Sharon Peterson Interview

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So could we start off with your name, your given, legal, government name?

Sharon Peterson

Sharon Peterson, Sharon Smith Peterson

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Sharon Smith Peterson, Smith is your maiden-

Sharon Peterson

Maiden name, yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And what year were you born?

Sharon Peterson

Oh lord, we have to go down that-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Look.

Sharon Peterson

Can we come back to that?

We absolutely can, if you’d like to come back to that.

Sharon Peterson

Let’s do that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Now where were you born?

Sharon Peterson

I was born in Leesburg, but I’m orginally from St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, alright. So, who were your parents?

Sharon Peterson

Vincent, and Velma Smith.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Vincent and Velma Smith, okay. And where were your parents born?

Sharon Peterson

My father was born here in St. Louis, and my mother was uh-, probably born in, in that time, they kinda were born at home. So my mother’s parents were from outside of Middleburg, off Sam Fred Road.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What area is that now?

Sharon Peterson

It’s still outside Middleburg

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

They call that like the Mountsville area.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mountsville?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s not the place, the Monkey place y’all keep talking about?

Marcus Howard

No, Monkeytown

Sharon Peterson

No, what are you talking about?

Marcus Howard

She’s talking about Monkeytown

Sharon Peterson

Oh up right in Rock Hill, Bloomfield.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I’m trying to get my bearings.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So do you know how your parents met, since your mom was right outside of Middleburg, and-, I mean your mom was outside of St. Louis, but your dad lived here in St. Louis.

Sharon Peterson

Well, my grandfather passed away in ’48, my mom’s father. Uh, and I guess, after the passing of him, my grandfather, which was Raymond Barrymore. I think my grandmother, she was fairly young, I wanna say she may have been in her early 40s, she moved her family to St. Louis to the home place.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

To the home place.

Sharon Peterson

Which is here in St. Louis, where I live in. Where I live in is originally the home place which was my grandmother-, because I have two sets of grandmother’s I’m gonna call them by their first names.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

Not no disrespect for them. Maddie, which was my mother’s mother, she moved back here to St. Louis, and that’s probably where she met my father, because he was already here in St. Louis. And his parents was, Annie and Columbus.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, and when you say the “home place” you mean the villages of St. Louis.

Sharon Peterson

When I say home place for my mother, I’m talkin about the Mountsville area.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mountsville, okay, okay, got you. So your mom was born again in what year?

Sharon Peterson

My mom was born in ’31.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

In 1931 here. Okay. So where did she go to school

Sharon Peterson

She went, um, her mother-, her mother, Maddie Berryman, was a 0one=room school teacher in the Mountsville area. So she taught from the first to the seventh, when my mother went-, she went to douglas High school, she graduated in ’48, and went to Cortez Peters Business School in DC for two eyars, and graduated from there, came back, was secretary at Banneker for a while. I’m not sure if they were married then, I’m I’m not sure, she didn’t stay a secretary for very long because she met my father. He showed off a little bit and had children, so she was kind of like the stay home mom and she started doing domestic work. She didn’t ever want to go back to-, she wanted-, because if you was a secretary and you really weren’t at a school or something, then you were what we called goin down the country, going to Fairfax. And she didn’t want to be that far away from her kids.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh so that’s interesting. Oh… So she decided to be a domestic instead, okay. And so she worked in Middleburg?

Sharon Peterson

Middleburg areas, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Do you remember any of the families she worked for?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm, she worked for the DeButts in the Upperville area. Uh, not quite sure who-, because she worked for the DeButts for a long time, oh and she also worked for, um, hm, the memories not what it used to be… Kessler’s, outside of Middleburg, which again was in the Mountsville area. Those are the two families that I remember her working for.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did you ever go with her when she was working?

Sharon Peterson

No, uh-uh, she didn’t carry us to work with her.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

She didn’t.

Sharon Peterson

Uh-uh.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Why?

Sharon Peterson

Well because we had our grandmother that lived nearby, both grandmothers which was in walking distance. So, when she went to work, I mean, we didn’t have to go with her.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, okay. So, where did you grow up here in St. Louis. Where was your home?

Sharon Peterson

Behind the church.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Behind the church? Okay alright. So you were born in leesburg, so they took you-

Sharon Peterson

Well, the hospital in Leesburg-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The hospital in Leesburg

Sharon Peterson

But I was raised here all my life in St. Louis

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay alright

Sharon Peterson

Minus 22 years being married living in Chantilly but came back to St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh you did?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So whats your first memory of um, growing up in St. Louis?

Sharon Peterson

First memory. Family. They were everywhere, couldn’t do much cuz there were always those eyes. Hanging out over at the school playing basketball running around, stuff like that. Softball, we had our own little softball team, you know we played that. It was very active, not like kids today on the computer.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No it was not.

Sharon Peterson

You had to go outside and jumping rope and all that kind of stuff.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ooo, do you remember any of the jumping rope songs?

Sharon Peterson

No. But I was good at it, I wasn’t carrying the weight I’m carrying so I was fairly good at it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did y’all do, oh what was it… Miss Sally Mack? Uh-

Sharon Peterson

I’ve heard of that but-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That wasn’t a thing?

Sharon Peterson

I don’t think so, I don’t know. Playin jacks, we played that-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Playing jacks-

Sharon Peterson

My mother loved to play jacks, and Chinese checkers

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Chinese checkers yepl

Sharon Peterson

And then on Fridays, Fridays and Saturday, we had a little record player, probably don’t have no more, but we could play that as long as our parents were outside when it got dark. You know cuz if the neighborhood kids cam eyou had to have sharp.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ahh. So do you remember who lived around you. So your hosue was back behind the church, who was on your left and who was on your right.

Sharon Peterson

Okay. Well my house sat like catty corner.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So here’s the church-

Sharon Peterson

There’s the church.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did your house sit back here?

Sharon Peterson

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Like back here is your house. Okay.

Sharon Peterson

Okay, over here would be my aunt and uncle, which would be my father’s sister, only sister he had.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What were their names?

Sharon Peterson

Audrey and Richard Holmes, which I think you have an interview set out with JC Holmes. That’s his parents.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

That’s his parents. And over here-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So “JC’s parents”, let me just write that down. Okay.

Sharon Peterson

Was Sarah Moore.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Sarah Moore, okay.

Sharon Peterson

And she was an Aunt. And then, you, kinda, I guess you had to come this way up Delaney and on 611, but it was just a lane her like a lane.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

A little road like this?

Sharon Peterson

Not quite 611, then my Grandparents, Annie and Columbus

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Annie-

Sharon Peterson

And Columbus Smith.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, and Columbus Smith. Okay, and they live right there.

Sharon Peterson

So we were all right there in that circle. And this being 611, if you came this way right across from Vida was my other grandma. Maddie Berryman.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh yeah, so everybody-

Sharon Peterson

Uh-huh.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Was right there. Mm, so did you used to cut back through here to get to the church?

Sharon Peterson

We had a pathway yes. That came down to the church. And also, I guess, this back road here, that would also lead you straight up to my grandma’s house passing other homes that was there too. So, see we didn’t really need to get on the highway, we could go up through the back road, we called it the back road.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, so when you were a kid, was this still McQuay’s store here?

Sharon Peterson

No, that wasn’t McQuay’s store.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It wasn’t a store then?

Sharon Peterson

McQuay’s-, well that was my uncle’s store. That would be up here next to my grandmother’s house, Maddie.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right here?

Sharon Peterson

Uh-huh.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Your uncle had a store?

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, Phil, Phil McQuay.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ah that’s Phil McQuay. And do you remember what he sold in his store?

Sharon Peterson

Um, no because by that time, by the time that I came home to see the store didn’t exist anymore. But he had two stores, one in St. Louis and one in Willisville.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What, I keep hearing about Willisiville. Okay.

Sharon Peterson

So he had two stores.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Do you know how he got his money to have two stores?

Sharon Peterson

He was Mister Haney, Haney. Remember on Green Acres, Mister Haney, who hustled?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I vaguely, cuz I was, I didn’t watch that show very often. But I know the show Green Acres and a… [vocalizes tune].

Sharon Peterson

I believe that, um, not I don’t believe, I know Matt and Phill Parents were one of the first two settlers in St. Louis, which was Charles and Etta, uh, I’m not saying that right…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Maddie and Phil’s parents?

Sharon Peterson

Right.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Some of the first residents of St. Louis?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm, Charles and Ella.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So, they were Charles and Ella.

Sharon Peterson

That was their names, he was a McQuay, and her maiden name was Poles.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, I’ve heard that before too. Okay. Okay.

Sharon Peterson

And I want to.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So he got his money from his parents who-

Sharon Peterson

Well they had a lot of land, because I was told my grandmother had about 300 acres. So that being her brother-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Maddie Berryman or Sarah Moore?

Sharon Peterson

Maddie.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Maddie had about 300 acres? And how do you spell her last name, Maddie’s?

Sharon Peterson

M-, see she was a Berryman, her maiden name was McQuay. M-C-Q-U-A-Y

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right that’s her maiden. But Berryman, how do you spell Berryman?

Sharon Peterson

B-, B-E-R-R-Y-M-A-N. Berry-man.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh Berryman. Okay. So Maddie McQuay Berryman at one point had about 300 acres.

Sharon Peterson

Which they probably inherited form Charles and Ella.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

And Maddie being their only girl, and she had six brothers.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Now where were the 300 acres?

Sharon Peterson

VDOT-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh…

Sharon Peterson

Several of the farms, the Sesteen’s farm, the Delia’s farm, um, some of the houses that surrounding houses that’re built.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

When did she-, so did she sell her land or did the children start selling off the land?

Sharon Peterson

No-, she, she sold the major-, she sold all of it except for 6 acres.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow.

Sharon Peterson

I guess, you know you sell little bits to sell taxes. I’m not sure, I didn’t understand then, because when I bought it back, I had-, well when my mother died, uh it was 6 acres and a house and I was so- I hate to tell this sotry, I was so frustrated with my sibling until I almost gave it away. I almost sold it, because I had been paying taxes on twoo different for 15 years, I couldn’t, I tell them I couldn’t afford it. So I got angry and I sold it. I hate to tell it, that I sold it. But I’m gonna tell it, I sold it for $50,000. Oh yeah. I gave it away.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You gave it away!

Sharon Peterson

To buy back cost me half a million, for-, and you haven’t heard the worst part, for little over half an acre.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What?!

Sharon Peterson

Yep. It bugged me that I let it go like it went for the simple fact, my fore-, my forefathers they work hard, they sweat, they did things I know-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

They did…

Sharon Peterson

I could have never done. And it haunted me every day that I let it go. So I had to get it back at any cost it-, you know. And I did.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You bought it back?

Sharon Peterson

Yeah! I just told you, for a half-a-million bucks I did!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow.

Sharon Peterson

When I let it go for $50,000. See if I had been thinkin, I could’ve had somebody else buy it and sell it back to me, and that way we would leave it in the siblings. You know. I didn’t want to argue with them.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ohh, so all y’all owned it, all y’all had to pay taxes but they didn’t want to pay the taxes so it was all fallin on you, got you.

Sharon Peterson

Exactly.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So I wonder, this is really interesting to me because I get the economic piece. As folks start selling off the bits of land that they’ve inherited, they’re saddled with the taxes, and so maybe they’re deciding they’d rather just sell it that pay the taxes.

Sharon Peterson

Or a lot of people now are younger, it’s nothing here to offer younger people, so they go where the jobs are. They don’t want to be here. You know? They, they have no desire to come unless its big Sunday at church, you know and go where grandma used to go and momma, but they don’t, it’s nothing here for them. So they think, unitl they get older, you know, and then you realize all this history you had here. All the encouragement that you could’ve been anything you want. I mean St. Louis produced a lot of positive people here, you know? Judges, lawyers, the-, the-, teachers, you know, a lot of things? But you don’t realize it till it’s too late.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Breaks your heart.

Sharon Peterson

It do, it do. And when you talk about it and say it to people, they kind look at you like you’re crazy. I’m not crazy, I know what I’ve been saying vuz I’ve experienced it. But to make you understand it, I don’t know what more I can say. You know? We limit ourselves in a lot of ways, as far as, our way of thinking, our way of encouragement, you know. We as Black people, we like cracks. We see one going up the [unintelligible word 16m19s] we pull them back down. Seriously, you know and when you realize it doesn’t work you got to-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Support each other.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, it’s got to be, we gotta be a village.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, well you, you had a vibrant village, right? And the, what’s so amazing to me is to capture the history of that vibrant village, that community that was producing incredible teachers and lawyers and singers and artists.

Sharon Peterson

Exactly.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And look, some people may think it’s nothing here, but there’s a reason people come in here and buy up all the land. So, yeah. And even I know it probably used to be that it wasn’t close to me, but it takes me 25 minutes to come you know right from Aldie so the stores and all the stuff…

Sharon Peterson

Yeah… the convenience is all there. But the history is here.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But the history is here. So you live back there close to lots of family you could come across here, was the dining hall here when you were a wee child? So I’m talking pre-teenager, the dining hall was here already.

Sharon Peterson

The Dining Hall was here

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. So where did you go to first grade?

Sharon Peterson

Banneker.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you went to Banneker for first grade.

Sharon Peterson

I went to Banneker until ’68. Schools were segregated until ’68. And then from there, I hit one year I could’ve gone to Douglas again not thinking out the rim, I’m gonna be going to valley. Why wouldn’t I have just started valley not knowing the history Douglas had, I could have at least gotten one year in. But my oldest brother went there for-, I think he went there for two years, and then he went to Tennessee until-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Tennessee State?

Sharon Peterson

He might have gone to East Tennessee State, but he lived in Tennessee also for 40-45 years. And he died two years ago. And he told me, he’d call me because I’m a widow as well, he said, he would always, “do you need anything, what you need done around the house?” I said “well I got a light bulb out front, I can’t get unscrewed, it’s rusty or something.” “I’ll be up. Do I need to bring my chainsaw or anything what I need to do?” He was that type, stepped right in and did a lot for me. So he had told me in January he was moving back to VA. I said “really, really? Come on now?”, he says, “I’m getting married, I’m gonna ask her on the 14th of February to marry me.” He had found this nice girl named Mica, and then he said “I’m gonna ask her to marry me”, and I said “well you don’t need my approval.” He said “I wasn’t asking for it.” He died the 24th of January, so he didn’t get to ask her, and he didn’t, he came back to Middleburg, but not the way he wanted to. I, I brought him back.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So where is he now?

Sharon Peterson

He’s out at the Middleburg cemetery

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

He’s back out here? Okay, I walked there yesterday-

Sharon Peterson

No, not here. The one in Middleburg, there’s a cemetery in Middleburg, Solon, he’s out there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh okay. So was that an integrated cemetery, or was it Black-

Sharon Peterson

It was Black. It’s a Black cemetery.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

You have, like four, you have this one, the one in Middleburg, the one in Upperville, and the one in Rock Hill. Now the one in Rock Hill, guess who the caretaker is.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Hm?

Sharon Peterson

Yours truly.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You’re the caretaker of the Rock Hill cemetery?

Sharon Peterson

Uh-huh.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Is there a church next to the Rock Hill cemetery?

Sharon Peterson

No, there’s not a church there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, so who set up the Rock Hill cemetery, how long-

Sharon Peterson

That-, that’s been there, oh, it’s a sad thing, I don’t remember but my husband was a caretaker of that for 63 years-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Of the Rock Hill cemetery?

Sharon Peterson

And when he died in 2018, now he told me on his death bed, let that cemetery go, don’t you try to do anything with it. Me being me, I can’t get rid of it, nobody wants it. You know, I really don’t want it either, but I can’t let it go and grow up so I’ve been taking care of it since ’18.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What is, what does taking care of the cemetery entail?

Sharon Peterson

Making sure that it’s mowed, somebody needs to go in there and have to grave form, show em where they’ll go, and if somebody buys a stone then I go up-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So people have to contact you? And people are still burying people out there?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow that’s a huge responsibility?

Sharon Peterson

Too much, too much.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So who’s it going to go to.

Sharon Peterson

I don’t know, nobody wants it. I was up there Memorial weekend and trying to-, and everybody coming in payin the upkeed on Memorial weekend. And man when you really like-, I’m not being chauvinistic but it should be a man, it really shouldn’t be a woman you know? You doin a good job it looks good.

Marcus Howard

It does!

Sharon Peterson

Yeah but that’s what they say, and they don’t want it! I don’t want it either.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

When they pay their memorial fees, the memorial fees are for upkeep?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Can they just pay a little extra so somebody comes out an mows and stuff and you find-, so you outsource it? Cuz that’s too much work for you!

Sharon Peterson

I don’t mow it now. Oh no, I don’t mow it. Now I did when my husband was here, I helped him-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh okay.

Sharon Peterson

But now he’s not alive, I do pay somebody.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh you do pay somebody.

Sharon Peterson

But you don’t take up enough money because, they don’t wanna give it up now. It’s 120 lots up there, I probably only get paid for 40. If I get paid on 40 lots. Out of 120, so what is it?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ohh. Wow. And it’s not associate diwth the church so it’s not like it s a community regulated. Oh my, that’s trickey.

Sharon Peterson

Thank you.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well I don’t have a solution for that…

Sharon Peterson

Give it some thought.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I’m gonna give it some thought, yeah. So do you know, what’s the earliest, when was the earliest or first person placed there at the Rock Hill cemetery?

Sharon Peterson

I don’t but I know we have a Civil War veteran there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So it goes back to at least the 1860s

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, oh yeah. Dennis Weefer he was buried in there. For a long time it bothered my husband because he couldn’t figure out what the letters meant. And when he figured out what they meant he said “from now on, you’ll always have a flag on you”. If nobody else have a flag year round. SO I try to keep a flag on him.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ohh, okay. So you do have a map of who’s where.

Sharon Peterson

I have a chart.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Of who’s where.

Sharon Peterson

I try the best I can.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Absolutely that’s a huge project. So, sorry, we got, got diverted with all the cemeteries it’s really…. So, there’s four Black cemeteries in this portion of Loudon. Right? Okay. Um, probably dating back from before the Civil War. Some of them maybe?

Sharon Peterson

Maybe. What do you think?

Marcus Howard

Civil War…

Sharon Peterson  
This one is probably not.

Marcus Howard

This is new, this one is…

Sharon Peterson

This one-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

This one’s new, she told me 1980s.

Marcus Howard

Well, 2002.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh 2002? I thought she said in the ‘80s or something. Okay, 2002, 0kay.

Marcus Howard

Middleburg… its-

Sharon Peterson

It goes back, it probably, yes. And I know Rock Hill is 1800s and stuff. But I don’t know about Upperville, but know Upperville is considered Fauquier County, so its not Loudon County.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

But close enough that we-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right next to each other. So growing up here do you remember if there were any community events, um…

Sharon Peterson

Such as?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Such as, Marcus gave me the photos of the big motor-

Sharon Peterson

The motorcycle?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The motorcycles-, yeah!

Sharon Peterson

See that was right out there in my yard.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It was in your yard?

Sharon Peterson

That was Uncle Phil’s store where they had the motorcycle.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ohhh, so that building in the background with the, the motorcycle folks, is that uncle-, Uncle Phil McQuay’s property?

Marcus Howard

The store.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s the store, okay. I cant find it right now on my phoe. It’s a good photo, the afros are just fire. So you remember that?

Sharon Peterson

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So what do you remember?

Sharon Peterson

I had my own bike! I had yeah, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Really, what was your bike.

Sharon Peterson

It was a Honda, it was a 750. I was married twice, my first husband and I shared a Sunday [unintelligible word], and in ’87 I married my second husband and we were married for 33 years. He was old school, and a little older than me. He, he was a theif in the middle of the night, I love you Sharon, but I’d hate to see anything happen to you, he says “I don’t think you should ride that motorcycle anymore, I just love you so much”. And I bought into that. So, not last year, but year before last, I decided I’m gonna go back to class, I’m gonna get me a motorcycle. I went down twice in the class, your reactions is not quite the same as what 40 some years ago.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh no!

Sharon Peterson

Oh yeah. The second time I went down, the gear was swinging, the mirror was swaying. And I had an asthma attack and I, had anxiety attack. And I’m laying there with this bike on me and the instructor said “do you need help?”, and I’m going well Phil had asthma so whenever we had asthma we go Phil McQuay went into action. It’s all I could do, I couldn’t get the wind out of my. So I didn’t tell the kids, I have two boys, and I didn’t tell either one. I wanted to surprise them, so I’d had this girl, she’s a girlfriend slash daughter, and I call her up and she says “where you at?”. I said “getting ready to come home”, she says “what were you doing?”. I said “I took a motorcycle test, I passed the written test, so today and tomorrow is only the driving part”. “You’re up kinda early aren’t you?”, “yeah I don’t think I’ll be returning” because when I got up, uh, got myself together, I was the only woman in class, five guys. The instructor asked if I was going to continue with class, he said gotta go get me another bike, because I tore that other one up.

He asked if I’m gonna continue cuz you know the rest of the class is just driving. I said “yeah”. He said you’ve probably been one of my better students. I said “well, I hope so!” So I got to thinking, my husband always used to say know your place. Know your place, Sharon, you can’t always do what you used to do. So I heard him loud and clear, he said “come on over, we gotta have a little talk. Miss Sharon you alright?” I said “yeah miss Sharon’s okay”, but I said “see that gold car over there? Well I’ma go put my Black hind parts in it and go home. Cuz I ain’t gonna know my place, but I want you all to do me a favor, wave at me, do not drink and drive and have a good time on your bike”. “Miss Sharon you sure you’re okay?”, “I’m okay”, so I went and told the instructor, “look I don’t think it’s my time yet”. He says “you know you’re not gonna be refunded”. I said “I waste more money on other stuff, don’t worry about that”. So I left, and I called Miss Sharon, her names Sharon too, and I said wanna meet for dinner, she said yeah. Fortunately having those boots on, I didn’t realize when I went down, I thought I broke my ankle when I took my boot off and my ankle was going \*boom boom boom\*.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ohh!

Sharon Peterson

Oh no don’t tell me I broke my ankle! So I called my son, I told him what I did “mom you wanna go to the hospital?”, “no! I’m gonna go to bed tonight but if I cant get up out of this bed then I’ll call you and come over here”. So I called him the next morning, and said I’ll be okay, but I went to Kaiser and they said you didn’t break it-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You fractured it?

Sharon Peterson

But you got as close as you coluld to breaking it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm-hmm a fracture, yeah no, you won’t catch me on a motorcycle. Ever, ever.

Sharon Peterson

Why?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh no, I need lots of metal around me, even my car. My husband knows I’m a scared driver, I need metal around me. And something with no metal arund me, that’s a no go.

Sharon Peterson

Well I’m looking at a trike, and my son says convertible model and I want all the air to woosh me. Its-, my father drove a motor-, rode a motorcycle. And I used to ride on the back with him all the time. My biggest dream, my son had a motorcycle, he sold it, I would love to have my own bike and ride it with him. Sharon, my girlfriend had a motorcycle, she just sold hers. That’s my-, what I want is to ride with the kids.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Really? Where did your dad used to take you when you were riding with him?

Sharon Peterson

Just right around here and stuff, but most of the time my mother didn’t want me to go-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I know she did-

Sharon Peterson

Because he was drinkin.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh my god.

Sharon Peterson

She said, “you’re gonna hurt my baby being out there all drunk”, and dthen he came back in the lane and the lane is dirt road and stuff. There was a hole thee, and I wans’t on there but the bike fell and just roated on his knee until they had to graft skin, and put it on his knee cap. Yeah… You know what, whatever gonna happen is gonna happen.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Nuh-uh, not cuz I fell of a bike!

Sharon Peterson

It could be a bicycle, it makes no difference.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well I have a cute little bike with a basket, I’m not goin fast anwyehre.

Sharon Peterson

Well we used to-, my grandmother, my grandmother she had six foster kids. Those six kids-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Which one, Maddie or Sarah.

Sharon Peterson

Annie-, Annie, Sarah was a great aunt. Annie.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Annie okay.

Sharon Peterson

She had six foster kids, uh, Audrey had two kids, okay? And then that was the five of us. We would get on bikes and ride up to Unison or whatever. This whole group, this whole group-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where’s Unison?

Sharon Peterson

It’s going up towards Rock Hill cemetery in that direction.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

This whole group of us went-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

On motorbikes or bike bikes, bicycles.

Sharon Peterson

Bicycles.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You’d all ride?

Sharon Peterson

We would ride, Audrey was with us, she had a bike.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Down 50?

Sharon Peterson

No, go on 611, make a left on Foxcroft.

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay, okay.

Sharon Peterson

And we was all riding in a whole group. Here comes some motorcycle in the opposite. Whose handlebards did he hook into? Yours truly. Day before I gotta go to high school. First day of high school. Kneecaps is tore up. So see you can have an accident on a bicycle-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh you can!

Sharon Peterson

That’s my whole point.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh you can.

Sharon Peterson

Yes, but he flipped me \*woosh\* over.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So do you have, all the guys-, was it mainly guys who would come up for the big motorcycle um-

Sharon Peterson

Oh no, it was everybody. Everybody.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So it was like two nights, or how did it?

Sharon Peterson

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday they give a trophies out Sunday evening. Friday night they would have a DJ that came, bikers would come as far as Detroit.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Really?

Sharon Peterson

Oh yeah, it was a big big deal. They would come and being a little girl, frisky and stuff… I’d be looking-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh looking too cute.

Sharon Peterson

Oh what you talking about. So, they’d have that, they’d have barbeque, then Saturday they’d have a band. And it was, it was nice.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And this was all back on McQuay’s property?

Sharon Peterson

It was right here, on, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

There was enough space for all this?

Sharon Peterson

Behind it was land, cars would park as far as you could see. It wasn’t-, I mean, up and down 611 as far as you could see.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where did they all stay?

Sharon Peterson

Oh, some in campers and tents, some laid there on the ground. Just, they did whatever.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ohh, did the Middleburg Po-po bother y’all?

Sharon Peterson

Nobody bothered us until towards the end of it. Then the police said they didn’t want the cars on the road but then they would have those horse shows up in Upperville and they didn’t say nothing to them but hnow theyre put in fields, you know? And it was we didn’t hear no fighting or shooting-

Marcus Howard

Sunday morning they’d turn the music down.

Sharon Peterson

Very respectful.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh for church. Ahh. They weren’t coming to chrch, but they’d turn it down for a bit.

Marcus Howard

They’d be respectful for the church.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ahh. And what time of year was this?

Marcus Howard

July?

Sharon Peterson

About July yeah, mm-hmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And it went on for about how long? About how many years?

Sharon Peterson

That I don’t know but for many years, for many. It was, it was nice.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And he would, McQuay would send out an announcement how did the people find-

Sharon Peterson

McQuay had nothin to do with it. John Wilkins had bought that building.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

John Wilkins. And who was John Wilkins?

Sharon Peterson

He’s passed now. Uh, Miss Sadie, his mother, was mother of the church for a while. I don’t know how, how, what would we say about John…

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible]

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, he was married at one point. Had a little boy. They used to be very regular in coming to church. His mother, like I said, Miss Sadie was the mother of the church at one point. I don’t know what else I can say about him

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, alright. But that was a big event, um…

Sharon Peterson

And then they used to have uh, now I don’t remember this per se, but I heard they had a horse show?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s what I was gonna ask you about. Something Colt, Horse and Colt Show.

Sharon Peterson

Now I understand, that had to be many, many moon ago because my grandfather, Raymond Berryman, they said he was a part of that Colt show, but he wasn’t married to Maddie at the time I don’t think.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

And that’s was part of my grandmother’s property too.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The Colt show was on Maddie Berryman’s property?

Sharon Peterson

And they also had turkey shoots, they also had baseball games.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Hmm. And that would just happen throughout the year?

Sharon Peterson

Yeah. Turkey shoots was usually in the fall. Baseball games, naturally was in the summertime. And then they took the baseball games down to Maxville. It wasn’t called Mickey Gordon Park then.

Marcus Howard

It was Mercer, was it Mercer?

Sharon Peterson

No Mercer came later. Just before.

Marcus Howard

Oh so was it named after a Black man.

Sharon Peterson

Huh?

Marcus Howard

Wasn’t that named after a Black man?

Sharon Peterson

Who?

Marcus Howard

First?

Sharon Peterson

Who, do you remember? All I know is Maxville now, but it was called something else.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where-, where? Where was this located?

Sharon Peterson

Right before you come into Middleburg, off of 50, just before you come into Middleburg.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So, old Aldie? Where down where-?

Sharon Peterson

No, you’re too-, you gotta come down a little farther towards middleburg, going uh, east-, I mean going west. Sorry, my mistake. Going west on 50.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Like Gilberts Corner?

Sharon Peterson

Come on past Gilberts, and up some more. You’ll see a sign that says Mickey Gordon’s Park.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh okay.

Sharon Peterson

But it was called something else then.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, do you remember going up to the Country Store in old Aldie?

Sharon Peterson

Yeah. It was called Partlow’s?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Part-, Partlow’s Country Store? Mm-hmm. What did you go up there to get?

Sharon Peterson

Whatever, but most of the time we’d be in this area, we’d etither go to Atoka, or to Unison, because those were to other country stores. Or, as you call Monkeytown, we’d go up there. Those are the three stores we used to, usually went to the country stores.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And what was the first one?

Sharon Peterson

Atoka

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Toka?

Sharon Peterson

A-toka, as somebody as they would say. A-, what is it, how do you spell it?

Marcus Howard

A-T-O-K-A. Rector’s, you know we talked about Rector’s store?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Uh-huh.

Marcus Howard

That’s his store.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s his store, see I got everybody’s nick names, this is confusing! Um, did you go swimming in the Middle-, Middleburg pool?

Sharon Peterson

No, but I never personally learned how to swim.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

See, that’s not unusual for Black folk

Sharon Peterson

No, but it, I had like I said, I have four other sibling sand they all learned. But it didn’t cuz I was Queen Elizabeth, always thought I was better, with that attitude. But we went to Redbridge, it was called. That’s outside of Middleburg, down in back in that Mountsville area.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Redbridge?

Sharon Peterson

You go down, you go down, down that path way and go down to the-, and that’s where we went swimming. Down in that area. Or we’d go to Bull Run. Go over there-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So what, when you went to Redbridge though, you just swimming in the lake, in the river. In the little stream. Is that the red bridge when you’re coming into Middleburg from Aldie and off to the right theres a little-

Sharon Peterson

You would have-, to get to this one there’s two ways you can go. You can either go take when you come up 50 you can take Snickerville turnpike-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes, I call it snickerdoodle but yes.

Sharon Peterson

And take that road and go straight up and that bridge will be on your left. Or you can, when you go up, make a right off of Sam Fred Road, and there’s other ways too, but I’d just get you lost. Sam Fred road you’d make a right and then you make a left on Snickersville again.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So y’all would just go jump off the bridge into the water.

Sharon Peterson

They would

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh you weren’t doin any of that. Okay.

Sharon Peterson

And I regret now that I haven’t learned. And that’s on my bucket list though.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay! Yeah! They have lessons at these places now. And wheres the other place you said you’d go, y’all would go to swim.

Sharon Peterson

Bull Run.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Bull Run…

Sharon Peterson

You know where the winery is over there in Bull Run?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

mm-hmm.

Sharon Peterson

Over there, you could go over there and go swimming. We used to go there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, alright, and never went to Leesburg?

Sharon Peterson

Nah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Was there a movie theater in old town-, I mean Middleburg?

Sharon Peterson

There was at one time.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did you ever go to the movie theater?

Sharon Peterson

That was before my day.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh. So by the time you were old enough to go it wasn’t available to you?

Sharon Peterson

It didn’t-, it didn’t exist then. It was gone.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh.

Sharon Peterson

That-, was that over at the Red Fox?

Marcus Howard

Yeah, that’s at the Red Fox.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, interesting. Did you ever go to the library?

Sharon Peterson

In Middleburg?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm-hmm.

Sharon Peterson

Oh I go there now, yeah. But uh, not back in the day though. No.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

I don’t know if we could go.

Marcus Howard

Was there a library.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It says it was. So when the whole thing in ’61 that we were talking about, the Kennedy’s then they desegregated the counters, the pool, and the library.

Sharon Peterson

Well I only been goin to it recently. I don’t know.

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible] I know theres a new library that’s been built.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But y’all remember where the old library would’ve-

Marcus Howard

I don’t know

Sharon Peterson

Where was that old one at.

Marcus Howard

I don’t know?

Sharon Peterson

I was talking about the one that’s there now, at the tennis club. I don’t know where else it would’ve been at. Because we only had, only had the clinic with Dr. Gibson. Cuz Dr. Morne was in Upperville, correct? I remember the Black doctor, just a little bit. Dr. Emman-, is that it? Edmund, Edeman, is that it?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Edsmead. Yeah, I saw. Somebody else mentioned him and I saw his name in I think the essence of a people book.

Sharon Peterson

I remember just a little bit about him, you know.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did y’all use him, the Black doctor?

Sharon Peterson

My mother may have, but when I got sick, I only remember Dr. Gibson at the clinic.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, so was the clinic where Black went, of was it Black and poor folk-? I mean Black and white folk.

Sharon Peterson

I guess Black and white. Cuz we didn’t have anybody else.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, I’m pretty sure. Although I never seen white people when I went in there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You never did.

Sharon Peterson

Uh-uh. Just the nurse and the doctor.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, so you went-, you said you could’ve gone to douglas for a year but you didn’t so you started at Loudon Valley in ’69?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So what was that like for you? Cuz this was Loudon, newly desegregated.

Sharon Peterson

Right. I don’t know. You know, I’m gonna tell you the reason why. It really didn’t phase me a whole lot because when my brother left to go to Tennessee, he lived with a white family who adopted him and his wife, and… I you know, we saw that family, I mean we still call each other brothers and sisters and stuff. Never seen a, never really had my feelings hurt, or had something negative happen to me because thye were white. Maybe some looks or something. But I oprobably was looking stupid too so that caused their look to look at me like I was looking at them. I don’t know.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But you didn’t have any bad-

Sharon Peterson

Experiences.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

At Loudon Valley? Nobody getting called the N-word, no stuff like that.

Sharon Peterson

No.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

Not that I can remember.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That you remember? And why did your brother end up going to Tennessee, that seems like an unlikely place?

Sharon Peterson

Uh, my brother was one of the, I don’t wanna say he wasn’t a first, but one of the first Black trainers with Staple Ch-, Stable Chase Racers.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ahhh.

Sharon Peterson

And, when my grandmother sold where VDOT is, it used to be a barn owned by Carol Lee. Carol Lee kept my brother out of school all the time. Truant officers always at the house because he would take Mike to Charlestown to race. Mike I think, Mike come out riding horses. I don’t know.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So Carol Lee is a Black woman, or white woman?

Sharon Peterson

Black man!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Black-, Carol-, Carol Lee was a Black man-?

Sharon Peterson

That owned a barn-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That owned the barn, and owned horses?

Sharon Peterson

That owned his own horses, and race them over at Charlestown.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay

Sharon Peterson

And maybe Maryland, I’m not sure. Maybe Maryland. But a lot of times he would take Michael with him, which Michael was supposed to be in school so-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So your brother was a jockey?

Sharon Peterson

No, he wasn’t a jockey. No, he would end up being a trainer.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

A trainer?

Sharon Peterson

One of the first know Virginian Black trainers around.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What’s your brothers full name?

Sharon Peterson

Micha-, Michael Illwood Berryman.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Berryman-, okay. And so he went to Tennessee?

Sharon Peterson

He went to Tennessee, and the doctor saw him at one of the races, kind of fell in love with him. He wasn’t giving to him anything like that, he knew he had a home and family here, asked if he could go there for a year and go to school and he’d see that he’d go to school. Well, he-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So this white doctor is at the West Virginia races.

Sharon Peterson

Maybe, I’m not sure if West Virginia-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Or Maryland. He’s at the races, sees your brother, thinks he has skills and says would you come to Tennessee-

Sharon Peterson

Come to Tennessee, stay with me. He was, I think he was a surgeon. I’m pretty sure Doc was a surgeon, and he said you will be raised with my family, with my rules. You understand that before we leave here. So he said okay, and they go. He said something to Michael, and Michael got on the bus and come back up here. Before he could get real comfortable, Doc would be up here to get him carry him right back to Tennessee. My grandmother did not like that at all.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

How long did he stay down there? I mean, how long was he in this family’s home?

Sharon Peterson

Until he graduated from college.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So your brother finished school at Loudon Valley?

Sharon Peterson

No, my brother finished school down in Tennessee.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh.

Sharon Peterson

He finished high school and he went to East Tennessee State University.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What was his degree in, or major? Do you know?

Sharon Peterson

I don’t, I don’t.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Was it like in veterinary or anything?

Sharon Peterson

You know he did want to be a veterinarian. But I don’t think-, I know he didn’t complete the course. I don’t think, I know he didn’t. But he did graduate but-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

From East Tennessee State. And then he worked for this family.

Sharon Peterson

No, he never worked for the family.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

They just-?

Sharon Peterson

They fell in love with him. Just like, you know you see a little child and maybe that child might need help or something? He didn’t need help, his family-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I-, I-… Right?!

Sharon Peterson

But, he-, Doc and them fell in love with him.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And your mama let them take the child-, take your brother?

Sharon Peterson

He went down there, he was gonna do one year down there. After he got down there, he started, he was doin well, he was goin to school, he-, they treated him-, they didn’t mistreat him! He came home maybe like every three months or so. He was, he liked it so he stayed down there. I know it’s odd-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It is very odd!

Sharon Peterson

But they like-, and doc had two girls and a boy, and they consider Mike their big brother. They-, Rob and I, Mike is buried out in Middleburg. Let me tell you what we did about-, how many? It was, I guess maybe in the fall, so Rob calls me-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Rob is?

Sharon Peterson

Doc’s son. Rob calls me he says “Sharon, how about we have a picnic”, I said “okay rob, where we gonna have it at?”. He said “let’s meet at Mike’s place”. I said “mikes place?” he said yea. So we pack a lunch and everything, we go to the cemetery and we at mike’s place. We sit down and reminisce about different stages of Mike’s life and stuff, it was nice. Had a blanket, had cheese, had sandwiches. And he said, “we’ll meet again, next time, at Mike’s place”. My sister-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Aww that almost makes me wanna cry, that’s so sweet!!

Sharon Peterson

Wasn’t it? I thought so too. So now my sister Linda who lives in upper Marburry, she says “when we goin to Mike’s place?” I say “shut up, you wasn’t there last time, I was”, so she said “well we gotta do it, Mike’s birthday is comin up”. Would be the 29th of next month so we’ll probably meet at Mike’s place.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So what-, what’s his family’s name?

Sharon Peterson

Banners.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Can you spell that?

Sharon Peterson

B-A-N-N-E-R-S

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

B-A-N-N-E-R-S the Banners. So, the Banners take your brother in. How did you get to know them so well, he was down there in Tennessee with them? And occasionally they’d come up and get him?

Sharon Peterson

But, Doc presented this to my, to us, to my parents and stuff. He’s gonna take care of Mike, Mike’s gonna be good. I’m not gonna mistreat him if he’s gonna stay for a year. He couldn’t just take him, cuz mike was around 15 when he left.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Huh…

Sharon Peterson

And he met a lot of important people with those horses. He was a horse person.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So what did he do once he graduated from college what did he end up doin with himself? Because you said he stayed down in Tennessee.

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm, but he was always affiliated with horses. Always.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

He was.

Sharon Peterson

Until maybe… last three years of his life and he decided he wanted ot work with men that were challenged. And that’s what happened to him, he was in a van the day that he died. They were supposed ot be going to get some guys, and he just drifted off the road and hit a stop sign and the police was behind him and he didn’t know what was happening. But my brother had a massive heart attack.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ohh…

Sharon Peterson

And died. So it was-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s what happened.

Sharon Peterson

Uh-huh, oh god. It was a day from hell.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh that’s horrible. But he always worked with horses in some capacity, his entire life?

Sharon Peterson

Uh-huh, up until about the last 3 years of his life.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow, so I guess the banners gave him that education to have that career? Would you say that-

Sharon Peterson

Ah, well he had it before he left?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Sharon Peterson

That’s what made them fall in love with him.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Huh, that’s really interesting. Okay, so, you said you didn’t have any-, you had a positive experience at Loudon valley high. There was no, the white kids and Black kids seemed to integrate smoothly with each other?

Sharon Peterson

Oh yeah, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Teachers were fine? You didn’t have any incidents.

Sharon Peterson

I only had one teacher who I think it was algebra I was taking. And one girl had repeated herself and she said sit down you, and the teacher said “if you had a desire to learn, I suggest you move your desk to the front”, and the girl said, “if you don’t sit your black so-and-so down” I said I’ll be okay, that’s why she’s back here. An dI just bust out laughing. I said I didn’t care, but I think I was a little intimidated by her. Shoot if I move, I’m gonna get….

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, well that’s so interesting.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, but that’s the only thing I had. Anytime there was a problem I was usually mixed up in it, being nosey.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. But do you remember-, you know, Middleburg is not far from DC and y’all would have seen on TV like all the protests all the stuff. Do you remember grown folks talking about it do you remember wanting to go be a part of any of the protests?

Sharon Peterson

No. I’ve never wanted to be a part of that. Now, I used to go to DC every other week to go get my hair done. It was a present from my mother’s sister, Ethel. We’d catch the Greyhound bus, go down there, get our hair done and I asked her, can I get my ears pierced? Because you know you can get it down at the shop. But she said “you know how your mother feels about that, you gotta be sixteen”. But I said “she won’t know”. But she said she’ll know! So I couldn’t talk her into doing that. But, that was a big deal to get on the bus and go to DC.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where’d you catch the Greyhound?

Sharon Peterson

Right there in Middleburg, I think its where Scuffy’s-, what is it? THeres the ice cream place, right in there-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, where the ice cream place is. So you hop on the bus take it to the city, get your hair done-

Sharon Peterson

Hop back on the bus.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And you didn’t’ want to get your hair done here? Everybody else I’ve spoken to, there were people doing hair.

Sharon Peterson

I had a chance to go to DC, to see the bright lights!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, okay. Alright.

Sharon Peterson

Plus my Aunty was takin me.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Alright, do you remember if the grown folks were like “nah, you aren’t supposed to be in the city, don’t go getting involved, and getting yourself in trouble”?

Sharon Peterson

No, uh-uh, because I couldn’t go by myself anyway, so. And my mothers sister, like I said, she was at that time, looked like, she was more liberal than anybody. She wasn’t married, she would do any and everything for her nieces or nephews. She was our savior.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Everybody needs a fun aunt. Yeah.

Sharon Peterson

But both of them. Because my mom only had one sister, and my dad only had one sister, so, either one of them they were good.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Okay, so you graduate from Loudon Valley, and what happens next?

Sharon Peterson

Yours truly got married, because she thought she knew everything.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And where’d you meet this young handsome, young man that swept you off your feet?

Sharon Peterson

No, we can leave handsome and all that out of this! Mm-hmm. Uh, I was dating him when I was in school, he was in the Navy, he come back in ’68, and I was allowed to go, as 14 I could go with a group of kids, and I had to stay with that group.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s right.

Sharon Peterson

So don’t be smart and think you’re gonna separate, cuz I’m gonna find out. 16 I could go out by myself to midnight. I had to be back home by midnight.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where were y’all going at midnight out here?

Sharon Peterson

Wasn’t goin anywhere, but wherever I went I had to be home by midnight

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

So, I was goin with him, he had a car.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So how’d you meet him, he was in the Navy?

Sharon Peterson

He came home, he was in Leesburg.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, living in Leesburg.

Sharon Peterson

So, we got married in’74, May 1st, ’74. Had a son and then we were divorced. September of ’78 I think it was.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So about 4 years.

Sharon Peterson

4 years on paper, 2 years physically. That was the shortest marriage I ever seen.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Cuz he shipped out? He was long gone?

Sharon Peterson

No he shipped nowhere, he was long gone away from Sharon.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay!

Sharon Peterson

Yes, so you know, 4 years on paper, 2 years actually together. Best thing to come out of that was our son. And he’s a smart alleck too. His father’s dead, he says a lot of time “Momma I’m goin over to put some flowers on dad, you want me to tell him anything?”. I said “Naw he left me to live my message”.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And where is he buried?

Sharon Peterson

Leesburg

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

In Leesburg. So, um, married, so how did you, so now you’re a single mom.

Sharon Peterson

A single mom, for the next ten-, almost ten years. Not quite ten about nine years. Then I had my husband, my second one. That was the right one, he was mister right. We get married, we get married in ’87. Now we met because we were neighbors up here.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And is he a native to St. Louis as well?

Sharon Peterson

From up in Bluemont.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

From Bluemont, that’s right.

Sharon Peterson

And we got married and we stayed married for 33 yeas until he passed.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s a beautiful thing. Did y’all get married in a church?

Sharon Peterson

No we got married in our home in Chantilly.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay! Alright. I’m trying to think what else. Do you remember any other Black businesses in St. Louis? We’ve talked aobut the McQuay’s, the shops, um… anybody else? Stores? There’s only one Black doctor as I understand it, around Middleburg.

Sharon Peterson

Uh-huh.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Some women did hair, so I image they did that, and some fellas cut hair.

Sharon Peterson

That’s true. Not really

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That was pretty much it? Okay. And most women were domestics?

Sharon Peterson

Lot of them, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Even into the ‘60s and ‘70s?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm, mm-hmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And did you ever end up working as a domestic?

Sharon Peterson

Uh-uh.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Why not?

Sharon Peterson

Why should I?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

I don’t know, it’s just an innocent question, I intend no harm.

Sharon Peterson

No, I didn’t, I- uh, let me see. I worked at a lab for a while, and I worked at the hospital-, worked at a hospital for a while-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Leesburg?

Sharon Peterson

Yeah. And I left there and went to a lab, then to the airport, and then I retired with Fairfax County, I worked there for 26 years.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh wow! Okay, so the-, I’m trying to think, so Dulles airport goes in in the ‘70s, so you would’ve been-

Sharon Peterson

Well, I was working down there probably, um, lets see, late ‘70s early ‘80s I guess.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Do y’all remember that area before Dulles airport went in?

Sharon Peterson

I got a little memory of it, I don’t have a lot, but a bit.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

A little bit before you? Because, because it was Willard?

Sharon Peterson

Uh, no-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It was a Black town over there, Black community?

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, but it-, I know it is, but it wasn’t Willard…?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

It wasn’t Willard, called something else?

Sharon Peterson

I think so. Because Claude Moore, it was-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Claude Moore, well I know Claude Moore Park which is the-

Sharon Peterson

On the lot of the airport too

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh really that wouldn’t surprise me.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So did-, well one of the things I’m interested in figuring out is you’ve got like-, you got the Black folk who are here in St. Louis, folk were going to Willisville, so it’s a black community there. I think there was a Black community in Arcola, right? So are y’all meeting when y’all get to the schools like at Banneker, or Douglas, or Loudon Valley? Or the Churches? Is that where these different pockets of the Black communities-

Sharon Peterson

Probably the schools originally started that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay

Sharon Peterson

Knowing one another.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And would y’all visit each other in the different communities?

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, I would think so

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But you said you went to Union-, Unionville, Uniontown?

Sharon Peterson

Who-, who is that?

Marcus Howard

Unison

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Unison, sorry. You would go up to Unison.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah but with it being close and like that, we was in Willisville, we was in Rock Hill, you know- Aldie. We went to the church, you know a lot of churches too.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Churches. Yeah, yeah. Now where were the Black folk living in Aldie?

Sharon Peterson

Where they live now-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

We’re talkin about old Aldie, or new Aldie? Let me say it that way.

Sharon Peterson

Okay, old Aldie

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Old Aldie, okay. So in and around where the old country store and all that is there were Black folk.

Sharon Peterson

Around Old Carolina Road and New Mountain Road.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

New Mountain Road, okay they lived there

Sharon Peterson

Yeah back in there. Yeah

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, and the Black folk that lived around Arcola, which is new Aldie, was that was that over where that school is? The one that’s closed down? Do you know where the Black folk in Arcola lived?

Sharon Peterson

Now-, now-, over that way, you talking about off Elklick, where they have Prosperity Baptist Church.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes Ma’am.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah. Mm-hmm. Now, it used to-, you know Reverand [unintelligible] was down there for years.

Marcus Howard

Mm-hmm. Conklin.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Conklin.

Sharon Peterson

Conklin, yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. What else am I forgetting Marcus? Um…

Sharon Peterson

Well, we haven’t really talked about my family here a little-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes okay let’s do that

Sharon Peterson

Lets go back.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Lets do that… So you’ve given me, oh my, Annie and-

Sharon Peterson

And Columbus. That’s my paternal-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s your paternal side

Sharon Peterson

Grandparents.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right, okay. Alright, and then-

Sharon Peterson

Maternal-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

This is your maternal side, Maddie Berryman.

Sharon Peterson

Cuz her husband was dead.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, and she had money because she had 300 acres.

Sharon Peterson

Well I don’t know about money but-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well, acres, I mean land, sorry. In my mind land equals money but I know that its different. Right so Maddie McQuay Berryman had land

Sharon Peterson

But she had six-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

How many kids.

Sharon Peterson

Two girls and four boys.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So Maddie had two girls and four boys. Do you remember their names?

Sharon Peterson

Raymond. He’s buried down in the Arlington cemetery

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Raymond.

Sharon Peterson

I’m trying to go by their ages. No, Ethel was first, ethel was the oldest.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ethel, okay.

Sharon Peterson

Then Raymond. Then Charles.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Charles

Sharon Peterson

Pholey.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Pholey?

Sharon Peterson

P-H-O-L-E-Y.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

Then Ed.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

For Edward?

Sharon Peterson

Uh-huh. Then Thelma. That was my mom.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And Thelma was your mother. Okay.

Sharon Peterson

Now, Ethel was in the WACs in World War I.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ethel was in the World War I?

Sharon Peterson

WACs.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The women? Really.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow. And where is she buried.

Sharon Peterson

Middleburg.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

She’s in Middleburg-

Sharon Peterson

All of them are in Middleburg, with the exception of Raymond, and he’s in Arlington.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

He’s in Arlington?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So he was in which war? Is that II?

Sharon Peterson

Maybe II, I would probably say II.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, okay. And you said Maddie was born here in St. Louis?

Sharon Peterson

Yeah-, yeah. She was born in 1895.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow!

Sharon Peterson

I know that because our hosue was builit, that I’m in now, and she was a baby. And she also graduated from Hampton, believe it or not.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

She graduated from Hampton University?

Sharon Peterson

Uh-huh, isn’t that something?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That is something. So if we went to the Hampton records she would be under Maddie McQuay?

Sharon Peterson

She should be under Maddie McQuay.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, so, born in 1895, mind blown. Goes to Hampton. So where does she go to school school. She would’ve gone to Middleburg?

Sharon Peterson

I can’t tell you, I don’t know anything about that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But goes to Hampton and then comes back. She’s the one who’s the teacher?

Sharon Peterson

The one room school teacher. Which my mom was the only one in the seventh grade when she was teaching. So my mom said she was a little extra hard on her to show the kids she wasn’t showin favoritism.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So Thelma was the only seventh grader in the class with her mother, Maddie. Oh that had to be horrible.

Sharon Peterson

Well. And no worse than when I was at Banneker-, man that’s really something…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Woo, that is really coming down out there.

Sharon Peterson

But, when I was at Banneker, my grandmother Annie and her daughter were cooks in the kitchen. My uncle Luther was the custodian, uh, who else was up there. You weren’t gonna get away with nothing. My aunt Pauline, which is Annie’s sister was in the kitchen too. So, you get away with nothing.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Sharon Peterson

Nothing you hear me. But that’s, at that time, everybody looked out for everybody, whether it was always their best interest. Because a lot of times we could walk over to the school-, I don’t like sittin in front of this window. You could walk over to the school in the evenings and play basketball and stuff.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh yes, yes.

Sharon Peterson

And if you happen to be talking to a little boy it would get home before you got home

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh I know it would. Do you remember any of the activities you guys had at Banneker? Some people have mentioned May Day.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah. May Day is all I really know. That was a big thing going on there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did you have a special dress made for May Day?

Sharon Peterson

Eh, I think you wore a little black skirt and a blouse. Try to get whatever, thinkin that everybody had.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay.

Sharon Peterson

And you know you had to buy the books to go to school. Books weren’t given to you, so you had to buy books. And I can recall, like my grandfather would say, I’m gonna buy you school books this year. Now mine would already be paid for, but I’d come home with the raggediest book, probably because of my mother. And my mother wasn’t having that. My mother was quite outspoken. She’d say “oh no, your books are paid for, let’s go little girl, back to the school”. And I would come home with new books. But I would always bring home those used books you know, and she said we’re not having that. Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do you remember um, what the, did y’all have indoor plumbing or outdoor plumbing at the house?

Sharon Peterson

Outdoor.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Outdoor…

Sharon Peterson

And we had to come down to the church to get water to wash clothes and stuff. However, Maddie had water at her house, so we’d go up there and take baths up there. And she had the best water in St. Louis. The best. A lot of people come up there to get water because she had a hand pump and she let you know everybody come up and get.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And why was her water so good?

Sharon Peterson

She had a spring on her-, on her property. And then when I bought it, they took and put gravel in the well and dug new ones and now the water is… lot of rust in it, and I can’t understand why? Why would y’all do that?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Who did that? The county?

Sharon Peterson

No. The people who had bought the property, and sold it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ohhh. Hm.

Sharon Peterson

So it’s one of the worst waters around now.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh no. So do you remember when y’all got indoor plumbing?

Sharon Peterson

At my parent’s house?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm-hmm.

Sharon Peterson

Yes. It was a long time. I-, matter of fact, we got a well dug so we had a water in the house, but we didn’t have a bathroom. And the bathroom didn’t come until my parents were married for 30 years and divorced, and it was dad who got a divorce for a new wife.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No?

Sharon Peterson

Oh yeah. And she got the indoor bathroom.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, I cannot. I cannot. That’s what we call triflin, no he did not.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So where’d your momma go?

Sharon Peterson

Back to her home place. Matter of fact I moved with her there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Was that weird then? Cuz your momma and the new wife are all livin in St. Louis?

Sharon Peterson

Yes. Uh-, no. Daddy did not get married until after my mom passed. My mom passed-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

This is crazy! [commenting on heavy rain]

Sharon Peterson

That’s-, that’s hail! Can you hear that?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah!

Sharon Peterson

My mother passed in ’85?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

And he got married in ’90. And this is sure, how ironic this was, he married Jeannette, summer 17 of 1990, he died May first 1991. Them marriage didn’t stay.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But you’re saying he didn’t put plumbing-, he didn’t put indoor plumbing until the ‘90s?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow! So he was using that outhouse in the ‘80s?

Sharon Peterson

Yes, ma’am. Yes!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wow. That-, most everybody else have indoor plumbing by that point? He was kinda late?

Sharon Peterson

He was kinda late.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Okay. Banneker always had indoor plumbing when they built it right?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

At least when I was there. Now before my day, I don’t know. Because my father was there, but if they had indoor plumbing at that point, I don’t know.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Did the church always have indoor plumbing?

Sharon Peterson

I don’t think so, I don’t think so. But I know they have the bathroom down in the basement, but-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh. That was probably a later addition.

Sharon Peterson

I think so too.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm-hmm. Did y’all used to meet up in the basement of the church?

Sharon Peterson

No.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh it’s not that kinda thing? So you always had to have a meeting house out-, that’s why they got this thing over here?

Sharon Peterson  
Well this, this wasn’t even the original dining room was it? Because one of them burnt-, the original one burnt down.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh did it.

Marcus Howard

Well the Dance Hall burned down.

Sharon Peterson

That was the Dance Hall?

Marcus Howard

The dance hall

Sharon Peterson

Okay

Marcus Howard

Back in where the pulpit is wasn’t there in the early ‘50s so that’s when they probably put the bathrooms were put in.

Sharon Peterson

Probably so. Yeah.

Marcus Howard

But uh, so its just the-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So where did folks-, was there like a meeting place like before the Dining Hall?

Marcus Howard

Tailgating?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Huh?

Marcus Howard

Tailgating.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Tailgating okay. Okay.

Marcus Howard

But then this was being used eventually as the dining hall and the club. [unintelligible] Served a purpose

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Ph we’re not getting in my car any time soon. It’d blow my car over. [Siren alarms] Yep that’s what I figured. Tornado?

Marcus Howard

Got a warning until 4:45, 80 mile per hour winds, take shelter in a sturdy building away from windows.

[END of part one, 1:12:24, beginning of part two]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Alright, anything else. What about…

Sharon Peterson

Did you know that Phil McQuay named St. Louis “Little St. Louis”?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Because he went to St. Louis, right?

Sharon Peterson

He went to St. Louis in World War I, I think it was.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Was it World War I?

Sharon Peterson

Yeah. I, I had his draft card but I gave it to his son.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But wait a minute, when St-, when they built the church, which I thought was in the 1870s, it wasn’t called-?

Sharon Peterson

I’m not sure, but he named it Little St. Louis.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Little St. Louis

Sharon Peterson

When he came back here, and they dropped the little off and just called it St. Louis-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

St. Louis

Sharon Peterson

But it’s because of him that that’s what it’s called-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What it’s called. From what I read, Thomas Jefferson’s somebody’s nephew…

Sharon Peterson

Grandson

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Grandson, right? Came out here

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible]

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right and built the church

Marcus Howard

He founded the church

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay but it wasn’t called St. Louis then.

Marcus Howard

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So it was called-

Marcus Howard

So it would’ve had to have been in the 1800s

Sharon Peterson

I’m sure it was?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So Wormley wasn’t around in the 1880s?

Marcus Howard

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What’s Wormley’s birthday?

Marcus Howard

That I don’t know.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott  
Wait a minute, I can’t see a thing because I thought I was looking this up

Sharon Peterson

And he used to live down here.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Wormley?

Sharon Peterson

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

When did he die? He must have lived a long time.

Sharon Peterson

Then he went on over to-, what kind of book you got there?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So this is the um, this one, *The Essence of the People* is what the Black History Committee of Bosch Library they did this probably 20 years ago. So this is the first one they put together, it’s got Miss Rosalie Carter in it.

Sharon Peterson

She was my first-grade teacher.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

She was your first-grade teacher? Yep. I don’t see Wormley in here. This-, this, I have this page saved because it’s got um, William McKinley Jackson who was the president of the Loudon County NAACP. But, he-, I think he may, he was helping to organize some of the civil rights stuff to desegregate Middleburg. So I saved that page. And then this one is the second, *The Essence of the People 2*, that they published. I don’t see, yeah I don’t think they have Wormley in here. Let me look at the naems.

Marcus Howard

Do they have Karen… Hughes White?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Karen Hughes White, that name sounds very familiar.

Marcus Howard

Yeah, shes-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yes, yes, yes. The history-

Marcus Howard

She’s from this-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

She’s what?

Marcus Howard

Wormley Hughes, she’s in that family.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh really? Oh. Actually, one of my students she was her niece or something. Yes, yes, yes. Um, okay. So I’ll have to go back and do a little more digging on Wormley. Did y’all ever go to the emancipation-

Sharon Peterson

In Purcellville?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, did y’all used to go out there?

Sharon Peterson

I went there a couple times.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Emancipation grounds?

Sharon Peterson

I drove there by car.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Mm-hmm, did you go ice skate-, I mean roller skating out there?

Sharon Peterson

No.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay the roller-skating rink wasn’t in yet?

Sharon Peterson

If it was it was for the white kids, it wouldn’t have been for the Black. All they offered out there was ice cream and baseball and stuff like that. It wasn’t no, no roller skating.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, okay. So if you went out to Purcellville, what was that for?

Sharon Peterson

It was for-, they had a big day-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh for the Emancipation Day. Okay, um, was there a roller-skating rink around that y’all could go to.

Sharon Peterson

It could have been, but like I said we wouldn’t have been entitled to-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

To go to it? And then, so you know where Dulles mall is, there’s that little hill., did y’all used to call that Negro Hill?

Sharon Peterson

See down in that area, I never went down there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You didn’t go back there? Cuz that was far.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Cuz I think there was a Black community down around there.

Sharon Peterson

I’m sure there was.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Hm, okay. And you didn’t go to Doug-, I know your brother went to Douglas-

Sharon Peterson

And my mom went to Douglas.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh your mom went to Douglas too? Okay. Which they’re now renovating which will be interesting to see what they do with that. And here, I can give you this one, did you-? I don’t know who gave this to me. It’s dark now, my eyes can’t even make this stuff out. This is a new thing that the Black History Committee put together, African American History at the Loudon County Courthouse. And a couple people are named in here. I don’t know if it’s anybody-, I have more at home so you can have that one. You know cuz they’re trying to put the bits and pieces of the history together. Um, Marcus did I miss, am I missing anything? You’re always real helpful. Also we covered your fam-, your mothers-, your grandmothers children.

Sharon Peterson

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Thelma was your mother, that’s your maternal side. So what about the paternal side, Annie, Anne and Columbus. Do you remember anything about them?

Sharon Peterson

I guess, only thing I can remember, my grandmother worked up at the school as a cook.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Annie did. And what did Columbus do?

Sharon Peterson

He worked with horses-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

He worked with horses.

Sharon Peterson

And then down here at, what’s down here on the back road, um… Used ot be Emory, what did they call that farm there? You know what I’m talking about?

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible]

Sharon Peterson

Yeah down on Snake Hill Road. Um…

Marcus Howard

Down… past Duncan Reed?

Sharon Peterson

Past Duncan. Joe Emory used to live there, but Joe wasn’t the boss. I can’t think of who the boss was. But anyway he worked with horses.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

And then they had two kids, and they were Vincent and Audrey.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Vincent and Audrey were their kids?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do you remember Windy Hill?

Sharon Peterson

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What do you remember about Windy Hill?

Sharon Peterson

Whole lot of bootlegging.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You’re the second or third person to say that.

Sharon Peterson

Windy Hill wasn’t a real good area at that time.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Why?

Sharon Peterson

Just kinda like rough necks was down there. Ypu’d know what I’m trying to say, it really wasn’t, wasn’t really a good area. Fighting, drinking, just you know… wasn’t family or any of that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So lot of single guys would live in there? They’d have worked with-

Sharon Peterson

No, not single guys living there. Really bootlegging is what comes to mind more than enaything

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

Lot of talented kids come off of windy hill, quite talented.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Did the housing always look the way it does now?

Sharon Peterson

Ooo, no.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What did it look like back in the day?

Sharon Peterson

Rough. It was… You really tryna pull these words out of me. It was one of the-, not one of the better areas, really wasn’t. Like little shanties and little shacks. Looks nothing like it looks now.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And who lives back there now? I’ve yet to drive in there.

Sharon Peterson

Well they have apartments in there now-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Sharon Peterson

They have a senior citizens apartment on the hill behind the fire department, they have another one in the bottom. But who lives there now? I’m not sure about a whole lot of people, and they only have what two or three houses? They don’t have a lot of houses because they knocked a lot fo the houses down, because like I said, they were just little shanties.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh. When did this happen, when did they like knock a bunch of stuff down?

Sharon Peterson

Hmm, when Marcus? About 20 some years or so ago?

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible] There’s now the Windy Hill Foundation.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott   
That’s right. That’s what I thought.

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible] They had a lot of the houses-, tore down a lot of the houses.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well where did people go when they tore everything down? Where would they go? Cuz they were mainly Black folks?

Marcus Howard

Yes

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And do mainly Black folks live in there now?

Sharon Peterson

There-, there are some, some. Okay, uh, Erol Lee, which is Theodore, Theodore used to be a minister here at one time. His son, his daughter and son-in-law is there. And they’re original. Who else?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What’s the last name, Fiddle?

Sharon Peterson

Theodore was a Haley. Theodore Haley

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Theodore?

Sharon Peterson

Theodore. He was he’s passed now.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Theodore Haley and he used to live in there.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, and he was a minister here at one time.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh okay. The minister lived in Windy Hill

Sharon Peterson

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

He wasn’t the senior minister, he was like an assistant.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Well it couldn’t have been that bad if the Minster lived down there?

Sharon Peterson

It wasn’t too bad.

Marcus Howard

It was like… If you didn’t belong there, you didn’t go there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Uh-huh, okay.

Sharon Peterson

Now that’s a good way of saying it.

Marcus Howard

[unintelligible]

Sharon Peterson

He wasn’t always saved!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You said he wasn’t always saved, oooh!

Sharon Peterson

You know, I’m gonna tell you in all honesty. You know, my uncles they were alcoholics, and sometimes they would say-, Shay, they’d call me, oh I can’t think-, Shay Shay. How about goin to the liquor store for me. I had no problem doin it, it kept them off the road. So I come out one day, and Theodore was out there in the street. “Let me preach about them on Sunday, Sharon”, “well you go ahead and preach about them but make sure to tell them the truth when you do it". And even though I bought that liquor, I ain’t buying for Sharon.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right.

Sharon Peterson

So you know you come across [unintelligible]. So when he said that, I said “you ain’t always bene saved, I remember you too. So don’t come at me, everybody got skeletons in their closet”.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Everybody does.

Sharon Peterson

So don’t come pointin your finger at Sharon now, because Sharon ain’t all that either. So just sayin it the nice way.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Now where was this liquor store you were going to.

Sharon Peterson

Middleburg.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Where the ABC store is?

Sharon Peterson

It wasn’t where that is then. You go around the corner, you know where the light is when you come in to Middleburg? Make a left and then the liquor store is on the right. That was a Nackmans clothing store, then the ABC store, then down in the bottom was a clinic.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And a clinic…

Sharon Peterson

Now that’s a winery I believe, down there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh okay.

Sharon Peterson

And then across the street was a drug store. And wasn’t the fire department-? I’m trying to think, wasn’t the fire department on that street too?

Marcus Howard

I don’t know?

Sharon Peterson

I don’t know why I’m askin you. It was a bank that was on the corner where the oyster bar is, that was the bank.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh, yep, the oyster bar was a bank.

Sharon Peterson

Somewhere in that little area, I wanna say the fire department was there as well.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And folks said the Safeway was on the other side of the street back in the day.

Sharon Peterson

Safeway was, was down below the oyster bar. You know the oyster bar on the corner? And the Safeway was where, I wanna say, it’s a dog thing now.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh?

Sharon Peterson

It was really small. It’s a, it’s something for dogs now, I don’t know what it’s called but that’s where the Safeway was. And then on the corner, if you go all the way down to the end of the street was a B and A, that sold meat, and you could get it on credit or they always had the best of the best. That’s where most of the rich people shopped at. They had the butchers cut it up, and then on payday you know you may get the little crumbs that’d go into hamburger or something. But they had the best meat there.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So when y’all would go down to Middleburg to shop and go buy meats and whatever, how did the storeowners and folks treat you.

Sharon Peterson

They-, they knew you.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay

Sharon Peterson

You tell them you’re someone, and someone’s child. They knew you.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So you could walk in, get stuff, no problem?

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, I’d say, if I go in for my grandma, say Maddie said put that on her credit.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

And never had a problem. They did it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay, and no back door stuff?

Sharon Peterson

Mm-hmm

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. But you were coming of age-

Sharon Peterson

Well then there’s the restaurant the Coach Stop-. The restaurant called the Coach Stop?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What’s it? The Co-?

Sharon Peterson

Coach. Stop.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

The Coach-

Sharon Peterson

Stop.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Stop okay.

Sharon Peterson

You’d go around back to get your beer.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh.

Sharon Peterson

You couldn’t come through the front door now. You go around back to get that. Then there was Hitching Post right up on the corner where you turn like your-. What’s the road for when you’re going to Warrenton…? Zulu Road. Right there, you had to go around back and get that too.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

I only knew that because daddy wasn’t the church going person. My mom went to church, her and I. But sometimes whne we didn’t go and we stayed at home with him, we’d have to get in the car so he would go get his beer. And he had to go around back to get it.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ah, did you ever ask why?

Sharon Peterson

No, I knew why. I didn’t have to ask, I knew why? Probably somewhere down the road, because I am nosey, I probably did ask that question. Yeah…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Hmm. Do you ever remember taking, did you family ever take a trip somewhere in the car?

Sharon Peterson

Went to Tennessee all the time.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right.

Sharon Peterson

That was a big deal.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Do you remember when y’all travel did y’all stop, did you not stop?

Sharon Peterson

Well we had a big ole station wagon, and yeah we would stop and I think most of the meals were already fixed. So you might pull over a little to go to the bathroom, eat a sandwich or something and keep going. Not sitting in a restaurant and eating out.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Right, right.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That sounds about right. That’s what my dad used to say. He said “we had a pee can, cuz we weren’t gonna stop”.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, but we, we got to stop. But we probably-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But you know he wasn’t gonna go in a place or a restroom cuz you couldn’t trust it

Sharon Peterson

I don’t think we took-, there’s Atlantic City but that was Annie, and she-, she didn’t invite us, even though we were her grandchildren. She invited her brothers children to go. And they little lighter than we were. That’s what I think.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ahhh…

Sharon Peterson

You know, we were our own worst enemies. To be honest, we were. And I asked, I would stand there and cry and watched them pull off. I’d ask her, why grandma, why not us, we your grandchildren? They youre nieces, why?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay so now you’re talkin about the colorism

Sharon Peterson

Uh-huh.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So was there colorism in St. Louis?

Sharon Peterson

Heck yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So talk to me about that.

Sharon Peterson

I can call names, and I still got them in my head after youre gone.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

This is true, but you don’t say nothing you don’t wanna say. I’m sitting there looking at you now, you’re a hair two, three, four lighter than me.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So like, did you-

Sharon Peterson

Well we had a lot less lighter than [unintelligible] you know? My mother was light, and I have a funeral I have to attend for my mother’s first cousin, so they were really, really light. So light they could pass for white. We always thought they were. And my mother said, “this is the way we gonna do this. There’s an oven, there’s an oven that didn’t cook long enough. There’s an oven where some got dark, and some got burnt up”. That’s the way we had to describe people. “Okay mom, they’re the burnt up ones?”

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh my gosh.

Sharon Peterson

“And we didn’t stay in the oven long enough?” So the one on Saturday I’m goin to, they didn’t stay in the oven long enough.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ah.

Sharon Peterson

And I wish I had brought my family reunion book. You know you would say, is that all white people in your family?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Now did they pass, or did they still move in the world like Black folk.

Sharon Peterson

They lived in the world like Black folks. Quite bright. Raymond, who was named after my grandfather, became a dentist.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

What, Raymond, what was his last name?

Sharon Peterson

Young.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Raymond Young, okay.

Sharon Peterson

He’s a dentist, he’s retired now though.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

And um, trying to think, others were-, the boys were, one of them George was being a menace, but the others were farmers. And they had two girls, they had two sisters, which one of them is on Saturday. They worked at the hospital, Mary worked at, in the labor and delivery room, and Edith worked in the nursing home, she’s already passed too. But those were my mom’s first cousins.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Was your mom real light skinned?

Sharon Peterson

Ehh, no she wasn’t real light skinned. Probably my color, I guess.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

My father was very light.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ah

Sharon Peterson

He, he kinda had that Smokey Robinson look.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ahhh, yes.

Sharon Peterson

I think, I think he thought he was all that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh did he, oh that’s trouble.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, that dog, he lost his way home a lot of nights.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So like how did, what did, so you said like there is definitely colorism in St. Louis, but like what did that-

Sharon Peterson

A lot of people judged you by your color-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay-

Sharon Peterson

You know, if you-, even going to school. Let’s say this, going to school, we had-, we had this field trip one time. And this girl she was light skin, and the teacher would refer to her a Pocahontas because she had nice hair braided, braids way down her paints, you know, “what’s Pocahontas doing now?” Well that wasn’t very nice.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That was not

Sharon Peterson

Well that Pocahontas was going on a field trip to the air port, and I’ll never forget, Pocahontas wet on herself. And she kept saying, “I gotta go to the bathroom”, well where do you go when you’re on the school bus from here to the airport? There’s nowhere for you to go. And I said “she had an accident”, “was it number one or number two?”. I said “number one”, oh my goodness, she embarrassed that girl so bad, she ended up moving out of the area.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh no!

Sharon Peterson

But before all that, she was A, a school. And talk about buying books, the reason my books were old? Because of all the little light brights go the new books.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Ohh.

Sharon Peterson

And they hadn’t paid for them.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So the favoritism?

Sharon Peterson

There you go! Yep. Lot of that happened.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Were most of the folks in St. Louis lighter skinned or most of them were brown?

Sharon Peterson

No…

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Or just- a variety.

Sharon Peterson

But the, but the mindset was-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

Was like that you know. Like if you were lighter the better hair. You know automatically made you smarter. And you had party lines, and that was, say four of us-, Mike was probably gone to Tennessee by now, and you always had one amongst stay on there. You always had to share the phone with four other people. And I remember, my mom was on telephone listening, not us. And the lady said, “that’s gotta be Thelma’s children cuz them other children wouldn’t do that”. What’d you say that for?” They say “uh-oh!” It’s on now. My mom said she needed a private line, and stay off the phone because it wasn’t just for her. And this lady was a teacher was a friend of my grandmothers, and she told on how my mother performed on the phone with her. I said “woo, better it wasn’t us”, that’s all we could say, it was not us.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So wait a minute, how did the party line work? You had a phone in your house.

Sharon Peterson

Okay, say Marcus got a phone, his phone would ring one time, my phone ring two times, yours might ring three times, so you listen for the rings.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

To know whether the call was coming for you?

Sharon Peterson

Yes.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But how does somebody make it ring that many time for you?

Sharon Peterson

If you dialed for them it would automatically ring that.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh…

Sharon Peterson

And then you guys, Missus was thinking the phone was her regardless of how many times it would ring, one, two, three, or four. Yes! And she picked up, who is this? And if you pick it up it’d be really easy to know if anybody was on there, cuz you didn’t hear it ring. Maybe they dialed out, and she would always be on the phone.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

But if people are on the party line, can you call out or is it occupied?

Sharon Peterson

It’s occupied till they get off.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So how many people would have a party line, be on this party line?

Sharon Peterson

What three-, four, three to four people?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

So that was the max that could share the party line?

Sharon Peterson

Uh-huh.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And it’d make the bill less?

Sharon Peterson

I don’t know about the bill because I wasn’t paying it at the time

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah.

Sharon Peterson

But it was just sharing a lot, it was a shared phone.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s just so wild.

Marcus Howard

Everybody used to use it

Sharon Peterson

Yeah, yeah.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah? Everybody had party lines.

Marcus Howard

You never seen a party line?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

No I’ve never seen a party line.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah. But you always got that one who thinks it’s just for them

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah, and I’ve heard of it, but I just didn’t know how it worked in a practical sense. Yeah… I wasn’t allowed to touch the phone. My momma said nobody’s calling for me so I don’t need to touch the phone.

Me neither, maybe if she’s going for a run, someone would answer the phone, but I’m doing this or whatever.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yeah. By the time I got older, don’t let a little boy call me. I was gonna be in trouble for just calling me.

Sharon Peterson

Mmm!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh my goodness, well that’s interesting. Hmm. And no one knows why the Dance Hall burned down

Marcus Howard

Never figured that one out.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And that was about when?

Marcus Howard

Before me.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Before you? What year were you born in Marcus-?

Sharon Peterson

That’s my favorite answer.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You were born in ‘71, okay. See I was born in ’72, so we’re right there. I’m ’72. Okay, yeah.

Sharon Peterson

’72?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

’72. Yep I was born in Chicago.

Sharon Peterson

You were born in Chicago?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s where I was born, in Chicago.

Sharon Peterson

Okay.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep my daddy was born in Birmingham, they left Birmingham went to Chicago. My mom was born in Chicago.

Sharon Peterson

Hmm.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Yep.

Sharon Peterson

I’m a ’50 baby.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Oh my dad was born in ’50 yep.

Sharon Peterson

My son, I had him in ’77.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay.

Sharon Peterson

And my other one in ’87.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Okay. Yep you right there. You look great.

Sharon Peterson

Really?

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

You do. Not a wrinkle on your face.

Sharon Peterson

Huh!

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

And I see you with all your piercings.

Sharon Peterson

That’s just cuz the lights-

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

Naw, nope.

Sharon Peterson

Yeah but when they lights went out.

Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott

That’s like a good basement party. Don’t turn the lights on y’all! I done sweat out my head. I’m gonna turn this off.

[End 26:23]