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SHOLOMO LEVY: Hello, I am Sholomo Levy. And I'm here today with Donald K. Williams to talk to him for an oral history project called, "Voices from the African American Diaspora." This is part of the Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium. And we are recording today from the Bethlehem Area Public Library on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Mr. Williams, thank you for being here with us today. Can you please state and then spell your full name?

DONALD WILLIAMS: Yes. My name is Donald K. Williams, W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S for Williams and Donald like in duck.

SL: OK. And can you tell us when and where you were born?

DW: I was born in 1950, July the 7<sup>th</sup>, 1950 in Elizbeth City, North Carolina. I attended school there for 12 years. [01:00] I graduated from P.W. Moore High School in Elizabeth City.

SL: Who were your parents?

DW: My parents was Curtis [Windell?] Williams and Katherine [Spruer?] Williams.

SL: What did they do there and what kind of --

DW: My father worked at the Portsmouth Norfolk Shipyard for about 20 years and my mother was -- she was just an industrialist. She sold house products to most people,

like pictures, frames, candles, stuff like that to decorate homes. Back in the days, they had these -- a lot of frames for -- they had ivory around them, stuff like that, stuff to put on the coffee table. She sold plates and silverware and stuff like that to enhance the people coming up [02:00] through the years. Most of the time -- most of the area worked at the farms and sort of like croppers, potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, beans, and stuff like that, but she was more into that.

SL: And so about how old were you when you moved to Bethlehem?

DW: I was 18 years old. I moved here in 1968 after graduating from high school in June. I moved here in July.

SL: And what brought you here?

DW: Well, my sister had come here maybe 15-20 years earlier --

SL: And what was her name?

DW: -- and she was established. Ms. Vivian Butts, Williams-Butts. She became --

SL: We've heard of them in a previous interview.

DW: Yes. She became a police officer in the Bethlehem Police Department for 25 years after I was here quite a few years. So she had got the family sort of established. [03:00] I had three brothers living here at the time. We came for a better way of life from the South after graduating from high school, all three.

SL: Do you know their names?

DW: Roland Williams, Elmer Williams, and Wayman Williams.

SL: I assume that she was the first black female police officer?

DW: She was the first female officer period and she was the first black.

SL: And the first black officer?

DW: Yes. And she had a -- she became a martyr. She could've stayed at Western Electric where most people worked at that time and she made more money, but she wanted to be a martyr. She wanted to have this job where she could lookout for her negro family and friends, so she left that job and she started here. And she stayed until she retired.

SL: [04:00] How important was that for the black community to have a black police officer?

DW: Well, they had had two black female -- I mean, male officers before. We had Hughes, that was a park officer at [Sockem?] Park. He went to different park areas too, just to police them. And we had Johnson, who was the first black cop. I think it was, right? Back in the -- after coming out of the '60s and people giving the rights, black people or anyone would speak up for justice and they would

-- like now, they're getting killed and shot. She wanted to sort of protect her friends and family.

SL: Were there any incidents like that here in Bethlehem?

DW: Well, yes, there was. Actually, there was an incident with my sister. She was most of the time in the [05:00] police station at the desk. Before she would get a rank to a higher, they put her out on the street. So in Pembroke Village at one time, they turned her car over with her and another officer inside of it and that was --

SL: And tell us what happened.

DW: Well, they was just policing the neighborhood, sitting on the corner, and the people in the projects got sort of antagonized. And they just started rocking the car until they turned it over, so that was the last of the time that she spent on the street. Basically, she was the youth officer and she -- as far as helping the kids or any problems they had, she was the mediator between the police and the kids as far as they had problems in school, delinquency. She worked with that her first few years.

[06:00] And she was...

SL: And where did you live when you moved here?

DW: When I first moved here, I moved over by Pembroke Village, but it was a house in a complex there that was leftover from the military, so I stayed there about three years.

And then after that, it was Bethlehem Apartments, which is on Livingston Street for --

SL: Can you describe the neighborhood and the community at that time?

DW: Well, we had a lot of people that was -- since it was leftover, it was an area that they built after World War II. And it was sort of old, but I was there about three years. My brother moved there. My mom moved there. My sisters moved there, not my sister, but my brother moved there with us. And it was like a community, three brothers really. It was all right. Elmer, Roland, and [07:00] Ed moved in there, and I moved in there. And it was cheap housing. And then later, they tore it down, so everybody had to move at one time. So we moved to Livingston and Randolph apartment, Randolph Street so that was the upcoming new apartments. Before then, we tried to move, but it was hard to get housing in the Lehigh Valley.

SL: Why was it difficult?

DW: Well, people wasn't used to blacks, I guess, at the time. It was a lot of -- it was only certain areas you could live on the Southside, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and not on the west or the north side of town. There was hardly any blacks at that time.

SL: So mostly on the southside there?

DW: Southside, yes.

SL: And where did you find employment?

DW: I found employment at Morris Business Firm in Quakertown.

[08:00] I did have a chance at Bethlehem Steel. But at that time, they was only giving black people jobs as laborers. And so we had social service -- what do they call it? The employment people that -- yeah, it was Reverend Hargrove and Mrs. Statum. Mrs. Statum's husband worked at Lafayette College as a golf -- I mean, as a football coach and basketball coach. He's a graduate from North Carolina A&T. And Mrs. Statum graduated from the same school and she -- actually, they all ended up in the Lehigh Valley. I don't know poor Reverend Hargrove. He was a college -- and he's somewhere, but...

SL: Did you eventually get a job with Bethlehem Steel?

DW: No. [09:00] I turned down the job because I had a high score in mathematics and I wanted to be a draftsman. And I really didn't want to be in Bethlehem. I wanted to be somewhere else in the country. But taking the tests here, they would have training in Baltimore and then you could go to some other plant, but it didn't work out that way. So I went at became a printer at Morris Business Firm, which is the largest printing company in America. And I did it there for quite a few years until something happened, a

flood, and problems, personal. And I ended up in the labor union. And we had a lot of influential black men in the labor union, Mr. [Sipio?], Mr. Watson, and Mr. Hatfield. They was prominent people in the labor union. They ran for business agent and stuff like that also. And so, it was easy for the blacks to make it in the labor union. [10:00] And the later, some got into the engineering and electrical union.

SL: Was this a national union like the AFL-CIO?

DW: AFL-CIO, yes, it is.

SL: But with this particular trade or...

DW: Well, mine's was the labor union. My two brothers was in the labor union. My brother Wayman went into the carpentry union. And my brother Ed worked a little bit during the summer between college, along with my cousins and stuff like that. Actually, Mr. Hatfield was really influential and his son became the north -- what do you call it, the north part of America -- the NSA director for the United States and Obama. So there's been some influential people, you know, from here.

SL: And what happened next in [11:00] your life from there?

DW: During there, I was married. I had a couple of --

SL: Who did you --

DW: -- children.

SL: Who were you married to?

DW: I was married to Janice Sutton-Williams from Elizabeth City High School. We got married right out of high school.

SL: She moved here with you from --

DW: Yes.

SL: -- Bethlehem?

DW: And I brought quite a few friends that was graduated from school that wanted to come this way and a lot of them did and then some went back.

SL: And what did she do here?

DW: She worked for AT&T -- I mean, A&T, Western Electric, it was called at the time until finally it became Nokia and Lucent. She worked there. That was her first and last job. She worked there 25-30 years and she retired when it went under, when it resolved.

SL: Do you recall any black businesses?

DW: Yes. There was -- [12:00] some of the first black businesses. We had the club on the Southside, which was the Colored Voters Association, along with the Elks, the black Elks, which it was started 1948 on the Southside and CVA was around the same time. But there was Calloway -- Mr. Calloway had a barbershop, so that was one of the first businesses. And Mr. Wright had a grocery store. So when that phased out, then we had Willie Howard. Mr. Willie

Howard had a sweetshop. At that time, the sweetshops in the late -- early '60s -- the middle '60s was -- they was in Easton, Allentown, and Bethlehem where the teenagers hung out a couple nights a week. And they closed maybe eleven o'clock, but it was [13:00] a meeting place.

SL: How would you describe social life for black people of Bethlehem?

DW: Social life in Bethlehem, if you didn't go to the Colored Voters Association, there was no black bars ever in Bethlehem. It was all white-owned, but black socialized there or drank there. We never -- we had at one time a black ran by Carl -- what was that? Carl? It was called CJ's on the Southside for a few years and he developed cancer and it went under. But there was a lot of bars, neighborhood bars, so the people that lived in the neighborhood went. That was it.

SL: What about the churches?

DW: The churches was -- all the churches stemmed basically from one church, [14:00] St. John's [Amy?], and then from there we had the Second Baptist. And then Second Baptist ended up on this side of town. St. Paul's. Those were the three major churches here. Then they had the Pentecostal church was on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Bethlehem. And then they had two churches there and a lot of startup churches started there

because they didn't use the smaller churches. They started in the white church and then bought the whole two churches. And they're still established now. But, right now, we have a lot of churches because you have a lot of non-denomination, (inaudible) churches, but the churches strived. That was the center of the valley.

SL: Which church did you belong to?

DW: Right now, I belong to St. James in Allentown. That's the church my wife now goes to, but my family always went to St. Paul's. All my brothers [15:00] and sisters and their children went to St. Paul's churches ever since they've been in Bethlehem. And I went there for quite a few years, but I ended up change -- I joined St. James just this year.

SL: Can you describe what it was like raising children here in Bethlehem?

DW: Yes. My children got along well because my brother was a schoolteacher at Liberty High School. And so, they didn't have no problem because he was the only black teacher at Liberty High School for years.

SL: What was his name again?

DW: Edward Williams.

SL: Can you --

DW: He was a math teacher. He taught school at Liberty High School for almost 25 years. He started out Broughal and

then became the community [liaison?] for a couple years.

And then, he went to Liberty High School and he stayed there. Cut --

SL: [16:00] No, continue. And what was -- so your brother was a high school teacher there?

DW: Yes. He became a -- he was a high school teacher. He taught for 31 years and his last 11 years, he was a golf coach.

SL: And how many children did you have?

DW: I had three daughters and one son, but one of them's -- only two by my first wife. And they both graduated from --

SL: Let's pause there for a brief moment.

DW: I didn't want to bring that up.

SL: OK. Could you tell us a little bit more about raising children here in Bethlehem? How many children did you have and what were their names?

DW: I had four children altogether. I raised basically three of them. My one son was from Easton, Pennsylvania and he graduated [17:00] from Easton High School, but my two daughters graduated from Liberty, Felicity Williams and Lucretia Williams. Fifi went back to my hometown school and graduated with a B.A., just a business, a B.A. Business, what do they call it in --

A: Bachelor of Arts.

DW: -- Business, Bachelor of Arts in Business. And Lucretia graduated from Howard University, electrical engineer, and she still lives in D.C. area. And my son graduated from Bloomsburg College in business. And my youngest daughter never went to college.

SL: Did they all receive their early education here in Bethlehem?

DW: Well, my son from Easton, but my other three from Bethlehem. My youngest daughter graduated from Freedom High School.

SL: And what were their childhood experiences like?

DW: [18:00] My daughters, they did a lot of -- they was well into ballet, so they got along real good. They started at four and five years old doing ballet until they graduated from high school. And my youngest daughter, she liked acting. She was in the Bethlehem acting guild. She got a scholarship there. And then, she got into the acting from the Southside of Bethlehem. They did a -- wrote their own play and they got scholarship money. Their teacher got a scholarship to -- the first time ever to do a play with the students their self. And the kids wrote their own play and performed their own play and that was the first. And then, my son, he was active in business and stuff like that from

Easton and he graduated from Bloomsburg. And he never lived in [19:00] Bethlehem.

SL: Did they participate in any sports?

DW: My daughter was -- Lucretia, she was a -- I'll say, a track star. She set the record at Liberty High School in long jump and she set the record in hurdle one year at the regionals, but they didn't want to give it to her. She won by two lengths and about 15 minutes to say that she won. That's how prejudiced they was, I think, in Bethlehem. That's my say.

SL: Did you play any sports or involved in any social activities?

DW: I played golf.

SL: You played golf.

DW: My brother Elmer was a real good golfer. And when he was in Elizabeth City, it was a time when it was coming up the first blacks to go to the pro tour. [20:00] And the coach -- the golf pro at Elizabeth City took him under his wing and taught him a lot of golf, but he went into the military. So when I came to Pennsylvania, they had started playing golf at Bethlehem Municipal Golf Course and then I followed suit. I was the last of the caddies at our golf course in Elizabeth City. It was a private club. So then, I had a lot of time on my hands and I became a good golfer.

And Ed, when he started in school, he had a lot of time in the summer, so he became a good golfer. And we was able to finally beat our older brothers. Then we started a team -- a league of our own called the Teddy Rhodes Golf Club.

SL: And why was it called that?

DW: Teddy Rhodes was the golfer who taught Lee Elder how to play golf. If you know, Lee Elder was one of the first to make it successful on the tour, so Teddy Rhodes taught him and [21:00] we named our club after him. But we started playing against the Easton Golf Club because the -- and then we developed called the ABE, Allentown Bethlehem and Easton Golf Team. Then, we started to play against other golf teams like Harrisburg, some guys out of Philly, and then we went and play guys out of Somerset, New Jersey, [Flemington?], New Jersey, Morristown, New Jersey. Then, we developed between them and us and Harrisburg, but we started called the Interstate Alliance of Amateur Golfers and we played against New York, New Jersey, which was Atlantic City, Delaware, Pennsylvania.

SL: So it sounds like --

DW: And it lasted a few years until the oil crisis and it broke us up in '75.

SL: '75?

DW: Yes.

SL: And why did that affect golf?

DW: [22:00]. The cost to get around was -- it got to be expensive to travel because we traveled with 16 golfers and so a lot of guys didn't want to travel. And it sort of broke us up.

SL: And so, it sounds like golf was very popular before Tiger Woods?

DW: Yes, it was. Yes, it was.

SL: And a lot of people played it and you had your own black golf leagues?

DW: And we met a lot of distinguished black people as we traveled. We met architects and people that own water and the agencies and businesspeople out of New York and same thing, Atlantic City, Delaware, a lot of people that was executives at the DuPont Industry in Delaware. Each city, each state had their group of people and they had their golfers.

SL: Did you travel to any of the black-owned golf courses?

DW: Yes. My brother actually won one tournament [23:00] one or two years at Sicklerville, New Jersey. The bishop had a golf -- it's a black-owned golf course still around now and he won it there. And then, that's where all the black pros come every August and won there. Plus, he went on and became a professional golfer in the senior tour. And he

tried out a few times at the regular tour, but he ended up retreating back to -- he only had his summers to do it.

But when he became a golf coach and got to the end of retirement, he made his first qualifying at the senior tour in Maryland. But he pursued it for another five years, but it was tough.

SL: You mentioned the oil crisis, but do you think that integration affected a lot of the black-owned golf clubs and black organizations? Once they could play at white clubs that had previously excluded black players that [24:00] the black-owned clubs then started to go out of business?

DW: Well, the golf course that I caddied at in Elizabeth City, I was the last caddy. I was the caddy master. They got rid of caddies and they just have golf course. But at that time, they didn't want no blacks around coming out of this -- this is '67 and '68, so we got our way in '65, right? So some of the golfers -- some of the caddies was uncouth and they spoke up against the white men, the lawyers and the doctors and stuff, so they got rid of all the caddies. But I learned how to play golf because I didn't have to go caddy and I was there when the pro gave them lessons, gave people lessons, so I learned a lot about golf. But, now, at modern times, it's a black -- a lot of black golfers. I

go back and [25:00] play that course because when they start integrating it and they couldn't keep the blacks away from playing the golf course, they had the -- the white people sort of left the golf course. And now, they had to get members. It started with the college professors and all joined the golf course in Elizabeth City. And then, before that, it was the Coast Guard. It's a large Coast Guard. The largest Coast Guard on the East Coast is in Elizabeth City and they would let some of the Coast Guard members because they travel -- they joined there. And now, the major contributors is the college, Elizabeth City State University.

SL: For people watching this now, on the PGA Tour, you still see caddies carrying the bags of the golfers. But you're saying up until that period even public courses and most courses would have private caddies [26:00] carrying their bags and many of those caddies were black?

DW: Yes.

SL: Such as yourself?

DW: Yes.

SL: And then when golf carts, the carts that you drive, then you no longer needed a person to carry your bag because you would put the bag on the cart --

DW: Right.

SL: -- except in professionals, they still got to -- well, they have caddies, but --

DW: Yeah, because the Masters had all black caddies until the discrimination came up -- I mean, until we started -- and nowadays, all the caddies on the tour is mostly white. People is -- instead of paying all that money to the caddies, they're giving it to their family members to caddy for them.

SL: But this was an era when black people were the majority of the caddies. And you do see that when you look at older footage of golf in the '40s and '50s, all the black caddies on the field and the white golfers. In addition to golf, were you involved [27:00] in any community organizations?

DW: Well, actually before golf, we played -- we just had a handful of family members from Elizabeth City that started the Bethlehem, the Howards and the Williams, and then we met other golfers on the golf course. And we joined -- we started to develop interplay among ourselves and then we started with Easton. But we had -- Wille Howard worked for the neighborhood -- what did they call it? The Southside Neighborhood Center and he started baseball, softball, and a basketball, and a flag football team. And he kept with the Puerto Ricans, and the Mexicans, and the Blacks. We started -- it was called, The Brothers. And they also had

The Sisters, which played softball. And he kept that going for years. And then we started -- got more developed on golf. The areas -- [28:00] back until the modern time now, I become a member of the Elks Lodge, but before it was the CVA, the Colored Voters Association, that was the meeting spot for all the blacks. And we hashed out -- besides the churches, hashed out any kind of social problems we may have in the city because at one time, you couldn't meet on the city more than two people over five minutes. You couldn't stop and talk. They had an order that said we couldn't converse on the sidewalks, so you needed a club.

SL: And this club, was it organized by local black citizens or was it --

DW: Yeah, it was organized a lot by Brother Johnny Baker, Mr. Enix, Mr. Statum, a lot of them. They met there [29:00] all the time. A lot of them, I didn't know.

SL: And did you sponsor programs for the youth?

DW: They sponsored programs for the youth that -- at the time, they had the Junior Elks. They called it the Junior Herd. And they had drill teams, basketball, and stuff. And they won a lot of competitive affairs. They won the national drill team at one year (inaudible).

SL: Can you tell us about your affiliation with the Elks? When did you get involved with them?

DW: I got involved in the Elks about ten years ago. And the Elks was having a lot of problems. They were about to close. I joined ten years ago and the deputy for the Elks was saying we should sell the building and just have a lodge and meet at people's houses [30:00], but it's still going. Actually, my brothers and all, we started ten years ago, nine years ago. We started a golf tournament and that started to help bring them afloat.

SL: For the people watching this, can you give -- do you know a little history of the Elks Lodge?

DW: Yes, we just had our 79<sup>th</sup> year, I think, celebration -- no, 72 years, the Elks has been active in the Lehigh Valley. We're one of the latest lodges in Pennsylvania and we started 70 some years ago.

SL: And this is a black lodge?

DW: Black lodge. We wanted to become part of the white lodge, the Elks original. And they wouldn't allow us, so we became [31:00] the Elks Lodge (inaudible), but never Order of Elks of the World. We used to be at 400,000 members. We're probably at 200,000 now. What happened when they started integrating, people started joining other lodges and like the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis. They started joining all of them and they got away from the black only. And the Masonic Lodge -- I'm a member of the Masonic Lodge

and they've been around over 100 years. I think it's 101 right now. I'm not for sure.

SL: These are Prince Hall Masons?

DW: Prince Hall Masonry --

SL: And do you --

DW: -- which started the same way. When they wouldn't let us in 1832 or something join the white lodge, Prince Hall started his own and he got chartered by England before the white lodges did in America. The white lodge was just a lodge [32:00] extended from them, but they didn't have a charter. Prince Hall got the charter before the white lodge did.

SL: And what kind of things did Elks do, Black Elks?

DW: The Black Elks?

SL: Uh-huh.

DW: Well, we have -- right even to now, we have a beauty and talent contest and an oratorical contest. Actually, the Elks give \$12,000 to the winning kid every year at a national level. We just had the convention last week. It's usually the first week of June every year. And then we send a participant or whatever if we do. And we have a youth talent contest. We have a -- usually a parade every year. This year, it's going to be in New Orleans, the national, but we represent. And civil liberties, we always

acknowledge the people that works [33:00] in the civil rights in the area, or -- the state and we have an achievement that have did something outstanding that's black in the state. We have that ever year.

SL: Did you hold any positions within the organization?

DW: Actually, for the state, I hold the office of State Athletic Director. I just had a golf tournament on Sunday in Pittsburg, and we raised money. We have a -- I was helping a group out there correspondent with us is a joint (inaudible) the first time we did it. And he has the West Penn Minority Golfer's Association. He has a teaching degree. He's been teaching minority golf for 25 years. This year, they will be going to Oakmont Country Club. They have their banquet. Oakmont [34:00] is predominant white, don't even really want you to drive through the neighborhood, golf course. It's been held the U.S. Open and all like that through the years, through that golf course. It's well known like Pebble Beach, the Master's, Augusta. Also, I hold office in the council, which is a council of 20 -- of 17 lodges. I'm the bursar of the lodge and also I'm the Junior Warden for the Masonic Lodge, Prince Hall Masonic Lodge at this time, and the Financial Secretary for the local Elks.

SL: Before we leave this subject, how would you say the lodges, both the Masons and the lodges, have changed from the time that you first got involved with them to now?

DW: Well, the membership of each is dwindling. [35:00] We have more people dying than we have joining. If a brother gets in there, they -- nowadays, they seem like what they looking for -- so they'll be there for a year or two and they drop out. It's probably -- we have that same thing going for black businesses and that's why black lodges all over the country -- we're losing lodges left and right. And we have maybe 400 members that die in a year, but only 200 joining, national-wise. I don't know. It's like the black resorts. There used to be a lot of them in the 50s. But when the 60s came up and you started integrating, Buckroe Beach, people going to Coney Island and stuff, so they don't need to go to the black one. The Hillside and the [36:00] Poconos, it was flourishing. It went under a few years back, so that's the things that we have -- and as a black organization, we have -- actually, the state of Pennsylvania had one lodge that started back up last year and that's been the first in 20 years that we have had an Elks Lodge that go under to come back. It's just crazy.

SL: Yeah, that's very --

DW: (inaudible).

SL: -- interesting. Just to return to local life here in Bethlehem, how would you describe your interactions with public facilities, banks, realtors, department stores --

DW: Well, we have had --

SL: -- restaurants?

DW: It's pretty good. I mean, you pay your dues, you have a meal, and you push out. But as far as [37:00] going there -- we patronize them, but you have very few black waitresses. You may have a cook or two, but they still don't -- ain't conducive for minorities. And I'm a member of the NAACP and we just had a picket last week at Just Born Candy Factory. And at Just Born Candy Factory, they're not giving blacks promotions. They're coming up with more robots. And there's not many jobs for -- you can get. Right now, we're trying to get -- to find out -- there's a large company coming to Majestic Avenue and we want to get blacks --

SL: We're going to pause right her for a second.

DW: OK.

SL: OK. Can you tell us about your involvement with the NAACP? When did you get involved and what kind of [38:00] things took place?

DW: OK. Actually, my cousin, Willie Ho-- I mean, not Willie Howard. Willie Howard, yes, he was the President of NAACP

and his brother was the president of NAACP in Bethlehem. His brother was president in Allentown. And so later, my brother, Edward Williams, became president of the Bethlehem branch. I remember him bringing Reverend Abernathy to Bethlehem to be the speaker at the NAACP and the year was like --

SL: And for our viewers, Reverend Abernathy was an assistant to Martin Luther King, Jr.

DW: Yes. He was the assistant that took over the National -- it was not called the -- Reverend King was from --

SL: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

DW: -- the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Reverend Abernathy took over after him.

SL: Took over that with King's assassination in '68.

DW: And so, my brother went to [39:00] Coatesville, Pennsylvania and he met Reverend Abernathy and he talked him into coming to Bethlehem. He was carrying his briefcase around. And in that year, we had to raise money to have him come here because he's pretty expensive, any of those guys is. So my niece, Sharon, ran for queen and she won. And she brought in a lot of money for the local branch.

SL: We didn't know that! And so, Ralph Abernathy came here to Bethlehem?

DW: He came to Bethlehem and we had a large turnout. And I think probably the largest they ever had because the local branch don't get that involved in too many affairs, we didn't really had too many. When Reverend King was killed, I remember I was in South that year and we had a little small rally in our town. But on the news, they were mentioning New York City and Brooklyn and stuff. And there was a flashback of [40:00] Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which never had a problem. They had a little riot, a couple broken windows on Main Street of Bethlehem that year, so I came here later that year and after school graduated.

SL: Who were some of the black leaders here in Bethlehem?

DW: Some of the black leaders was Mr. Enix, Mr. Baker, Mr. Statum, and Mr. [Militan?], Mr. Willie Howard, Ms. Esther Lee. There's a few that still -- until their death stayed involved in social justice in Bethlehem.

SL: Can you tell us anymore about some of the other of those leaders in terms of who they were or what they did? We have their names, but a little description.

DW: [41:00] Mr. Statum and Mr. -- also, Mr. Hargrove, Reverend Hargrove, he was the pastor of Second Baptist. Mr. Statum worked in Lafayette College. Mr. Enix was at Bethlehem Steel. Mr. Hargrove also worked in Bethlehem Steel in the office, so he was the mediator between anyone having a

complaint for no justice. And Mr. Tarboro was pretty active in the churches and the community at that time. Mrs. Lee worked at the Bethlehem Area School District. She also ran for the city council. She ran for [42:00] Bethlehem Area School District, unsuccessful because of the amount of votes. Nowadays, we have to get out a large voter registration. And we was pretty active a lot of years, but not successful enough to get any black to hold office in Bethlehem.

SL: We touched on earlier in the interview the black churches and religious life. Is there anything you want to add to that about living and growing up here in Bethlehem?

DW: We just had a lot of problems in the different churches because pastors coming and going, but we did have Reverend Griffin, which was really active and involved in anything, the NAACP, the CVA, the Elks had. And he taught -- he was a pastor at St. Paul's for 30 years -- 50 years, [43:00] right? He retired when -- he died when he was 80. He was there 50 years. He came back and forth from Philly every week for all those years for minimum salary to help St. Paul's out. He was a great man.

SL: How has Bethlehem changed in the time that you've lived here?

DW: Well, way back in the days, there was very few brothers, sisters can -- like my daughter ran the track and I don't -- and Ms. Cindy Lawrence and she was very good back in the days, right? That's her name, Cindy? And we had a few brothers that was football players like Mr. Shell and his brother and -- well, actually, Mr. Statum [44:00] and [Militan?] ended up going to North Carolina A&T to play sports. It's been token throughout. The [Garboes?] was very good. Mr. Ed Garboes had a few sons that went to college in Texas, Boston College. They got good educations. As for the sports involved that used to be our sport, but these sports got to the point they -- nowadays, we're getting a few more. We have the one that's playing for professional sports, the Hilliard's boy. And we had the boxing by Larry Holmes, but Larry Holmes was put out of the school. But I remember Mr. -- his coach took him under his wing [45:00] and became a pro. He boxed for Powell in Easton. And then we had -- what's that guy right now playing football for the Giants, running back? And we had the kid that played on Michigan that missed the final shot to the CIAA a few years ago, the one that -- the Hilliard played for Villanova when they won the national a couple years ago. And we've started to put a -- we had quite a few sports players come out of here, but they still try to

get you to be second [tick?]. They want you to pass the ball. My nephew was a very good football player. They didn't want to throw to him unless they were way behind, run the ball, because they have a lot of coaches -- the sports got to be the coach's son, the coach's nephews, and [46:00] that's who needs to -- those are the ones they want to promote, so we still have discrimination in that area.

SL: We've spoken to a lot of people who have stayed and who have left. What kept you in Bethlehem?

DW: Family. Family kept me here. But the kids as they graduate from school, they don't come back. All my nieces and nephews, they get the higher educations -- my nephew, Eric, my nephew, Julius --

SL: And why --

DW: -- my daughter, they go away and they don't want to come back here.

SL: Why do you think they leave and don't come back?

DW: Well, they would be discriminating against their self for what they have seen as they grew up in school because their pay scale is less and then the promotion would be less. My niece, Sharon, never came back and she has a -- we're waited for her to come back to Bethlehem [47:00], but she refused to come back. That's the way it is. From all the families that I know that's been established in the Lehigh

Valley and their children gets good educations, they're not here. Their parents are left behind. Very few of them is in the valley.

SL: Well, Mr. Williams, I'd like to thank you for taking this time to share your knowledge of Bethlehem with us. It has been an honor and a privilege.

DW: OK.

SL: Thank you.

END OF AUDIO FILE