

DAVID LOWANCE

Q: This is an interview with Dr. David Lowance of Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Lowance grew up in Buckhead and is a retired doctor from Piedmont Hospital. The interview is being conducted on August 3, 2009 at Dr. Lowance's home. The interviewer is Caroline Johnson representing the Buckhead Heritage Society, Atlanta, Georgia. Let's get started.

What brought your family to Buckhead and when?

A: My mother was born in Tennessee and immigrated to Oklahoma. Actually, she was born in Oklahoma [in 1904]. Her parents had moved out to Oklahoma from Tennessee and her father died early. She was born on Indian lands before Oklahoma was a state. She had musical talent and she played the piano and went to Oklahoma University on a music scholarship and became a pianist and she travelled all over the place playing. She'd gone to Europe in [1930] and came through Atlanta where her brother had a Sterchi Brothers store here in Atlanta, an old furniture chain store that he'd started working in when he was 12. She got sick and his doctor was Mason Lowance, my father. My father had been born in West Virginia, the son of a [Methodist] circuit rider. He was born in 1900 and had gone initially to VPI and . . . then gone into World War I, came back and finished [a] year at W-L and then got tired of being cold and he moved to Atlanta in 1920 to go to Emory to college and to medical school. He decided he wanted to be a doctor. He rode the train down here and got off at downtown, rode the trolley car out [North] Decatur Road at the entrance to Emory, and walked up the hill to Dobbs Hall and matriculated in college there and stayed two years and went to medical school there. He went to Baltimore and [then] Cleveland Clinic for two years of surgical training with George Crile and his brother who founded the Cleveland Clinic, who were wearing rubber gloves intermittently at that time because they weren't sure that it lowered the infection rate in hospitals. They did a lot of thyroidectomies at Cleveland Clinic without rubber gloves.

Anyway, my father came back to Atlanta, which he liked, and went into practice in 1929 with Hal Davidson and T.C. Davidson and practiced until 1979 and saw patients in nursing homes until 1984. They [my mother and father] were married in 1931 in Oklahoma where my mother was from. She conducted the choir as she walked down the aisle to sing the wedding march. Then they honeymooned and came back to Atlanta and set up shop at the Georgian Terrace Apartments right there across from the Fox Theater in 1931. Then they moved to Ponce de Leon Apartments down near North Highland and Ponce de Leon. Then Daddy practiced medicine in those years and they built a house at the corner of West Wesley and Howell Mill Road in 1938. That's how they got to Buckhead initially.

[. . .]

Q: Where did your dad practice?

A: He practiced initially – the Davidson's had a clinic down at the 478 Peachtree Street, which is the W.W. Orr Doctors Building, which is part of Emory University now, and it's

still there. He stayed there until 1954 and then he moved his office. They had a splitting of the ways in 1940. They moved to different floors of the Doctors Building and then he moved out in 1954 to Fifth Street behind the Biltmore Hotel where he had the Lowance Clinic. He had anywhere from four to seven doctors in there with him at any one time practicing medicine. He practiced there until 1972 when he moved out and became the first medical director of Nurse Care [nursing home] in Buckhead. He was 72 years old at that time. Then he practiced for a couple years out on Piedmont Road and then closed his office in '79. He just [visited] nursing homes after that.

I made one of my early house calls with him. Not an early house, but one of the ones I remember I made [around] 1959 to Griggs Schafer's house on Camden Road in Brookwood Hills. He was having chest pain and we had a portable EKG machine. Daddy couldn't read EKGs because he had trained before the EKGs were available, so I had to read all his EKGs for him. I went over to Griggs Schafer's house with a portable EKG machine and we determined that he hadn't had a heart attack and let him stay at home that day. And probably 30 years later, I got a phone call when I was practicing from young Greg Shafer who was in his 70's at that time and his mother was having chest pain and was in heart failure. I remember where the house was in part because I lived on Montclair down the street from where Wade [Mitchell] grew up. I had a little MG convertible and I picked up his mother in my arms and put her in the front seat of my MG convertible and took her to the emergency room at Piedmont Hospital and we put her in the intensive care unit. She survived and lived a couple more years after that. That was back in the days of house calls.

Q: When was the last house call you made?

A: Just a couple of weeks ago. I still do it. I got asked in court one day by a litigious lawyer who was trying to prove a doctor hadn't done very well and it turns out I'd made a house call on this lawyer's mother one time on a Sunday night and I didn't remember it, but he looked at me before we got into the courtroom and he said, do you remember the night you made a house call on my mother? And I said, no, but if I'd known who she was, I'd stayed with her all night long. And when we got into the courtroom a couple of hours later, the case wasn't going in his favor and he tried to get me trapped and he said, would you define for the jury what your definition is of a house call. I thought for a minute and I said it's a personal service. It has nothing to do with the practice or outcome of medicine, which it is because there's not much you can do in somebody's house except determine they don't need to go be treated somewhere.

Q: That's quick thinking.

A: It was kind of fun.

Q: Tell me where and when you were born.

A: I was born at Emory Hospital on June 19, 1940.

Q: What were some of your childhood memories in Buckhead? Which ones stick out to you?

A: Well, I remember Miss Bloodworth's kindergarten right across from E Rivers School there. It's on an island and it's a library and administrative office of the school system now. But just about everybody from Peachtree Battle, West Wesley, Habersham Road ended up in Miss Bloodworth's kindergarten. Her assistant was Miss Mary Hill Woodruff or Miss Mary Woodruff Hill. I can't remember which one it was. She was one of Robert Woodruff's descendants I understand. She was the assistant there and we all went there for our kindergarten year. My mother was a musician, as I said. She had me playing the piano and taking piano lessons when I was 4, 5 and 6 years old, much to my chagrin and dislike. I played the pump organ, played the Caissons Go Rolling Along, which I'll come play for you if you want on the piano for the graduation of our kindergarten class into the first grade in E Rivers in 1946. I remember Miss Bloodworth's kindergarten very well. We all do, who went there. I remember my first grade at E Rivers School. The other thing I remember about E Rivers School was it burned in September 1947. That's when it caught fire after the school day was over. We all sat at the front lawn of Linton Hopkins' home who [now] lives in Brookwood Hills. His sister Mary Zelift you know also. We sat in their front yard and watched the E Rivers School burn down and had a great time. Nothing like a 6-year-old watching his school burn down.

Q: Were you in the school?

A: Actually they had built Morris Brandon that year [and I had] transferred just two weeks earlier to Morris Brandon. They had to close E Rivers. They closed the school building until they got it rebuilt, which took them two or three years to rebuild. They farmed out all the other kids to church classrooms and things like that. My first girlfriend when I was in Miss Bloodworth's school was Mary Bird whose father is Buster Bird and lived in Brighton Road. In the 6-year-old's remembrance and interpretation of what the world was like, I thought Mary was very lucky to have a boyfriend who had a wealthy father who could live out in the country where we could afford to have a yard man because she lived in Brookwood Hills where the houses were so close together people didn't have to have yard men because they couldn't afford them is what I thought, was very true. Mary died a few years ago.

Q: How old were you when you guys dated?

A: Oh, we played at each other's house when we were four, five and six years old. My next-door neighbor was Bob Griffith on West Wesley Road. His younger sister was Kitty. Bob Griffith died a couple of years ago but he had an illustrious career here in Atlanta as a commercial real estate broker. He had his own company, R.S. Griffith. What else do I remember back then?

I remember when I revolted against playing the piano when I was six; I started taking guitar lessons when I was seven. Took guitar lessons up until I was about 14 years old. I

used to ride the bus, which you wouldn't think of now. My mother would drop me off at either the Baptist church at the corner of West Wesley and Peachtree or Peachtree Battle and Peachtree and I would ride it down to where the old Davison's was, which was right across the street from the Winecoff Hotel which also burned to the ground around 1946 or 1947. I would walk down to Auburn Avenue in front of the Paramount Theater, the Loew's Grand Theater. The Walco Sporting Goods was on the corner of Auburn and whatever that street is that I just walked down. I'd take my guitar lesson, walk back up and get on the 23 bus and ride back out to the Second Ponce de Leon Baptist church and call her and I'd start walking down West Wesley and she'd drive up and pick me up. There were two times in the 1940s that I was kicked off the number 23 bus for having sat down next to African Americans because we were a very segregated society at that time and I was raised by a marvelous [African American] lady, [Louise Jackson], whose picture is in this book of our family history along with some other wonderful African American people who ran the Lemonade Club of Howell Mill Road. I didn't understand segregation, which young children all didn't understand, but I'd get on the bus and I would sit down at the first seat that I saw available and it didn't make any difference to me if they were African American or not. Twice the bus was stopped and I was kicked off by the bus driver and given a pass and told to get on the next bus and not to sit down next to people of color because it was not acceptable in our society for a white boy to sit down next to people of color which is ingrained in my mind for the rest of my life.

Another instance of segregation, as a young child I remember we had a yardman, a wonderful man named [Albert] White. He came to the front door one time distressed and he rang the doorbell. I opened the door and the stench was incredible. At that time, the bus stopped up on Howell Mill Road just beyond Springlake near where Kipling Drive turns off McKinley Road. There was a turnaround there for the number – whatever that bus was, and then the people, the African American help who were coming from the other side of town would walk down Howell Mill Road to West Wesley to wherever people worked and they would go to their jobs. Our yardman, [Albert], had diarrhea and wanted to use the bathroom and nobody would let him in their house to use the bathroom, so he had to mess up his pants and walk all the way down to our house before he could get in to use the bathroom. That was an incredible time to grow up.

Q: How often did the buses come back then? Was it a pretty regular schedule or did –

A: It was a pretty regular schedule, particularly up Peachtree. Peachtree buses were the main mode of transportation. They had the trolley cars during World War II; I remember them that had the tracks there on the ground with electric motors on top. They kind of looked like the New Orleans trolley cars more than they did the electric trolley cars they got later. I remember the trolley cars. I remember VJ Day in August of 1945 when we dropped the atomic bomb. What was that? August the 23rd¹ or thereabouts and then the Japs surrendered in September. They had the formal VJ Day. I remember going downtown that day and all the trolley cars were packed. They were the electric ones with

¹ V-J Day was August 14, 1945.

the tracks and the thing. People were hanging off of them. Everybody was kissing and hugging everybody. I remember the blackouts of World War II. They had blackout wardens in the streets. I remember my mother and father had a party one night and it turned out we had a blackout drill that night. They had to – couldn't have any lights on. They had to close all the – so they had a candlelight blackout party.

Q: When was that?

A: Pardon?

Q: When was that?

A: This probably 1944 or thereabouts.

Q: And what was the purpose of that drill?

A: In the event we got invaded by the Japs or the Germans, they didn't want them to have any lights to center on to know where to drop their bombs. It was standard practice up and down the East Coast to have blackout drills during World War II.

Q: You mentioned as far as taking the bus downtown, it seemed like your guitar lessons and everything seemed to be downtown. Was the identity of Buckhead at the time strictly a suburb with most of the goods and services, you had to take the bus back into Atlanta?

A: It didn't take very long to ride downtown at that time because the traffic wasn't anything like it is today, but Buckhead was a separate suburban area. The incorporation of Buckhead into the city limits of Atlanta didn't take place until around 1950 or thereabouts. But in the late '40s to early '50s, Dover Road -- Dover Road was developed with houses in the late '40s after the War. I used to ride my bicycle up Dover Road. I learned to ride a bicycle going up and down Dover Road when there were no houses on it. Morris Brandon wasn't there. I then would ride my bicycle from the corner of West Wesley and Howell Mill up Dover to Arden, across Northside Drive to West Paces Ferry into Buckhead on Peachtree where the triangle park is now, Jacobs Drugstore was the pivotal store on that park. And then behind him was a hobby shop, Buckhead Hobby Shop. I'd ride my bicycle up there and go and pay my 25 cents for my model airplane and put it in my basket on the front of the bicycle and ride back home and didn't think anything of it.

One of the people who waited on me at the Buckhead Hobby Shop and became one of my kidney failure dialysis patients, probably ten years ago. This is probably 50 years after, 55 years after he used to wait on me as a young five- or six-year-old. We remembered each other when he came in. I remember [him] because he'd been hit by one of the early model airplane jets that flung off its wings and hit him in the back at a model airplane air show back in the '40s. I've forgotten his name now, but he was a real nice fellow. There was a bicycle repair shop up there where you could get your bicycles

repaired. The Buckhead Theater was up there. Garden Hills Theater was there. Those are the two main Buckhead movie theaters at that time. Garden Hills had Saturday morning movies. They had the serials, Tom Mix, The Lone Ranger and those things that you'd come back every Saturday and see them over and over again, pick up where you left off.

Q: A lot of kids get together and go up there?

A: Oh, yes. We had a lot of fun.

Q: Where was the Buckhead Theater?

A: The Buckhead Theater is where the Roxy Theater is now. It's the same building. It's been a theater or nightclub since I was a little boy.

Q: Was the dance studio –

A: Margaret Bryan's dance studio. She was a legendary dance teacher. Catherine Jones was her assistant that everybody knew. Catherine taught a lot of people. She lived [Sentinel Post Road] about 30 years later also. I took ballroom dancing beginning – you usually start when you're 11 years old and taking it when you were 11 and 12 so that by the time you got to high school, because we didn't have middle school then. You went from the seventh grade into the eighth grade at your high school. At the dances, you'd know how to dance. It was a lot of fun.

Julia McCullough, whose brother Laurence is still a minister here in Atlanta out in Duluth somewhere, she taught me how to do the dirty boogie when I was 11 years old. I thought I was real cool.

Q: The dirty boogie huh?

A: This was before Elvis.

Q: Describe your experience going to Westminster.

A: Well, we lived across the street from Morris Brandon and all my buddies went to Morris Brandon and Atlanta only had Marist and Lovett was a small school out on West Wesley at that time. Marist and GMA were the only two real prep schools here in Atlanta as I recall at the time. They perceived, the Buckhead community, the need to have a good secondary school that could compete with Hotchkiss and Tafts and Episcopal and Woodberry Forest where everybody was going off to school, and they recruited my parents along with Ivan Allen and a bunch of other people in northwest Atlanta, 26 families I think were involved in the recruitment of Bill Pressly to come down and start Westminster in 1951. Dr. Pressly was a visionary. He had a goal in mind to make Westminster the finest preparatory school in the country and I think he just about accomplished his primary goal. My brother was in the first class in 1951 that started.

They were in the eighth grade, Charlie Tuller, Ivan Allen. You've got the list of them all, Tread Davis, Harry Thompson. There was 26 of them. Let me tell you one of my early memories of Westminster athletics. It was a great adventure. It was in 1951 and they went out in their white uniforms with their green stripes on their shirts and everything to play the Georgia Baptist Children's Home out in Hapeville. Of course, those boys didn't have shoes, they didn't have on pads, they didn't have on helmets. They just had on tee shirts and cut off jeans and whatever they could find to put together. Westminster was warming up and they were just going to teach these boys how to play on the north side of town, and got beat 56 to nothing by the Georgia Baptist Children's Home ne'er-do-wells. So it was the first lesson in humility for Buckhead, Atlanta. There was another way of life that was different from what you were used to but it could be successful under the right circumstances.

I came along two years later and I wanted to go to Northside because Wayman Creel, who was the football coach at Northside who built a great football program there before going to Lakeside and then coming back and being head coach at Westminster, would come over to Morris Brandon when I was in the sixth or seventh grade. He would coach us for YMCA and watch us at YMCA before football practice at Northside. So he got us all revved up about Northside Tigers football, so that's where I wanted to go, so I resented having to go to Westminster. Westminster had its [first and only] postgraduate football players in 1954. C.D. Gann whose brother Stan Gann played at Tech and coached at Northside High and Warner Robbins for years, C.D. and David Black and Ron Brown and a guy named [Charlie] Youngblood, Tillman Nowlin from Marietta Youngblood was from Decatur. Tommy [Morton] played at O'Keefe. . . They [Westminster] had a varsity football [team] in 1954, which was kind of unheard of, the school being only two years old at the time. They won four games and lost three. I think they played seven games. Then we decided to do away with post-graduates next year so I played and started as a sophomore and I've been the same size since I was 12, so I was big for 12-year-old football, so I decided I would go to Baylor in Chattanooga and play football and then come back and play at Tech so I could play with [your] uncle Wade [Mitchell] where he played. I got to Baylor and I found out I wasn't very big, I wasn't very fast, and I wasn't very good. So I played college football at Emory and we'd practice at Moe's and Joe's and [at Manuel's Tavern and] had a great time.

But Westminster was a great educational institution. It turned into a great athletic institution. I've had three children who have gone through school there. Two of them didn't like it that much; one of them loved it. He was a Journal cup winner and there's a star for everything. He had honor council, captain of the wrestling team and he fit the mold.

Q: What was his name?

A: David, Jr.

Q: And what are your other children's names?

A: Catherine Meade and Jennifer [. . .]

Q: How is Buckhead different now from when you were younger?

A: Well, Buckhead is a metropolitan area now. The traffic is just unheard of. You can imagine riding a bicycle from West Wesley Road up into Peachtree to the triangle there. There's not a sane parent in the world who would let their child do that today, so traffic is one visible thing. The building, of course, is enormous. I think there's still a camaraderie of Buckhead people who grew up there who still enjoy remembering the old times where you grew up. What do they call the club? The North Fulton –

Q: The Peachtree Golf Club?

A: No, the – they get together every year.

Q: The Buckhead –

A: The Buckhead Boys. The Buckhead Boys still get together every year. You ought to show up with a camera at The Buckhead Boys in [December every year].

Q: Describe a little bit of that. How did that get started?

A: Actually I don't know who started it because, again, that started – primarily people who went to Northside and North Fulton -- primarily who went to North Fulton and then Northside tagged on. The Westminster group wasn't as much a part of that because we were more insular trying to do our special thing.

Q: So Westminster was a boarding school at the time, too, wasn't it?

A: Westminster had a boarding department for about three years. I'm not sure, I don't think they had it the first year, but they had one the second and third year. They had students, I think, who stayed at [Washington] seminary [. . .], so there were girl boarders initially because they were part of the [Washington] seminary boarders. They tried to incorporate them and let them graduate from [Washington] Seminary. That class would've graduated in 1955, I think.

Q: Was Westminster an all-boys school when it first started and then joined with Seminary; is that how it worked?

A: [. . .] I started going to school down at old Napsonian on Ponce de Leon. Westminster had used both North Avenue church classrooms and the Old NAPS School out on Ponce de Leon a little farther out for classrooms until October of 1953 when the first two buildings were completed [on the new campus], the girls school and the boys school. We

moved the campus out [to Paces Ferry after] school one Friday downtown and Monday morning opened up the new campus.

Q: And then you always had a boys school and a girls school and that's still the way it is today, I think, at Westminster, isn't it?

A: That I can't tell you but I think you're probably right. Then they had the hut put in the middle. It wasn't a Quonset hut; it was just a wooden hut that they relocated from some other place. There was an old abandoned house or something that was a hangout spot between the two schools when I was in ninth and tenth grade. That didn't exist in the eighth grade I don't think, 1952. That got built about 1954. Richard Courts and Tommy Bates and Charlie Hurt – I'm trying to think who else, were the first three all-mid-south football players at Westminster around 1954 in that team when they had post-graduates. I don't think they could've beat Northside.

There's some interesting things. I'll tell you an interesting story that's occurred to me since then, but it's kind of a Buckhead story that I like to tell, just to give you an idea of what the humility of the country was like. There was a man named Walt Heist, H-e-i-s-t, who grew up on 14th Street. He was a carrier in the ballet troupe in Atlanta, the Atlanta Ballet, for a lot of the northwest Atlanta ballerinas. Not everybody danced at that time, as you know. Then World War II broke out and he became a member of General Patton's tank corps [. . .]. [A few years ago a patient] brought a January 1945 Atlanta Journal Constitution newspaper into my office one day because he knew I was interested in World War II. There on the front page was a picture of this mother who had been evicted from her apartment on 14th Street surrounded by pictures of five of her children who were fighting overseas and she didn't have the money to pay for rent and she was going to be evicted. And I looked and there was Walter Heist's picture, one of my patients. And when [Walter] came in the office a few weeks later and I pulled it out and showed it to him, he turned beet red. He was embarrassed for me to know that he was that poor growing up, that his mother had been almost evicted while she had five children fighting overseas to get us freedom here in America. It was this incredible juxtaposition of emotions of right and wrong, good and bad, integration and segregation.

Another wonderful African American man named Paul [Jackson]. He was a tailor up at Rich's at Lenox Square for years. This was in World War II and he was a typist on Patton's army. He went into Germany fighting and when he got in there, he decided that he was going to partake of the wares of war, because he knew that if he went with any white women in the United States, he'd get lynched up. He went in to partake of a white person in Germany and she wanted to see his tail because the white troops had told all the German girls that beware of the African American soldiers because they had tails that came out at night. That's well documented in World War II literature. I'm not telling anything new or special, but I heard it first hand from somebody that experienced it. Walter Heist is still alive. He had Heistaway Nurseries down in Conyers. A lot of people use him in northwest Atlanta to buy their plants and everything. He had a big service there for years.

Q: Can you tell me a little bit about this picture?

A: Well, we had a Lemonade Club. I don't know if you can see that. Everybody on Howell Mill Road and Peachtree Battle had African American servants that came out. They were wonderful people, but their job in life was to take care of us wealthy white boys who grew up in northwest Atlanta and white girls who grew up in northwest Atlanta. They would either carpool together or ride buses out and then walk the distance, as I mentioned to you earlier, out to our homes. They would take care of us. They had a real camaraderie of people who got to know each other well, Laura Sauls, Caroline [Sauls] that died a few years ago is in here, Mason Lowance, English Robinson, Jenny Ayers who died of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Jim Pittman, Claire Pittman. They're in there. They were all on Howell Mill Road. We got together. People came out and took care of us every day, but they would have lemonade parties once every week or every two weeks or sometimes twice a week depending on how bored everybody got. We would meet down at the park down at Howell Mill Road and Peachtree Creek where the Refoule house is, where the Refoule murder was in about 1947 or so. We would go meet at different places and have lemonade and get together and talk. There was a real camaraderie of people. I was raised, not by the ladies with me in this picture here, but by another lady named Louise Jackson who lived out on Holly Road. When I went into practice and was doing a kidney biopsy on an African American one day, this lady I was doing the biopsy on, rolled over and looked up at me while she was partially under anesthesia and she looked up at me and she said, you're Louise's boy, aren't you? She'd heard enough about me, and I'd never met her before, but she'd been a friend of Louise's and knew enough about our family and realized that Louise's boy had gone and studied kidney disease and she recognized me.

Another fun thing I did growing up, when I was an intern, we had a wonderful lady, Ramona Andrews, who ran the emergency room at Grady Hospital. Grady Hospital was segregated until January, 1966 when Medicare came into effect and federal funds became available and they couldn't remain segregated anymore. There used to be a black emergency room, a white emergency room, black wards, white wards, and then they changed them to medical emergency room, surgical emergency rooms and integrated wards up on the floor and everything. But there was still a lot of segregated feelings, as you can imagine, because it had just taken place. Ramona and I got to be good friends. I came in one morning and she was in tears and I said, can we help? And she said, this is terrible. It was the morning after Martin Luther King had been assassinated in 1967 or '68. I asked her, I said, Ramona, is there anything we can do to help? And she said, are you serious about it? I said, yes. She said, then let me see. She called me about an hour later and I went back down to the emergency room and she said, do you think the white doctors would be willing to work for the black doctors? I said, I don't see why not. It's been the other way around all these years. She said, well, we need to set up first aid stations between Ebenezer Baptist Church and Atlanta University complex and you all have white uniforms and all look the same age and we were wondering if the house staff at Grady would be willing to man the first aid stations between Ebenezer and be under

the direction of the African American Atlanta Medical Association. I said, I'm sure they would be. Not one doctor refused to serve that day and we set up the first aid stations. While I was out there attending the lady at Atlanta Medical Center who had fainted on the ground out there, I heard this voice say, David, is that you? I looked up and there was Louise looking at me.

Another fun story that day was Richard Franco, who is a neurologist here in Atlanta and still practices, who married Phyllis Alterman. They had a big grocery business in northwest Atlanta, wholesale grocery business. Richard was, we had put him up near the front stage because he was a little older and a very excellent doctor and mature. We figured if there were going to be any incidents, Richard could handle them. Somebody had passed out and he was tending them and somebody was saying, stand back, stand back, let the doctor have room. He looked up and there was Sammy Davis, Jr. getting people to stand back so he could take care of this lady. Then somebody looked down, oh, that's one of them Grady doctors. Don't trust them.

Q: And the purpose of that that day was because of all the demonstrations and kind of outpouring of – to the streets --

A: The bringing together of everybody. There was a march, a funeral march from Ebenezer Baptist Church, a mule-drawn casket and wagon out to Atlanta University Center where he was interred.

Q: Can you describe what, in the late 1960s after the Civil Rights Act was passed, how did Atlantans and people up in Buckhead respond to the transition toward integration?

A: Well, I think you're a product of your environment. You grew up – and I think Buckhead has done about as well as anybody has done in changing its ways. We were part of the segregation problem for a long time, obviously, because that's just the way it was. You really don't know much beyond what you grew up with. I went to school with my first African American when I went to New York to medical school. I went to Emory to undergraduate school during the Civil Rights movement and I was insular out at Emory, even though they were having the sit-ins down at Lebs at the time, 1963 and '64. I was almost totally isolated from it and wasn't a part of it at all. I had lunch with Douglas Dillon, who was Secretary of the Treasury. He was giving the commencement address at the Coast Guard Academy and one of my fraternity brothers at Emory's father was a commandant of the Coast Guard Academy in New London, and I remember having lunch with Ms. Dylan in 1960 when we were there for the commencement and she asked me what I thought about the Freedom Riders. I said, Atlanta is cosmopolitan enough to where I think the Freedom Riders will do fine in Atlanta, but when they get down to Albany, Georgia, they're going to probably have trouble. About two weeks later, there was a bus overturned and burned down in Albany, Georgia. So we were probably a little further ahead than Albany, Georgia, but we weren't a long time further ahead than Albany, Georgia. I think it's great that we have an integrated society now. This neighborhood that we're in now is composed of a large number of African Americans,

white people, straight people, gay people, and everybody accepts everybody for who they are and what they do and what they contribute to the community instead of what they look like. I think that's a healthier world like that. I'm not sure everybody agrees with me. I think we all have the right to disagree.

Q: Let's shift gears a little bit. Do you remember Buckhead joining the City of Atlanta in 1952?

A: I remember when it happened because I remember they moved the city limits sign down into Brookwood Hills. The Brookwood Station is where it was, right beyond Brookwood Station. There's a Toddle House there nearby. I remember when they moved down and we had different garbage pickup and I remember a lot of people were not totally happy with it. There's always people who are against big government and there are people who are for big government. There's pros and cons for both sides and everything. But that's really all I remember. My father was Mayor Hartsfield's doctor, and there was a big brouhaha about fluoridating water. My father was about as conservative as anybody could, except he believed in integration, as best you could in somebody his age. But he was against fluoridation of the water because he thought it was a Communist conspiracy to take over our water supply, and he advised Mayor Hartsfield against fluoridating the Atlanta water and actually was his advisor on a national TV debate where they made Atlanta look like the laughingstock of the country. It was like the Scopes trials all over again, trying to oppose fluoridation. Fluoridation of water probably put the Emory Dental School out of business because there weren't enough jobs for dentists after they fluoridated the water to justify the number of dentists who had been turned out.

Q: What distinguished Buckhead from Atlanta when you were younger and what distinguishes Buckhead from Atlanta now?

A: Well again when I was younger it was the only thing I knew. People in Marietta, Decatur were out in the boondocks and Ansley Park and Brookwood Hills I knew because Buckhead drove down to the Piedmont Driving Club to eat Sunday lunch so you drove through Ansley Park by Brookwood Hills and you would go downtown to shop because nobody lived downtown at that time. Decatur was just another town to me entirely. My wife was born in [Emory] Hospital and she grew up in Decatur and she thought Buckhead was a foreign nation. She grew up in Decatur so we were very insular in that regard as children. We didn't integrate you know white with white people or white with black people.

Q: Why do you think that was?

A: I think part of it is just geography and then I think that everybody likes the idea of living in a small town, not everybody does but a lot of people like the idea of a close knit community that works together. That is why you have Sandy Springs breaking off and incorporating now. They think they can do a better job instead of being a part of the

greater Metropolitan area. I think technology changes a lot of it; demographics change, cause a lot to change at the time.

Q: In Atlanta, Buckhead joining Atlanta what were the political instruments or reasons driving that? Was it a need for revenue for the city or was it . . .

A: Chad I don't really know. I was too young to be involved and I haven't read enough about it to really know but I suspect it was to improve downtown services and make them more readily available. I think we were on a septic tank system on [. . .] Howell Mill Road before we became part of the city and then they moved the sewer lines in and we became a part of the sewer system. If you have ever been in a house that had a septic tank that overflowed you would know the desire to be hooked up to a sewer system.

I'll tell you an interesting story about Howell Mill Road when Laura Sauls and Carolyn Sauls, who became Robert Shaw's wife and Laura, John Wallace's, lived in that white columned house if you go out Howell Mill, down the hill and start up the hill on the right there is a beautiful white column old southern mansion.

Q: Towards Moore's Mill.

A: Headed north and that was initially built by or owned by one of the active members, secretaries of the Ku Klux Klan and they had a chicken coop in that backyard and as a little boy we would go down there on Thursday afternoons and the African American help, male help, the yardman or whoever did everything would come down there and you would put in your orders for how many chickens you wanted for the weekend and we would sit there as kids and watch them run the chickens around and pull their necks off, watch the chicken run around the yard with no head on; and that happened on Howell Mill Road. Did you see it growing up too?

Q: No. I just feel like a chicken with my head cutoff and I say that all the time and that's interesting.

A: That was one of the country days. A lot of people had victory gardens during the war with tomatoes and vegetables and everything.

Q: You mentioned just on Howell Mill, just kind of in the memory standpoint do you remember the mill or remnants of the mill still around when you were a kid? Did you go down to the . . .

A: There's a range of a granite building down there which I always assumed there was stuff down at the creek; always assumed remnants of the mill but I'm not sure. Henry Allen would know the main set of that. I think that was the Howell Mill but I don't remember.

Q: Describe what it was like working at Piedmont Hospital.

A: Well, Piedmont was great. I was lucky. I got trained in New York and back in Atlanta at Grady and then Boston and was in San Antonio for a couple of years in the military and teaching at the University of Texas and at the University of Virginia. Then I came back to Atlanta and initially went into practice downtown at my father's old clinic. He had retired by then and [then I] went to Atlanta Medical Center, to St. Joseph's, Crawford Long, [and] Piedmont, Northside opened up in the late 1960s. Of the places I went, I went to Piedmont because I thought it was – well it wasn't perfect but it was the best operation that I had seen and so I went there and it has been run by a community board that has been very good all these years and they have done a great job. It was initially started as a private hospital and then it became a public hospital sometime down the line. It moved to its new location in 1954 and then expanded in 1974 – 1973 is when they built the 35 building office building. And it has kept up with the times but its success has been that it has been run by an incredible combination of public minded doctors and public minded citizens. McKee Nunnally has been on the Board for years; Bob Strickland was on the Board for many years; Mr. Sartain Lanier was on the Board for many years; John Wallace who we mentioned earlier was on the Board; I think was on the Board longer than anybody has ever been continuously active; Hicks Lanier, my classmate in grammar school when I was in Westminster has been on the Board; Richard Courts has been on the Board. I'm leaving off lots of them that should be mentioned. They always ran it with a doctor as chairman and a lay person as vice chairman; they always had the majority of doctors on the board, the doctors were smart enough to realize that they had these incredible and talented lay people who had the community's interest at heart and so they listened what the lay leadership said also and Piedmont for years ran, the guiding principle was what does the community need and lets give the community what it needs. Open-heart surgery I'll take as an example. Open-heart surgery became available and obviously was a hot ticket item for PR and everything but Piedmont decided not to get into it until it was sending out enough patients for open heart surgery to where it could support its own program. It wouldn't have to steal patients from somebody else's hospital to support its program. We were sending out to have that surgery done enough to justify getting our own program done. Same thing involved with the kidney transplant in 1986 which I was involved with. We knew what the incidents of kidney failure was in the State of Georgia and we knew that we had 300 or 400 people in the State of Georgia getting kidney failure that would qualify for transplantations, kidney transplantations and there were only 30 to 90 kidney transplants done a year between the Medical College and Emory and Grady and that wasn't anybody's fault it is just that you can only do so much at the same time. And so Piedmont decided to get in the kidney transplant business and again, instead of going to battle with somebody, we went to Emory and said we think we can setup a combined program between the two institutions and we can help you with your manpower shortage because we can recruit people who want to be in private practice setting as opposed to a university setting and we can have them come in concert transplant program so that's what we did and we gave them probably 300-400 kidney transplants a year between Piedmont, Emory and the Medical College of Georgia. Then we split apart because managed care and insurance got competitive against each other so it doesn't always end up the same way. The competition is good too but that has been the guiding principle around Piedmont. I'm not sure – they are adopting more of a business

model now because the competition – what is happening to medical care is the pie is only so big in terms of finances and everybody is trying to get a bigger slice for themselves but that's the evolutionary process that is not part of Buckhead-Atlanta.

Q: You mentioned the definition was having sort of the community best, what was the definition of community? Was it Atlanta or is it Buckhead?

A: It was an Atlanta based community always because again Piedmont didn't move from the stadium [area on Capitol Avenue], where the Atlanta Stadium is now, to this present location in 1954 and everybody from all over the city and state came to the hospitals in Atlanta. They went to Emory or Piedmont or Georgia Baptist, which is Atlanta Medical Center now. St. Joseph's moved out to where it is, it was still downtown when I started practice in 1973. We met with Rawson Haverty one night in my office, some of the doctors from St. Joe's trying to get them to buy the property from West Paces Ferry Hospital on Howell Mill Road to move St. Joe's there. West Paces Ferry had done a smart homework job before they opened up the hospital on West Paces Ferry they found out where all the doctors in Atlanta lived and they all lived within 3 miles of West Paces Ferry Hospital so the Hospital Corporation of America decided to put a hospital where all the doctors lived assuming they would all come there and then patients would be drawn there and in part it worked some but Atlanta was growing so rapidly by that time not everybody could afford to get to West Paces Ferry so they built Northside and we met with Rawson Haverty, talked to them about buying the Hospital Corporation of America and he said the center of the population of Atlanta is going to be the intersection of 400 and 285 in the year 2000 and we ought to move our hospital where the center of the population of Atlanta is going to be where people from all over the region can get to us.

Q: What year was that?

A: That was in 1974 or 75 when he told us that.

Q: That's pretty prophetic.

A: And he was right. Now Atlanta has gotten so big and some gnarling traffic it doesn't matter where the center is you can't get there. You become a community hospital for part of what you do and Piedmont is going through the same problem now. It's so congested getting there they are having to decide do we want to have our core services here like the heart program and the transplant program and things that need to be hospitalized at Piedmont or do we want to move all of our ancillary services like ophthalmology moved down to Cumberland Mall now and they opened up the new Piedmont West on down the road and the ENT people have moved out because they don't need the hospital that much to try to diminish the traffic congestion. So what the community needs now is a hospital that you can get to and office places you can get to.

Q: You mentioned how Piedmont Hospital's priority was to serve the community best. How did Piedmont Hospital interact with and contribute to the community of Atlanta in Buckhead?

A: Well I think maybe by just being available and trying to figure out what it was people needed like the heart surgery and the transplantation and then they tried to maintain a core of primary care physicians that could provide primary care to patients. The same with Piedmont Hospital as any kind of healthcare system, you got to have primary care doctors, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants now to feed patients into the center so that's what we're trying – we're setting up clinics all over the place to make walk-in care available to people so they won't have to come down to the congested Piedmont-Collier-Peachtree Road.

[. . .]

Q: The Shepherd Spinal Center, is that part of Piedmont Hospital or separate?

A: No it's totally separate. Alana Shepherd started that and I got interviewed by the newspaper about 20-25 years ago when I was working with the Kidney Foundation and they asked me what one of my favorite hobbies was and I said looking out my window watching Alana Shepherd raise money for the Shepherd Spinal Center because there is not a funner fundraiser in the country than Alana Shepherd and there has not been a hospital that was started and fulfilled a need more so than Shepherd Spinal Center because you know their son was injured down in South America in a swimming accident and they looked to where they could take him to get help here in the United States and there wasn't a place other than Denver so they said there is a need in half of the country to have a spinal center rehabilitation place and that's when they got the grant to start the Shepherd Spinal Center.

[. . .]

But they have done a great job and [James], her son, is the CEO of the place now as I understand it and is a real fine person and has used his personal story and he is still in a wheelchair to get about but he recognizes the needs of spinal injury people and they have expanded it now to brain injury of any type, not just spinal cord injury. But they do this surgery, there is a tunnel going from Shepherd and over to Piedmont to keep Shepherd from having to build separate operating room space. They can tunnel people over to Piedmont, have the acute care surgery done, intensive care surgery if they need medical facilities. If it is just spinal cord injury they can go back to the recovery over at the Shepherd place after they wake up and the hospitals work in concert and try not to re-duplicate services and meeting each other's needs.

Q: So Piedmont is more of the surgical unit and Shepherd is more of the rehabilitation.

A: That's right, yeah. That's correct.

Q: Tell me about working on the Oral History Project with the Atlanta History Center.

A: Well I was interested in World War II and the reason I was interested in World War II is because World War II ended in 1945; I had been a history major in college and there wasn't a whole lot – there was a lot written about it but all the papers had been classified for 25 years, [but] beginning in 1970 you had tons of books being written; the biographies of the Generals and the personal diaries being published and the [disclosure of] the ultra machine to decipher the enigma code and everything. It [all] became available and I began reading all these World War II books and then I realized I had all these World War II veterans in my office practice like Buddy Heist who I talked about earlier. And they all had stories to tell so I started taking oral histories in the office and people coming for physical exams. Some of them got tired of coming and talking about World War II history because I was more interested in what they had done in World War II than I was in what was wrong with them now. But these people were incredible heroes and my health went south and I had to give up my office practice 7 or 8 years ago and the AARP and the Library of Congress put together an oral history to try to capture as much as they could of the history of World War II on a personal basis for the veterans. So, they setup interview centers around the country and [our] History Center was one of them so I just volunteered to interview and I brought a lot of my patients and a lot of the stories that I had heard before. But I got wonderful stories, hundreds of them that emanated from my office practice. It's funny, the flashbacks, you wake up in the middle of the night and you – you know my father was Goodrich C. White's doctor, he was president of Emory during World War II and he had a son named Chapel White and he had an older son who was killed in World War II and I remember going over to their house when I was a little boy and being sent out in the yard to play with the Collie dogs they had where the law school is on the corner of Clifton and North Decatur Road now when my mother and father visited with the doctor and his wife to commiserate with them over the loss of their child.

My mother played the piano as I mentioned and went out to Lawson General Hospital which eventually became the Veteran's Hospital over where Oglethorpe University is now, she played the piano for the wounded war veterans out there including the ones who didn't speak English. I crawled all over their broken arms, their amputated limbs and sat in their laps and everything as a kid and they didn't speak English because that's where they brought the German officers for their care was to Lawson General Hospital. So they had a German officer ward out there. I had that kind of tie into World War II and my uncle was in the 82nd Airborne Division, he landed in Normandy in a glider on D-Day plus 1. He was captured by Germans, but spoke German fluently. He explained to the person he [his captor] that it was a good show that they were putting on, that they were on the German border and he ought to rethink it and he would do better by surrendering to the Americans than taking the Americans back as captives because they had a better chance of getting treated well by the Americans. [. . .]

Phillip Suna, he's 95 years old and I [saw him] the day before yesterday in the office and he was 84 years old [unintelligible, Mr. Lowance appears to be crying here]. He was referred for a kidney transplant evaluation and we approved him and the people were critical because he was old and why should we waste a kidney on him. He was [in the first wave] that landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day and he survived. He was the one that put the [Bangalore charges] up under the water to go [blow up the barbed wire] so soldiers could get up and fight the Germans. When people heard that, they thought we had done the right thing in giving him a kidney transplant. He had earned it. He has outlived his wife; he lives out at the Jewish home now. He's a feisty little guy, just absolutely wonderful.

Q: So that's 14 years of life you have given him.

A: Yes. Excuse me.

Q: That's remarkable. Was it hard to go to bat for him, did it take a lot of convincing?

A: Pardon?

Q: I mean typically I know there is kind of the road black and white guidelines and you add in a little bit of a personal standpoint and . . . was it your influence that got the surgery done?

A: No it was everybody. Once they found out what he had done everybody thought he had earned it but the initial response to everybody when you say about a kidney that could have gone to a young person and put it in an 84-year old person.

Q: That's remarkable.

Q: Now I know you were born right before World War II started, did you feel any effects of the war as a young boy living in Atlanta like what were your impressions of it as a child?

A: Well the Germans and Japs were the bad guys and we all had ration cards, you could get so much gasoline, you could get so much butter, you could get so much meat so everybody had government ration cards that you had to dole out and the airway trills that I mentioned earlier and I remember the soldiers in their uniforms coming around and all that kind of stuff but other than that I don't remember too much about it.

Q: Do you remember any local heroes, do you remember the talk in Buckhead about so and so did this, when he came home he was always kind of looked up to or she . . .

A: I don't remember any local heroes then but I got a lot of heroes since then like Phillip Center that I mentioned to you. He is not a native of Atlanta, he grew up in Long Island and was an engineer for the City of New York and he and his children moved down to Atlanta.

Q: Your uncle must have been one.

A: Well they were all heroes no matter what they did. I mean these guys were incredible. Leonard Honea was with Alison Electronics here in Atlanta, Leonard was Chief Electrician for years; he learned his trade in World War II; he made the initial landings on North Africa, on Sicily, Salerno Beach and [Omaha Beach on] D-Day because he was in charge of putting up [, ,] communications and the walkie-talkies and electrical wiring to bring the walkie-talkies on the beach. He went into a [brothel] in Paris before Paris was liberated and went in there with the Germans in there and they patted each other on the back and [told them] he was going back to the American lines to plan the invasion of Paris. He was caught for being AWOL and put in jail and shipped out and I said were you disappointed in not being able to finish the war and he said after what I had been through he says you have got to be kidding.

My wife's father, Archie Hooks is 92 years old; will be 93 this fall and he was in the Anzio Beach invasion and he lost 25% -- he was in an engineering battalion and they lost 25% of their battalion to casualties in the Anzio Beach invasion. The best man at his wedding is buried at Anzio Beach. Gibson Hull who lives next door is 95 years old; he was in the invasion of France; he was [the liason]. I can't remember what he belonged to but one of his famous stories was he was an officer for his battalion and he had a bunch of -- he was a captain and he had a bunch of higher officers he was with and he had to go over relieve himself in the woods one day and he asked permission to relieve himself and they did and while he was over there, there were butterflies flying around him and hitting the trees and then he realized he had been shot at by Germans and he had started relieving himself and he couldn't stop. Well the Germans realized he must have a lot of courage and they came out and surrendered to him and he walked out after going to the bathroom and brought 3 or 4 Germans out too and turned them over to his majors and generals of the battalion and they said we would like to give you a citation but we can't really tell everybody how you got them.

His other famous story was when Patton was meeting with the generals to turn north to relieve Bastogne in January 1945 when [the Bulge] was getting ready to be closed off his battalion general got sick and had a temperature of 105 so he sent Gibson down to the conference and Gibson walked into the conference, stepped outside the building with Captain's bars on and General Patton saw him and came up to him and said what are you doing here son and he told him what he was there and he was the adjunct officer and he had been sent down and Patton said, "well I want you to walk in beside me, sit down at the chair and pointed for him to sit down because if you move anywhere other than where I tell you to move you'll be shot" and Gibson went in there, sat on the stage next to Patton. Patton got up to explain to everybody how they were going to turn north and take Bastogne and after the conference was over Patton took him out and said now I want you to repeat to me what I said so I know that you understand it so you can go back because see they didn't want to write it down -- so you can go back and give it to your

commanding general up there if he will be well enough to participate in the relief of Bastogne. He lives right next door here.

Q: Amazing. Amazing. Do you know, did they – at the time did they still muster a lot of folks from the same community, like did the Buckhead guys end up being in the same platoons or did they try to spread them out?

A: They tried to spread them out after things like Private Ryan happened and then the Battle of Guadalcanal, one of the cruisers was sunk. They had four members of the same family, the Sullivan brothers on the cruise that was sunk in the Battle of Guadalcanal and that was in September of '42 and when they did that they realized the fallacy of having all the people concentrated in one division.

I'll tell you a funny story. Billy Wallace, he was a stockbroker with Robinson Humphrey for years. Billy was the point machine gun at the Tenaru River at Guadalcanal the night the Japs were charging across and he could sit in the office and describe to you what it was like to brace the machine gun back and forth, back and forth just shooting at bodies that was stacked up so close to the foxhole that you could reach out and touch them. He taught me how to tie a Windsor knot in my office. I had never been able to tie a Windsor knot and he showed me one day how to tie a Windsor knot so I've been tying Windsor knots until I got Parkinson's disease and can't tie anything anymore. But he then sent me, or his wife sent me, a letter he wrote to his father describing the night the Japanese – I've got a copy of it and the History Center has a copy of it too; charged over and one of the charges was death for the Emperor the Japs were calling and the American troops would yell back Mow Them Down for Eleanor and his sister had sent him a tie, a silk tie to use when he got out and not knowing where he was or anything, just assuming he was in Australia. He had written back saying "tell sis I don't have much use for a silk tie right now." When I read that letter, [I] realized [what a man had taught me to tie a Windsor knot].

Q: Tell us why you know you seem to have this desire, you seem to be a real historian at heart, you and your brother put this thing together about your family and you have been interested in world history and World War II, what is it that makes you that way? Why do you feel like it's an important thing to kind of talk about?

A: All history is, is it's his story, their story. I call it their mystery because the stories get distorted with time and they are open to everybody's interpretation so I devised my own word, t-h-e-r-m-y-s-t-o-r-y, it's his story, their story and it's a mystery because it's clouded. All history is, is people making the same mistakes over and over again with different levels of technology but the human relationship part stays the same and what's good and what's bad and what's right and what's wrong, it changes with time and so looking back and looking forward and looking at mistakes people make, I mean segregation to me was a terrible thing but there was a time in the history of the world when segregation was thought to be a good thing to do. But I mean you just learn.

Q: What are we doing today that we're going to look back and thing we shouldn't have been doing that?

A: Well I think our protection of environment is going to be a major turn but again nobody ever anticipated this environmental problem until it got too big to handle almost. But I think things like environmental, energy and non-reusable, non-renewable fossil fuel and everything, I mean we've been very greedy and it's hard to realize you're greedy because you see everything in relationship to what you know and what you know is the relationship to what you see everyday in your community. I mean we are going to be held accountable sometime for Southern Africa but right now it is far enough away to where it doesn't come home to roost but you know civilization has only been developing for about 10,000 years which is a miniscule piece of time in the history and we're kidding ourselves if we think we can't accelerate it's destruction because we sure can.

Q: Question. Do you remember when Memorial Park was built?

A: I do not.

Q: Okay because I never knew this but apparently it was built as an arboretum and a bunch of trees, various species were planted. It was supposed to be a living arboretum for Atlanta and somewhere along the way the placard and the trees and the documents got kind of lost and it was turned into obviously a more recreational park but I would be interested to know some if somebody remembers the history of that.

A: Henry would know that because he grew up right across the street from it.

Q: And one other question. Spring Lake Pharmacy, was that around when you were a child or was that ..

A: Oh yeah. Spring Lake Pharmacy has been there forever. What was the grocery store? Grocery store chain.

Q: Big Star?

A: Springer. The Springer's, James Springer. There were three Springer brothers, one had a grocery store there at Collier Road and Howell Mill; another one had one down at Peachtree Battle and another one had one closer to DeFours Ferry and they were there for years and they had fought in World War II also. They grew up on Crooked Road, you know where Crooked Road is? That's DeFours Ferry Road. Springer Road right behind them, parallel to Howell Mill going up DeFours Ferry, you go out from Howell Mill Road and then Springer trails, Springer Road is right there. That was named after that family. They lived there. Spring Lake Pharmacy was there and I don't remember when it opened up and when it closed down but it was a store for getting prescriptions filled and everything.

The other place was the [Rary] Store, the – let me think. The [Rary] store was there at the corner of Howell Mill and Moore's Mill.

Q: Is that where the Firehouse is now?

A: Across the street from it where the condominiums are now.

Q: All right.

A: [. . .] Let's see. There was [the Barfield] [. . .] at the corner of Howell Mill and West Paces Ferry right where the entrance – that filling station right on the other side of the entrance ramp going south on I-75 [. . .]. Sonny Brown married [Dot Barfield], their daughter. He worked there, grew up there and he was on the [Cruiser Boise] in World War II in the Mediterranean invasion of Italy; he had bomb drops directly on his cruiser and almost killed him. Then he was in the Pacific, Battle of Leyte Gulf. McArthur used the ship as the command ship and he was a baker and he cooked bread and served General McArthur during the Battle of Leyte Gulf but he was a gunner, ammunition supplier when they went into battle. He would take over – he was the chef and run the gunnery thing and there were Kamikaze pilots that got hit once or twice. I'll have to start thinking and remembering. He died about a year and a half ago.

Q: With Spring Lake, was that a place for the kids to gather and get a soda?

A: We used to ride our bicycles up there. I'd ride from Howell Mill Road and West Wesley up to Spring Lake to Collier; we'd hang around where you grew up in Collier Hills and go visit our girlfriends. My girlfriend in high school was Marie Martin lived on Meredith Road near your mother. We talked about her at the picnic a couple of weeks ago.

Q: We used to walk up to that intersection as kids in it must have been the early 80s. I remember going to Spring Lake Pharmacy for ice cream after church.

Q: They would hand mix it, the old soda jerk there at the soda fountain.

A: I used to hitchhike from West Wesley Road up to Chattanooga to go to [Baylor], get on 41 and just stick my thumb out and people would pick me up and I would hitchhike home. Didn't think anything of it. It was totally safe.

Q: Talk a little bit about 41 because obviously 75 didn't exist; so 41 was the main route from Michigan all the way down basically wasn't it?

A: Yeah. And I never went further than Chattanooga on it except when we went up to Monteagle to play Suwannee [Military Academy] or the [Castle Rights] Military Academy [. . .]. 41 to and from Atlanta was – well I could tell you where all the restaurants were where you could get good hamburgers and everything and then you

would take 41 south down to Griffin and drop down to Perry, Georgia to go down to Florida, take it all the way down to central Florida.

Q: How did that effect Buckhead? Was it pretty much bisected by 41?

A: I don't think so. I think it made getting around a lot better. The big mistake they made with the traffic problem in Atlanta I think, as I understand it there was a contingent of people that wanted I-75 to be separate from I-85 so 75 went on down Northside Drive instead of hitting, going straight and hitting the downtown connector. Then I-85 went downtown and then you would have two parallel 75/85s going down with connecting things between it so that you wouldn't have – right now everything coming to Atlanta north/south or east/west and more lanes funneling into fewer lanes instead of fewer lanes funneling into more lanes. There is no way to get rid of the congestion except to go around it. That is why they built 285.

[. . .]

Q: I think we're finished. Do you have anything else that you want to talk about, any stories that come to mind from the topics we have discussed?

[. . .]

A: The Barfields. We had Barfield's Grocery store at the corner of Moore's Mill and Howell Mill. Sonny was a legendary athlete and when he was a little boy – he was on the Boise cruiser they got; hit it in the Mediterranean and he married one of the Barfield girls.

Q: Now was the Barfield Grocery . . . tell me where that was again.

A: If you know where Paces Ferry Road comes into West Paces Ferry Road down there; right where the overpass is, there is a filling station right there and I think that is where Barfield's was. If not it was on the other side where the Harden building is. They tore it down maybe for the Hardin building. I can't remember because they changed the geography of that location, where Howell Mill came into West Paces, they changed it around a couple of times back in the 50s.

Q: Okay.

A: What else?

Q: Well I think we're finished.

A: Thank you. You all have been great.

Q: Oh thank you so much for all of your stories.

A: These stories, people are wonderful. The one thing I learned practicing medicine, everybody has got a story and if you will listen to it, it's a good story and they are all interesting, they have all been heroes at some point in time in their lives and something like this is so people will be remembered for what they have done. I mean your uncle, [Wade Mitchell], was – he was everybody's hero in high school. I mean never has there been a legend. You know what he did the first time I went over to his house to pick him up to play golf?

Q: Is this over in – recently?

A: Recently, where he lives now – this was about 20 years ago and we were getting ready to play golf and I told him I would pick him up and I said wait I have always wanted to see your trophy room and he said I would love to show it to you and he took me down to the trophy room and it was all Wright's and Catherine's. Not one thing of his own was down there.

Q: He's a very modest man. Very modest.

A: You ought to be able to put that on everybody's forehead and say be like Wade and the world will be a better place.

Q: I think most folks would agree with you definitely in that regard. He's a good man. I'm lucky to have him as an uncle.

Q: Okay thank you very much.