START OF TAPE 1, SIDE A 3/19/09

Peggy Van Scoyoc (PV): [George Bailey is showing Peggy several genealogy booklets that a family member researched about his mother's family, the Evans family.] …the origins of the Evans family, and it was traced back to Wales?

George Bailey (GB): Yes. And basically they settled in Yorktown, but Yorktown was basically, I guess you could call it, an experiment in death. Because most of the people didn't survive Yorktown. They starved out. They never received materials or supplies from England and so forth, so there's a lot of things about Yorktown that are hard to trace back. But in any case, this young lady starts off doing that. This also, she documents her family all the way up to when her family started marrying Indians. And then Indians, we branch off from the Indian side, the white Indian side of the Evans' and she carries her family all the way to present, and we carry our family all the way to present based on those documentations. So this book gives you an example of how we go from Wales to Yorktown and then throughout the North Carolina and to all of the states that we presently live in. This document right here starts out, descendants started at 1695. But it actually started in 1675 when this guy was born.

PV: In Yorktown?

GB: Not in Yorktown, but in Virginia, in York county. And they don't document where he, they document his court case where he had not, he went to court over a debt. So he documents him from that point. But it starts back in the 16__something and goes to here and to 2002.

And basically this documents starts at our basic history, which starts at Charlie and Mathilda which is the branches that settled in Chatham County [NC], that goes from Chatham County to Cary. And then from Cary to wherever we are now. But this goes back to present,

because Charlie and Mathilda, they died in like 19__, I don't know exactly when they died. But, let's see, when did Charlie and Mathilda die? It says it in here, but in any case, I've got to find out. I think they died in like '45 or something like that, 1945, 1936. Then it goes back to Clyde Evans which you know about.

PV: Yes, I interviewed his son. This was your grandfather, Clyde Sr.?

GB: This is my grandfather. Then it goes to the Bailey family. Then it goes to this sub-division [Evans Estates] which is on my grandfather's land. Then it goes to some of the problems that we were having with the re-zoning with the Town of Cary. So that is another story, which I have been involved in very heavily.

To give you an idea of what we've been doing, I'll go back to where I live presently. If you want to bring your recorder over here, or if you want to stop it, that's fine. But I can give you an idea.

PV: I think it will pick up from where we are standing.

GM: What we have right here, this is Grandy's old land. Grandy bought about a hundred acres here. And then, my grandfather lived to be about 93. And then he passed it on to my mom and all the relatives. Well, the thing about this that is very important is, I believe this area was founded by the Bailey's have been, as with my grandfather and his father before him, had been very tied to the land. We basically start our values based on land, as the people in Africa start their values based on cattle, and so forth. So we have tried to retain land ownership as one of our principal basic facts. And as far as I'm concerned, I try not to sell land. I'm a builder so therefore I sell a building on the land before I sell any land. Or very rarely have we, we try not to sell the land unless it is tied to a home that we've constructed on it, or something like that. ( )

[Showing Peggy drawings hanging on the wall,] This is my grandfather's home here, Clyde and Mathilda. ( )

PV: Your mother was showing me this drawing by Jerry Miller. That was the homestead that was one this land? Right where we're standing right now?

GB: Yes, it was. Actually, it is near the house that my first cousin lives ( ). And it's near where my brother now presently owns a house. So in Evans Estates, which is on my grandfather's land, there lives George Bailey (myself,) Herb Bailey, my brother, my mom which is the house I built, and my brother lives in that house I built; my daughter, Tanya Bailey, I mean Tanya Alexander; Tamara ( ), my other daughter which are twins, and then Herbert's daughter Kim ( ) which lives down the street. And then we have lots reserved for Britney Bailey, as well as we have an aunt that owns a lot here in Evans Estates as well, that she will eventually, or her sons will eventually build on. So, there will always be an Evans on Evans Road, or near Evans Road as far as we're concerned, from here to wherever. This is my grandfather's house [showing Peggy a drawing,] and we tore this house down. I took a log that was used by my grandfather, and took it out of that house. From that house I took it and put it in this house. Now in architecture design, you have what structural members call, dig your foundation and so forth. And part of foundation work is foundation that carries point loads. Point load is the destination of a structure member that is vertical, that transfers the load to another structure member all the way. When I placed that beam under my house, right there.

PV: So the beam is right underneath your staircase right here.

GB: Yes, right underneath the corner. That corner, there is a point load right there to that corner securing my floor. That corner carries the point load up to the ceiling which carries my

roof. So I have now established a foundation that was from my grandfather, from the base of my house to the base to the roof.

PV: That's wonderful.

GB: And that's how we did it. Now, we have picture of my grandfather, as you can see, with his dog on his tractor - Sissi. These two are pictures of my grandmother and my grandfather. And this one right here is called "Grandy's Last Stand." Well, Grandy's Last Stand, see those oak trees [in the drawing?] Those are the trees right there.

PV: Oh, right outside your front door. Look at that.

GB: That was the barn over there. (walking outside, too far away to hear) I told you that in her family, education has been very important. It's been important because of the segregation that she experienced, as well as the segregation that we experienced growing up. So my mother and father educated all five of their children. And doing that education, we all went to college, we all finished college. But when my mother graduated from college, my brother was graduating from high school. So she went back to school to get her degree. Now my father didn't have nothing but a ninth grade education, but he was a very successful businessman in his businesses that he did. And we're in similar businesses right now. But education is very important to me. I have three daughters, okay. One graduated from UNC-G, one graduated from Carolina, and one graduated from State. This one is in bio-medical engineering, this one is industrial relations, and this one is in biology.

PV: Wow, that is so wonderful. That is just great. So now, going back to Charlie and Mathilda way back, they bought the first land in 1890?

GB: No they didn't. They bought, Charlie and Mathilda bought, they moved from Chatham County to here. And Mama could give you a little bit more information. And I think

it's written in here when Charlie and Mathilda came to Chatham County. Charlie purchased 75 additional acres, bringing the total to 100. This is right here. They had 75 acres of land initially, they bought for $10.00. Okay. Now this is Charlie and Mathilda. And this is located in Evans Estates, not in Evans Estates, over there off of Apex, in Apex. Not in Apex, in Cary but off of over there near our family cemetery.

PV: Oh, on Old Apex Road?

GB: On the Old Apex Road, near High House. You've been over there?

PV: No, I think your mother was telling me about that. So now, that was in the late 1800s probably?

GB: Yes, and my grandfather bought his land in, I can't remember.

PV: So that would be Charlie? No, Clyde?

GB: Yes, Clyde bought a hundred acres on Evans Road.

PV: Okay. Do you know who they bought the land from?

GB: No, but you can find that out from the county records. You can look in county records and see that, by visiting wakecounty.gov and registrar of deeds. You can pull that up. You can trace it back, you can look back at the grantor and grantee and look where Clyde Evans, and then search his records back to there and pull the documents out of it. I've never done it. I mean I've done it for houses that I bought or properties that I bought, but I've never tried to trace the family deeds back to that. I'm going to leave that with you.

PV: Okay, wonderful.

GB: And then I was going to see if you wanted to take a brief ride for about ten minutes and I'll show you what we've been doing.

PV: [George took me through Duchess Village, one of his developments. We then stopped at the Evans/Turner cemetery on the corner of Old Apex Road and High House Road and looked at the headstones. He then drove me around Evans Estates, another one of his developments, and where he lives, along with his mother Mamie Bailey and his brother Herbert Bailey. Today is Thursday, March 19, 2009.] This is Peggy Van Scoyoc. Earlier today I was in the home of Mr. George Bailey. He was talking to me and telling me about his family. He is, his grandfather was Clyde Evans Sr. His mother is Mamie Bailey, who is the sister of Clyde Evans Jr. George lives in Cary, in Evans Estates that he and his brothers helped develop, they worked together to develop. So what you heard previously was the beginning of his interview. We are going to reconvene in a few days to pick up where we left off. In the meantime, he has loaned me a number of books and genealogical studies that have been done on the Evans family, so that I can go through them and compile a list of questions for him about his family. So we will be getting back to that topic when we meet again.

PV: Today is Wednesday, March 25, 2009. We are going to continue our interview today with George Bailey at his home. So we will begin shortly.

GB: Interesting, about desegregation and the problems that we as family have had. And not necessarily Evans' but in general, what people had. I do read a lot and I'm sure you've read some, a lot of things that I've read, like Colin Powell's book, and Condoleezza Rice's book and, but some of the interesting facts about racism and so forth deal with how racism are carried over the history of the United States. One of the more fascinating group of books that I've read is Michener's books. *The Source* which is about the Jewish experience in Israel and Palestine, but also about *Hawaii, Chesapeake,* and all of these sort of books portrays racism in various forms

of America being conquered, the progression of Europeans throughout the United States. And also as far as ( ) were concerned. But that is interesting. And my dad used to tell me stories. One of them that I remember very well was pertaining to some of the more important figures here in North Carolina. Being that my father was always an entrepreneur, and owned his own companies since about ’63, starting with plumbing companies that did major complexes. This is how I got into the business as well, because when I was thirteen, or actually when I was about twelve, my father put me to work as a plumber. By the time I was fifteen, I had four people working for me. What I would do is, I was in charge of apartment complexes, where I would put in all the fixtures and so forth for apartment complexes. And some of these guys were forty years old.

But going back to my dad, one of the more, one of the largest builders in North Carolina, when he was doing his construction work, and he was basically doing utilities, running underground water pipe and sewer pipe. But one of his contractors was Willie York. Now Willie York’s son is Smedes York, which is the mayor of Raleigh. Well, Willie York, and this is not one of those good stories, but it tells you how he played in the scenario of segregation. Willie York, Daddy was on one of his jobs, and he had a contract with Willie York. And one day Willie York, with a group of other white men around him, called Daddy two or three times the N-word. Okay. It was pertaining to something on the job. You blah blah this, you blah blah that, and basically he, at that time, segregation, Jim Crow was heavy, heavy in Raleigh, North Carolina. Because Daddy had problems in several aspects of, as far as it was pertaining to Raleigh. But Willie York did that. (tape malfunction) Daddy was a very shrewd, shrewd, shrewd man. And for somebody that had a ninth grade education, he excelled in business. And when he passed away, I’ll put it this way, he wasn’t poor.

But that, as well as some of the other things, my daddy was, tried to get his journeyman's card in the city of Raleigh. And while he was trying to do this, they had a series of tests which required that you had to pull some, and wipe some lead joints. Well, he knew that he had passed this exam, but he had to take it over three times. The third time they finally gave it. It was his persistence that allowed him to give his license and make his livelihood. From there he started Capital City Plumbing, which went into utilities and various other things. And the unique thing about my dad is that he always knew when he couldn't handle something how somebody else would do it. When they had more sense than he did. So when he ran into a problem, he had several businesses in which he had a white partner, and he owned 51% with the white partner. But he was not out in front on any of the businesses. He was background. You couldn't be out, being black, you couldn't be out in front on a major business in North Carolina. That just wasn't going to cut it. As times got better, he had his other companies that he was out on front on. But he had partnerships in various companies. One of them was B&B Pavement, for example. My father used to own 51% of B&B Pavement, which did $15-20 million a year. I don't know what they get now. I shouldn't say 15-20, I don't know they did. Because I used to work with him.

But Daddy did a lot of stuff. Mama basically handled the office and so forth. Because my mother, as I told you before, my mother graduated from college the same day that my oldest brother graduated from high school. So she went back to school to get an education.

PV: Which is admirable. So he had to learn how to work the system.

GB: He had to work the system, he had to work the system. And the town of Cary wouldn't be proud of that, but I know of occasion where my daddy delivered hundred dollar bills to get things approved through the town of Cary. I mean, during the time that bribes were allowed. They are not allowed now. But during the time that he was being brave, you know,

trying to get stuff through the town of Cary that he wanted. You had to bribe people,to the tune of $5,000. But this is dead history. Because probably the person that he bribed, as well as himself, are now deceased.

PV: Now, did white contractors have to bribe a well?

GB: I don't know. You know, we weren't white, so we don't know. But Daddy had contacts with everyone in the town of Cary and donated money to the fire department and so forth. But as far as segregation as it was, we were kept under toe. We went to all segregated schools but we were never out in the forefront of anything. We constantly worked so we didn't have time to be politicians. The Evans' weren't really politicians as such, out there in the forefront of the desegregation movement, and so forth. We experienced it, but we were sheltered from it by our upbringing, as you could say. And Daddy had to confront it every day in his businesses in dealing with people. And my mother only confronted it on small occasions, because she was not out there in the business world. And nor were we out there in situations where segregation slapped us upside the head. Where we were out there and so forth, because at the time where we were being raised, we didn't go out to eat. We ate at home. There's just so many elements into being raised in this area that my family didn't do.

PV: How, what was it like in Cary itself? Raleigh being the capital city is one thing, but Cary is more small-town.

GB: Well, I was raised when the road was gravel. So the bus picked me up and carried me to school.

PV: You went to school in Raleigh, right?

GB: No. I went to school in Cary up to when I was twelve years old. So I was about in the fifth grade. And my mother had a problem with the principal of the school that we were

going to, which was a segregated school. And she chose to pull all of us out that were in that system, all the way starting from my sister all the way down to the youngest. And then we moved to Raleigh. Now we had two homes in Cary, but education was so important to her that we moved from Cary to Raleigh into the projects until we could buy a house. And we lived in the projects about three months. So I never went to school, I never was raised per se in Cary. We moved away. Now my brother Herbert was raised throughout his educational experience through high school in Cary. He drove a school bus. That was one of the reasons I indicated that I think you need to talk to him. Because he was older and he probably has different experience than I.

Because one of the things that happened during the time that I was being raised is that the movement started. And the identity of people started changing. An example of that would be, I never thought I was Indian. I always thought I was black. Alright? But the reality, if you were to slice me up into pieces and say, well, what is my percentage of this blood or that blood, or whatever, you would find that black would be the smallest of my percentages. But the reality was that I was raised in a black environment where I knew I was beautiful. So my confidence level in that environment as the movement started, and the schools that I went to, which is A&T, was, it just compounded that. I mean, there was nothing I couldn't do. When I finished college, I went off to the Peace Corps. That is something that black folk don't do. I was one among three out of 150 people.

PV: You were one?

GB: Yes, I was one among three out of 150 people. There were three black individuals in the Peace Corps, Peace Corps Ethiopia out of 150. Oddly enough, those same three people, after the two year contract, finished up their contract with the United States government. And I think

that why it's important is because when I left, out of the 150, only 70 were still completed their contract. So those people that, the individuals that were black and all had 100% completion rate of their contract, wherein the other individuals which were 99.9% of the remaining total were white, only less than 50% finished up their contract. It was all about the association with people and then being able to adapt. Being black puts you in the situation where you have to adapt to other cultures that have been dictated to you, or other environments that you are being constantly thrust in. So as I look back at it, the reason that I survived my two-year contract was very simple. I did not come over to Africa thinking that I was an American. I did not come over to Africa thinking I was a black American. I came over to Africa to help. And I did not let my American attitude adjust me, try to adjust the country to me. I let the country adjust me. And so when I had to sit in the building for three hours to get somebody to sign a piece of paper, I brought a book and I patiently sat there for three hours. Wherein some other people got so upset that they couldn't get something done, that it bothered them. It put a lot of stress on them. I didn't. Like I said, it didn't bother me.

PV: The way it's done here.

GB: It was the way it's done. So I didn't go in there trying to change Ethiopia to make it a little America. And I was successful in completing my two year contract.

PV: Now why did you choose to go into the Peace Corps in the first place?

GB: I have never in my life not planned what I wanted to do without being conscious many years in advance. I knew what I wanted to do to major in college four years before I got to college. I knew when I was in college, when I saw an advertisement, that's what I'm gonna do. And I set my goals up. I knew that when I left Peace Corps I was going to be back in four years. I was back in four years. I knew when I was coming from Peace Corps what I wanted to do soon

as I hit the ground in America after I finished up a consultancy contract for U.S. Air I did, I started a company and was back in business. I have never, almost through my entire life worked for anybody, white, green or orange. I worked for myself. The Peace Corps, I was independent. Almost everywhere I have, almost anything that I've done, I've never really had a boss. And it created attitudinal problems now. My wife will be the first one to tell you I got a attitude. But the reality is, is I have attacked a situation where I'm adjusting to other people. I'm telling other people what to do. I started off all of my life doing that. When I was, I fit when I was fifteen years old I had somebody working me. So that history has always put me in conflict with people, one because I don't have ( ) I've had employees all my life, except for the relationship with my wife. My kids, I still try to tell them what to do, but they're grown. They just don't even listen to me no more. But that's the emphasis.

And my whole family, all of the Baileys are to a degree like that. We've been in business or around business all our lives. And we have migrated toward that. And when we have worked for other people, we're like the Jamaicans or the Puerto Ricans, we have three jobs. My sister has rolled three jobs quite a bit in her life. If she wants a Mercedes Benz, get another job. And she's had several Mercedes Benz'. But the point is, we were always raised in working, and we have always been around an opportunity where someone has progressed and that someone has made money to identify the road to us. It is a very narrow road that anyone travels, in faith, in whatever you want to do. And if you have the discipline to follow a narrow road, it is almost always going to be successful. So my brother taught for a few years in D.C., and when he came back here he hit the ground running, business time. He started his business. My other brother, he worked for an executive with G.E. for awhile, and they moved him around the states, the United

States for awhile. But he started his own business. My sister does taxes on the side. She's in real estate, so she's got her own business. So it's just a part of life.

PV: It's definitely a part of your family culture.

GB: Yes. My grandfather was always, he never called himself a farmer. He disliked that. He was a pulp-wood man. Now, he did a lot of farming. My grandfather had a big garden. He had corn out in front of some of these houses where the subdivisions is. He raised tobacco. But he was not a farmer. He was a pulp-wood man. And that was his attitude. He just didn't, he could not relate to being a farmer as his occupation. But he raised pigs. He did as many people did. And he sold his produce as well.

PV: But he also did a lot of timber?

GB: Oh yes, he did a lot of timber. I helped him as a child. And his brother worked for him, which is Tildon, which is the property that the cemetery is on. So you've got to remember that Charlie and Mathilda came from Chatham County to Cary, North Carolina. And they bought the original blocks of land over there near Duchess Village which is the subdivision we developed, and where the cemetery is. And then, my grandfather bought this land over here, and then some of his brothers migrated over here, which is Herbert Evans' family, the Loveless Evans family, which is his brother, and so forth. And some of the, so that changed things over here. So then when he migrated over here, they bought land over here either from him or from somebody else. I'm not sure.

But then his clan, his group or a family member migrated here, and that's where the Clyde Evans, but we originally came from Chatham County. Now interesting enough, my brother's been buying land in Chatham County. He has 200 and some acres in Chatham County. But the Chatham County connection is one that we have not thoroughly investigated for the

Charlie Evans side that stayed in Chatham County. Because when they moved from West Virginia as landowners, they moved to Chatham County to buy land. And then the Chatham County folks moved to Cary to buy land. So there is undoubtedly, if it is a Evans spirit running, or Evans blood still running in their veins, we have some of our relatives in Chatham County that own land. And as freed slaves, because basically Evans chains over, all free, not necessarily freed slaves but free Indians that married into free slaves or other people that were in slavery. Some of it the chains, I don't match up. Basically, but most of them came from all free people.

PV: So you were, the Evans family throughout were, they were never slaves?

GB: Not that I know of. Not that I know of.

PV: That's what it said too in the articles that you've been able to find for your genealogy as well. But they may have married ex-slaves or freed slaves, is what you're saying? So you don't know that side of the family that still may be in Chatham County?

GB: No, don't know them. But we do know all the chains as it goes from Charlie and Mathilda, which started back in the 1800s.

PV: And most of them are still right around here, it looks like.

GB: Yes, quite a few. We're all over. We have, one of my cousins is, she's retired now but she was the head of the legal department that defends criminals in California, in the capital. There are articles that my mom has in one of her papers. But she won awards and so forth. The public defender, she was the department head for the public defenders in the, what's the capital of California?

PV: Sacramento.

GB: Sacramento, right. And so, we have airline pilots or military people that flew planes and did this. We are all over the map. And anybody's family is. I think the generation after Clyde

Evans is a multi-faceted generation that is in to everything that any family would be into. Because then we have no limits. Education is saying, as far as you want to carry. We have nothing stopping us. And some of this is, nothing's stopping us from the areas that we are in. Because when migration to up north, there are less limits put on you as far as the southern Jim Crow laws and so forth. So you have an opportunity, like Condoleezza Rice, to excel in Denver where she was, she didn't have to worry about segregated schools. She didn't have to worry about bombings. She didn't have to worry about anything. She might have been the only one in the class, but just the same, black kids are the only one in the class here in North Carolina all the time. My kids were raised the only one in the class. I mean, this is just a way of life. If you excel in education, you're gonna be, there's gonna be a limited number that are excelling and we're the smallest of the population here, so we're going to be a smaller amount in the classroom.

PV: Now where did your children go to school?

GB: They all went to Broughton High School. It's not in their district, but my wife was able to get them into Broughton, being an educator. So they all went to Broughton. They were all guided by Miss Linda as far as education. Like I said, education was a priority. It was a, they never thought of nothing but college. They were, at a very early age, involved in college life. They received scholarships from A&T, both of them are. Because one of my, Linda's sister was a professor there. So we got scholarships from A&T, but none of them chose to go to A&T, and their basic reason was is that they had experienced the college life through us. I graduated from A&T. I had three other brothers and sisters who graduated from A&T. So they were at A&T all the time. So they chose State, Carolina and UNC-G.

PV: So the UNC system? Now, Broughton was integrated by the time they got there, right?

GB: Every school was integrated long before that. When I, I was eighteen when, I was through the last class of Ligon which became integrated in 1969. Wherein I was in the last class of it being an all black school. But my brothers and sisters, after Ligon was integrated, they went to Enloe because we lived over there near Enloe. And with that in mind, so they, that stopped the chain of all-black schools right there in our family. So from my brothers and sisters, from myself up, which I'm the middle child, we went to all black schools. And from there down, all white schools, basically. And all of my kids went to all white schools. Not white schools, all mixed schools. Because at that time, the school system was Wake County and not Raleigh Wake. When I was in school, it was all Raleigh city schools that I was going to. And where my brother went to all Wake County schools, because he went to Berry O'Kelly, which was the only black high school in this area, in Wake County.

PV: So your children went to elementary school in Cary, but by that time it…

GB: No, my kids, I was in Raleigh. See, this is twenty years later. So we're talking a big gap in America. So, my kids were in, I never grew up with anybody white. My kids grew up with friends that came by or this and that, even though we lived in basically in a black community, their association was very wide. Their structure of involvement was very wide. ( ) was on the Raleigh flute association that, and being the only black, she was the only black on that. They were involved in any and everything, but many of the associations may have been black, but their involvement was with the full culture rather than with the segregated culture.

PV: A very different experience from yours growing up.

GB: Their whole attitude toward everything is different. My attitude is always one of caution. I've seen my father had a job in Johnston County which was the racist, and it was during the time where you could see the Ku Klux Klan in Johnston County with the big old sign they

had out in the field on I-64, no on I-70, it was on 70, “Johnston County, the home of the KKK.” Alright. Now I grew up with that. But see, our daddy had a job down at the prison system in Salisbury, not Salisbury, there’s a prison right there in Johnston County. I can’t remember the name of it. But it’s near a little town and I can’t remember the name of it. But in any case, he had three pieces of equipment that somebody poured sugar in. Now sugar, if you’re knowledgeable, sugar is one of the most damaging ingredients that you could put in a fuel tank. That means that you have to almost tear the whole engine down, the fuel system down. It actually makes a piece of equipment worthless if you run it long enough. You just can’t repair it. You have to basically throw it away. And so we had three pieces of equipment that someone put sugar in. And I know what it was, it was racism. There was a lot of people down there that didn’t like, that my father won the contract. And so they put sugar in his tanks.

So I was raised up in that, wherein there was subtle, I would think, but I don’t want to speak for my twins or my daughters. I don’t want to say that they experienced the same kind, but I know there were things in their life that confronted them that identified segregation. And the same teachers were teaching then as they were now, and there is a lot of things you can say that implies segregation. And I am sure they experienced, but they are children of a family that was educated. So they didn’t necessarily have to call us to confront anything that they, they knew how to confront it themselves. They didn’t have a problem with challenging any teacher if they thought their grade was not appropriate. And sometimes they would tell us, come back and say, they would tell us and they would ask us what they should do. But it was always that they didn’t ask us to handle the problem. They solved the problems themselves. Wherein we didn’t have to come in there and talk to the principal and get into somebody’s face involved in this and call it what it was. They confronted the situation and they handled it. And they wouldn’t stop if it

didn't end up at the results that they wanted. And so they would call in the teacher to the principal if it was necessarily. They didn't ever have to do that. It always stopped with the teacher, because they never went in unprepared. They didn't select that their grade was not good enough because of the teacher saying they was black. They knew what everybody else made. They read everybody else, these are their friends, white, green or orange. They knew what everybody else made. So they came in prepared to discuss, and defeat the teacher in that particular situation. And therefore, they were able, I have never known any situation where they got a grade that they thought wasn't fair. And we never had to get involved in it because they chose to handle it themselves. Now, if they couldn't handle it, then that's when I would become involved in it, or Linda. I think Linda would have been more effective than I at it because she knows the educational system a lot better, being an educator for twenty-seven years.

PV: Did your father ever have to get involved with those kinds of confrontations for your, with your siblings who were in integrated schools?

GB: No, I don't recall that. Now you would have to ask them. Now we, our father came to the school openings or the parent-teacher conferences and so forth. All of us were not the greatest of students, I would say. I don't think I was the greatest of students. I was one of my father's best workers, but I was not the greatest of students. I stayed on the high B side, wherein I never did very well in English, but excelled in mathematics and chemistry and physics and stuff like that. So I was always a two-sided student. I get Cs and Ds and stuff that I wasn't very good in, and I get As and Bs, so it sort of balanced itself out, but I always had direction and purpose. I knew where I wanted to go to school. I knew what it took to get in there. And I never had any problem. And I did fairly on SATs and things of that sort, but I could never handle …

PV: The core subjects, math and science and all that?

GB: I managed to do alright in the basics, and I did alright in college. I never excelled as far as college, but I was, the first two years I didn't do very well. I was pledging one semester, and I played around a lot. But the second two years I was extremely focused. My GPA went up to 3.2s, 3.5s, 3.8s a semester. I mean, I was burning. But, when I got to my sophomore year, the end of my sophomore year I looked at myself and said, "George, it's time for you to get out of school." So my total focus was to get out of school. I graduated on time, four years. And before my junior year, I applied to the Peace Corps and I was accepted in the Peace Corps. So I knew where I wanted, it was my junior year, early part of my senior year, I knew where I wanted to. I went and did my interview stuff, went out to Denver and this and that. So one and a half months after I finished college, bam, I was 4,000 miles away.

It was interesting too, how my family looked at that. I'd been fairly much of a black sheep to start off with, because I have always been a little bit more confrontational than my other brothers and sisters. And that conflict carried on to my daddy, because my dad had a set set of goals and sometimes he chose to tell me one thing and then tell me another thing in a week, and I would confront him about that. From there we had a heated argument. I was managing about five or six people, and then one day he chewed me out for managing people and not working. The next week he chews me out for working and not managing people. So we had a heated argument where I thought he was about gonna hit me. He didn't hit me, but just the same, we had a heavy discussion. And so my family, especially my mom, thought, "Oh, he'll be back home, in two weeks, a month." And two and a half years later, I show up. But I'm not, I was never easily deterred from making a goal, and then putting that goal as my priority in my life.

This house right here, this house I designed five years before I built it. Linda and I, during the process, had heated discussions on how we needed to do it. We had various things

that we wanted to accomplish in the design work. We had a piano that we had never had a good place for in our previous house. We wanted to accent it. I had art that was stored for years, ten, fifteen years, and never could display it. So we worked out everything. We took every house that we had ever owned, every house that I had built incorporated into the design. And then we had heated arguments over the fireplace. Fireplace cost me $8,000. Linda said, “Spend the money, George.” I said, “No, I don’t want to spend the money. I want to put an insert in there.” She won. I love that fireplace. I love it now.

PV: It’s a big, beautiful stone fireplace.

GB: Yes. But, I didn’t want to spend the money. Fiscal responsibility. But she pushed me into it. And I knew I would love it, because I loved the other one that I had. I had another house with a fireplace, but cost. I had overruns in this house.

So in general, though I’d been the black sheep of my family, I have done things that no one had ever comprehended that, one I would enjoy, or that you could stereotype black folk into doing. I don’t know of any black mountain-climbers, for example. And I’m not a mountain climber. If it’s a walk-up mountain, I’ll get up it.

[George went on to tell at length all of his mountain-climbing expeditions in his life, his love of hunting and travel. He has been to 35 countries and lived in four countries in Africa. He went through two coup d’états and one invasion in Africa.]

Every once in awhile, when I go into Evans Estates, I kind of smile.

PV: You should. It’s beautiful. You’ve accomplished a huge thing here.

GB: Evans Estates, that, my brother and I which was my partner in Evans Estates, and very proud. And I’m very proud of what is to come as far as the next development, and the next development, because we’re not done yet. We will involve our children in part of that. One of

the things that has happened is that my grandfather was an entrepreneur. Now, let's start off with Charlie. Charlie was an entrepreneur. He was a horse doctor.

PV: Was he?

GB: Yes. He was a horse trader, horse doctor, took care of horses, and his wife. The odd thing is, most people don't know that there was a lot of inter-marriage between people in the 1800s. It was not just a black and white, or Indian society. What happened, we came, the Evans' came from England, married whites here, married Indians here. Indians married blacks here, married whites here. My great-grandfather Charlie was Indian and part white. His wife was white. Now the children of them, which was my grandfather, married Indian or black and then our other generation have married Indian, white, black, whatever. But we're, the world is a very complicated place. And America is now, can't afford to be color-blind because we're all of color. So, like I said, our history is very fascinating. We only represent, what we represent truly is part of the history of America. And that history is white, it is black, it is Indian. It is anything, I am all three, in what would be considered by mostly militant attitude. Because I grew up on the black platform and I have always, like I say, associated myself with that power movement. And that is not necessarily true of our younger people. And that was not necessarily true of our older people, because there was no movement.

PV: So you've lived in a very exciting time, and have seen just vast changes in the culture, in the laws, in the attitudes. And it's hopefully continuing to change. And hopefully, because we still have a long way to go, but we have come a ways.

GB: It was interesting what Obama said. He said, in his interview last night, that being a black president lasted for one day after he took office. And then it's - whoever you are, perform. I thought that was sort of interesting in that, you may say okay, he is our first black president, but

whatever he is, at this particular point, I want him to solve the economy. I don't care whether he's green. It doesn't make any difference to me. And I did not vote for Obama because he was black. I voted for him because I thought he had the best approach toward the solving our problems. I thought he moved us from the age of big money and buying politicians to the age of being fiscally responsible. And I'm not in agreement with all of what he is saying, because I'm a conservative democrat. But I have a two-fold side to this thing. I also know that the experiences that America is going through is not black and white. It is tremendously America's experience. Because, I'm in a place, I'm a business owner first and as a business owner, we are in this construction industry and in the land development industry, we are devastated. I am just blessed that I did not get caught out there owing millions when this thing happened. ( ) I think I've talked too much.

PV: Well, I think we've covered all the questions.

GB: But I think you need to sit down with my brother. I think my brother will give a different facet on it.

PV: Now, have you had a chance to talk to him? When I called him the other night he hadn't talked to you yet about who I was and what I was trying to do.

GB: Yes, I did mentioned your name and he said that you called.

PV: He said he was willing to be interviewed, but I should give him a call when I'm ready and we'll see if we can find a time. So I'll do that in the next few days.

GB: Did you ever interview Jeanette Evans?

PV: No, I haven't. Would she be a good person?

GB: Well, Jeanette lived through the experience, and her husband… She lived through the experience of Evans Road widening, of course. My family lived through the experience.( )

PV: How is she related to you? She's an Evans as well, right?

GB: I'll show you. My grandfather and her husband's grandfather were brothers.

PV: Also, do you know who Lucille Evans Cotton is?

GB: That name sounds familiar.

PV: We interviewed her. Your uncle didn't know who she was. She was one of the first six black girls who started at Cary High School the first year that it was integrated. And I just wondered where she fit into your family, if you knew?

GB: Otis M. Evans is one of the kids of Charlie and Mathilda. Now here's my grandfather right here, Clyde. ( ) And his father was Loveless Evans which is the son of Otis M. Evans. And then here is Herbert Evans right here.

PV: Okay, so Loveless and then Herbert.

GB: Herbert Evans. And then Jeanette Evans is his wife. Herbert is still alive, but he has Alzheimer's and he's on hospice now.

PV: Oh boy. I think someone had told me that he was ill and so I hesitated calling her because of that.

GB: I think Jeanette, having to go through Alzheimer's has prepared her. I think she's at peace. I'll tell you what, I'll call her first.

PV: Okay, that would be great.

GB: ( ) I've lead an interesting life.

PV: Yes you have had, and I really appreciate you're telling me all about it, and for giving these interviews to us. So this has been really helpful and I appreciate your taking the time to meet with me today.

END OF INTERVIEW