

Neighborhood Histories Interview with [Ollie Jones]

Briana: Good Morning today is June 25 and my name is Briana: Maze

Marsha: And my name is Marsha Pette.

Briana: And we are a part of the focus group for teens for success and today we are going to be interviewing you about the tale of two cities, but first were going to start the interview off with asking you some basic questions just to get you comfortable for answering the questions so could you tell us what your name is?

Ollie: My name is Ollie Jones.

Briana: Mr. Ollie where were you born and raised?

Ollie: Tiptonville Tennessee

Briana: And how was it like growing up in Tiptonville back then?

Ollie: It was better then than it is now to me.

Briana: Can you elaborate that?

Ollie: I remember coming up as a child how people were with kids they everybody knowed everybody they love like it was their child they would get them and take them home and the parents did appreciate that, but now you can

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't do that because kids will set you out if you do if you try to stop them or tell them something good some of them not all of them.

Briana: K so what school did you attend when you were a child?

Ollie: Lincoln.

Briana: How was it attending Lincoln School?

Ollie: It was kinda tuff a little bit growing up you well I had walked to school every day whether it was rain, shine, slit, or snow and it was kinda hard in the winter time, but you know other than that things was good.

Briana: Ok you said you grew in Tiptonville did you ever go to Ridgely when you were a child?

Ollie: Yeah well a lot of friends of mine where from Ridgely.

Briana: So you visited Ridgely quite often?

Ollie: Yes quite often.

Briana: So what was it in Ridgely that brought you to Ridgely?

Ollie: What was.

Briana: What did you do while you were in Ridgely?

Ollie: Well we would eat go to the house

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and stay all night and I ??? ??? with a friend of mine we was just classmates they lived in Ridgely and most my ???? classmate in Ridgely built in Ridgely. I have any in Tiptonville.

Briana: So what businesses were in Ridgely back at the time?

Ollie: What business.

Briana: Businesses like stores anything

Ollie: Stores.

Briana: Like what stores were in Ridgely back then?

Ollie: All they had was ???? Grocery they had ???? Grocery they had ??? and ???? they had ummm.... Ashley and then you know what you get hunger or something you would get food and they would charger it you know when you didn't have the money you could pay it there.

Briana: Ok what businesses were in Tiptonville when you were a child?

Ollie: Business in Tiptonville for kids

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Five dime store umm... what was well we had two dragger stores George, Homer and then they had ummm... my mind is going blank now what this man's name he had really god store and you could get clothes and take up clothes up there at his store.

Briana: Ok we were told that they used to have taxi and bus service back then?

Ollie: They did have taxis you could call if you needed a ride just for one dollar.

Briana: So where all would that taxi take you?

Ollie: It would go towards Dyersburg then the bus at Sears and then go to Memphis to bus station and somebody in Tiptonville and somebody couldn't get the ??? members to work in the south they called out a taxi that wasn't busy and they came to Memphis all the way to the bus station

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And they'd pick you up.

Briana: So what happened to all these businesses why aren't they here today?

Ollie: People started leaving.

Briana: Why were they leaving?

Ollie: Well when the young people got out of school there weren't businesses for them to work at so they didn't have a job unless they picked cotton and lining them and a lot of got tired of picking cotton out and of carts of cotton and that was how we made our money. We had to chop cotton we had to pick cotton.

Briana: Ok so did ... Ok so why do you feel that Tiptonville and Ridgely were so separate like was there a reverie between Tiptonville and Ridgely when you were a child?

Ollie: Ridgely always thought they were better than Tiptonville the majority of them thought they was better than the people in Tiptonville, but I still have my friends

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who are from Ridgely, but I got that feeling when I go down to Ridgely and they would talk about Tiptonville like I wasn't from Tiptonville you know I said Lord then that's how I got they thought they were better than people in Tiptonville.

Briana: So why did they think they were better than the people in Tiptonville?

Ollie: A lot of more people I mean Mr. Clad Tipton he had a little money, but then he had drove buses from Ridgely to Tiptonville to bring kids and then it was another lady and they had money and it seemed like they thought they were better you know then the people in Tiptonville.

Briana: So would you say that the rev-

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erie between Ridgely and Tiptonville was worse back when you were a child or is it now?

Ollie: It was back then when was a child because the boys and the girls they had real revels because the boys in Ridgely didn't want the boys in Tiptonville coming to Ridgely they didn't

like that at all, but the girls in loved the boys in Tiptonville hone they was crazy about them see because my girlfriend was from Ridgely they didn't like that

Briana: So why do you think that Tiptonville has more than Ridgely right now?

Ollie: I think they were more outgoing till they pushed things and Ridgeley they didn't want

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to come together to get really what they wanted, but Tiptonville seemed like the people in Tiptonville demanded well we going to do some about if you don't so that how they got something's you know, but not all things.

Briana: Ok so do you think there will ever be a time where Tiptonville and Ridgely we be leveled out?

Ollie: I think there is going to be a time where they're going to have to come together.

Briana: Why do you think that?

Ollie: Because of the business and things that's going on today and to get something we going to have to come together Ridgely, Tiptonville, Wynnburg is going to be one town and don't believe there what they're going to name it, but I don't think it's going be Ridgely, and Tiptonville, or Wynnburg.

Briana: So how do you think they will come together like that

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what do you think it would take for them to come together?

Ollie: Because now ok there going to change post office it's not going to be but one post office it's not going to be but whatever it's going to be its one its only one gas light office is that not a gas place, but then they're going to change all of this so we aren't going to have to come together.

Briana: So you said

Ollie: One town I think it would be better too.

Briana: We're asking do you think it

Ollie: Yes I think it would.

Briana: So you're thinking like in a couple of years there will be no more Ridgely and Tiptonville, and that you all will be called Lake county?

Ollie: Lake county that's a good idea because there would be taxes and those taxes you wouldn't have to pay all those taxes it would be one tax just the county tax, and I don't think there is going to be a city tax.

Briana: So do think that will make the community better if we all came as one?

Ollie: I believe so.

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Briana: How so?

Ollie: Well that away there could be one voice till Ridgely have a voice over their mayor whatever you know police it'd be Lake county policemen and mayor.

Briana: So you think it's too much government?

Ollie: They said that politics was taking over.

Briana: Can you elaborate on that?

Ollie: [Inaudible] there is a mayor in Ridgely. Two mayors in Tiptonville, a lot of policemen and Ridgely has them, and taxes why is all that money going too all of those people, but they've got get paid but if you really have one county then you can change all of that.

Briana: So your solution to making us come together is to lower down

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on the government and for us to have one of everything?

Ollie: One of everything

Briana: So do you think that will people in Ridgely and Tiptonville not be so in computation?

Ollie: Right!!! Ok now look for instants I may be talking a lot about this lady who lost the (ottoman or auto man not sure) down there in Ridgely. She should have won, but she did because black people simply didn't get out and vote. That doesn't make since; we need to get out and do things for ourselves. That lady should have gotten all of those votes she lost by 5 points.

Briana: Ok so you said if we were wasting a lot of money having two separate policemen and two separate mayors

Ollie: Right!!!

Briana: So do you think it cost more to have to separate cities

Ollie: Yeah!

Briana: Than one?

Ollie: It does

Briana: Do you think that the land between Tiptonville and Ridg-

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ely causes some of the separations?

Ollie: Yes, well I would say

Briana: The farming land like the farmers, do you think that

Ollie: What are they doing with it? Now I can see some of it and some of this land that's going to waste grass taken over they not using, and I don't understand that. They won't sale it; they won't let nobody have it.

Briana: Why won't they sale it?

Ollie: I don't know cause well I'm not gonna call these peoples name umm.

Briana: Say their names ok that'll work, but they need to sell this land it's been people by here to buy the land to put up properties to make Tiptonville or Ridgely or whatever to progress, but they want sell the land.

Briana: So you think one reason we have not come together is because of the farmers here?

Ollie: Farmer

Briana: So what would be a solution to get

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the farmers to sell the land

Ollie: Stop buying.

Briana: So do you think that if we put businesses on the farm land do you think that would ever happen?

Ollie: Yeah

Briana: You do? How do you think that's going to happen?

Ollie: They have to regardless because if you don't support them they can't survive the farmers.

Briana: So you think that all the people in the community take a stand against the farmers against we change again?

Ollie: Right! They don't do it you. You know what they camped up there by the primary care when they left from here they just hardly got that land and most of that now is for sell. They want sale it because the profit is going to Wynnburg.

Briana: So what do you think can happen to make the community come together

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to demand that we do some changes to Lake county against the farmers?

Ollie: If we get up out our comfort zone where we like to sleep eat and get feed there is most of us that we can make it and we can go out and take a stand and we can go head and protest against this thing. It's a lot of things we can do as the people you can't do it by yourself you know people got to come together.

Briana: Why do you think the people won't come together?

Ollie: Some of them don't know no better they ain't been thought they don't want to be thought. I know a few people you go and explain things to them to let them know going on in the city and county Oh I ain't going nowhere, I'm not gon do this, I ain't gon vote they gon do

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they gon do what they wanna do. Not if you get out and take a stand, voice your opinion, voice your choice, but they won't. I ask what you call that it's not set, but it's something wrong there.

Briana: Ok so if you could change Lake county what would be your solution to do it?

Ollie: If I could change Lake county I'd have to say if I had to get up every day and I got to practice seeing in people's mind what we need to do or I couldn't do it I could dressed in the people to journey we could make a difference. You know my angelo said about the fish if all them come

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together you gotta mighty blow because a little sad a part that ain't gon hurt too much what you ball that fist up so we come together we do wonderful things.

Briana: Ok well thank you we don't have any more questions, but is there anything else you would like to add to this interview?

Ollie: Yeah I like what y'all doing, but it's a little bad ideas in people mind so hopefully we can come together before we die then y'all can take over.

Briana: Ok well we would like to thank you for your time and coming out.

Ollie: Thank you darling