Cristelle Hughes

And then and since the trees blowed up and get less lights

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I'm trying to get this other recording thing going and it looks like I forgot to grab my sheet to… I’ll, I’ll explain it to you and then I can drop it by another day. I want you to get to get settled Where is my… Yeah, it looks like it wants to try to rain on us a bit

Cristelle Hughes

Well they say its gonna rain until tomorrow more but it came.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh really? It was sprinkly when I was headed over here so so I don't know but you know this weather it does what it wants to do.

Cristelle Hughes

Oh its crazy, its been changing with time.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes, exactly. Yeah so I'm sorry Miss Hughes. I forgot my form but I can swing by, but so I'm a professor. It makes it I don't know if you, you told him?

Cristelle Hughes

He didn’t tell me anything.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ooo, now she gonna have to bake you a pie or something

Cristelle Hughes

Oh no, he’ll bake me a pie.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

He’ll have to make you a pie, right. So um, so I'm a professor at George Mason University. Yeah, I've been there actually about, about as long as you've been here in this apartment, I've been at George Mason. Yeah. And I went to Howard to get my masters and PhD. Yeah. But my colleagues and I, we’re really interested and capturing the oral histories, the stories of African Americans in and around Fairfax and Loudoun. And I've had the chance to have some great conversations with folk in the villages of St. Louis. And know that certain folk were trying to take people's land and to disrupt the community, maybe even get rid of the school. And so I want to be of service and and I feel like the best way I can be of service is to collect those histories and their stories.

Cristelle Hughes

Well I know, Barbara Scott was was trying to do that in my time. I don't know whether you knew it or not. He was trying to do something like that one time.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, Barbara Scott?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, yeah.

Unknown Speaker

She’s one of the people who want to talk to too.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, so I, I pry need to talk to Barbara Scott. Okay.

Cristelle Hughes

Well, she, she kinda been under the weather.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So that's what kind of brings me here today. And if you don't mind, I just like to ask you some questions and just do some storytelling. Is that okay?

Cristelle Hughes

We'll see. We'll see what happens.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. So let's just start with the basics. Can you tell me your full name, your year of birth and location of birth?

Cristelle Hughes

Well my…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

This is just the the full recording so I’ma sit…

Cristelle Hughes

Is Cristelle Hughe and I was born in 1924. So I’m ninety-si-.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ninety…

Cristelle Hughes

98.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Now you look absolutely fabulous. Wow.

Unknown Speaker

I was born in Loudoun County.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You were born in Loudoun County. Okay, so where in Loudoun County were you born?

Cristelle Hughes

Middleburg

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You were born in Middleburg. So you were born in the villages of St. Louis?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Okay. Home?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

At home.

Cristelle Hughes

At home

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Okay. Can you tell me your parents grandparents names if you like

Cristelle Hughes

My mother’s name Koi McQay.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

McQay?

Cristelle Hughes

M-C-Q-A-Y.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, McQay.

Cristelle Hughes

And my father was James Poles.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Do you know when they, where abouts or when they were born?

Cristelle Hughes

Mom mother born in Loudoun County. I guess that’s Purcellville.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh Purcellville. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Cristelle Hughes

But my father. I don't know where he was bo-, born.

Unknown Speaker

Was he one of the Poles’ up in the mountains?

Cristelle Hughes

Up in Luray, uh huh.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Luray?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, that’s where my great grandmother was.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh I found the form.

Crsitelle Hughes

That’s where my grandmother was from

Unknown Speaker

They’re related to the Poles’ up in Hune

Unknown Speaker

Jo-, Jones Poles and-.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Poles? P-O-

Cristelle Hughes

P-O-L-E-S.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

P-O-L-E-S.

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible 4:34 – 4:44] That’s why my brother was named after him.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So do you know when your parents moved to the villages of St. Louis.

Unknown Speaker

Well, my mother, I guess live there all the time.

Oh, okay.

But my father he they sort of lived in I guess Willisville and St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

They lived in. Your father lived in Willisville?

Cristelle Hughes

Willisville and St. Louis and…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, I never heard of Willisville

Cristelle Hughes

Upperville, like near Upperville.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay. Okay. And Hume. So it's interesting. Yesterday, I went to interview some folks that were born and grew up in Fairfax, basically right where George Mason University is located. But they kept mentioning Hume and that some of their people are also from Hume, as well. So, it's just interesting that Hume keeps coming up and I think they mentioned Upperville, too. So, there are probably these lines of connection that are probably pretty deep.

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, well my grandmother she came from Luray. She came ov-, they claim she came over to work in Loudoun County and that’s how she met my grandfather

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, and she was working domestic?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do you know the family that she may have worked for?

Cristelle Hughes

No, no.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, so was she, she would have been living in St. Louis, but maybe working as a domestic family and Middleburg?

Cristelle Hughes

To work, yes. Yeah,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

yeah. Yeah. So-

Unknown Speaker

But, when she when she came, she had three children.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay.

Cristelle Hughes

When she came to [unintelligible 6:43], she was a Poles when she married a McQay. And she had what, two children after Guy McQay. A girl and a boy. But Philip McQay mad at, mad at… and she ended up being…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you, so your dad was McQay?

Cristelle Hughes

My father was a Poles.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Your dad was a Poles?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Cristelle Hughes

My grandmother had three children after a second marriage.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Cristelle Hughes

First marriage had my grandfather, and his brother, and another brother.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What was your grandmother's name?

Cristelle Hughes

Ella

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ella

Cristelle Hughes

Ella McQay

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ella McQay

Cristelle Hughes

Ella Poles she was.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. All right. So, you're born in 1924, right?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, uh-huh

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

In the villages. Do you have an earliest memory? Like the first thing you remember?

Cristelle Hughes

Mm, not really. I don't remember when my first remember. I guess when I'm bout four, five. I were five years old, I guess. You know, I remember when I was a child. I do now because I kind of forget. You know how you forget things.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes, ma'am.

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah. It was three of us. I had a sister and a brother. Both deceased.

Unknown Speaker

So, Mr. Phil. McQay was your uncle?

Cristelle Hughes

Uh-huh, yeah.

Unknown Speaker

Was that the one with the stores?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah uh-huh, he, he and my grandpa was brothers. My father-, my grandfather named Foley and Jim Poles was [unintelligible 8:43] them father.

Unknown Speaker

Mr. Jim, they called him?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Jim Buckley Poles

Cristelle Hughes

No, uh-uh.

Unknown Speaker

No. -hauer.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Jim Hauer Poles

Unknown Speaker

Jim Buckhauer, is that right?

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible 8:51 – 8:55]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. And he had a store?

Cristelle Hughes

Oh Bill had stores. He had couple of stores.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where were the stores located?

Cristelle Hughes

St-, at St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, they were in St. Louis. Yes. You know what kind of stores?

Cristelle Hughes

Well grocery store, grocery stores. His first store was right across from the church, where the church the church hall is the store.

Unknown Speaker

The dining room.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, that used to be a store that makes sense. Yeah.

Cristelle Hughes

And then they had a building beside it was a Dancehall. And that was Mr. Hanson. He, uh, had that…

Unknown Spekaer

And that burned down?

Cristelle Hughes

No. They tore it down and um, to build house out there [unintelligible 9:36 – 9:40]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So, did you used to go to this dance hall?

Cristelle Hughes

It was, I wasn’t nothin but a child.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Cristelle Hughes

I went with John when he had that going on.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh…

Cristelle Hughes

Because when we was, we were growing up, they only have church once one Sunday, every first Sunday. Then they will have dances. And on the if they had on that Saturday, at 12 o'clock, everybody had to clear out because we're gonna have church across the street

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And so do you, were you…Do you remember where you went to school?

Cristelle Hughes

Its, uh, right next door to where I lived, St. Louis. It’s their new school.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

St. Louis School? Yeah. So this is before Banneker

Cristelle Hughes

Oh lord yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay,

Unknown Speaker

That was Miss Hamlin’s school?

Cristelle Hughes

Miss Hamlin’s house, uh-huh

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Miss Hamlin. So, this was a woman and her house was the school?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, but now her grandson voted leaving the house n-, and now they're remodeling the got a different place.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So the school, I mean I’ll have to go by and see the house, but the house is still there? Was it one room, was it multiple rooms?

Unknown Speaker

It was one room, one room and when we were going to school, there were so many children. One go half a day, and they go home and other half come.

Dr. Wend Manuel-Scott

Really?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah. Because too many children be in school one time there's just one teacher.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right. So how far up, how many grades did she teach?

Cristelle Hughes

Just until seventh grade.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Taught till seventh grade. Okay. Okay.

Cristelle Hughes

Well, they say [unintelligible word, repeated, 11:28] till uh, had to be seven years old before you started school.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So then, did you go, did you go all the way up to seventh grade with her?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Cristelle Hughes

Or, two or three different teachers. I mean, they didn't always have the same teacher because it was about three I think about three or four different teachers.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow, okay. Okay. All right. And that she also lived in that house.

Cristelle Hughes

No.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, she didn't live in the house. The house was just a schoolhouse

Cristelle Hughes

Just a schoolhouse.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Cristelle Hughes

She lived somewheres in the neighborhood.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. So, so I'm, I think I'm trying to wrap my head around, like how many homes and how many people were in St. Louis when you were a little girl. Say around 10 years old so like 1930s?

Cristelle Hughes

Well, I don't know how many people when I was born, I would say… Started out in St. Lous, [unintelligible 12:28 – 12:33]. And Billy and his family we, we had what three boys, and and girl. Was Father Smith. His family was diddly… I mean Warren and Ruth and Georgia. And coming on down Miss… you… Archie Pearson and his two daughters Miss Jones and Miss Eddie. And Mr. Robertson, in his, he had about six children and going over a few doors then. A few doors, Lucille in Lisbon. And Barbie and Miss Estelle. You Miss Estelle?

Unknown Speaker

I do.

Cristelle Hughes

Miss Estelle and uh Lucille. Lucille had six children who else…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So more than 20 families?

Cristelle Hughes

Oh Lord, Mr. Earnest and his family. The Grants, and their family. Mister… I think Mr. Grant had about nine children. Then, um, Cousin Clarence, Clarence Jackson, and cousin Liza. They had three children and who else lived in St. Louis at the time. Hm, I can’t think… Oh, Miss Fleecy, I know you don't remember her. Miss Fleecy, she had what, six of them. And Hurt your, your aunt hurt, she had, I mean she had five children.

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah. I think about five of them, Miss Suzie, Mr. Clarence had eh, she had three, had three sons. tall Blake, tall, tall Blake. Lloyd Four, and they had. An-, Anita. She had one son. It's five of them…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

so, yeah, so I mean, large families that are their kids are going to school together. They're all going to the same church.

Cristelle Hughes

Now, similar to June, we had to walk to, three or four miles to school.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

To get to the school.

Cristelle Hughes

to get to the school because the Johsons, and they live the Foxcroft and they had to walk to school.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, Foxcroft.

Cristelle Hughes

And then Mr. Ernest they lived out there towards Unison, somewheres. And they had to walk with Finn. His, his children. They had to walk to St. Louis School cuz the bus didn't take them.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Now Foxcroft I mean the only thing I think of when I, only think I think of when I think of Foxcroft is the private girls school up there.

Cristelle Hughes

That’s right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But what was there back then?

Cristelle Hughes

Still private girls school.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It was, it was a private girls school back then too?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh…But they lived on that property?

Cristelle Hughes

Well uh, Foxcroft is a big place is neither just a small place. They had places where [unintelligible 16:54] she had her own home on Foxcroft. They said a private school there, she had to help. She had a dining room she had stables and all kinds of stuff. On that on the property for two, for two of ‘em.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, so there were some black families that also lived there as staff

Cristelle Hughes

Cuz yeah, they were staff there and lived on-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay and then their, their children, their black children had to walk-

Cristelle Hughes

Walk, had to walk

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

to get to St. Louis School

Cristelle Hughes

Yes in the lo- Louise and Gertie, David, and Swithern and Lisbon, they all had to walk from down at Turnertown.

Unknown Speaker

That’s a long walk.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Up to school. That is a long walk, now you said Turnertown?

Cristelle Hughes

Well, they call it Turnertown. But it's back in the boonies down there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So, what was Turnertown?

Cristelle Hughes

It was just, I don't think it was nothing but houses at the time. Cuz the Lloyd’s live down there too. They had to walk…The Lloyd’s had to walk too. Up to the school. And that was a long ways. Because I remember we had a teacher called Sydney Brown and he was a nasty teacher. And you, you… If you knew the words right answer and you wrong get sayin, and and you was saying it was wrong? He would throw a ru-, ruler across a room at you. And if you didn’t do that he'd call you up to desk, and before you knew it hed have an old ruler and he’d pound it on your hands a couple of times. It would get to the point where he would ask you the answer, he would keep everybody. We didn’t have any electricity in the school, it had lamps. He’d light the lamps make children set there in the dark and all of these to have walk home and then finally the parents would come looking for your children and they decided to go to school board and have him-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Have him removed.

Cristelle Hughes

Oh, yes. And when we would go in school, the arithmetic’s had all the correct answers in the back of the book. And and they cost a lot of money for a lot of children. And he would tear all the pages back in the book and they had been brand new books haven't fallen apart and everything and so they ended up, say, they just, people just couldn't have it because he just wouldn't do any good for the children.

Unknown Speaker

He was African American?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes. Oh, but we were glad to get rid of him. But then we had this Miss Ellis she ended up come and be our teacher, Miss Chapman. She came to be our teacher. And she, I don’t know how many years she taught but it was such a relief.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Now what, what did you do after you finish seventh grade?

Cristelle Hughes

Well, I went to work for a couple of years and then the school bus came. And Miss Chapman say well I think she just just about three children to graduate and [unintelligible 20:12 – 20:14] I have so many children to be on the bus. So, if they didn't get them in on the bus, it would be getting the bus so she went around talking to everybody. To go to school. Go to school, cuz Douglas had just opened up.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, Douglas High School.

Cristelle Hughes

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep. So that was a hike.

Cristelle Hughes

So then we went to Douglas

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

High School, downtown Leesburg.

Cristelle Hughes

So, we did those high school so I went three years there, and then I just quit. Because I wor-, when, when my father was sick at the time too. So I worked in the summer and then when the fall came I decided to not go back I just kept working

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

and where were you working? Where were you doing?

Cristelle Hughes

Housework, housework.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

For this for one family?

Cristelle Hughes

For one family. But were two three families finally. because the first family I-… They would go in the summertime. And then come back in the fall.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, and this was in Middleburg, you we're working?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You remember the family name?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes. Oh my goodness. Can’t… don’t come over here right now…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

How many years that you worked for him?

Cristelle Hughes

I worked for him about three years I guess. It was from, Whitfields.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

the Whitfields. And then what did you do after you worked for the Whitfields?

Cristelle Hughes

Well, I went to work for Barry Hall. Barry Hall and his families. So work for them but I don’t know how many year I worked for them – till I got tired.

Unknown Speaker

That was the Hall family in St. Louis?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Hall family you said?

Cristelle Hall

Barry Hall, yes. In, well, then they sta-. People start going down to cou- and we say down in country and both chased away. I just quit and went down there… It’s open!

Carolyn Grayson

Hello

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

hello.

Carolyn Grayson

How are you

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I’m well, hi. Hello Hello Hi I'm Wendy come on in.

Cristelle Hughes

Well, you know Mar-, you know Marcus?

Carolyn Grayson

Hi how are you.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I'm well would you like me to put my mask on

Carolyn Grayson

No, no, I’m fine.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You sure? I’m happy to do it? You’re fine, okay.

[unintelligible] You know Marcus [ unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, wonderful.

Carolyn Grayson

You’ve already started talking so I can take some notes…

Cristelle Hughes

Yes, we’re trying find out how many people lived in St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, just trying to get a sense of St. Louis.

Cristelle Hughes

Trying to figure out, I don't know how many people, I said all I can do is just think about how many?

Carolyn Grayson

And you said your name was Wendi?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I'm Wendi. Yes ma’am.

Carolyn Grayson

Okay and you are a Wendi to who, kin to who?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh well. Yeah, my people are not from this area. My daddy’s people are from Birmingham, Alabama. Far, far away from St. Louis

Cristelle Hughes

She, she lives in part of [unintelligible 23:36] community.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, in Aldie.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, yeah I live in Aldie now. And I'm a professor at Mason. Oh, yeah. I respect the question who you people?

Carolyn Grayson

Yes, thank you very much.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, we were down in Georgia, we got people down there too. Yeah, they from the deepest south.

Carolyn Grayson

I know, my baby daughter, you say one time, but this guy walked up to me speaking to me and say… I said who are you? And he was saying that who his father was? I said who is your mother? She said why you ask who is my mother? No I know who your…

Walter Grayson

mama grandmama

Carolyn Grayson

just because he he tell you who the dad is. Know who his brother was to

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I love that right? It's like no, no, no. Who your real-, who your mama people. Who your people.

Carolyn Grayson

And how come you’re working with Marcus on this. So I'm gonna ask and be quiet.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So… Oh, no that's fine. We can, it's a conversation

Cristelle Hughes

This is my daughter my

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh…

Cristelle Hughes

My oldest daughter

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Hi, okay, okay. Hi. Okay, so I'm a professor at Mason. And we are. We created a memorial at Mason, Enslaved People of George Mason Memorial. And what we realized in creating the memorial was that most folk don't know about the rich African American history of Northern Virginia. They just think like all of a sudden, you know, just start happening and Dulles Airports here and nothing existed before. And so we want to talk to locals, people who have people, right? From this area to collect those histories before they're gone and erased, so that the next generation of young people know this history, know that black folk had their own towns, and their own stores. That they were doing all the incredible things. And so that's kind of the point of collecting these histories. And with St. Louis, I also understand that there's been an attempt to, you know, erase St. Louis and there's some conversation around getting rid of the Banneker school as well. And so I'm hoping that I can play a small part in helping to collect those histories, which makes a case for why people need to keep their hands off the St. Louis and the Banneker School. So that's the short version of…

Carolyn Grayson

I understand that because um, a lot of the land has been sold. The land of the, that the black people owned and, and to be honest with you, the white people see it as a…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes

Carolyn Grayson

They're going to turn it into something.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes, because nothing exists there now, it has no history of value, right? Yes, that's exactly Yep. Yep. Yep. So can you, it's my phone's recording our conversation, would you mind just telling me your name, your husband's name, date of birth, where you were born.

Carolyn Grayson

My name is Carolyn Grayson.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Carolyn Grayson.

Carolyn Grayson

I was born in Loudoun County. Middleburg St. Louis. Middleburg St. Louis, St. Louis

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

At home?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes.

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah, I guess so. And this… speak for yourself.

Walter Grayson

No, she told you to speak.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, okay. This is Walter,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Walter Grayson? And you were born where?

Carolyn Grayson

In Middleburg.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You were born in Middleburg too?

Carolyn Grayson

Okay, in Loudon County, right, exactly.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. All right. So homebirth. Did you have a midwife to help you get her out?

Cristelle Hughes

Just a doctor

Dr. Wendi Maneul-Scott

it was a doctor

Cristelle Hughes

Dr. Saffer

Carolyn Grayson

Who?

Cristelle Hughes

Dr. Saffer

Carolyn Grayson

Dr. Saffer right. He's

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Sal?

Cristelle Hughes

Saffer

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Saffer. He’s a black Doctor white doctor.

Cristelle Hughes

White

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So the white doctors will come to your home-

Unknown Speaker

They you home to do anything. He was sick, all you do call them and they came to look at It wasn’t like you just go to emergency room.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right. Right. Right.

Cristelle Hughes

And you go if you're too sick that he couldn't do nothing he would send you to the hospital.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Would the hospital See you back in the early 1900s?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes anytime

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

In a segregated section, though.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, no, because when we went we will go to Winchester, right?

Cristelle Hughes

Well Leesburg hospital was open open but I don't know who decides to go to Wi- we just because I know my my friend said one time are you going to Leesburg. don't go to Leesburg because why? Because they’ll kill you at Leesburg hospital because that's what they thought they would go to Winchester. But why they didn't want to go to Leesburg. I don't know.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Cristelle Hughes

But finally they did start going to Leesburg

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, so there were some idea that maybe you weren't getting fair, adequate service in leesbutg

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, I guess, I guess…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And get a better chance in Winchester?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes, yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So, Winchester has a better had a better reputation.

Unknown Speaker

Right up, right up to my generation. I was born in Winchester.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You were born in Winchester. What was the hospital in there called?

Unknown Speaker

Winchester Memorial.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Is it the original- was still there?

Cristelle Hughes

No they moved it…

Unknown Speaker

No…

Cristelle Hughes

No, its…It's a nursing home. You know you go out towards to out now

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, see? I don't know.

Cristelle Hughes

It’s a big place now

Carolyn Grayson

Oh so they've changed. I don't know that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That's so interesting about the Leesburg hospital. We moved out here to Loudoun 20, 21, 22 years ago, something like that. And so that was the hospital we would go to and I'm going to my son was born in the new Leesburg. I know what hospital but when he would get sick, my husband say don't go to that one, the new one because you have to wait too long. So we would always go to the Leesburg hospital, because it was never really that busy. So we always felt like we got better service at the Leesburg hospital than the new Inova hospital because it was too busy. So that's just funny that there was a time when the Leesburg hospital would not have been the place that we would have wanted to go.

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah, my grandson was born. My youngest grandson. He's 25 He was born in Leesburg.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, yeah. My 18-year-old was born at the Inova, and St.

Carolyn Grayson

My oldest grandson is 28. He was born in Fairfax.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

He was born- ah. Yeah, yeah. Interesting. Okay, so y'all go out to Winchester. Were there any black doctors around

Cristelle Hughes

Had one, had one. One…can’t think of the name now

Carolyn Grayson

Cuz he never saw us…

Cristelle Hughes

Well, he didn't you know No, we didn't go to him but he… I can’t remember his names. But I know…

Carolyn Grayson

He would come to you

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So in terms of, so we've kind of covered schools there is the St. Louis School and then eventually when the Douglas High School was built, people went out to the Douglas High School.

Cristelle Hughes

Well, they were… well, yes, but they from elementary school. Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Banneker was built when, when did-? ’48. So, you went to Banneker?

Carolyn Grayson

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Carolyn Grayson

He did too.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You went to Banneker too? Okay, and then after Banneker where did y'all go?

Carolyn Grayson

I went straight to Douglas.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You went straight to Douglas

Caroly Grayson

Right but some people in between, after like, Tina went from Douglas to Carver. Carver was the middle school at that time before they, before we started going to Douglas.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh so Douglas had like middle and high school for a while.

Carolyn Grayson

Douglas had-, Loudon County had, not Douglas… Loudoun County had you would go to Banneker and from Banneker but you would go to Carver. Carver was eighth grade. And that was the

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where was Carver?

Carolyn Grayson

In Purcevi-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

In Purceville. That's right, I’ve been to Carver. That's right. That was a haul too

Carolyn Grayson

And then from there you went to Douglas.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Yeah.

Carolyn Grayson

And that's what Tina went there. Tina and I guess Aunt Meta, whatever, we're all adults that were around her age range.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did y'all go out to… Cuz out, out at Carver there's like the Emancipation grounds. They used to have events and stuff out there.

Carolyn Grayson

She’d know about that I don’t…

Cristelle Hughes

In September.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes. Okay. So when you were in St. Louis, where did y'all go shopping? You went shopping in Middleburg?

Cristelle Hughes

Middleburg, Middleburg.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Grocery store?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What was the grocery store called?

Cristelle Hughes

Safeway.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, is the Safeway still there.

Cristelle Hughes

Stay safe. Oh, okay. So the same safe way.

Carolyn Grayson

They moved it

Cristelle Hughes

It’s on the other side of the street. It was on the corner there. But they moved it a little further down the street to where it is now.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But there wasn't a like a little store corner store in St. Louis to get basics

Cristelle Hughes

Well, Phil’s store was… Whenever he had it open. what was the name of the store? Phil McQay’s, Phi-, Phil’s Store.

Carolyn Grayson

And Miss Louise had a store too

Cristelle Hughes

Louise had a little store and Jane had a store.

Carolyn Grayson

Right, they all of them had a store at one time or another.

Cristelle Hughes

Aunt Jane, had, [unintelligible 33:56 – 33:58]

Carolyn Grayson

She had one miss Louise had one too.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What was Miss Louise’s last name?

Carolyn Grayson

Grant

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So Miss Louise Grant had a little store. So y'all can get milk, bread…

Carolyn Grayson

bread, soda, candy stuff like that…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I haven’t seen a cuckoo clock forever. That is so cute. So when you go into Middleburg to go to Safeway. How did the folks in Middle-, white folks in Middleburg interact with the black folks from St. Louis or black folks in general?

Cristelle Hughes

Well, Black folks-. In my time they- didn’t you want you to… They didn't want to associate we just go in there you buy your thing. Now, restaurant and everything you c-, they didn't want to you anything, they had go around the back. Go into kitchen a little cubbyhole, where you could stay in and they will hand things out to you. And same way with the bus and when we ride Greyhound bus going to Washington, you had to sit in the back. And if you… there wasn’t no room for you in the back sometimes and young whites and were sitting back there you could stand up but yet pay the same amount of money as the people that was sitting down.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What do you remember? Because you're talking about 1930s 1940s Right?

Cristelle Hughes

Mm-hmm.

Carolyn Grayson

I don't remember much of anything. We didn't do much of anything we were in. We were in the country. We went to school and you came home and you played.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But by the time you were a teenager?

Carolyn Grayson

Still didn't do much. If we did we would have to leave out of St. Louis area all together…

Cristelle Hughes

Wasn’t none to go…

Carolyn Grayson

Wasn’t anything to do you, or Middleburg even. They did have a theater in Middleburg at one time. But you could only-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Sit in the balcony?

Carolyn Grayson

Right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And they had a Woolworths in Middleburg right?

Cristelle Hughes

No.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No, Woolworth?

Cristelle Hughes

No, no, no they…

Carolyn Grayson

No they had a Five and 10

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Five and 10. With the counter right?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, [unintelligible] clothing store…

Carolyn Grayson

And the doctor's office was a clinic.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So did y'all, you could walk into the stores and they would serve you or they wouldn't serve

Cristelle Hughes

They would

Carolyn Grayson

They would…

Cristelle Hughes

They would serve you but there had a certain place for blacks to sit apart from whites.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right.

Cristelle Hughes

I mean you could go to Safeway and they would…I guess… you could buy things there but the like the restaurants and everything

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You couldn't

Cristelle Hughes

You couldn't

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And you have to go to the back door.

Unknown Speaker

What about Mr. Rectors store? Was he pretty fair to…

Cristelle Hughes

Well, I think he must have been pretty fair, pretty fair to people. A lot of people, Rectortown and St. Louis used to go there

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Rectortown. I've heard of Rectortown.

Cristelle Hughes

They used to have little bit of-, he used to have a little bit everything.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But what was Mr. Rector his first name?

Cristelle Hughes

I don't know.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But Rectortown is after Mr. Rector which was…

Cristelle Hughes

His name was Mr. Rector I didn't know about a…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, we don’t know okay.

Unknown Speaker

Like you said, a lot of black people used to go to him

Cristelle Hughes

Oh, yes. Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

He was. He was known to be a fair man.

Cristelle Hughes

Yes. Where he lived, not too far away from the store. He had that store there. What they have there now? One time his place was a pizza parlor

Unknown Speaker

It’s a pizza parlor…but you know it's up for sale again. Now.

Cristelle Hughes

Oh yeah. The last time I went past, went past there was pizza

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, you go there?

Unknown Speaker

Nah, there’s not much in there anymore

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, cuz that’s something, I haven't, been away for 50 some years, so I don't even know.

Cristelle Hughes

Leo took us on a pass for a ride the other day. And he was talking about how everybody would walk to Atoka and walked to Unison, and they were driving and they say whoo that’s a long ways out of here. I say we used to walk to Harrisville for the ball game

Carolyn Grayson

And see we never did any of that.

Unknown Speaker

And go to Willisville. Mr. Grandman had had a little store up there and a little music. And we go up there and dance around little while. We thought we were doing something. Walked, and then have to walk back home.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow. I know. Did y'all used to have so when I was talking to some folks yesterday who their families is, had land and grew up around where George Mason University is now in Fairfax. And they said that they remember going to St. Louis for car shows or bike shows

Cristelle Hughes

Bike shows. Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Bike Shows. They talked a lot about the bike shows.

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So what do you remember about the bike show?

Cristelle Hughes

That wasn't too long ago, you probably remembered bike shows. John Wilkins had that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What's his name?

Cristelle Hughes

John Wilkins.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

John Wilkins. And he was the person who would have the bike show.

Cristelle Hughes

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So what time of year are these bike shows?

Cristelle Hughes

I don't know sometime like…

Carolyn Grayson

Summertime.

Cristelle Hughes

I know it was summertime. Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ah. And so what happened like what was the whole

Cristelle Hughes

A lot of people would come in from everywhere, from Friday to Sunday, they would have all kinds of cook-, cookouts and dance and a lot of music and everybody had a motorcycle was there.

Carolyn Grayson

Right.

Cristelle Hughes

And then then they would ride down the road and do tricks on em.

Unknown Speaker

Oh my gosh. That had to have been a sight to behold.

Unknown Speaker

Well, everybody thought was nice, but then the white people started complaining because there was too much noise then they were holdin up the road because people be standing out in the road. And finally they just kept giving them hard times and they had to close up.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So how long, what were the years that the bike show was held? What do you think?

Cristelle Hughes

I don't know.

Carolyn Grayson

Long time. For at least 15 years or more. Had to be. Well you were young, right? You remember though.

Unknown Speaker

I remember.

Carolyn Grayson

Do you remember when it stopped? Early ‘80s right. I know I would, I would come up to see

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So the woman I spoke to yesterday said.

Cristelle Hughes

I, I remember I was living up [unintelligible] So it had to be late 80s.

Carolyn Grayson

Right oh, okay.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

She was born in 67 and she said she remembers being a little girl and her cousins used to put her in the car and take them with her to St. Louis. So maybe started in the 70s?

Carolyn Grayson

Probably

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And ran into the 80s?

Carolyn Grayson

It had to be at least 15 years. We used to go to-, come to.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What were you doing when you're at the bike show?

Cristelle Hughes

Standin lookin at the people. [unintelligible 41:51 – 41:57] A lot of people eatin and drinkin…

Carolyn Grayson

A lof of people come to eat and see-, see people you haven't seen since the last year.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Carolyn Grayson

It was like a…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Almost a little family reunion

Cristelle Hughes

A lot of people you hadn’t seen for a year.

Carolyn Grayson

A get together.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Any-, you didn't-, you weren't riding bikes.

Unknown Speaker

I was small.

Cristelle Hughes

That was too-, he was too young.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Well, clearly, it was a it was a thing because both yesterday they were talking about bike shows and then they were talking about drag racing and they're all like Black folks with this place in Manassas, they said they used to have…

Carolyn Grayson

Right, right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You know that-, you know that place they used to go to?

Walter Grayson

Well, I never went, but I heard of it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay

Carolyn Grayson

I heard of it too, but I don't know.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

which I was like I didn't know that the bike shows and the car shows that they were they were a thing.

Cristelle Hughes

I know the bike shows, everybody was, was happy they come along.

Carolyn Grayson

Because that happened about the same time every year.

Cristelle Hughes

They'd [unintelligible 43:02] and everything in the back yard. John’s sister would come and they would be cooking all day long.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So what else stands-, like if you were talking to, you know, someone who wants to know, what's the thing that makes St. Louis special and what would you say to someone

Carolyn Grayson

Other than the church man who sent a piece of the Saint Louis, I guess. And the bike show, I guess that was pretty much it. Everybody-, everybody had their own family section like we were-

Cristelle Hughes

We used to have lawn parties and everything like that [unintelligible].

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah, in the summertime and the winter was brutal.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It was?

Carolyn Grayson

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Why do you say that?

Cristelle Hughes

They didn't house try and keep us warm.

Carolyn Grayson

Because the snow… we had high snows, what we have now is nothing compared to what we had back then.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do you remember feeling when you were a child and then when you were a child, do you remember feeling like safe and protecting your community and when you went out it was like that was when you felt unsafe? Like from racism or from discrimination.

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, I never I never had any feeling.

Carolyn Grayson

I know you didn't. I was telling somebody about my mother. Yesterday because she worked for these people. And she told the man she worked for her. She told him this. He was from Tennessee. She told this man that she did not work for her name, she worked for money. Now back in those days. She got her gotten hurt something Yes. But she told anyway. And he said he was gonna use that he was from Tennessee.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Why, why would you-, why would you… This is your employer why were you telling your employer this?

Cristelle Hughes

Well, she was saying that she thought I wasn't a nice person because I wouldn't take a word-, she was trying to cut me and-… But they weren't paying no more than about $3 a day at the time. And she said that when she got a payments she said, I can't pay all your money because I didn't have the guests like I thought I would gonna have and we a little short. I say look, I didn't come here to to work for my name. I came here for my money and I need my money. So she told somebody after I left I thought she was nice person but she wasn’t nice at all. Because I was going there to work. I didn't go there to hoohaa to her.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No, no you need your money!

Carolyn Grayson

And that was back in the day when before-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes, you weren’t supposed to

Carolyn Grayson

Work for free

Cristelle Hughes

Believe me, one time I remember I went to store it used to take-, turn in your soda bottles. And I carried the bottles to the counter and they say is this right, I say yes.. And she looked at me and say “Is that right?” I say yes. She say why are you saying yes to me use will say yes ma'am. As Oh yes. And ohhh. Boy she got so mad at me cuz-, because you couldn't get me say yes ma'am. Oh boy, and why that made them feel so good to want a Black person say ma’am. And I got to the point I say you never say yes ma'am. And I’m gonna say yes. Because why was it yes ma'am.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So what, what gave you this gumption? The courage?

Carolyn Grayson

I don’t know, but now we call ourselves Christelle when we go out. We sure do it when we get an ugly we Christelle. We say Christelle came out. [unintelligible 47:12 – 47:18] We say actin like Christelle.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Was it your mama who gave you that? Like that? That spirit?

Carolyn Grayson

That wasn't granny.

Cristelle Hughes

Well, I guess my father. Because [unintelligible 47:25 – 47:38] say she don't listen. She don’t hear. I don’t hear what he’s saying you know because he know, I'm never I'm gonna be telling you what I had to say right quick.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you, that was always your spirit, you just…

Cristelle Hughes,

[unintelligible 47:52 – 47:56] You just not gonna take it…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Not gonna take it anymore. So when your employer this employer was giving you a hard time and didn't want to pay you, did you stay with that employer?

Cristelle Hughes

No

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You went somewhere else?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You remember who you start-, to start to work for next?

Unknown Speaker

No, I don’t. But I know I left.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

and what were you usually doing as a domestic for the household?

Cristelle Hughes

Cleaning, dustin, and runnin the vacuum.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And when did you stop working?

Cristelle Hughes

When I was 72?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No.

Cristelle Hughes

And my husband insisted then.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

you work up until you're 72?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes, drove down Falls Church to work. And he was…

Carolyn Grayson

I did to…

Cristelle Hughes

He was so upset when I come home in the evening. He be worried about [unintelligible 48:56 – 49:04] And I'd be a few minutes late and he'd be walking the floor when I got home. Baby. Let's try see if you can make it out to work.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So what were you doing at 72?

Cristelle Hughes

Doing the same work.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Doin the same work.

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So who was the last family you work for?

Carolyn Grayson

Charlotte, was it Charlotte?

Cristelle Hughes

Shirley. Gentry.

Carolyn Grayson

The Gentry’s, right

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The Gentry’s oh I think I know that name. The Gentry’s.

Carolyn Grayson

But they are, they are down in Falls Church.

Cristelle Hughes

they are both deceased now. They moved to the Carolinas and are both deceased.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So how long did you work for the Gentry’s?

Cristelle Hughes

28 years.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

28 years? Oh wow. 28 years. So you rai-, did you, did you, did you just clean or did you also raise their children?

Cristelle Hughes

No. Didn’t have any children.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh they didn’t have any children?

Cristelle Hughes

No, two gay ladies.

Carolyn Grayson

She was, she was [unintelligible 50:04 – 50:12]

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, I’d get there about 7:30, 8 o'clock in the morning and 12:30 I’d [unintelligible] and then I come home.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So wait a minute. We get back up there. So this is what would what were the Gentry’s name's

Cristelle Hughes

Shirley Gentry.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Shirley…Gentry… and she had a partner?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And her partner's name was-

Cristelle Hughes

Emma Schuyler

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Emma. Schuyler. Wow. That is amazing.

Carolyn Grayson

It is because they worked for the telephone company had a lot of….

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Gay couples?

Carolyn Grayson

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Really?

Carolyn Grayson

Right. I work for the telephone company. So I know they were-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So, so.

Carolyn Grayson

And they started hiring in the… they hired them whoever was in charge of whatever they started to hire them and they they kept hiring them and hiring them.

Cristelle Hughes

Cuz Emma worked 30 some years for the telephone company.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Really?

Cristelle Hughes

Shirley worked 30 years

Carolyn Hughes

It was a lot. It was the telephone had a lot of homosexuals.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, did they… How did the Loudoun community treat them?

Carolyn Grayson

They weren’t in Loudoun, they were in Fairfax…

Cristelle Hughes

They weren’t in Loudoun, they were in Fairfax…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

oh, so Shirley Gentry and Emma Schuyler, they lived in Fairfax?

Cristelle Hughes

In Falls Church.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

In Falls Church

Carolyn Hughes

But the telephone company just hired a lot of gay people.

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, I couldn’t work for any nicer people.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So they were really really nice, wow, that is really interesting. And so, after you retire from working with them, they passed on and moved.

Cristelle Hughes

They moved the first year. They uh, well yeah they moved.

Carolyn Grayson

Well you quit and then they moved.

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah I quit and then they moved because after I quit once a month they would come visit me.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Really?

Cristelle Hughes

Until they move. Yeah, they come came out to lunch, come and-, and do something. They were very nice people.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

When they were your seniors, they were a little bit older than you or about the same age?

Carolyn Grayson

I’m guessing they were younger than you.

Cristelle Hughes

They might have been a few years younger me.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. And how did you find them? How did you…

Cristelle Hughes

A girl-friend of mine heard about em and told me about told them about me I get first and then they told em to call call on me ask me to come down. And I went down there, they hired me same day he gave me a key to the house and…

Unknown Speaker

Mom even worked for what, Reagan once?

Cristelle Hughes

Oh yeah.

Carolyn Grayson

Before he became president.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ronald Reagan?

Carolyn Grayson

Yes. And when he, when he was campaigning, and he lived in that he stayed at the house that the Kennedy’s owned off of 50.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The Kennedy's?

Carolyn Grayson

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So the Kennedys owned a vacation house in Middleburg. Yeah, that makes sense. And so he stayed in their vacation house

Cristelle Hughes

Yes, up in the blues.

Carolyn Grayson

And she and she worked on a day that I don't want to put on recording for this but…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I will de-identify by the way. We have a thing…I will always take names off.

[Removed portion of discuss from transcript by request of interviewee]

Unknown Speaker

How did the two of you all get together? Oh, I'm asking…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No, no. It, it… So, um, was it two weeks ago now? So I know. I'm Donna Bohannan. From the Black History Committee. I'm technically still a member. When I joined the Black History Committee like 20 years ago, something like that. And when I was an active member Loudon County Public Schools came to the Black History Committee. And they said, so our plan is to tear down Douglass elements. And so we were like wait a minute, can we have a conversation? That school building has a lot of memory. They're like, No, we're taking it down. So what we negotiated was that, well, they were going to fund us creating like a permanent exhibit inside of the new Douglas Elementary School. And so I went around and we interviewed some of the original students that attended the Douglas Elementary School, the principal of the school, and to create this little history of Black education in Loudoun. County, which is if you go in the lobby of Douglas, elementary, the new one now, there is this whole exhibit that we created in honor of the community. And so I've still always kind of stayed connected to the Black History Committee. So when I was thinking about how to kind of re engage I reached out to Donna Donna said, oh, this is perfect timing because there's some stuff going on in the Villages of St. Louis. And here we are.

Cristelle Hughes

Mark was saying 42 acres that was supposed to be sold to St. Louis and now where is the 42 acres.

Unknown Speaker

Well, it actually is [unintelligible].

Cristelle Hughes

I read the paper sayin 42 acres, and I said, that’s, that’s almost all of St. Louis

Unknown Speaker

The land that you lived on, on the Valentine's and all that stretch.

Cristelle Hughes

Church Down.

Unknown Speaker

Oh, yeah. Then he bought the land behind the church, up to the motorcycle place.

Cristelle Hughes

Oh, yeah. That was Jackson's who owned that didn't they.

Unknown Speaker

I think it's changed hands a couple of times.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Was the Bike club Black owned? So at one time there was a bike club that came out there because there was this black owned motorcycle club?

Carolyn Grayson

At one time my mom's uncle used to own the motorcycle club.

Cristelle Hughes

[Unintelligible] but then John bought it

Carolyn Grayson

That's your cousin, right? So it was in your families hands.

Unknown Speaker

They’ve since torn it down.

Carolyn Grayson

They tore it down? Oh,

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible]. It's just [unintelligible name]’s house fell down. Yeah.

Unknown Speaker

Mr. Frost, is that Mr. Frost’s house?

Carolyn Grayson

His is further down.

Cristelle Hugehs

Frost is down in Lane.

Unknown Speaker

That’s falling

Carolyn Grayson

Wow.

Unknown Speaker

That’s coming down.

Cristelle Hughes

What house is coming down?

Unknown Speaker

Mr. Frost’s house.

Carolyn Grayson

Leon’s house.

Cristelle Hughes

Oh, it's all the way down, down the lane

[unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

[unintelligible] Miss Burning’s and Leon's house

Cristelle Hughes

Theres a big house across the road there now down that lane. White people

[unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

I've never been down that lane. I'm nervous to go down there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Why?

Carolyn Grayson

I just never like going down there. Even when I lived there I was always afraid of-

Cristelle Hughes

Kids had carried me down there for Mother's Day year yeah before last I think it was and it was interesting to see all the new…

Carolyn Grayson

because of the new people

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It was what?

[unintelligible]

Unknown Speaker

you know if it was was it? It was just you don't know? Huh? Okay cuz you used to be there? Right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So the new arrangement we're trying to understand is that this is a person or as a company that's bought up a good chunk of the land.

Unknown Speaker

A couple…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

A couple.

Unkown Speaker

A husband and wife. They have a uh…

Carolyn Grayson

Is that the Kuhns?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh the K-O-O-N, O-O-N…

Unknown Speaker

K-U-H-N

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

K-U-H-N Okay.

Unknown Speaker

Jk Moving

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

JK Moving… Oh, so they bought up a bunch of the land

Unknown Speaker

A lot of land in St Louis, the Training Center and Notre Dame school.

Carolyn Grayson

But see and see what they did with Albert's house they Albert's house was for sale and they sold that house because I watched it. They sold his house. They sold four acres of land for 400 and some thousand dollars.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What?

Carolyn Grayson

Yes, what the house on it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What?

Carolyn Grayson

Then the people that sold that house they sold it again for one acre of land with a house on it for 400 and some thousand dollars. So, they got three more acres out there. That somebody I don't know what they doin with it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So the new arrangement is that some of the land is being given back to St. Louis?

Carolyn Grayson

No it’s not given back to St. Louis…

Unknown Speaker

He’s going to put it in an easement, but he's going to put in a conservation easement.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Unknown Speaker

And then he’s going to sell it back to Loudoun County.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Unknown Speaker

[unintelligible] At least that what he promised. [unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So, when he sells it back to Loudoun…

Unknown Speaker

Perhaps a park perhaps, but

Carolyn Grayson

but the way Loudoun is turned on a lot of property into land, I mean, dwellings and so forth. It's hard to tell what they may do.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

They want to take the school they want to build a new school, which means they anticipate building more new housing out there to accommodate the new children

Carolyn Grayson

Especially if they get a new overturn of government there.

Unknown Speaker

That’s it, that’s the thing…

Carolyn Grayson

That's exactly right. Because we got it now.

Cristelle Hughes

Got this Chinese man is he

Carolyn Grayson

The one, oh, that whole, Young or Cho or whatever who says that Biden’s not fit to be president.

Unknown Speaker

Oh out in Middleburg?

Carolyn Grayson

In the 10th district. Right. He's gonna run against Wexton. Who’s in our district…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So, you are holding your breath. It sounds like in terms of what happens

Cristelle Hughes

That he don't get it. The Chinese?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well, I'm saying what's going to happen whether or not this JK

Unknown Speaker

They gotta move quickly that’s the thing, they got till the next election.

Carolyn Grayson

Exactly. And that's what it's based on the next election.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well, how quickly? Like…

Unknown Speaker

Well Newborn is up in ‘23

Carolyn Grayson

And they can get her out cuz I understand that somebody that says she was I heard that somebody said she was stupid.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So…

Caorlyn Grayson

did they? you were there?

Unknown Speaker

Probably…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So, what do you, what do you as residents of, former residents, residents of the Village, what best case scenario what would you like to see happen? Like what's the best way to honor the, the, the strength and beauty of the community?

Carolyn Grayson

I can only say say I don't know because I'm talking to a couple people that live there. What I would suggest that Loudoun County do, or St. Louis, they need to co work connect to a water lin. They got wells, and that's one of the ways that they can build. Right now they have an apartment building. Right? Right. Exactly. Could we knew when we were growing up the wells were…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The wells, what’s wrong with the wells?

Carolyn Grayson

It doesn, it is not the band doesn't percolate well. So they don't. Once you build a lot of dig a lot of wells then you can, your water is short.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, so they have to do a lot of building of infrastructure

Cristelle Hughes

Not only that, the water is coming, it’s settling in three layers of different kinds of stuff.

Carolyn Grayson

And see that's amazing cuz when we were growing up, we we didn't have a well what we grew up we got it from the white land.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where do you get, you got your water?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, carried in buckets

Carolyn Hughes

And why that's why I said win-, the winter was brutal cuz we had to go get it then too.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

When you were growing up in St. Louis you were walking to get water in buckets?

Cristelle Hughes

Buckets to bring back, yeah.

Carolyn Grayson

You didn’t know about that did you?

[unintelligible, multiple voices talking over each other about retrieving water 1:05:40 – 1:05:56]

Carolyn Grayson

And if you had a car, then you got those big 10-gallon cans and get the water.

Cristelle Hughes

I used to send the kids down to get water…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So, you had electricity but you had to go get the water?

[unintelligible, multiple voices talking over each other about retrieving water 1:06:04 – 1:06:20]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Really, did you tell me what year you were born?

Carolyn Grayson

In ‘45.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So when you were born in ‘45 you did not have electricity?

Carolyn Grayson

Right.

[unintelligible 1:06:25 – 1:06:41]

Carolyn Grayson

Mom. Bout how old, how long, about what time did you get electricity at the house? About ‘50 or ‘51?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, well yeah.

Carolyn Grayson

Cuz there was no electricity

Cristelle Hughes

No, was no electricity. [unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And how and how long before you got water? That you didn't have to, that you didn't have to go get water

Cristelle Hughes

Until we moved out of St.-, out of that part of St. Louis-

Carolyn Grayson

We were still getting water when I left. I left what 58 years ago, so I don’t know.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So we’re talking 80s You left in the 80s

Carolyn Grayson

I left in the ‘60s. ‘64 is when I left

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So when you left in ‘64 You were still going to get water with buckets.

Cristelle Hughes

Yes. Catch all the rain water you can catch right.

Carolyn Grayson

Right exactly. That’s how you wash your clothes with the water that you caught from the roof.

Cristelle Hughes

Half the time you bought water to wash your clothes

Carolyn Grayson

And use the toilet

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So y’all had outhouses

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, my grandmother did laundry and had to go and drain the water. She had three tubs here had to wash in one tub, then move your clothes in another tub and you'd be bringing all that water

Carolyn Grayson

[unintelligible] And put the iron on the stove and heat it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes, yes, yes. Now that I do remeber

Carolyn Grayson

I have one of those irons… [unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did you press her hair?

Cristelle Hughes

Everybody Press their hair

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You press the hair yep.

[unintelligible]

Cristelle Hughes

she got lazy

Dr. Wendi Mnauel-Scott

It looked stunning and fabulous

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You did have your hair down your back?

Carolyn Grayson

At one time. Yeah,

Cristelle Hugehs

[unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

Yes, so much easier. You don't have to pay anybody to go to the barbershop.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s true.

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible] Same way she ended up cutting all that hair off.

Unknown Speaker

Go to the barbershop-

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Which begs the question. Where was the barbershop? Where did y'all get your haircut in St. Louis?

Cristelle Hughes

Where San Louis we had men that lived in St. Louis, who would cut hair. [unintelligible] Mr. Stewart.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mr. Stewart?

Cristelle Hughes

We had Mr. Stewart

Carolyn Grayson

You mean Mr. Alcostar. Oh, okay. And then people start going to Ralph right?

Cristelle Hughes

James Page.

Carolyn Grayson

Okay….

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where were they? Where were their shops?

Cristelle Hughes

Hamilton in Purceville. Then people a lot of people's men cut [unintelligible] used to cut hair.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And was their beauty shop anywhere?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes, Middleburg.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It was a black beauty shop?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What was it called?

Cristelle Hughes

Cooks. [unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What was their last name?

Cristelle Hughes

Isabelle Baltimore.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Isabelle. Baltimore.

Cristelle Hughes

She did because she had [unintelligible].

Carolyn Grayson

I don't know. I know that the Cook- the Cook people and I know Miss Isabel did her and Miss Miss what-ya-call-her did hair. Who used to do my, uh, uh, was it miss, the Smith lday?

Cristelle Hughes

Audrey?

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah,

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah Audrey did hair.

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah, she used to do my hair.

Cristelle Hughes

She did a lot of people’s hair

Carolyn Grayson

Right. Exactly. And she was in St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

She was what?

Carolyn Grayson

She lived in St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh she lived in St. Louis

Carolyn Grayson

Right

Cristelle Hughes

And she, she was doing hair

Carolyn Grayson

Right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Okay. Yeah, get your hair did so if y'all needed to get your hair did you get your fresh cut and you need to buy amazing on the Sunday Sunday dress. Are you going to Middleburg to go shopping to buy clothes?

Cristelle Hughes

Well we went all kinds of places. Winchester-

Carolyn Grayson

Winchester.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You guys went to Winchester.

Cristelle Hughes

Winchester, and Washington.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

See, I'm just every time I think Winchester, I just don't even know what's in Winchester. So it's just like blowing my mind.

Carolyn Grayson

Back in the day. It used to be the place to go. They had a store.

Cristelle Hughes

They still have a lot of stores in Winchester-

Carolyn Grayson

Okay-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

They do? Where?

Unknown Speaker

The city-

Carolyn Grayson

It’s a mall-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I guess I don't know that part of Winchester. Yeah, I was imagining going to DC like that to me without the farther drive to go to DC.

Cristelle Hughes

Well we, we used to go to DC too

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

you did?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Cristelle Hugehs

Down to what's called, when transit came through That's when we, I stopped going.

Carolyn Grayson

What?

Cristelle Hughes

I said when the transit first started going, That's when we stopped going. Because, well, none go to Washington.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, you mean by catching the greyhound or whatever?

Cristelle Hughes

Because Greyhound, but we drove to Washington-

Carolyn Grayson

Well yeah, the bus in Middleburgh-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Didn’t go to Washtington. Yeah that, I mean that… Yeah. Just in terms of like all the stores

Cristelle Hughes

Even you know when until the transit came in. You just could go there but as they start turning up speaking you didn't know know where you were going? Kind of select everything.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You say transit, you mean the train?

Cristelle HughesYeah.

Carolyn Grayson

You mean the Metro?

Cristelle Hughes

Metro

Unknown Speaker

That’s what I was gonna say, what do you mean transit. Okay metro.

Cristelle Hughes

Metro.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Metro didn't come out. I mean, it stops at um…

Cristelle Hughes

Well I mean goin-, going into town.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay. You just, just the contruction-

Cristelle Hughes

We’d go through Clarendon and you know, through-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ah, got you

Cristelle Hughes

But after that they start tearing everything up.

Yes,

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible 1:13:03 – 1:13:09] it's almost as bad.

Unknown Speaker

I liked the other place after that, after a while you started shopping and-

Unknown Speaker

Going to Seven Corners and then with ease in Seven Corners and Tysons Corner.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, that makes sense. Yes. Yeah. Was there that person who had the skating rink out there, did y’all go to that?

Cristelle Hughes

Yes. My [unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

The was before my time

Cristelle Hughes

After your time

Carolyn Grayson

After my time, after my time

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I think it’s still out there. It's like the only wooden rink left.

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah, I mean after my time.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, so you were older, you wouldn't be goin like that.

Cristelle Hughes

Yes, Leo. That’s where he had his accident.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Anybody go to Jennie Dean?

Cristelle Hughes

No, no.

Carolyn Grayson

Cuz Douglas was open…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No one needed to go to Jennie Dean…

Carolyn Grayson

Right, right.

Cristelle Hughes

With Jennie Dean, you had, the people up this way had to live in Manassas

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

oh in order to go?

Cristelle Hughes

To go to school down there. And I guess it didn't have transportation to go back and forth every day. And they had their board board down in Manassas.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

right. Yeah. Yeah. Was there a school bus that would pick you up to take you to Douglas? Like a yellow bus?

Carolyn Grayson

Bus 16

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But 16

Carolyn Grayson

Bus 16. With no heat in the wintertime. And Carlton Howard drove, David Brown drove it and that was it. I think. And maybe I'm trying to think about David Russell if he drove it in but Carlton Howard… I know Carlton Howard and what’s his, oh David Brown drove for a while.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That was a, that was a cold ride.

Carolyn Grayson

It was, all the way to Leesburg.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So how do you stay warm?

Unknown Speaker

You don’t…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, but I mean did you take blankets, did you just uh-

Carolyn Grayson

Your-, your clothes that you normally wear, you know you’re gonna be clothed, they had heat right by the driver and you try to sit as close up front as you could.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ooh…

Carolyn Grayson

And if you couldn’t, you just sit there… Did you ever catch the bus to high school? No?

Unknown Speaker

I went to Valley

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You went to Valley. Oh, okay.

Unknown Speaker

Oh you went to Loudon Valley? Ooh, okay.

Carolyn Grayson

Because that was actually Douglas. They started the integration in ’60-something. But you had to test to go.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That's right. So loudon doesn't get full integration to like ‘68-‘69. That's right.

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah, you had to test before you went.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep

Carolyn Grayson

To see if you were smart enough to go. And we, I didn't want to test.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Carolyn Grayson

So I stayed at Douglas

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And even getting when they were testing they were only letting in like four or five Black kids.

Carolyn Grayson

That's true. Exactly.

Unknown Speaker

Demi went to Douglas-

Carolyn Grayson

Right.

Unknown Speaker

And then she graduated from Valley…

Carolyn Grayson

Did she. Okay,

Unknown Spekaer

[unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

Right. Okay. Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

How was it going to Loudon Valley back in back in the day rough?

Unknown Speaker

In my generation?

Carolyn Grayson

Y’all could handle it by that time.

Unknown Speaker

We were pretty well…

Carolyn Grayson

Established by then?

Unknown Speaker

Established

Carolyn Grayson

Right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That was a long ride too.

Unknown Speaker

[unintelligible]

Cristelle Hughes

Once you get used to it it don’t seem that bad

Carolyn Grayson

I remember going to Leesburg we had to pick up people from-, going to Middleburg on 15. All they go down 15.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

How long did it take?

Carolyn Grayson

About an hour or so.

Cristelle Hughes

I'd say you get used to it. And don't seem quite that long.

Carolyn Grayson

No. And you’re on the bus talkin to people… But you had to do that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So do you remember going… so if you-, you came of age by the 60s. Do you remember? Like all the Civil Rights stuff taking place in DC you’re spunky, were you like, was mom telling you you could go not go

Carolyn Grayson

No, um but Martin Luther King had his I had just graduated when Martin Luther King had his first he was meeting over there that was in ‘63 ’64. And he was going to happen to speak. But we didn't have any way to get there to the March. From there. You just heard about it but not nobody was goin. And then this guy in the laundromat in Middleburg and this white guy came and he saw I'm in the middle in Middleburg. I'm in the laundromat with my chest hanging down and what and so he comes over to me and and tells me that he needed some work done at his house and could come to work for him. Okay.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

White man walks up to you says he needs some work done. Okay.

Carolyn Grayson

Righ. So I’m, so he said he'll come pick me up. He did. And he also told me he would make sure that I got down to the March, in DC. Well, when we get the day come to pick me up to go to his house to work. He turned into a crazy man. First thing he did, which Renee had always told us, they will always try to trick you by laying money around. First thing he did. I went to the room to clean, he had money, laying in his dirty clothes. And I gave him his money. Because I was I was already

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I’m like that trick is so old. Like find a new trick.

Carolyn Grayson

But it might have been old but see I was just turning just starting.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, but you knew.

But I did know because I always heard So then he told me he wanted me to clean his closet. And he got chairs got a chair for me to stand up in the closet to clean his closet. And then I feel something down by my leg and and it’s him. I jump down on his head because then he says he wanted me to iron some clothes. So I'm on and and he comes to me and I hold the iron on him. And he said Get in the car I'm taking your home because you're not who I thought you were.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

WHAT!?

Carolyn Grayson

That’s what he said and he brought me back. But it turns out I heard at a later time he did somebody else went to work for him and he raped them. But I was really very scared because I'm scared of horses. And it was on a farm. And there was a lot of horses in the yard, the field… And all I could see was horses.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So how old are you?

Carolyn Grayson

I had just turned 18.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you went home and told your mom?

Carolyn Grayson

I told my grandmother.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You tell your grandmother and what they do, what they say?

Unknown Speaker

Nothing. And she said don't say anything because, and see because when I knew she was not what I want to say, she was not a troublemaker, right. And she said that don't say anything because he was it was a wealthy man, evidently. And you just want to keep it keep it quiet. But I did jump down on his head.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You got away by the skin of your…

Carolyn Grayson

Right exactly. Because he knew people knew he where he picked me up he knew people-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

and then so shady that he's gonna dangle this Civil Rights event to try to get you…

Carolyn Grayson

And I dind’t get to go and see Martin Luther King

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

that's such a horrible way to remember it. So like how did well you were domestic going in and out of people's homes. And here you have this moment? How did you protect yourself and stay safe because it seems like many of the people maybe the women in St. Louis, you're working in these Middleburg homes. So how did you make sure that you were staying safe?

Cristelle Hughes

Never had a problem.

Carolyn Grayson

Mom never had she never had a problem, cuz I told you she had that mouth on her. But we but I never work for [unintelligible] the Wiley’s.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The what?

Carolyn Grayson

The family named the Wiley’s.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

W-A-L-L…

Carolyn Grayson

W-I-L-E-Y I think it was. And I went to work for them because the lady that worked for them, and I was asking and one of the little girls spit in my face. I'm like can you take me home? That was right after after the other man. So I'm like I'm done.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The little girl spit in your face. Why?

Carolyn Grayson

It's because she just wanted to. First off they had a lunch. The maid was there. She was the white lady. She fixed lunch for them. And I'm thinking I'm gonna have what they have for lunch. Oh, but it wasn't at all what they have lunch. I had to sit at the table and I'm thinking that you know cuz they taught me when I was going to school that you're going to be able to get all of this. They told us that. If you graduated from high school, you could go and get this job in DC or whatever you could get a good job and whatever. And then in and out we walked all over DC trying to apply for jobs and they wouldn't even take our address.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Year-, what year is this?

Carolyn Grayson

In ‘63 and you wouldn't even let us in to take our applicants

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right, right. Yep.

Carolyn Grayson

In ‘63 They wouldn't. But then I ended up getting a job through a employment office and working at a bank in DC and the employment office charged us me monthly salary. But then it turns out I made friends with this white girl. She got her job through the employment office. They didn't charge her. They charge the-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The Black folks, right. They made them they took a month of their pay?

Carolyn Grayson

Exactly. They took a month of my pay. But they did. They did not. They didn't charge the white girl. And the girl told me that's how I found out the bank was paying the employment. So then they took that…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Like a finder's fee…

Carolyn Grayson

Right. Exactly. So evidently, they got paid twice when they hired black people. So the white people didn't have to pay. They did not take it from that chair. And I found that out by becoming friends with her.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah and she disclosed the secret

Carolyn Grayson

Yes, she did.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you came it sounds like it's interesting these things these two generational experiences right? Yours was really rocky because you were coming of age-

Carolyn Grayson

Right, exactly, coming of age and when things were just changing. Yeah. Or really for us all together

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes, yeah

Carolyn Grayson

On where we could go start going to school and-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But you had the expectation that things were going to be better and easier than they were.

Carolyn Grayson

than they were.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What do you remember? What are your Do you have any memories around this to like in the 19? Because you grew up in St. Louis?

Cristelle Hughes

No he didn’t grow up in St. Louis, he was in Fairfax County.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You were in Fairfax. Were in Fairfax?

Walter Grayson

In a place called Merrifield.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Merrifield. Oh, yeah, yeah. Yeah. I've heard about Merryfield there was a pretty substantial black community there too, right?

Walter Grayson

Yeah. Which was called Williamstown.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Williamstown. Oh, okay. So we call it Merrifield now but it was called Williamstown back in the day. Well, that's a different section

Walter Grayson

Well thats a different section.

Carolyn Grayson

Well Merrifield is the town, but the section like St. Louis-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

where the black part of town is, was Williams town. And that's where you grew up. That's where you were born?

Walter Grayson

No I was born in Middleburg.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Oh, so you were born in St. Louis. But you-

Walter Grayson

Middleburg

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You were born in Middleburg not St. Louis. Okay. And then you left.

Walter Grayson

In 1950 I moved to Bailey’s Crossroads.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay.

Walter Grayson

In Falls Church

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. All right. So yeah, you're in Falls Church okay.

Carolyn Grayson

He was all over the place.

Cristelle Hughes

Moved all over the place.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And you were, you've lived in St. Louis the entire time. You were born in St. Louis.

Cristelle Hughes

Winchester.

Unknown Speaker

Winchester Hospital

Carolyn Grayson

And came home.

Cristelle Hughes

Came home to St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, okay. So when you were, so the 1960s for you?

Unknown Speaker

I was born in ’71.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay. You're right. Oh, you're my age. Okay. We’re the same age. Okay.

Unknown Speaker

That's my first day. Look, I went to work for the telephone company. In 71.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, so by the time you came around, things had changed a bit.

Unknown Speaker

A bit, I didn’t know a lot of [unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

Right exactly.

Unknown Speaker

I went to school with whites and…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right, yes, by then Loudon was integrated.

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah. Right.

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible 1:27:17]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And St. Louis was not as was it still as populated as it was when y'all were there? Or a lot of people that moved out by the time you came.

Unknown Speaker

I think some people were still livin there. Still probably we had St. Louis was all Black.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right.

Unknown Speaker

We had a white family on one side, it was the Poland’s.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The what? Polans?

Unknown Speaker

P-O-L-A-N-D

Cristelle Hughes

Okay. Do you did you go school with Miss beaver?

No she was [unintelligible name]’s age, she was [unintelligible name]’s teacher

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

well, you went to Banecker as well.

Unknown Speaker

I went to Bannecker too [unintelligible]Valley Loudon.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Okay,

Unknown Speaker

So we had-, St. Louis was all Black and we had a white family on one side, which was the Poland’s on the other side, which was the Satinas Yeah.

[unintelligible]

Unknown Speaker

So Satinas were a white family too

[unintelligible]

Cristelle Hughes

Last time I said they had to gate fence.

Unknown Speaker

The family bought it

Cristelle Hughes

Oh, yeah. It looks so odd.

Carolyn Grayson

It was just for sale. Not too long ago I think

[unintelligible]

Cristelle Hughes

That place with nasty. He wanted to kick and fuss with everybody. Albert had to go to court and having bought a nice place in [unintelligible] when she was down there. She said he came down there one day with rifle on shoulder and say do you have a dog here. Somebody’s dog is in, in my cattle and she say no. At that time she said phone went and this lady said is my husband at your house. She says who is it? She says yest. Well, she said put him on the phone. And you hear him hollering get away [unintelligible].

Carolyn Grayson

But wasn’t he supposed to be a lawyer or something?

Cristelle Hughes

I don't know what it was but Albert said he came up there in say he was killing people's dogs in but anyways totaled out but he appreciated having that check to us when he is pleased.

Carolyn Grayson

Talking about Alberts house?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, he didn’t appreciate all the checks coming.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

This is recent or a long time ago?

Cristelle Hughes

Well, guess

Carolyn Hughes

what? Well, Abbott's house still looks the same.

Cristelle Hguehs

Yeah, And the Jackson house too. Jackson went down bought that avenue had always been down there. [unintelligible]. Coming to that though, with a gun, threatenin he told me he didn't like the set of checks and-

Carolyn Grayson

he sold the place and because I saw that it was on sale not too not too long ago and that's been about a year ago, maybe not even that long.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do you I mean like one thing is interesting here is that like books are selling for right reasons I'm and you might imagine their home in the land. But like this the St. Louis community are their conversations among its members around what it means when you put your home in your land up for sale?

Cristelle Hughes

Well I tell you when I sold mine… I didn't want to be bothered anymore and I knew I never go down there to live anymore. I’m just glad to get it off my hands cuz you paid whole lot of taxes on it, you know keepin and taken care of your place. So thats the reason I sold momma’s house. Because I knew I'd never go back. I hate it down there.

Carolyn Grayson

That's what I was telling Garrett out today saying that because what's his name is Salantino work Tina and Uncle Wilmore but it says it's not a full acre it's only 90.94 or w hatever.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So that's what the interesting rub here right? So folks who want to leave to go do whatever right and they don't want to be have to worry about the home or to maybe do whatever with this. But the consequence of that

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah, right. Exactly. Yeah. The only thing is that I'm gonna be honest with you. Where we used to live, where Granny Lucies house was. I used to have nightmares about after a nap on down there. Because it was it was dreary. And I was telling Kerry because he was saying that if he could he would want to buy that place. I'm like I never would-

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

I’d never wander into that blackmud in the yard

Cristelle Hughes

In wintertime. I put rocks on everything, you know, everything and the road. And still everything would just sink right down and you were always getting stuck in wintertime right? You’re stuck in the winter time. People have tore transmissions in the car going up in that name. And it just was a hard way of getting on. And half the time you get halfway in and get buy your groceries and drag them all up the the field.

Carolyn Grayson

Do you drive Marcus? Do you Okay, are you driving today? Oh, okay. All right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So how did it-

Carolyn Grayson

So you don't have a problem so you never had a problem getting in and out of your neighbor- traveling.

Unknown Speaker

I worked on the driveway a lot. Though granny did use to you say drove straight to China.

[unintelligible 1:33:20 – 1:34:21]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What is it about the land that just makes it…

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh it was like a swampy area.

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

He gave it to them?

Cristelle Hughes

Miss Hamlin. She use to have water and she would would drain t-, tubs of water off trying to make it come clear. But then we were sitting in the back in the bottom like rust water. And then the next will be like lighter kind of. Almost very oily. But the top became clear. And that's where we were saying three layers of, when she said it was like three layers of water. And Ben say he say something happened. Boy, when you say you got to put a filter in so it put some kind of tank in his house to have water filtered.

Carolyn Grayson

That's what most of them have to do. They don't have… Yeah I understand that's a common term that they use salt or something. Right okay. That's what I'm saying.

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible] put it in their house to the filter the water because

Carolyn Grayson

That's what I was saying, that it seemed like Loudoun County should run water through there.

[unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

Because it seemed to me they you know, they got this sew-, that's why I was telling somebody they got to sewer line running through. They should run the water through, because you're still paying the same as we pay for now when I was at one time I know somebody was paying 80 some dollars every three months. And that's what we were paying for the water and the sewer,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

but the water lines are out in Middleburg. So why? Like what's the history behin them not running the water lines out to St. Louis

Carolyn Grayson

cause a probably trying to get them out of that property then they'll run it out there. That's what I think they tryin to do. Because they could run it out there if they ran the sewer line, because the sewer is going to run into the toilet and to drain out, I mean you know your water whatever you use, but it's because in that article was his name Jackson said his water went down. And he couldn't you know, he could tell that his water pressure was gone

[unintelligible 1:36:49 – 1:37:11]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, so when you were born, did y'all have running water?

Unknown Speaker

When I was there, but we didn't have a sewer, we had an outhose.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You had te outhouse in ‘71. So when did y'all get sewer?

Unknown Speaker

We got we put in a new septic field in my house. So I'm-, we're not on the public sewer.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, okay, so y'all have a septic tank

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So when, so when did you get on the septic because you said 71 did have your outhouse. Which did y’all switch over to septic.

Unknown Speaker

In the late ‘70s I imagine.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh wow.

Unknown Speaker

We were grandfathered in. I think the newer houses have to hook up, but we were grandfathered in.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, oh, oh. And so when you have a septic you can't have a garbage disposal.

Unknown Speaker

Right, right.

Cristelle Hughes

And you have person by coming clean it every few years

Unknown Speaker

Every three years.

Carolyn Grayson

Every three years. So y'all can go to bathroom a whole lot huh? I’m just kiddin.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do you remember the first time you voted?

Cristelle Hughes

No, I don't

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

you were you when you came of age you could vote

Carolyn Grayson

And I voted once I became of age and I made sure all three of my kids did.

Cristelle Hughes

I carried Angie when she got 18, and I carried them to go vote and boy, she thought it was greatest thing. But well, four months later, they want us to come to Alexandria, to be on a jury. [unintelligible] . First trip goin down to Alexandria.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you remember the when you vote you remember who the first person you voted for was?

Cristelle Hughes

No, no, I don’t know who's the first person was…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Or first presidential

Caryolyn Grayson

I can't even remember that myself. Whoever was when I was 18 or running up there. But I do know that when uh, when whats the man's name? He was the military guy. And he-

Cristelle Hughes

Eisenhower?

Carolyn Grayson

No he was running for Congress at the time. Oh God, and he was selling weapons. I can't remember his name now. And my sister, he was, he ran as a Republican and I voted against him. And my sister I said I was wondering who was doing that because he lost. Oliver North.

Dr, Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oliver North, oh…

Carolyn Grayson

I know because he ran, he ran-, he was sellin the weapons to Iran and Afghanistan.

Cristelle Hughes

He she said she said [unintelligible]…but I'm going to vote Democrat but to tell my mother because she I have a fit. And yes, the Lord and mother came in she said to me she said I'm vote for Democrat [unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

so what was the what-, what like year election was that?

Cristelle Hughes

I don't remember what year it was. I remember they both changed. You want him, they wanted Oliver North

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, this is all around Oliver North. Wow.

Carolyhn Grayson

That had to be at least 20-some years ago cuz Loretta was still here and, and she died in ‘96

Unknown Speaker

It was ‘94.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Like I remember the name but like that was not really registering. Yeah,

Unknown Speaker

yeah, that wasn't because I voted against him. Wow. Wow. Because you had in primaries you had to do either republican or democrat and so I had to get my Republican information at that time. And so then one you to go in the booth after that. They don't know you vote for. Yeah. Or they shouldn't know anyway.

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

You just push the lever for who you want

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, well not the computers though

Cristelle Hughes

No no, wasn’t any no computer to be thought about…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It was a lever. I don't know that. I don't know-

Unknown Speaker

You pull the curtain.

Carolyn Grayson

You pull the curtain and then they have some little things you push down and then when you open the curtain back up your vote was cast.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right, right, right. I thought you meant something you were doing in public and I was like what? Okay, no, still behind the curtain. Okay.

Cristelle Hughes

Now its not behind. Now you just going in there and taking the paper and pop them in.

Carolyn Grayson

This time I did early voting. I don't trust I don't trust it as much as I normally would.

Dr. Wnedi Manuel-Scott

You’re not alone.

Carolyn Grayson

But I'll still do it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, yeah, absolutely. Right. Absolutely. I really don't trust it now.

Cristelle Hughes

This was first time I did early voting, I think I used to just go-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Same. Yeah, first time I did it was during the pandemic yea doing early voting

Cristelle Hughes

I used to go across the street there. Yeah. Wow. A lot of people here works over there. They know us when we come in

Unknown Speaker

we did, this time I did early voting and I just feel like Youngkin shouldn’t have won. That's just me.

He scared the people and the fear worked.

Carolyn Grayson

Right, exactly. That's true. And he's really strong in Loudoun County. But he is, and isn’t. He didn't, he didn't win in Loudoun County,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

but he won but he lost by a small enough margin…

Carolyn Grayson

Right to still but he can-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Because it's Fairfax and Loudon that whole state and so by him shrinking that percentage it’s enough

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah. What, do you live in this area?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes ma'am. So I live in New Aldie on near south-, South Riding..

Carolyn Grayson

Oh that’s right. Oh yeah. That’s what sehs aid she was living over where Carrie lives.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, we've been there. Seven, eight year. Before that we were in Leesburg.

Unknown Speaker

Yeah. But my son lives at Kirkpatrick Farm.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay. Yeah, we're, we're the neighborhood across the street from that.

Unknown Speaker

Yeah. Okay. Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So it's been, I know, there's even a community of black community, Arcola that was back in there. That's another kind of history thread that I'm going to try to pick up on, to understand, but this has been illuminating. I appreciate y'all

Carolyn Grayson

Did you get anything

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

it's recording on my phone.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, phone's recording Okay. Make sure you take some of those names out. Make sure you take out Reagan bits.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Let me actually so I so this… y'all can read, can read this. Maybe the two of y'all since you did most of the talking.

Carolyn Grayson

That was her, did all the time.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So I will Note I will note that. I'm gonna remove you know anything about Reagan. Okay. All right. Um, but basically this says like our conversation is a gift and I'm not paying you. That’s what this means Do you want me to pass this, do you feel okay signing it? You can read it for her too. You can read. It says I'll read it. It says “I hereby given convey to the center of George Mason legacies. The George Mason Library's All right title interest in the recordings,” and that's what's on my phone. “And in the transcripts,” I'll have a student that will take the recording and turn it into text that the result from the interviews listed below, “subject to any attached restrictions,” restrictions of what you just said. So we don't want you to include anything about Reagan. transcripts, “I understand that these interviews will be protected by copyright.” So Mason will will have them and our purpose again, is it may not be the whole transcript but to take sections particularly around kind of the histories of St. Louis, kind of early history of Loudoun and to make some of those early, some of that early history available to the community to students who want to understand the history. Not include, and despite we're not doing any radio, I'm not taking any video. Right? If we for example, if we created an exhibit and we wanted to have an excerpt about what it was like and the funky roads right so maybe that excerpt is a part of an exhibit so students know what it was like back in the day. This tip “does not preclude any use that I myself want to make of the information recording.” So that last line means what if I want to write an article about African Americans to St. Louis so maybe some of the history that you shared would be a part of an article about St. Louis the been, you know,

Carolyn Grayson

but but I haven't I don't think it said anything that's of any value… Do you

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, I do. So I'm I'm the kind of historian that's interested in, well, Black people. That's what I'm interested in. I'm interested in how we create communities, how we resist racism and assault. Like like how we ended up standing here despite all the crap that's happened to us. And so I y’all have said a lot. You've had you said a lot

Carolyn Grayson

More than you need to.

Unknown Speaker

Yeah, I have a question the old church. Before it's burned down. Where was that at?

Cristelle Hughes

Down the like, [unintelligible]. But it was down the edge of Blackburn because when when they went [unintelligible]. They were supposed to pay the church because to its own part of that in [unintelligible], you know with the big tree.

Unknown Speaker

So right the way we turn into [unintelligible]?

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, but it was on like on a wetland Park. In there.

So is that where Williams’ land. Who lives not on Allen Williams land but the next door next door that used to own that, I don’t know who owned it now.

Carolyn Grayson

But you mean like all the gate and all of that stuff down at the gate and everything is.

Cristelle Hughes

Like, like going you know how you go up our lane this way. It goes this way too Allen Williams. But over on this side it was Vamper and Ereditor

[unintelligible]

Cristelle Hughes

Miss Fanny? You you know where they live.

Carolyn Grayson

You don't you don't remember the farm right after. You know where cousin Tom, or where Alan Williams lived?

Unknown Speaker

Yes.

Carolyn Grayson

Next-, then the building next door. [unintelligible] And they always had a gate

Cristelle Hughes

You go up to the house up there.

Carolyn Grayson

Cuz they had cows

Unknown Speaker

Right by the end of the road.

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah, by the end of the road because they’re right on the side of the road there. That's where the church was.

Carolyn Grayson

The church was that close to-, to-, for y'all to walk to?

Cristelle Hughes

No, before my days. By the time I got ready to go to church, it was where it is now.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, okay. How old is it?

Cristelle Hughes

We had to walk

Carolyn Grayson

and how old is the church that’s there?

Unknown Speaker

That building was built in ‘29.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, so you were so you were five? Well, okay.

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah.

Carolyn Grayson

Because I don't remember who could [unintelligible].

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And that’s the same church you went to as well?

Cristelle Hughes

Winfield, Reverend Johnson and Reverend Carter and Reverend whatcha-call…

Unknown Speaker

Wilson?

Cristelle Hughes

Wilson

Carolyn Grayson

Is that who the pastor is now?

Unknown Speaker

We got Reverend Thompson now

Carolyn Grayson

Oh mom, you gonna sign this?

Cristelle Hughes

Sign if you wanna sign.

Caorlyn Grayson

I didn’t say I was gonna sign it, I thought you were gonna sign in

Cristlle Hughes

So if yanything bad comin you’ll say oh momma gave me up

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah, cuz you got 98 years.

Cristelle Hughes

She’ll say oh her mind ain’t too good.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh. Your mind is very crystal clear!

Caorlyn Grayson

No, no, I-, that’s not what I’m sayin!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah but if you, if you if you sleep on anything, oh, I also want Wendy to take out x, y and z. We'll take out we can take out names. I don't want I never want anybody feel uncomfortable. or unsafe. So yeah. You see,

Cristelle Hughes

Can you see how to write, I-, my seein aint much better…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It's just that, I can write your name in there. And then the signature is just right here.

Carolyn Grayson

The signature there?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes ma’am

Carolyn Grayson

Okay, here you go. Sign right there.

Cristelle Hughes

Oh, she liked it.

Carolyn Grayson

Just came over here to see what was going on.

Unknown Speaker

You went to check in on your mama,

Carolyn Grayson

Right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I'm not mad at you at all, at all one of my very well. regrets. My father…Wasn’t till later that he started you know, talking about his time in Birmingham. But I wish that I had spent more time asking him questions.

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah. Okay, what's your address mom?

[removed for confidentiality 1:52:29]

Carolyn Grayson

right, I got that one. Okay,

[removed for confidentiality 1:52:34]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But your spunkiness…

[removed for confidentiality 1:52:43]

Cristelle Hughes

came home. One day from shopping and Lana knock on the door saying I'm taking all the names of the people in their 90s it was three years and four next build. Wow. And

Carolyn Grayson

mom doesn't have the email address

Cristelle Hughes

I was always oldest.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Really the oldest?

Cristelle Hughes

And I'm the oldest person living there since birth since [unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

She was older than you.

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So the question always is well, what's the secret? How can I end up 98 and spunky?

Cristelle Hughes

It's all in God's hands I don’t know! I really don’t know cuz all my family died by 75. They were all gone

Carolyn Grayson

and we all-

Cristelle Hughes

And I just-

Carolyn Grayson

And I keep telling everybody. Mom had 13 kids so I'm gonna-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You had 13 children?

Carolyn Grayson

So that's why I'm told you and I'm the oldest of the 13 so that's why I told her. I gotta have 13 kids. I'm almost dead and I-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh my-

Carolyn Grayson

I only had three!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You left that little detail out. 13 children.

Cristelle Hughes

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you were born you said…

Carolyn Grayson

20- Who me?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Uh-huh, you

Carolyn Grayson

In ‘45

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You were born ‘45. So from-, when was the next child born? So you have her 45

Cristelle Hughes

[unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

Shaka was born in 46, Loretta in 47 right.

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah I guess

Carolyn Grayson

Right, right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And then who?

Carolyn Grayson

And [unintelligible name] was in what ‘50, or ’49? I’d have to look at the book. Weel she's 73 now so whatever that means. And then Alvin, cuz She's younger than-, older than Alvin.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So when was the last child born?

Cristelle Hughes

Uh, ‘66

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow. How did you keep hold all those children?

Cristelle Hughes

Then…would you believe they never have been together in their life? Not in life, they never have been all in one place. No, never

Carolyn Grayson

Because some of us been grown and left home.

Cristelle Hughes

Some left and some with two three absent and wherever every time to get together with somebody absent. They never have been together. Now, my daughter was here for my birthday. And she said this is his first time she ever seen all her brothers and sisters. But they weren't together.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, she just went around to see them?

Cristelle Hughes

Some came to visit this day and some come to visit another day.

Carolyn Grayson.

But she didn't see Kevin, did she?

Cristelle Hughes

Twice.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, did she? Oh, okay. Oh, okay.

Cristelle Hughes

Yeah saw Kevin twice.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, okay. Yeah,

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So can you name all your siblings easily? Or you have to think about?

Carolyn Grayson

No, no I’m fine

Cristelle Hughes

No they know em all

Carolyn Grayson

I got em

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh okay.

Unknown Speaker

Well I pretty much know all of the birthday.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What”

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah

Crsitelle Hugehs

Well, they keep in company, most of them keep in comp-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, well it’s just a-, 13 people, a lot of people to get together all

Carolyn Grayson

See I’m the oldest of them and most of them keep in contact with me.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, because you kind of helped raise them too because you’re the oldest.

Cristelle Hughes

No…

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah, I was the oldest and that was there for a while, so yeah, kinda sorta but yeah.

Unknown Speaker

Kinda sorta…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I mean, I'm the oldest I only have one little baby sister and I know I helped give her breakfast, did her hair when my mom was busy.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, so I left home when I got married as [unintelligible] years so up until that time I was home. All of those the younger ones are the ones but I'm still in. I don't know-, I know my sisters more than I know my brother's-, the younger brothers. But I know them all but then I know all their birthdays.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So the you had the so this-, you had all the kids at home? Or did you start going to the hospital?

Cristelle Hughes

Hospital, Winchester.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Cristelle Hughes

And then the Middleburg the clinic-, clinic there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And then because there wasn't health insurance you just paid

Cristelle Hughes

and paid you were my baby girl. I had her at home and my mothers house. Snow was so deep it couldn't get out till January. January the 31st and boy it snowed the night before I might want to say you need to be closer to somebody I don't need because by burning campus a miss Carson come down our house. So it was close one o'clock in the morning I had to call somebody.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So who was at the house when you had the baby?

Cristelle Hughes

Well, my cousin came over scared to death. [unintelligible]. Velma and Grace. Both of them are scared to death they know nothing about birthin no babies-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Birthin no babies-

Cristelle Hughes

Doctor he said he'll call and see if he can find somebody. I can’t go to no Winchester cuz they all stalled up on the mountain and go and get freeze to death. So you need to stay home. Say get somebody to understand what I'm telling him. So somebody decided May Katherine got me May Katherine.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Meg?

Carolyn Grayson

You remember May?

[unintelligible]

Carolyn Grayson

So you headed to Alexanderia

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Not today.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh alright okay.

Cristelle Hughes

He was six foot three. Right and May Catherine was short. And she said she would he make tracks for her to step in and she said everytime she stepped she laid back in snow…[unintelligible[

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. She couldn't reach

Cristelle Hughes

She couldn’t reach, and he drag her back up and finally made it I love

Carolyn Grayson

Albert Miller?

Cristelle Hughes

Uh huh.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, yeah, he was round that he was there then? Oh, but he didn't stay in the house when you had the baby.

Cristelle Hughes

No, no. [unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

He stayed down there in…

Carolyn Grayson

next door.

Cristelle Hughes

So, he took all them out of the house and carried em over to my aunt's and he in Vernon said [unintelligible]. He said you’re cracy. So they say you're gonna deliver this baby and finally and to get me [unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you delivered her without a baby

Carolun Grayson

Without a doctor.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I mean without a doctor. Right without a doctor.

Cristelle Hughes

Next day, next day. Just two days later, the doctor came in checked us out to see if we were alright. But just wasn’t nowhere to move and you couldn't go anywhere.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, so who cut the cord?

Cristelle Hughes

The lady that delivered the baby.

Carolyn Grayson

Yeah. Because I had my son was born in November before her before her baby was born my sister was born

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, so you have a son that's the same-

Carolyn Grayson

Age as my…

Ddr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow. Yeah, I guess it's inevitable when you have that spread, right?

Carolyn Grayson

Exactly.

Dr. Wendi Maneul-Scott

Yeah. Oh my goodness. That's wild. Yeah, I did two, two was…

Carolyn Grayson

More than enough, I had three.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you got ten to go.

Cristelle Hughes

I'm gone that’s it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

If you could pass me my phone please.

Carolyn Grayson

Oh, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And I’ll turn off that. Oh my gosh, this was so wonderful. Thank you. Thank you.

END