

Date: May 11, 2005

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Can you describe what a meeting would be like at A-Score?

No, I was never at the meetings because it was my husband's business. It was at his jewelry store in the back and he allowed them to hold their meetings there. But, I was never in on any of the meetings, but I was in on them going out in the city doing the actions that they had planned at the meetings and how they were going to do it. The first meeting that they had, it probably wasn't the first meeting, but they decided that they would get some students from Warren Wilson and students from Stevens Lee and they got together and decided the date that they were going out in the city to see about integrating some of the facilities, stores, restaurants and etc and they did so. This particular day, my husband of course was one of their advisors, and he told them don't start any kind of confusion and when they said they wouldn't serve them, thank them and ask "Are you sure this is what you wanna do?" and then walk out. They did that for an entire day. I dropped by the jewelry store one afternoon, that was the particular day that they were going out, and my husband said, "Georgia, why don't you go?" and Rhonda, of course, was about six or seven at the time and "Why don't you all go out to Burger King and see if they will serve you?" and his secretary said, "I'm going with you." So, we went out to Burger King. He said, "But be sure and say" and he told us what to say, "Are you sure this is what you want to do?" when they wouldn't serve us. We went out there and with this big order and they said "Do you want to sit inside and eat it or do you want to carry it with you for take out?" Looking around at each other, I didn't know if I had any money and the secretary said "I don't have any money," and Rhonda said, "I got some change." But, a little something clicked in my head that I had some money that belonged to someone else in my purse, so we said, "We want to eat inside." So, we went inside and had lunch and they were still sending people out, students out to the restaurants, and they saw us sitting inside of the restaurant of Burger King eating our sandwich or coke or whatever it was and they ran back to the jewelry store to tell everybody that we had been served. But, see they had gone all day long with them and they didn't serve them and we went out and they served us. So, we were the first ones to be served and they were real excited about that. As I said, they went in other places, of course, and they were sending adults mostly in the Holiday Inn. My husband and I would go in and order and there was Ms. Lord, Ms. Bridgman and Ms. Brigtenstine and they were out on the outside. They were from the Y.

Are they advisors?

No, when the people would get up and move so we can sit down, well they were coming in and sitting down with us. They were Caucasians. They would come in and when the other people would jump up just like we were going to eat them instead of the food and they would come in and sit down beside us and they had eaten so much that they would just order coffee or maybe a dessert or something until we had finished. Finally, they just opened up, they had to because we were just kind of, but it took a long time, however, for them to get used to us being there, because a lot of times they would get up when you would go in to eat. At the Holiday Inn, they would get up and move

their table or ask the waiter. But, they'd get used to it. When they opened it up, they had to get used to it. I never will forget how many cups of coffee these YWCA people would come in, they knew it was going to happen and they would be on the outside kind of looking in and they would come in and sit with us to eat. Also, A-Score was instrumental in doing Woolworth's and Eckerd's. They took the stools out so that they could serve them if it's a carry out, but they couldn't sit and eat in any of those places. They were still instrumental in getting those places open to the public and they put the stools back. I never will forget that they didn't have any blacks at all for service in Ingles and you know we all have to have food. So, we walked for seven weeks before they would get bag boys or cashiers. They finally did, but we were very persistent in our walking. We didn't start any riots or nothing what so ever. They finally opened it up for black young folk to get jobs there, because we had to buy food from them. They didn't want us to boycott buying food from them. I was instrumental in the \_\_\_\_\_ theatre. This isn't what A-Score was doing, but all of this was coming out of the jewelry store. The secretary there, she had two small children, and of course I had Rhonda, who is my daughter, and they had Saturday movies every Saturday for children. Our children, if they went at all, would have to go in the back up those long steps and sit up in the balcony. So, this particular Saturday, Rosa Davis and I and the three children went to the front desk, opened it and she didn't know what to do. So, she locked the office, because she said she couldn't sell us any tickets. Rosa's daughter, the smallest one was about three I think, kept running in and out looking at the movie and running back out and we stood there. So, she carried the cashier's box inside and started selling tickets from the inside because the movie was going on. So, they called the police and here come this big patty wagon full of police and here we are, two ladies with three children, very young children. It frightened the children, these real big, husky men with their armor on. They saw us when they got out, then got back in and drove off in their patty wagon and didn't do anything. But, they still didn't let us take the children into the movie. About two weeks later, the theatre was open to all children on Saturday. So, that was one accomplishment. A-Score opened up a whole lot of establishments in Asheville because they were young people and they didn't cause any problems, because they got together united in meeting there at the jewelry store and they knew what they were going to do when they went out. They didn't go out not knowing what they were going to do and get angry, because sometimes things would happen that would really make you angry. I never will forget when I was in the AMP, this woman brushed up against me and she looked back and saw who I was and brushed off her shoulder. I could have said something, but I didn't because there was nothing to say. I probably could have used my fist, but I didn't even do that. I am very proud of Ferguson and those young people and all of them that went through this. I often teased my husband and saying, "If you don't start working more on repairing watches and selling them, I am going to have you up for not supporting." The kids were there all the time and they were real nice and they would go back in the back office and that is where they held their meetings. Will was real instrumental in doing a whole lot of stuff here, opening up a lot of stuff here in Asheville, North Carolina. He walked many paths and did a lot of talking. He met with people in Biltmore Forest, doctors and lawyers, Indian chiefs, everything. But, they did get a lot done in his life span. I am sure that Ferguson and all the rest of the group should get together and have a real reunion because it was a large group. A lot of children came

from Warren Wilson, Black and White, and they participated very good in that integration time of opening places up for us to get to eat, drink or whatever comfortably.

During the boycott outside of Ingles, were they holding signs, saying anything or singing?

I don't remember when I was walking, but we did have signs and we were not supposed to go in the store across the picket line, but we did, I mean some people did. When I say we, I mean us. They did cross the picket line. They'd walk on through and we'd give them space to walk through because we didn't want to start a fight or riot out there, but they were going in the store. But, we were persistent in walking until something was done.

How long did you walk in one day?

For two or three hours, because, I would do it in the mornings mostly and it got real hot. We would go and another group would come in. It was really done effectively and it paid off.

About how long did it take?

Ya know, I can't tell you how long it was because a lot of water has gone over the dam since then. My memory is good, but it's not that good. But, in some of the papers that you will read that I am sure you gave to Ms. Herring when she was going to put it in UNCA's archive, you might see the time and the years that he worked with this project.

Are they minutes?

No, they were just write-ups, mostly history write-ups that would be good for you, I mean what was done at that time. When I send you a package, you will have some of that in it. I don't want to, and I didn't, because I didn't feel able to go down and dig it out, but we will give you some information because it is important for you all to come out and take time out for yourselves and find out and we want to give you accurate information and I want you to have it and I will get it for you. But right now, I am trying to get out of town and I have help in getting me out of town too.

Were there any articles in the newspaper?

Oh yes! As I said, there should be some in the archives in UNCA.

I know sometimes they don't put it in the paper because they don't want to encourage a lot of other people to do it.

You might see the picture when we were picketing Ingles store when we were walking outside. I don't have them. I know I gave away some of the important things that my husband was involved in. I should have just given copies, but Ms. Herring should have them. She was one of the women here in Asheville who was very renowned. She was a schoolteacher. Before she retired, she was instrumental in spear hitting a lot of things for the history of the black people. She taught I believe over on Mountain Street. Now, I believe the superintendent's office, the whole school board, that that is where the school board office is.

Were there other adult advisors?

Yea. I remember this one girl; she was over the Martin Luther King breakfasts. She was the first black to go to Mars Hill College. Her name I believe is Arleen Simmons and if she is married, look into it. But, she was the first black person to go to Mars Hill College. My husband and Mr., what is this man's name, were instrumental in getting her into the school. She has done a lot of work here in Asheville. She started the first Martin Luther King breakfasts and she worked at the Montford Center. (If I had known, I could have written some of this stuff down, but I do know my birthday. So, I think I do real well.)

Do you remember who was in A-Score?

There were so many. (Long Pause) I could call Jason \_\_\_\_\_ and he could give me those names just like that because he was in it. He's the director of Ray's Funeral Home. He is right there on McDowell street; his funeral home is. I could call him now. \_\_\_\_\_ was instrumental, along with Bill, in getting Arleen Simmons into Mars Hill College and Mr. McCoy also walked the picket lines with the young boys and girls. These are some of the names of A-Score: Jessie Jean Ray, Stanley Scot, Billy Murphey, Kimsel Summey, Rita Lee and Lydia Halum. He said he would have to really thing to get, ya know it has been so long, you would really have to draw your mind in to remember all of them, but these were some of them. I know there were some students from, well I told you about those. I can't give you any names, but there were some students from Warren Wilson.

I will follow up with some photos and any newspaper information if my daughter has it and I'll ask and give you some copies of it. She keeps things. She goes through my things, because they did a historian book on Mars Hill when my husband was born and raised up. Well, this gentleman out there, I don't know who he was, got the book of all of these mountain folk and Will is in the book, my husband is in the book. After it was finished, they sent it to us for \$75.00. It was a great big manual, very nice. She took a lot of my stuff and wanted to make this history of him in that book. I don't know the name of the book. She's the only one who has one. I can give you that information when I talk to her today.