Tootie Interview

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay so Laura Wilkins, and then back in the area, in the corner where that farm is where you said y’all used to live, who was there?

Tootie

Um-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So after Laura Wilkins

Tootie

Um, that was um, Miss Estelle. Estelle, she was a Strothor. But um, that was Miss Estelle Strothor-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Spell the last name? Miss Estelle…

Tootie

Strothor, S-T-… was it S-T-H-R-O-T-…?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

S-T-…

Marcus Howard

Wasn’t it Hestelle?

Tootie

Estelle, yeah it was Estelle.

Marcus Howard

With and H

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, Hestelle Str-

Tootie

No it was, it was Miss Estelle, it was E-S-T-E-L-L-E.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm-hmm, and the S-T-R-…?

Tootie

Was it S-T-R-… yeah, it was S-T-R-O-T-H-O-R.

Marcus Howard

Yeah, Strothor.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh it was T-H-, Sto-thor, okay.

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, Miss Estelle Strothor lived back there. Alright and then who lived next to Miss Louis Grant-, Louise Grant?

Tootie

That was white people, all there. It was a farm.

Marcus Howard

Mortgage Hall.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It was what?

Marcus Howard

Mortgage Hall.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mortgage Hall?

They-, they-, they was white people at Mortgage Hall. Eggy Mills owned it, at one point. You remember Eggy Mills?

That was after the Halls, right?

Tootie

Huh?

Marcus Howard

That was after the Halls.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

After Mortgage Halls?

Tootie

Well this, that was the name of the original farm anyway, was Mortgage Hall. And it was when Eggy lived there that it was named Mortgage Hall, I don’t know what it was before then.

Marcus Howard

The Hall’s lived there originally.

Tootie

Oh did they?

Marcus Howard

Yeah

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Who owned it?

Marcus Howard

The Halls

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The Halls.

Marcus Howard

I just learned recently that, Halls, Halls’ daughter-

Tootie

Which Halls? That one up here?

Marcus Howard

She couldn’t remember-, yeah all three, those she was talking about them.

Tootie

Yeah.

Marcus Howard

Nancy said Tina was the daughter of the Halls. And they came here-

Tootie

Oh Nancy, over here in the corner.

Marcus Howard

They came here from England.

Tootie

Oh so they must have owned it first then Eggy Mills must have got it-, had it.

Marcus Howard

So it’s been Mortgage Hall forever

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mortgage Hall forever. So next to, to the church, and then there’s Mount Jackson-

Marcus Howard

Now that’s not Mount Jackson. This is Mount Jackson.

So what’s on that side? That’s just-, what do you call that road? You call that road Old School House?

Marcus Howard

That’s the way it’s listed I don’t know if that’s-

Tootie

Yeah that’s the way it’s listed, Old School House, but we just call it the back road.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So there-, there was a school house there, on that road?

Marcus Howard

Miss Hamlin’s school but-

Tootie

No, no it’s not really, it’s not really a school on the back road, you have to go up-, up the back road and then you gotta take a right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But they just called it Old School House anyway.

Tootie

Right, I think it was a new thing.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Were there any, are there any houses down Old School House Road then?

Marcus Howard

There’s-

Tootie

Yeah. Well…

Marcus Howard

Tom Waynes

Tootie

Yeah, Tom Waynes, and there used to be Uncle Paul. But that, he’s not there anymore, he’s dead.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So-

Tootie

Actually it used to be-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So down Old School House Road on the left or the right?

Tootie

They were it was on the right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

On the right.

Tootie

If you was coming up this way.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, if I’m walkin on the way, on the right, I’m gonna hit what house.

Tootie

Tony’s there. What’s Tony’s last name?

Marcus Howard

Moses.

Tootie

Yeah, Tony Moses. [unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So then Tony Moses, and then what do I hit after Tony Moses?

Tootie

Well the house is fallen down right now but long story short, and actually that property belonged to Mr. Peyton, but then, then Oldine owned it, then Uncle Paul ended up with it. And I cannot think of Mr. Peyton’s last name. I can still remember him as a little child. I used to love Mr. Peyton. Um, I cannot think of his name.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So Tony Moses lives on Mr.-, what was Mr. Peyton’s property at one point?

Tootie

You know? Probably..

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Alright, question mark.

Tootie

Yeah, question mark. Yeah, and I keep thinking Mr. Peyton’s name. Who would know about Mr. Peyton? Who’s, who’s still left in the neighborhood that would know?

Marcus Howard

The Scott’s, that would be the Scott’s.

Tootie

What Scott’s? You like talking about Mill and-

Marcus Howard

Mildred.

Tootie

Yeah, Mill. Yeah, Mill might jsut know Mr. Peyton’s name. [unintelligible] You know she married my brother?

Marcus Howard

[unintelliglbe]

Now she’s married to Joe. But Mill-

Dr. Wendi

Gotta keep up, gotta keep up!!

SO yeah, Mill might know Mr. Peyton’s last name

Okay, so after where Tony Moses lives, what’s after that?

Uh that’s what I was saying. That was-, after Tony Moses’ house, that was the place that I am telling you that Mr. Peyton owned, that my uncle Paul owned, then… Mr. Peyton owned it, Odine Grigsby owned it then Uncle Paul owned it.

Okay, so I’m gonna put Peyton.

Peyton then-

Grigsby

Odine Grigsby, then I don’t know Mr. Peyton’s last name, then Odine Grigsby, then Paul Grigsby.And Odine and Uncle Paul they were my uncles.

Okay, then after the Peyton’s, Grigsby’s house, property, who’s after that.

Well if you turn down the road.

So there’s a road after the Peyton’s that’s gonna cross here?

Marcus Howard

Yeah, it goes this way.

Tootie

It goes that way.

Marcus Howard

Which is the old, it was uh…

Tootie

Hamlin School Road.

Marcus Howard

Hamlin School Road.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

This is Hamlin School Road?

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, and who’s on Hamlin School Road?

Tootie

That’s, that’s, you mean right now?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Or was.

Marcus Howard

Or was? That’d be easier.

Tootie

Was, is Uncle Paul.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

On the corner, where-, where Old School House Road and Hamlin School House Road meet, Uncle Paul’s here?

Tootie

No you go down School Road and you go down Hamlin School Road for a little bit and-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Alright and then Uncle Paul.

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible]

Tootie

[unintelligible name] built his house now. You know, probably built his house new so his house wasn’t there back then.

Marcus Howard

But he built it on Mister….

Tootie

That was Uncle Paul, owned that land though.

Marcus Howard

Okay.

Tootie

Between him and Odine, you know they had that land down there.

Marcus Howard

Okay.

Tootie

And everything but back in the day though it was just, as I remember, it was only Uncle Paul lived down there. Right?

Marcus Howard

Would have been… Wade Smith lived there.

Tootie

That’s-, that was uncle Paul’s house, that Wade Smith is in was Uncle Paul’s. Now Pual lived before that but Frog and Gill haven’t been that long down there, know what I mean? So they, they were right there in like-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

1950s?

Tootie

No they weren’t there then. No.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But there’s an Uncle Paul and a Wade Smith that lived down there?

Tootie

Well, Uncle Paul, lived there, and then he died and he sold the property and then well he wasn’t dead when he sold it, cuz actually Bernice was, they were still married they just weren’t together. And, they had, he had, they basically had to sell because I guess she wanted a part of it. And, I think Wade bought it, Wade bought it, Wade Smith. And then you’ve got Margaret after that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Margaret?

Tootie

Margaret Howard

Marcus Howard

Margaret Howard Basel

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Margaret Howard Basel? I’ve heard that name.

Tootie

You need a-, we need a-, you need a map of the-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well, I’m trying to sketch here-

Tootie

No, no, no. But you-, we’ve got there some of that stuff.

Marcus Howard

She’s got like an overlay.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

She does?

Tootie

Yeah

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, I’ve yet to see it, so that’s why I’m trying to wrap my head around. And then there’s… the other side of Snake Hill Road, where you come in, right? So this is, this is St. Louis Road going this way.

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And were there black folk on the other side of St. Louis Road on Snake Hill?

Marcus Howard

It was all black.

Tootie

Yeah it was all Black folk

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So who lived on that side, I’ve never driven down that road.

Marcus Howard

Then or now?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Then, all then, we’re talking about-

Tootie

Oh we’re talkin all then-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

1950s…

Tootie

‘60s.

Marcus Howad

JC would have been the one, JC used to go house to house.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

JC?

Marcus Howard

And knows who lived there, and when did they live-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, so that would be-

Tootie

Well you know first of all if you jump across the road, the first people were, uh, Tricia Simms and their parents.

Marcus Howard

Baltimores?

Tootie

Yeah. Roland. You-, you go right across the road and Roland lived there.

Marcus Howard

How long has he been there, back in the, back in the day

Tootie

Yeah I know but we’re talking about when it was all Black.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm-hmm so, like 1950s-

Tootie

‘60s

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

St. Louis was all Black.

Tootie

All Black!

Marcus Howard

All Black.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott
So rights that what I wanna-, sketch out St. Louis when it was Black and be able to know who was living where, the churches, the schools. Like get a sense of the vibrant community before integration, before-

Marcus Howard

I think it started turning white… when did it start turning white?

Tootie

Last 15 years?

Marcus Howard

Yeah, but a little more-

Tootie

15-20 years. Yeah 15-20 years but it was-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And where, where is your, okay if this is ike a little map. Where, how would I get to, wehre’s your house on here, Marcus?

Marcus Howard

Highway to [unintelligible], highway department.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The what?

Marcus Howard

The highway department on the left.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The highway department… right, but this is Snake Hill, and this is St. Louis. So-

Marcus Howard

It’s on St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I would go down… so I would go down this way, St. Louis?

Marcus Howard

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So I’m going down St. Louis

Marcus Howard

And you would pass Hamlin School, which is on the right.

DR. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Which is on Hamlin School Road? Okay.

Marcus Howard

Go down a little further and it’s the highway department, on the left.

Tootie

VDOT

Marcus Howard

Yep.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right.

Marcus Howard

Then that’s Sharon’s house. Sharon Peterson, which you’ll talk to tomorrow.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Marcus Howard

She’s on the left-, right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

She’s on the right.

Marcus Howard

And there’s something called-, now, uh, well this would be, Michael Reed, he’s a Cook, right?

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Michael Reed?

Marcus Howard

Yeah. He’s a Cook, the Cook family owns property on the right.

Tootie

Yeah, he was a Cook, and his granddad was a Cook. You know Mr. Cook worked up at the school too? Before Michael. That’s how Michael got that job, when Michael got out of school his granddaddy was workin at the school. And when Michael got out of high school-

Marcus Howard

He was there?

Tootie

He-, he got that job.

Marcus Howard

He was there how many years.

Tootie

40.

Marcus Howard

40 years.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Michael Reed Cook.

Tootie

No, Michael Cook Reed, well-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Michael-

Tootie

Well that’s not his name, he just, he belonged to the Cook family but-,but his last-, middle name is not Cook, but that’s the, his family.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, but his last name-

Tootie

His grandfather was named Cook.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But his last name is Reed.

Tootie

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Marcus Howard

Then the next family is the Anderson’s

Tootie

Yeah, and she need to talk to Carla too.

Marcus Howard

Yeah I talked to Carla and she was busy last week.

Tootie

Yeah but that’s another.

DR. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The Anderson’s okay.

Marcus Howard

And then the, uh, Miss Catherine Summers.

Tootie

Yeah, there’s Catherine Summers.

Marcus Howard

And on her property is where the old Colt & Horse show was.

Tootie

Yeah and we got a little piece back behind that, cuz we got a little tidbit, where the Colt & Horse show. So see that started like 1898.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What?? Okay so wait a minute, so Miss Catherine Sand-, Sanders?

Tootie

Summers

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Summers, she started the-

Tootie

No she didn’t start it.

 Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But she helped to…?

Marcus Howard

She owned the property.

Tootie

She owned that property at one point, back behind there. Back behind where she lived.

Okay

But that’s the-, that’s

So the St. Louis Colored Colt Show

Cuz remember we were talking with here about that-

Oh, yes! Wow.

So you gotta take some pictures of some stuff.

I will! Purcellville barbershop.

See this is, this is what I. We went, we went and got a whole lot of stuff.

Okay, so I’ma take pictures, let me just finish this and I will take pictures

You do that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, so after Catherine Summers’ property…

Marcus Howard

Umm, the next property would be…

Tootie

Don’t forget the Hall’s back in there.

Marcus Howard

Well the Hall’s lived…

Tootie

Remember Donna Hall and all them?

Marcus Howard

That’s the Brown’s property-

Tootie

Well still, they lived down there then.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So after Catherine Summers it was…?

Marcus Howard

The Brown family, which was behind Catherine Summers.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The Brown family, okay.

Marcus Howard

Uh… and then the next property is my grandmother’s property which is-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The Howard’s

Marcus Howard

The Howard’s, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott
And is there anybody after you down on that-

Marcus Howard

After us is Huntland farm which is like three of four hundred acres of farm.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Called Huntland?

Marcus Howard

Huntland farm.

Tootie

Yeah it’s Hunt-land. That’s how you say it, I mean spell it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And that’s white folks that own that property for a long time.

Marcus Howard

It was a plantation-

Tootie

Yep

It was a plantation? Yeah it wasn’t no farm it was a plantation

Tootie

[unintelliglbe]

Marcus Howard

They call it farm now

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh right

Tootie

But you know what Sharon, Sharon-, Sharon-, she-. You need to bring about being down there at Huntland’s because you remember they did a whole piece on here and Betsy Parker about the slaves living down there at Huntland.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So that’s what-, yes, I would-, so-…

Marcus Howard

Her aunt, her aunt’s daughter did some research about the owners. And the underground railroad I think there was maybe a-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And who has that? Who has that information?

Marcus Howard

My cousin, Mary [unintelligible]

Tootie

Which one

Marcus Howard

Rashonda, the one-

Tootie

Okay, I know Rashonda

Marcus Howard

Shes been awful interested in-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well anything she’s willing to share to help piece this together… Yeah, I mean the plantations here, there’s gotta be-, I mean what are the connections, right?

Tootie

Well, I mean, Sharon did a whole piece on it, the-, Betsy-, she did it with Betsy Parker. Because Betsy Parker owns it now.

Marcus Howard

Okay

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Owns what, Hartland Far-

Tootie

Huntland. She owns it now. Yep.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Betsy Parker?

Tootie

Betsy Parker, owns Huntland Farm now. Cuz you know Betsy’s daughter went to school up here, and she actually donated $10,000 dollars to a school her daughter went to. Yep.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So where did those formerly enslaved people go, after 1865 on Hartland Plantation.

Tootie

Huntland.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I’m sorry, uh, Huntland.

Marcus Howard

Well, that, Saint-, St. Louis was offeredas a reasonable price because of the quality, so.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So-

Tootie

Well it was like a swamp it was basically-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right!

Marcus Howard

It was a swamp so-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So they like you can have this land over here.

Marcus Howard

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So, so y’all know that folks once they were emancipated from Huntland plantation and probably neighboring plantations they were able to buy property here at St. Louis, and it was cheap because it was swampland.

Marcus Howard

And that where it-, this comes from, it was Howard, this was Howard land. When they went to develop.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mmhmm. That was Howard land.

Marcus Howard

It was originally Howard land. It was all swamp at one point.

Tootie

The majority of it-

Marcus Howard

What’s crazy how they-, how they build on swamps [unintelligible]

Tootie

Well, most of it was…

Marcus Howard

But it’d get better and they want to come back

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right.

Marcus Howard

Its better now, come back and take it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, so let me start taking photos. That just gives me a visual in my head of… yeah. Um, alright. So-

Tootie

I was seeing if we saw anything, I was seeing if I saw anything about uh… the dining hall or like the pool house

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah but who was saying like their driveway was, you were even saying, the driveway was difficult you were constantly having ot fill it in.

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah

Marcus Howard

I recently filled it in yeah.

Tootie

Like I said, I don’t even know what-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I don’t think-, I mainly took images of the school’s records, and school photographs last time.

Tootie

Did you get all of the class photos?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right, we got all the class photos and that’s where we stopped. So like anything with a lot of text, I did not take photos of.

Tootie

Okay, alright, let’s see. I actually-, I actually found my old, I think you got a picture of all the class photos-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I did, I got all the pictures of class photos.

Tootie

I actually found my original one.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh wow.

Tootie

And with-, with all the names on it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow!

Tootie

I actually found it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Hmm, yeah. Huh. Oh these little, cute little books.

Tootie

Yeah, that’s our old-time books, and everything.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow. Everybody lookin so spiffy.

Tootie

Did you get a copy of this?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No

Tootie

They were all the, well these were, this, these were all the Black principles. One two three four five, si-, five. These were all the Black ones right here.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Up till 1968?

Tootie

Yep.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And then after ’68, all the principles were white?

Tootie

Except this one.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Except Forner-, Forer?

Tootie

No this one.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Sprigs was Black?

Tootie

Mmhmm. And then, and then, then we got two more, should be added to that which I haven’t done of course because-, it was Debra Lee, she was white, and then Robert came along which he Black now.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What’s his last name, Robert?

Tootie

Carter.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Robert Carter, okay.

Marcus Howard

He’s Black now

Tootie

Oh, well, you know what I’m sayin. Least on the outside. ON the outside.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, up to Leroy Davis, then skip to Sprigs, and then-

Tootie

And then Robert Carter.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Then Robert Carter

Tootie

But then-, but they were the list of-

Marcus Howard

I thought she was my science teacher-

Tootie

Who?

Marcus Howard

Mrs. Sprigs, at Blueridge.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Lilly Sprigs.

Marcus Howard

Mrs. Sprigs.

Tootie

And you know I still keep in touch with, still keep in touch with Mrs. Sprigs? Yup, they were all, yup and everything so, yep.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That is interesting.

Tootie

And it has the years on it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s perfect.

Marcus Howard

And Mr. Miller was-

Tootie

Yeah, Mr. Miller was something. And that’s just the thing about Benjamin Banneker, that, that, that list-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ohhh.

Tootie

And I actually-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well do they still teach the kids about Benjamin Banneker?

Tootie

They do, they teach it at the Banneker, but I don’t know if they teach it anywhere else. Though I do make a point of-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh so they do do it at, at the Banneker school though? Okay.

Tootie

Yeah, they do. And actually this is a newspaper article that I found and what it was talkin about St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh! Oh in the Post.

Tootie

Yeah it was in the Post.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, oh they got a jockey, a-, a jockey-

Tootie

Yeah Albert-, Albert. He was a mayor.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well good, I will, I’ll make sure and see if we can dig up um-

Tootie

Well you might-, can just get a-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Get a copy of it from the, whatcha call it- but I’ll just take a picture.

Tootie

Yeah just take a picture of it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Make sure we get the date. I put that on it.

Tootie

Yeah, get that-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I’ll make sure and get the students to look it up.

Tootie

Okay yeah. Okay and um, this was a, okay hold on-, this was a, I’m telling you I’ve been saving a lot of that history.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm, so a jockey, he was a jockey at the Paul Mellon Middleburg Training Track

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

I’ma have to take you on a little tour.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh please!

Tootie

We’ll have to take you on a tour.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh my gosh uh.

Tootie

This is another one that I saved, and I actually laminated this one. I need to l laminate all of them. This is Mrs. Ethel Smith. Remember we were talking about Mrs. Ethel?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes!

Tootie

And this is her story. And then that’s the other part of it um, that comes with it-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What a great picture here!

Tootie

That’s her two daughters and Lotty-, Lotty and I were in the same grade together during-, during Banneker-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do we know what what, what was this? Oh this was Loudoun Times Mirror okay.

Tootie

Two-thousand-and-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

2007, okay.

Tootie

Yeah, they did a thing on them.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Hmm.

Tootie

And then that one comes and runs around now. The whole-, whole thing actually gives you a timeline!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep, that’s perfect. This was in 2007, so I was here in 2007, so I missed this story. I don’t always pick up the um, the Loudoun Times Mirror so-

Tootie

That’s alright. But you know I-

Marcus Howard

That’s my class there…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Is that your class? What?

Marcus Howard

Right in the back standing up!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep.

Tootie

See Marcus? I’ve just been saving stuff, I’ve been-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh my gosh, yes!

Tootie

I’ve got-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh this is good right here, yeah yeah yeah. ’68.

Tootie

Yep!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

“Banneker is the only previously all Negro school that is still in use today”

Tootie

Yep, I tell you-, that’s my line, that’s Liz’s and my line.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes!

Tootie

They stole it. They’ve been stealin it! Okay. And this this, you caught a little bit of this, but they caught a whole little Loudoun extra thing on us-, and you’ve got that picture, and it continues over on the other page, but that’s when we were talking about alumni of the country going to black schools.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, yep yep!

Tootie

And we did it. And that was in Loudoun Times-, and they can look that up if they want to too.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s great.

Tootie

And that’s um-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, let me get another one, I’m not sure how great that one came out.

Tootie

And that’s me, that’s my, that’s my partner in crime right there, and then that’s Albert’s wife right there, Dippy.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I love family nicknames, they don’t go anywhere.

Tootie

Mmhmm, and I think you got a picture that was in my scrapbook that made it-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Sure did yep. Mmm.

Tootie

I told you, we was callin up everybody!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You were!

Tootie

And then this one here they did after the fact is, who’s that man?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh that’s Drummin.

Tootie

Yep, he was, yep, he was at the reunion, see. So, it talks about “all Black Banneker celebrates it’s 60th anniversary”, I don’t know if it’s got any other pages but pictures on it or not but… Oh yeah, oh see?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh yeah, yeah, yep. Yeah, he was, such a delight to interview, and his wife, we weren’t interviewing. She kind of sat off to the side-

Tootie

Eggy.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But every time she would just chime in and say something anyway! It was, just wonderful. So I’m going to have to dig that interview up. It’s either at Bosch or the county has it. Cuz I don’t, cuz that’d be great to incorporate.

Tootie

Yeah, cuz see, “after 60 years Banneker’s still a community effort.” Yep.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Nice job holding on to those.

Tootie

Well I told you I ‘ve always been about our people and everything I got, this, this was just something that I found that I laminated. It’s called gifts of our ancestors, and it literally names a lot of the things that are, are the started from Blacks and everything.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh in the area?

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh that’s interesting. Where’s Brownsville?

Tootie

Uh, outside of Purcellville.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Hold on oh that’s by.

Tootie

Oh you know my uncle was pastor out there at Brownsville.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Douglas emancipation ground, yep. I know that. The Hollingswood Lee House in Waterford? That’s not the school?

Tootie

No that’s not the school.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Howardsville?

Tootie

Yeah that’s up the road a little piece.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh I passed Windy Hill Area. Is this, is that a Black community, or does just anybody live there now?

Tootie

It was-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It was.

Tootie

It was an all-Black community.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And do you know when it was built, or created?

Tootie

Yeah, I got a bunch of stuff on that too.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That would be interesting.

Tootie

Okay.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, no-, know all about Waterford.

Tootie

Let me dig a little deeper.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah that would be really- Weavers Cottage? Don’t know that. Shiloh-

Tootie

That’s the cemetery out here in Middleburg. Black cemetery in Middleburg.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh.

Tootie

It’s right off 50.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It is? Okay.

Tootie

And that’s the Second Street School House in Waterford

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep that’s the one yep.

Tootie

Then we got rock hill cemetery. That's in unison. My mother's people. Most the majority of my mother's people are buried there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where's-, where's unison?

Tootie

Up the road little piece.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Up the road. A little piece.

Tootie

That's the only thing I can say up road a little piece.

Marcus Howard

Down yonder

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Down yonder yep. Just a little bit.

Tootie

Yes!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Turn at the Boulder.

Tootie

That's- that's-!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I know!

Tootie

That's, that's how, that is how that is. Really. That is really how-, how…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And it's funny. I, I have never been driven up to Upperville so I'm just like to get in the car and go that way. Um, are there, is there an old town in Upperville? Like where you like can shop or a little restaurant or anything?

Unknown Speaker

It’s a small area. It's like a few houses, like two farms.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay.

Unknown Speaker

There’s like one-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. So it's kind of like old town Aldi where there's not much.

Marcus Howard

That’s exactly it

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

And this, this is something that we got from Thomas Fla-.

Unknown Speaker

And it's like shop, a gun store to-.

Tootie

It's like a Chronicle.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

Of various Black things in the area.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-scott

And I took- hold on one sec. I took one day to get to your house. The snicker doodle-, what was the road called?

Tootie

Snickersville

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Snickersville. See, you knew what? I was talking about. Snickersville and there was some little, I think it was a town. It wasn't much like was little, there was little corner store.

Tootie

Philmont.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Philmont. Okay. And that's there was, was there a lot there in the past in Philmont?

Marcus Howard

Philmont hasn't changed much. Well, it's changing now, but it’s sort of [unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Yep. That was about it. Yep. That's what I passed.

Tootie

I mean, I don't, I don't know what you would want out of there, out of here, but it's like a, a, a-,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well, it's a good start. Timelines are really good starting places-

Tootie

And it, yeah, like I said-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And…Um, oh yeah. I don't know if I have this, but I'll, I'll take photos of it because…

Tootie

You know what, um, what, when did I have, oh-, I had that timeline. I told you, I need to send you that timeline about Juneteenth. Remember I was talking to you about that other day. I was, I was talking to you about that, cuz I'm telling you, I think that would be really ideal instead of having all that other, you know, all that other stuff. If we gonna do this next year.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, do a thing out here.

Tootie

When we were trying to do a Juneteenth thing in Middleburg.

Marcus Howard

That's what I was thinking, out here. Out here.

Dr. Wendi

No, out here. Don't do it in-.

Tootie

Well okay-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do it out here

Tootie

Well, we can do it out here

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Sott

Do it on, do it on black folk property.

Tootie

Yes, we can do it here.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And have black vendors.

Tootie

Yep

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Sure would… because that could be really cool.

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible]

Tootie

Yeah, that really was too small anyway, I really did. I thought it was too small. I was like, oh my god, this is too small

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The thing you have to figure out is like, um, depending on how large it is, where, where is everybody gonna-

Tootie

Park?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Park. Yep.

Tootie

Well, you can always park at the school.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well, it depends on how big it is. Depends how big it is… Um, if there was a large, large piece of land, you could have like, um, uh, African American, um, music, um, artist and stuff. You could have a whole thing. Raise good money, but you need, but you need substantial land for that.

Marcus Howard

Mortgage Hall.

Tootie

I was gonna say same thing

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where?

Marcus Howard

Mortgage hall.

Tootie

 I was gonna say same

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Thing down there. How much land are we talking about?

Marcus Howard

Oh it’s a lot of land.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

A lot of land. So you just need porta potties. And then you have vendors with tents and you know, music, people pay a fee to come in. That could be really cool. Cuz last summer there was a, um, it was like a wine something event. I don't know. Anyway, they had like a Black R&B singers and stuff. There were so many people out there. Um, and I think we paid $40, $50 a person for the little wristbands to go out and you still had to buy all your food and stuff once you get in there.

Tootie

Uh, oh this is some good piece right here too. You gonna have to, yeah,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That could be really cool for Juneteenth then. Yeah.

Tootie

All right, Marcus, there’s another a project

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Y'all can do that.

Tootie

Huh?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Y'all can do that.

Tootie

She said y'all can do that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Y'all can do that. Yep.

Marcus Howard

Get Ms. Cook.

Tootie

What?

Marcus Howard

Ask Ms. Cook.

Tootie

Huh?

Marcus Howard

Ask Cook. Ms. Cook.

Tootie

Who's Ms. Cook?

Marcus Howard

Ah, at Villa.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh yeah. Get her. Get her help. Yeah.

Tootie

Well, well-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Why?

Tootie

Well, well-,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

She may not want to help?

Tootie

She had good ideas, but…

Marcus Howard

I kind of agree cuz the thing in Warrenton-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What was in Warrenton?

Marcus Howard

-Focusing on having a good time.

Tootie

Yeah.

Marcus Howard

Not so much as Juneteenth.

Tootie

Yeah, I know. But, but, but I think you do need a timeline and everything and stuff like that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. You could, you could, you can make it. You could do both. It can be both.

Tootie

It can be educational. It can be, um-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And here's the thing, a lot of black, I'll say the new black folk, right. People who came in, I don't know, the last 15 years or so. Right. They don't know that St. Louis is out here. So you get the Divine Nine… Imagine if you get the Divine Nine to come out… You could. I mean, it could really be an opportunity and it's, it's helpful because once people know that it's here, then they-

Tootie

They come.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

They come. But also, when the county is trying to do stuff, now you've got The larger Black community of Loudoun. That's like, no, no, no. There's something there that we wanna save.

Tootie

Okay. This, this is Mrs. Carter. Ms. Carter, Ms. Carter-

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible]

Tootie

Ms. Carter was the, the, one of the first teachers at Banneker and there's an article on Her.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Who is this out of? Oh, it's from the essence people. Okay.

Tootie

Mmhmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I'm gonna take a photo cuz I may forget to look in it. Yeah. Okay.

Tootie

But um, I told you we was researching out the wazoo.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I have to go back and pull that.

Tootie

Yeah, go back. You can just go back and pull that. Um, this was another thing, the history of Middleburg

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That I don't know.

Tootie

Okay. Um, and vicinity, but it has a lot of interesting things in it. Um, because it talks about, it talks about, you know, how we were talking about, um, the Willisville school and everything?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

So it, it, it, it kind of starts-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It gives some of that? Okay.

Tootie

Yeah. Yeah. It gives like a lot of that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Well this is-, what we're gonna do. We're actually gonna get some students to help us. Okay. Start pulling together, you know? Oh yeah, Shel did this mm-hmm

Tootie

Yeah but he got a lot of-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Is he still with us or is he gone?

Tootie

I don't know.

Marcus Howard

No sound.

Tootie

No sound? Oh, oh, the pictures up there. But we had music to it. I don't know where the music went. There was music. It was-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh yeah. Those were some of the photos you had. Yeah.

Tootie

Yeah. I couldn't remember what it was on it. No Music.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, that's a good one. I didn't see that one before.

Tootie

It maybe don't have any, maybe doesn't have any, but it had music I thought in the beginning.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Unless y'all just played music as it was going.

Tootie

Maybe that's what it was. I can't remember. Everything was on it. Yeah. So it is a lot of-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That's some great old photos.

Yeah. It's not gonna play the music. I think, I think we may have had a music going at the time. Cause we did have a playlist.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. That, that would probably make sense. Yep. That's a good one.

Tootie

Yeah. And I think you got pictures. I hope you, I think you got those pictures, but I wasn't sure there she is. I think you got a lot of that, but that would save a lot of, um, um, they could incorporate that in.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep.

Tootie

Without, um, you know,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mmhmm

Tootie

For just being there and then you could put music behind it or whatever and stuff like that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. So some of them, some of those photos I recognized there were a few in the beginning that I didn't see though.

Tootie

Yeah. So we got, I didn't realized we did all that. I was-, I was just in the moment we were in the moment.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep. In the moment. What else do you have here?

Tootie

Um, let me see. I think, I think we did that. Oh, this was, she wrote stuff. And Ms. Shirley Richardson.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mmhmm

Tootie

She, you know, miss Shirley, don't you? She, she wrote a little thing about when she was living in St. Louis. She came in in 1951 and she moved from New York or she was talking about her-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

Her, her, her, whatever, when she moved here and everything and stuff like that.

Marcus Howard

Ms. Louise.

Tootie

Oh yeah. Look at miss Louise and Vernell.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So who, who, who wrote this? Handwritten?

Tootie

Shirley. Shirley Richardson.

Dr. wendi Manuel-Scott

Shirley Richardson. Okay. There it is. Okay. And she gave you this to you for the, um, anniversary event?

Tootie

No, actually she gave us to us for something when we were fighting, doing St. Louis Times.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-SCott

Oh, okay.

Tootie

Uh-huh

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Whooo, got a clean part in his head

Tootie

Uhhuh. So I, like I said, I didn't remember what we had. That's Joan. Oh, look at little Rodney, that's Rodney Valentine. That's the killer, uh,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That name. Ooh. Somebody got their arm around the cute women. Cute little girls.

Tootie

Yeah. So that's what it was. I wasn't sure what was on there anymore. Cause that's been a while ago that we had, um, I don't know. Like I said, we were just in the moment. That's all I can say.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No, you collected a lot

Tootie

I did. I mean, I've been collecting stuff for seems like days, months, and Sunday and every article in the paper that I, that, that has something to do with Black people. I, I usually try to, and I think we-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Hold on to it.

Tootie

Yep. We, we, I think we did all those. Yeah. I'm pretty sure we did. I’m positive that we did. Okay. So now that I know what's on there, then that's that's good. But then, then the, like you said, the students will have to they'll go through.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible]

Tootie

Marcus you-

Marcus Howard

Loved my class.

Tootie

Well, I don't know if I-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Y'all took the best photos.

Tootie

Well, but that was, was integration, but we got a lot of, I told you, people were just handing us photographs.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh that's yeah. That's the one. Yeah, right there.

Marcus Howard

You can gimme a copy of that would you?

Tootie

Huh?

Marcus Howard

A copy of this.

Tootie

I gotta give you one too? Aw Jesus… I guess!

Marcus Howard

You can play that. During that reunion.

Tootie

Yeah. I mean, that's what I mean. That's that's yeah. Yeah. See. So we did get a lot of that stuff. So we did. Cause I was like, I don't even, and I didn't, I didn't remember what in the world was on that thing. I was like, oh God, what was on here?

Marcus Howard

That’s Phyllis.

Tootie

Huh? Phyllis who?

Marcus Howard

Jackson

Tootie

Was that Phyllis?

Marcus Howard

It looked like her.

Tootie

I missed it. Oh, and remember we would take a picture of the timeline.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh yeah, yeah,

Tootie

About how much stuff cost.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Let do that.

Tootie

I even save all the little bulletin. We had a class when we did the class list. I saved the little class of this time and this was, I don't know that's that's that's oh, that was a poem. Cuz we even had a poem for the people who had passed away.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Aw.

Tootie

For all the students that had passed away.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, that's so nice. All right, here we go. Got it.

Tootie

It’s called the rose behind the wall.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

I tell you, we try not to leave too much out.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I know you, you did, didn’t you?

Tootie

And, and this was the timeline, which is, I love this looking at this just to see what. Let's see if I can get the, something to hold it down here in 1940 in 19- whoops, in 1948, how much things cost. A car was $1,500. Can you believe that?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Look, it cost that much to put gas in a car now.

Tootie

Doesn’t it though? It does!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-SCott

You go broke.

Tootie

Yep. Oh my God. The average annual salary. I forgot. I mean, I looked at all this at the time. It was $3,600. Wow. Can you believe that? It was crazy.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you said you do have stuff on Windy Hill though. Yeah.

Tootie

I think I got some stuff on Windy Hill.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That would be really interesting.

Tootie

I'm gonna have to look though, and see what I see if I still have it or whatever and stuff like that. Cause, see, all the kids that were lived on Windy Hill went to Banneker.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh yes. Okay.

Tootie

All, you know, all those, like a lot of those black pictures that were with class pictures-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Were living in Windy Hill?

Tootie

Uh-huh. A lot of those kids were in the class pictures.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mmhmm

Tootie

They literally went to Banneker. Yep. And um, see if I can just make it roll all up at one time together. There you go. Um, yeah, they all, all went to Banneker.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But you don't know when they built that little area?

Tootie

No, I can't. Marcus? Windy Hill, when they build Windy Hill Marcus?

Marcus Howard

Oh, that had to be-

Tootie

When was Windy Hill established? Well, all the, all the poor black people lived on Wingy Hill. Right. And they didn't have any plumbing – nothing.

Marcus Howard

I remember If you didn't live on win hill, you didn't go on win hill. That's what I remember being told.

Tootie

And you remember how Mrs. Winscombe used to bootleg?

Marcus Howard

Who’s that?

Tootie

I can't think of her name right now.

Marcus Howard

Which one?

Tootie

Dang. God, I can't think of her name, but she bootlegged down at Windy Hill!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Like how many folks lived down there?

Tootie

It was a lot wasn’t it Michael… I'm calling you Michael; Michael must be on my mind!

Marcus Howard

It was families, wasn't it?

Tootie

It was yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It was like what? 20 people.

Tootie

Oh yeah. And Lee, it was uh, the Hills, the Washingtons. Gosh, it was a whole bunch of people that on Windy Hill.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And did the, did the adults work like in stores?

Tootie

Domestic. Domestic.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

They worked domestic?

Tootie

Work domestic, all work domestic, that’s where they worked. Did I give you all the albums? I think you, I think we looked at all of 'em. I'm not really sure. I think so.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well I did the, the one with all the photos.

Tootie

Yeah. But I had three. Mm. I think you got all the ones. I think you got the, all the ones. Most of the Black stuff, but I had

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, right. So yeah, we weren't doing stuff after desegregation.

Tootie

Yeah. But I mean, but sometimes I have stuff and I sent you this didn't I send you this. I, I thought I sent you this. I thought I, I thought I sent you that didn't I send you that I sent you that didn't I? I didn’t it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I don't think so. I can take a photo of it. No, I don't think so. I don’t remember that. Hold on. I mean,

Tootie

It's the history of Banneker element history St. Louis and Banneker. I thought I sent you that

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I don't… I'll just make sure it's with everything else.

Tootie

And that gives you another little timeline.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep. That is what is… Yeah. I really want to… Okay. Yeah. I wanna know.

Tootie

Yeah. Windy Hill was all Black folks. Marcus, I'll see if I can get you a copy Boo Boo.

Marcus Howard

Oh, okay.

Tootie

Oh, I don't. Did she have, did she have that one? I don't think she had a picture of that. I know. But did she take a picture of that one?

Marcus Howard

I don't remember seeing that one.

Tootie

There you go. That's something else that you don't have a picture of. They were my trackmates.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No I don't.

Tootie

That’s Reverend Swan.

Marcus Howard

That’s Reverend Swan?

That's Swan, Reverend Swan. That's one in Richardson. It's Georgina, I think so there is some pictures on, on that disc I gave you

Unknown Speaker

[unintelligible]

Tootie

That's Joyce.

Unknown Speaker

[Unintelligible]

Tootie

That's Georgina.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Who, who put this together? Where does all this come from?

Tootie

This came from um, wait a minute. Loudoun museum.

Oh, did I not take that?

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That's it presented to the museum. Oh, let me just make sure. I don't know if I took that first page. Um, Fauquier. Lovettsville.

Tootie

That was when we did the Mayday in it. Oh, there there's pictures of people at the, at the, at the reunion.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay.

Tootie

There's some stuff on there. There's Catherine there's stuff on there. That, that you don't have pictures of either. That's that's what's called mom. Oh God. I can't think of her name. Her son's named Denzel. Oh, look at everybody. Look at everybody. Looking at the class list and everything. I forgot who was on it. We was just, you know how you're there and you're not there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Cuz you, you were running.

Tootie

To say the least that's Gerty! Is that Michael’s big old head? See her brother did come. That's what you call Ervin.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Who has a rooster?

Tootie

Oh, well, you know, lady up there got chicken.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-SCott

Oh,

Tootie

That's my principal. Doug. When we did that last one.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ah, he's a slight little man.

Tootie

Yeah. He tiny, he about my size. I tell you that. Remember we had to put you in the paper and everybody thought me and him was husband and white. I'm like, no, he too small with me.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mmhmm Yeah. Can't pick nobody up.

Tootie

That's what I say. I need somebody protect you when I get hurt.

Marcus Howard

So that was Reverend Swan?

Tootie

Yeah. Reverend Swan participated in it. Cause we wanted some of the alumni, JC. We wanted some of the, Carolyn. We wanted some of the alumni to participate-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wormley Hughes, grandson of Thomas Jefferson's chief Gardner.

[cut 48:31-49:16, interruption]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Woods. It says track the race track built at Homeland. Where is that? What's that

Tootie

Was where were we at?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Early 1920s race track built at Homeland.

Tootie

Where's Homeland Marcus where's Homeland?

Marcus Howard

Homeland?

Tootie

Was that the Middleburg train track? Was that the name of the thing before it was that?

Marcus Howard

I dunno.

Tootie

I'm happy to Google it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

St. Louis colt show 1898, hail steeple chases and horse shows on Charles Quay’s land continued to the thirties early 1920s racetrack built at Homeland.

Marcus Howard

That must have been Miss Louisa’s. I mean Miss Catherine’s.

Tootie

No race track. Is that the, is that it was race track.

Marcus

Oh, the race track?

Tootie

The race track. That's what I'm saying. Was that the name of the place? The name of the property before it became by Mellon and turned into the race track. That's possible. Yeah. That's I think that's what it has to be.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. And so this says Jim Anderson's dance hall, which is what this was.

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Anderson's hall across from Phil McQuay’s store.

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So the store-

Marcus Howard

Was here.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, the store was here. So where was Jim Anderson's? Dance hall?

Marcus Howard

Somewhere around in-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where the parking lot is it burned down and that's what burned down.

Tootie

Uh-huh. Jim Anderson's dance hall.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. And then

Tootie

Anderson's hall. Anderson's hall across from Phil McQuay’s store. So I guess

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The hall, the dance hall was there. The store was here

Marcus Howard

And burned down.

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

Yeah. I remember Mr. Phil's store because he ended up moving the store up there on the corner.

Marcus Howard

And one of the motorcycle club,

Tootie

Huh?

Marcus Howard

Yeah. One of the motorcycle club that was in Wilislville.

Tootie

I know, but I'm telling you, Mr. Phil's store was up at too though.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So this says the St. Louis school built before 1877. So where was the St Louis school?

Tootie

You said, Marcus. Where was, did you say-

Marcus Howard

What’s happening?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So Hamlin was the St. Louis school? Yes.

Marcus Howard

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Marcus Howard

This was just overflow.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

This was just overflow. Right?

Tootie

See, there's some Strother’s.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

There's a Strother. Okay. Yep.

Tootie

And they related to the, the ones we were talking about, Ms. Esthelle and and, uh, everything.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So overcrowded children had a class at McQuay’s general store. Yeah, there it is. Okay. There it is.

Tootie

Mm-hmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So how did they get all of-

Tootie

Did you get Maurice? Remember, we were talking about him. Led the group for the parents at the school-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right, Ed-, Edmead.

Tootie

Yeah.

DR. Wendi Manuel-Scott

 So where did, um, he live? Anybody-

Tootie

That was in the, that was here. That was in one of them timelines, that I gave you. Wait a minute

Marcus Howard

Did they live here?

Tootie

Who?

Marcus Howard

Louis Christie. Christie red Louis's wife.

Tootie

I don't think so. Reverend Louis.

Marcus Howard

I thought they was born in area, but they…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, this is a, a good history here.

Tootie

I told ya

Dr. Wendi Manuel-scott

Yes, it is. I'm wondering. Um, right.

Marcus Howard

Oh yeah. Wendy.

Tootie

Oh yeah. That's it. I couldn't think of her name. Her son’s named Denzel.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What

Marcus Howard

Have you seen them?

Tootie

Who Denzel? Uh, have you?

Marcus Howard

I thought I saw him somewhere.

Tootie

No, I haven't seen them. Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That is a really interesting, so they put that together. Yeah. In two-thou-, presented by the, to the students.

Tootie

But I make a copy of everything

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Of the Loudoun Museum.

Tootie

Yeah. That's from Leesburg. We just did a, I just did a tour

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Yeah. I've done. I, when my boys are little, I used to take them there.

Tootie

Yeah. We just did it like a couple weeks ago. I went. Yeah, yep.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Interesting.

Tootie

No, this, I think you took a picture of this, but under the leadership, they talk about Maurice, uh, Edmead who had, you know, and they say the school board and he bought 19 and half acres from Benton. So he bought it from Benton. That's what it says. Not a word of the Benton in on,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But did he live in St. Louis?

Tootie

Who?

Marcus Howard

He bought it from Howard.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The, the, the man, the man who led this guy,

Marcus Howard

Howard sold it to Benton.

Tootie

Howard sold it to Benton. And then Benton, and then the county bought it from, from,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But, but Maurice Edmead was a Black guy.

Tootie

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

He was Black, but where did he live?

Tootie

Um, he was in one of these things. Hold on…

Marcus Howard

The doctor?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Yeah. The doctor.

Tootie

Hold on. I, I just,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Dr. Maurice Edmead-

Tootie

I think he was born in St. Kits.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, he was a Caribbean guy,

Tootie

I think so.

Marcus Howard

I think it’s on that website, on that Facebook page,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

He is okay. I'll have to remember him. All right. I don't have to dig in

Tootie

It's it was on something I gave you that they were talking about. I think he, they said he was from St kits. I think if I remember it's from the Caribbean. Yeah. He's from St. Kits. I just gave her something on it. Wait a minute. Maybe it's on this one. Maybe it's on the other one. I told you I got so much crap. Thinks where he was from.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And did you ever tell me how you ended up in St. Louis?

Tootie

Who? Me?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Your, your family story?

Tootie

I don't think so. No, mm-hmm I I've never told you how I,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you, you were born in St. Louis

Tootie

Mm-hmm no, I was born at Welbourne and I was-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Welbourne?

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where’s that?

Tootie

Up the road a little bit.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

In Loudoun County still?

Tootie

Yeah. It's in Loudoun County.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So was this-

Tootie

You go out, you go out past Willisville, and I literally, we were all, all my, our mothers, all of us were born at home.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay.

Tootie

Yeah. We were not born, um, in hospital cuz my mother was kind of fierce and she said she was not gonna subject herself to that kind of nonsense. Mm. Um, about, you know-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So she, you were born at home.

Tootie

We were all born at home. I was born at home. Yep. Up at old Welbourne.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And so how long your mom had lived out in Welbourne?

Tootie

Well, my, my father ended up working with horses and things, from what I gather, cuz everybody worked with some horses or whatever and they, and I think they had a place out there on like a cottage, um, out there. And um, we lived out there and that's where I was born.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, so you lived near the property owned by the, the white folks that your daddy worked for?

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And what, who was that family?

Tootie

Oh God I who owned a wel-, who owned Welbourne? I don't know who owned. Welbourne in the back-

Marcus Howard

Originally it was Delaney's.

Tootie

Yeah. That's true. There was a Delaney. It was a Delaney.

Marcus Howard

 It's still, it's still, isn’t it?

Tootie

I don't know who owns it now.

Marcus Howard

What's his name? Delaney, it’s a bread and breakfast now, right?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It’s a bed and breakfast now?

Tootie

No, but I lived there old. I was not, no, I didn't live in the old, new, old, I mean, I didn't live in the new, Welbourne I lived in the old we, cause, they said they had an old Welbourne and a new Welbourne from what I understand, um-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And so, you grew up on this property where your dad worked with the horses?

Tootie

Well, not no-. No, no, we didn't grow up there. I didn't grow up. I didn't.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you lived there until when

Tootie

I, I, I don't, I don't know. I don't know to when I lived there. I know I was young. I mean, I was little, I was young and little when I was there, baby. I don't remember. I don't remember living there at all

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So where's the, so y'all left there and went-?

Tootie

We went to, we went, we, and then we moved. We, when I can really start to remember from, from me. We went to a place, um, on Trappe road,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Track road

Tootie

Trappe, Trappe, Trappe Road. T-R-A-P-P-E

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

You know what Trappe Road is?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where's Trappe Road.

Tootie

Yeah. By Monkey town.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Somebody told me, who was talking about Monkey Town. Y'all in these names killing me. All right. So, Trappe Road by Monkey Town.

Tootie

Yeah

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. And, and, and

Tootie

You still in Loudoun County. We moved a lot. Let's put it that way. We moved a lot. That's when I really started to realize where that I can remember from and we lived there for a while. Um, cuz you know, when you are young, you just don't have a ton of time

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. No, no.

Tootie

Yeah, yeah. Yeah. And we lived a lot of places, uh, because basically, and my mother used to work for the lady that owned the house when we lived on Trappe Road.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

And then she-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So she was a domestic there and y'all just lived on, on the-

Tootie

No, the house was a little bit further from where she lived at. Okay. You know, it was like around the corner.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right, right.

Tootie

But my mother worked as a domestic and then we, then that's when we lived there and then, then where did we move? We moved a lot. Um, cuz at that time we didn't own anything. Just, it was pretty hard to own anything uh, from there we went, where did we move at? I'm trying to think. Did we go to, I think we went to, I might think about this. We, I think we went to Upperville then we lived in Upperville, which that was on the Fauquier side, but it was part of 50 and, and one side was Fauquier and one side was Loudoun and then from there we, then, then after that we, we, we came to St. Louis. Yeah. After we left from um, there, we came to St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you were about how old?

Tootie

Mm, I would say I'm thinking. Cuz when I first, when I first went to school, I was, we were in Upperville so, and that see school only went from first to seventh grade. We didn't have kindergarten, so I would say, mm, I haven't been in like what second or third grade? Something like that. Probably second or third grade that we came to St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

And I got, I think I've been, I've been, well, we've been here ever since, until I decided to move. And then finally my mother ended up buying a place. Um, which is down on Newlin Mill Road and-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Newland?

Tootie

Yeah. Newlin, Newlin. N-E-W-L-I-N. Newlin Mill Road. And, and that's. And she bought that from who’d she buy that from? Gus. And what was his name? George. What was his name? You just, you say straighten up and fly, right?

Marcus Howard

I don’t think I do?

Tootie

You remember? You don't remember Gus- Gus and what's Gus name? They were Reed’s they were all Reed’s

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible]

Tootie

Yeah, but they lived right beside miss Audrey, Ms. Buck before that. Gus and

Marcus Howard

Ms. Helen Johnson?

Tootie

Yes. Miss Helen.

Marcus Howard

Between the Ross’s.

Tootie

Yeah. That with-

Marcus Howard

Carolyn Ross used to live.

Tootie

Carolyn Ross?

Marcus Howard

Carolyn Ross, and Ernest.

Tootie

No, they didn't always live there. Cause Carolyn Ross,

Marcus Howard

It was in his space though.

Tootie

No. Yeah. Well, no, because Carolyn and they lived up, um, Ernest them lived up in Wilislville for years until Miss Julia bought that property. And then she moved there. You can't remember?

Marcus Howard

I remember. I think I remember miss Julia there.

Tootie?

Hmm?

Marcus Howard

Miss Julia was there this-

Tootie

No, not back in that door. Not, not then. No. Cause they lived in Willisville forever with Ms. Ann. Remember? Ms. Ann, Ms. Ann.

Marcus Howard

I know Miss Ann.

Tootie

Okay. Ms. Ann. Lee. And miss Julia. They lived there. They would read Gus and, and George Lee. That's what it was Gus and George Lee. My mother bought property from them and she put her house down there

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

About when you bought,

Tootie

Oh, when did my brother die? God, my brother been dead over 30 years. Way over 30 years.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So around that time. Was she still a domestic?

Tootie

Yeah. My mother worked as a domestic. Her whole life.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow.

Tootie

Yep. She did. Mm. And she worked for a family and she'd worked for them for almost 40 years.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What family?

Tootie

The Faute’s. They lived in Fauquier. She lived in, um, they, she worked out there in The Plains.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Uhhuh. The Plains.

Tootie

You-, you know where The Plains are?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I mean, I, I see the signs. Yeah. The Plains.

Tootie

Yeah. But anyway, she worked out there almost 40 years for them and um, he was a nice enough man too, um, she she's, they wanted to sell the property. They were really good to her. He was really good to her. And I think he, he gave her some money. Um, cuz my mother was fiercely independent. She, didn’t want you doing too much for-, Cuz she was like, you don't own me.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mmhmm

Tootie

So I think they gave her, I know they gave her

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And so that's how she was able to put the, to buy the property.

Tootie

Yeah. And that's how she was able to buy the property and put the house on that. Yep, and so it's right down the road here. Okay. Yeah. It's right down the road here. But, but the majority of people that lived in St. Louis and we didn't have plumbing and water until what? ‘70? What was it? ‘70. What? ‘75?

Marcus Howard

Well, the sewer came in, in mid-seventies.

Tootie

In mid-seventies.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The sewer came in the mid-seventies.

Tootie

Yeah. Mm. Most of we are. We had privies outhouses.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you remember using a outhouse?

Tootie

Oh course. Yeah. Absolutely sure. Absolutely.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Now I don't know. You've told me what's your full birth name and your birth date?

Tootie

I can't tell you my birthday. Cause Marcus know how old I am!!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Look. You know what they say? You don’t crack,

Tootie

But my full birthname, I don't have a middle name, it's Laverne Warner,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Laverne Warner.

Tootie

Yeah. But everybody calls me Tootie. Everybody just about

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And you're not gonna tell me your birthday.

Tootie

Yeah, March 21st.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

1957.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

1957. Okay. You look fabulous. I don't know why you even I'd be telling everybody that's when I was born and look how awesome I look.

Tootie

Oh, I know because you know what I just, I literally just, I went two places in the last two weeks to pick up something or I went, they had an eye doctor's appointment and then I went somewhere to pick up something and they had to ask you for your birthday. And each time whoever was asking me, and I said the, the year they's like, what year did you say? You heard what I said? And they was like, you kidding me? Right? I'm like, no.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You don't have a wrinkle anywhere.

Tootie

No, we ain't supposed to.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I know

Tootie

I mean, Black don’t crack

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Don't crack mmhmm. Alright. So you were probably, so you're talking about when you moved to St. Louis you're how about how old?

Tootie

 I don't know, but I would say eight or nine, maybe I talked to my older sister and see, but she wouldn’t know. Cause she wasn’t here actually.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So like ‘65, ‘66, somewhere in there?

Tootie

Yeah. Probably. Yeah, probably during that time. When did, when do I have a picture of my, um, I'm trying to look, you know, I need to look on my class pictures. That'll give me an idea.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But you went to Banneker.

Tootie

Oh yeah

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And so you-

Tootie

I started at Banneker.

And so you started at Banneker when it was segregated school?

Tootie

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do you remember when it became desegregated and you started going and there were white kids going to the school?

Tootie

’68-‘69

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do you remember what that felt like?

Tootie

I was, you know what to be quite honest and Frank, I was okay with it because I didn't get to move. We didn't have to move.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right.

Tootie

You know? Um, so I was like-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But did the school feel different when, when things changed for you?

Tootie

Yeah, absolutely! The school. Yeah. It felt different um,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Were there problems?

Tootie

It probably was. I just, I didn't feel like there were problems to me, I, this is my own personal experience. I didn't feel like it was problems. I mean, you, you got separated from your class, you know? So it was it was intermix > um, so you wasn't necessarily in a class that some of your others. Peers were already in. Um, and stuff like that. Uh, but like I said, I just didn't feel any different because I was like, yeah, we get to stay here because I mean, you, I wasn't-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Sure that, oh, you're gonna have to go to a different location.

Tootie

Exactly. So we literally got to stay. Now, the, the people in Middleburg, you know, who went to white, the white, you know, the white schools and stuff. Well then, you know, they had to come out here.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm-hmm

Tootie

And everything. So I think that they, that they probably felt a little bit different, different. I think I, to me, uh, I think the parents were more worried about it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

Especially our parents as Black people. I think were a little bit more-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Because the teachers and the principals changed too.

Tootie

Yeah, absolutely. Like on that thing

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right.

Tootie

Yeah. Yeah, absolutely. And then we got our, again, we got our white teachers in there too.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Um, so did that feel different learning from them versus having had African American teachers, an African American principal, like,

Tootie

Well, you were a little apprehensive because you just didn't know who you were getting, what you were getting um, how they were gonna be if they were-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Gonna be supportive?

Tootie

Yeah. Or, or sort of empathetic to-, to who we were. Yeah. Uh, because it had been so different.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

And so just like anything else in life, something that, that is new to you comes in, you just never know how it's gonna be um, of course did, uh, I think they stopped corporal punishment at about that time!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

In the, in the mid-sixties? Mm,

Marcus Howard

Well, except, uh, Miss Smith!

Tootie

Huh?

Marcus

I remember Miss Smith didn’t.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I remember having corporal punishment when I was in school,

Marcus Howard

She just used to spank Alice-

Tootie

She was, yeah. But we had spanks when we were in school. Yeah. When it was all Black, we definitely got spankings. When was, when we were in, uh, when it was all Black.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Y'all had a wooden paddle?

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. That's what I remember.

Tootie

We still have that paddle up to the school.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do y'all?

Tootie

Yeah, and it has the students name, some of the students’ name.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, that's just cruel!

Tootie

Yeah. I think it's neat though. I think it's on a picture. I think I put it in, you know, that showcase I think I put that thing in that showcase that then. Um, but yeah, it was, uh, yeah. And we got smacked by rulers mm-hmm the teachers used to put your hand out like this, they used to crack your hand, they crack, they crack anywhere though. They didn't play

Marcus Howard

It’s what Miss Carter was famous for!

Tootie

Yeah. And Miss Carter always did that inspection. Do you remember having to wash your hands? Ms. Carter was very-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Checking nails and all that?

Tootie

Mmhmm. She was very much like that. You always had to go and wash your hands and then she'd do that hand check and everything, and she'd make you go back. And if they weren't up to her standards, she she'd make you go back and wash your hands all over again. Yeah. But I really did like Ms. Carter. I did, um, I had Ms. Carter first Ms. Smith. And second I had Ms. Griffin at third. Who did I have before? I can't remember. Cause I know Ms. Griffin taught a third and fourth grade class. So I can't remember if I had her in third and fourth, but I know I had Ms. Anderson in fifth. And who did I have in sixth grade? I think was that, was that the year we integrated, I thought that was a year we integrated. I remember having a Black teacher named Ms. Woodson too. And then there was Mr. Baron. I know he was Black teacher. Um, I kind of came oblivious. I think I kind lost track. I ain't, and I'm not being facetious, but I kind kind of, you know, I don't remember my white teachers as much. I just don't.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mmhmm, maybe just the emotional connection wasn't there,

Tootie

You know, I don't. Yeah. I do remember my seventh grade teacher though, her name was Yvonne Miller and she came, did she come from Hill school? I wanna say she came from Hill school, but she may not have, I can't remember where she came from, but I do remember-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did white kids and black kids interact after school?

Tootie

Ye-, I, yes they did. I think it took us a while because you know, and this is true right to this day. If you go somewhere being a Black person and you see your people, you automatically gravitate to 'em you just do, it's a cultural kind of thing.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

And I think in the beginning, people were a little, like, I don't, I don't know about the kids. I don't know if they gonna say things, how they gonna treat us. So I think it-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Took a while

Tootie

Yeah, initially, everybody kind of congregated to what you, you, you do

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What you know, and what's familiar to you.

Tootie

Yeah, absolutely. But after a while and everything kind of, I think people kind of felt people out and this is my own experience after people kind of felt each other out and everything and yeah. But then we started to interact and everything. I think it's just, um, for that own individual and how they see things you know, because I mean, you could speak to somebody else and the

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Different experience

Tootie

And it'd be different experience. Yeah. Um, and everything. But, um, and I, I really do think that, um, cuz I can just remember vaguely and, and not word for word, but I remember vaguely, um, my parents just talking about it you know, like they were a little apprehensive they weren’t sure. How this was gonna work. Considering all the things that had gone on before. I mean, literally you couldn't go into certain places.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right. Do you have memories of that? Not being able to go into certain stores and places?

Tootie

Oh, yeah. Very much so. Cause I remember my, my father used to stop. I, I cannot remember. I, I can remember where it was, but I can't remember the name of this place. It was like a little Minimart and it was on 15 coming outta Leesburg. And I remember, um, he would go in there and he'd get like little snacks and food and stuff and literally, and, and not only that place, but we would literally pull up on the side of a road or go somewhere and we would eat our food then because you couldn't go into places. You couldn't sit into places uh, and sit down in all places. Yeah, absolutely. I remember having not to be able to go into places. Um, and I, my one thing that I will never forget, I think it just, it set the tone for everything else.

 In my first-grade picture, as, as my colleague, Leah Smith would always say, she said, Tootie you look like you meant business then! And I just remember when we were living in Upperville and my father was working on one of the farms up there and it was, um, what was the name of that, that drug store up there in Upperville? You don't remember the name of it. It was a drug store up there in Upperville. Anyway, I cannot think of that woman's name, long story short. And I actually, I think I told that story when in one of those papers, um, cuz it was close enough for us to walk to where we lived at right there in Upperville cause the, where we lived at at up Upperville was right there from where the, the right across from Hunter's Head, it was a house right across there from Hunter's Head and that's where we lived at. So we walked up there to the George store and daddy and them could go up there because they worked for Randolph.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Randolph's first name, last name?

Tootie

Last name, Mr. Randolph. And daddy and Uncle Do worked up there. And so they could go up there and, and get stuff. Right. So they would go in and everything. Daddy took me about one day, um, with him and I cannot think of that. Lady's name.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That who owned store?

Tootie

I cannot think of her name, but anyway, I went in there and you know, they had the old fashioned bar stools?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes.

Tootie

The little red bar stool. And they sold ice cream, but you know, the stores back in there, they sold like everything that's like Rector’s in Atoka um, they sold everything. So when we, when I went up there, um, I can't remember looking at all the ice cream cuz the thing was glass and they had the little ice cream buckets, you know, the big ones and I remember touching the glass and she started yelling at me to get my hands off the glass and you know, I was like, oh, okay. I get my, got my hands off the glass. And my favorite ice cream to this day is strawberry. And then it's butter pecan!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Butter pecan’s always my number one.

Tootie

Yeah. But those two, I mean they're my favorite. And so I, I wanted a strawberry ice cream cone and I told daddy, I said, I want a strawberry ice cream cone. And, and so he asked for it and everything and stuff like that. And I got it. Um, and you know, for a lot of people they wouldn't accept even money outta your hand. Right. They would have you put it on the counter.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep. They didn't wanna touch you.

Tootie

They didn't wanna touch you or either they would hold it and they would like drop it in your hand. Cause they didn't wanna touch you or whatever and stuff like that. And you paid for the ice cream. But I, the thing was, is I wanted to set up on that red bar stool and have my cream and he told me I couldn't and I said, I want to! You know how you-, you know, I kid yeah. You know, you're just saying, well, why can't I set up on the bar stool? Basically, I was like, well, why can't I set up on the bar stool? And he was like, no, he was, you know, just come on, just come on. You know? And I was like, I just didn't understand why I couldn't set up on stool. And I remember after we walked out cuz it was warm and I was, and I kept pestering him because I wanted an answer. And he basically kind of told me in simple words that we couldn't be in places like that and stay and eat and some places and eat and stuff like that. And I was like, why? And he says, because the color of your skin and that has stuck with me that this thing I, and [whispered] I don’t take shit from nobody

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh my gosh!!

Tootie

I don't. And it's almost like,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No, you, you that no. Yeah. Mm-hmm never again you-

Tootie

No you ain’t talking to me like that uh-uh. And you know, you have people think that you unintelligent because of that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

I mean, you, you know,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh no, that just cuts deep to your soul.

Tootie

Yeah. And you do, you still have people say things to you sometimes, and even now, um, people will say to you, were you articulate, you know, or whatever and I'm thinking, can I not be?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

I mean,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. It must have broken your daddy's heart too. Right. Cause I'm sure he, he probably wanted to give you the world, but he couldn't, that couldn't happen.

Tootie

I mean, I don't know if it did or not, but I know, I know that sort of, that set a tone for me. It really did that really kind of cut deep mm-hmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mmhmm

Tootie

You know, and I always been, I always had that little sass about me that has stuck with me.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well, probably most of the time, maybe it didn't come face to face, but that moment, like you felt it.

Tootie

Yeah, and my mother was very protective of us. She really, really was. I mean, she didn't let us do a lot of things. She didn't let us go a lot of places. Um, and I think it was that she didn't want to subject-. Oh, Mark, did you take it out? We can put it back in here. Um, thanks.

She didn't wanna subject us to a lot of thing. Yeah. Uh, and whatnot. So she didn't let, let us go. A lot of places, you know, do a lot of things, lot of sets. But I think, I wish she had to been let to, I wish she had allowed us to be able to do the more free to do the things that didn't want us to do and everything and stuff, but you know, but she didn't, but my mother was smart. I will take nothing away from her. She, she had [unintelligible]. But my mom was fierce. She was.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well, she was able to and buy some property eventually, which is really, I mean, amazing.

Tootie

Yep. Yep. She was, she did.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What's your, what was your mother's full name?

Tootie

Hazel. She didn't have a middle name either.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

Yeah. Hazel Grigsby.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Hazel Grigsby.

Tootie

Mmhmm.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do you know what her, um, birthdate was?

Tootie

April 18. Ohhh. I want to say 1924. That's what I wanna say.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. And your daddy?

Tootie

His was Warrior.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

His first name was Warrior?

Tootie

Mmhmm.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ooh!!Wow. Love that.

Tootie

Yeah. It's it's it is a little bit unique.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It is.

Tootie

Yep. And I, his, I think his is always the third, 1925. I think I think's more than one. I have to, you know, um, they've been gone for a while now. Okay. Um, but uh, I think it's when it was yeah. Back, but yeah. Yeah. Like I said, my mother was, she was, she was just fierce. I mean, and she taught us girls at a, at a early age that you, you don't take a lot of stuff. I mean, because like I said, she worked as a domestic, she um, but she said that nobody has a right to treat you badly or poorly because of who you are, where you come from. Um, cuz I remember when she first got the job where she was working at at the Faute’s, um, she, she was a character. She wouldn't, she didn't play. She honestly God did not play. Even, even men was afraid of my mom I said, miss Hazel doesn't play.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So she sometimes has some problems with her employers.

Tootie

No, but she just let them know that when she didn't have problems with employer, but she just let them know that um, they weren't gonna treat her, like some people were treated like, you know, there was a backdoor policy. In restaurants and some people didn't want you coming in the front door. Some people didn't want you eating in certain parts of places. Some people had to eat in laundry rooms or places like that. And she just let her know up front, like no. And, and you were going to eat and where I, you know, I'm gonna eat in the kitchen, just like everybody else or whatever. And then my mother used to take us to work with her in the summer months.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh.

Tootie

Yep. Because they had kids that family had kids. And then if we wanted to go to work with her some months we could go to work.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did you just play around or you had to help work?

Tootie

Well, we did both. We did. We helped her out. I helped her. We helped her out and then we could, we could play too though.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So what type of help did you, what kind of work did you help her out with? You

Tootie

Know, I mean anything in the house. I mean, we help her make her bed or, or help her clean up, you know, that would give her, she could, it would be easier for her, give her time off a little bit, time off, get out of there a little bit earlier or whatever Yeah. But we used to help her do stuff like that and um, and everything. But then, you know what we played with the, their kids as well, you know, they'd have swing out there. We'd be out there swinging and having a good time and she'd call us in for, for, for lunch or whatever.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

She’d just feed everybody,

Tootie

Feed everybody. We sit at the table cuz she said, if they eat off the plates, mine eatin off those plates. They drink outta silver cup, mine drinking outta silver cups. And they did. That's what we did. We drank out of our silver cups. We ate with real plates. We had utensils, we put napkins in our lap and I'm like that right today I eat off a real plate. I have a real glass at work and I bring my own utensil.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I'm not mad at that. Do you, so like what was she, what kind of work did she do? She would wash dishes. She made food. She cooked too. Yeah. And she took care of the kids too.

Tootie

Yeah. My mother did it cuz she worked five days a week.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

She worked five days a week. My mother worked five days a week. Yep. So she did she, yeah. She took care of the kids. She took care of the house. Um, she was really like a second mother to those kids.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Mm-hmm do you know those kids to this day?

Tootie

Oh, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Is it positive relationship?

Tootie

Oh yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

 Okay.

Tootie

Yeah. We, yeah, we all know each other. Mm-hmm we see each other. I mean we don't see each other, like we used to, but, yeah. We see each other. I mean when, um, they, when my mother passed away, uh, they all came to her funeral. They cried more than we did and they sit behind us cuz they were like her children. So at the funeral we had the front row, they had the second row. Wow. And look, I had to turn around and give some of them tissues.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Cause she raised them.

Tootie

She raised them.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm. How was the mom? Was she just like, was she, was she be in the house when your mom was cleaning and doing stuff?

Tootie

Oh, she was a horse lady. She did, you know, everybody, the majority, a lot of people right here had horses. They had horses. And so they were, they were always, they had a barn, they had horses in it, you know, they would go out and up the stalls and take care of the horses. And in the mornings they'd trot down the hill to exercise the horses and you know, they did steeple, chase, you know, the dad, the, their dad did, um, thoroughbreds. Um, so they were always in, they always had farms and horses and stuff like that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did the, did you ever learn how to ride horses?

Tootie

Well, I was attempting to learn how to ride horses and my mother about to have a conniption!! And um, so I mean, I, I literally can ride one, but I hadn't been on a horse in, in, I don't know how long. Um, yeah. My mother was having a conniption cuz she just didn't want us, the reason why she didn't want to learn how to ride a horse was because horses, they literally can kill you.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh yes they can.

Tootie And she was just so afraid because you

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Gonna fall off and hurt yourself.

Tootie

Fall off and hurt yourself. But see, she used to watch the lady that she worked for right. With horses. And you know, I'll say the three of them most dangerous time were working with horses anyway, is loading them, unloading them and being in stalls with 'em. I mean, they can hurt you in time cause they can throw you.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right.

Tootie

But those three things, you-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Real close contact with them.

Tootie

Yeah. You real close contact with you. And so the, the lady that she worked for, literally the she'd be trying to load the horse in the, in the van and the horse be just rearing up and she wouldn't let go. I mean, she would, she would not let go of the horse and my mother would be standing at the window watching her and she would sometimes go out there and say, let that horse go. And she didn't let it go and everything. And then I know on a couple of occasions, um, when I had gone to work with my mother, she would come in here and she called everybody fart. She was like, fart, come on here and help me load this horse and I was like, I'm telling my mother, I said, I'm going out here and help her.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And so wait, the white woman called you fart?

Tootie

Yeah. She called that everybody fart. She called people fart. It was just a thing. It was just a thing. It wasn't nothing derogatory about that. She's like fart, come on here. She call everybody fart. Come on here. Help me load this horse. My mother be just, my mother did this gnawing thing would live.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And she did not like that.

Tootie

No, she didn't like that. Cause she knew that that is the dangerous part loading and unloading a horse. It gets, you killed in a minute and everything and stuff like that. So.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And where did those kids go to school?

Tootie

Oh, they went to Hill school. They went private.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

They went to hill school.

Tootie

They went, they went to private school. Oh yeah. You know in Middleburg?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes. So that's interesting. So the wealthy white kids went to the private schools and the kind of middling white folk. They were the ones that were going to Banneker school,

Tootie

Public school, public Banneker or wherever-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right, right, right, right, right. Yeah. Yeah. Okay. Yeah.

Tootie

You and, and two, what Fox-, what-?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Foxcroft

Tootie

We had Foxcroft. We had Hill School. What else? Marcus? Notre Dame?

Marcus Howard

There was a Catholic school there. That was different.

Tootie

Yeah. Little bit different. But the majority of the people back in the day, they still

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Went to private schools. If they could?

Tootie

Yeah. They still went to the private schools more so,

Marcus

Um, Foxcroft was high school too, so-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Marcus Howard

That Hill School went straight to high school at Foxcroft-

Tootie

Yeah. And everything.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh. Hill school was elementary and, and then Foxcroft was the high school.

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

Mmhmm. Well, what grade did um, Hill School end at? I can't remember what, what? I can't remember what grade, but then Foxcroft started at ninth.

Tootie

Yeah, probably there. Yeah. I think it's-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But Foxcroft’s all girl, right?

Marcus Howard

Yeah.

Tootie

Mm-hmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So where'd the boys go?

Tootie

Yeah. Where did the boys go?

Unknown Speaker

Was it Middleburg Academy? I don't know now, but-

Marcus Howard

No, there was a, well back then it was Catholic school. Wakefield?

Tootie

I was gonna say, did they go to Wakefield?

Unknown Speaker

Wilburn?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wilburn?

Tootie

Um, did they go to Wakefield? The boys go to for after the, after high school?

Marcus Howard

I went to New School.

Unknown Speaker

Roger. Roger went to a bunch of private school, but they were all in Maryland stuff where my mom is… So-

Marcus Howard

He was one of the rich kids from Middleburg.

Tootie

You were?

Marcus Howard

Well, his step stepfather was-.

Unknown Speaker

[unintelligible]

Tootie

Oh, okay.

Unknown Speaker

[unknown speaker]

Tootie

Oh you go to Smith with him?

Unknown Speaker

No, not bloodline at all.

Tootie

Oh. But he knew Speedy then?

Marcus Howard

His mother married a Smith with dad,

Tootie

You know Speedy then?

Unknown Speaker

Him. I saw him. Yeah. I like saw him like a handful of times.

Tootie

Oh, okay.

Unknown Speaker

Iwas surprised when I heard he died. Thought he was a lot healthier than Roger in all honesty.

Tootie

Oh, okay. Oh, okay. Well I, I guess I don't know where the boys went because didn't Notre Dame used to be all girls?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, Notre Dame. Yeah.

Tootie

Yeah. Because Notre Dame used to be all girls too, but then it turned into co-ed. Cause I, then I remember it turning into the co-ed so I don't know where the boys went to school that around here?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And your mom drove to work every day work. And your dad also drove to work. So you had two cars.

Tootie

No dad, no, no. Mm-hmm mm-hmm uh, a lot of times she would drive him to work and then go to work.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. And how, how early was she getting in early?

Tootie

Well, uh, how, how early would she get to work? Cause he had to be at work early early. Because he drove, I mean, yeah. Well, I mean, cuz at first, like I said, he worked up to with the horses and stuff like that. Um, and then eventually he got a job at, was it Northern County Lumber. Up in Upperville. He, he eventually got a job up there driving the, they had, they built houses like A-frame houses, and, and beach houses.

And so he got out of the horse stuff eventually.

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

And then he, um, then he would drive the, all the building materials and things to people who bought homes in like Eastern shore.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh wow.

Tootie

Sometimes we go down North Carolina. I used to do that in summertime with him. I, when I was outta school. I go, I ride with him to go on the trip to deliver all the homes and things.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay.

Tootie

Used to like that,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Get out of Virginia a little bit.

Tootie

Yeah. Get out of Virginia A. Little bit and see the Eastern shore or, and stuff like that. So yeah. I used to enjoy that until he started falling asleep! Driving.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That's not so enjoyable.

Tootie

And uh, but no, we didn't have two cars in initially we didn't.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I was gonna say, I mean that,

Tootie

Naw, that didn't happen. No. Yep. No mm-hmm she'd usually take him to work and then she'd had a car and then he she'd pick him up or it'd be vice versa. You know?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep.

Tootie

Nope. They did not. They did not. We did not have two cars. We lucky we had a car. Mm. But eventually, eventually she ended up getting her own stuff.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, yeah.

Tootie

You know, they ended up being separated and everything, but eventually she ended up cuz she just hated it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mmhmm

Tootie

You know, and it's hard to do. And so she ended up getting own vehicle and stuff like that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm yeah. Mm.

Tootie

Yeah. She, we come from humble beginning, but it's okay.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh it's it's a beautiful thing. It gives you perspective. It gives you,

Tootie

It gives you resilience.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, absolutely.

Tootie

It, it gives you perseverance.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Absolutely.

Tootie

Gives you all those things. Yeah. I tell people a lot of times I said, you know what? We didn't have. I mean, I mean, but I I've never considered us as being, you know, people say you poor, but I don't. I've never been hungry. I've never not had clothes. Um, you know, we were always clean. Neatly dressed. Bathed. So, you know yeah. It was all good. And you know, and the thing about it is you were, we were all in the same boat.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Yeah. So everybody around you is doing the same thing. So you don't, you don't think that you have less than or that you are less than. Yeah.

Tootie

Yeah. I mean, you know, you have less than because like I said, I know we grew up and kind of knew what that other life was because of where we went with our mother to work. And we saw

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What other folks have?

Tootie

We saw, what other folks had. But even at that, our mother always say, you look, don't touch unless we were helping her out. So that was instilled within us and you saw what they had, but it didn't make me feel any less than okay. Um, because they had more of this and, and that, and the other, as we laugh now and saying, we got champagne taste on a beer budget because I literally, when I go places, I can figure out some fine stuff. Know it instantly and I think it's-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Because you saw that.

Tootie

Because I saw that, you know? Um, so yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Does that family still own all that land?

Tootie

Which land.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where your mama used to work as a domestic for so many years?

Tootie

Yeah. It's in the family. Okay. Yeah. It's it is in, it is in that family. Yes. it's it's in the family. I mean, I, I, I can't, I don't exactly remember how much land they own or whatever and stuff like that, but it's in the same family. Um, they actually, they come see my younger sister all the time, whatever does.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow.

Tootie

Um, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I mean, it's a long time to work for a family, you know? I mean you, yeah. You get to know each other.

Tootie

Oh yeah. Oh yeah. Oh, very much so. I mean, and when we say we know 'em we know,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I understand, yes.

Tootie

In family ways

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I understand. Yes. I'm clear. Mm-hmm

Tootie

You know, who they were, what they were all about and money allows you to, uh, I would say purchase by achieve more things. But that doesn't necessarily make you happy.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No, it does not

Tootie

And it does not change. People are people, regardless of how much monetary funds you have you still have the same issues. You still have the same problems. You may be able to achieve a little bit more, by your way, out of a little bit more.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Don't buy your love. Don't buy your happiness. No.

Tootie

Nope. But it doesn't, mm-hmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Never will.

Tootie

And you know what, and you, and you, and even though you have money, you still have the same issues as any other human being, you know, doesn't, it doesn't change that fact. Yeah. Um, in a lot of ways. Um, so you, sometimes you just need to be grateful for what you have been able to achieve and get on your own.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

You know, and, and to work for it, because I think when you have to work for it, I think you appreciate it even more.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, absolutely.

Tootie

You know, than the be given.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, absolutely.

Tootie

Everything.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Cause you, it doesn't have the same value.

Tootie

No, it doesn't. It, it, it doesn't have the same value. And I see instant gratification in so many things in so many ways nowadays. Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

So, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Um, remind me, which high school you went to

Tootie

Loudoun Valley.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You went to Loudoun Valley. Okay. So that would've been when, like what year?

Tootie

‘70?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You started loud and valley ’70.

Tootie

Mmhmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And how was Loudoun valley?

Tootie

Now, that's a whole different breed. That was all white school.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mmhmm

Tootie

So that's when I felt it that's, you know, I had that luxury of not having to leave what I know, who I know when I went there, that was a huge difference. Huge difference. Um, I actually took all academic classes and I was the only Black person in every one of my classes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm.

Tootie

There was a bit of an awakening and no say not that to say that I had never been around white people, but it was a setting that I was still familiar with. Yeah. And everything, you know? Uh, like I said, cuz we went over there with our mother and stuff, so we were around people, um, you know, um, but to be in that kind of environment, it was totally different. Cause you like, dang!! I wanna see one of us. So,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So it wasn't like it was 50/50?

Tootie

No,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It was like what?

Tootie

No, not for me on my personal note. No, not for me. Cause like I said, I took academic classes

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But in the school itself?

Tootie

Oh, well, yeah. It was-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Just a small percentage of Black folks too?

Tootie

No, it was a good percentage of Black folks in, in, back in, in back then.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. But your classes just didn't have a lot of Black folk in them. Got you.

Tootie

Well, I, you know, you can't even measure that because in my opinion, we were, so you were so scattered out because the school was bigger. Um, it depended on what courses you took, whether it be general business, academic, whatever way I call it. Um, it, it did, it depended on the classes you were taking. So, but for me on a personal note, I just, I, I didn't have any black people in my class. The only time I usually had another black person in my class was either in gym and or, cause that was kind of like, yeah. You know, that's just physical education and or Home EC. Okay. Cause those are like the elective. But the like the required ones no.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So how did your teachers and students interact with you? How was that?

Tootie

They, some were, were nasty. Well, I, maybe nasty's not the word, but they were, they weren't real receptive.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So what did that look like or-

Tootie

What it felt like, they would kind of heckle you or kind of, you know, I can just remember cuz I always been like a little bookworm. I said, even you tell me that nowadays they was like, you just different, you're just different. But anyway, um, and so I was always used to just raising my hand and giving an answer and stuff and uh, but then they would tease me and make fun of me, you know, or just say rude, just kind of rude things sometimes. Not everybody, but you, you always had a few you know? Um, and I, I did, I felt really kind of uncomfortable and I, and I just like, I don't know if I can do this. I really did. I thought I was like, I don't know. I don't know about this. And I can just remember this one boy in particular that he always had some rude, some snide remark to me. And I don't know. I, I must have been having one of those days must have been a period day!! I just whipped-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Blame it on PMS!

Tootie

Yeah. I must been just whipped around and just like, that was not the day I just lit into him and everybody was stunned the whole class and he, he was really stunned and I was like, oh God, I'm, I'm gonna go to the office. Cause I'm sure the teachers were gonna sit into the office.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did they?

Tootie

No, she didn't. She didn't.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So do you, you feel like your teachers at least supported you or no?

Tootie

You know what? I, I cannot say anything bad about any of the teachers over there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

Um, I didn't, I didn't feel like, I don't feel like they necessarily supported you supported you in the way that you needed all the time. But, I mean, but they didn't, to me, they didn't make me feel a certain type of way. Okay. Um, like I said, I was just positive that I was gonna go to the office, but she took me to the office.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Did black kids and white kids date each other?

Tootie

I can't actually I know I didn't And I'm sorry to say, I still don't.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I'm just, I mean, I'm just asking questions here. There's no judgment on my part.

Tootie

Um, I can-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Cause sometimes that can start a whole thing in a community.

Tootie

Well, you know, I mean yes they did. I can-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

You know, I, um, yeah, by the, I can't say if-, yes-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Cause now we're talking late sixties, early seventies.

Tootie

Now we're talking about seventies,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Early seventies. Okay.

Tootie

Yeah. We're talking about seventies. Yeah. Cuz it was, I think ‘70 through ‘75 was eighth through twelfth at that time.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, so-

Tootie

Yeah. It was eighth through 12th at that time.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

Now it's like ninth through 12th. I I think, but it, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

So we, yeah, eventually the Black and white folks started to okay. To, to date, not me, but yeah, they did and everything. But there was a lot of protesting too back in those days. Um, too, because they were so used to like having homecoming queens, they walk and all that kind of stuff. So I, I remember like their kids would go out and literally they'd be out in the front lawn, they'd be protesting they'd-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Who's protesting, why were they protesting?

Tootie

The, the Black kids would go out and protest, you know, and saying that people be nominated for homecoming queen and you know, all that kind of stuff like that. So yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh that they were being excluded.

Tootie

Exactly. Okay.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm-hmm

Tootie

You know, and just be true, read it. Like I said differently,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

mm-hmm

Tootie

Differently, you know? Cause if I had to fro’s and pick in the head, you know, back in those days and, and that's why I'm saying that, I don't think that the, the, the, the staff just, if you don't know, or used to, or a culture, you may see it as something negative but it's not it's who you are. And I just really, this is my personal opinion. I just don't really think that they were equipped enough to, to, to learn or have the resources to try to understand who we were. Mm-hmm as a people now that, you know, hindsight is 20-20 they say, um, I think because he came so suddenly. Um, you, and I think you've talked about it too, that some, some Black kids were allowed to go to white, a couple of white schools before ‘68. So ‘69. And, but, you know, they had to get a court mandated right. Order and for it to be fully segregated, right?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes. Loudoun fought tooth and nail.

Tootie

Yeah. So it was like, bam! Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

When it finally happened.

Tootie

So, when it finally happened, so they really didn't. I, I don't think they, I don't know if they chose to, not to have the resources, to try to, um, have the understanding of what it was for black and whites to be together, to understand the cultural differences and stuff like that. Although we still got that problem today. Um, but you know, and what you don't know, you are afraid of a lot of times.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Cause I'm also thinking like I'm at Banneker did y'all have Negro history week or Negro history month. But then I imagine once what happened after desegregation? Were you still doing those types of things or having those types of lessons either at Banneker or when you were at Loudoun Valley?

Tootie

Oh no, we didn't have that at no Loudoun Valley. I, I have no doubt. No, I don't. I don't, I me, I mean, you may talk to somebody else and they may remember something else differently, but I don't remember having anything like that at valley,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But you had it at Banneker.

TootieOh yeah. We even had Bible studies. I got a little Gideon Bible. It was a little, you know, the little ones. Remember we had Bible, we used to have Bible studies, Bible-

Marcus Howard

And we did prayer with our food.

Tootie

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

And you know, we had Bible studying and stuff like that far as we would-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

Yeah. And, and, and I just remember our Black teachers, they knew what we were up against. So they were always nurturing and protected because they knew what was out here. They knew how hard it was, and you did, you felt like a family you know like the principal, would you get in trouble if you want to the principal walk your little behind, right on home, knock on the door.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm-hmm.

Tootie

Bring you right on home in the community or whatever, and stuff like that you know, you just felt that sense of community and everything. Um, no, I didn't feel that way over there. Not at all. And not to say that I had bad teachers. Um, I, I really cannot say that I remember a time when I had a teacher that I really truly did not like.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Tootie

And that's, like I said, but that's my experience.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

Uh, and, and two, there was, of course after they integrated there, we had, they had, there were a few Black teachers

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

There were a few Black teachers.

Tootie

Yeah. And I tell you who it is. Um, Arthur Lloyd and his wife.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Arthur Lloyd?

Tootie

Yeah. Mm-hmm. Well, his wife, Shirley, and we got pictures of her Arthur, um, on the little cards and everything. And he's up there on the thing. But his wife, Shirley Lloyd, she was actually, um, one of my PE teachers. And you, when you're 11th and into 12th grade, back in the day, you didn't have to take PE. If you didn't want it, you could be like a, a gym helper or you, you do all kinds of little things around the school or work in an office and stuff. And so that's what I decided to do to help her at PE doing stuff like that.

Marcus Howard

Did you have Miss. Carr?

Tootie

Who?

Marcus Howard

Miss Carr? Was it Carr?

Tootie

Oh, you talking about driver's ed lady?

Marcus Howard

Yeah. Oh, yes it did. She was a Black lady. She-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What was her name?

Tootie

Ms. Carr.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ms. Carr.

Tootie

C-A-R-R, yeah,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

She was driver's ed lady.

Tootie

Yeah, she Black lady. You be mashin on gas, she’d be mashin on the brake on the other side. Driver's ed.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Yeah.

Tootie

You know, cuz they had the pedals.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep. For both sides. Yeah. Yeah.

Tootie

For both sides, you be pressing on the gas and she'd be over on the brake. She's like you going too fast. I'm not going at all. Yeah. I did.

Marcus Howard

I had stories about her she's from the old school that she did-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay. Yeah. So, but she taught everybody how to drive.

Marcus Howard

She taught up to-, think she was, was she there when I was there? So she was there when you were there?

Tootie

Yeah. Marcus.

Tootie

She been around a long time!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I guess. Yeah.

Tootie

She was there for a long time. Yeah.

Marcus Howard

She, was good.

Tootie

Who, what did you hear about her tapping your fender?

Marcus Howard

No, I guess the idea is that uh, well, if you learn how to drive good, you can get a good job driving.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay.

Marcus Howard

White people

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, it be a driver. Oh…

Marcus Howard

Yeah, that kind of mindset.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Got you. Gotcha gotcha.

Tootie

But that was a mindset. Anyway, that was another thing that was a mindset anyway, that they always, they didn't really push you to achieve.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Who's the, the, the, the, the white teachers and administrators or the Black teachers and administrators?

Tootie

No, the, they, the, the, I would say, you know how you have guidance counselors in high school to, in my opinion, they did not push you into striving to go to schools and colleges and stuff. They always wanted you to take like, uh, vocational thing.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

And don't get me wrong. There is nothing wrong with going to vocational. But I, I I'm down for it. If that's who you are, what you wanna do, what you wanna be. College is not for everybody.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right.

Tootie

Or whatever. Um, more power to you, but they didn't really take the initiative to push that sort of thing. Mm-hmm for the Black students, they really, really, really didn't. They were always pushing you to do some like a vocational thing or whatever and stuff. And, and I think that a lot and to a lot of parents and, and I'm, I mean, I'm, I'm still speaking on my own personal level. Um, they didn't have the wherewithal to understand it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right.

Tootie

They didn't because if you've never had that opportunity or that experience, then you don't know you don't know what to look for.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

Where to go to who, what questions to ask. You just don't know. Yeah. You know, and of course they, they, weren't gonna come to you a majority of the time and say, hey, you know, I think your daughter has this potential or your son had this potential. And, you know, here's some of the things that, you know, we could do or look at it. Right. You know? Right. And I mean, and I would say at least 10, 15, not, not even 10, I would say at least five years ago we, they were still having that problem. Just some schools.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, uh, yes.

Tootie

Even five years ago

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It’s the reason why NAACP at the Sue Loudoun. Yep.

Tootie

Yeah. You're still having that problem. You're still having that problem. Yeah. You know, not, not, um, looking at us as being able to do anything achievable or whatever, and stuff like that. So that was, that was one of the big things to, uh, of growing up.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That you experienced? So when you were a senior at Loudoun valley and you were thinking about what's next, what do you remember?

Tootie

I'm to be quite honest, I didn't, I, you know, didn't I always wanted, I did want to go to college but I didn't I always wanted to go. I told you, my children tells me right today. You just different <laugh> you're like a little bookworm and I was, I was, I I'm smart. I mean, I am nobody's dummy. I mean, I'm not a genius, but I'm-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Most of us are not

Tootie

But, but I I'm fairly intelligent. Yeah. Yeah. And I always wanted to go to school, but, uh, just to say, life has a way of getting in the way.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, it does sometimes.

Tootie

And, and my mother was, you know, I helped my mother out.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Yeah.

Tootie

That's what I did. I just, yeah, I, I stayed and I helped my mother out, um, you know.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And now you're the collector of St. Louis history.

Tootie

Yep. Yep. Yep. But I mean, I take a, a couple of classes that I like to take and everything.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Tootie

But, you know, I really have been seriously thinking now, even though I'm older, I'm thinking I might do that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well, you know, you can, there's a thing with your over a certain age, you can go to, um, Mason and schools for free.

Tootie

Yeah. I heard I, somebody was telling me that,

Oh, I've had people that are 75 and 80 years old sitting in my classes.

Tootie

Yep.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So I don't know exactly. You have to look up what the, what the thing is, what the age point is, but you can take classes for free.

Tootie

Okay. Well, you need to gimme some information.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. And I wanna say a couple years ago we had a woman maybe was the last year who graduated, who was the oldest person ever to graduate from Mason. And she was like, in her eighties.

Tootie

Wasn't that the lady that was 82 that walked across the stage?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes!!

Tootie

She was on television. She was like, when everyone walked across that stage, I was like, I can do this.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You can do that. I'm like, so there is, there is no limit.

Tootie

I was like active because she did, she start her own business or something.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I don't remember the whole story, but she was, she was like, it's not too late. It's never too late.

Tootie

That's what she said. She said it. And I was like, you know what, cuz one of my co- one of my, I used to work with this other lady. And, um, she, she just turned and she was like, she said too, she says, you know, after you get a certain lady, she said, you know, you can take classes for free. And I say, get up outta here. Yeah. But she's like, you-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Let me stop this

[END 1:57:42]