

Neighborhood Histories: Interview with [Daisy Parks]

Cedric: =Cedric Kimble

Zahria: = Zahria Benson

Daisy: = Daisy Parks

Cedric: Good afternoon my name is Cedric Kimble.

Zahria: My name is Zahria Benson.

Cedric: And today is June 19th and we are a part of the focus group for the Team of Success and we would to thank you for coming out and giving us your time to interview us today and we're gonna start off with some basic questions so if you don't mind will you tell us your name?

Daisy: Daisy Parks

Cedric: Ms. Daisy where were you born and raised?

Daisy: Here in Tiptonville.

Cedric: What was life for you like growing in Tiptonville?

Daisy: It was alright we had to growing we had some hard times when we were small uh..., but we my mother never let go hungry or we probably didn't have the clothes that

[0:01:00]

others had, but we always stayed clean my mother always keep us clean and it was kinda hard ummm... we always had to work ummm... all of our lives and we had to chop cotton we had pick cotton chopping cotton was not one of my thing to do, but we chopped cotton from sun up to sun down, but life was better back then than it is now because we were closer to one another neighbors were closer to one another when I was growing my neighbor would whip me as well as my mother would so we had to walk to school every day about maybe a mile and a half ummm... in both ways we never miss school no matter if it was raining or how cold it was we always went to school, but we

[0:02:00]

when I was growing we had some good times because like I said we were close to one another and when I grew up and went to school things were different things were different the teachers well when I first started school that weren't that many teachers teachings, but down through the years there were more than it was when I first started.

Cedric: So when you attended school did you attend school in Tiptonville?

Daisy: Yes

Cedric: Ok and what was the name of the school?

Daisy: Lincoln

Cedric: It was Lincoln

Daisy: Hmmmm... the first school it was Tipton college school as they called it then after ummm... after so long the children there were more children so they had to tar that building and build another one and then it was Lincoln high school

[0:03:00]

Lincoln junior high school because it was from grade 1st through 12th grade there wasn't a Kindergarten at that time it was just 1st grade through 12th grade.

Cedric: Ok so Lincoln was built in Ridgely?

Daisy: No Lincoln was built ummm... over there ummm... over where the board of education you know were the board of education is down by were they use to play ball that was where Lincoln school was.

Cedric: Ok so were most of the students from Tiptonville or did you have students also from Ridgely?

Daisy: At the time no because ummm... when we started ummm... at that time there wasn't any buses that were running so we just only had a school in Tiptonville Ridgely had a school them-

[0:04:00]

selves down do you know where that Ridgely chaperball the building ummm... it's right in the front there you know where Rhodes Conn live well it's over from there that was a colored school at one time then when the buses started running the children of Ridgely came to Tiptonville.

Cedric: Ok so back to the schools there was Lincoln and then there was also the school in Ridgely did ya'll ever have to be around each other like did Lincoln have to go against the school in Ridgely like in any sports or anything?

Daisy: Not that I can recall Lincoln had to ummm...??????? sister then all the children came to Lincoln and there was no problems the schools.

[0:05:00]

Cedric: Ok so after what did you after school?

Daisy: After I got out of school I worked.

Cedric: And did you work in Tiptonville or?

Daisy: Yes I worked in Tiptonville.

Cedric: Ok so how often did you go to Ridgely?

Daisy: How often did I go to Ridgely I used to go to Ridgely a lot because I have friends down there so I use to go to Ridgely a lot down there.

Cedric: So what were the businesses like in Tiptonville?

Daisy: When I was coming up ummm... There was some a lot of business, but as we as blacks we couldn't go in some the building that ummm... was open Tiptonville and then where the cafes were at that time

[0:06:00]

you know you go get a hamburger you had to go in the backdoor ummm... you ummm... you couldn't then what we didn't have the money to buy what we wanted, but we always came my mother always brought us to town on Saturdays and we would lot of times we would just walk or go play with some more childrens.

Cedric: Ok ummm... we were told by someone that back in the day on Sundays there used to be vol no not volleyball, but softball games

Daisy: Softball and baseball yes

Cedric: Tiptonville vs Ridgely

Daisy: Hmmm...

Cedric: Can you speak on that?

Daisy: Most of the times it was at Moening ???? ummm... there were supplies Moening ???? everybody gathered and played ball. There was a place at Philippe at one time were everybody gathered and played

[0:07:00]

ball, but Moening ???? down at Moening there was some more of ummm... land were everybody would gather together Ridgely, Tiptonville, Moening ???? ummm... everybody got together and started playing ball.

Cedric: Ok so would you say there was ever a composition between Tiptonville and Ridgely?

Daisy: Not until the schools consolidated ummmm... I don't feel there was composition at that time.

Zahria: What other activities were there and did you participate in the activates?

Daisy: In the schools?

Zahria: Like the AP'S like softball baseball

Daisy: Ohhhhhh...

Zahria: Did you participate in those activates?

Daisy: I played baseball softball a lot when the girls used to get together and play against the boys and we played softball. I played basketball in school for 4 years and

[0:08:00]

ummm... and I was a member of ummm... NHA New Halls Makers of America when I was going to school I participated in the beauty reviews ummm... we had fashion shows were we made things in the hallways and in economics class and we model them and show.

Cedric: Ok so you said you played baseball and you also modeled in the beauty reviews

Daisy: Yes well I was in a beauty review one time from Lincoln they had a beauty review at Jackson and I was participating in the beauty review, but in the Halls Makers New Halls Makers of America ummm... we ummm... NHA were instated in to that we made clothes. The clothes we made at school we mo-

[0:09:00]

del them.

Cedric: Ok so ummm... most of the activities was mainly in Tiptonville were there ever any activities that people gathered for in Ridgely?

Daisy: Oh...yes there were they played ball at Ridgely also Tiptonville and Ridgely played against each other there was a place down in Ridgely were that you know the people in Tiptonville would go to Ridgely.

Cedric: Were there ever any thriving businesses in Ridgely that people could go visit?

Daisy: You mean ummm... you mean business ummm... that ummm... just business you talking about

Cedric: Like the businesses that weren't in Tiptonville were there ever times when you had to go Ridgely to a business?

Daisy: Yes yeah there was a clothing store in Ridgely right

[0:10:00]

on the corner called Nafton's dry good store peoples from Tiptonville used to go to the store and buy clothes down there all the time. Ridgely has several building on in Ridgely at one time when ummm... Ridgely. Ridgely was just like Tiptonville at one time they had so many businesses so many stores down there, but then when most of children got out of school some of them quit, some of them graduated they left Tiptonville so that way that ummm... there was not that many people some people left also so the businesses started closing up. There was a called Ms. Eden Robertson they use to have a grocery store she was a school down Ridgely and they had a grocery store down there also. Young people used to go there a lot because she would always let young people come

[0:11:00]

in and sit and talk.

Cedric: Ok so what would you say happened to the businesses?

Daisy: Well I think, I think it was the people that lift you know most of the times. Now when I was coming up ummm... Tiptonville and Ridgely was real active you know because there was so many people that was in Ridgely and there was so many peoples that was in Tiptonville. I was riding down the riding the other day down the road and I looked and I said, "It's unbelievable that it was that many houses in a row where people lived it was so many peoples in Tiptonville when you walked down the street you could walk into one another that's just how many people used to be here in Tiptonville.

Cedric: Ok so going back on the businesses and you know talking about going to Ridgely to the stores or whatever, how

[0:12:00]

did you get there what was your transportation?

Daisy: I you always my, my, my father always had a car my step father always had a car. I learned to drive when I was young so therefore I had no problems getting to Ridgely and whoever at that time had a car we would always ride hitch a ride with those who were going to Ridgely. We used to go to Ridgely all the time ummm... Ms. Edith Mathis she use to teach school down in Ridgely ummm... there at the school house where she use to teach after they consolidated they had open house done just like they have open house you know they had dances ummm... every Friday or Saturday night down there in that building there was

[0:13:00]

everybody from Ridgely and Tiptonville was there.

Cedric: Ok so with all these activities happening would you say that there never really was a separation between Tiptonville and Ridgely?

Daisy: In Ridgely no, no the onlyiest problem was like I said was when the schools consolidated that's where the problems started coming up ummm... when Lincoln there and when Ridgely school was their there was no problems they use to play basketball against one another you know play baseball against one another, but they didn't have any problems. The problems started when the schools colt consolidated. Ridgely didn't want this and this is not the black kids they didn't want the school up here

[0:14:00]

The high school they wanted it to be in Ridgely and so that's what caused the division between Tiptonville and Ridgely is when they built a school, but they built the school around up here because this a county to courthouse ??? is the reason why they built a high school here is because consolidation it did cause a lot of problems it did cause some problems and the colors is another that caused some problems. Tiptonville ummm... colors were black and gold, and Ridgely's was green and white so they had to get together and change the colors when they consolidated to schools, but when I was going to Lincoln our colors black and gold.

Cedric: Ok so do you think if or how do you feel things would have went if they would have put the school

[0:15:00]

in Ridgely?

Daisy: I can't answer that because I really don't know how it would have been I couldn't answer that because I really don't know how it would have been and it wasn't that everybody in Ridgely had a problem with the school being built it was just some of them everybody didn't have all the problem when they did consolidate to school they did have a problem in the school system. When they first consolidated everybody just went to school together.

Cedric: Ok so would you say that the only reason why it seems like a separation is because of when they decided to put the school in Tiptonville

Daisy: Hmmm... hmmm... yes, yes that was the problem that's where the problem started from it wasn't

[0:16:00]

it wasn't it wasn't when the school of Ridgely and it wasn't when it was in Tiptonville up here it was just it was when they consolidated when they built the high school they built it

because like I said because of the county sit to county courthouse so that was the reason they built in Tiptonville. So that was the reason why they changed when they ummm.... when junior high they changed junior high junior high would go to Ridgely and that when started changing because in the beginning before the school was built all the grades was up here at Tiptonville and all was in Ridgely.

Cedric: Ok well we don't have any more questions for you today, but is there anything you would like add?

Daisy: Yes I don't know whether you all know this or not, but when I was coming up there was a school in Ridge-

[0:17:00]

Daisy: ly I meet at Moening where Ms. Cohug's taught she taught at Moening I don't know how many years ummm.... there was a school in Philippe there was a school in New Barco there was school at Keith so all these schools is the reason why that they had all these schools is because they didn't have buses running at that time. So when the buses started running then everybody just started going to school.

Cedric: So what would be a solution what do you think would a solution now that would bring Tiptonville and Ridgely closer?

Daisy: I think the solution is the people because I think peoples need to put that behind them, but that's been many years ago they need to put that behind them because

[0:18:00]

it's not going to change the high school not going to be in Ridgely all those people that still had all the problems with accepting because the school was up here they are going to have to realize that it is not going to change they are going to have to change, but most of the peoples in Ridgely though they have accepted it at the beginning there was a lot of confusion between Ridgely and Tiptonville, but now there is just a few of them that do not want their childrens to come to this high school, but they don't have any other chose because this is the oldest high school unless they go someplace else.

Cedric: Ok well we once again truly thank you for giving us the time out of your busy schedule to come sit with us and give us some information and yeah we thank you.

Daisy: Your welcome.

