

# Rhodes College Digital Archives - DLynx

Arlene Orr, 2015

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**Neighborhood Histories: Interview with Arlene Orr**

*Other Interviewer:* Start by stating your name

*Arlene Orr:* My name is Arlene??? Orr

*Other Interviewer:* Where were you born?

*Arlene Orr:* I was born in??? County, Tennessee, you are familiar with??? when I was born community south from there, but was born in Philippe

*Other Interviewer:* What do you do for a living?

*Arlene Orr:* I'm retired from??? My life employment was with the Tennessee Agriculture Extension Service

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*Other Interviewer:* When did you move to Lake County, Tennessee?

*Arlene Orr:* When I was nine years old

*Other Interviewer:* And what part did you move to

*Arlene Orr:* I moved nine miles north of Tiptonville which was a thriving community called Philippe

*Blaire Smith:* Did you come to Tiptonville originally a lot living in Philippe

*Arlene Orr:* Not really because, you want believes Philippe had a huge store and a service station, a blacksmith shop, a large school, a church, and a theater. I begin school in Tiptonville and the, um, 8 grade, but there was a lot going on in Philippe

*Blaire Smith:* Ok, so since you began school in Tiptonville in the 8 grade, what was Tiptonville likes the end

*Arlene Orr:* Much different from today

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*Blaire Smith:* Really how so?

*Arlene Orr:* Um, we, I want to say we were afraid of our teachers. They had very good discipline, we didn't have, you know I don't want to compare today, um, with that year too much, I might you all might not desire me to do that, but, um they were a very few problems. I mean even, I just, I just remember, and when you needed discipline you went to see our principle. Those was good days

*Blaire Smith:* Ok so you said you attended school in Tiptonville, so did you travel to Ridgley or you were mainly in Tiptonville?

*Arlene Orr:* It was mainly in Tiptonville, ok I was familiar with Ridgley but at that time we had a hospital in Tiptonville and also were a hospital in Ridgley

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so there for, I was primarily in Tiptonville

*Blaire Smith:* Ok, you said you was familiar with Ridgley how did you travel from Tiptonville to Ridgley?

*Arlene Orr:* Oh, in a car

*Blaire Smith:* Oh ok, because um, we were made aware that there was a bus in a taxi system did you ever use one?

*Arlene Orr:* Yes there was a taxi system but, um, I didn't??? that very much. There was really I didn't Tiptonville was a place I wanted to be, there was wasn't any ??? you know this was my town. After I left Philippe since school this was my place to be

*Blaire Smith:* Ok so what was there to do in Tiptonville back then like we were told that the theater was up in running that you could go and watch a movie there?

*Arlene Orr:* There was a movie seven nights per week, on Sunday afternoon, um, after I married, um, I worked I began

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Working at the Tiptonville drug store quiet soon that's when the old Tiptonville drug store was across the street and, um, I kept my head in that soda fountain on Saturday half the time I mean Tiptonville was a busy busy place. And my class was small; my class in high school was small compared to you all

*Blaire Smith:* Ok we was also made aware that there was clothing stores in downtown did you go to any of those?

*Arlene Orr:* Oh yes, um, there were right now 1, 2,3,4,5 I can only think of five very good clothing stores, um, there was really, you really didn't have to travel to Dyersburg that include everything to shoes into a hat if you wanted one and, um, Billy Wayne came along a

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brands entitle Busty Brown which was a very cute little boys clothing, so you know I really enjoy going to Dyersburg but it was none???

*Blaire Smith:* Ok, um, what do you think cause the dying down on all of the stores?

*Arlene Orr:* Recognized farming, very definitely, recognized farming

*Blaire Smith:* Ok, you have said that, um, when Billy Wayne came along did he also go to school in Tiptonville?

*Arlene Orr:* Oh, yes he did, he began first grade in Tiptonville. At that time there was no public kindergarten. He went to a private kindergarten, but he began in first grade and graduated from Tiptonville, but he graduated from Lake high school

*Other Interviewer:* So you said that they were a private kindergarten instead of a public

*Arlene Orr:* There was, it was, um, you know what I lived, it's not very far from where I

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??? Lived and this lady, um, she deceased now but she had a hate day private kindergarten and he didn't go I think he went only the year??? entering first grade, maybe not the full year I remember

*Blaire Smith:* Ok, um, when you were going to school was there a really big rival between the football team in Tiptonville and Ridgley

*Arlene Orr:* Yes there was, um, sometime it became quiet there was a small fight now and then I don't mean anything terrible or serious but people come??? from time to time but then they loved one another also but it was just a football rival you know

*Other Interviewer:* So when you said it was a football rival did that rivalry stretched between likes

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into like Ridgley and Tiptonville

*Arlene Orr:* There was no??? Between Ridgley and Tiptonville excepted primarily it was football

*Other Interviewer:* Did that happen in other sports

*Arlene Orr:* Yes we had basketball, um, boys and girls, um, I'm sure we had softball, um, I can't remember anything else

*Other Interviewer:* Was, um, you was talking about the, um, all the thriving business in Tiptonville when you were younger, was there in business in Ridgley that you found yourself wanted to go visit

*Arlene Orr:* Yes, there was, when I say rivalry it was not a bad thing it was just between the two football team, you know the game that they played with Ridgley, Tiptonville or

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Ridgley that one game each team wanted to win was on Thanksgiving or either I think it was on thanksgiving but it could be prior to thanksgiving, um, but that was just any person living today as old as I am but not quite as older but we said football rivalry but it just like saying football rivalry between, um, maybe Tennessee and Ole Miss something like that, you know

*Other Interviewer:* So as far as going to school in Tiptonville and there being a high school also in Ridgley did you have any friends that went to the Ridgley high school as that you wanted to visit also

*Arlene Orr:* I had soon friends but they were not near as close, I had no one compared to me as friends in Tiptonville

*Other Interviewer:* So what would you say how change between the two towns since you was

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in school and today

*Arlene Orr:* Are you saying between the people or between

*Other Interviewer:* Yea, between the people, between the businesses, between the schools

*Arlene Orr:* Oh ok, of course they were a few businesses in Tiptonville and few businesses in Ridgley now, um, but that came a big, we had to adjust from that you know but, um, I think people in Tiptonville today people in Tiptonville loved one another and people in Tiptonville and Ridgley loved one another, they loved one another then, it's a small county

*Blaire Smith:* Can you liberate on is to why you weren't as close to your friends that lived in Ridgley as you were in Tiptonville

*Arlene Orr:* Well

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I didn't have daily contact with them, I might not see them unless it was a basketball game or it's hard for me even to think if something else then sporting event or, um, a county spelling bee or something like that. We never had a close contact as far as interaction. Most of the time your close friends, there close friends in Ridgley went to the Ridgley high school, whatever, Tiptonville students close friends were in Tiptonville

*Other Interviewer:* So would you say outside of sporting events where the Ridgley people, did they pretty much keep from themselves and then Tiptonville people keep to themselves

*Arlene Orr:* Not really, I tell you the reason that I can't probably coming across to you. At that time, you see I was up to a

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fourteen and seventeen year old I'm sure there were many people in Tiptonville, adults who had very close friends in Ridgley ??? but I was a teenager so I haven't reached that place in my life where I established close friends in Ridgley. I had one ??? teacher I think it was eighth grade, I still love her today. She live in Ridgley, she still living

*Other Interviewer:* So, do you think there a is it kind of the same now a days with the or has it change now that it is one high school do you think Ridgley and Tiptonville closer than they were in the past or the you think they more separate

*Arlene Orr:* I think I think the immigration of the two schools has been good, I think it been good because it is giving the school system more advantages probably in varieties ways from the state and local

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governments and, um, it is giving us a better diversification of teachers. And Billy Wayne my son he had very good friends from both ends of the county so. I think consolidation is good

*Other Interviewer:* You spoke a little bit about the farmers you know having ownership of the land in between Ridgley and between or between Ridgley and Tiptonville could you talk a little bit more about that

*Arlene Orr:* The farmers that own the land, well farming in Lake County, is pretty much an occupation that has been family??? probably some of these people farming today in this county, maybe their great grandfather own the land, you know it just come down through the families. Those some people we,

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other than just coming down through the families I don't think we have too many people in the county decide I want to farm, you know, it was just a family??? Thing

*Other Interviewer:* Do you think that anywhere in the future that they can make that farmland into businesses

*Arlene Orr:* Pardon

*Other Interviewer:* Do you think anywhere in the future that they could use that farmland make upcoming businesses

*Arlene Orr:* They are business in the county that are related into farming, you know like, equipment places, I know you could buy equipment in Ridgley farming equipment, um, seed fertilizer companies and things that are related to farming but other than that, other than

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reaching things that they??? In farming I don't think that, um, I don't think that they will contribute too much what to new business now. I know they will stop at the Dairy Queen and things like that or will, um, invest in restaurant and but as far as this is just a farming county and has become that and I don't think it be nothing else, I mean it's just not not I don't think I will live to see that you know it's true what we have in Lake County I a prison. So, um, and I'm certainly cannot say anything that??? About the farmers how work extension servers feel like twelve years of my work years, those farmers were very good to me

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*Other Interviewer:* Do you have any solutions or any answers to what could make the two cities closers

here in Lake County

*Arlene Orr:* Well to me, the school system will be the main thing both ends of the county together and I haven't heard any conflicts in recent years, maybe I'm not aware of it, I'm truly not aware of conflicts between Ridgley and Tiptonville I just can't think of anything. We have in our courthouse, we have people elected officials from south ends of the county, we have elected officials up here, as you know the Brain been your uncle the police department down there and the sheriff department in my husband was a policeman for twenty-five years they all get along quiet well so I don't know of

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anything, any conflicts between Ridgley in Tiptonville

*Other Interviewer:* Well it's good to know that there is common ground between both cities in the county so that's good

*Arlene Orr:* Common ground between Ridgeley and Tiptonville are

Blaire Smith: Yes between Ridgley and Tiptonville

*Arlene Orr:* Well I just can't think of anything but the??? just for since, um, was it last year I guess it was last year that our new county mayor is from Ridgley our former county mayor is from Tiptonville so I mean that just give you an example of our unification between Ridgley and Tiptonville maybe you all can unlighted me I don't know any of the??? Between Ridgley and Tiptonville

*Other Interviewer:* We just want to thank you for taking your time out of your day and coming to talk to us

*Arlene Orr:* I appreciate you

*Other Interviewer:* And, um, yea thank you for telling us your story and we

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really appreciate

*Arlene Orr:* I appreciate you and what you are, your goals are

*Other Interviewer:* Thank you

*Arlene Orr:* Because I know they good