

Cape Charles Rosenwald School Restoration Initiative
 Oral History Interview – November 2, 2013

JR: Josh Rouzer (main interviewer)
 EF: Erin Finn (assistant interviewer)
 LS: Linda Schulz (project director)
 DD:: Diane Davis (interviewee)

Sex/Age/Ethnicity/City of Birth/City of Habitation

JR: M; C; Virginia Beach, VA
 EF: F; C; Norfolk, VA
 LS: F C; Cape Charles, VA
 DD: F; AA; #; Cape Charles, VA

0:25 – 46:10

JR: Alright so uh y'know generally we wanna talk about the school so um you know so when- when did you di- you grow up here in cape charles or like did you were you born and raised here or

DD:: no i was not i was born in uh North Carolina [JR: okay] i was here when i was one year old [JR: oh okay] i actually moved into to cape charles when i was about six

JR: oh okay cool cool so um was all of your schooling in cape Charles

DD:: b- i went to cape- uh capeville elementary for a short time and then cape charles and that was the rest seventh from uh one to seven

JR: oh okay cool

DD:: cause after seventh grade we had to go to that was before intergration

JR: mhm

DD: so we had to go to Machiapungo which was quite a distance away af- we finished elementary school here

JR: oh okay so so how did the the intergration go what do you remember from it um do you like do you remember i- it being tough for anybody was it tough for you like what do you think

DD: well intergration basically i was never uh as far as the schools i was never part of it because the fact where we had to go to school i-it was a- all african american [JR: mhmm] the Machiapung elementary during that time that's what we had to do of course Tuthalafamy was the white school

JR: yeah

DD:: uh what have you and um it was oh some kids who did attend the high school with me i forgot what year it was but some of them it got to the point where the schools were intergrated but it was not a forced intergration so some kids did go to Eastville uh either over to Cape Charles during a certain time but it's real interesting because when they first started with the intergration before it was forced they pea patched the hand-picked kids to go over there which i thought was sort of [JR: mm] unusual which we discriminated really against each other [JR: i thin-] but a few did go over there that particular time and later it bec- um it was just open to everybody now some of the kids who did go over there who picked during that time now they had problems because of course you know kids and what the- whites didn't want to accept them uh what have you so i guess as time went on we got to the point where uh- i- it was here uh what have you and um my all of my sisters finished Northhampton country high school except for one one had to go because Semataff is seventy the next class they either had to come to Cape Charles or go to Eastville so [JR: mhmm] she opted to go to Eastville because she preferred the classes but as far as Cape Charles elementary when i graduated that was still going on i don't remember exactly what year they actually closed down but we did i enjoyed myself over at Cape Charles Elementary School we didn't ha- um we didn't know any better uh what have you it was nice so probab- the only problem that i had we got the old books and see [JR: mhmm] that's what we could not understand we got we got the old books and those type things what have you and for- as far as intergration if they had jus- everybody had been treated equally [JR: mhmm] give us the good books and all those type things just like everybody else were receiving but we didn't get that and we knew that we had the older books but um our classes we had good teachers that were concerned about us they were respected and all so that was the good things.

JR: Oh so- so you you feel that like the separate but equal wasn't really equal is kinda what you were saying like like t-

DD: no it was not equal [JR: yeah] because the fact that they- w- we got the hand-me-downs

JR: yeah right

DD: yes we did and you know we were not the one who- ones who control things or what have you so yes they passed us tho- old books and those type of things while they were getting the uh newer things

JR: ah so do you feel that like in general you got an inferior education or do you feel like that the- things like the teachers and stuff like that balanced it out

DD: no i did not feel that our uh education was inferior we got the we might have gotten the older books but those b- if you think about certain things now English has not changed

(5) JR: right

DD: alright you just got newer books and those type things so our education we got that arti- the

classes of course you know we didn't have thirty kids in a class like you have today and all but we did have uh s- two classes in one just like fifth and sixth grade just might have been in the same class [JR: mmmm] or whatever but the teachers still taught and it's amazing with two classes i remember i think we had must have been fourth and fifth grade and the teacher taught the fourth graders and then they taught the fifth graders and the thing is we did our work it wasn't like the teachers had to stop us stop talking all that that and i think about that today that was really unusual- and we got the education some of us went on to college and we did well or what have you so no i wouldn't say it was inferior we had teachers who were concerned that made b- uh we got it despite what the things that the uh- things that we had they [JR: oh] taught us we got that

JR: oh that's interesting that's cool um so you said that before um they forced integration that certain- certain people were like kinda picked to go

DD: at the very forg- the very first kids

JR: uh huh

DD: the very first kids uh people certain ones went around and asked certain ones to go but after that it was op- it um now i don't who di- whose decision that was i guess [JR: uh huh] they were just trying to get some kids to go so [JR: uh huh] they probably hand-picked some but after that it was open at about who wanted to go or what have [JR: right] you just like with my sisters or what have you they- they wanted to stay with the kids they were with all along [JR: right] so they could finish together but it was a choice and um that was their choice and some just stayed here in town

JR: ah that's interesting like you- you talked about the- it was almost like a prejudice within uh- like the own community like so but like how did- were certain people like like picked for the- how do you feel like they were they were chosen

DD: i really don't know how they were chosen uh um uh basically i know certain ones- it was just a few it wasn't that many or [JR: oh okay] what have you they were the first to go and it was not a- a very good experience for them because [JR: ah yeah] you know being two or three there and being with people who don't want them or what have you but you learn to adjust and th- they did that and we went on about our regular education and we got that and um some- some were things that you know it was uh it was a different type of experience because the fact that they to come with kids they didn't know where we uh they- we had been enjoying ourselves and doing those type things cause the teachers were not always great with some of these young people who transferred to uh to the um with the intergrated schools at the very beginning it- because sometimes there's an adjustment period for everybody

JR: oh okay

DD: it really was or what have you but uh we in this world together that's the thing i said i don't care where you go we gonna be together [JR: yeah] so that separation we had through the years that was something that just passed down from generation to generation and now we're all together.

JR: Mm

DD: somewhat

JR: <LAUGH> somewhat yeah

DD: yeah cause we have the private schools and of course we know private schools started because of integration in some cases

EF: mhmm yeah

JR: that's very true so

EF: thankfully not everywhere but

DD: no

EF: in some places yeah

JR: yeah so um do you remember seeing any uh other than the books do remember seeing any differences between like the white schools and the black schools like with th- like facility kind of differences or or do you remember seeing anything like that or

DD: i- i can't actually say because [JR: oh okay] the fact that i had never been into Cape Charles combined school i guess that's what they called it during that time [JR: uh huh] or what have you we had four- of course they had a larger building we had [JR: yeah right] uh have you seen- you know where our school is

JR: mhmm

DD: okay so we had four class rooms and um we did what we had to do

JR: hm

DD: and we didn't have a cafeteria they didn't have a cafeteria we took our lunch to school

JR: oh okay

DD: i think they- because they were over on this side some of them would go over to the stores and buy lunch or do whatever they had to uh do or whatever we basically took our lunch to school they had milk we had milk i think some of the men brought milk and i think we had ice cream we could buy but we took our lunch to school

JR: oh okay

DD: walked the hump everyday

JR: <LAUGH> was that a tough uh walk

DD: no [JR: no oh okay] i mean if i guess it was something that we had to do so you never thought about it

JR: right

DD: but i'll just think about the fact today that was really dangerous we had the steps that we would walk up and there was uh they had this um little divide where we um were for real and we just waled across to the other side and then went on down to school at night when they had activities and i wouldn't do it today we walked over there at night with no lights [JR: hm] oh my gosh i would never do that today and we had at night when they had maybe the school dances and those type things the lady who used to leave across street Mrs um Gollson she was Gollson during that time the only way we could go we would have to go with her cause um my mother just didn't let us go um just in and everywhere so if she went she would take us and bring us back or whatever but yeahso we- we had an enjoyable time over there

JR: that's cool hm

- (10) DD: softball we played all those and at that time we- uh- everything was big to us now it looks so small <LAUGH> [JR: <LAUGH>]

JR: so you talked about the school dances what were they like an-

DD: it was a dance [JR: it was like a regular dance] just like you all di- di- did no band [JR: yeah but] but our favorite record players or what have you they played the little records and we danced and did that

JR: that's cool

DD: and they had other type of things over there in in the evening after school or what have you yes

JR: that's nice

DD: and we had- we had the maydays you familiar with the maydays and

JR: uh huh

DD: ah we used to have the mayday

JR: okay cool

DD: over there

JR: cool so- so what did you do for the- the mayday celebration

DD: ah for the maydays wel- it was always in may i don't know what the- probably the first week in m- may cause its- may always seemed to be you kick off the what the spring and at that particular time we used to have the mayday and that's when we all start wearing our white sneakers cause we didn't want not white sneakers during the winter

JR: hm hm

DD: so an- we- we have on our and um i remember the white soft spotty socks and we would have if we were doing in particular things like gymnastics or something we have like navy blue shorts and the white tops and um there was one i remember we had some type of activity where we had to wear a little yellow skirts and had these little bonnets or what have you that was a different activity wrapping the may poster we did all those type things we really did

JR: that's cool

DD: they were fun

JR: that sounds fun yeah

DD: mmhmm

JR: cool um alright so so wha- uh what when did you actually like start going to cause you you said you after seventh grade you had [DD: yes after seventh grade] yeah oh okay gotcha so so you went to uh Cape Charles after seventh grade

DD: Cape Charles Elementary

JR: Cape Charles Elementary oh oh okay gotcha

DD: we had the- that was one through seventh [JR: oh okay gotcha] Cape Charles Elementary that's the school across the hump

JR: oh okay got it

DD: once we finished seventh grade

JR: mhmm

DD: and let me mention to you cause we walked to school i walked to school until like uh until the seventh grade when i was in seventh grade we got a school bus

JR: oh okay

DD: we had a school bus

JR: nice

DD: **and** that picked us up from time to time but after seventh grade we um had a bus to take us to Northhampton County High School bus number twenty five mr david bailey

JR: you got- you got the details down

DD: **mr bailey drove** bus twenty five and he rode twenty five never [JR: <LAUGH>] over twenty five [JR: <LAUGH>] and that bus was cold but um but yes but we went on up there

JR: oh that's cool nice ah

DD: **bus** picked us up at the corn- you know it's interesting because today this lately they ah they had been having door to door pick ups for a few years casue years ago they didn't have door to door pick ups and parents were so upset or what have you but i think they made some adjustments because its not door to door but we had certain corners so we waited and the bus would pick us up goin- and we had no problems

JR: cool nice

DD: all Cape Charles kids that was the one bus all of us fit on that bus

JR: wow wow that's whol- the- that's pretty much the whole school was it ah

DD: **the** kids from Cape Charles

JR: **ki- kids** from Cape Charles oh okay gotcha

DD: **but transported** on that one bus [JR: **oh they they know what- gotcha**] not like we had that many of course um yeah so we had Cape Charles was the place to be during that time it was booming

JR: ah right

DD: **we** had lots of things going on

JR: it- it sounds very communal like you all kind of knew each other sort of so

DD: yes during [JR: **or uh**] that time we did uh during that time we knew everybody period uh what have you cause all of us went to the same school

JR: mhmm

DD: okay an- and the community and all and we played together cause we used to have the playground over there right behind th- over there by the condos that was our playground them then we had the movie um an th- all that's pavement out there that's where skated and all so we had a good time growing up too

JR: **nice yeah nice** that's cool uh are there any like specific like fond memories you have of of

school like any any little specific things like uh any events or did you have like a best friend in school or anything that you remember a lot about or

DD: i wouldn't say a particular best friend bu- we- playcause we all played together [JR: oh okay] and they gave us the softball and all those type things so um we had a good time doing that the basketball and um just in general cause i always loved sports so we did that

JR: oh cool

DD: um we had um an oratorical contest i was not in it but i did go to it and that was where we did um compete with the Cape Ch- Capeville Elementary and the oth- the other elementary schools that were around we did have competition with that and i remember that one time with the oratorical contest and we did get to go to see it and i remember the one that we did have the young lady who won cause she was from Hare Valley Ruth James it was an oratorical contest she was good too

JR: nice

EF: what'd she recite

DD: say what

EF: do remember what she recited

- (15) DD: no i know the p- ones in uh um the ones in Cape Charles which i was not a part they did o captain my captain but i don't what hers was but it was good [EF:a poem] but ruth did hers was good

EF: ah nice

DD: uh so we had the oratorical contest um we played marbles too ah i played marbles with boys girls didn't like to play marbles i didn't [JR: <LAUGH>] mind them see during that time they used to call us if we liked sports and all that playing basketball and all that's when they call tomboys now girls play just like everybody else you know

JR: yeah

DD: we work on jobs just like the men work on jobs so

JR: very true

DD: <LAUGH>

JR: that's good ah do you want uh do you want to take a look at these uh these graduation uh pictures that you have and talk about that

DD: okay well let me tell you this um [JR: sure] i always think about it- i used to tell people

about Mr Nottingham and you probably have done him for oral interview um Mr Nottingham came here when we were in the fifth grade

JR: ah

DD: i was in the fifth grade and so our class so- our class introduced him to teaching and we remember those days but it was nice

LS: talk a little bit about him and how it was to have this brand new Mr Nottingham as your teacher

DD: well you know really i just remember he- he was a teacher not that much about him or what have you but he wa- he wa- he was new and he just h- he learned along with us but um he got the job done or what have you but you know what i had a i have a phonics book that i had from elementary school and there was a spelling book cause i think when we had our dedication i ha- did take that to school and we had those books and we did get that new they were workbooks bu- and i was talking wi- when people talk about phonics and getting back to phonics and all that say we had that when we were in school [LS: <LAUGH>] we really did and i went through the book of course th- they had grades and all those type type things in there so um so that was good or what have you and we doing more and more

LS: i should tell you that um we did interview him Mr Nottingham and he mentioned you as one of his outstanding students

DD: oh really

LS: mhmm

DD: yeah it was nice

LS: <LAUGH>

DD: it was nice oh you know what i do remember something when we were in the seventh grade the prin- the principle also taught okay [JR: uh huh] Mr Hare was the principle during that time [JR: cool] Jessie Hare H-A-R-E if you're putting that down uh he was the principle but he taught sixth and seventh grade also

JR: ah

DD: alright and normally when they had k- registration so that must've been cause we didn't have kindergarten during that time so when the kids come in to first grade um Ms Alice Ames was the first and second grade teacher when the principle had problems with a student he sent them to Mrs Alice Ames she did not play

JR: wow

DD: she did not play but um because she was the first grade teacher whenever they had the

registration they would have the older kids and i wa- used to be one would go over and watch the first and second graders while she would go out and register the kids for ah first grade and that was always great and not as- one particular fellow he has now passed and i remember him being in the class during that particular time and now he has children and all and i've taught some of his his children but it was real interesting and i remember those kids when we used to go in go in there to take care of them while they wer- while um the teacher was doing registration so [JR: nice] they trusted us

JR: nice that's cool

DD: i do remember i never got um during that time the kids- the teachers could hit you

JR: oh yeah

DD: you know but [JR: yeah] i- i never did of course it look- uh i wasn't i was not going my father passed when i was very young but i was not going to deal with my mother or what have you so i did what i had to do but um so i never really got in trouble but one time and there was this young fellow he's he lives in Cape Charles now George Rural he would tease us all the time

JR: ah

DD: always teased us and we were older he was younger and our class i think we might've been in the sixth or seventh grade i'll never forget and he had been teasing us and this one lunch time we ran him through the woods you know we had woods all around that school we ran him through the woods we were gonna get him that day

JR: uh oh

DD: and of course when we got back we were late and the teacher gave all of us a hit that was the only hit i got in school but h- he got every last one of us in our hand we got a hit in our hand with the ruler or what have you i remember that one i definitely [JR: hm] remember that

JR: mhmm

DD: but h- h- yes he would always do be teasing the girls you know you have some that just tease tease [JR: yeah] tease but we were determined that day we were gonna get him and we did and th- i'ma stop it right there

(20) JR: <LAUGH>

EF: <LAUGH>

LS: <LAUGH>

EF: don't want to incriminate yourself

LS: that's right

JR: <LAUGH> th- this happened a long time ago i [DD: yes] don't think you're gonna incriminate anyone so

LS: <LAUGH>

JR: nice

LS: so what was discipline like besides th- with the kids besides the the little

DD: hit on [LS: hit on the hand] the hand

LS: how did that work and were th- did the kids normally behave

DD: you had- you- you- most of them did but of course you had some who would not and um th- like Ms Thane she used to get them on the knuckles she would hit them on the knuckles and you know i guess if you know she gonna get you on the knuckles you better start acting right or what have you but you know what i can not really remember whether uh remember any terrible problems or what have you and you know the parents were going to the schools teachers were respected during that time or what have you you know did proble- you had problems in school you know it's coming home and they're go- going to deal with you on that but that's the unfortunate thing today we had our parents uh that were concerced about education and today the parents might be they're younger and the kids are basically doing a lot th- th- on their own or what have you and we need more parental involvement with the education of our younger people especially in the elementary level because if they get the foundation there they get in in be well indoctrinated even at home it would carry through and it wouldn't be much of a problem but yeah but we were not perfect kids but um pretty much as for discipline we didn't have that many problems

LS: what about parent involvement in those days

DD: i- i don't remember much about it but parents kept up with what was actually going on or what have you um the PTA meetings they still had PTA meetings and some people maybe parents could go more so than others i know my mother worked a lot or what have you she went to some or what have you and then p- p- it depending on what time they actually got off work but uh i think parents as a whole were more in tune to the education of the children and they were not like the very young parents during that time either i mean you know here sometim- we used to say babies having babies or what have you but [EF: uh huh] you just have ah there were just more in tune and ah work etherics an- and what it takes to get you to a certain point um education was important

JR: hm

DD: uh during that time it still important but with our parents and all or what have you they wanted to see us do well

JR: i think- you think maybe some some people now take it for granted do you think uh compared to to in the past yeah

DD: are you just talking elementary schools period

JR: **just** just schools period cause your- you're saying that there's kind of less involvement an-

DD: maybe some things are taken for granted because you have so much more an- and i think about in the schools today and i think about i was in business an- an- and the but the teaching an- then and the administration when i was over the career in tech ed program it was so much there so many opportunities skills that kids could be taught and all and some of them if- in some cases if there's a teacher who works you where you really got to work they stay away from those type classes an- and in my kind of **[JR:right]** class we're teaching kids for careers go out and get a job cause you know they could get entry level jobs somewhere with what we had **[EF:right]** or what have you but the work th- they didn't want to do that work or what have **[JR:hmm]** you so they took other things so a lot of skills that they could get and even now they don't take those skill classes and to make it today you need to have skills as- as well as academics **[EF:mhmm]** ah the combination that STEMs they talk about from time to time that's technology math th- the uh edu- uh education all of those type things um the science technology now are you familiar with STEMs but you had all those and we need to get back to uh getting kids to work hard and get some skills or what have you **[JR:uh huh]** cause see every kid is not going to college

JR: yeah

DD: but if you gonna make it in this world you gonna have to have a job and if you gonna make it on these jobs you gotta have some extra education so going to these business schools taking what you can and the public schools that they have and they're losing out where they didn't get in to the public schools and then they have to go and pay for it in the community **[JR:right]** colleges and four year institutions because they didn't see the need at that time to get those and here on the shore we bringing industry they need skills

- (25) JR: right so the kids have to be trained for that and of course in the elementary level we just got basis because the fact that's all you get in elementary school **[JR:yeah]** but of course we did careers and all those type things and you learned about some of the things and maybe you should start thinking about bettering your education and all and we worked of course as far as jobs during that time we didn't have where you at- in- the- these fast food places cause we didn't have fast food places

JR: right

DD: **so** during our time if you didn't have money parents didn't money some kids the less but i don't know kno- anybodyin ou- in our race that did but um we you either worked in the field or you worked at the graters and that's what we did and some didn't work at all so we i- in m- my mother we worked of course and we had strong work ethics so **[JR:mhmm]** i did yes i worked in the field and i had a good time working in the field cause people you- the guys used to come up from Florida hey used to help us out and you know do all that but anyway um and i worked at the grater but i found out working at the grater with s- **[EF:how do you spell that grater]** grater i think it was G-R-A-T-E-R

JR: i think that sounds right'

DD: i think

EF: what were you grating

DD: ah grater um

EF: what what is it

DD: at um uh just like potatoes you know those potatoes you have

EF: yeah

DD: that you eat from time to time you know those potatoes they used to date them to take them to this grater maybe it's D-E-R [LS: ah um] and um they're processed and then they're put in bags and then they're sent to the stores

EF: so they're [JR: ah] packaging potatoes essentially

DD: you- [LS: they're sorting] they're called graters [LS: sorting it's sorting] but th- well then it's a combination but they're uh a grater- no [EF: no] we didn't sort the bags they just wanted bags bags you know it's a mixture [LS: a mixture oh] um [LS: oh] they're not called factories ah

EF: grader maybe like G-R-A-D-E-R

DD: i- put grater i'm- i'm a double check that see what they call them today but we worked at the graters and um [JR:cool] but i- i did part of the time but uh it seems to be that we sat down all day and worked all night and is said my time was too valuable so i stopped working at the grater went in the field i made my money in the field

JR: ah

DD: i sure did as a matter of fact my first tuition for college because i was planning to go to business school and changed my mind and it was too late to get financial assistance my first tuition i uh made my money out the- working out there in the field

JR: right

DD: to go to college sure did alright next questions did i answer your question i'm not [JR: yeah yeah] sure

JR: no you you totally [DD: alright] did you you you answered more than [DD: i'm sure i did] i had hoped for z- it's perfect alright so wa- wa- was it tough working and going to school at the same time

JR: oh i wasn't oh [JR: oh you weren't doing th- oh] no no no [JR: oh okay gotcha you just did it

after work] my mother was education [JR: oh okay] period no you don't stay out of school to work

JR: <LAUGH>

DD: right then the summer we di- that was at th- working at the grater that's during the summer

JR: oh okay gotcha

DD: that was during the summer [JR: gotcha] i didn't work during the school year

JR: oh okay gotcha cool

DD: didn't have too much going on in the field then anyway but no i didn't work during the school year

JR: oh okay so when you had free time uh when you were in school wh- what would you do like after school like just kind of hang out or

DD: after school we didn't not hang out [JR: no <LAUGH>] um huh after school basically when school was out of course we had our homework to do and we had chores to do at home [JR: mhmm] or what have you and then of course um kids would come around and play w- we would do that um now this is now you're talking now there's one thing with elementary [JR: uh huh] school now when you get to high schools it's a a difference or what have you cause we did [JR: right] have places where we could hang out

JR: ah

DD: as you recall that cause i told you i- i mention the movie theatre but there was the coffee spot that we that was right down the street connected to the movie theatre and that was a place for teens

JR: ah okay

DD: or what so we could go there like Fridays or what have you and you didn't have these adults and all it was teens period and that was a nice place that's why i said we had a lot to do growing up compared to the kids today they don't have that much to do [JR: right] we did the skating and all those [EF: very active] type things yes so that was nice but with the just th- elementary school we played good with th- we played with th- we would go play with friends and friends would come play with us that was basically what we did during that time and go to [JR: oh] the playground which i told you

JR: mhmm

DD: you have the sliding boards the swings and all that yes [JR: nice] and we could of course we were open to do that but of course during the week we had our chores as well as homework to do

JR: gotcha that's cool alright so you wanna chec- uh take a look at these pictures ah talked about graduation at all

DD: well basically these are pictures [JR:hm] but uh as far as what i can tell you about them [JR: <LAUGH>] this one right here this this is the one where i ha- i f- forgot all about i had th- i had to give the class history

JR: oh okay

DD: and this is the cute little dress my uncle sent to me from New York that i have out there in the hallway or what have you believe it not i was try- i tried washing it to see if it i could get it to come back but of course you know with ah the number of years [JR: yeah] but i still have the dress but this is the emblem [JR: nice] that you'll all see before you leave this is the dress but i gave the class hist- i was giving the class history here [JR: ah] and you know

(30) what i was trying to figure out what year was this it's right on the picture at the bottom it said nineteen sixty two

JR: oh okay

DD: and this one is the one of me going to get my diploma this is the principle Mr Jessie Hare

JR: ah

DD: he was the principal and i'm getting my diploma and there's some kids right in behind that and we were trying to figure out who were some of these kids i know it's hard to see but irvin Straton is one i don't know whether you know any Stratons um here irvin Straton and Hazel Bland they are the two Valentina Evans you probably interviewed her [JR: mhmm] [EF: yes] Val's this is uh Val's aunt Hazel is in this picture and irvin Straton irvin was the shortest one in our class about this tall alright but that's what this is ah so then the two that i had happen to come across when um um my mother passed we've been going through all of her photo albums and came across these two pictures [JR: nice] okay alright that is what that is so we did our graduations we g- we had the white dresses we uh girls the young ladies who wore the white dresses and guys had the black suits

JR: nice

DD: and in high school of course you have your cap and gowns but we used to have to wear the dresses underneath so we had a nice graduation

JR: nice

DD: yes we did

JR: nice

DD: and they don- they're not as formal now with the graduation like we used to be

JR: yeah

DD: so you see how much pride they had in us even during that time

JR: yeah um so you said you wer- were given the class history in this picture right here

DD: right that's the class history

JR; yeah so what exactly did that encompass like uh <LAUGH>

DD: i tol- i cannot remember a thing [JR: oh okay] i know what we were doing there so i'm sure i told about the history of our class what we did and [JR: oh okay] combination i'm sure during that time unfortunately we didn't have the typewriters to key that in so i could attach it

JR: right [DD: <LAUGH>] <LAUGH> so like one person would do this every graduating class hm

DD: yes they had uh b- they probably had the class history and the- just like we had the valedictorian salutatorians all those types [JR: uh huh] i'm sure we probably had all of that i don't remember [JR: oh okay] but i know my responsibility was to do the class history

JR: oh that's cool di- did you volunteer for that or were you kind of picked

DD: i don't remember

JR: <LAUGH> oh okay

DD: i know i didn't volunteer i'm sure i [JR: <LAUGH>] probably didn't volunteer to do the history so the teacher the principle probably did say the principle was also our teacher during that time too [JR: oh gotcha that- you know] and he probably chose who wanted to do what i'm sure

JR: yeah he- he knew what everybody 's interests and skills were so he probably just kinda yeah

DD: well he did that's i figured he probably that was his idea

JR: yeah

DD: mmhmm

JR: that's cool nice i'm gonna check th- the rest of these here

DD: no they were just [JR: oh oh that's it] we were experimenting trying to get some good copies and [JR: oh okay gotcha just playing around] none of- none of them came out that good but that's what these are these were the two that i found [JR: oh okay] in her album [JR: oh okay] all these are basically the same

JR: nice nice

DD: yes [JR:nice] it'd be nice if we had pictures of our maydays that we used to have over there um David Mitchel had some pictures but i don't whether it was mayday or what that he had but yes so that's what we had there

JR: mmm

DD: how's the time

LS: we have

JR: yeah it's about we're at about [EF: thirty minutes] thirty minutes

DD: oh okay

JR: uh so so yeah [LS:we've got a little more than thirty minutes] [EF: there's more than thirty minutes] yeah it's about thirty thirty three [LS: oh okay] so so fourty five is [DD: Oh i just don't want you all to run over time] oh no no

DD: i have cleared my calender for you all now [JR: <LAUGH> right] so

EF: we've done the same

JR: <LAUGH> yeah absolutely absolutely was there any thing that that that uh you want to uh

LS: um well uh i think it's important to know the years that you were in school but you did say when you graduated so [DD: that was sixty two] sixty two and you started you started in f- in first grade or

DD: where ah everything i was in first grade part of the year here so

LS: did you move from

DD: Cape uh i ch- lived in Cherrington for a little while [LS: Cherrington] Cherrington and um we went to Capeville elementary at that time [LS: mhmm] and then [EF:fifty six] that year

EF: would that be fifty six to sixty two

DD: probably so so it's six seven eight nine [EF: nine-] cause it was seven years we did um uh seventh grade there [EF: so fif-] something about that

EF: nineteen fifty six yeah and that's this is the um Cape Charles [DD: Cape Charles Elementary] Elementary

LS: uh huh so uh you know one of the things that's so interesting is that you were a teacher here on the shore [DD: yes] and you also were a student so it's it's really um i think great t- to talk

- about your different experiences as a student on the shore and you know the culture of education at that time the values that the families placed in them
 (35) or since now you've talked a little bit about that but so you where did you go to college

DD: went to Norfolk State University [LS:mhmm] uh i went to Norfolk College let me see i went to thi- i went i got three different degrees from there so [JR:oh] when i first went there it was Norfolk Division of Virginia State College then it became Norfolk State College then it became Norfolk State University but i i went there [EF:mhmm] ah cause when i went through high school i basically we had business courses and i took those so i followed that track okay and when i finished i decided i want to be an executive secretary i think that's what i it's in the yearbook and i was going to go to Cortez Peters Business School and they had one in Baltimore and one in D-C Washington D-C Cortez Peters at the time was one of the fa- the world's fastest typing typists [JR:oh] or what have you so i planned to go there and i changed my mind and decided i wanted to go to college instead

LS: what made you do th- changed your mind

DD: i really don't i'm i'm not sure but i i was in between businesse and i liked i always liked sports and physical education i always loved that [JR: huh] and uh i'm remembering i did a lot of reading in high school and i read a book about um the uh physical therapist and i had thought about that between that and being a physical education teacher so i decided plus th- the time to get there and all that that i felt it might have been a hardship for my mother and all so i said well i like all of these so i said well i'll g- decided to go to college and i did what i had to do so that i could get in there of course my mother working with my trying to help out and um i decided to t- i wanted to teach but i didn't go through physical education physical education was loaded with all these sciences [EF: <LAUGH>] [JR: oh yeah] [LS:<LAUGH>] why my gosh if you wanted f- physical education i thought cause you know in um in your basic cour- the beginning courses you take the physical education majors they the premed majors all them [JR: mhmm] took the same class and the nursing one [JR: oh wow] [EF:oh wow] i said no i don't want all those sciences as- so it was more of the physical education just playing ball playing them activities [JR: yeah] like that but uh but like i said because i liked the sports and i liked the business portion so i decided to go on and go on through the field of business so i said i would teach and um believe or not um one of my te- as a matter of fact two of my teachers that i had when i moved back here [JR: mhmm] i worked with them

EF: hm

JR: nice

DD: and uh cause uh Madge Christian that i'm talking about an- sh- she was my boss cause i came here out of the business department when i moved back but it was because i loved and always said um i i'd switch from business education because i didn't like accounting when i go- i didn't like accounting we had [JR: ah] two years of accounting and i'll never forget my advisor when i went to change she says you need to stay in there she says uh you're not doing right thing but i said no i don't like accounting so i changed to executive secretary of science i made sure i got a B-S degree in that and when i finished college i had um we had a lot of crews that come on campus and i had gotten a job with Internal Revenue [JR: oh] in D-C

JR: nice

DD: and i decided i didn't want to go there and i got a job working on campus as a secretary [JR: nice] and while i was there i said gosh if i'm a just go back and get my degree in education plus they had dropped one year of accounting so i went back and got my degree in Business Education [JR: nice] and i did student teaching all those type things and i continued to work and while i was there they got the Masters program so i went on and got my Masters and all but i always said that if i ever taught i wanted to teach on the Eastern Shore because i wanted to come back and be a help to the young people here [JR: nice] and while i was there an opportunity came up and um through um i think i met some people from over here with the F-B-L-A Future Business Leaders of America they used to have their regional conferences right on our campus at Norfolk State and they would tell me about the they had some openings so i tried as a matter of fact Cape Charles has an opening Northhampton did too. And i said well why not and i knew what was on the shore so i said the thing is i knew what was here wh- what i was coming back to so people [JR: hm] who don't know or whatever they have a problem adjusting to [JR: hm] certain things but i did know the only suggestion i have if anybody who want to come to the shore get you husband first [EF:<LAUGH>][LS:<LAUGH>] [JR:<LAUGH>] we just don't have that many people out here on the [EF: why would yo-] shore or what have you but when i came back i said i was coming back for five years well you know [L<LAUGH>] that didn't [JR:<LAUGH>] happen but um i c- came back and um i got the job offer um from um Northhampton i've taught

(40) both schools or what have you

JR: ah

DD: and um i decided with Northhampton i did get the job and i came back ev- uh i came back and so i worked with people that i knew and uh it came on and on and on and at firs- my first year cause i taught i taught one beginning class when i came back and uh my and i taught the advance classes but i always wanted one class where i'm- cause during that time you took keyboarding they would call it typewriting and you took that in the tenth grade so that was with the younger people and then you moved to th- to the advanced classes and that's why i said i always like to have one because you know you that's the foundation and then they move on [JR:ah] so um in doing that which was very rewarding but the thing is the kids that i had during that time there were kids who were interested in pursuing a career in that field

JR: ah

DD: so we didn't have problems and quite a f- few of my kids are working around here now and happen to live very well some well some went on to other fields or what have you but they're still work- because i have one whose a pharmacist or what have you she went through out whole program thinking that she was going to go into business but she changed or what have you but they got the skills they have lifetime skills that they can always come back to whatever they're doing but they're doing very well but the kids during that time they were there because they wanted to be there or what have you today they're taking these cause you got to have something

JR: yeah

DD: or what have you and so they would take some of those classes we have because during that time uh for a kid if they had the number of courses they needed in order to graduate they could um do co-op what they call distributive education if they were in marketing they could go out and work or what have you they got credit for that otherwise the kids had to be in classes [JR: ah] but today the kids think that they'll whatever credits they need they if they're not doing um i don't know how much they're doing with distributive education now but they just don't have to go to school they take those t- two classes and that's it and they're [JR: yeah] out here doing nothing i think that is such a disservice when they could be getting some skills [EF: yeah] [JR: yeah] in the schools now now you have some and the other part we lost with the because we have the dual enrollment classes at the college now so a lot of [JR: mhmm] seniors are taking quite a few kids are taking um [EF: college classes] courses there so we have lost that group of kids who could've been taking some of our classes that we have just like with the advanced business classes you'l- you might uh compute applications all these things the skills that you're using [JR: uh huh] today or what have you the accounting that people into we one time actually lost accounti- we had no students in accounting or what have you you have accounts out here [JR: right] you all need somebody to take care of your money [JR: <LAUGH>] and do all that but we lost some there so uh a lot of quite a few kids we did lose to that part the others are just they b- might go in late to take those two classes English and Government and that's it i i i'm totally against that [JR: right] i'm i'm really against it because let's say it takes them something that's going to b- that you can actually use where you gonna use the skills what is business or whatever [JR: yeah] you need to be taking these courses and parents need to be more in tune and not let those child- kids just it's not like they got jobs

JR: right

DD: they're just home

JR: yeah

DD: looking at those T-Vs or what have you for all different things doing this that they don't need to see but [JR: <LAUGH>] they need to be more in tune and then [EF: hm] i think they need to be something needs to put in place and i hate to say increasing the number of credits that they need to graduate because the fact some kids they could take quite a few cl- electives and all but they don't but then you have some parents who their kids they're making sure those kids are taking these type things but see we don't have enough [EF: parents] te- parents who're that yes cause some of you know the parents are like no you're not getting out of school and come out here and do nothing [JR: yeah] you take some of those classes and they know uh what th- some of the classes that we actually have just like with the um typewriting [EF:hm] that we have in the public schools now um it's called keyboarding applications at [JR: mhmm] at this point so when i mention it it's the same thing [JR: yeah] when i came here it was you- it was your choice to take it but parents who were in th- education arena period they made sure those kids took that because they knew if they were going to college they were gonna need to know how to type papers

JR: yeah

DD: okay so those would but those others some did not but then uh because the fact we got to the point so many kids were uh say for instance the teachers required these kids to key them papers these young kids who didn't have

(45) typing they key in papers so how can they key in papers if they don't know how to key in

JR: yeah and it's the same typing because on computers you're keying in that's why i say key-keying in [JR: mhmm] papers but we've got behind that and said wait a minute if you gonna require this we need to do something so these kids all these kids can learn how to key in [JR: ah] and with all the work that we did in the business department we en- eventually got a it so that they made it mandatory for all kids to take keyboarding applications in high school [JR: ah] so everybody gets that now from that point they go on about their business [JR: yeah] but that is a lifetime skill [JR: absolutely] so they will not use that and i get kids uh from time to time i remember some of the first months when they went to college they were telling me about the money they were making keying in papers for kids at college because they didn't know how the kids didn't know how to type [JR: <LAUGH>] said that is great but is th- that is great but th- the kids th- they were doing it because they wanted to do it and they went out and pursued a career and that or what have you and th- i mention about my the teachers that i worked with that taught me and then i came back teaching never thought that would ever happen [JR: <LAUGH>] [EF: <LAUGH>] here but uh it was great [LS: hmm] it sure was

LS: right

END 46:10