

RECORDING MEDIUM IS DAMAGED. Only the first 2 minutes and 22 seconds and the last 11 minutes and 52 seconds of the compact disc are audible and could be transcribed, as follows:

Recording begins after MODERATOR has begun speaking.

MODERATOR: . . . for the DeKalb I Remember Hour. This is April 26th—7th—

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER, *off-camera*: Twenty-sixth

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER, *off-camera*: 1990! [*Audience laughter*]

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER, *off-camera*: This is Memorial Day, by the way, for those who haven't gotten—[*Various inaudible comments throughout the audience*] Well, today we have with us Mrs. Stockard. She's got a tremendously varied history in DeKalb County for a long time. She moved to South DeKalb about twenty-five years ago. We're going to fill in all this stuff. Let's see, [*to DOLORES L. STOCKARD*] you were associated with—your husband's with AT&T? And you've been involved with many, many things—Hillside Presbyterian Church, children in Columbia Elementary and High Schools; you got involved in the paraprofessional program, the media reading instruction program, and you've been involved in the organization of the South DeKalb Community Relations Council. You know—I believe--we really don't have any Blacks here today, but you know, the percentage of Blacks in DeKalb County was a lot smaller than it is today. I'm not sure what the percentage is—you may know. But community relations is a real important aspect of tranquility and prosperity in this county. She's been involved in the Council on Aging, Meals on Wheels, water conservation, soil conservation, Callanwolde Fine Arts Center as well as the Christmas at Callanwolde, which so many of us participate in, garden clubs in the county. And it says here that she has now retired recently, and you're in the process of having built a greenhouse [*inaudible*]. Your husband--?

DLS: That's my husband. No, I retired about sixteen, eighteen years ago [*laughs*].

MODERATOR: Well, we're so pleased to have you today and to share your memories—*Recording stops abruptly. After a gap of probably twenty minutes or so, the recording resumes.*

Second part of the recording begins during DLS's presentation.

DLS: It's not the Vatican. [*Laughs*] you just can't do that sort of thing. So after--I think we've had it there for about a year and half and decided it wasn't doing well, so we looked at forming an organization, and we went to some of the biggest business people that we could find who had an interest in South DeKalb and formed a steering committee. Went to the mall [South DeKalb Mall]; and at that point Fickling Walker had just sold the mall to the Rouse Corporation. The Rouse Corporation heads up a fantastic international program called Arts in the Marketplace. And Arts in the Marketplace promotes having arts centers in and around the

mall areas, so that a mall customer has the entire cultural and shopping experience in one fell swoop. So, we decided this was wonderful. So, we went to the Rouse Corporation, and indeed they did support us. And between the Rouse Corporation and a \$10,000 grant from the Governor's Fund through the DeKalb Delegation, we opened our first arts center at South DeKalb Mall. We developed some extraordinary programs down there that were done in conjunction with Special Audiences. And this, I might say, is the mainstay of the arts center in South DeKalb.

It's different in its approach, not only to the arts, but to the clientele that they serve at South Arts, so there is a great deal of emphasis on our diverse populations. And it's very interesting, because one of the most outstanding groups that we've had on the south end of the county is the Hmong Needlework Group, who come from Laos. And they assembled in the mall one day, and fortunately a woman from the Atlanta Needlework Guild there, who was well aware of the import of their needlework. It's an age-old, ancient form of needlework; it's a reverse-appliqué style of appliqué and embroidery work. And one of them had been to Rich's, and Rich's wanted to commercialize it. Well, when we found out about this, we said, "Never." So, through the years we have managed to get some grants from the Georgia State Arts Council and through several other groups. So, Hmong needlework is still inviolate as an art form, and we hope to keep it that way. We have pending a grant now from the National Endowment for the Arts that would take this group and move them all around the state of Georgia for us. But we're very proud that they are housed in the south end of the county.

Special audiences came in to work with the arts centers and with the art center in the south end, and work was directed toward our elderly population. And here again, once we completed the initial redevelopment on Candler Road, the County Parks and Recreation group came in and built a center on Candler Road next to the C&S Bank. And that was then developed by the DeKalb Community Council on Aging as one of their seven regional centers for our elderly population. And so that was another new thing coming into the South DeKalb area as part of the revitalization work. And that took place in the '70s. But here again, innovative programming was developed then in liaison between the arts center and the Center for the Elderly. These will all be part of our history in years to come. It's new things [inaudible] arts we're concerned now, but in another couple of years it will not be so new; and that's part of our history.

The south end of the company probably boasts one of the best-kept secrets in the state of Georgia, and that's Soapstone Ridge. How many of you are familiar with Soapstone? [Inaudible, brief exchange between speaker and audience] Because of the conservancy—I

imagine some of you are members of the conservancy, and I know you have heard about Soapstone from conservancy members, because here again, the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs formed an alliance with the conservancy, and we hoped that we would save Soapstone Ridge for posterity. For those of you who may not be familiar with Soapstone, at one stage of the game Governor Maddox could have purchased it for \$50,000, and he chose to turn it down. And as a matter of fact, it was passed, as I understand it, it was passed by both the House and the Senate; and Maddox vetoed it. And after that the conservancy worked terribly hard with the owners of Soapstone, who, I believe are still the Eldridge brothers, who live in Florida. But after some appraisals were done and some assessments were made, they began to realize the increased value of Soapstone Ridge.

And, of course, it's all part of DeKalb County history; because all of those Indian trails that wind through the north and the eastern and the western part of this county all focus into Soapstone, because that was where they were getting their Teflon [sic] to make their cooking utensils that we now use for nosecones on missiles and our cookingware, and they were trekking back as far back to the Aleutians and Minnesota, where remnants of these vessels had been dumped, which is rather incredible when you consider the way that soapstone itself and the soapstone utensils that they dug up. As you know, there's one down here on the Courthouse grounds. But there have been more or less intensive movements to recoup Soapstone and bring it to its own. Our movement has now died completely. I understand that the gentleman who was the original archeologist working for Georgia State is no longer living, but Georgia State does have a large repository of artifacts that have come out of Soapstone that are available once Soapstone is redeveloped. And we define redeveloping, we're talking museums, teaching centers, and retaining the integrity of the entire area. It is still one of the greatest repositories of natural materials probably in this part of the state, maybe in this part of the country. According to correspondence that was held with Mr. Leakey, we understand that he considered it one of the treasure troves of the North American continent. So, there is a great deal that can still be done in South DeKalb as far as development of that piece of property is concerned.

Soapstone also held a great deal of interest to the County Extension Service. And back in the early '70s the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs again worked with the county's Extension Service on their farm in South DeKalb, which is located directly in back of the South DeKalb campus. And a program called STEP—which is STudents for Environmental Protection—was begun down there by the County Extension Service and the Garden Club. It was picked up on the national program that was being promoted by all national garden clubs.

And this was probably the first big environmental push in the county. And we're pleased to say that it was in the south end of the county. And it was a summer program, and experts in all forms of ecology and the environmental sciences were brought in to work with the children. And as a side view with what they were learning at the farm, we also did field trips into Soapstone. So at least we know that some of you in this county are aware of Soapstone and its potential.

I know I'm running a little behind, and I don't want to keep you too long. But there are a couple of things that you might also be interested in. DeKalb Clean and Beautiful will celebrate maybe its fifteenth year, if I'm not mistaken. But here again, DeKalb Clean and Beautiful was another offshoot of some of these environmental programs that we developed. And fortunately for us, Liane Levetan, who was one of our commissioners at the time, had been exposed to the KAB program, Keep America Beautiful program, which had its inception in 1973. And two years later DeKalb County had its own DeKalb Clean and Beautiful program, but we were the only group that was certified by a KAB, who were having to pay for their own employee. So, a system of paper reclamation was developed, and a bill of goods was sold to the DeKalb County government that resulted in the pickup of your paper that is still being done today. And the position of the executive director for DeKalb Clean and Beautiful was then funded finally by the county government, as it should have been done originally. So that's another little add-on piece of history for you. So, if you wondered where all the money goes for all of our paper that's been dumped, part of that goes into the funding of the executive director's salary, who goes on with all of these wonderful programs in environmental protection that you're being made more and more aware of today.

I think I've run over time, and I apologize for that.

MODERATOR: Do we have any questions?

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER, *off-camera*: I want to go back a little bit in your talk. Does Tom Davison have a nickname?

DLS: I don't know. Like what?

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER, *off-camera*: Buster

DLS: That I don't know. I've never heard it.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER, *off-camera*: Buster Davison ran a hardware store in the Emory Village for a number of years and then moved away, and I never knew what happened to him.

DLS: I don't think it's the same one, because from what I understand, Tom Davison built this store, and he has been in South DeKalb, and he's been in South DeKalb as long as South

DeKalb's been. Because Tom's always said—he must be in his eighties now. [Inaudible comment]

MODERATOR: Well, Mrs. Stockard, we thank you so very much.

DLS: I thank you for having me.

MODERATOR: We appreciate your coming, and I think you have shown us that there are a number of people who are involved in improving the life of the people of DeKalb County, and we appreciate your showing us what you have done and what you've been involved with, and kind of given us some ideas about all the other people that are involved in that, too. We'll stand adjourned at this time for snacks in the courtroom. So, thank you very much. [*Audience applause*]

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Transcribed by Claudia Stucke