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JONES, MARY NORWOOD

JANUARY 29, 2001

This is January 29, 2001, and this is Bob Gilgor interviewing Mary Norwood Jones at Northside.

BOB GILGOR: Good morning, Mary.

MARY NORWOOD JONES: Good morning.

BG: How are you this morning?

MJ: Oh, I'm fine.

BG: Good. I wanted to start with a question this morning about your involvement in basketball and your playing basketball here at Northside.

MJ: Well, not a Northside. It was Orange County Training School and this school became Northside in 1951. My class was the last graduating class to attend this school and graduate from twelfth grade. At that particular time it was named Lincoln. The name of the school was Lincoln.

BG: It became Lincoln in 1949?

MJ: No. The name was changed to Lincoln. It was Orange County Training School and this school was named Lincoln High School and then they built the new Lincoln down on Merritt Mill Road and the class behind me attended that school to complete twelfth grade.

BG: So you left here in 1951.

MJ: '51, and the class of 1952 attended the new Lincoln High School on Merritt Mill Road.

BG: What was your involvement in sports here at Orange County Training School?

MJ: Well, they had different clubs and I was a member of just about every club in the school. My favorite was playing basketball, and I started playing basketball when I was in the sixth grade. Mr. Judas Scales was my teacher during that particular time. And incidentally, in fifth grade I had Mrs. Thomasine Kirkland Burtney who was from Chapel Hill. We were her first class after she graduated from college.

BG: What was she teaching?

MJ: She taught me in fifth grade so she was my fifth grade teacher and so we had many subjects that she taught us. I remember a little song that we used to have. She had us set up a store in the classroom and we learned to count money and things like that. We made up a little song about the store. It went something like this, "Come buy at our store" and there were other words in it with things that we were selling items in the store and what not. It was a very learned situation. We also had operettas during the time we were in elementary school and all the way through high school. Many times if a parent could not attend the parents of some of the youths would go to a child when the parent was not able to attend and greet that child before that parent came to someone else. In other words, they could have their own child there, but they went to greet the child that did not have a parent and that's how thoughtful parents were.

BG: Very supportive.

MJ: Yes, very supportive.

BG: That goes along with comments on the last interview about how everyone parented in the community.

MJ: Yes, everyone parented, and they were given permission to parent youths in the community. They could take off a belt or get a little switch or something and then during the time I was in elementary school teachers could send you to the cloakroom and in the cloakroom that's the room that we hung our coats and pants and things because during that time girls could not wear pants. Girls could not wear pants to school. They could wear them to school but they had to take them off.

BG: Couldn't wear them to class.

MJ: No, couldn't wear them in the classrooms.

BG: What kind of a basketball player were you?

MJ: Well, I played forward and during that time girls had different rules with basketball. Girls played half court and we could not cross the centerline. You had three forwards and three guards on either side of the line, the centerline, and at no time were we supposed to cross that centerline and girls could only dribble one time, and then they increased the dribble to twice.

BG: So you had to be able to pass the ball around.

MJ: Yes, you had to mainly pass the ball around.

BG: And there were six players on each team?

MJ: No, there were three. There were six players on each team, but we had three guards who guarded the three forwards on the other half court and on the other half court we had three forwards and three guards from the other team. Maybe it would be better if I draw this for you because they changed those rules. Let's see, if this is the basketball court this is the centerline. This is the goal here and here's the goal over here. What happens is we had three forwards; three guards on this half of the court and then it just depended upon which school had the basket. Wherever they would sit there were three opposing guards and three opposing forwards. Okay, and that would be three guards and three forwards. That's the way the court was split up. This could be Hillside High School over here and we'd have three guards against their three forwards, and over on this side we might have our three forwards and their three opposing guards.

BG: Oh, I see. So the goal was--. Say you scored a basket over here with your three forwards what happened to the ball after that?

MJ: The guard would throw it down the court and throw it to a forward. A forward would come close to the centerline and receive the ball and they guarded just like they play when they run up and down the court. Girls didn't run up and down the court.

BG: They could only run to here to the mid court.

MJ: Yes, run to the centerline that is now still there. Girls just played half court rather than full court, and they could only dribble one time.

BG: What was your gym like?

MJ: Well, that's what I wanted to tell you. We had three poles with one in the center, one up near this basket, and one near the free throw lane of the other basket. It is easier for me to show you.

BG: We can take a look at it after the interview if that's all right. I'd like to see it.

MJ: The gym is no longer here. The auditorium was taken off of this building when it was renovated so you will never be able to see the gym that we played in. The ceiling was not very high at all and we could not do a good job in elevating the ball.

BG: So your shot was flat with no arch?

MJ: Yes, with no arch. We didn't have an arch so therefore we had to learn to shot that way. We learned to use the poles to our advantage.

BG: Tell me about that. That must have been very interesting.

MJ: Yes, and usually when someone came to play us they said that when the girls played they played against nine people because we had three poles and when the boys played they played against eight people because the boys had five players on their team. We learned to use those poles to our advantage.

BG: How did you do that?

MJ: We would know how to scoot around the pole, and when we went around the pole to shoot the guard could not reach through the pole and the pole had protectors on them so that if someone

ran into the pole they would not get their breath taken away from them. That was to protect them and they had guards on the poles. The poles were wrapped.

BG: With padding?

MJ: Yes, they were padded. They had wraps that were padded on the poles.

BG: What kind of record did your team have?

MJ: Well, we did pretty well, but Hillside was our archrival. When we played Hillside, if we won, there was so much rivalry between Hillside and Hillside at that particular time was in the old school. It was not in the new school that was recently built out of Fayetteville Road. Everyone seemed to have a better gym than we had other than Pleasant Grove. We traveled fifty miles radiuses to play basketball during that particular time. Sometimes if we left about seven o'clock in the evening or six o'clock we had many night games, and then sometimes we had a game during the day, and we had two games in one day. We would go and play ball away about twice a week. We had games right here in our gym; in our gymtorium, we called it.

BG: So it functioned both as a gymnasium and an auditorium.

MJ: Yes.

BG: You had seats that you could put up?

MJ: Yes, and that's the only place the girls had to play ball. Sometimes the coaches would take the boys down to a gym down on UNC campus to play.

BG: So they let them play at the Tin Can.

MJ: Yes, the Tin Can. They would take them down to practice. They never played a game there. All the games were played over here in our auditorium.

BG: But they could practice at the Tin Can at UNC.

MJ: Yes, they could practice there because they had to practice in a place because some schools had gyms. In Hillsborough, there was a gym, but many times it was cold and they had the little potbellied stoves at each end of the gym. When the ball touched that stove you could see smoke coming from the ball when the ball touched that stove in the gym.

BG: Did the players ever run into that?

MJ: No, I don't remember a player running into the stove but the ball touched it every now and then.

BG: Did the team ever get any help from the players at UNC?

MJ: Nothing other than the coach taking them down to UNC to play. We even went to UNC when I attended school. I was in the twelfth grade at that particular time and we went down to the library in back of the YMCA. That was when the library was down in back of the YMCA down by Memorial Hall. It was right in back of Memorial Hall if you can remember that.

BG: You played varsity basketball.

MJ: Yes.

BG: One year under the name of Orange County Training School and two years under the name Lincoln?

MJ: No, two years --. Let's see, the name was changed in '49. I played in elementary school sixth grade and seventh grade. And then I played in high school. I played in the eighth grade, I played in the ninth grade, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth.

BG: A long time.

MJ: Yes.

BG: Did you play a leadership role on the team?

MJ: Yes, I was captain for three years, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades.

BG: How did your team do during that time?

MJ: Well, I think the team did quite well. I scored the most points as forward for maybe two or three years. You might see that in the little paper in *The Orange Echo*.

BG: Did I copy this?

MJ: No, you did not copy this.

BG: Could I take it to copy it?

MJ: Well, I'll have to have it back. It's my only copy that I have.

BG: Oh, for sure I will give it back to you.

MJ: Yes. This is *The Orange Echo* and we didn't have all the kinds of machines that they have today. I think that paper was done in 1949.

BG: Where are you here?

MJ: I don't know whether I'm in this paper or not.

BG: I thought that was a picture of--. Here's May Day. That's wonderful. Oh, it's to die for. I will bring this back to you.

MJ: Yes. Well, Keith did a copy. That is a copy of the paper that someone did for me. I think they have one down at school. That's what it was used for down at the school. That's Mr. McDougle.

BG: I recognize him.

I wanted to ask you about your memories of Lincoln High School. I know you didn't go to Lincoln High School on Merritt Mill Road, but I wonder what you can remember about Lincoln High having lived here?

MJ: I know the band was carried on and someone who actually attended Lincoln would have to tell you about that because I went on to North Carolina College at Durham for Negroes. That was the name of North Carolina Central University at that time. I didn't spend a lot of time in Chapel Hill.

BG: Did you have sisters or brothers who were younger than you?

MJ: Yes, I have one sister and one brother. My sister attended Lincoln High School and graduated from Lincoln High School. What happened was that the first class that went to Lincoln as seniors has to come back to this auditorium over here and graduate due to the fact that they had not built the gym at the new Lincoln school.

BG: It was a while before that gym was built but they did build one.

MJ: Yes, as far as I know.

BG: Do you know when the gym was constructed?

MJ: No, I don't. I don't know exactly when. You will have to get that information from someone else. I know our class reunions started in 1973, and when they started in 1973, I think with the first reunion we went down to that particular gym at that time. I think the gym was built before that because the class that came back to graduate in the old auditorium was the class of 1952. There was a long period of time between 1973 and 1952, and I don't know when the gym was built.

BG: Did your sister share any stories with you about Lincoln?

MJ: Yes, she played in the band. My brother played drums. He went away right after he graduated from high school at Lincoln. I just don't know that much about the new Lincoln school so I would rather not do very much commenting about that.

BG: Sure.

MJ: But I'd like to deal with those experiences that I had here at Orange County Training School.

BG: Okay. Let's go back to Orange County Training School and you had mentioned that you were a member of a lot of different clubs here.

MJ: Yes, we had the Dramatics Club. We had the Athletic Club. We just had lots of clubs. We didn't have gym classes here, but we went outside on the playground. The coaches and the teachers had to really do some extra things in order to get physical education in for the youths who attended Orange County Training School. All of that area out there was just a large playground.

BG: Was it blacktop?

MJ: No.

BG: So it was just dirt?

MJ: It was just dirt. We had playground apparatus right near this building and there were rocks right over on the side that you go out of, that door right there where the restrooms are, there were rocks all out there and people used to sit on those rocks and watch the softball games at lunchtime. And incidentally, we didn't have a cafeteria in this building. I was in the tenth grade before we had a cafeteria. What happened was that the cafeteria is now the mental health building and we didn't have that building until I was in the tenth grade, but we had a building down on Brooks Street and when the visiting teams came to play they were served in that building down there especially the football teams.

BG: After the game?

MJ: Yes, after the game.

BG: Where did the money come from to pay for the meal for a visiting team?

MJ: I'm not sure but I think with the PTA and those had something to do with it. I don't know just how that was budgeted, but all I know is that I served many times in that cafeteria. It had once been a daycare center down there and the high school youths ate down in that particular building right there on Brooks Street. The next building over was Mr. Jasper Massey's store. There's a house that is still there. It was some kind of daycare center down there and the school took it over for a cafeteria.

BG: What was the name of the cafeteria on Brooks Street?

MJ: It had no name. It was just a cafeteria for students to eat in. We had to go down the hill. There was a sloping hill going down the steps.

BG: It wasn't a private cafeteria it was just a cafeteria for the school.

MJ: Yes, it was a building that was taken over by Orange County Training School.

BG: Is that where you ate until tenth grade?

MJ: Yes, I ate there until tenth grade and then they built a new cafeteria where the mental health center is. That was a cafeteria that belonged to the Lincoln High School when it was here. I will have to count up. Let's see--.

BG: It was about 1949 if you were in the tenth grade because you had two more years of school and you graduated in '51.

MJ: Yes. I graduated in '51 so tenth, eleventh, and twelfth, so '49, '50, and '51. Yes, '49, '50, and '51 we had the new cafeteria.

BG: What did a new cafeteria mean to the school, anything in particular?

MJ: Yes, it meant quite a bit. It was a larger place and students served in the cafeteria to help the person in charge of the cafeteria. The elementary school youths ate in the home economics room and across the hall in the science room.

BG: So you couldn't all fit into the cafeteria.

MJ: Yes, but then everyone began to eat in the new cafeteria that was built just down the hill.

BG: I see.

MJ: When the high school students ate in the cafeteria on Brooks Street, then only high school students, grades eight through twelve could eat down there, and anyone under eighth grade had to eat in the home economics room.

BG: Did you bring the lunches up here from the cafeteria on Brooks Street or did they make the lunches here?

MJ: Oh, they made the food down on Brooks Street and people went down there and sat at tables. The tables were set up.

BG: But the students who weren't in high school couldn't eat down there, is that right?

MJ: No, the students under eighth grade could not eat down at that cafeteria on Brooks Street at what was made into a cafeteria.

BG: Where did the food come from for them to eat up here?

MJ: Well, they brought the food just like it was a cafeteria.

BG: They brought the food from down there up here.

MJ: No, they prepared the food down there as far as I remember and then everyone ate in the home economics room before the students were split up and some ate down on Brooks Street.

BG: Did you have to pay for your lunch?

MJ: Yes. Lunches were twenty cents. They started out with lunches being twenty cents. There was a person a Mrs. Lampley who with Mrs. Smithwick, my third grade teacher used to sit and take the money and the people lined up.

BG: What if you didn't have the twenty cents?

MJ: If you didn't have it, you could charge it.

BG: I see. Could you work it off?

MJ: Could you work?

BG: Yes, in other words, if you didn't have the money for lunch could you do some of the work around the kitchen?

MJ: Not for the cafeteria work but people who were disciplined went down to help fire the furnace or they were disciplined in the cloakrooms in each of the rooms.

BG: That's where they got the little switch or something.

MJ: A little switch or a belt and you had to take licks in the hand.

BG: What was the Drama Club like?

MJ: As I told you before, we had operettas and the parents would attend the operettas and people acted in plays and things like that. They had plays there often, at least once a year. The person, Mrs. Turner who sponsored the Dramatics Club, she is now deceased, but she is the person who taught French and English classes for high school students. She sponsored a play each year.

BG: Were there any competitions outside the school for the Drama Club?

MJ: No, we didn't have any competitions outside for drama or anything like that.

BG: Nothing at Shaw.

MJ: At Shaw?

BG: Yes, students wouldn't go over there to perform anything. That must have been later that that occurred.

MJ: Maybe it was later. I don't know, but I know while I was at Orange County Training and Lincoln High, the old Lincoln High School here, we never went any place else for drama. We did little classes and we went other places. I remember being in--. What grade was I in then? Let's see, I think the ninth and the tenth grade or something like that we went to a little school someplace else and we did a little dance or something, but that was about all. Other than basketball, we went different places, fifty-mile radiuses to play basketball.

BG: How did you get there?

MJ: On a bus, Ms. Suzie Weaver who had a store right down on Brooks Street, Ms. Suzie Weaver's bus, and it was a bus for gospel singers.

BG: Who drove the bus?

MJ: Melvin Farrington drove the bus.

BG: Did you have a logo on the side? Did you have--?

MJ: It had Weaver's Gospel Singers and that was on the side of the bus. We didn't have a logo or anything and we had teachers that went along with us. Of course the basketball coaches went and sometimes RD Smith would go. We'd come over to the school here and that was OCTS and when it became Lincoln we'd come over and they would call our names and we would go and get on the bus.

BG: Did boys go with you?

MJ: Yes, boys and girls went.

BG: So both of you played your games the same day at the same school.

MJ: Yes, the same day at the same school. We had the girl's game first and the boy's game second.

BG: What kind of attendance did you have?

MJ: We had good attendance. The auditorium on the side there were chairs set up in the auditorium and all the chairs were filled all around.

BG: Did parents come see the game?

MJ: Yes. Some parents came.

BG: You had mentioned that at lunchtime people would sit on the rock pile.

MJ: Yes. There were rocks and it was like bleachers or something and the students sat on the rocks. They were there when the school was built and they remained there until this building was renovated and that's when they took them away. I'll show you where those rocks once used to be.

BG: Did you usually have some kind of competition going at lunchtime?

MJ: Yes, we had softball and then sometimes a basketball game, but we had a lot of competition with basketball games with classes playing one another. Our archrival was the class ahead of us. For instance, if I were in the sixth grade then the next class above me would be our next class that we played. We played those classes like that.

BG: Did you ever beat them?

MJ: Oh, yes, yes, yes, and then we just had students that would just split up and play softball. Those people that didn't care that much about participating would sit on the rocks and watch the people play.

BG: It sounds like there was a lot of competition here. Would you say that that was true looking back on it?

MJ: Yes, there was a lot of competition and many of the boys played ball and they tried to make as many points as they possibly could or score as many runs as they possibly could. There were known people in the school who were just athletically inclined.

BG: They just weren't much interested in academics; they were more interested in--.

MJ: They were interested in academics because they never forgot about their academics, and the teachers would not allow that during that particular time. The teachers would always tell people you know, and some were more academically skilled than others.

BG: Sports, it sounds as though it was very competitive.

MJ: Yes.

BG: Would you say that that competition existed in other areas of the school, for example, band, chorus, academics, and football?

MJ: Yes, we had a chorus and we had the band. The first band that was started was with Mr. Pickard. We had two or three trumpet players, one would practice just a little more than the other and people tried to outdo one another and that was competition even with music and whatnot.

BG: Did you feel that competition academically?

MJ: Yes. There were quite a few people who sort of palled around together due to the fact that they had a lot of the same values and the same academic standings, and so it was competitive.

BG: Did they separate your class according to ability or so-called tracking?

MJ: No.

BG: Not when you were there?

MJ: Our class was only separated or put into sections because it was so large. My class was the largest class. We had sections of my class when I was in the second grade because we had so many people in my class. Then all the way through high school we had two sections.

BG: In your particular one of those two section, how many students were in your class/

MJ: I guess about thirty-two in each class, thirty-two or thirty-three or something like that.

BG: Did you go on field trips?

MJ: Very seldom.

BG: Did you have a class trip at the end of your senior year?

MJ: Yes. Some people went in Mrs. Turner's class. Each teacher had a section. You see they no longer have class sections. When one came to school, they came in and there was a devotion period and the teacher would check the roles to see who was in school and who was not in school. You could pass up and down the hall or walk out into the auditorium. Around the auditorium was where the elementary students were. This was a school for grades one through twelve, and the elementary students surrounded the auditorium, and the high school students were in this area of the building right down in this hall.

BG: Do you remember May Day?

MJ: Yes. There was a May Day Queen every year and there was a Homecoming Football Queen every year, and all of the other classes participated in the May Day. They did different dances and things and the parents and people in Chapel Hill came out to see the May Day. Each class had a responsibility to take part in each May Day.

BG: You mentioned that you had a May Queen.

MJ: Yes, a May Queen and we had a Homecoming Queen.

BG: How does a May Queen come to be the May Queen? Is she appointed or elected and the same thing with Homecoming?

MJ: Let's see, how did they do that? I think the May Queen was selected from a class or a high school. The May Queen had to come from the high school, and the Homecoming Queen had to come from the high school, I think, from the senior class. Each junior class was supposed to leave a gift or raise money for a gift for the next class. The Homecoming Queen, I remember, came from the senior class. The May Day Queen I think many times came from the senior class.

BG: What was the band like under Mr. Pickard?

MJ: Well, we were getting started and what happened then was that Mr. Pickard would put all of the instruments out on tables and people would go into the room and choose the instrument that they were interested in playing so that everyone would know all the different instruments and that is not done this time and day. Some students are way up in high school before they know all the different instruments. He put them on display. When I came along I was very interested in the trombone because it looked to be hard to play and I couldn't understand how you could just slide an instrument and make notes. I chose the trombone, and I told Mr. Pickard, "I don't think I would ever understand how to play this." He said, "Why don't you take some lessons on it?"

BG: Who gave you a lesson?

MJ: Mr. Pickard did.

BG: Did you have to purchase the trombone or was it school property?

MJ: It was school property.

BG: When did Mr. Pickard start the band?

MJ: Let's see. I think I was in the eighth grade when he started.

BG: So there was no band before 1947?

MJ: Well, they had a band but Mr. Scales was in the band and Isaiah Foushee was in the band. There were some people who already had instruments and they had a band. I think Mr. Pickard was here then.

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JONES, MARY NORWOOD

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BG: So there was a band here but it wasn't that everybody had an instrument from the school, they had their own?

MJ: They had their own instruments because when Mr. Pickard was directing the band when I was in the band there was a person who had her brother's trombone and he left it for her to play. Many parents had to buy instruments for their children.

BG: Did you have a band uniform?

MJ: No, when the band first started we wore white pants and black jackets. I have a picture of the band.

BG: So you were telling me the band had a white bottom and a black jacket.

MJ: Yes, the black jackets, white pants and white jackets and we used to parade up and down Franklin Street down to Emmet's field. That's where we played our football games.

BG: Where was Emmet's field?

MJ: On the campus at UNC. I think it was called Emmet's field. It's been so long ago. I'm hoping I'm getting the names correct.

BG: So you would play at football games on the UNC campus at Emmet's field, and you would march from the school down to Emmet's field?

MJ: Yes. We marched from here up to Franklin Street and we marched down Rosemary to Main Street in Carrboro and then back down Franklin Street down to Emmet's field. That's what we did on homecoming day.

BG: It wasn't every football game that you marched to the games.

MJ: No, no, it was just for our homecoming game.

BG: What kind of crowds would come out to watch the band?

MJ: Well, sometimes some parents would leave work early enough to see the parade and people would just step out and watch the parade go by.

BG: Did you have floats?

MJ: I don't remember floats, but we had majorettes and they did different kinds of steps and things, and the band played like that. I don't remember any floats in the parade.

Now this picture was made right out there on that field before it was a parking lot.

BG: Was the band director, the teacher who taught the students how to play the instruments; was he also the marching leader of the band?

MJ: No, he was not the drum major, you see, there was a student here and the person who directs the band--. There's Mr. Pickard right over there.

BG: Oh, I see.

MJ: This is a drum major, Fred Roberts. He was the drum major then.

BG: Fred Roberts was the one who was twirling the baton and high stepping.

MJ: Yes, and leading the band, and these were the majorettes. That was all; that's all we had. We didn't have any floats or anything.

BG: Everyone that I talk to tells me about the band. What was it that made the band so special?

MJ: Well, it was something different that the school had and people were just amazed at the playing instruments and people thought it was just very unique to have a band.

BG: Did you think it was something that you excelled at?

MJ: I tried very hard and then we had another band director that played the trombone also. I thought that was fun. The band director that came after, let's see, it was Mr. Groton was next and then there was Mr. Bell. He was the bandleader when I graduated.

BG: When I said did you think it was something that you were good at, I didn't mean you personally but I meant the whole band.

MJ: Oh, yes, I think the people were very proud that they were part of the band and people were proud of the people who were in the band and that meant a lot to the students who were in the band. What I'm saying is, the people who were in the band were highly respected and we'd do concerts sometimes. At St. Paul's Church, we did a concert. We had band members who were very interested in music and whatnot and they practiced quite a bit of the time because during lunchtime some of the people cared enough about the band music to go into the music room as we called it and play their instruments and practice during that time.

BG: It wasn't required. That was just spontaneous.

MJ: No, that was something that they just wanted to do, and I think they wanted to excel in this and they wanted people to respect them for being in the band, and they did get respect for being in the band.

BG: I had someone say to me that when I was in the band I felt like I was somebody.

MJ: Well, I think all students felt like they were somebody, but it was a feeling that all members in the band felt good about. I don't know whether each person felt like that he or she was somebody, you know, but I wouldn't put it that way. I just felt that I excelled a little more than others. I didn't really feel like I was just somebody because I was in the band.

BG: I guess by somebody I'm saying is that they felt important.

MJ: I think the people who were in the clubs felt important, and they were highly looked upon by teachers and students. They were known all over the school.

BG: If you were in a club?

MJ: If you were in a club or in a band.

BG: So you were in the Drama Club--.

MJ: Dramatics, dramatics.

BG: Dramatics.

MJ: And I acted in just about all the plays. I remember a play that we had when I was in third grade, and we had operettas. That's what they were called operettas and plays and things like that, and it brought the community closer together, and people came to see the youths act, and they chose people who were very good at what it was they were doing, and they remembered them from the plays and from the bands. The choir, some people had lovely voices and they were in the choir, the band. I was in the choir, the band, and then when the choir was performing and the band was performing it would take a little while for people to go back to the choir to sing a song or leave the choir to come to the band because it seemed that sometimes those people in the bands were in a lot of other things.

BG: They had not just one talent, but they had a lot of talents.

MJ: Yes, a lot of talents and then too, some people just enjoyed being a part of activities other than academics.

BG: Correct me or let me know if I've interrupted this correctly, the plays, the choir, the band, you felt all these things brought the community closer together.

MJ: Oh, yes. Oh, yes, they did.

BG: A lot of parental attendances at these things?

MJ: Yes, well as much as possible because some parents had to work in the University. Some parents worked in the University and when they worked in the University they could not be off at

all times, you know, those parents who could come would come, but they knew about all of the things going on and they were very interested.

BG: I wanted to ask you about the football team, what you remember about the football team.

MJ: I remember Mr. R. O. Kornegay was coach of the football team. He coached all athletics. He was my first basketball coach.

BG: So he coached boys and girls.

MJ: Boys and girls basketball and he coached football. He was the type of person to take senior students to the junior colleges and all around. I think he is the person who was before his time. In other words, he did all the things we'd like to see teachers this time and day. He always believed that students should go further to continue their education and he would see to it that they went to the different campuses and universities. He would try to introduce them to the coaches and he officiated some of the games. Leahy was his special coach. He always talked about the coach of Notre Dame.

BG: He modeled himself after him?

MJ: Yes I think in many ways. He once had a teen center right over in Hargraves Recreation Center where the Holmes Day Care Center is now. He operated a teen center and he was always working for the youths, and that's the kind of thing that is so much needed this time and day. I don't think enough is done for the youths of this particular day and especially during this particular time. He was just that type of person. For his wife, I don't think he ever got a chance to see his wife. He would be in school all day. She also taught elementary school. He would stay after school for basketball practice. He was involved with all of the athletics here at the school.

BG: He was a busy man coaching all the sports.

MJ: Yes, he coached all the sports. During the summer, he would take us over to what is now North Carolina Central University and he had us run track. Some of the girls ran track. I used to go over there when I was in high school.

BG: How did you get over there?

MJ: He would take us and then sometimes he would take us to play softball games. We would ride in the back of a truck and go over to Durham and play softball. He was just all for the youths. He was very involved with youths.

BG: Did he ever follow any of his students after they went on to college?

MJ: Well, he did when they were close by. Even when they went to college he would sometimes post their names or the names would be posted or the picture would be posted. I remember when I was in high school that was a great incentive for people to want to go to college because we would pass by a board out here in front of the principle's office and there would be pictures of those people who went off to college.

This school was like a family. I always refer to people if we were not blood kin we were family, and that's how close the people were in this school. They felt close to the teachers. We felt close to the students and the teachers and it was just wonderful. I wish I could see more of what went on at this time and day. Incidentally, we just had a meeting with the Governor's Board last Thursday. The Governor's Board had a community meeting over at Hargraves Recreation Center and some of these same things, you know, there were good communications and people didn't have telephones during that time. Many people did not have telephones but there was better communications during that time.

BG: From the teacher to the student?

MJ: Yes, than we have now.

BG: What is your perception of what we have now, Mary?

MJ: Well, there is a lot to be desired. First of all, I think that any person who comes to this community to teach in the school system should have a tour of Chapel Hill prior to teaching so that they will know where the different neighborhoods are and what the neighborhoods are all about.

BG: Black and white?

MJ: Yes, yes, and I think they should know where the historical places are and not have to read them in the paper and then wonder where they are. When I left Chapel Hill, mail was not delivered door-to-door.

BG: Where did you get your mail?

MJ: We got it special delivery in Carrboro. I lived in Carrboro when I attended school. We went to the fork of the road and there's a restaurant there now where the post office once was. We got our mail general delivery. I used to think that Carrboro was in Chapel Hill. When someone asked me where I was from, I would say Chapel Hill. I never said Carrboro and now those places are two different entities. They have a mayor of each town.

BG: I want to go back to the football games. Were there any rituals that went on at the games that you can remember?

MJ: Nothing but cheerleaders. There were cheerleaders and they did the cheers. The students went and then after the game we had to rush back. The visiting team was fed as I said before down in the cafeteria on Brooks Street and that was set up by the school. We had to rush back from Emmet's field down on the UNC campus and come back and help feed the people.

BG: Did the students go anywhere special who were doing the feeding of the rival team. Did they meet anywhere and have a dance or sit around and have bit to eat?

MJ: We had dances over at Hargraves Recreation Center and especially after the homecoming game and sometimes after the games were played. People would go at 6:30 if the dance started at 7:00; people would be there at 6:30 so that they would not miss a minute of it because we had to be home at certain times. It was no such thing of going out at ten or eleven or twelve at night and staying all night. People had to be home before midnight. I know I did. I had to be home. At that particular time they had special movies up at the Hollywood Theater and sometimes they would have a matinee with special pictures like "Gone With the Wind," Cabin in the Sky," and a very famous black movie, "Stormy Weather." I remember going to those when I was in the second or third grade.

BG: That was an all black theater?

MJ: Yes, an all black theater. This was all during segregated times.

BG: The name of that theater was?

MJ: The Hollywood Theater.

BG: Did the team come on the field in any special way? Did they run through a banner? Did they have the band lined up? Do they do anything special?

MJ: No. When I first started going to the games we didn't have the band. They would just run out on the field and play ball. They didn't run through any banners or anything like that. This field incidentally was not far from Lenoir Dining Hall. There was a Lenoir Dining Hall where many students worked after school, and this field was not far from it.

BG: Did just blacks come out to see the games?

MJ: There were just blacks at the games. Yes, you have to remember this was during segregated times and we didn't have a lot of mingling with whites and blacks, not for school activities.

BG: Years later and even before segregation there was a significant white audience at some of the Lincoln High football games.

MJ: I wouldn't be surprised about that and I think that situation did happen but I was not here during that time so I cannot talk about those kinds of things. I can only talk about the times that I really know about.

BG: What kind of record did the football team have?

MJ: Hillside was always an archrival, and Raleigh was an archrival. They had some pretty good players. They had one player that everyone really respected. He could run the ball very well. He was Delaine Norwood's brother and he was called Pat Norwood, and there was a person by the name of Willis Barbie who ran the ball very well. He was captain of the football team.

[A man that has come to pick up Mary Norwood Jones interrupts the interview and the interview is stopped.]

BG: Why don't we just stop here and I thank you so much for talking with me. I do appreciate it and you have added a lot to this.

END OF INTERVIEW