

CR ST.A 3A

Subject: Mr. Hamilton Upchurch, Frank Upchurch

Interviewer: DAVID COLBURN

1/25/78

sj

Dr Colburn
20271
FIND Interviewer

I: I guess, basically, Where I wanted to start ~~Scott~~ was with you, and your family. How long you and your family have been in St. Augustine.

U: We've got... Came to St Augustine in 1925
my father came here
It can't hurt to practice law before I was born

I: What did your, what sort of occupation, why did your father phone want to kill us this? I guess I could ask him that, since he

U: He, uh, had been practicing law in Fern^andina and Jacksonville. He was asked to join a law firm

I: Now yourself, where were you educated, where did you go to school?

U: All right, I was educated, with preparatory education for _____ school in Bellbuckle, Tennessee. And then I went into the service, immediately after that. Upon return from the service, I went to the University of Florida for uh, to obtain a B.S. degree ⁱⁿ 194⁹,

Then went ^{on} ~~along~~ to law school at the University of Florida where I got LL.B. ^[which was changed to J.D.] 1967. Graduated Law School in 19⁵⁵.

I: What, how would you describe the community of St. Augustine that you grew up, in it?

U: I think the community was somewhat _____. It was not typically small. ^{town} It was a little bit more sophisticated than the average small Central Florida town in that we had

a great deal of tourists for the per capita income was high, it was for this side of [Florida?] ⁱⁿ And there were a great deal of tourists at that time, ^{that} would worry you, ^{and they were rather informal} I would say it was had almost a southern tradition, but a little bit

more desirable place to live, HAN the average town. It has so many of the advantages of a large town, with its proximity to Jacksonville, and to Daytona, and to the resort _____ to the ocean.

I: You know, you said it had a lot of the southern traditions. I'm just curious as to, in your mind, what, what ~~was~~ ^{were} some examples of those southern traditions that existed.

U: Well, because I grew up here, there were segregation, was clearly defined, and not contested. Although St. Augustine was, did not have a black town, a white town, as such, there were blocks, just one or two blocks of blacks, immediately in, adjacent to white areas, of the better class White areas. They were sprinkled about town, and I think its because of its age. That was were servants lived, behind the better houses. And I can name three or four places in the community, and as people's ability to have servants stopped, they continued to live in harmony, almost as unsegregated type of community. Which I think ~~we should~~ ^{is unique} _____, at that time, for that size community.

F: I think it was too. I've never seen another community ~~It~~ ^{that} had such a pattern of residential desegregation _____.

I: But besides race, is there anything else that exhibited southern tradition, so to speak, gave examples of southern traditions.

Was, was the pace life _____? You always hear about the pace of the ~~white~~ being leisurely.

The pace of life was.

U: ~~Like what?~~ In other words, one - air conditioning, ~~the~~ people who were fairly well off all worked in the _____. Many of the shops in St. Augustine closed in the summertime. The major hotels closed. They would close, and went to Michigan, and

other places in the East. They had summer shops there, that was their skill at work. _____ Shops were there.

And consequently things pretty well slowed down. For example, our Sunday school let out in the summer, just like regular grade school let out in the summer. [employment tied in to tourist trade]

F: Things really slowed up in the summer. In winter, we would be packed. It was a complete reverse.

I: Was there any social hierarchy? Some, when you read about the old southern communities, there was sort of the, the vermin, uh, professional business community who formed the entire social hierarchy in the community, was there that?

U: No, I don't think so.

I: Yet, yet, interesting enough, your father came here, and he, he, obviously, there must have been some real opportunity because he became very active and influential in his, in his own career.

U: He was successful as an attorney. I think the, there was much more social class then, than in other periods. Your professional types and some business types, and then those that were, uh, married or inherited money, and didn't work, formed a social ^{strata} structure, and then there were ~~.....~~ And it was much more stilted when he used to work. For example, my mother never referred to her next door neighbor as anything other than Mrs., and Mr. Today, you know ^{there's} this backyard party^{es}, and you're running over there borrowing a cup of sugar, and _____ whatever. But, when I grew up, although we were not picky people, but they refer to each other as Mr. and Mrs. He worked the rail; ~~my father was a lawyer not while he was away~~ Nobody felt, and we went to the same church.

But, _____ were great people. Their children and my brother
AND I

^{are still}
~~school~~ friends today. But, it was that formality, and that is a southern tradition.. Along that same line, these are things I remember as a child. There were certain people that uh, many of the wives did not work, that were among my mothers friends. And the style was to have tea, to dress to the teeth in the afternoon, and you could call on friends, make a formal call, where you wore hats, and gloves, and you were seated by a maid, and left your calling card if the lady of the house was not there. And, we did that, or you sat around in the afternoon, fully dressed, awaiting calls by others on you. Again, a _____ custom. _____.

I: Uh, as you were brought up, were you aware of any racial problems at all in this community?

U: No, nothing prior to World War II.

I: How about after the war? Uh, say before this fellow ^{HAILING} Haley came here, were there, were there any difficulties, not so much was there any violence, but, I guess that what I'm trying to ask, is was it apparent that things were building towards, say '63^{and} '64? In ^{anyone's mind} ~~any way~~

U: Yeah. I would say In retrospect. For example, we had a colored college here, called Florida Normal. A Baptist, a black Baptist school, that, uh, it went on... a few years on back. That school was having, before the war, and after the war, was totally segregated, totally from the black students. But they were, as I look back on it now, and then the references to them, the administration and faculty at that time was, they were pushing ^{black} ~~trouble~~ ^{le}... In that, they were endeavoring to get black-white, uh, contact through programs, lectures, and so forth

They'd put on a musical program, or something, and always invite a lot of the white business leaders, and you would go. _____

_____ ^{Even} Then, after the program wasn't totally segregated, ~~at~~ ^{parties} you _____ and _____ nobody ^{thought} brought anything ^{about it} of value. But, other than the reference, occasionally to a black as being a pushy type _____, I think I was not aware of problems, really, until just before the _____ occurred.

I: How about there was a fellow who's now over in Gainesville, a Negro fellow, called Thomas Wright ?. He was minister here. I have talked to him, he claimed a lot for himself, and I'm not quite honestly sure what to believe, in terms of, sort of mobilizing the ^{Negro} legal community. But, I was wondering if you were aware of his presence at all. You might not have been involved in any of that, but I wonder if... if you were

U: I knew a lot of the names of, but I was not aware of it. There was no overt actions to try to break down any of the segregated ^{traditions prior to 1964, '65.} positions, _____ I can see. _____ I was just very _____, and if there was any, it was one or two individuals that were particularly _____.

But, not in any particular portion _____. In other words, the ^{KLAN} plan was not ^{after us} that good. There was not, _____ pre-World War II, I was not aware of any plan of action, I'm sure they had an organization, but it wasn't called on to do the [Break].

I: Well, that fits with the picture that I know. (Let's put this a little closer). [microphone] _____

U: [Put it right here if you want to. Put it on the desk if you'd like.]

I: You were active, as I recall, in the Chamber of Commerce, was that

correct?

U: ^{yes}
~~Yeah~~

I: Were you, uh, president in '64, or '65?

U: Probably, I don't have these facts.

I: Yeah, I think it may have been '64. I was just, uh, as president, what specifically was your role in the commerce? What function?

~~U:~~ Did you have. . . ^{? U:} Well, President of Chamber of Commerce was just a one year term, and you had an executive director, presided at the board meetings, and most of your policy is pretty well set. The Chamber of Commerce, that's really a misnomer. It's more tourist than merchant. The Chamber of Commerce, although it works toward the industry, and other things of that nature, but it's more tourist oriented than anything else, it's more supported by tourism, or tourist attractions, so, I can't, other than try to get additional members. I was not aware of any particular programs underway at that time.

I: Were you actively soliciting new business for St. Augustine, trying to attract a small business or CORPORATION.

U: Subcommittees of the Chamber were working in that area, especially tourists. I understand its all volunteer, with busy people. A real small staff, that pretty well operated the Information Center, and Executive Director, and the secretary, would answer inquiries and attempt to ~~run~~ down things.

I: Did the, uh, was the Chamber aware of the racial problems in '63, was it involved in '63? '63 they, Hailing~~h~~ started the sit-ins, and then the white fellow, William Canard was, was killed in the fall. And Hailing, for some reason, got himself out of this ~~kl~~an meeting, Beaten up. Was the Chamber aware that

I think our ratio was low, for Butler County _____.

I think its something like twenty percent. That may not be an accurate figure. I had it Somewhere in my mind that that's about RIGHT AND
The state average is maybe ^{WRITE OUT} 25 or 30 percent. _____

_____. But, I got the impression, ^{maybe} they have seen figures, that the ratio of black to white had been getting greater although Blacks had been going down, in numbers. Some because there was no industry type, no machinization of the agriculture, and no industry types of jobs.

F: Yeah, we're smaller, but within a whole lot smaller, its eighteen, St. Augustine, at that time, when state-wide it was ^{WRITE OUT} 21.8, ^{WRITE OUT} almost 22 percent. But I think you're right, I think it was declining defined because of the nature of St. Augustine being a tourist center, _____ industrial ^{ized} related jobs. One of the things that kind of baffled me, is that I see St. Augustine as a real progressive community. You could, just because it had a history of racial segregation, to me, does not mean its not a progressive community. It was caught up in its history, it had its pattern of residential segregation that seemed to pull to ~~the~~ a problem with race relations. It had, the community had begun to voluntarily desegregate its schools, and I wondered, how did it, how did this thing, how do you, why do you see it engulfing St. Augustine the way it did? It was almost chaos in '64.

U: Well, I think you had a small, very militant counter force within the ^{white} black community, all rednecks, a popular term, that would meet every advance in the black community by a counter action. We, what I thought was the real thinking of leadership of this

community, almost became _____. And caught in the middle, and had a lot of its so called friends, or drinking buddies, who were redneck. I hate to use that term, but it saves a lot of words.

I: Um-hmm.

U: It had a lot of _____ ^{IN} the black community, and just hated to see it. It took more overt steps to revert it. And just stood by almost with your head in the sand. This was the great majority of people that I think were _____.

Just really became _____.

Two really poor _____.

With that, _____.

Law enforcement _____.

I: How'd the Chamber, what was, did the Chamber try to initiate any any action to, uh, . . . ?

U: No, _____ the Chamber.

I: You. . . .

U: And I guess I get blamed myself as much as you know _____.

I went all week and became Mayor in '67. But, I wasn't thinking about it at the time. And I was serving on the Chamber as a civic contribution, not as a _____.

The Chamber dropped the ^{stayed} ~~state~~ completely out of SOCIAL PROGRAMS; efforts to improve. They were ^{concerned} ~~greatest~~ concerns, strictly ^{with} ~~to~~ commerce, they hated to see it _____.

they knew it was going to hurt business. But as far as anything the Chamber thought, there was nothing _____.

I: Thats one of the things that kind of baffles me, really, because,

U: Well, they were. . .

I: Were they, was it, sort of the Kennedy thing that got them, I don't know, seems, seems like the Birch Society begins to flourish with the Kennedy administration reaction to it, and then grows even more in the Johnson administration.

U: I think it came from ^{McCarthy era} Carpenter, that there was a Communist behind every bush. And in the ^{1950's} movement, of social change, was Communist~~ca~~ inspired _____. And, I think a lot of people just kept quiet with fear of being labled a liberal, _____.

I: Go ahead.

U: And, very few people really spoke out on it, and I know one or two that did, and they lost some friends over it, two really close friends. A man I have referenced to, I'm sure you wouldn't mind him speaking, is Dr. Jackson, a well _____.

I: Um-hmm.

U: Originally from Michigan, well-respected veterinarian. Although _____ He was _____, and, ~~was~~ he endeavored to have some informal type of bi-racial committee, with his lectures. And he went through a hammer's hell, with his friends. _____ just really didn't speak to him, thats all, because, not that he wanted to completely change the. . .

F: ~~He died~~ _____

I: Um hmm.

U: _____ the community, but, I felt sorry for him, for a while. I didn't come to his defense.

I: Um hmm.

U: I continued to speak ^{to} with him, but an awful lot of people just

didn't do a damn thing, either way. And I think that the pressures were definately _____. Why it _____.

I: Do you have any thoughts as to why Martin Luther King, and
SCLC ^[Southern Christian Leadership Conference] came to St. Augustine?

U: Sure. I thought, I think it was a secluded building for our
quadra centennial, in '65. There was going to be some media attention focused on St. Augustine, we didn't go overboard as to
Committees as celebrations went. And, consequently, he would ride that, as well as the media coverage that he had anyway. _____ The first white settlement in the United States would be a great place to kick off this really radical departure.

I: Um hmm.

U: Over civil rights act.

I: Um hmm.

U: Wherever they'd go in the settlement, all the doors in restuarants and motels would be open.

I: Um hmm.

U: I don't think he became the cause of any so-called hardship cases, or mistreatment, on behalf of the black community. Just those
~~why~~ certain things.

I: There was some accent, I know, made by James Droco Lamonsen, who got an inordinate amount of criticism for what happened at his motel, a lot of which, as I see, wasn't really his fault. And it seemed to me, on occasion, he tried to get things, tried to restore ^{an} sort of normal relationship.

U: He did. That, now thats the example of what I'm talking about.
Brock was in the middle. He was damned if he did, and damned if

he didn't. There was going to be black pickets in front of his place, or ^[if] he took the blacks in, there were going to be white pickets in front. And so the people that were really _____

I: Um hmm.

U: I mean, if you're traveling through town with your family, you don't want to ruin your vacation, have your car messed up, or your sleep disturbed. And so this, this poor guy was getting it from both ends, and he was in the middle, he had a big mortgage payment, and he was just totally frustrated, he didn't know which way to turn.

I: The thing is, one of the things that struck me, he, he did make an effort to get the motel and restuarant owners together, and they had some meetings, and Noel Pope, ~~uh~~, was asked to be sort of their spokesman, and he did, and yet the thing never seemed to get off the ground, and I was, you know, again this goes back to the business sort of thing. The thing that struck me was, here was an opportunity for the business community sort of come together as a group. People who weren't directly involved in this sort of activities, and those that were and get these hook elements out of St. Augustine, the Klan, from, seemed like from Jacksonville, to me, ^{KING} and it ~~came~~, and, you know, establish relationships that the community could live with. And yet, it didn't come together; it didn't seem to get off the ground, nor did it, nor did the whole white business community seem to come together. And, it also seemed to me they got little cooperation from Dr. Shelley, who was mayor of the commission that day. I wonder if you had any thoughts as to, if I'm right, first of all,

and why this might have been.

U: I've got some ideas about it. That's the weakness of law enforcement. The Sheriff, Chief of Police, Chief of Police Burgess Stewart, was extreme right wing, and he doesn't say too much about it now, but at that time, he saw Communists behind every bush. He didn't think there was one there, he saw them. And, stop him in the street, and he'd refer to "they're" doing this, and "they're" doing that, but he couldn't put a name on who "they" was. But, he, and the Sheriff, was the two only law enforcement agencies we had. Uh, were not instrumental in fairly enforcing the law. It was not _____ to hear this. They, they couldn't have designed a system any more favorable to King's movement than the way they did.

I: Um hmm.

U: I had occasion to meet with the sheriff, I believe of Selma, _____, Alabama, or one of the places who had just had problems with King.

I: Um hmm.

U: And I forget his name, now, but it, he was a big one. And, I asked him a question, _____ about law enforcement. He said, "I sent word to the white community, and I sent word to the black community, that I was going to put my foot in their collar, and ~~there were~~ ^{ARREST} anybody who was REGARDLESS, I didn't care what color." And he had St. Augustine ^{taken} taking a fair attitude toward all lawbreakers, a firm law enforcement.... We were running into a lot of problems. With that, the redneck element and the right wing element, and law enforcement, were working to put this fire out. And not to a fair concept, but

not to a fair administration of justice in _____ ~~County.~~

I: Um hmm.

U: And, that was clear, because you'd have a demonstration get out of hand, black guy would be arrested, and his bond would be a hundred dollars, white guy, ten dollars. You think we joke.

I: Uh uh.

U: I can't accept that situation .

end side one

U: I can ^{accept} neither ten dollars or a hundred dollars, if you and I were whipping up on each other,

I: Um hmm.

U: The bond ought to be the same. Unless there's good reason, that's just bullshit.

I: In, uh, you know, in, yet in 1965, when a few of you were celebrating the 400th anniversary, or on the eve, really, I guess it was going to happen in within a week. And, King was saying, from afar, out in Atlanta someplace, wherever he happened to be, "If things don't cool off completely there, I'm, I'm going to come back." And there were just some periodic, it was maybe a beating here or there, by a few of the rednecks, really, and not downtown, they happened to be around the peripheries of the community. But he said if things didn't calm down all together, that he would come back. And, what was significant to me, was that, Dr. Shelley, on the front page of the paper, The St. Augustine Record, warned both sides that violence of any sort would not be permitted, people would be prosecuted, they could count on a heavy fine, and a stiff jail sentence.

U: _____ person.

I: And, uh, then the, I think it was either the next day or the day after, the sheriff, Sheriff Davis, also appeared on the front page of the paper, saying literally the same thing. My thought was, my question, I guess it is, could that sort of thing been done to Davis in 1964, to force him, the community forced him, either through Shelley, or through some other able white leadership, or was again, the division, I guess, as you mentioned,

between this right-wing, ^{uh,} and the rest of the community so difficult?

U: Well, the statements that you're talking about, in the newspaper, that was the second or third ^{wave} wing of this thing. The tail end of it.

F: Yeah, right.

U: Had the first, uh, wave, or trouble been met with that sort of a firm statement, ^{that} ~~it~~ was not tongue in cheek, and I'm not convinced it wasn't tongue in cheek _____.

F: Right.

U: Because the criminal dockets would reflect this kind of strong law enforcement. But you've got to remember that Davis was immensely popular at that time, and I'd been the prosecuting attorney, and had an awful lot of trouble with **DAVIS**. ~~The~~ ^{he WANTED} ~~these~~ cases ~~in warning~~ convicted, we got convictions, but I got good reports, and cases he didn't want convicted, the records got lost, the evidence got lost. It was just a real horrible thing, and I had occasion to go to Tallahassee to Judge Collins, to Judge Bryant to tell about these things. We had no staff here. A lot of people in the State's Attorney's office was not nearly as well equipped [as it] is now. And we were constantly after the sheriff to do his job. But, he had this great popularity, He was an extremely personable guy, with this element that I'm talking about, and he even had a _____ in his life, he just had a magnitude. He sure was lax when it came to him personally.

I: So they ~~could~~ ^{if was your thought} sure _____ that ^{given} ~~even~~ the popularity, it

was very difficult, if not impossible to control.

U: Yeah, He, when he'd go in there and draw eighty percent of the vote, a group of businessmen can't go through and say, "Look, now you'd better shape up." And in a very nice way, he, he wouldn't listen to us and he wouldn't _____.
But he was eventually removed. Its a long time to _____.

I: I, I've heard that, that Mr. Wolf, when your father worked sort of behind the scenes to try to ease things, uh, I'll ask your father this as well, but, I was wondering if you were familiar with ~~uh~~ any steps they took behind the scenes to. . .

I know Mr. Wolf was particularly committed to the celebration of the quadracentennial, that he was very active in it.

U: He was also in the position, along with about six or eight other men, that I had known, that had they ^{wanted to} ~~known~~, and I considered them SENIOR leaders of the community. Guys that had been the mayors, guys that have been in the Senate, that had amassed personal fortunes, and were now letting sons and relatives, friends go under the table, on a day to day. These guys were your senior citizens with plenty of influence statewide and concerns

_____ nationwide. There's many things that they could have done, but didn't do, simply because they thought it was a bad dream, that it would all go away. They didn't want to be labeled as a NIGGER, as a "nigger-lover." Or to have a cross burned in their yard. And, as you look back on it, it seems simple or trite that that could influence the people. But it was really influential, it was a big thing to them. To avoid the, to be labelled a "nigger-lover."

I: You ~~are~~. . .

U: I don't know if your other interviewees have expressed that opinion or not, but I really think that, that, uh, _____ these elements we spoke of have a tendency to quiet your effective leadership. Your _____.

I: Is, was it meant, was it kind of a small town nature of the community that sort of made it difficult to uh, ~~say~~, take this independent stand? I know in Little Rock, for example, there, the business community there, you don't hear much of, you never hear much about this. I guess its up to us historians to ~~publicize~~ publicize more. The business community in Little Rock, which is a much bigger community, ~~it~~ ^{did} take this sort of independent stand, I was wondering if it was sort of the small community of St. Augustine that made it difficult.

U: I think so. Every, you know, its not ybur ^{Chief of Police?} cheaper place, its not the sheriff. Every job had a name and a face, and we knew this. Everybody is so well known, it makes it a lot more difficult.

I: Just a reflection. I've seen the figures, but I was wondering ~~if~~ ^{do} you recall, kind of in a qualitative way, how bad business was hurt, in '64.

U: I'm sure that '64 and '65 the tourist industry was hurt. The rest of the business, I was not aware ~~of~~ the my practice changed.

I: Uh huh.

I: The '65 are up here too, I mean the quadricentennial, it appears to me, never, as a consequence of '64, became what everybody hoped it would become. Is that an inaccurate reflection on my part? An inaccurate picture? It seemed like it was. . . .

U: I think that, uh, yeah. I think its trouble to a new program,

its true. I'll give you one example, and this, again, was surface dancing. I was attorney for, ^[7] in a group of Citizens, Georgia, a ~~citizen~~ that was trying to get a federally ~~run~~ chartered savings and loan association. There was only one in the town. Only one savings and loan outlet. We had, it was a tremendous lot of red tape, but you had, eventually you had to go to Washington, to put on a hearing. ^I took about a week, you had to try a need and necessity. We did that, in '64, early spring of '64. Then, the hearing officer made his report, to the homeowned bank board, and they granted the charter, or denied it. We'd been denied once before, in '62. All right. We had a much better application, much better, the evidence looked much better, the need looked great. By sheer coincidence, the hearing officer's recommendation, all of our briefs, old transcripts, hit the desk of the Federal Homeowned Bank Board on July the second, and that was the same day, within a day or two, of the passage of the Civil Rights Act. And, he would deny it. Okay. And I, just, some years later, made the same application, and it was granted, and we were complimented on doing a great job. But that's not the point. The hearing officer later became a private attorney, and got out of the federal work, and became an attorney, doing nothing but savings and loan applications. And I ran into him in Atlanta, and he said, "I've always wanted to talk to you," he says, "You know, I favorably recommended your application in '64." And I said, "Well, I'm relieved to know that, I thought it was a good application." And he says, "But let me tell you, St. Augustine could have not gotten the Red Cross in July of '64, if you could ^{wipe} wash it off the map with a

hurricane," he said, "The federal government wouldn't have given a damn thing, because of this _____." And I believe that. Thats just a one person example. And I think it carried over into '64. For example, another example, have you seen the cover of the, I just happen to have one, did you ever see this issue of the Geographic?

I: No, I didn't.

U: All right, this came out in February of '66. Its a beautiful section on St. Augustine. This is just a reprint. But, this fellow, Connolly, that wrote it, this assistant editor that came down here, was here, and this was keyed to be published prior or coincide with the celebration, which would have been in September, '65. And because of the racial problems, and this being a non-controversial magazine, they held it out, and did not publish it in this. Some of the greatest advertising I know of. But it did not hit the newsstand until some five or six months ^{later} away. But it was keyed to come out in either September or August of that summer, when your real influx of tourists would have been expected.

I: There was incredible pressure being brought to bear, here in one the .

U: ^{I don't think there was any about it.} ~~A good question.~~ This ^{was a} beautiful piece of advertising which was actually _____.

I: Um hmm.

U: Thats a imminently respected periodical.

I: Right. This is true.

U: But somebody got to them, and they held that thing up, and I was

I was totaled. *It was a recent story.*

I: Well, after, after '65, has it, has there been any problems at all since I saw, I think, one, one egg throwing at a Easter parade, but those were, those people from Jacksonville who threw the eggs. I haven't seen any reference to any problems after, really, '65.

U: Not really. You see, the college out here closed.

I: Um hmm.

U: They were from Miami. Um, *Hail^{ing}* went to Melbourne, or something. And there may be black leadership. There was some Eubanks [?] brothers, Eubank [?]. They, they _____

_____.

They've moved away. And I think St. Augustine, uh, segregations have been abolished, but as far as your relationship with the black community it's about like it was.

There are no blacks with responsible jobs. Particularly in the _____ school, and State _____.

I: Did it take long for the old relationships to come back, the harmony that existed before, even though it was a different racial pattern, did it take long after the chaos of '64 for those relationships to be restored again, in the community, the white community uptight and the black community as well?

U: I think some, within the community. Still bear a label of having cooperated, or been liberal, or _____, or tried to create harmony, or racial, biracial committee. Although I'm sure ~~that~~, there are some scars. _____.

I: Um hmm.

U: I have coffee every morning when I'm here, in the restaraunt.

Any of our friends who want to drop in, but its pretty well in the same group. And this guy who comes in ^{here} ~~there~~, that, I didn't know this, but its reported that he was very instrumental in helping the media people set up and be in the right place at the right time. He was kind of a early victory. Ran a public house next door. Young fellow, attracted me. He's since become a ~~writer~~ ^{RATHER...} and ~~is~~ well established in the community. And he still bears that label of having cooperated, with not the blacks, but the media.

I: Um hmm.

U: And getting ready for them, set up. ~~sure~~ Show us in a bad light.

I: Well, this, I appreciate your tolerance, ^{about all} ~~although~~ I have, ^{in the} ~~and~~ ^{way of} ~~wanted~~ questions, I can't think of anything else that might be relevant. You have anything else. . . ?

U: No, I'd just like to ask you some questions.

[BREAK]
 I: Sure. ✓ I was talking to your son about some of the things that happened. Let me just say, I, I've been over at Florida for six years now, at the University of Florida, and I'm, I've been teaching history for seven years. I went to the University of North Carolina, thats where I did my work, and graduated from Chapel Hill, _____.

U: I went to University of North Carolina too.

I: Did you?

U: I didn't graduate there though, I left to go to war

I: Well, I'd one of the war before that. Went to Vietnam before I. . .

U: Well, I went to war, first World War.

I: Well, you went to a little better war, in terms of sense of play.

SECOND
INTERVIEW

But, uh, I've done, I had, I had written one book on the, on Florida gubernatorial politics in the twentieth century, the study of the governor's office, the campaigns, and that sort of got me interested in race relations in Florida, because I, I always saw Florida while I was doing that work as a rather progressive state, and I wanted to find out why. And, and ^{IN} looking at it, I got interested in St. Augustine, and what happened here, and why it happened here, so, basically, I think that's what I want to talk to you about. As a man who has been in a leadership position in St. Augustine for some time, and knows it very well. I'd like to talk to you about that. I was wondering, why, when you came to St. Augustine, were you, was your family here already, or did you move?

U: I moved down here. Moved to FERNANDINA — Jacksonville, and from Jacksonville to here in 1925.

I: Did you come to set up a law practice here, or did you come as a PARTNER ?

U: I came as a PARTNER — .

I: Where did you do your, your work, and where did you receive your education, your legal education?

U: Florida.

I: At the University of Florida? Is that where you graduated from after you left Chapel Hill, and went to the war?

U: No, I went to Florida first.

I: Oh, I see.

U: I graduated _____ Florida, then I went up to Chapel Hill. _____ high school, and I thought it was wrong to live in STATE .

I: If what, could you tell me what St. Augustine was like as, as you were a young man here, as you lived here, you. . .

U: It was very similar to what it is now; hasn't been much change.

People are people... People
since the, since the restoration _____.

I: When did the, when did the restorations start? Was it underway when you were here?

U: No, it was not. It started when with [NAME] He started it, then
_____ IN Tallahassee started a commission _____ Vietnam war, 1965,
or maybe it was '64.

I: It was sort of basically a small community. Were, were there....

U: Like it is now, except there's just a few more people
now.

I: Uh huh. Socially, how would you characterize it? Was it, was there kind of a, was there a social elite in the city, or was it pretty open sort of city.

U: Well, there was a, there was a, it was different, ^{IN this respect:} ~~at least to~~
~~start.~~ We had a large population... ^{large proportion of the} ~~law enforcement~~ population were
minorities.

I: Uh huh.

U: They kept more or less to themselves, and when _____ SECTIONS _____

I: Uh, was the business community so, pretty much the leader, leadership of the community?

U: No, everybody was about the same about leadership
between, ^{all the} ~~over~~ white people.

I: Uh hmm. Were the Minock^uins any, did they _____ the city's
leaders?

looking at the districts, and. . .

U: Well, the Negro population has been here a long time.

U: Um, _____ since it was _____ across from the _____ on out, and _____ ^{our} school up there was ^{very fine to them} where, where funds went ~~as long as~~ ^{Dr. . . . Oh what was his name?} But, uh, _____.

I: Was that ^{Puryear} per year, or something?

U: No, ^{Puryear} per year was about uh, 18 years later. ^{Puryear} Per-year was filled

I: Uh huh.

U: ^{I'm setting old; can't remember that} ^{well.} ^{Collier} motor was the first. ^{one} Collier was a ^{five} farm man. ^{Dr Collier} Garter.

I: Was that, that, was that a Baptist school?

U: Yes, ^{it was} and a Baptist school: Then there was a man after Collier came, a man name GRAY came. grade change. WAS IN charge of it. Then Gray left and went up to Florida F&M

I: That was for an _____.

U: And, uh, he _____ was arrested for stealing

^{I think} ~~up there~~ They FINALLY got rid of him. Then they had another

fellow named Lilly. ~~Then there was~~ Lilly was not a bad son, except he was

mean. And Puryear came, and Puryear was, he ^{tried to abolish segregation} ~~was um,~~ _____.

I: Was he in, he was _____ with that fellow Hailing.

U: Um hmm.

I: _____ Robert Hailing.

U: Who was he?

I: He was that dentist, the Negro dentist.

U: I, I don't know him. _____

Wait a minute.

I: Yeah, the se, the first one was _____.

the registration, and started with a gradually you know. Didn't do that much ~~administration~~ ^{demonstration}, I know. Now, if somebody had a, had a, started a demonstration here, I don't know who ^{it} was. Bubba told me that the, uh, the NAACP, he said he had ^{belonged} ~~gone~~ to it, and joined it. 'Cause he thought it was a good thing for the people, and then they kept after his money, and he, he didn't give them any money, just paid his dues, and they broke his windows out. He had a real estate office then. He won't, I told him _____ . He went out and put this _____ . Some, some militant thing Negro did it.

I: Um hmm.

U: Least that's what he thought, and I think so too. And then they had a demonstration down at the courthouse one day, line before the judge. _____ I don't know why they were demonstrating. I think that's what happened. Robbers in the courthouse singing some songs. The sheriff, I was made a deputy ^{then,} that and he, he put him in charge of it, and he got all wild, and _____ .

It wouldn't have been bad, lot of them were drinking to it, and 'course this thing got put off so bad _____ but, there wasn't no, no violence.

I: Um hmm.

U: They're mostly children now, ^{they were} children from the school, you know. Perhaps _____ .

I: Why do you think King came here? Why do you think Martin Luther King came here?

U: Well, at that time, we were, we were, it was war, we were about

to celebrate our four hundreth anniversary here, and they heard there's a whole lot of publicity in the paper for it. The President had appointed a commision, of, that we were gonna _____

Henry Ford
There were three or four of us planning on going to ^{Commission} convention, _____, and it, ^{he did it for} ~~you get into~~ publicity. Um, I don't know whether it helped them _____
~~very much~~ very much.

I: So he was gonna take advantage of the four hundreth anniversary to get a lot of publicity.

U: Get a lot of the publicity. That's, that's, that was what I thought.

I: Uh huh.

U: Least there was any, they had a couple of parades, I went on the government parade, sat in a white automobile and watched it. ~~lot of~~ people partying, and. . .

I: Was most of the trouble caused by outsiders, like King, and some Klan people from Jacksonville?

U: I think practically all the Negroes were outsiders. Now, I've been here a long time, and I know some Negroes. Um, and I went out and sat out in the automobile and watched the parade, and I didn't see a single Negro that I ~~knew~~, not one. Now, there had to be, most of them had to be outsiders. And the same thing was true with the white, with the white ones. We were just a stagehem -
wasn't anything in St. Augustine that ~~caused no other~~ ^{causing all that} disturbance.

I: Did the uh, did the white people in St. Augustine, I'm sure they must have been angry, at what was happening, did they try, did somebody like yourself, or Mr. Wolf try and get these people out

of here?

U: Uh, well the, the uh, _____ Hotel, all the newspaper people went in there, and that boy, um, ~~brought~~ ^{BROCK} ~~_____~~ ^{WAS IN charge of it} he, he's a young fellow, that doesn't really have much. He gave ~~is~~ ^{the} ~~_____~~ ^{newspaper} favorite reporters a ring. And, of course, all the demonstration went there, King went over there, you know, where, where you, publicity.

I: Um hmm.

U: And, uh, the whole thing was staged in the function. So you see, right over there. He tried to get in a car to follow me, you know,

_____ said he was sassy, I don't think he was sassy as far as I was concerned.

I: Yeah.

U: But he refused to let 'em go. He was wrong. Newspaper reporters said _____.

[ENDS IN MID SENTENCE]

end of tape