

START OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

3/9/09

Peggy Van Scoyoc (PV): This is Peggy Van Scoyoc. I am here at the Page-Walker Hotel this morning. It is Monday, March 9, 2009. I am here with Mr. Guy Mendenhall, who hopefully is going to tell us about his illustrious career at Cary High School where he was an athletic director for many, many years.

Guy Mendenhall (GM): Twelve years.

PV: Twelve years, yes. So, first of all let's start out, were you born in Cary, or when did you get here?

GM: I was really born in Raleigh, downtown in the old hospital, Rex Hospital beside Memorial Auditorium, which people don't even remember it was there. But I was born there in 1936 and lived in Raleigh, off from Hope Street across from the NC State bell tower. In 1941, my parents bought 16 acres right beside Ephesus Baptist Church. So we moved there and we lived out in we would say the "boonies." Finally, as my Dad's hard work, we got the house fixed up, got running water and got facilities inside, and we lived there until I went to Cary High School. Started only in the tenth grade. My parents sent me to Raleigh city schools, along with my sister who is 14 years younger. Her name is Bea Smith. Fourteen months younger, excuse me. So I went to Raleigh schools, and when I was in the tenth grade and she was in the ninth, we decided we wanted to come to the Cary schools. So my parents weren't really excited about that, but I had already tried out for the JV football team in Cary. So then we started coming to Cary High School in 1951. She started in '50 as a ninth grader and I started as a tenth grader.

So I went three years to Cary High School. In my graduation class of 1954, there were 76 people. Graduated from the stage at Cary High School. Had a senior play at Cary High School. Fortunately, they saved the stage and it is still there.

PV: So this is the old Cary High School on Academy Street, and you graduated from that school?

GM: On Academy Street, right. It's the same one that I graduated with Charlie Adams who lives in Chapel Hill. He and I graduated together.

So we were in that class of '54, and we had, everybody in Cary, we had a lady named Ms. Marley, J. Clare Marley. She was the English teacher, and also the drama teacher, and very, very much involved with drama which most seniors took. The course was right after lunch, and we did a play. Every senior class did a play, and it was just a kind of an understood thing that everybody in Cary came to see the senior play. And the auditorium was always full. Don't remember how much it set, maybe 300 at the most, maybe less than that. Anyway, that's where we had most of our activities that took place in Cary. The Cary Presbyterian Church started, in my senior year, meeting in there until they built a building later on.

Then I went four years at East Carolina. We were very fortunate athletic-wise that the football team at Cary, which played behind Cary Elementary. If you go back there, it's kind of hard to realize that was a football field, but the road was very narrow and it was dirt. When you made the turn at Cary Elementary, all down Kildaire it was a dirt farm. There was only three houses on the whole road, and all those were wooden structures with tin roofs. Mr. Keisler had his Kildaire farm there where he raised cattle and supplied the milk to Pine State Creamery, which is no longer in existence. So anyway, that was the dirt road that was down there. The thing I remember most in high school, when it rained very hard, the road was so messy that school buses were not allowed to go pick up the kids. They could not come to school because it would have caused a wreck, which happened with a bus earlier, back in '49 on Reedy Creek Road.

So I went to high school attended there, played basketball, played in the Cary Elementary gym which is still in existence. Played the first game there in 1952, my junior year. We played Wendell. That was the first game, and my whole basketball career in Cary, my junior and my senior year we only lost two basketball games. The football team, in two years, only lost one football game

in four years, and got in the state playoffs and won the state championship. My senior year in high school, we won a state championship also in 1954. We had to play like 32 games, and we only lost one game that year. That was to Boughton High School, in the coliseum right before an NC State basketball game. And it was a big thing in Cary to play in the coliseum, particularly Boughton which was two classifications larger than Cary High School. Unfortunately, we stayed even with them, but lost in the last quarter. And that was the only blemish that we had on our basketball record. We did get to the state playoff, playing in the regional playoff games in Lewisburg when we beat Rideau three overtimes, 28 to 26. And people still talk about that, one of the most exciting games they'd ever set through. So that was the basketball career. I went on to play at East Carolina. And Charlie Adams was on that team, went to play one year at Carolina with Frank McGuire, and then later he transferred to Carolina.

So that's the high school career. Out of my senior class in Cary in '54, it was the largest percentage that went off to college of anybody up until that particular time. There was a lot, and a lot went into the Air Force. A lot went into the Navy, a few went into the Marines. But in my class, it was kind of unique in that there were four couples who married somebody in that class. I don't know whether it was caused, they didn't have any other people to learn to date because it was such a small area community, but anyway that is kind of unique that it happened. And in the class of '55, my sister married the boy that she went with in high school, and there were two other couples that married. There may have been more, but I'm just not familiar with that.

So that's the high school career. Simon Terrell was our basketball coach. He was only there for two years. Several years ago, we got the idea of putting a bench in his memory in front of the Cary High School, excuse me, elementary school building now. And the bench is still there, and they're getting ready to renovate that, and the bench will be put somewhere back on the grounds when they decide to do that.

Coach Terrell lived in a teacherage which was right beside Cary Elementary. People don't know what a teacherage was. It is a parking lot now. But a teacherage was built in the country areas for teachers primarily to live in, because they had no other places to attract teachers to live when they came to Cary. There was no, unless you wanted to buy a house, and those teachers back then didn't have enough money to buy a house. And there was no houses to rent. So the county built a teacherage in the 1930s, and this is where the teachers in the country stayed there. It was right beside of that parking lot. You could go down the steps and the teachers across the... you could be there in two or three minutes, if you had a class. And most of the teachers in Cary stayed in that teacherage. But later, after I went off to college, I came back and they had condemned it and tore it down and it was a parking lot for the elementary teachers to park in.

My daughter went to Cary elementary in three grades. At one time it became a sixth grade center, we will call it, where all the sixth graders went to that school along with grades 1-5. But all the sixth graders were housed in that, what is now was the elementary building but will of course be converted into a cultural arts center. That was the most things that I can think of as far as elaborate things that took place.

Most of the students who lived at Cary High School worked on farms. Most of them were tobacco farms over in the Swift Creek area. Maynard Road is named after the Maynard family who lived in what is now the state credit union bank beside Burger King that was their house. There were only two houses. The other house is still standing there. But that road was also a dirt road and there only two houses. And the Maynards, what is now called Coronado Village, that was their tobacco farm. The pond that is in Coronado Village, that's what they used to irrigate their tobacco field with. Cary High School is sitting on the Maynard tobacco field also, the present location.

When that school was built there in, I'm going to say 1962, I may be wrong on that, I'm not really sure. It may have been '60, 62. I know it was an even number. [It opened in 1960.] It was

way out in nowhere. When you rode by, it looked like a school that probably should have been built in Florida because of the construction of the building. There was a building, there was a breezeway, there was another big building, and there was a breezeway for the kids to walk through. And it was built primarily for only 600 students. But when the Research Triangle came in, it was just overflooded with students, people moving in so fast that the school system couldn't keep up with it. So that was my career going to high school from what I can remember right there.

PV: That's fantastic.

GM: I came to Cary High School as athletic director in 1977. My daughter had graduated in the spring of '77. Up until that time I had coached basketball at Enloe for twelve years, riding back and forth from my home right beside Ephesus Baptist Church to Enloe to coach basketball for twelve years. My wife taught at Northwoods Elementary, the elementary school going down towards Marshall on 54. She was an elementary school teacher there for 29 years. Staying in one building for 29 years, that just blows my mind, one building for 29 years. But anyway, that's when she finally decided she wanted to retire. So I came to Cary High School in 1977 as athletic director. At that time, Cary was the second largest high school in North Carolina. It had only 10 through 12, no ninth graders. They all were down at East Cary. Athens Drive had not, was not built at that particular time. I do remember one time counting in front of Cary High School at least 18 trailers were all around there for the kids to go to because it was so crowded. When my daughter went there, she was the head cheerleader at Cary. I was a basketball coach at Enloe, and so for two years she cheered against me. Every time we played a game, she was sitting there hollering "Go Cary," and the cheerleaders from Enloe were saying, "Beat Cary." And I think we kind of split five out of the times we played. We never talked about it at home, we just never brought it up. Whenever we'd win, she'd say, "Nice game." Whenever we'd lose, she'd walk in and say, "Nice game," so anyway it was a nice game whether we won or lost. That was just her way of saying, and I feel sure she got

asked by the coaches and the other cheerleaders whenever they knew what was happening, what was going on.

Anyway, I came to Cary and was athletic director. I taught four history classes. It was something I'm not sure that I would go through and do again under those circumstances. It was a twelve-hour day, sometimes went even longer than that. When you teach four history classes and do the papers and the grades and all that, and you have one hour in the morning to get the buses straight for the coaches to take their trips with their teams. And then you had the hour, I had one free period after, before school was out to get all that straight about what was going to take place with getting the fields lined off and people to take up the money, and all that kind of sophisticated things that go along with the athletic director that people don't realize at times.

Anyway, I did that for sixteen years, and then finally I gave that up and went back to teaching in the classroom. I did drivers' ed for three years and thoroughly enjoyed that. It was a situation where nobody bothered me. I could do what I want to.

PV: That was at Cary High?

GM: That was at Cary High School, and then I taught it during the summer also. And to use the expression, I called the coaches who did drivers' ed, we called that our blood money because that's what we had to have to teach, to survive all during the summer. At that time, when I first started doing it, North Carolina schools teach schools only in existence for nine months, and I do not remember the year they changed it to ten months for teachers, with the teachers' workday which was spread out, a little longer vacation days, and teacher work days and things that sort of went through that, that they went through. That made it more difficult to define more pay to have something to live on for three months when you are not teaching.

Well, as time went on, athletic, the teachers at Cary, I taught with some that my daughter would talk about that were her teachers and they were all there at the high school. As time went on,

the twelve years I was there when they built another high school at Athens, the population at the school got smaller. (tape malfunction)

We're live. Okay. Things that happened in Cary High School, I can remember, the annual is called the YRAC, which is Cary spelled backwards. In my class, when I was there that is what the annual was called. I'm going to jump around here a little bit. When Cary High School was first started, it is the oldest chartered high school in North Carolina. 1896 by the legislature, and the charter is still hanging in Cary High School. In 1992, a principal came in there, Donna Hargens, she was moving things around in her office and she stopped and she read the charter, and realized in four years that Cary High School would be a hundred years old. At that time, I was getting ready to retire, so it was my last year there, not knowing at the time. So they got all the ninth graders together, went to the auditorium, had Tom Suder come from WRAL to talk to them about being the hundredth class. He finally told them in assembly... now when you tell ninth graders four years in advance they are going to be the hundredth class, my might be talking to a stone wall, because they were so unimpressed. I remember that, because I was teaching a ninth grade class at that time. They like to... they liked the idea of getting out of the last period of the day more than anything else. As time went on and they got to be juniors, and I had already retired and back up there subbing every now and then, they realized what important event that was going to be. And so a committee started getting together with people who had been in Cary, or who had moved in Cary that we found might be interested in celebrating the hundredth year in 1996.

And so we planned a parade. We were going to do it in the summer. The band director said no, he could not get the band students together, so we did it before school was out. Skipping around here, we identified or got close to maybe 5,000 former graduates. At that time emails were not that big a thing. But communications with the class presidents that the group could find, going through the Cary News which was a big help, putting it in the paper. They assigned one editor per person,

and that's all she did was report, do things on the hundredth year. So we had a parade, starting that morning, Saturday, with the Cary band. There were 96 units in that, anybody in Cary that had graduated, anybody that wanted to put anything in the parade could do so. There were old cars. There were people who came from out of town who had graduated from Cary. Local people rode in parades. You did your own banners on the side of your car. There were some businesses who put floats in the parade. So it was a big thing. There were people standing along the side like Cary Band Day. So we had that done.

Then, after the parade, everybody that had gone through the school, and they put like three graduating classes together. Like mine was '53, '54, and '55. We all met in a room with a sign. It was pretty well planned. Got ahold of class presidents and anybody, they could all come and meet and talk. Then that was in the afternoon, and the Cary school building was full.

For all the memorabilia that you had, it was put in the media center. If you brought something, we wanted would like for it to be kept there. As the time went on, they collected all the annuals of Cary High School. The first one was in 1918, and it was called the CHSTIE. I would presume the CHS stood for Cary High School. The TIE on the end I have no idea what that stood for. But they have all the annuals now, doing, there in the media center at Cary High School right now. From what I understand, during the Depression, there was no annuals. During World War II there were no annuals. Then in the, somewhere in the '40s they started back. But they're in the media center and anybody can go in there and go back in the room and sit down and look at them. After I had left, I went back and took the one from 1918 and sat up until like 1:00 in the morning, going over that and just looking at that.

There is, of course, a picture of all the Cary High Schools are in what the Donna Hargens, the principal, what she called the Centennial Hall. There is a picture of all the Cary High School buildings, done by the local artist Jerry Miller who donated that, all up in the ceiling area along the

side. Most of them are big pictures. The symbol that they used was the first Cary Elementary building, I'm going to assume that the Cary Elementary building that was used I would assume, and that was in 1896 when they first started. And that's the symbol that they used. And they put it on stationery that they did. They did so many things. Ms. Hargens was very apt to doing traditional things.

And so we went on through the day with committees. After we got through meeting the alumni's coming back to the schools. I do know my daughter's class of 1997 had a big crowd show up, so I went down because a lot of them had come to my house and visited and said hello to them. Then they went out to the football stadium. There was 100 chairs set in the middle with a sign going from 1896 to 1996. The fellow that does the news broadcast on one of the local radio stations got on the P.A. system in the football field, and through the Cary News they had something that had taken place during that hundred years for every year. So in 1896, somehow they had dug this out. And he read. Anybody that wanted to could go sit behind one of the chairs with the sign and the envelopes. To my knowledge, they still have those signs somewhere in the school building. The fellow in charge who did that, Kirk Linden who is the athletic director now, but at that time was assistant athletic director. He graduated from Cary High School also. But he was responsible for doing that, many, many hours in doing that.

And so they started out all across the field. And somebody from my class of '54 got there and set behind it, which was fine. Nobody was doing 1896, so I went and sat with the class president of 1896, and I set with the one in 1895, right beside him in the chair. Get my dates straight. And we talked. His name was Seth. Seth was going to the air force academy. He had gotten an appointment there, excuse me, the naval academy. He was a very good, very traditional, mature individual to be the class president. The Cary News also wrote a write-up with different pictures that are in that centennial hall, when you walk into the main building where the flagpole is, they are

on the wall right now, in laminated onto wood, permanently put into the wall, of things that took place during those hundred years. And there is a picture of the class officers of that particular hundred year graduating class. I was at Cary High School a couple of days ago, and I just walked by and I look at that. It makes you wonder where these four individuals who were the class officers, where they are now and what they are doing. Of course, probably at some time hopefully you'll find out.

But anyway, when I retired in 1993, I decided I was not going to come back and sub. I was very, very fortunate. I had a tremendous, a big retirement dinner at Prestonwood Country Club. I had like 125 people come, teachers mostly, or friends that I had worked and taught with earlier. Some of them came, and some basketball players that I had coached I invited myself. Unfortunately, back in March before I retired my mother had passed away. And my dad did come along, my sister and friends, Charlie Adams from high school athletic association who I played with basketball all three years at Cary. And then after he transferred to East Carolina where I was, we played three more years. So we had played together for six years, which is kind of unique. I feel sure a lot of others had not played that long, gone to the same school with teammates. So that was kind of unique, and Charlie showed up. It was a very emotional situation for me since my mother had just passed away, but it was very rewarding. For some reason or another they decided it was too expensive, and they haven't done one after that since. So I felt very honored that they were able to do that.

But as time went on, and I went back and started subbing at Cary, I learned some things. It's a little more relaxing when you can walk out when the bell rings and you don't have to really worry about what's going to take place the next day. So I noticed a lot of things about the students and became probably a little bit closer to talking to them than I had when I was actually teaching, because I had so much other things to think about.

After the centennial parade, anybody that had anything that brought that to them and left it in the media center. As I said before, all the annuals to my knowledge were collected, people left them there. I'm thinking the 1918 there were two or three. On the centennial date when everybody was there, do not remember the lady's name, but she came right when we went out on the football field, and she had a lady helping her. She had graduated from Cary in 189__ something. She was a hundred years old. She lived across from Cary Elementary, the building. That was the highlight. I wish that we had known something about her. Do not remember her name. But maybe the fellow at Cary High School, Kirk Linden, and I know he remembered the incident because we were all just right against her.

Going back to some earlier history of Cary, coming into my mind, before I went there, the football stadium was behind the Cary Elementary building there. It was called Dry stadium. It was named after principal Marcus Dry, I think that was his first name. To my knowledge, he was the principal at Cary for forty-two years. Now elementary principals back then were principals for grades one through twelve, which is no longer in existence. Maybe up in the mountains somewhere in small schools that had to consolidate. But he had to look after all that. And from what I understand, he lived in the house across from the elementary, from Cary High School at that time in a building that is still there. And the house is still there with a tin roof. I looked at the annuals of 1918, at the pictures and there is a picture of the house across from Cary High School at that time, an elementary now, that is still standing there. It's been three or four different owners. It was the Jones' house. They all passed away. It was a place that sold curtains and I'm not sure what is there now. Charlie Adams, who is head of the High School Athletic Association, brick house is right beside that. And Mr. Dry lived kind of catty-corner from that. The thing that I remember more now, whoever lives there has, for a small house, has the most Christmas lights that you'll ever see. But that's just a, I think they just leave them up.

But all the baseball games for high school were played behind the Cary High School at that time, and the building is still used for P.E. things for Cary Elementary. Mr. Dry is a landmark, as far as being the longest reigning principal, to my knowledge.

The high school football field at Cary is named for Paul Cooper. Mr. Cooper was the principal at Cary High School. And there is a plaque in Cary Elementary when you first walk in to the right, that acknowledges all of the principals that were there in that building.

The buses, whenever they came to Cary High School, at that time, and Cary Elementary School and the high school, parked beside that, if you ride there now, it's hard for you to realize that's where the buses parked. There was a principal there named Maude Reese, who is still living. She was the principal there for many years at Cary Elementary. She could give you a lot of history on the Cary Elementary building after it became an elementary and they moved to the new high school. I cannot remember all of the principals that were there. Mr. Dry, and there was another one that they did not know about that only stayed there for a couple of years. And I don't know all of them. They have the names of all the principals that were at Cary at that elementary building. Mr. Cooper moved over when they built the new building in the early sixties and was principal there. He was a very strict, disciplinarian principal, and was well respected by all the people in Wake County. The Dry stadium lost its name after they moved to the new Cary High School. The most, I think the kids at one time, it was raining so hard at a football game, and all the kids sitting in the stands started yelling something like, "This is not dry stadium, this is wet stadium, this is not dry stadium, this is wet stadium." Or rainy stadium, but I remember them hollering that out.

And so Cary, at the time that it was growing up, and I'm kind of skipping around, was a very close community. Skipping back to the football games and basketball games that we played in high school, there was nothing really else to do for the people in Cary to do. And when you win, like we were winning in basketball, most the times you had to be in the gym by the end of the Cary

games because there was no place to sit. The football field stadiums were pretty much full. There was a group of men that will always remember eight or nine men who followed the, walked along the sidelines. I remember Charlie Adams' dad, Mr. Adams who owned Adams Drugstore, which is now Ashworths', he owned the pharmacy on the corner there. He would walk along the sideline with all the other men in Cary. And Charlie and I have talked about that, about the men who walked along the sidelines when they would moved the chains. Of course, you can't do that anymore, don't do that anymore. But that was kind of a unique situation. I can remember whenever it was very cold, they had three or four great big barrels full of wood they'd set on fire for people to come down and get warm during the game, which I don't think they would allow you to do anymore. But that is some, skipping back to the high school days that I can remember...

PV: Were there bleachers, or ...?

GM: There were concrete bleachers with wooden slabs across them. Once you set down, you did not move because of splinters. I do remember that part of it.

But there were cheerleaders. Harold Burke was the first band director that you might want to talk to, had Burke's Music Company. He's eighty-some years old and still teaches band. He is still there and has his music center there on Kildaire Farm Road back in a shopping center there.

My class of 1954, we are getting ready to have a 55th class reunion and we have invited him. We have located three of the teachers we know that are in existence. And we've invited Mr. Burke to come and I feel sure he will be there. And the typing teacher will be there. And Jim Brown, at that time who was the football coach and basketball and baseball coach will be there. And all these people are still in existence. There may be one or two more that are there. I don't remember off the top – oh, Miss Stell, who became the typing teacher my senior year. Dot Stell who still lives here in Cary. Anyway, that was who we invited to our class reunion, which we are all looking forward to May 2nd of this year.

Getting back to the high school and the way that the Cary High School has grown because of the population over-influx now and because they have the building of the two new high schools, Green Hope first and Panther Creek have, the people have lowered the population of schools, the enrollment at Cary High School, has fluctuated way up and way down, and back up again, and is not stable as far as figuring on. They know, just about it's been at 2,000, 2,300 down to 1,500, 1,700, 1,800, graduating classes have arranged for... my daughter graduated with almost 600 in 1977 before they built Athens Drive, down to maybe 300. This graduating class at Cary will be one of the smallest they've had in maybe seven or eight years because of the building of the new high schools. Which in some situations has made it better in that you can get down the halls between classes. When I went there, I had to go to four different classrooms with a pushcart. It was all I could do to get to the room before the last bell rang, because of how the halls were so crowded. It's expanded a lot compared to what it used to have. They are still working on the \$27 million renovation. They have had to change the timeframe on tearing down buildings and building buildings.

But athletic-wise, it has fluctuated to, after they built Athens, the football team only won one game in two years, and then all the fellows who stayed, they were in the state playoffs year after year after that. But it's been difficult in that sometimes they didn't finish 500. Basketball teams didn't finish 500 and are still not. The only thing that put Cary really on the map is the high school wrestling team. As I said before, the wrestling coach has been voted the high school wrestling coach of the year for the United States two years ago. It is just phenomenal with 23 state champions in wrestling. There is a possibility he could win two more next year. I go sub for him. He only teaches two classes, and when it gets difficult, he's retired, he comes back and teaches two classes.

PV: What is his name again?

GM: Jerry Winterton. He'll be glad to talk to you about this. He's a very modest person about his record. Of course, he gives all the credit to his wrestlers, but we know better. The coaching phenomenal record that he has had with 600 victories, and now we recall all of his championships he's won, I've lost count of that. But I think he's only lost one in the twenty-some years he's been there. And of course, with schools moving in and starting up, we've had to change the different caliber, change the conference and the closest I've tried to place schools that are close by. And the teams in the schools change a lot, and it's kind of hard to keep up with them because you can't put the names of the schools on flags in your gym that are in your conference because the next year they may be in another conference. So there's no sense in wasting money in doing that. But now I think they're up to nine teams, and Holly Springs coming in this year.

Alright, I'll try to rotate things back around in my head for awhile. In 1975, they built new additions to Cary High School onto the end, with the new gym on the end, which is now has been torn down. That's no longer in existence because they built more, new facilities. Cary High School was one of the last in the Wake County systems to be renovated. They were very fortunate in that the other schools that were being renovated had to graduate from another high school. () went to Wakefield. Athens went to Middle Creek, and they were not able to go on those campuses because of the construction. But Cary, in the phases that they're doing theirs, the students are allowed to stay there. The new 600-seat auditorium was one year in being delayed when it was finished. That's another story. And some of it was half delayed, and I feel sorry for the seniors up there that didn't get a chance, but it really just, they still had their times at Cary and still got their great education, which they always will get.

On Senior Day at Cary High School, which was started maybe fifteen years ago by a principal who came in and said, we need to honor our students. During that particular time, the students are recognized in an assembly program. Our juniors and sophomores are allowed to come

in and sit, because they can't put all of the school in that gymnasium, in that auditorium still is not large enough to hold enough, even though the new auditorium seats 600 people. But on Senior Day, there have been as many kids getting appointments to academies that are over close to \$3 ½ million worth of academic and athletic scholarships handed out in one senior class. Of course, the more seniors you have, the higher it is going to be. And so as always, to be able to brag on that with the senior class, how much money they have earned academically and athletically, it goes to their own hard work and credit to the teachers and the coaches. Which at that particular time maybe some of the students realize when they come back later on, after they've had their families, I've seen them come through there and want to know where coach so and so is. I've said, "Oh, he's no longer here, he's retired." And they say, "Oh, you helped me so much," this that and the other, which is very rewarding.

And this is about, and I know I'll think of a lot of things after we get through with this. Things that I can remember in my sixteen years at Cary High School, twelve as athletic director and the three years I went there as a student in the fifties, a lot of changes. Of course, the whole Town of Cary has completely changed. And there are few people who still remember how it was. When Academy Street was a dirt road leading up to Cary Elementary. At that particular time, Cary was in the Wake County system. Then sometime in the eighties when they merged with the Raleigh city schools, I don't remember the date on that, of course it changed a lot also, because of there being eighteen senior high schools in Wake County now. And all the senior high schools that were there when I was coming along merged into one high school. The Wendell High School and () high school merged into East Wake High School, and so this merged. Cary lost students, and you can look at it as far as athletic-wise, because that gives the least amount of, not that many players trying out for one team. We always looked at it in a positive way. Kids that could not have played in Cary because there was so many there, get a chance to play at another high school because of it being

built that would probably wouldn't have been able to get a chance to play at Cary High School, who now are getting a chance to play because the numbers are not there going out where the coaches have to cut players. I can remember my first couple of years before Athens was built, we had over 150 kids come out for football, pushing up to make a trip so those kids could have probably played somewhere else and done really well, but in the season the coach has to wait for what we see when given two or three days. And that's the positive way of looking at the more schools. Of course, the disadvantage of sometimes, that you have with merging schools, and it has to do primarily with the academic part of it, because you are able to get money for things in science labs that they would have in maybe a small high school would not. The disadvantage in some situations is that you have, if you put three high schools together, in that here are two students who don't get a chance to be the class president, two students who would have been a class president had they kept their own school together in a small numbers, and two students who won't be annuals, in charge of the annuals or a newspaper, or you could go on and on, who may not be on the student council, or maybe who would not make the basketball team when they started the mergers back in the sixties. So there is some good and some bad to it.

But I still say that 96% of high school students are just great. They are well mannered. In some situations and some, of course are still trying to find their way. They may not find their way until they get out of high school later on.

PV: Now when you started at Cary High, the schools were integrated by that time.

GM: No, Ma'am. They were not integrated until the 1970s. When I was there, we were called the Cary White Imps. Imps is the only Imp mascot in the United States. 1986, ESPN did a survey of most unusual high school mascots. Cary was ranked fourth. Just on the sideline, I'll throw this out, the number one, and I had the list with my athletic director. A couple of weeks ago, we went back. We had lost it, didn't know where it was. Went back to ESPN on the computer, and but

punching in, here it popped up again, from 1986. The number one most unusual name ranked was called the “syrup makers” who was in Georgia, I think that’s where Caro syrup is. Another one called the “beet diggers,” one was called the “nimrods,” and one was called the “dots” out of West Virginia. But that’s just the ones that come to my mind. It’s very difficult to see how cheerleaders could get out and cheer, “Go Beet Diggers,” but anyway. Or “Go Nimrods,” or “Go Syrup Makers,” or “Yeah, Yeah Syrup Makers,” on the cheerleading. But anyway, it was done. But that’s just about the thing with the Imps.

During the integration, they actually had to drop the name “white” in front of it. But now it is still the most unusual. Schools will come in and make it, call Cary the “wimps,” which they’re used to all that. Doesn’t make any difference to the kids. And every now and then some school will come out and paint on the sidewalk of the school, “wimps, we’re going to beat you,” and all that, but that’s kind of died out. They don’t do that much anymore, which administrators are very glad of, because then the kids at Cary will get mad and they go to their high school and paint something all over their building, and so. I think it’s kind of died out a little bit. Hopefully. The biggest thing was on buses, which was my biggest worry as athletic director, for the buses, because of the breaking down in the age. And the Boosters Club having to buy and pay for the buses. Wake County schools do not do that. Now with the merger, after I left, and I’m thankful for the person that took over, he doesn’t have to worry about the buses as much as I did. That, I think, was my number one headache. Of course, it was supposed to be my history classes and should have been, but when you got to transport like three teams to different places and find the drivers to do this with, it was probably the biggest headache I had. We had some break down at schools. Now the upkeep is a lot better. We’ve even had breakdowns. The parents would have to bring the kids back in their cars. You’ve got to go find the bus somewhere on the side of the road and have somebody tow it in. Anyway, fortunately that doesn’t happen anymore. I’m glad, because I was complaining

to my wife. She got tired of me complaining about me worrying about the buses. It is just the responsibility that your conscience has to keep hold of you, that the buses were one of the biggest problems that you had.

PV: So the schools were, when you started teaching and coaching at Cary High, it was integrated by that time?

GM: Yes Ma'am.

PV: Okay. Were you seeing a lot of tension still?

GM: Not at that particular time. No. Now, when I taught at Enloe High School, it was the first integrated school in the South. They had already done their thing over in Little Rock, Arkansas. But when they integrated, start at Enloe in, I want to say, 1962 or '63 when Enloe was built, along about the same time that Cary High School was built in the County. Boughton was the only other high school in the city limits of Raleigh that, they had a couple of minority students that came to Enloe High School. One was the former, later who became the mayor, Mr. Lightner, whose son Clarence came there. Clarence played all three sports, so that made it a little easier to do this. Then as the years went on and all, they changed the () Ligon High School was totally all a black school at that time, and then they made it a middle school. So they kind of started moving the minority students around. Cary, a lot of them went to Boughton. Cary had very few until they started busing them in from over behind that area behind the memorial auditorium called Walnut Terrace. That was a big thing with the coaches. Because when school football practice started, they had to send a bus over there to pick them up. And then after school, after they got done with football practice, they had to send a van to take them back home. One of the coaches had to do this. It being a 10-12 mile trip over there and there were some very good athletes that came out of that area behind Walnut Terrace, it helped as far as wins and losses. But as far as the tension, I feel sure there was some. As it went on later on, isolated groups, but no really big thing. I was not there when it first

started with the integration so I really can't tell. I've heard other coaches say, talk about that the coaches probably helped more with any tensions than anything else. We're talking about with the athletic teams, and the groups getting them all together as far as that is concerned. I feel sure there was some there. I remember there was some tension when I talked about, that the principal went and got the coaches when they were having some trouble between the groups. When then had some out where the buses used to park, and he called for the coaches to come help when there was like three or four. One of them recalled and he related that to me, that they were a big help in separating anything that started when it first started.

But that seems to be, as far as that's concerned there are the state championship wrestling teams, there are some black kids who have been state champions in wrestling. They have gotten scholarships because of athletics to play football. Each year there's some who get a lot from Cary High School. There are eleven seniors this year playing athletics at colleges in Virginia and North Carolina who will be graduating with their degrees who played athletics four years ago at Cary High School. So that's eleven that we know of. And at this particular time, the athletic department prints up a sheet of all they can find who are doing athletics somewhere, even down to student-trainers. I think last year there was like thirty kids, which includes the eleven who are graduating. And there will be some this year. I already know of at least eight kids who are going to get some kind of athletic scholarships from Cary High School. Now there are other high schools, Apex that probably have more than that because of the numbers. In all the school areas, it depends on the caliber of the students, where they live and where they have to come from to meet the numbers that the people down in the county office do that. And that's every system that you go into.

PV: When you went to that other community to pick the kids up to bring them for football practice and then take them back. So they were not Cary High School students?

GM: They were Cary High School students, but they had been assigned to Cary High School because of the numbers of minorities that you were required to have at that high school.

PV: Okay. But they weren't staying, the bus wasn't right after...

GM: Now when the school started, they rode the yellow school buses.

PV: Okay. So this was when school was not in session? Like summer?

GM: Whenever you had to have, the sports started, like cross-country, football, girls' volleyball, that you had in the winter that you had in fall sports. They had no way to get there, so the school was required on its own to find a way to get them to school and to get them back. Now, the other problem was, after they got through with their practice, the school bus had already carried the kids that were not playing athletics back to the Walnut Terrace area. So then the school system did assign a bus when it came back by a certain time, that the kids who were playing athletics had to go to that area, were getting on, the coaches had to get them on the bus so they could get there. That was up to the individual driver to how they wanted to wait around. Because during basketball season, you had J.B. basketball and varsity basketball. They practice one right after the other, and the other would get late. And sometimes the coach would have to get one of the vans to carry the kids home, because that bus had already carried the athletic kids who were playing athletics, because their time was up. They got on the bus and they went back home. So it was a lot of extra time that coaches had to do that. And a lot of people didn't realize what was going on, what I had to do. I did a lot of time even though I did coaching, I did it as athletic director, particularly after a basketball game. At nighttime when it was like 10:30, they had no way home, I'd get the van and I'd carry them down to Walnut Terrace and get them home and carry them back. I did that a few times. But most the time, coaches did that. But that was one of the things that you had to do. Of course, they do not do that now, because they're not that, I don't know how it's done. I really don't. I think they find their own way, and it's worked out really well. But that was one of the coaches',

when you signed the contract, you didn't know that but that was in small print that you had to do that.

So anyway, but it has a big tradition of winning in athletics. It's gone down a little bit, but hopefully it will get back up. But we'll just have to wait and see. Who knows.

PV: Well, you obviously have a lot of pride in Cary High School.

GM: When you've been there, and some people have called me and asked me things. Just like you have done about what takes place and what's not there. Things I can answer. Some of them I give them some other references that you can call, contact. It's a community thing, with Lazy Daze, with the Cary Band Day, when they come here it's always been a big, big thing. At one time they had the, I can't think of it, when all the bands would come to Cary that were, kids who were out of high school and college and we did it in Cary. They stopped doing that, it got too expensive for travel. () Most of them were college kids, and they went all over the United States to do this. And they came to Cary with the help of the mayor, Koka Booth. And we probably had, with them tromping on the football field, and then the football field coach would get upset because they are out there tromping with a band in July. Drums Over Dixie, that's what it was called. Drums Over Dixie, where these bands travel all over the United States, it's a big, big thing. They go all over the United States. You may not be familiar with that. Most of them are college students, and kids who are out of college who, on their own, and they're (). Let's say there's ten different bands came here. They sleep on the gym floor. They sleep anywhere they can find. They are all volunteers who do this because they love bands. And former mayor Booth was in charge of this.

So the big thing is, another thing is finding practice space. Now that Cary High School is starting la cross, there are three teams who practice on that field every day. Track comes in, they have an hour and a half to do their track, or two hours. Then you've got the girls' soccer has to come and practice. And when they get through, then here comes the la cross team who usually don't

get through until 9:00 at nighttime. But they're instructed to get their studies before they do that. So for them to do that at night is up to the individual. But even with the basketball, with four teams, they fortunately got enough, sometimes they go to the middle schools to practice when they get through. So it's another one of the things the athletic directors, written in their contract. They don't know about it until they get there. And it is a problem. It is a big problem. The fields get beat to death. They can't have a chance for the grass to grow.

Going back to the Drums Over Dixie things, and it was a big thing, that the Cary football field would be jam-packed. A lot, where people pay very big bucks to come see that. And so it was a big thing, and finally it just died out. I don't even think they do this anymore. But it was a big thing. I'd go up there and watch it. It was just fantastic to watch all the precision of all these adults were, and some of them were in their thirties, but just still want to do that. Did it for years and years and years. It was in their blood. They just want to travel, and they'd pay for it out of their own pockets because there was nothing unless they get a big sponsor.

PV: I know, we've run out of time. Well, thank you so very much. That was great.

GM: You're quite welcome. Don't hesitate to call if you've got more questions. And like I said, I'll think of a hundred things after I get out of here. But I think to cover all of this has got a little bit of it.

PV: Well, it's wonderful. And you've given us things that we never heard before.

GM: Well, be sure to visit that centennial hall. In the trophy cases there, there are things that people left. There is an original bell that was used at Cary High School at that time to change classes with. A couple of things are in there from way back, annuals and pictures. It's just, they don't have enough room to spread it out like we would like to. To put it out, you can stop by and see a little bit. Pictures of the state championship basketball team, and the awards of the wrestling team, of course, with so many trophies and things that they have won. There is no place to put them

all. They're sitting back in storage rooms because there's not enough. They're working on it. They built new trophy cases back in the new addition, and so they're putting them out. But the big thing I think is needed.

The athletic director at this time, I'm very glad for Kirk that he doesn't have to teach any classes, and he can devote his whole time there. Of course, he's there after school hours also, looking after and getting everything arranged, getting the buses straightened out and having somebody to take up money and all that kind of stuff. It is a big, big operation and it's nice that people on the school board recognize that this does not require him to teach classes. But there are some in Wake County that do have to teach, maybe one P.E. class or one weight-lifting class. But as far as that goes, I don't know of any right now. There probably is some. And of course, the big thing, being on the block scheduling now, where kids only have ninety minutes. There were probably at least twenty seniors who got their high school degree after Christmas when they got through with exams who are at colleges now. And there are some who will stay, and they'll take courses because they want to stay because they enjoy high school so much, which is nice. And Cary does not have a graduation thing, although I understand there are some schools have a graduation for those kids, but the principals there want the kids to come back and graduate with their class, even though they have gone somewhere else. They will come back and do that. And so it is a different world as far as traditional stuff that has gone for progress. That's the way you've got to look at it.

PV: You bet. Well, thank you again. This was fantastic.

END OF INTERVIEW