

Speaker 1 ([00:02](#)):

I'm Olitha McGuire Reid, and I'm a descendant of the late Allen and Lula Albert. They were my great grandparents and they lived in the Redan area and they had a hundred plus acres in that area, the and area, which is considered Lithonia also.

Speaker 2 ([00:34](#)):

And he's the man we just saw in the book, right? Mr. Albert?

Speaker 1 ([00:37](#)):

No, those are his parents.

Speaker 2 ([00:39](#)):

Those are his parents

Speaker 1 ([00:40](#)):

Are not his parents. Gotcha. And my great grandparents had two children, that was my grandmother, Clara Albert and her brother David C. Albert. And they owned their own farm and shared their crops and that type of stuff with the community. And they sold eggs, milk, and even to their white neighbors and passerbys. And they did that to help support their church also. And the church was Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

Speaker 2 ([01:27](#)):

And the farm was here in Lithonia?

Speaker 1 ([01:29](#)):

It was in the Redan area, Wellborn Road. And we still have our own family cemetery on Giles Road, and we are still using it. My grandmother, which was Clara Albert, she always wanted to be a nurse. So she went into delivering babies and she took the midwife class at Agnes Scott, which was totally unheard of back in that time. But, you didn't have a lot of hospitals for people to go to, so they had to have classes for midwives. So my grandmother was one of the midwives that went through that. And she delivered, I'm saying all the babies in the Redan area, some of Lithonia area, and what they used to call Bell Mount off of Panola, that area, all those areas were predominantly black. And David, her brother, after they had been on the farm, I guess his kids, he didn't want no more parts of the farm. He wanted to be a businessman. And I say he was well, came in well above his time because he owned his own property. He had rental property. He had his own little side business, which he did. And it supported him and his wife. So he didn't work in the public at all.

([03:34](#)):

But he was a civic leader for this community. He was one of the civic leaders for this community. He did a lot of civic things in the town, including running for a council member back in the late fifties or maybe early sixties. But he only got my understanding two votes. So he didn't get to be a council

Speaker 3 ([04:16](#)):

Person,

Speaker 1 ([04:17](#)):

But he was brave enough to run. And he was the type of person that he was, had the mind of Martin Luther King. And he had the will I say of Hosea Williams for his community and his people. But he was always service to the people when they needed him.

([04:41](#)):

He didn't like injustice. He didn't like riding on the back of the bus. And he would pass out NAACP literature and memberships on Main Street, which that was not supposed to have been done back then. Always dressed with a tie and a coat. Cause he wanted to be a businessman, and he just refused to sit on the back of the bus. So he decided one day he was going to sit on the front of the bus and that didn't go too well. So my dad had to go get him out of jail and he did across the street from my house, used to be the lot on your city pool, that parking lot. And he decided he wanted to come to the swimming pool. So he did that back in the day in the sixties, I believe in the early sixties. He did that. But he also supported young people encouraging. And he was one of my encouragers. He and my grandmama was a big inspiration. And I said, my wellbeing, my Uncle David was like I said, civic minded. And when you are around civic minded people, sometimes it gives you pride in what you're going to do in the future.

([06:18](#)):

And pride brings on a lot and self-esteem for the future. So that was a lot that he did. And in 1963 when they had the March on Washington, he was not able to attend. But him being a full-time member of the DeKalb NAACP and he hope started that DeKalb NAACP, he started the branch, he and some other citizens of Lithonia that were involved with the NAACP. Well, first we used to have what we call the Lithonia Youth Council, which was a youth group branch of the NAACP.

Speaker 2 ([07:21](#)):

Okay. Lithonia Youth Council.

Speaker 1 ([07:32](#)):

And he and some of the others, adult people in this community, such as Mr. Willie Bullock, Bullard, L-L-A-R-D, and Mr. Lucia Sanders, Allison Venable, he's deceased now, but he was, Allison Venable one time was the mayor of Lithonia. They were instrumental in telling us about the trip to Washington DC. That was the march on Washington in 63. So the kids that went were sponsored by these people and the community. So there were five of us that went, and I'll let you have this too. Oh great. Thank you. To look at that. Thank you. And that was a 50 year,

Speaker 2 ([08:36](#)):

50 year anniversary.

Speaker 1 ([08:41](#)):

You can have that one if you want. Thank you. I made a copy of it. Okay,

Speaker 2 ([08:45](#)):

Thank you.

Speaker 1 ([08:52](#)):

And the March on Washington was a trip that was important to them because they were older and they knew that they needed younger people to be foot soldiers for this community. And it was five of us that with pictures on that that I just gave you. When we left, we went by bus and that was, we loaded up on Hunter Street in Atlanta and it was old Pascals restaurant then. So we met at the old Pascal's Restaurant in Atlanta on Hunter Street. We could not, we had to take our own lunches for all those days, our own food because we couldn't stop at a restaurant because that was just unheard of back then. In 63 you stop and getting a lunch somewhere and you had to pack your food for those days and the few little clothes that you could take for those days. So it was a enjoyable trip, but it was a meaningful trip and it was very educational. And when I see search of it on the TV now, I think, oh yeah, I was there. So it was very educational at that time. It was hundreds of people on Hunter Street, many buses on Hunter Street leaving to go to this march on Washington.

(10:35):

So it was a big thing. But then at the same time, I lived on this side of town and my school was on the opposite side of town, predominantly black Bruce Street School. So then my dad worked at night. He would take us to school in the morning and come back and pick us up in the afternoon before he went to work because the school bus didn't come over here to pick us up. So my uncle said, why are you all still having to go to school over there away from home when Lithonia Elementary and high school was a stone throw away right here. So in my 10th grade year, I transferred from Bruce Street to Lithonia High School. So I was in the first class that graduated blacks in 67. So we integrated the school that year. That was the first year DeKalb County was integrated. There was others that came, but they could not stand the pressure. So they went back to Bruce Street and didn't try to come back until DeKalb County closed down a lot of the schools and then you had to go to the school anyway, but we were already there, but a lot of them just couldn't take what was going on. They were frightened

(12:36):

And scared and now they call it bullied. Back then it was called picking on you. So they were bullied. All of us was bullied, but you had to have a thick skin. And me and my uncle would talk and he would say, this is things that you got to get through this and that kind of stuff. And also, two sisters that was in my class, Theresa and Alitha Kelly, their mother was a DeKalb County School patrol, and she would go with us to the school in the mornings. She would bring her daughters to school. So they graduated with me also. So it was five of us that actually graduated girls that graduated the first class that graduated blacks from Lithonia High. And I'm not going to say every day was easy. It wasn't easy. Every day was not easy. You knew what you were going to get, but you can't mistrust to everybody. So you had to have somebody that you could talk to, somebody that you could say hey to or eat lunch with. Although everybody didn't want to eat lunch with you, so you just had to pick and choose who you could talk with and that type of stuff.

Speaker 2 (14:11):

Were there teachers or administrators that stand out to you in any way during from that time period?

Speaker 1 (14:21):

I loved home ec when I was at Bruce Street and I had a love for my teacher, Ms. Dixon at Bruce Street. So when I transferred over to Lithonia High, I took the home ec class and my homemade teacher was Ms. Westbrook at that time. Then I had Ms. Kelly, matter of fact, she lived in this area and she walked to school every day. We had quite a few teachers that lived right in the area that taught over at Lithonia High School. So I enjoyed home ec and I enjoyed my other classes too. But then some classes you would

get in you couldn't enjoy because it was too much hatred. I would say going on a mischief was going on at that

Speaker 3 ([15:24](#)):

Time,

Speaker 1 ([15:25](#)):

But through all, we got through it and graduated and everybody made it out fine. But then you had the others that didn't want to stay, they did have to come back. So it was a little bit better, I guess, for them.

Speaker 2 ([15:41](#)):

Were you in high school when you went to Washington?

Speaker 1 ([15:44](#)):

Yes, I was.

Speaker 2 ([15:46](#)):

And how many days were you there?

Speaker 1 ([15:48](#)):

We were gone for three or four days. Yes. Yeah, you had to travel by bus, so it took you some time back and forth to get there. Yeah. But it was, like I said, it was an enjoyable trip. And you got a chance to meet other youth from other youth groups also That was in the NAACP Youth group. So back to my grandparents, like I said, they did the farming and that kind of stuff. And like I said, they gave to other people. And my great-grandfather was a deacon at Antioch. And my great-grandmother, she was very involved also. But my grandmother, those were her parents.

([16:59](#)):

And my uncle, David Albert was a deacon at Antioch also. My whole family was there. He instilled in my dad to become a deacon. I remember him coming to our house, praying and studying with my dad too, become a deacon. And that's where I got a lot of my upbringing from my grandparents, my uncle, my uncle being civic minded, wanted to be on his own, wanted to stand up for what's right, and then he would help people. My grandmother, she was the mother for everybody, delivered all the babies, all, she kept the farm going, she and my granddad. And they would just give out to the neighborhood and do things for

Speaker 3 ([17:58](#)):

People.

Speaker 1 ([17:59](#)):

So that type of upbringing helps you along the way.

Speaker 2 ([18:05](#)):

Yeah. Do you know how long they had the farm? Do they still have the farm? Is it still in the family?

Speaker 1 ([18:12](#)):

No, no. We just kept the cemetery, the family cemetery.

Speaker 2 ([18:16](#)):

Do you know what occupies the space now where the farm used to be?

Speaker 1 ([18:23](#)):

The house that was there, the original house, after my grandmother passed, my father was in charge of it. And so he rented it out and the renters that was there had kids. One of the little kids played with matches and the house burned up. So it's nothing on that property. Someone else bought it, but it's nothing on that right now. It's not a house, anything there. But I had other cousins that built houses on the property and they're deceased now. So all that is sold, their family soul, their part. And also I know I'm skipping around.

Speaker 2 ([19:24](#)):

Yeah, that's okay. I do that too with my questions, so I apologize if that throws you off.

Speaker 1 ([19:32](#)):

My church, Antioch, that's where Martin Luther King's maternal grandfather was a minister, Adam Williams. And that was in the 1893, I believe, starting 1893, and I think it was 1893. I don't want to put an ending date on it. And that's the church that's on the corner up there. The Rock church, the Cornerstone will tell you. And his name is on that cornerstone.

Speaker 2 ([20:14](#)):

I'll stop by there on my way back.

Speaker 1 ([20:16](#)):

It's on this side. That cornerstone.

Speaker 2 ([20:20](#)):

So you've been attending that church since you were a girl?

Speaker 1 ([20:24](#)):

All my life.

Speaker 2 ([20:25](#)):

Wow.

Speaker 1 ([20:25](#)):

Because see, the house that I was raised in is this house right beside me, the green house right here. So I had to walk to Sunday school, be at church. You didn't have no other choice. You right here. So you didn't have a problem going to church or whatever. I had an enjoyable life. Not a rich life, but a enjoyable life. I had good parents that raised me. I had two brothers that was older than me. They're deceased. But I had a decent life and I'm thankful for it and thankful for my parents. Yeah.

Speaker 2 ([21:19](#)):

How long did you live in the green house?

Speaker 1 ([21:22](#)):

Until I was 20 years old.

Speaker 2 ([21:26](#)):

And then you moved to this house?

Speaker 1 ([21:28](#)):

No, I got married and then we moved to Atlanta and we stayed there a year. And then we built this house. So I've been in this house 52 years, raised my two kids, and matter of fact, my two kids went to Lithonia High School. I have nephews and nieces that went to Lithonia High School.

Speaker 2 ([21:52](#)):

There you go. Family Legacy.

Speaker 1 ([21:54](#)):

Yeah.

Speaker 2 ([21:55](#)):

I noticed the apartments over here. Are those new or they've been around.

Speaker 1 ([21:59](#)):

They've been there for 14, maybe 16 years now.

Speaker 2 ([22:03](#)):

I'm sure you've seen some changes in since

Speaker 1 ([22:05](#)):

You've been here.

Speaker 2 ([22:06](#)):

Yes.

Speaker 1 ([22:06](#)):

Because next door to me used to be the DeKalb Library. And they tore it down? Well, no, no, it was the library. Then after the library it closed and they built a new library on Church Street. So they rented this library out to, for tutoring classes, people would know it. Rented for tutoring classes and school settings. And then on the other side of that was the hon, your health center under DeKalb. So that health center was turned into a daycare and school, and then they tore it down the library and the health center. They told both of those down and put the apartments.

Speaker 2 ([23:01](#)):

Okay. I'm from Stone Mountain originally, and I go through that way sometimes and I see how much it's changed and how much it's grown and something, it just blows my mind to look back at pictures and look at what it's like now. And just the times had changed.

Speaker 1 ([23:30](#)):

Yeah, times it changed.

Speaker 2 ([23:45](#)):

So now if I could, Ms. Reid, going back to the March on Washington, were there, what stands out to you from being in Washington, DC. What are some moments that stand out to you during your visit there?

Speaker 1 ([24:02](#)):

During

Speaker 2 ([24:02](#)):

That time,

Speaker 1 ([24:06](#)):

It was, to me, all the different signs that you saw that was representing injustice, that needed to be adjusted.

([24:25](#)):

And people were holding different signs. And some of them was about jobs. I remember that about segregation in schools. And that was what we were against too. The segregation in schools and you didn't have a chance to go to restaurants and that type of stuff. You couldn't go in, use the bathroom, that type of stuff. And you saw people with a numerous amount of signs. And then the speech that Dr. King made that was so powerful. And my daddy used to say that he liked the speech because things would get better. And that's what we grew up on. Things are going to get better and you have to just, the thing was pray about it and things will get better. And you live and learn that everybody is not a bad person. They just have different views. But when you know better, you do better. And that was part of it. But when Dr. King made his speech, it was so powerful and it was so clear and loud that it was just, even if you were a young person, you still could understand what was going on, what was being said, what he meant, and what was he about. So it was just, like I said, it was a very educational period in life and I'm glad I went. Glad I get a chance to tell my kids about it. So it was a good thing.

Speaker 2 ([26:45](#)):

And what did you do after high school?

Speaker 1 ([26:48](#)):

I went to the DeKalb College. You too. Did you? Yeah. I took business. Some classes in business, but I did go to school to be a dental assistant also. Back then it was called DeKalb, but it's something

Speaker 2 ([27:16](#)):

Else. Something else. Now. Is it still Perimeter

Speaker 1 ([27:19](#)):

Georgia? Perimeter.

Speaker 2 ([27:20](#)):

Georgia. It changes names quite a bit.

Speaker 1 ([27:23](#)):

Yeah, I went to the technical part of it. So did you work as a dental

Speaker 2 ([27:28](#)):

Assistant?

Speaker 1 ([27:28](#)):

I did. Yeah, I did. I worked right here in Lithonia, matter of fact for Dr Densford in Lithonia, Dr. Cartilage, Densford Cartilage (sp?). And then after that I went to work at Grady Hospital as a ward clerk. I worked there. And then after my tenure working there, I had kids and it was best to stay at home because you really didn't have daycares around here. My mom would have to keep 'em, whatever. So me and my husband just decided when they start school, then you go back to work. So that's what I did. And then I retired from Marshall's distribution up on Covington Highway. I worked at Sears Distribution, then I went to Marshall's distribution on Covington Highway, and I worked there 24 years.

Speaker 2 ([28:43](#)):

Oh, wow.

Speaker 1 ([28:43](#)):

Because I still had little kids. So I would work that part time in the distribution center. And then in the summertime I would be off with the kids.

Speaker 3 ([28:54](#)):

Nice.

Speaker 1 ([28:54](#)):

And so then after that, marshals open up and I fill out an application with them. So I went to work for them. Now I fill out the application. Sears called me back. I went back to Sears, they laid me back off. I went back to Marshall's and they hired me again. And the manager said, we just seen you a few weeks ago. I see you. So I stayed there then.

Speaker 2 ([29:26](#)):

Nice.

Speaker 1 ([29:27](#)):

Yeah. So

Speaker 2 ([29:28](#)):

Did you get a discount on

Speaker 1 ([29:29](#)):

I still do.

Speaker 2 ([29:30](#)):

Oh, wow. Yeah, I still do. I love Marshalls.

Speaker 1 ([29:33](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. TJ Maxx and Marshalls. Marshalls, yeah. Are the

Speaker 2 ([29:37](#)):

Same. So what did you do as a ward clerk at Grady?

Speaker 1 ([29:44](#)):

Worked at the desk and you did the paperwork. Back then it wasn't computers. When we did the ward clerk, you ward clerk, you intercept the patients, do the charting for the nurses. If someone's deceased, you have to fill out their paperwork and that type stuff. And matter of fact, when I start working at Grady, Atlanta Area Tech, I had classes at Grady for ward clerks. So you took that class and then you go over to your actual work. Cool. Yeah. So you would learn how to chart, do the charting and that type stuff. So that was one of my jobs. That was 52 because my daughter was born, she was a baby and she was 51 years ago. When I worked at Grady, I liked it. But like I said, I had a kid, a baby, and then went long before I had another one. So it was just not a good thing. Travel from here to Atlanta. And then I worked on the evening shift and the weekends were wobbly where you had to, so that didn't go too well.

Speaker 2 ([31:45](#)):

So you're working, you've raising a family, you're going to church. Are there any civic or other organizations that you were participating in?

Speaker 1 ([31:55](#)):

I always participate in my town. For a group of us ladies got together and started the Lithonia Festival. And that's not going on now. It was a few ladies that were citizens and the others were business people on Main Street. Loette (sp?) Lowe. She used to own the flower shop, but she's deceased. Barbara Lester was a citizen and she was also on the council at one time. She's deceased. And her sister Marcia, was the mayor of Lithonia. Allison Reynolds owned a beauty shop on Main Street. We had a lady named Cheryl that owned Cheryl Cards and Gift Shop. I'm trying to see if I'm leaving outside. But what we would do would get together, have our meeting and strategize how to have this festival. And we had big festivals. We did the festival in the summer, we did the Christmas tree lighting at

Speaker 3 ([33:46](#)):

December.

Speaker 1 ([33:50](#)):

The proceeds that we got from that, we bought the granite signs that you see. We have one right here at the park says Lithonia Park. We have one at the corner of Main Street in Max Cleveland that says Lithonia. We got little granites around that we bought with the proceeds. We also did the Veteran Walk, that's in Kelly Park.

Speaker 3 ([34:24](#)):

We

Speaker 1 ([34:24](#)):

Sold the bricks with the names of the veterans on that. And it's at Kelly Park. We worked very hard. We did. And I was working full time at the time. And what I would do would take some of my vacation days when I really needed to be home doing some papers or something like that. But everybody else, they had their jobs too, around town, in town. But it was very exciting and you enjoyed each other. And what happened was Allison Reynolds, like I said, she ran a beauty shop, but her family also runs the Tri-City funeral home. So she kind of migrated over to that area and Cheryl's cards and gift shop went out of business Low at Lowe that ran the flower. She started getting ill and that type of stuff. So that just kind of dispersed. And they have other people now that's taking up the slack of doing little festivals and stuff. But we had a lot going on. It was enjoyable time. People would come to town. Presentation that was given to me and it is a rock, it's a granite. And it was for my uncle,

Speaker 3 ([36:15](#)):

David Albert. Wow. Wow.

Speaker 2 ([36:33](#)):

That is wonderful. Thank you so much for showing me that. It's amazing.

Speaker 1 ([36:41](#)):

Yeah,

Speaker 2 ([36:44](#)):

He made a lot of influence. Sounds like

Speaker 1 ([36:46](#)):

He did. He did.

Speaker 2 ([36:48](#)):

And with you.

Speaker 1 ([36:49](#)):

Yeah. And this one is from church? This one is from church.

Speaker 2 ([36:56](#)):

Oh wow.

Speaker 1 ([37:00](#)):

1970. Wonderful. And he's also instrumental in helping to get Antioch. He and some other deacons. Lifetime membership with the NAACP.

Speaker 2 ([37:16](#)):

Fantastic. So was the church started in 1893 or is it older than that?

Speaker 1 ([37:22](#)):

It's older than that.

Speaker 2 ([37:23](#)):

It is older than that. We probably have a file on it at work, but you probably do. That's amazing. What's the membership in terms? So you've been here a long time. What have you seen in terms of membership of the church?

Speaker 1 ([37:44](#)):

We have outgrown. We've sold that church.

Speaker 2 ([37:46](#)):

Oh yeah,

Speaker 1 ([37:47](#)):

We sold the church. And now my church is on 1- 24 Rock Chapel. We built a new church there about 17 years ago, and I was on that committee for decorating that church.

Speaker 2 ([38:08](#)):

So what's happening with the old church?

Speaker 1 ([38:10](#)):

The old church, another congregation bought it.

Speaker 2 ([38:14](#)):

I see

Speaker 1 ([38:15](#)):

Methodist, I think it's a Methodist congregation that bought it. But we were there all of those years. We enjoyed it. And like they said, time changes and sometime you move on. So that's what we did. But the bell is still up in that church and the cornerstone is still there. Fantastic. It sure really is.

Speaker 2 ([39:04](#)):

And you mentioned you had kids. Do they also live in the area?

Speaker 1 ([39:08](#)):

Yes. Not right in the city. Not right in the city, but they are in the Lithonia area. I

Speaker 2 ([39:17](#)):

Have. And then Stonecrest, tell me, you've been here since you were a young person. So you've seen that develop.

Speaker 1 ([39:27](#)):

Yes.

Speaker 2 ([39:28](#)):

What that, what was that like seeing that come up and seeing it change and seeing it be a positive thing for the community?

Speaker 1 ([39:47](#)):

Well, it came up as the Stonecrest Mall first before it became a city. And that was considered Lithonia, that whole area and beyond. When they divided it and made it Stonecrest city, that left us in a little capsule because all of the surrounding areas looked like went to the Stonecrest district. And we don't have much to expand to now and bring people into our area. They would still be in unincorporated Lithonia. But a lot of people still, because I got family members that live in the Stonecrest district, but they still write Lithonia because they don't have a post office.

Speaker 2 ([40:58](#)):

Okay.

Speaker 1 ([41:01](#)):

So you really a city if you have a post office. Right. They don't have a post

Speaker 2 ([41:08](#)):

Office. Interesting. You mentioned you went to Beacon Hill. Do you know about the Beacon Hill project?

Speaker 1 ([41:17](#)):

I didn't

Speaker 2 ([41:17](#)):

Go to

Speaker 1 ([41:17](#)):

Beacon Hill.

Speaker 2 ([41:18](#)):

I'm sorry, not Beacon Hill. I'm thinking of you talking

Speaker 1 ([41:21](#)):

About to

Speaker 2 ([41:22](#)):

Somebody, Decatur, Bruce Street. You mentioned Bruce Street. Have you been reading about or participating in

Speaker 1 ([41:29](#)):

It? Yeah, I know about it, but I have not participated in it. After sometime you do so many things, you kind of get burned out. I got a card right here now about the Bruce Street project, but I am supportive of whatever they do, I think would be a great thing. And that building has, I went to that school, the old school, when I was in the first grade, I went there maybe three months or so, and I broke my arm. I was in first grade. I broke my arm, my right arm. So they were already building on the new school. And so when I did actually go back to school, they were in the new school. So I didn't really attend the old school as long as some others.

Speaker 2 ([42:29](#)):

Gotcha. And then the new school,

Speaker 1 ([42:33](#)):

And when we got to the new school, we thought that was Oh, the best thing since bubble gum. It was so pretty and new and yeah, back then. So then like they said, they outgrew that. So everybody outgrowth some. It started back in the early 1800s and the church started up on Covington Highway near Young Road, and it was called Brush Harbor (or Arbor?) back then.

Speaker 2 ([43:07](#)):

Brush Harbor,

Speaker 1 ([43:09](#)):

That's what it was called. Cause it wasn't a building, it was just like an arbor, a brush, and they would go there and have service. Oh wow. That was way before my time. Wow. Then after that, they got enough money. I think it was a few people in the church raised finances to build the sanctuary up here. And I think that maybe caused \$250 back in the day. But you had people that lived here that worked with the quarry and all that kind of stuff. So they did their free labor to build that church. That's when you see so much rock around here because of the queries.

Speaker 2 ([44:03](#)):

And I was talking to one of the librarians recently, I don't know how it came up, but we were talking about this. You mentioned the library here, and she was saying that a former employee used to talk about the blasting at the quarry and that you would feel it. They would talk about it in the library. You could feel it here. You could

Speaker 1 ([44:27](#)):

Feel it here.

Speaker 2 ([44:28](#)):

Yeah, you would feel it here. Wow.

Speaker 1 ([44:30](#)):

Yeah, you could. And matter of fact, it's like they would do it every Wednesday almost. And you could just feel everything just

Speaker 2 ([44:39](#)):

All day or just certain times of

Speaker 1 ([44:41](#)):

Day. Certain times. It wasn't all day. It was just, I going to say like a little earthquake come through. You could feel it. Wow. Yeah, you could feel the quarry shaking. And sometimes they do it now and you can feel that.

Speaker 2 ([44:58](#)):

Yeah.

Speaker 1 ([45:00](#)):

Yeah. But it's not often as it used to when I was a kid, you knew that was going to happen anyway, so you didn't even run or get scared or anything. That was way of life.

Speaker 2 ([45:11](#)):

Wow. You got used to it.

Speaker 1 ([45:25](#)):

The other thing about the growing up in this area, we were the blacks on this street, around the corner was the whites. But we all got along, everybody knew each other, that kind of stuff. But at one time when I was a child, I remember my dad saying, it's going to be something big going on down here at the pavilion, the rock pavilion right here.

([46:16](#)):

And he said, I want y'all to stay on the porch. And later on that day, it was something big. It was a Klan meeting right down here at the Pavilion. And you would see all the white sheets and that kind of stuff. And I'm going to say they had maybe a meeting or something, but they had it and we lived right here. But you could see, because there was a lot of cars parked along the street and that kind of stuff. So I've experienced seeing that when I was a kid, but they did not bother us. But it was the fear that my dad had to let us know that it wasn't a good thing. So I've seen that. Yeah, all the time. You always know, knew your place in the community, but you knew things wasn't right in the community, so you just had to live through it. And my daddy used to say things going to get better.

Speaker 2 ([47:43](#)):

Do you have a sense of when you felt like things were turning a corner in that sense and that there weren't going to be any white robes anymore?

Speaker 1 ([47:56](#)):

That was my first time and my only time because like I said, the swimming pool was across the street. I lived right there, but I could not go across the street to the swimming pool. We only could sit in the yard and watch everybody else swim. We would have on Sunday evenings, sometime kids would come to our house from church to sit in the yard to watch the kids swim or just watch because you couldn't go over there. I felt like after, I would say after I graduated and you mature and you started seeing things a little different than you did in your younger years because you feel like you were cheated out of something or you didn't get a chance to do something, that kind stuff. So I feel like later on as I matured, I start feeling some difference. But you still know it wasn't totally like it ought to be

(49:19):

Been a learning experience and I'm sure it's like that with anybody. It's probably like that with you too. It's been a learning experience through all your history lessons and all that stuff. Grew up in Lithonia on Park Drive. My parents were Ernest McGuire Sr and Carrie Alexander McGuire. My siblings were Willie Norman McGuire and Ernest McGuire Jr. Those two were older than I am. They were my older brothers who are now deceased. My growing up was a very good, stable family history. And matter of fact, my grandmother, my mother's mother lived on the same street with us and so I had a nurturing to grow up around and that has spilled over to my niece, which is my brother's only daughter, built her house on the same street that our family lived on. So we are just kind of family oriented. Back in the day they used to call it a compound when all the families lived in the same area. So that's all on my street is family. That's

Speaker 2 (51:07):

It. Park Drive is a special place.

Speaker 1 (51:11):

Yes.

Speaker 2 (51:12):

Thank you. Ms. Reid

Speaker 1 (51:16):

Children, Carlitha and Carlos and they both graduated from Lithonia High School. The same alma mater as I did. That's it.

Speaker 2 (51:28):

Carlitha and Carlos.

Transcribed by REV AI

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Ms. Reid was interviewed at her home in November 2022