

Recording begins mid-sentence.

DANIEL HOPKINS: . . . a area called Pittsburgh. In 1931 we moved out on Tucker-Norcross Road, the place called the Pitts [spelling?] place. The Haralsons [Haroldsons?] lived there for many years, and I think some of them still do. Then we moved to Tucker across from the Baptist church in 1932, and Mother lived there until she died.

I went to school the first year in Bolton, Georgia, and then I started Tucker in the second grade. The old schoolhouse faced Tucker-Chamblee Road then. That's all been torn down. The school the year before—two years before I went there was in a white two-story wood building, where the Sunday school annex is now, the Cofer annex. The church was there, and then they built the brick building that has long since been torn down that they used for a number of years. We built a gymnasium that the school—the community built it. The community hauled logs to the school. And then they rented a sawmill, and the young men and the seniors in high school run the sawmill—it was a big, steam-engine sawmill—to cut the lumber to build the gymnasium, and it was approximately where the present gymnasium is. But it was done by a community of labor. The school board then was all community school board, John Pickens and Mr. Summerlin [spelling?] and Jack Gatlin [spelling?] and I don't know who all joined the school board, but all them was on the school board. The school expenses, I guess, come out of the county. I'm not real sure. But a lot of the maintenance on the school—the desks and the blackboards and stuff, I done, because I thoroughly enjoyed that kind of stuff and still do.

In 1934, I believe it was, we hosted a part of all of the Southern Baptist Convention at Tucker High School. And at the Tucker church they had a fellow to come, this colored fellow to come from somewhere, and dug three or four long pits to do the barbecue out in the—what's now would be in front of the school on the LaVista Road side. They had a lot of people. It was a big thing for Tucker at that time.

We—Mr. Dell [spelling?] and Miss Louise Cofer were Sunday school teachers. Of course, my mother was a Sunday school teacher. Miss Gatlin [spelling?], if I remember right, Jack Gatlin [spelling?—no, Mr. Randolph was the teacher of the men's Bible class. I think Mother was teacher of the women's Bible class. Then Sunday school, to begin with, was all in that one building. They had two little anterooms, and then the rest of the classes met in various parts of the church sanctuary, because that's all there was. This was before any additions to the back, which we made two additions later on to the back of that church. But this was first in the original church, when there wasn't anything but a anteroom like on each side of the entrance hall. When you first come in, there was a little room over there and a little room over here.

One of the Sunday school classes that I was in met in the little anteroom on the left. I don't know who met on the other one. Then the various ones met just around parts of the church. Some of them met in the choir loft and different parts. Then we built on to the thing and made some Sunday school rooms and then later on built on again, and then later on it all got tore down and built another church.

Probably about '36, 1936, probably, the first addition, I think so. I worked on it. The community done it. It wasn't done by contractors and stuff. Daddy was a builder, and Daddy supervised a lot of it. A fellow named Raymond Britt was a builder, [*Inaudible comment from background*] and Raymond supervised a lot of it. And it was just done with volunteer labor and stuff. I don't think we hired nothing done. Wasn't nobody had no money. That was back when there just wasn't any money.

JEANNETTE HOPKINS: I wonder—are we still on [*inaudible*]? I wonder, Daniel, do you recall how many people we had in the church at that time? It wouldn't have been over 150, wouldn't it?

DH: No, not over 100, 150.

JH: I wouldn't think.

DH: Preacher Charlie Singleton was the preacher. He lived out on Old Norcross Road in an old house that was part of, was the regular--was a log house. And still that part of it is still there. And then we built him a house up there on LaVista Road across from the Baptist Church. Cofers done it. Daddy built it, but Cofers financed it. Preacher Charlie moved up there and lived there until he went to—at that time he was preaching at Tucker second and fourth Sunday and first and third Sunday at Clarkston Baptist Church. Then after two or three years, three or four years or something, then he moved to Clarkston permanently. He had a daughter—he has a daughter that lived in Clarkston and son-in-law, and he moved over there. Preacher Charlie married me and Ruth in the old Georgia Baptist Hospital. There was--Mother and Ruth was going to have a yard wedding and invite everybody and fill up the churchyard and Mother's yard and everything else, and Sunday morning, Preacher Charlie went out to feed the dogs, and one of them knocked him down and broke his leg. I got home, and I thought the hospital room was a nice place to have a wedding, get it over with, and get out of there. [*Laughs*] So I decided Charlie would be the only one to do that, and we'd just go down there and get it over with. [*Inaudible*] just behind you.

JH: The *U.S.S. Atlanta*. Dan, it would be good to have that in the film. I don't know.

DH: That's a anti-aircraft cruiser named the *U.S.S. Atlanta*. It was sunk at Guadalcanal on Friday the 13th of 1943. When did the war start, '42?

JH: '41

DH: All right, then it sunk in '42. It had forty-eight shells five inch and larger and two torpedoes. Lost approximately half of the crew, and half of the crew got on Guadalcanal, stayed two or three weeks, and then we got passage out of there down to New [sic] Mare in New Caledonia, and we dispersed from there on various ships and bases. Edwin Orr, [inaudible] oldest son was on the ship with me. We enlisted together. And he lives at Cumming, Georgia, now. He got wounded real bad, but he survived. There was a good many survivors of the ship, still survivors. We have a meeting every ten or fifteen years and get together. Last time we had a meeting was '77. I was first present probably ten or twelve years ago in Atlanta. I saw last year--year before last--the boy that was on it with me in Waukegan, Illinois, Earnest Richard Peterson, Jr. Got out of the service in California and then rode the bus cross-country. I got home and told my grandpa I wanted to build a house. I didn't want to rent, nothing else. We'd rented one room and dining room in San Diego, so Papa had some land across the street in front of them that he'd bought from Mrs. England or out of the England estate, and bought it from Mrs. Summerlin [spelling?]. The property was across the street on Second Avenue from my grandpa. He lived on the same block that Cofers' store was on, the general store, but he was on the back of the block, and then this was across the street. It come out of the old Julius England estate. A lady named Summerlin owned it, and I built the house there. My grandfather—

JH: Tell who your grandfather is.

DH: C. A. Plummer [spelling?], Sr. And he had a leather shop on Main Street and a hardware store. And a few years—two or three years after that, then I built him another shop building down on the railroad on Railroad Avenue, and they took the leather business over there and left the hardware business on Main Street. And his son, Billy Plummer, run the hardware store, and Papa stayed over there in the leather shop.

JH: And granny—let's tell that Granny Plummer's house, Papa's mother's house, was where Fountain's pharmacy is now.

DH: No, it's where the lodge hall was.

JH: Where the lodge—oh, OK.

DH: Where the lodge was, because Cofers wound up with that after Uncle Lou died. And then Cofers gave that—the house—gave the lot to the lodge. But the lodge had to move the house around there where the C&S Bank is now so some of Cofers' employees could live in it. But then they gave the lodge that land and rebuilt the lodge building on it. And where

Fountain's is was Uncle Lou's garage. You remember he had a little garage on the side and had a car in there.

JH: Oh, yeah

DH: And that was where Fountain's is. But before Cofers gave us those—no, couldn't've been. Started to say that's when Johnna [spelling?] built the drugstore, but Johnna [spelling?] built the drugstore after they built the lodge building, because the drugstore is just a three-sided building. It's—one wall of the drugstore is the wall of the lodge building. And Sam Johnna [spelling?] gave us an easement across the back of his property to get to the back of the lodge property. That's why that stairway hangs back there and stuff now for a fire escape, because we give him wall rights on our building. And Andrews had the drugstore and the doctor's office on the corner of Main Street and Railroad Avenue. It's a two-story building. The Masonic lodge met upstairs, and I think there was a Woodmen of the World—no, the Oddfellows had a lodge in Tucker, it seemed like at that same time, and they met up there.

Dr. Andrews was the only doctor we had then. A little bit later on we got another one and then another one. But Dr. Andrews done it all. My brother Dean was in a car wreck. The man busted his spleen and got in awful bad shape. Dr. Andrews told Mother, "Don't move him. Don't touch him till I get back." I reckon he had to run down to the thing and read up on what was the matter with him. So Daddy walked on down in Tucker, and Dr. Andrews told him to get him to the hospital immediately. And they got him in and X-rayed him, and he had this blood clot from the spleen had moved over his appendix. And then the X-ray of the appendix looked like they was going to bust or something, and they operated on this, and that was the wrong place, and blood shot out all over Dr. Cofer. He was in a terrible fix. The Cofer brothers' brother was a surgeon at Georgia Baptist for years and years, very renowned surgeon. Then they went back and had to get his spleen. To start with, they thought it was the appendix. Dr. Cofer was a very renowned surgeon from Tucker.

There in the '30s there was a filling station on the corner. Where the tire company is now is a [inaudible].

JH: Main and LaVista

DH: Main and LaVista, and Mr. Westbrook owned it. He discussed several times he'd like to sell. So one morning me and my brother went in there, and he wanted to sell out. And we asked him what he wanted for it, and he said, "Sixty-five dollars." Had gas in the ground, Cokes in the Coke box and groceries on the shelf, kerosene in the kerosene pump. That one cent a gallon on the sale of gas was the rent on the property. But sixty-five dollars bought all the merchandise. So we gave Mr. Westbrook a check. I was twelve or thirteen; Dean was

about ten. [*DH and JH laugh.*] We gave him a check, and he went almost running down to the bank to see if it was any good. And he got down there, and they gave him the money. And he had to come back and pick up his coat and go on home. He lived out on Tucker-Chamblee Road, out there where there's a church now—I think the Koreans have it out on Tucker-Chamblee Road. And as far as I know, Mr. Westbrook still lives up in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. His son bought a motel up there and then I think bought another one up there.

JH: That was Theron—

DH: Theron Westbrook

JH: Yeah, I had a crush on him [*laughs*].

DH: So we bought the filling station. We run it for a long time. Then there was the next building down there by where Bobby Eaves [spelling?] is was Mr. Cash, had a automobile repair shop down there. And then [*Recording skips*] he had three children, Robert and two girls, Mildred—

JH: And Katherine [spelling?]

DH: And Katherine [spelling?]. And then you skipped on down to the next house, was—

JH: Lewis

DH: Lewis, Mr. Lewis. He lived in a big house up there. He was the depot agent for the railroad, run the depot and stuff. And his--across the street from him was the Carrolls. John Carroll married his daughter. Nothing else till you got to the corner, then where some of those little shops are in there now, Mr. Peavy—no, nope—

JH: Peavy [inaudible] grocery store was there.

DH: On the corner [inaudible] there wasn't anything then till you got to Cofers' store. And Cofers' store was approximately half the size it is now, in those days. And then in the early '30s Cofers paved the front of it. Main Street was not paved. Cofers paved the front, what's now concrete. Out in the front was about most of the street, but they paved it in front of their store. And [inaudible] the store, and then they dug a deep well in the back of the store. And then they run a water main up Main Street and give everybody—sold everybody water. I don't know what they done about it, but the first water system in Tucker, Cofer brothers done it.

JH: And, Dan, didn't they have a lumber yard in the back of that store [inaudible]?

DH: In back of that store, yeah, and the cabinet shop. And the window and door shop and stuff was behind that store. Then a few years later, they went across the railroad and started stacking lumber over there in the road. There's supposed to be a road on that side of the railroad, just like there is on this side. But Scott Candler and Reid decided that Tucker'd be better off without a road there [*laughs*] [inaudible], so they built a building in it, stacked lumber in

it and put a fence around it, and got title to it by the squatter's rights or something. So Scott Candler told him if they fenced it in, he could have it.

Then there wasn't anything from Cofers' store then until you got to the Gulf filling station on the corner of Lawrenceville Highway and Main Street.

JH: Yeah, the Gobers—

DH: And that was Gobers'.

JH: And they had—the Gobers had a house before you got to the station, don't you remember? They had a house there.

DH: No, I don't remember.

JH: You don't remember it?

DH: No

JH: OK. Well, they did. I remember.

DH: They— *[Inaudible comment in background]*

JH: Yeah, Ruth remembers, so we got it made.

DH: Then you go across the street, and there was a service station, coming back up Main Street on the other side, and there was a filling station there. Then the Morrises' house was in there somewhere about where that tire company and stuff is now.

JH: Morris house on Main Street. And I recall, when I first went to work—and I believe it's when I went to work at Sears, when I was sixteen; I worked between the school terms. And Betty Morris rode with us; we always had carpools at that time. And when we'd pick her up, we would kid her about living on the wrong side of the railroad tracks, and that used to make her so mad! *[Laughs]* And I'm sure that, at this day, she could buy and sell every last one of us *[laughs]*.

DH: Yeah. All right, then come on up to the railroad, and Cofers had a long, narrow building along the railroad, built on the railroad right-of-way. They paid rent on the land to the railroad, I'm sure. But they had a long warehouse there where they have parking now for employees and stuff. And then across the street, across the Railroad Avenue, coming on back up Main Street, was Dr. Andrews's drugstore. The Masonic Lodge met up over it. The Masonic Lodge wasn't constituted till 1940. Heading down a few years later they built the lodge building.

Now, come on up the street, then the next one was Hulsey Andrews, Dr. Andrews's son. And he had a filling station--a little candy, and a couple of gas pumps that sat out in the middle of Main Street. The first building there on the corner was Dr. Andrews, and then it was next to it. I think it's a frame shop, where the new picture frames and stuff is now.

JH: I think so. Uh-huh

DH: Was [inaudible—could be “not,” but could be something else] where Hulsey was. He had two gas dispensers that sat out in the road there. And then the later years Hulsey had kind of, he went around on the Railroad Avenue and opened a store. And they sold that property on Main Street.

Then the next one was Mr. Peavy, a man we was talking about while ago, feed and grocery stuff there. And this was, Mr. Peavy’s, was about where that [inaudible—could be “Banks”?] Studio or something that, you know, bought Mama Petty’s lot.

JH: Yeah, the tea room, but--

DH: No, the tea room’s in the bottom of the lodge hall, on the other side that Mr. Griswold [spelling?] bought after the hardware store burned down, well, the building that the hardware store was in, burned. And then my grandmother sold that property to a Mr. Griswold [spelling?]. He built a two-story building there now. But the best one that got built in there in the later years was the—the gal that bought Preacher Charlie’s house up here—I mean bought the Lindsey [Lindsay?] house, that was the decorator, her store was—

JH: Oh, yeah, Joy Morrow

DH: Joy Morrow. Then—

JH: Well, now, Daniel, before—

DH: Mr. Peavy had that store, and then Uncle Lou had a store, Lou Allen Rogers. Then his house was next door, Lou Allen’s house, where the lodge hall now stands. And then Uncle Lou’s garage was next to that. Then there was the alley that’s there now. That alley was open at that time. It wasn’t open going the other way, but it was open going that way. And then the bank was next.

JH: Uh-huh. But now, back up a minute. At one point the post office was in one of those buildings.

DH: The post office was in the brick building that--when Hulsey Andrews tore down his daddy’s old two-story building, they built back that brick building that’s on the corner now, and that was the post office. And he built that building for the post office.

JH: Yeah, but even back further than that, the post office, there was some boxes in one of those buildings close to Hulsey’s original store. Do you remember that? Before it was--

DH: The post office was in the back of Cofer Brothers’ store--if I remember right, till Hulsey built that building, tore down the other thing, and built that building, and moved the post office in it.

JH: Right

DH: I don't think the post office was there or anywhere else in there on that side. It was in the back of Cofers' store.

JH: Yeah

DH: And then we got enough people, the post office was big enough to be in a free-standing building. And Hulsey bid on it, and I bid on it. I wanted to put it down there on Lawrenceville Highway in that building that we bought, the land from Preacher [inaudible name] built beside Carl Garmon [spelling?]. I wanted to put it down there, and Reid Cofer wouldn't have that. He wanted it to stay in Tucker, and I guess it was best for Tucker that it stayed up there. But anyway, Hulsey built that building; and the post office went in there.

Then, let's see, we're back up to the--Uncle Lou Allen's house and garage. He gave that property--well, where the house was, to the lodge, tore down. We moved it around there where C&S Bank is on Main Street. And then we moved it--the Masonic Lodge--moved it around there to where C&S Bank is now, and then Cofer brothers gave the Masonic Lodge that property that the Masonic Lodge is setting on now. But they had to move that house so they could keep the employees living in it for the land. Then Sam Jolly [spelling? Could be "Jolley"?] bought, I guess from Uncle Lou, I guess.

JH: I guess so.

DH: I guess he bought from Uncle Lou and built that building that is Fountain's pharmacy now. Then you got a little street in there, and then what's now that little park was the Bank of Tucker, forever plus a little bit. Lloyd and Pierce [spelling?] Burns built the bank, and they owned it for several years, and then got too much money in Tucker, and Burns was too conservative, so they had to get somebody else to run it. So the Cofers run it. The Burns [sic]--not being critical of Burns [sic], but they wouldn't loan you nothing but twenty dollars on a milk cow. And they'd loan all of the schoolchildren money, ten or fifteen dollars. But they wouldn't loan nobody no money, I mean money. And there was too much money in the bank, so Cofers took it over and started loaning construction money and built a lot of things, loaned money to a lot of builders, and done the town a lot of good. Then the thing got even too big for Cofer brothers, and Reid told me one day he either had to learn how to merchandise money or get out; and he said he'd rather get out. So he sold to C&S.

But then next to him was a little building that was the barber shop, Morris Webb's barber shop. And then a few years later Morris Webb built the two buildings that's there now, the barber shop and whatever that next one is.

JH: Beauty shop

DH: Beauty shop. Morris built them, and he moved in one of them, and Marian [spelling? Mary Ann?] Thaxton started a beauty parlor in the other one. In the little building that he moved out of in there, Mr. Hannah had a real estate office in there, auction thing and stuff. And then that Morris Webb and the beauty parlor, Marian Thaxton, then they—next building was a automobile garage for a long time, and then it got converted to the bowling alley. And it was duck pins, I believe that they call it, the small pins, and the small balls, was there for several years. Then there was a building beside that that was a blacksmith shop. And I don't remember what his name was right off. The other blacksmith shop in town was around behind the post office, was Mr. Cottingham. And—but I don't remember that man's name.

Transcribed by Claudia Stucke