

**U.18 Long Civil Rights Movement:
Heirs to a Fighting Tradition**

**Interview U-0556
Mandy Carter
February 2, 2007**

Transcript – 2

TRANSCRIPT: MANDY CARTER

Interviewee: Mandy Carter
 Interviewer: Bridgette Burge
 Interview Date: February 2, 2007
 Location: Durham, NC
 Length: Error in tape

START OF INTERVIEW

Bridgette Burge: So here we are – today is February 2, 2007, Friday, and we are in the home of Mandy Carter on Shepherd Street [laughter]. So tell me what you like about Durham. Let's start with that.

Mandy Carter: I love Durham.

BB: You've lived here a long time.

MC: But I didn't know about Durham when I got my job. It was 1982. I had been working with the War Resisters League in San Francisco, California since 1969, and due to a lot of different circumstances I decided I wanted to move east of the Mississippi and I said "are there any jobs with the War Resisters League east of the Mississippi?" and I got an email – letter back – this was before email. Yeah, there's an office in North Carolina. Where is Durham, North Carolina? Hopped on a bus, interviewed with the staff of the WRL east regional office in Durham, right up here on Chapel Hill Street – 604 Chapel Hill Street. Got the job, moved out with everything in my car, got here – and I remember getting here [interruption] –

BB: Oh, the tea. [Laughter] That's okay.

MC: I don't know why that's (). I'll be right back. I got here and I remember thinking since I'd moved here from San Francisco where I was an out lesbian, very gay town () and was doing all kinds of wonderful work. And I got the job and I get here and I thought well, where do the lesbians meet? What's going on in the gay and lesbian community? And Joanne Able, who was one of the people who hired me, said, "Mandy, you know we have this thing called the Triangle Area Lesbian Feminist House and we meet at the YWCA."

And I said you meet where? And I'm thinking is this all they have going on around here? I had such an attitude. And you know what? Durham is an amazing place to live, organize, and (). If there had been any other town like Chapel Hill or Raleigh, it wasn't until you're here you understand just how amazing Durham is as a community. I'm so glad it was Durham that I moved to, not Chapel Hill, not Raleigh (no disrespect).

But I think part of the dynamic when I first moved here there were people like – well, Duke University certainly. I think as a major contributor to the progressive feel and the progressive activist. A lot of people who are active in the community now went to Duke, graduated, and stayed here. For instance, Steve Schul is the reason why we have the Independent, a major, major important progressive magazine that comes out. Mab Segrest who went to Duke and also ended up staying here, white lesbian doing anti-klan organizing. Who would have thunk it in Durham, NC? People like Minnie Bruce Pratt. It was interesting because you had Mab Segrest, white lesbian, Minnie Bruce Pratt, white lesbian, and they were often connected to this thing called Feminary. It was, I guess, a regular publication of very kind of feminist theory whatnot, sitting here in Durham.

After that, Ladyslipper Music founded in Durham and you think about the legacy that has had in terms of music and culture for a lot of lesbians around the country because of their catalog – that was where they ().

So you have – and that's an amazing pool of talent to have that.

BB: Yeah, very rich. I'm feeling a little worried about this squeaking, so let me rewind just a little bit.

MC: Okay, very good.

BB: Okay, so you were born November 2, 1948, in Albany, New York.

MC: Albany.

BB: Albany. [Laughter] Al-bany (pronounced with southern twang).

MC: ()

BB: Well, wait til we get to the schnick and teddy. [Laughter] And you were in the Albany Children's Home until 1955, right?

MC: Right.

BB: So it was when you were born til '55?

MC: Pretty much.

BB: And you have a brother named Ronald Carter and a sister named Delores.

MC: Yep, right.

BB: What order were you born in?

MC: I'm the third.