

**Jeanne Hunter**

JEANNE HUNTER: OK. I figured it would be nice if you would ask some questions.

M1: I certainly will. This is February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007, interviewing Ms. Jeanne Hunter. (inaudible) The subject we are going to talk about today is Foster School. And there may be random questions from time to time, but I want to explain to you what we're, what Shorefront is trying to do. We're putting together an exhibit, a traveling exhibit, on the history of Foster School, in essence, really the building, the structure of and what it housed. First the school, then it changed to King and Lab, and then it's changed to Family Focus. So those are two, three focuses I'm focusing on.

JH: OK.

M1: The exhibit is going to be about the size of like these doors here. There'll be four panels about the size of that door that creates a back. And it's self-standing which will look like this: Foster School.

JH: Oh yeah.

M1: King Lab School.

JH: Yeah.

M1: Family Focus.

JH: Very good.

M1: And it will be a timeline --

JH: OK.

M1: -of general information about the beginning of Foster School and where it is right now.

JH: I can tell you whose idea it was to start the Lab School too, when you get to that point.

M1: OK. So, what I put together, and I think what, Mrs. Holmes shared with you, was what I gave her was a synopsis of information that could be included on each panel. And expect this as very brief paragraphs, because they weren't trying to tell the whole thing in an exhibit.

JH: Sure.

M1: It doesn't do much. But just to give a general feel of like, here's Foster School, here's King Lab School, here's Family Focus, when it started, what happened, and its (inaudible).

JH: [Al?], you'd be interested in this too. He's not from here but he knows more about this place than I do. (laughs) And he's a history buff.

M1: Well we're all historians here. That's why, you know, we try, I try and --

JH: Is it for me to keep?

M1: Yes, you can have that.

JH: Oh, good. So I can really digest it.

M1: Exactly. And if there's anything you see that's [erroneous?] or [just needs facts?], you know, please.

JH: There's so many things I cannot remember exactly, like dates.

M1: Right. And again, not expecting that, but just a general feel. And I'm hoping too that with your time there, if you had any records or photographs of anything about Foster School, or even books that were used --

JH: I only had one picture of Foster School. My husband used to develop all these pictures, and so he's kind of funny. If he doesn't have the negatives, he doesn't like to get rid of them. I have one picture of one of the first black teachers now, that came in the early '40s.

M1: OK.

JH: And they were, evidently were recruited by I don't know who.

M1: No that's all right.

JH: I don't know who recruited them.

M1: Oh, (inaudible)

JH: I was in, I think if they came in the '40s, I was in college.

M1: OK.

JH: That tells you I'm a hundred years old, but anyway. I think there were some when I came back, like for summer vacation, there were some teachers here at Foster School. [Boyer?] was, both places. The only one for years from the time I was a little kid, until I started teaching with him.

M1: Now, was Boyer like officially hired by the school district to teach there, or was he --

JH: Oh yeah. Yeah, he was a college graduate, from Missouri.

M1: OK. Right.

JH: Well educated. He was good. He was a good man. People liked him a lot. And he had a lot of dignity. A very dignified man.

M1: OK.

JH: No nonsense person. I'll never forget what he told me when I first started teaching. After the first year, he said you're going to be a good teacher when you put the books away. That was he [evidently?] (laughs), but anyway, getting back to the [teachers?]. When I was in college, you could, if you want to omit something, you could omit that. Everybody will know how old I am. Anyway, when I was in college, these teachers were hired at Foster School

along with the white teachers. And I can give you their names. You want them?

M1: Yeah. Please.

JH: Wendell Lanton, who had four college degrees. Yeah, he had a Bachelors, two masters, PhD. [Grace Boyd?], was a third grade teacher. Wendell taught the seventh and eighth grade. [Eddie?], no I don't know whether Eddie came then or not. Mary Lou Sullivan was recruited from Chicago schools.

M1: Is Mary Lou dead now?

JH: I don't know. [Willa?] is the only one alive, I'm going to have to give --

M1: All right.

JH: you a (inaudible) on that number because if Willa is about 88 or 89 and if she's got her faculties, she will remember things, because she was one of the first black teachers. Her name was Willa Brown, you got that? She was the librarian. Her name was Willa [Holmes?] Brown. You can put that in there too. That was her maiden name. She married an Evanston man. The next black teacher was Patsy Sloan. You knew about that [00:05:00] one? I knew her brother from World War Two.

M1: Yes, she's been misidentified in a article as the first black teacher, which I knew was wrong.

JH: Who was?

M1: Patsy Sloan. She was not the first --

JH: I don't know, because I was in college. And so, or high school --

M1: She came in '44, but I don't know when she was --

JH: OK, that's about, well, no that's not right. She was there before '44 I think.

M1: OK. Yeah, in this article it said it was '44.

JH: Well, OK, we'll leave it then, because I have no proof.

M1: But you know, but --

JH: She wasn't there when I went there.

M1: OK.

JH: OK, now who else? Oh, Dorothy Brown. Third grade teacher. She was the niece of [Oscar?] Brown Junior. You know, he came from a family of lawyers, and she was married to one of them. She had a twin sister named Doris, who did not, she didn't, Doris didn't teach in [Evanston?], but I used to see them at dances at the Parkway Ballroom. Anyway, who else came there? Mary Lou Sullivan, that's about all I can think of right now. That's all I can remember. By the time, oh [Carolyn White?], Carolyn White [Hunter?]. She

was a P.E. teacher because I took her place. Carolyn got married.

M1: OK.

JH: When she got married, she left and went to San Antonio. The school, this was in 1946 now.

M1: OK.

JH: 1946, when I went to Foster School. What happened was, I had been working for the city of Evanston, the Recreation department, and I was used to giving plays and dance programs and all kinds of things at the school, because we had like a shed that was the fieldhouse. You know about that. OK, in that shed, we learned everything. But when we wanted a facility where kids could participate, we used the school gym, Foster School, and we used the auditorium. So the people at the school knew who I was. After Carolyn left, I'm still working for the city. That October, school had been (inaudible), I said oh, I don't know whether I want to continue to work for Recreation Department or not. I think I'll go across the street to see. I'd already graduate from college. Anyway, I went over there and the principal said, her name was [Ruth Badger?] and the assistant principal was Ms. [Simpson?], I can't think of, Helen Simpson. Two, they were both white. And she said to

me when I walked in, I was like well, Jean, we couldn't come after you. In other words, that they were waiting for me to come over there to take the job. Then they wouldn't have to recruit me, so that's when I started in '46. Those same black teachers were there, with the exception of Patsy Sloan, was not there. [Lawrence Posen?] was there. Eddie Lee Sutton was there. Vera Brownlee. And incidentally, I saw in the records at the school board office, in longhand, Vera was one of the people who recommended that Foster School be turned into a lab school. And it was written in longhand. I knew it her writing. I got married in her house, so I knew a whole lot, you know, about her. Anyway, 1946, I don't know whether, you might want to omit this, I don't know. But when I went to that school, Doctor [Chute?], you know him?

M1: Yeah.

JH: He was 38 years old. He had been sent here, I guess, or applied for the job from Colby College in Maine. He was new. I met him in the office the last day of school. Some of the white teachers, remember there was Vera, Eddie Lee, and I, we kind of hung out together. And these white teachers came up and said "did you get your bonus?" I said "what bonus?" They said, "We get a bonus for teaching



here," is what they said. So I went to Doctor Chute who had been hired, but he was standing in the office. And I said, "what's with this getting a bonus for teaching our own kids?" And he said, he knew about it, he said "Don't worry. This is the last year for that," and I think I got a hundred dollars for that. Yeah, anybody that taught at Foster School, I don't know for how many years, because I didn't go to Foster School. I went to [Noyer?] School.

M1: OK.

JH: And Dewey School went to the eighth grade, because that's where my mother went. But anyway, that was the first year at Foster. I liked it. I was only there four years. Eddie Lee and I shared office space together --

M1: So you were at Foster, you were teaching at Foster --

JH: Yeah, I started teaching after this girl left and went to San Antonio. I started in October. The superintendent was from, I think he was a Southerner from, his name was [Roy Scott?]. Did you know about that little house they had over there?

M1: No I didn't.

JH: Oh, I didn't go there, but I knew that, I think they were calling that Red Rock Prison. You know how black --

M1: Yeah, yeah. That's the school called, yeah, they called it that.

JH: Anyway, there was a little, I didn't even live over this way. I lived --

M2: I think that [thing is still back there?]

JH: I don't know, Al, you know I have to, [00:10:00] no there's a parking lot there! That's where the --

M1: They [took out?] the shed a long time ago.

M2: They took it down.

JH: Yeah. And in that shed --

M1: It used to be a library. It used to be a library there.

JH: Yup, that's right.

M1: And before that, I think it was a auto shop.

JH: Yup, you're right. But the building was put there to teach black domestic home economics.

M1: Yeah. (inaudible; overlapping dialogue)

JH: In other words, no college, which to me today, would be a bad idea, because everybody's not college material. But the idea behind it wasn't good. And you had a group of parents that I admired, the way they handled things. They didn't protest and walk around with signs and all that kind of stuff. They very quietly worked as a group and they got things done at the school. black parents. Some of the

black parents sent their kids to Kentucky to school when it came to go to the high school. They sent them to Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky.

M1: OK.

JH: Oh, let me see, what else? OK, getting back to the school again. The school went to the eighth grade. You had only two junior high schools in Evanston. [Nickelton?] and Hayman. I was in the, see this, where I lived, in the [Noyes?] school, that was called the North End. South [End?], but you know that too. OK, you know. Anything you know, just stop me --

M1: No, no, I want to talk like I don't know anything. OK? Like I don't know anything.

JH: Anyway, South Evanston kids, we used to call South Evanston, I was the, we were East Side kids. And kids lived out this way West Side. This was not a street. My mother said this was swamp.

M1: Right, this is all [dirt?]

JH: And there was a [tent?], [bridal path?] across the street. That was, when we moved here, it was still here. But anyway, I worked at Foster, and then I got pregnant. Oh yeah, we didn't have many gym teachers, and I told my supervisor, I got to have a baby. I've been married four

years (laughs). She said "you can't have a baby," I said "yes I can too!" So I got pregnant and had this child, took the year off. My kid was a year old, yeah. I was going to stay home two or three years. Mr. Boyer came to my house. We lived in an apartment. And he said you've got to come back to work. He picked up my son, put his coat on, and he said "Come on, you're going to the school with me," My husband was, he was in school and working, so he wasn't home. He drove me, by this time he had a car, and he drove over to Foster School. What happened was, the man was sick. And he didn't think he was going to be able to make it. He didn't tell me all of that. But before the year was over, he died. At [Hines?] Hospital. And the principal was crazy about him. They were like best friends. Even though she was probably older than he. And she said Jean, you've got to help me. Well I couldn't do, teach all those kids up through the eighth grade by myself, because in those days, boys and girls were separated.

M2: No. Right. That's one of my pictures.

M1: That's one of your pictures?

M2: Yeah.

JH: Is that the one with all of us up in that --

M2: That's me. That was taken with that old [street graphic?] guy.

JH: Yeah, he used to take pictures for the [Norfolk?] *Journal and Guide* --

M1: Oh. OK.

JH: -newspaper when he was in college.

M1: OK.

JH: Anyway, getting back to, oh yeah, so Mr. Boyer died --

M2: In fact that's me right here.

M1: Oh cool. (laughs)

JH: Anyway, well you didn't take the picture. Somebody else did. You printed it.

M2: Yeah. That's the only way I could ever get in a picture.  
(laughs)

JH: Anyway, what happened was, I got an eighth-grade boy, real nice, to help me, one I liked a lot. He helped me do all kinds of things that a gym teacher would have to. He didn't teach but he helped me. The principal interviewed graduate students, black students, men, from Northwestern. She didn't want them. They were good, but she just didn't want them. Finally, one day, she said to me, Jean, she said, Charles, Mr. Boyer, told me, if anything happened to him, to go to St. Charles, that school for boys, and get

Joe. That was 19, I had this baby, so it must have been 1952. I can't tell, but it was about '52. I had a baby. That's all I know. And, oh yeah, that's right. Joe came and we worked together. Then I found out I was going to have another baby. (laughs) Joe was having a lot of problems at the time. Personal problems. So we had a lot to talk about. He was living in Aurora. And anyway, he came back to work. Well we'll skip a lot of that stuff. Anyway, he came back to work. I worked until I had to quit (laughs). I said if I'm gonna to have a baby every year, I'm quitting. So I resigned. I didn't take any more maternity leaves. I just quit. When I quit, I was home for two or three years. My husband was working, going to school in Chicago, working at Great Lakes. And [00:15:00] so I was home with this, one or two babies. Two babies. Anyway, Joe brought this girl by my house who had taken my place. Her name was [Gladys Sal Lee?].

M1: OK.

JH: Great teacher. University of Wisconsin, she had studied this famous dance that all gym teachers do when they Margaret H'Doubler who was a dance teacher. Anyway, Gladys took my place. I never went back to Foster School after that. I had resigned.

M1: OK.

JH: Well, my supervisor didn't want me to resign. She was still on my case. In 1956, my kids were, one was in kindergarten and one was going to day care. I was home. I put them in day care after this. The supervisor called and said "I need a teacher, a gym teacher at Central School," I said oh Central school, you heard about all that, OK. She said, "but I can't hire you," She said, "You have to go to the personnel records," She said, "if you were smart, you already know the superintendent, the new one. Let him introduce you. Then you, you know, you have an in," So I did that. When I got there, [Gordon Anderson?] was the supervisor, was the personnel director. And he told me, he said, "I have tried to hire black teachers in these other schools, Orrington, Haven, all these schools," he said, but when he asked [us?] they didn't want. So he said, "I'm going to do it differently this time," This is 1956. He said, "If the principal wants you, you've got the job. He said, because I want, you're OK. The principal wanted me, so I went there, and caught the devil from parents. "Who sent this black teacher here?" and you know, those stories.

M1: (inaudible)

JH: Yeah. Yeah. But it worked out. You work yourself to death when you're the only one. They didn't have any black teachers in any schools. Of course, this has been an ongoing thing with [Lorraine Martin?] and that's not true Lorraine went to Nichols I think, Nichols or Haven as a teacher, school board teacher, school board member Dr. [Gallison?]. They got that wrong, said Lorraine Martin was not the first black teacher. Said she was, according to me. This was at a meeting someplace. Anyway, Lorraine was the first black classroom teacher at either Haven or Nichols, after I was, because when I started working at Central, I went over to visit at Foster. I only worked half a day for 2,000 dollars. That was my salary. A lot of money. (laughs) Anyway, when I went over there, she was with Vera Brownlee coming out of the gym entrance, and she said, "How is it working in a White school?" I said, "It's OK," You know, that was, I remember that, because I had met her before. I should have met her when I was at [Tuft PD?] for a week. I didn't know that they had moved to, she and her husband had moved to Evanston. I was down near visiting.

M1: Gotcha.



JH: But anyway, I got to know her in 1956. And she was working at Foster School. When they hired her to go to whatever school, Nichols or Haven --

M1: Yeah, one of the two.

JH: One of the two. I can't remember --

M1: I think it might be the first.

JH: She was at Nichols, I know for a long time, but I, anyway Vera came to my house. Vera's dead. She came to my house, she said they hired her. They were friends, this was not said with any mouth. She just was shocked that they would hire her and she was here before. Vera was here. [Vera?] had all kinds of degrees. And, but they hired Lorraine instead. And she and I kind of figured it was a color thing, which I've heard that a lot of jobs, they'll take somebody fair, you ever heard that? Yeah. Yeah. Well that was the way Vera thought. But it wasn't anything to get angry --

M1: Right.

JH: -with her about. But she mentioned that to me. We were living in this house by that time. And then, the next group, oh I went back to visit again, because I liked Foster. I liked all the kids I taught there. They were smart. They're now doctors, dentists, PhDs. They're all

kinds of good students because they had good family values. Good parents. And I was very tough on them. You'd probably, [Dolores?] will tell you that. Because your vehicle could be music, gym, anything, but you're trying to teach kids how to live in the world. How to get along. How to be disciplined, all those objectives. It didn't matter what you were teaching. I didn't like coaching or none of that. I liked creative work. Anyway, oh the teachers, when I went back to visit, you had some more black teachers. Those teachers that I mentioned had gone, yeah they had gone, some of them took a 700 dollar cut to come to Evanston. Willa did and Mary Lou Sullivan did. I kind of think when they got rid of that seventh and eighth grade. I think I was still there when they did.

[00:20:00] That school, the only one, of the, elementary schools that went to the seventh and eighth grade, because they didn't want all these black kids --

M1: Going to the other [town?]

JH: Yeah. I went to Haven because I lived in a different district. I lived on the East Side. The kids who went to Nichols lived in South Side. But the kids that lived out West they went to Red Rock Prison. So the parents fought that.

M1: Red Rock Prison (laughs)

JH: That's so funny. The kids, I mean their parents, fought to get rid of it. [Lois Banks?], [Lois Johnson?], [Boots Avery?], a lot of those parents [are dead?]. [Emma and Tom Butler?], oh I can't remember the whole group of parents. They were really got rid of. And so, all the other schools used Haven, Nichols, they were the feeder schools to those. OK, you want the names of some of those other teachers?

M1: Yes, please.

JH: OK, if I can remember. [Alice Wimberly?], yeah Alice Wimberly, Ellis Robinson, [Thelma Doja?] -- who was from Texas, I think --, [Doris Williams?], you know Jim Williams on television, that's his mother. Did you know that?

M1: No I didn't know that.

JH: That's his mother. Dory. I liked her. She died. Let's see. Who else did I meet over there? [Lawrence Posey?]. He was there before they were. And then there are some teachers that came I didn't know.

M1: OK.

JH: [Rita Robinson?], Leroy's -- I mean, Leon Robinson's sister married one of them but I didn't know him. There were some I didn't know because I wasn't working there anymore.

M1: Gotcha.

JH: Now. They had a fire in 1958. '58, I was working. Oh, that part time job wasn't enough money. So I went to work for the, at the Catholic school, [St. Ann's?].

M1: OK.

JH: My supervisor said, "I want you to start a phys ed department at St. Ann's," (inaudible) but they had to match my salary. So I got another 2,000 dollars. I had the salary of 4,000 dollars. (laughs) Anyway, by 1958, I got tired of the two schools and I went to Noyer School. And then I [think?] there 17 years. And --

M1: Talk about the fire at the Foster School. I've heard some, what I call urban rumors, that --

JH: Yeah.

M1: -maybe the fire was set on purpose.

JH: I don't know that, but I'll tell you that, that doesn't surprise me that you heard that, I have also heard people say, they wish they would, I've heard people say that. Because it was a segregated school, and they felt like, yeah I've heard people say it. I can't tell you who said it. But I remember we were living in an apartment, my husband and I, and we came, I think we had a car. Yeah, we had a car. We went over and stood where the [fleet?] would [get off?] places. We stood there and watched the fire.

Now, that section where Family Focus meets, where they have the plays and things, on that side, that's an addition to the school.

M1: Right, that's an addition to --

JH: Because they have that fire door there.

M1: Right, that was an addition to the school in 192--

JH: '29. I think. '29.

M1: '26. It was '26. Yeah.

JH: They put something like that in Noyer School in '29. When my mother was in school here, they didn't have Haven. They didn't have that. No. But the principal there was her gym teacher, so you see, physical ed has always been a thing here with this town I guess. [And I hear bad from something?], no, I can't remember.

M1: OK. Do you remember the process when, I remember you mentioned before that, it was Vera Brownlee --

JH: Yeah.

M1: -who recommended that --

JH: She mentioned, she wrote, I guess --

M1: She wrote something.

JH: I guess a suggestion. And it was in the files. I don't know how it got there, but one of the social workers who

had taught with her, oh, I forgot a good part. When they got rid of the Foster seventh and eighth grade --

M1: What year was that? That it happened? Was that around the time when the Lab School was starting to form up?

JH: Uh uh.

M1: No, it was before that?

JH: Before. I'm trying to think what year it was.

M1: Was it after the fire or before the fire?

JH: Before the fire.

M1: So it could have been in 1950.

JH: I can't remember. I'm trying to place it in my mind. I'm trying to associate where I was and what year. Oh, god. The fire was in '58, that I know. But in 1950, 1951, oh they had, that's when I was still, [00:25:00] they still had the seventh and eighth grade when I was at Foster. So it should have been after fifty... Al, do you remember when they got rid of it? We were married.

M2: What was this now?

JH: When did they lower the bill and all of them get rid of that seventh and eighth grade at Foster?

M2: That was, say, I came here. It came around 1950 or maybe '49.

JH: No, honey. I was still, I was working at, wait a minute, '49. Yeah, you could be right. You could be right.

M2: Yeah, because I got to know them, I believe, in the winter of '48. And then in '49, was, so it was either late '49 or early '50.

JH: I do remember this much. When they got, yeah you might be right. When they got rid of it, Wendell Lanton, I told you, had these four degrees. Oh, he was very bright. Except the white teachers, who taught the seventh and eighth grade, they sent them to Haven, but they sent Wendell, here's, this is before the blacks got into any white schools now. They sent this well-qualified black man to work in the Board office. And it seemed like he was like, I don't know, I don't remember. You know, he was a file clerk, that type of job. Because he came and said that my age group was smarter than the kids that were coming along that you've seen this in the records. That part, I remember. But they did not send him to, he was the only black teacher in the seventh and eighth grade, but they sent him to the board office and they sent the other one or two teachers, Margaret Sloan, to Haven. And that's where she finished. I'm trying to think. There's something in there I'm forgetting.

M1: OK, so --

JH: Oh, they, yeah, they had a sixth grade. Foster went up to sixth grade. That's what I was going to say. After a while, I don't know what it was. Oh, the school board decided that the schools would take the sixth grade out of the elementary schools and put them in the middle schools. They didn't call them middle schools. But that's, so they took, so that's what Vera Brownlee went to, and Alice Robinson, went to Skiles. I can't remember who else.

M1: Skiles was built in the '60s, wasn't it?

JH: Yeah.

M1: Oh yeah, Skiles was built in the '60s, because that was the newest

JH: It was the '60s. My kids went to Skiles. And they went there in, must be '60s I guess.

M1: I think it was, Skiles was built in the '60s.

JH: Yeah. I can't remember now. My son is 53. He went to, went there. Instead of bussing him, oh they'd start bussing the kids. That's what it was. And I, so I never liked bussing. But my older son went to Walker School, which was right close. So you know, he still had to ride the bus. Terrible, terrible experience. My other son, my younger son, went down here to Skiles. And [Lauren



Colson?] went to Skiles. They sort of sent the black teachers to different schools. Different junior high schools. Lorraine Martin, by this time, I don't know when she came here, she must have come, she came to Evanston in 1950.

M1: That'd be correct.

JH: Am I right? Because I was down in [Tuskegee?] in 1950 and I went to her house and they had moved. So I don't know. And I went to Central School in 1956, because my younger son was three I think. Something like that. Now what, you have to ask me something else, I can't --

M1: No problem. With this transition from Foster to King Lab, when they introduced King Lab --

JH: OK.

M1: One I want to make sure I get straight is that it started out as a experimental school located in the basement of Foster, kind of like separate from Foster School, or was that --

JH: What, the Lab School?

M1: Yeah, the Lab School.

JH: I don't know because I don't, that part I don't know anything about.

M1: OK.

JH: I think you could get some information, do you know [Cam Hill?]

M1: Cam Hill, yes I do.

JH: Cam could tell you about Foster School. But I'll tell you, oh, let me tell you about the fire. Oh, this part I remember. They had to get those kids placed right away. They used the Fleetwood Center as a learning center for young kids so they didn't have to travel by bus. The fourth graders came to my school, Noyes. I was at Noyes School. The fifth graders went to Willard School. And the sixth graders went to these junior highs, I think that's right. I know, that's when I started teaching with Joe Hill Again.

M1: OK.

JH: Joe Hill became like a, he used to ride the bus with these bus kids, and then he'd stay with me and teach. [00:30:00] He taught his nephew and I taught mine. We dared them to do it. (laughs) But anyway, then after that, he became like an interim principal or something. I wasn't there.

M1: OK. Who was there?

JH: Joe.

M2: He was an interim principal.

JH: I know that he was, but I don't remember when exactly. I know [Doctor Clem?] was the principal.

M1: He was appointed to an administrative position in 1960.

JH: Who's that?

M1: Joe Hill. Joe Hill.

JH: Yeah.

M2: Dr. Clem, he started working in a black school. And he lived over here in 16 (inaudible)

JH: Well [he picked up?] and he moved. He was the first one to move.

M2: And when the first black family moved in on [Pitner?] --

JH: He moved.

M2: He moved.

JH: This was all white. There weren't many houses out here at all. The old house next door and one or two others, but Pitner had built up. You know, this was all a Polish area. And Dr. Clem was the first one to move. But he became principal of Foster. I wasn't there. I only worked with him one year and he was evidently getting his PhD and he taught special education. After that I don't remember anything else. Oh, when Gladys Sal Lee died, she died while she was teaching and she was in the hospital. We all had to take a class, to catch the bus or drive a car to

Foster School to teach a class, until they could replace her. So I remember going over there, teaching.

M1: What was the curriculum like? Kind of describe a daily activity or average day at Foster School.

JH: What they taught, you mean?

M1: What they taught, how were the days started, the periods, what was, how was lunch treated?

JH: Lunch, they started a lunchroom there.

M1: OK. Well start at the beginning of the day.

JH: OK. The beginning of the day started at nine o'clock. They had kindergarten, they had all the regular grades, and the regular subjects.

M1: OK.

JH: Some of the teachers were, who excelled in art, their kids were very good artists. They had some who excelled in music, you know, that was their strong suit in teaching. The curriculum was fine. They did have one EMH class there. They kept one EMH class. Special ed.

M1: OK.

JH: And they were sort of, I don't know, they didn't integrate those kids like they do now. They, you know, get them into different classes. No, they didn't do that. They kept

them sort of separate. But there was not, the curriculum was the same as it was everywhere.

M1: So kids stayed in the same classroom, for the curriculum,

JH: Yeah.

M1: Taught, all, most of the subjects?

JH: Oh yeah. Yeah. They, yeah.

M1: OK. And then gym was kind of like kind of [shared?] throughout the day.

JH: Gym was part of it [honey and if you?], you know, teachers are something. When they know they're going to have gym and library and music, they use those for free periods. Some of them who were very very cocky just would forget to come to gym or forget to go to the library. But they used that. They (laughs), we're not stupid. I didn't like classroom work, so --

M1: Right, so like at any given time, certain classrooms were set up a certain time for gym activity throughout the day.

JH: Yeah. Yeah. A certain period every day.

M1: OK.

JH: And in those days --

M1: Similar to what's happening now?

JH: Yeah, except in those days, when I was at Foster School, boys and girls were separated in classes. You had a lot

more classes. I really didn't like integrating gym classes because boys and girls are different. Their interests are different and, it was --

M1: My junior high was like that. When I was in [Grandview?], our junior high was separate.

JH: Yeah. But they --

M1: Boys and girls.

JH: Yeah, that's the way it should be. You were in the high school?

M1: Oh, the junior high. The junior high.

JH: Yeah. Yeah. I think it's probably still that way. I don't know.

M1: I think Nichols was integrated.

JH: I didn't teach at junior high.

M1: It was co-ed I should say.

JH: Yeah. Who was there, [Ed Crane?] was at Nichols when you were there?

M1: I can't remember the name. I can't remember any of my teachers' names except for Mrs. Davis, that was my homeroom teacher.

JH: Davis?

M1: Yeah.

JH: [Yvonne?] Davis?

M1: I don't know.

JH: You didn't know that big tall guy that was the, what's his name Al, the friend of [Eddie Stevens?] that guy that was the assistant principal?

M2: Oh, Richard [Rochelle?].

JH: Richard Rochelle.

M1: I mean, eighth grade is a blur to me.

JH: Oh, really?

M1: Yeah, it's blurry. It was my first year in --

JH: Oh yeah. OK. I can understand that.

M1: Too much going on.

JH: [Margo?], I knew you was going to move here, because Margo told me she was coming. She said she wanted you all to meet black kids.

M1: They weren't, the first [00:35:00] time they wanted to come, really, was a year after my brother was born.

JH: Oh, OK. Did Warren ever tell you about I had him doing all kinds of, he can do everything.

M1: I remember him telling me that, he mentioned your name, now that I think back on it.

JH: And one time I, you all had a maid or somebody, a housekeeper, a babysitter --

M1: Oh, we had a babysitter.

JH: Yeah, well I called one day to see if Warren got home because he had stayed after school to help do something. He was always doing something, you know, in plays or something like that. He was a good kid. I guess he's got, those kids are old now.

M1: So, when lunchtime came around, did students eat in the cafeteria, in the gym, or --

JH: Oh, you mean at Foster now. OK, when that started, I was there. I had been there one year or two years. And the parents worked and they wanted some kids to stay. They had to live a certain distance before they could eat lunch there. And it was not, they ate in the room that Eddie Lee and I shared. It was a classroom that was empty. And that's where Eddie Lee and I had our little office. And that was also the lunchroom. I kept the lunchroom. I was supposed to. And that was because, you know, the gym teachers do all the dirty work. So that's what I did.

M1: OK.

JH: And then this lunch program, I remember, when I went to Noyes, they still didn't have a set up lunch program. And one of the mothers who was Jewish, she liked a, she was a drama queen. And she just didn't like having her kid come



home for lunch. So she fixed it so that they ate lunch at school, and then it happened in all the schools, I think.

M1: OK. So most kids primarily went home for lunch?

JH: Yeah. Yeah, they went home. They lived in the neighborhood. They didn't live all over. There were a few whites on the West side, but not many. Not at that time.

M2: The idea of integrating all the schools hadn't come about, you know, where they started busing whites in --

JH: Yeah, they kept, yeah.

M2: -predominantly black schools.

JH: They bused kids in Lincoln when I was there.

M1: OK, and then the school day ended at what time?

JH: At Foster, it ended at three. Nine to three.

M1: OK, were there any after school activities?

JH: I can't remember that part. I didn't stay, I know Mr. Boyer, kids went to the Y. That was, I loved that Y. I really did. I learned everything there. All your clubs, all your dances, all the different sports. They had a weight room. They had everything.

M1: OK. OK.

JH: And after they integrated the Y, the Hare Krishnas moved in there. (laughs)

M1: Yeah, that's when I first recognized the Y as what it was. I mean, put it this way, I recognize the building visibly in my imagination, in my memory, because we weren't living in that building yet, but we were coming for the big (inaudible) so they said downtown Evanston.

JH: Oh yeah. Yeah.

M1: And I remember my parents were driving in down Emerson --

JH: Yeah.

M1: -because there was a huge [wait?] and we took off all the way down --

JH: Yeah. Right.

M1: And I remember passing the Y, and the Hare Krishnas were out there dancing. And I said, Dad, who are those guys in togas? (laughs) And I remember looking at them, and then looking at this big massive white building, because then it was painted all white. And looking at this building, like, this building. And it never dawned on me what it was, because you know, I wasn't from the area, so --

JH: Northwestern boys lived there. Men that worked on the railroad who weren't married, they lived there. There was a building where the research center, so a building called the Butler building. You knew about that? Well, Mr. Butler, he was a millionaire. But stingy. Because I knew,

I used to go around this club [39:00] I was in, his nieces were in the club.

M2: They say he gave all his money back to the white folks.

JH: He looked very white. He was white. So then, but were they mixed, Ben Butler and --

M1: Yeah. They were very mixed. I think you and --

M2: There were two brothers.

M1: They had some direct lineage to the, I think either their father or grandfather was Nigerian.

JH: OK, that's possible.

M1: So --

JH: Well Aunt [Lizzy?] was --

M1: Liberia.

JH: Liberia. Yes. Aunt Lizzy was their sister. Aunt Lizzy knew everybody in town. She'd walk down Emerson Street and she'd talk to everybody. She wore a long black dress. This was [Henry Butler?]'s sister. She didn't mix with whites. She was married to a black man. And daughter. And she was so pigeon-toed. She wore high top shoes. Her feet were like this.

M2: There are descendants of Ben Butler around here now.

JH: OK. Well that's what I'm talking about.

M2: Talking about, that little short woman, Hudson.

JH: Oh yeah. Yeah yeah yeah. [Darnell?]. [00:40:00] Yeah.

But he died. Did the guy die, her husband? That was working for the city?

M2: That was not her husband. That was her brother.

JH: I mean her brother. Did he die?

M2: He died. He was living over in Skokie. His name, his sister named her first child after him. I can't think of what it is.

JH: I can't either.

M2: It'll hit me after a while.

JH: Darwin --

M2: Darwin.

JH: Darwin was his son.

M2: But that was also his uncle.

JH: Oh. OK. Yeah he was Darwin. You're right. He was working for the city, right?

M2: And then, she divorced. Then she married.

JH: [Asbury] brother.

M2: Asbury, Gary's brother. And Darwin was always, Asbury set his brother up in a landscaping business.

JH: You mean [Horace?]

M1: Very good.

M2: And lawnmowers and all this stuff. And Darwin used to come over. He wasn't too smart. He looked --

JH: Well he was EMH.

M2: But he was consistent in working and all that sort of thing. Anyway, he'd come over and he'd get all the lawnmowers out and start them all up and have them all running at one time.

JH: Where was I? I didn't see him do all --

M2: (inaudible) Half of that garage of Asbury's was empty.

JH: Yeah, that's true.

M2: And Horace used to store his stuff over there.

JH: OK.

M2: And there father was named Si, Simon.

JH: Si. That's right.

M2: And they had this moving business. See, Si was --

JH: Ben Butler's son.

M2: No. Ben Butler's son-in-law.

JH: OK. Ben had a daughter.

M2: He had a daughter.

JH: I remember her.

M2: And he had, they had that house right there next to [Shuitt's?] grocery store --

JH: I remember.

M2: -on

JH: Sherman.

M2: Sherman. 'Cause there's a driveway where you go up and in the back was a big --

M1: Yeah I think that grocery store was [Cornelius Butler's?] place.

JH: Cross the street from Nichols.

M1: Nichols, yeah. But I think before that was Cornelius Butler's.

JH: Who is Cornelius Butler?

M1: Henry Butler's Father.

JH: Oh OK. Yeah. OK.

M1: Because Cornelius Butler and his wife first came to Evanston. Henry followed afterwards.

JH: You know more about this town than I do.

M1: And Cornelius was over by Nichols. That's were [they're from?] They sold their farm and all that stuff, came down to Evanston, and then they had sons and daughters.

M2: Well --

M1: I think (inaudible; overlapping dialogue)

M2: Apparently, then Ben must have been Cornelius' son.

M1: Yes.

JH: Yeah.

M1: So they had Henry Butler [who had delivering?]. Then they had two brothers, [had Ben?] brother and another brother had another [delivery?] type business. Then another brother had a roofing business. And the sisters either worked with the company --

M2: [Aunt Lizzy?]

JH: Or stayed at home.

M1: And Cornelius had bought lots of property and lots of houses. So where the grocery store was, across from Nichols, you know that little small street that's behind all that? Next to the railroad tracks?

JH: Yeah.

M1: That's where Lizzy lived.

M2: Oh you mean. That's an extension of [Custer?].

M1: Yeah.

M2: It's a dead end park.

JH: Yeah.

M2: It's a lumberyard.

JH: Liz lived over there.

M2: It's a lumberyard. (inaudible; overlapping dialogue)

M1: Liz [lived out there?] and I found somebody who has a picture. I think it was of Lizzy and two of her daughters standing next to her in front of the house.

JH: And everybody loved Aunt Lizzy.

M1: With a wooden sidewalk right there.

JH: But Henry Butler, this club I was in, the [Highlighting?], two of his nieces were in there. And they used to come, they played basketball.

M2: We used to live in that neighborhood.

JH: Next block.

M2: 1109 Sherman. That was our first apartment.

JH: Yeah. And it showed, you know what, they had such a high price on selling that shack that I called a realtor. I said I can't believe you. You know, she was, her father in law was in a model engineers club with my husband, so I felt --

M2: The building that we lived in -- 1109 Sherman. Our landlord bought it for 10,000 dollars in 1950 from some Swedes. It had no basement. It had no central heat.

JH: You hung your clothes in the attic.

M2: And no closet. But we were so happy --

JH: We were glad to be --

M2: We were glad to get a place for ourselves.

JH: -to live by ourselves. That's what we wanted. We didn't want to live with family.



M2: The living room, and the dining room, and the kitchen were the three biggest. We had --

JH: We took the living room and made our bedroom out of it. And we --

M2: We had one room there that was eight feet by eight feet by eight feet.

JH: Is that where we stuck our baby? Is that where we put our baby?

M2: We used it for a nursery. This woman came by, a visitor, once, she said --

JH: Said what did you do to my bedroom? [00:45:00]

M2: I said I thought this was a closet (laughs)

JH: And it was, anybody who lived there would say I've got to get out of here. It was clean and all that, but --

M2: Anyway, in the past few years, it's been about twelve, fourteen years now. Some speculator got ahold of that place, because it was a --

JH: You talking about Hampton's daughter now?

M2: No no no no. No, she was just a realtor. Some speculator that went in there and did a whole lot of messing around. That house was over 70 years old when we moved in there in 1951. And, it was built you know, style of construction that they call Chicago balloon framing. In other words,

the way they would think was, if you ever got a fire loose, and it went up like a (makes sound effect) "pfiew" and there wasn't a stick of lumber in that house bigger than a two by four, except for a porch that was added in later years.

JH: Who laid that floor? Did you lay that floor?

M2: What floor?

JH: The wooden hardwood floor that they put in there?

M2: No. Well Donald started upgrades. Instead of putting a furnace there, he put hardwood floors in two rooms.

JH: And put those wall [fernings?] in there.

M2: And, anyway.

JH: You ever heard of the Foster Brothers in that [day?]

M1: Yeah.

M2: Well anyway --

JH: You know everything. That's wonderful.

M1: Before the Foster Brothers, it was the [Gems?]. Some of the Gems would like to make (inaudible)

JH: What?

M2: Some speculator got ahold of --

M1: Some of the Gems were members of the Foster Brothers too. The Foster Brothers [down on playing?]- (inaudible) little record label.

JH: You hear that? He knows --

M1: I did a, we did an exhibit on musicians of Evanston.

JH: [Donald Plait, Lattimore?]? And there was one guy --

M1: Yes. [Charleston?]

M2: You ever heard any of their records?

M1: [Ray Pettus?]

JH: Ray Pettus had the most beautiful voice you ever heard.

M2: But they came along at a time, that's when doo-wop was coming in and they were singing songs like "[On the?] Robert E. Lee". (laughs) You know, minstrel show stuff.

JH: We had a recording they made. I don't know.

M2: I still got a couple.

JH: Don't play it please. Don't play it.

M2: I'm not going to do that to you. I'm just playing.

M1: I listen to him but, you know.

M2: Have you ever heard him?

M1: I've heard of Gems and I've heard, which one was the Foster Brothers?

JH: I think all the Foster Brothers are dead now.

M1: Yeah they are.

M2: But one of them is a 12 inch album and the other one --

JH: LP?

M2: -- A couple of 45s. That was something, but anyway, some speculator got into that house, and here, two years, or three years ago, they were asking 400 --

JH: I just told him that. I called her up. I couldn't believe it.

M2: It still did not have a basement added.

JH: Did it have the wall furnishings?

M2: No no no. They had stuck fireplaces on the first floor and the second floor and --

M1: People will buy it too.

JH: Yeah, that house isn't even worth [five?]

M1: If they market it as a historic landmark house.

JH: And that to me, I don't like. Some of these houses they could spend a fortune in.

M2: Half of this crap, they're designating landmarks is not land-- they're shacks. And some people are trying to get into this dodge to get low taxes and stuff like that. That's the way it is but half of these buildings aren't [Rich Avenue]. The people--

JH: Well, the administration building was a disaster to me. The floors were warped and it looked good from the outside but it was old.

M2: They're turning that into a gated community.

JH: I used to, for seven years, I was on a recreation city,  
Evanston Recreation Board. When they got this St. Mary's,  
Marywood School, which is a City Hall, I could not believe.  
That wasn't even a good looking school. I can't go down  
there because I can't climb steps. It's not accessible to  
handicapped people. It's terrible.

M2: It's horrible.

JH: It is. I don't know why they don't tear it down. Lorraine  
doesn't want them to tear it down.

M1: I'm going to cut the recording, OK?

JH: No. Not that.

M1: You want me to keep going? I'm stopping it.

JH: Oh yeah. Well you can cut that part out.

END OF AUDIO FILE