

BS: I graduated from elementary school, which is Holt's Elementary School in Elkton in 1945, and then after graduating from Elkton School, which the name of it was Holt's Elementary, and then it was time to go to high school. High school was in Pulaski, Tennessee, which was about 15 miles away, so that was a new world altogether. I started to high school when I was 13. And it just so happened that the year that I started to school, which I was lucky, the school bus started to transport the black kids from Elkton. Remember, I said that this was segregation and although there was a high school in Elkton, the black kids were not allowed to go to it. So, I started to school in Pulaski, at Bridgeforth High School. Now, before the school busses, if a person wanted to go to high school, which my sister did, she had to either provide her, provide her own transportation, which meant since we didn't have a car, she had to catch the Greyhound Bus and utilize it to go to school, or stay in Pulaski with some family, where they could walk to school. And our school bus did not go straight up Highway 31.

BS: To Pulaski, which was the closest route. It went all around through Prospect, Bethel, Aspen Hill, which instead of it being more than likely a 30 minute drive, it ended up being a two hour ride. So after going to school there two or three years, I got smart and found out that it was easier for me to hitchhike to school and get there in about 30 minutes than it would be to take the school bus. In high school, I really enjoyed it. As a matter of fact, living on the farm in Elkton required a lot of my time. The farm was first priority. You stayed at home and got the work done first. And that's would be when your parents would tell you, and believe it or not, back in those times the kids didn't argue with the parents. When they told you something, that's the way it was. You didn't second guess it at all.

BS: And I also had a scholarship, an academic scholarship to Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Now the ironic thing about me going to high school, and I just said, I had an academic scholarship. During the fall of the year, when the crops had to be gathered and I missed so much school, I barely passed. But in the spring of the year, when, when I didn't have to work and I could go to school on a continuous basis, I was on the honor roll. I remember I used to lay in bed and pray that it would rain so that I could go to school. But all those things were over come. I graduated from high school in 1949. And the reason that I didn't go to college is that Morehouse College sent me their application but with the application required a five dollar application fee, and my mother said, "Well you can't go because we don't have the five dollars." And so I didn't argue with her, but is there anything we can do to get five dollars? Can you imagine someone not being allowed to go to college due to five dollars?