher. The teachers were very good, Mr. Ruff. And so, he taught chemistry. Then I ended up teaching with him. We were coworkers. All the teachers were very good.

Interviewer: And a lot of them had master's degrees?

Carter: Oh, yes, indeed. And the Carmichaels, Alfred and staff, and then James William and Joe, I grew up with them. They lived next door to us on Holiday Street and I talked with staff at Lemon Street, bright, bright, bright. So, when they were giving the test for teachers, at a waste time away to make us seem lesser than the whites of course. So, we decided after the staff, I said, "And we're going to show them what we maybe of this teacher's exam." And of course, we did I said, "Let's show them how intelligent we are." And we did just that, but the ones who were bright in those days were very bright. Jennie Hill was one of them. You talk with Jennie Hill; she's deceased now you know?

Interviewer: Yes.

Carter: She's very bright, very bright.

Interviewer: And when was that test you mentioned? Were you taking it?

Carter: [crosstalk 00:34:48] that was teacher with them, where they would give when I was teaching in Marietta. They would give the test to show that we were dumber than anybody, which was not true.

Interviewer: Did they reveal the results? I mean, how did that come out?

Carter: Oh, yeah. They would show the results and it just made them understand that we were a little smarter than them. Did you have to take that test? Of course, I had to take it. Back in those days when I finished college, we had to take a teacher's exam. I don't know for what reason? I guess, they wanted to know if we had learned anything, if we were ready to go to work, right?

Interviewer: So, can you tell me-

Carter: [inaudible 00:35:41] I'm going to ask you; you probably know you're younger than I am. You're asking me at my age... What's your age? Anyway, then we have student teaching. Do they have that now, Mr. Newberry? You

Interviewer: You mean like student teachers, like in training?

Carter: Yeah. The student teaching where you have to go out and teach before you enter the classroom?

Interviewer: Right. And they're called pre-service teachers.

Carter: Oh, they still have it, right?

Interviewer: They do. You have to do I think it's called a practicum and they go out and teach.

Carter: Exactly, right. We call the student teaching then, but they still do it, right?

Interviewer: Oh, yes. I don't think [crosstalk 00:36:18].

Carter: I remember that very well.

Interviewer: Without it.

Carter: And then Waycross Georgia.

Interviewer: So, you went down to a school in Waycross?

Carter: I went to Savannah State and they sent you somewhere near, so Waycross Georgia is near Savannah.

Interviewer: Right.

Carter: And so, I went to Waycross Georgia.

Interviewer: And how long was that period of time?

Carter: The student teaching?

Interviewer: Yes.

Carter: But they had I guess, you would call it a quarter maybe, because when I got there, Ms. Gains is her name. She stayed in the classroom with me a couple of days and left me. She dropped by I said, "[inaudible 00:37:05]." She said, "I went on home." And wherever I had to go she said, "You didn't need me here." She said, "You could teach me something." I said, "Oh, really?" As that and she was just assigned back. She said, "You see that little fella who sits right in front of your desk? Say he sat all the way in the back of the class, he wouldn't do any work. Wouldn't do anything." She said, "When I walked through that door and saw him sitting almost in your face and doing his work," she said, "I knew you had that it." I said, "What is it?" She said, "Whatever a teacher needs to teach anybody." I said, "Thank you." And she went on back to business again.

Interviewer: Wow.

Carter: So, she didn't really do. She just left me a couple of days and then she would drop by in while, stay in there within a minute and see what was going on. And that was through a more practicum as you called it.

Interviewer: So, let's go back then to high school, when you were still in high school. One of the things that I've asked a lot of former students and teachers is to describe the layout of the high school building. Can you do that for me?

Carter: Of the layout of the high school building?

Interviewer: Yes. Ma'am.

Carter: Oh, you want to hear the layout?

Interviewer: I do.

Carter: How the classes were or where they were and all of that?

Interviewer: Yes. Ma'am.

Carter: Oh, right. You would enter the front door. Unlike me I'd answer anyway I wanted to; you would enter the front door. If you go to the left, there was the principal's office, Mr. Woods and later Sullivan Aura Ruff. You would continue past the office, that first room there where you could look out and see the projects where the Black folks lived was my English class. You would go next door to me and there was the chemistry lab where Mr. Ruff taught when he was there as a teacher. And then you would go on around the hall or reading map and then that would know those rooms were to the left, those two rooms to the right, with windows, where you can look out to the open court. Then you would go down the steps and when you get down the steps immediately in front of you was the gymnasium, where I taught my cheerleaders, my drama club helped Mr. Archie with the girls' basketball team and my dance group in everything in the world. That's where I ended up once I was there teaching and the other side was identical. You would come down that hall and of course, there were two classes on that side, and we would proceed and download step and that side will take you to one side of the gym. The other side of took you to the other side. And of course, you could go out the doors out of the gym into that open court, where to when you come down the hall on the right side. Oh yes. When you enter the school in the front, when you took that right there was the teacher's lounge, all right. Where the teachers were hanging out when I was a student there and then I ended up hanging out in there as a teacher. And Ms. Fred with teacher whom I taught whenever she didn't feel like I guess and she was a very large lady, I guess she was tired, and I could really play the piano. She was our music teacher, blah, blah, blah. Her body would feel the full piano students. And you go on down that hall on the right-hand side, Mr. Wilson, that was his, he was a math teacher. He was right next to Ms. Fred. Am I remembering that?

Interviewer: It's pretty spot on, it sounds like.

Carter: As a student. I know exactly. I said I could draw a picture of it and put the teachers at their desk and go right on down. And that right-hand side would take us out to the football field. Okay, where I went on many days... we shipping out that door, going up to

the store up the street. I'm trying to sneak back in. All right. Anything actually, you need to know?

Interviewer: What were you going to get from the store?

Carter: There was a little store up that has some good eats, some cookies and some can, and some soda. And sometimes I would go out that side doing and go out there on the bleachers, just into everything happy all the time.

Interviewer: So, what kind of extracurricular activities?

Carter: That's why I'm telling you we had drama and everything. We had the speaker in class, the speaking group. Like I said, I had a dance school. We had a library club, all kind of activities that we could help the students to grow. For our home economics, Mrs. Watson was my home economics teacher. Oh yes. When you came down those steps on each side, on the right-hand side, you would go down to the home economics room and the cooking room that was down on the lower left. Are you with me?

Interviewer: I am.

Carter: I have described the school, right? Where she was the home economics teacher and so we were have modeling classes, some of everything as a matter of fact Ms. Watson lived right up the street from me too. And of course, I had to help her to whenever she would come to class making her a garment, "Come here Juanita, make my belt, put my zipper in." And she wanted to know how can you put in a zipper without bass in it? Now she's the home economics teacher could really, really, so I said, "Where my mother sold, I watched her." She said, "I've never seen any badges with a zipper zip in it." I told her I could do some of everything. So, I'd have my home economics teacher. She had me doing her belts and her zipper, and I never participated in the modeling show. I don't know why I didn't want to. At that and she had happened to everybody so lot that I watched them model. Was I awful Mr. James?

Interviewer: What was that?

Carter: What I awful?

Interviewer: No, it sounds like you-

Carter: I [inaudible 00:44:22] it wasn't that.

Interviewer: Are you saying like the most talented?

Carter: Well, I could do some of everything when I had my cheerleaders. I took my sewing machine to school and while I was on because I tell you we had talk this physically book taught everything, preaches, read English whatever. And while they were out there playing ball or whatever, I would be making their uniform. I made my cheerleaders outfit. They were the sharpest cheerleaders in the area.

Interviewer: And what were the colors?

Carter: Blue and gray, blue and white. I remember the last month I made them, you could wear them, I think for four ways, all right? They had a blue front and a white back, and you could turn around, had one side blue and like and the tops were the same. And so, I could do some of everything. I so could make everything, make my girls outfit, my dance group, I would make that dance outfit.

Interviewer: And did you attend all of the football games and where they would perform?

Carter: All of them and we of course, our games especially there. When I became a teacher there, I helped Sullivan, Mr. Ruff with the financial end because I would collect the money at the gate, share the tickets and all of that. I always wanted to do my part. So, I helped him with that because he'd get that didn't, people get carried away when they see big books, take your money. So, I helped with the money.

Interviewer: I see. So, let's talk about when you graduated, what were your parents' expectations for you and what were you hoping to do after high school?

Carter: My mother didn't pay any attention as far as academics was concerned. So sometimes she would say, "But you know Juanita saw [inaudible 00:46:30]." I would say, "Yeah, I know." She knew what had to be done. I was going to do. I told you I was the [inaudible 00:46:36] when I graduated from high school [inaudible 00:46:41]. What is it? Summa Cum Laude. When I came out of college, she was always down at the college and everywhere. She knew that I was going to always do my best. I'm going to be like her. She's a smart lady who could do some of anything. And we were basically looking to see where I was going to school. And let me tell you how I chose Savannah. I was looking at the catalog. I wasn't going to pressure my mother, you know children are, "I want to go to [inaudible 00:47:17]. You and I want to go to leave school." How it went cost too much. All I wanted to do to go to school where they could afford it, because I knew from that point on, I was going to make it, didn't matter where I went to school. I was going make it, right? Some of them always knew that I was going to do what I was supposed to do. That I was going to be top notch in it. And when people would brag on me, she said, "uh-hmm." She never got carried away. She expected me to be the top of the line. Now, when you go get a car, you want the top of the line, right?

Interviewer: Absolutely.

Carter: Well, she knew that I was on the top of the line. And I guess, that's what she expected, always of me.

Interviewer: So why Savannah over say one of the schools in Atlanta?

Carter: I went to Savannah, the rate was low, and I knew that I wasn't putting them on the any undue pressure back then, remember they didn't give the scholarship, if they were giving scholarships being out. But I had an eight-year scholarship, right?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Carter: They weren't given scholarships [inaudible 00:48:34] give you two or three dollars, but I chose that. And I knew that I... Well, there were some people in Marietta who had gone to Savannah and it was Jennie Hill was always down there. And it had a good reputation. So, it was okay. Was just fine.

Interviewer: And how-

Carter: [inaudible 00:48:57] very well there.

Interviewer: Did you live on campus?

Carter: Of course, I did.

Interviewer: And how long were you there?

Carter: Four years. And I wreck the campus while I was there. Why are you laughing?

Interviewer: Could you please elaborate?

Carter: The thing that I did call me a wrecker?

Interviewer: Yeah, why did you wreck the campus?

Carter: [inaudible 00:49:25], everybody was off laid out, relaxing, sweet time for everybody to be in bed. I said, "Well, I guess, it's about time for me to go pull this fire alarm." They were taking showers and [inaudible 00:49:37] and everything. And I pulled the fire alarm and they were running out of the dorm. The boy dorm was right across the campus and everybody was running out and the dormitory maintenance, I mean, she said, "Look, Frances Carter I know you pulled that fire alarm." They would know it, but they didn't see me. And that's how I would always wreck on something.

Interviewer: What do you think was driving you to do that?

Carter: Oh, needed some excitement. We needed some excitement.

Interviewer: What did you do for fun in Savannah?

Carter: What'd I do for fun?

Interviewer: Yes. I mean, did you go out? Did you [crosstalk 00:50:24]?

Carter: Well, I had a gospel group. I could sing, I can sing a little bit. I had a gospel and we named it after the past. It was a little church right down off the campus and we would go to church because I'm not waiting to be in church and sing. I had enough going for me to balance all those mischievous things that I did.

Interviewer: And-

Carter: And of course, I was in Alpha Kappa Mu New National Honor Society and I would have to leave the campus. And in fact, they made me be a president of that area for the honor sorority and I would go to meetings what have you, I told you I was everywhere.

Interviewer: What did you study?

Carter: What [crosstalk 00:51:16] I didn't do.

Interviewer: Tell me what you studied?

Carter: Oh, at Savannah?

Interviewer: Yes.

Carter: Oh, I was an English major. I did an English. They didn't have library science was a library and that's what I wanted. So as of there I do fiscal aid and my French teacher said to me, she said, "Now, you know when you leave here, when you go back, these old schools they need foreign language teacher." And she tutored me in French. That's how I was the French teacher. So, when I went to Atlanta University, I got my certification in French. As a matter of fact, did you interview Wilson? Was she not a Wilson now? That's her mother was very popular in there yet and she had the nerve to go off and major in French, right? I gave up French and English and it was great because the teacher just took it upon herself to tutor me. So, I had all that I needed to teach French. Isn't that amazing?

Interviewer: It is. I mean, a lot of different sort of disciplines there, English, French and physical ed. So, your first job was in Monticello, is that right?

Carter: That's right. That was English. And so, I think they made an opening for me at Lemon Street because that was my little... That school was my luck and that's when I taught the French and English and be the physical ed for them too.

Interviewer: So, while you were teaching-

Carter: The cheerleaders and helped with girls' basketball. What is that now?

Interviewer: And so, while you were teaching in Jasper County Training School, were you trying... I mean, were you contacting the principal at Lemon Street to get back there?

Carter: Oh, no. Remember now, it was Mr. Woods and Ruth and whoever asked her they all knew me and I'm sure they would work, and they get me back there, okay? I didn't have to do very much. Like I said, Mr. Woods was my mate and Ms. Catherine, his wife, all right?

Interviewer: How did you find out that you would be coming back to Lemon Street as a teacher?

Carter: Oh, I had applied anyway, and they didn't have the opening, that's why I said they probably created one. And I left Monticello, but I liked it there, that first year teaching paved the way for me. The principal lived next door to us. He would come over and make sure we were all right, but parents of those children on weekends, they would cook up food for lunch and bring it over to us and they would say, "This is your meat for your sandwiches, if you want to take the lunch to school." They were very tired too and we were young, remember?

Interviewer: Where were you living in Monticello?

Carter: Hmm?

Interviewer: Were you living in some sort of like a boarding house?

Carter: I could look right out of my front door into my classroom. We rented a house. There were four of us, two bedrooms with the twin beds in. Then Jack and Hannah with my cut buddy. She's from Atlanta, Georgia. She's now deceased. And the four of us lived in our house next door to the principal.

Interviewer: I see.

Carter: So, it was a family unit.

Interviewer: And I-

Carter: I was at home with my family. Simon was cutting the food in that class one day; I called his mother. And do you know she came down there with floor on her hand with her apron on, within that rolling up of biscuits and whipped him all over that room. She said, "Now you go and hug her and then I have to come back down." Yeah. I don't know what might've happened to you. That's the kind of atmosphere, I told him we had full support of our Pam. They fed us, took care of everything, I loved it. I could have stayed there, but I have a passion for Lemon Street, all right?

Interviewer: So, when you came back, tell me where your classroom was in the building when you were teaching back at Lemon Street?

Carter: At Lemon Street?

Interviewer: Yes ma'am.

Carter: Oh, I said, you go to the front door, come down the wide walk late through those double doors. Well, it was double on one side and double on that side, take a left past the principal's office and the first room there was my classroom. I told you I can look out my window and see everything was going on in the project.

Interviewer: So, were you in that room the whole time you were at Lemon Street?

Carter: Mm-hmm (affirmative). That was my classroom.

Interviewer: And-

Carter: Look, unless I was down in the gym with my dance group, with those legs kicking up in the air. And you asked what was the extracurricular? I always had them participate in the dance contest. I've been to Atlanta, Georgia, where they would go in. I knew they'd better take first place. Busy as a bee.

Interviewer: Where did you live when you returned to Marietta?

Carter: Oh, at Marietta, I told you we ended up round the hill from the school and right a corner from the teachers' home. I was in that little loop. [crosstalk 00:57:08].

Interviewer: And how did you-

Carter: [crosstalk 00:57:10] and just come up on Friday so having to leave before you go home. Talk about it, just [inaudible 00:57:15].

Interviewer: Tell me about meeting your husband at that time.

Carter: Oh, well, I tell you what? I'm a dancer, did I not tell you I taught dancing at a dance school? One of the activities in Marietta was... What did they say? News, right? Okay. That's something. And they always gave us like street dance. They would block off the streets and the people knew not to come out. This is what the school for the young people and the cost benefits, very quiet, very doctrine, very kind, very sharp gentlemen. Okay. His friends in Cartersville all had girlfriends in Marietta and remember they would want about teams that we played Cartersville, Georgia. And so, he decided to come down with the guy, I guess he owed him a girlfriend in Marietta, and I was at the street dance out there doing my thing, dancing the way I had on some green jeans and a white glass with red polka dots. And I remember that I was dancing, and he was over there with his arms crossed, staring at me, I said, "What is he doing, looking at me?" Because I was too blind and at that time people would be crazy about what. And I left Laurie Whitehead who is now deceased, "Oh, Juanita and go up here. I want to go up here and get us a soda or something up." Charlie Hamps, you ever hear about that? He had the restaurant in Marietta.

Interviewer: Yes.

Carter: In hunters. They were a big affluent Blacks. I said, "Girl, I can't go up there with you." I said, "My dad will murder me." She's the one, nobody out here, but us [inaudible 00:59:11] night they opened up everything just for us. I said, "Okay." I sneak on up there with you. I looked around and he was following me. We got in there. I never been in there. I slid on that little stool. I thought I was really important that day, that night. And I said, "[inaudible 00:59:32]." He came over and sat beside me. He said, "what's your name?" And that was it. And that was the end of that.

Interviewer: What age were you at that point?

Carter: I was 15, I guess.

Interviewer: So, you kept up your relationship?

Carter: I was almost 16 because then by the time... That's right, because I've been with him since I was 16.

Interviewer: And when did you-

Carter: And now I'm 83, next month I'll be 84. I mean, it's just that. And I was with him those four years before that when I was in college.

Interviewer: Right. So, when did you marry him?

Carter: My senior year, that December, we were home for Christmas, and he said, "Let's get married as a unit." [inaudible 01:00:30]. But my dad is... And my dad is strict, "And I tell you she's for you if you want him." And he said, "But don't you ever touch her because you got to answer to me." Not that I was spoiled brat anyway, so that was it. We got married. I was what? That was in '57 because I graduated in '58 remember?

Interviewer: That's right.

Carter: And we got married that Christmas eve. I called we went and found a preacher. He was somewhere Gala Manton and Marietta got Catherine graded. Trivia's mother and they'd still come on up here. That was my godmother come on up here and stand up with me and in front of the fireplace that my house and went on and said I do. And after we said we do; I went on up to my aunt who lived on the next street and helped her put her children's Christmas toys together. That was it.

Interviewer: So, tell me his full name.

Carter: Whose full name?

Interviewer: Your husband.

Carter: His name is Dennis Rubin Carter.

Interviewer: So, does he have the same-

Carter: That's why my name is Frances Juanita Carter, Carter.

Interviewer: What was your maiden name?

Carter: Carter, Carter.

Interviewer: I was going to ask about that.

Carter: And when we were all together, they would say, "Well, all of you Carter." Because our family was very close, they visited each other. They went down to my house. So, we were up in Cartersville here. We were always very close to Carter family

Interviewer: Was he related or were you related to Kenneth Carter and Jeanie?

Carter: No, no, no. I would call them affluent members of Marietta, Georgia. Oh, Ken fine fellow. He's deceased now. His mother was a fine lady. The [Crosford 01:02:43] did you meet any of them? The Crosford worked for the funeral home or something. His son just passed recently.

Interviewer: All right.

Carter: Did anybody bring up the [inaudible 01:02:54]?

Interviewer: Spell the name?

Carter: Cuthbert.

Interviewer: Cuthbert?

Carter: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Cuthbert

Interviewer: No, I didn't meet them.

Carter: Oh, okay. But they were up about the town, they lived in a place like Marietta you knew everybody.

Interviewer: Well, talk to me about the type of teacher you were and the way that you mentioned a story about one of your students, how you discipline them cleverly?

Carter: First of all, I'm a lot of fun if you will, I'm a happy person, but I'm really strict about learning. I don't play with learning. It's significant to me and my students knew that and somehow that along with a discipline, did you not know that? If you're very stern and they realize how caring you are, that is a discipline factor, okay? So, you said how did I discipline them? I going to relate something to you. After I retired from DC, I'm already old as dirt and I came out here in Maryland. They needed teachers in middle school, and I'd apply. And they put me in a school, and they gave me the worst children in the school. Middle school children are outrageous, and the principal could not believe their behavior, I had the worst children in the school. He would come back and he would just come out and he was so amazed of what was going on. When they took the test, those children are mine that they call the dumb ones and I'll use that word because that's what they refer to those children, they scored very high. He could not believe it. It was all over Maryland, up in the bathroom, the students at Charles Carroll Middle School. And you know what the students call me? The whole school?

Interviewer: What?

Carter: Grandma. Remember, I'm an old lady in the junior high. They call me grandma. They will pass by and, "Hi grandma, I'm going to be in your room next year." And I knew I was the meanest thing in the school. And the principal came in one day and they without it just working the fellow rate, he said, "Grandma, I need you to help me." The principal would say, "What did you call her?" He said, "I called her grandma." With his little hand on the side. And he said, "That's what we all call her." He looked at me and he said, he told me then... So, I was grandma, very strict and they were all over me with my mean self. I'm the mean teacher. And I guess, that was my mode for discipline. Now this one, they called me this yellow cross-eyed SOB. He was a good kid, came from a good family and I knew that. So, I just reprimanded him back. I said, "Sit down." Made him sit right up there in front of me so bad I could explain what he had called me. And I said, "Yes, Mr. Bartlett, I think they call this complexion yellow. So, you got an A on that one, yellow." I said, "You called me, cross-eyed. Look at my right eye." I said, "I was born with this cross-eye." Yellow and cross-eyed. I said, "You called me that SOB." I said, "That son of a" I said, "I'm a female. So, I can't be a son up a bitch." I said, because, "Did you know that a bitch is a female dog? Okay. My mother is a female, but she's not a dog." I said, "So you failed on those that's it now. Go back to your seat and sit down, I'll square this up with your mother." She nearly killed him. And the class was so in stitches, they had their heads down because they knew if I saw them laugh, that was the end of them. But then after it was all over, I said, "Now, you can laugh." They was so cheerful, and they knew me. They didn't think that I would go crazy and act like a fool. We supposed to have more sense than the students we teach and from then on, I don't know what it like. He would come by and fill me all the time like just fell in love with me. He learned a lesson and teaching is about teaching what a lesson. And it's not all subject matter. You agree with that?

Interviewer: Yes, absolutely.

Carter: What kind of student were you Mr. Newberry?

Interviewer: I think I might've been a little bit like you.

Carter: And you know what? I had discerned about you. I think you are pretty bright, am I right?

Interviewer: Well, maybe, I think so.

Carter: All right. You know that you are, and I know that you are, I already know that. And it's all right, I'm glad you know that you need to know too that self be true. You're supposed to know who you are, but don't think that above everything, but be who you are, okay? And don't mind saying whom you are, say, "Yes, I'm smart. Yes, I'm a good speller. Yes, my parents are proud of me." Okay. I have to compliment you for that. Do you have another question?

Interviewer: I do. I think I can see why you were such a good teacher, made such an impact.

Carter: And you know what I love children. I love teaching with a passion. And let me tell you the secret of dealing with people, students, anybody, Let your love show. They knew that I loved them, my old, big, rusty, dirty football players would come up their leg, hanging out. They've gotten broken up out on the field. They will say down, "Pray for me." We will get in that circle and pray. Okay. I did that in junior high. They were cutting a fool one day I said, "Come here, I forget in a circle. We're going to pray." And one of my little girls, Bellamy will never forget her. She said, "Grandma, I'm going to pray." When that little girl finished speaking, everybody was quiet. She was raised by her grandmother and she knew the power of prayer, but you got to let them know that you love them and most of all, they knew I loved them all. Don't mess with the Lord, okay? And that is the secret of getting along with people. They want to know why everybody likes to come to your house. They like to come where love is. Do you know that Mr. Newberry?

Interviewer: Yes.

Carter: Are you married?

Interviewer: I'm not. No, not currently.

Carter: Not currently, meaning?

Interviewer: No, I've been married.

Carter: Would you like to be?

Interviewer: Well, certainly it's a possibility.

Carter: Okay. If you're not ready to love whole heartedly leave it alone, take that advice from me. Is that okay?

Interviewer: Well, that's fine. And to sort of conclude the interview, I want to talk a little bit about your move to DC. What took you and your husband to the DC area?

Carter: My husband is a caring man as I told you, his uncle was ill up here and seemingly one didn't weigh up each time, "I'm going to about Uncle Wallace." I said, "Okay." So, he came up here to see about at that time he had an electrical company in Cartersville, so the other guy could take care of things while he came up here and he got up here and looking around, I think and he kind of liked it. So, he said, "I think about my moving here." Because he went back home and got his whole act together because he let the guy take over the company, buy his share. And he came back here, and I said, "Wait, just a minute now. Lemon Street is going to lose me because if they don't lose me and way these women are, I lose him." Okay, [inaudible 01:12:36]. I said, "Let me go up and take care of my hood for myself." I came here. Is that good?

Interviewer: That is. where did you go to teach when you were in the DC area?

Carter: Oh, when I came here?

Interviewer: Yes.

Carter: But the first year and a half I stayed at home. They said they didn't have any openings and I knew better than that. So, I said, "Well, maybe it's not time." Things are times you know back then.

Interviewer: Yes.

Carter: And of course, I was teaching Sunday school at my church and Rosa Campbell, she said, "Frances, didn't you say you were teacher?" I said, "Yes." She said, "Well, I want to know why you aren't teaching?" She said, "On it. When I came in here, we had about five of us, now we're going to have to find another place to have class." She saw the teaching skill I guess, she told me, she said, "Go down and tell Mr. Ken that Rosa Campbell sent you down here." I said, "Well, do I have to call him?" And She said, "No, go and tell him I sent you." And that's what I did, and I had a job right away.

Interviewer: What was this school?

Carter: When the lady asked, "Do you have an appointment?" I said, "I would tell Mr. Kendrick when I see him." When he came out, I told him what Rosa again. I said, "Ms. Rosa Campbell told me to tell you she sent me down here for you to give me a job." He tell [inaudible 01:14:20] where she was from [inaudible 01:14:21]. She was one of those dynamite teachers too. And from that day on happening I have been within DC.

Interviewer: What was-

Carter: [inaudible 01:14:30] no anything.

Interviewer: What was the school called?

Carter: My first school Gordon Junior High. And I walked in there trembling. Remember, I had come from this Black society, when I walked up in that school, it was all like they were walking down one side going down and the other side coming up, the bell had rung. You couldn't hear a pin fall. And that's where he sent me. He said, "I should send you over to Anacostia." That was one of the best school. So, I said, "Well, why are you not [inaudible 01:15:12]?" He said, "Because they would throw you out the window." Now, it's the first time this man has met me. I said, "Why would you say that they would throw me out?" He said, "I'm just listening to you." He said, "Because you don't take any [inaudible 01:15:33]." I mean, you can't teach, but I don't [inaudible 01:15:33]. And he said, "I'm going to send you to Gordon Junior High School." I said, "Well, why Gordon?" And he said, "That like man over there, since all the Black folk back." I said, "So why are you sending me over there?" He said, "Because he wouldn't dare send you back." Do you believe what I'm saying to you?

Interviewer: Oh, yes.

Carter: Listen Newberry. Do you believe what I'm telling you?

Interviewer: I do.

Carter: And he was right. He sent me over there. He said, "He wouldn't dare send you back." He said, "As soon as he introduced you and talk to you, he not going to send you back." I said, "Okay." And I enjoyed that immensely. One of my girlfriends now we are tight, tight, tight, like sisters. She was there. She was the French teacher there, Shirley Washington. And so that's where I started at Gordon Junior High School.

Interviewer: And how long were you there?

Carter: I was there for six years that I believe, because you know how I left then?

Interviewer: How?

Carter: I was at an English Department meeting at HD Woodson Senior High, which was that senior high in DC and this tall, dark, good looking man broke that day and said he was the principal, that that Lewis, Napoleon Bonaparte Lewis. So, he came over there talking to him. I said, "Mr. Lewis, do you have any opens over here?" Because of the band school had eight floors, swimming pool, elevators, escalators wood shop, auto mechanic shop, electric shop. The school had everything in it.

Okay. He said, "Well, what can you teach?" I said, "What you need me to teach, I can teach anything you need to teach." And that really tickled him. He said, "Why are you not in [inaudible 01:17:42] Nicole and Junior High?" "Well, in September when I went back to Gordon Junior High, I'm looking for my teacher," but I said, "Where is my box?" Ms. [inaudible 01:17:55] She said, "You, I'm over here come." I said, "Where I'm I?" I said, "You fired me." She said, "No, Mr. Lewis has requested you at Woodson Senior High." I didn't even have to transfer to do anything that principal had done in knowing anything about me, so that's where I ended my career in DC. I was there for what? Too many, two years. So, when Mr. Lewis decided I wouldn't have a job yet and even the interview...

Interviewer: Wow.

Carter: He probably asked around about me.

Interviewer: Well, I only have two more questions.

Carter: Okay.

Interviewer: So, tell me, how often do you return to Marietta when there isn't a pandemic? How often would you make trips down?

Carter: I was there when my mother was alive. All through the year. Any time I wanted to go see my mother, I would go all the holidays and everything. I was, I told you Marietta has

been good to me and I was always there. I would probably be the right back because my niece's birthday is Sunday. I was always in Marietta for all the home coming. Oh, they knew I was going to be there. I used to speak at the home coming. By the way I was a public speaker. Used to speak it at home comings. Okay. Marietta called; I'm coming. All the time I was there.

Interviewer: My last question is, when you think about the legacy of Lemon Street, what stands out to you? What's most important about Lemon Street?

Carter: Lemon Street made me I would say that made me the woman that I have or that I am, my association, the people with who I work, the families there, the students, it's just my home after home. Lemon Street High, Lemon Street Elementary, when I think of my teachers their caring. Lemon Street was the place and when they tore that building down am back to cry, that already the building broke my heart. Did I describe that building to you?

Interviewer: No, the wooden one?

Carter: Uh-uh. The Senior and the wooden one. I told you I can draw a picture of them, all right? The elementary school, the high school, I described it. We walked through the door to the left, go in the elementary school, through that front door to the left with the first grade was over there. Come right down on the hall was Ms. Thomas's room. There were two rooms on that side. Go around that I can see the little teacher's name can't think of the name. I guess, loved it. Now, when does a teacher take a child home on the weekend? Is there a chat? They can't even do that now. They were playing as long with the teacher at night. You think may be?

Interviewer: I think it's possible. I think it was a definitely different time.

Carter: Was a wonderful time. Lemon Street High, and our parades would be just great that Marietta, Cobb home coming was all about Lemon Street High or Lemon Street Elementary. That's what it was about. And the people who started, I remember my mother was the treasurer, Mrs. Scott and my mother worked together with that money that Kristen, the Sexton and they had it going. And I see it dying now, those people who had a passion for it the way I do and it's dying now.

Interviewer: Well-

Carter: I'm so glad that they are refurbishing the school so that it can live on, it should never die. Lemon Street High. It was Parkerson High at first. Were you aware of that?

Interviewer: Right. Yeah. Until about '47, '48.

Carter: Yeah. It was Parkerson High, but Lemon Street will... I'm glad that you're working with them. I don't want it to ever die. Just the memory.

Interviewer: I appreciate you answering all these questions so thoughtfully and I'm going to end the recording here and then we'll continue to chat a little bit.

Carter: All right.

Interviewer: And our friendship.

Carter: Because I asked you a very serious question when we were in the chat.

Interviewer: Okay. But thank you Dr. Frances Juanita Carter.

Carter: You can call me Frances.

Interviewer: Thank you, Frances. We'll conclude there.

Carter: I love that. See, that means more to me than Dr. Frances Carter. Frances means that we are now friends, okay?

Interviewer: I appreciate it.