

Interviewee: Viviloria Frazier noted as V.F. in transcript.

Interviewer: Dr. Tru Leverette Hall noted as T.L.H in transcript.

V.F. 00:00

It's on here,

T.L.H. 00:00

yes, it's down here, right? Yes.

V.F. 00:04

Thank you.

T.L.H. 00:04

Thank you. Do I have your permission to record our conversation?

V.F. 00:09

Yes.

T.L.H. 00:09

okay, thank you. Put it here. Hopefully that'll that'll pick up our voices adequately. I think it's fine. Thank you. Well, I really do appreciate your time. Today, I'm gonna probably take a couple of notes as well, so I'd like to set that up. And if you wouldn't mind stating your your name for a recording.

V.F. 00:37

Okay, my name is Viviloria Thompson Frazier and I reside at 7772, Lake Park, drive in Jacksonville, Florida

T.L.H. 00:55

what neighborhood is that?

V.F. 00:57

that is in the Ribault area okay? And that is, I guess, about two blocks from Edgewood down from other library.

T.L.H. 01:09

Okay, so how long have you lived in that address?

V.F. 01:16

I moved at that address in 1970 and umm

T.L.H. 01:21

1970?

V.F. 01:24

1970 and that was before my second child was born. I was carrying her at that time, and I believe I moved there on February the 29th

T.L.H. 01:37

good memory.

V.F. 01:42

I guess the reason that I remember it because that year, it had February, had 29 days, and we had the option of paying rent in the place that we I was living for the next month I'm moving, so I'll be moved before the first

T.L.H. 02:07

Why did you choose that that neighborhood to move to?

V.F. 02:12

My husband and I, who I met at Florida A & M University at that time we had been married, then, I guess, about five years, and we decided that we would buy a house, and we had several agents that carried us around to different neighborhoods. So I did not know Jacksonville well, but he did, but the main thing he wanted was a house on the corner. And at that time, not only was are we looking for a house our our friends who graduated from A&M they also bought the same time, so which means that by the time that that's the years went by that we were really neighbors, With friends that he had grown up with

T.L.H. 03:22

that's special

V.F. 03:23

But at the time that we bought, I think that we were about the first Blacks to move into the Ribault area on Lake Park Drive.

T.L.H. 03:37

And what was that like?

V.F. 03:39

And the sign, and they had signs all over the neighborhood, and all the yards said that this house is not for sale. So being young, we thought it was really hilarious, and they would put that those signs there well after we bought and and we moved, there other neighbors, of the white neighbors in the neighborhood, all of them, all of them had signs. They would pass by the house slow. So my husband and his friends, by that time that they were moving, that we had moved, they would get chairs and they would sit at the corner. Of the block. So to let everybody know that we were there, we had arrived, I don't think that that was very pleasing to those who were in the neighborhood of the whites there,

T.L.H. 04:47

Did they eventually warm to you? Or did they leave?

V.F. 04:51

Well, initially, most of them left, and they sold their houses and the neighbor neighbor that we were living next door to, I think, that she was a widow, she was the older lady, and she wanted to start a florist. So time we moved, she got her permit to start a florist there in the in the neighborhood.

T.L.H. 05:24

So sure, her house became a florist shop.

V.F. 05:28

She tried to make it a florist shop.

T.L.H. 05:30

Oh okay

V.F. 05:31

She had her garage. It was um. She had the garage set up for florist shop, and she had flowers all in there, but the neighbors, if we went downtown on her and said that that was not acceptable in that neighborhood and unlawful. To have a business. So she tried to have the business. But eventually, it was less than a year after she had set it up, she had to close it umm so but, but in the neighborhood by that time, I guess after a couple of years, two or three years, most of the Whites had moved out, and they had gone out gone to south side while we were on the north side, which was a good land, it was high, which means that it didn't flood. And we, we was always laughing, and saying, well, they went down there, and we would read how, how the houses were flood because the land was so low that they had moved to.

T.L.H. 06:53

Is is Lake Park Drive close to the Ribault River at all?

V.F. 06:58

It's on the river.

T.L.H. 06:59

It is on there. That's what I thought.

V.F. 07:01

Yeah.

T.L.H. 07:02

Yeah it was high

V.F. 07:04

yeah uh huh yeah, because we were, just one house from the river.

T.L.H. 07:12

Okay. Was that part of your husband's draw to the neighborhood? Was the river part of his the appeal?

V.F. 07:20

I don't think so. I think so, being young and we were in our pennies, I don't think that we thought like that.

T.L.H. 07:30

So you weren't fishers or crabbers or boaters?

V.F. 07:34

He was a fisher.

T.L.H. 07:35

Oh, was he?

V.F. 07:35

Yes, he was Fisher. But at that time, he didn't have a boat

T.L.H. 07:38

okay

V.F. 07:39

but he used to go, but he did used to go fishing

T.L.H. 07:44

to to have food, meals. I mean, was it to supplement your food?

V.F. 07:48

No no his fishing was just, erm recreation, and so on. But there was, like we said were at on the river. I want one house from the river. And my and my son used to go there, and he used to get his baits. He would dig him down and get baits. And he would go fishing.

T.L.H. 08:16

When he was young?

V.F. 08:17

And Yes, uh huh, yeah, because when we moved, I think he was about four years old.

T.L.H. 08:22

oh, okay.

V.F. 08:23

at that time.

T.L.H. 08:25

So it was a nice neighborhood to raise children in?

V.F. 08:28

It was very nice neighborhood. And mostly everybody that all our all of our friends, that most of that, that we knew in school at A and M, because I'm not from Jacksonville, they they moved there too, and everybody was about the same age and young. So our children grew up together

T.L.H. 08:48

nice

V.F. 08:50

and so it was actually our area where most of the people there was are professionals in some areas out there umm business so

T.L.H. 09:05

what did you and your husband do?

V.F. 09:06

Well, I was a registered pharmacist at that time.

T.L.H. 09:09

Okay.

V.F. 09:10

Okay. And he was in, he was in education and music, but most of the ones that we went out, that we at the school, with other men did not go into that profession. He decided that he was going to go into brick lands. I had one friend who was the teacher. He stopped and he went into um. what did he go into? agriculture,

T.L.H. 09:42

interesting.

V.F. 09:43

yeah, so Well, most of them, and then they had another one who finished, and the men, I think it was maybe, because I don't know what it was, but most of them did not go into

T.L.H. 09:57

what they had studied in school.

V.F. 09:59

right

T.L.H. 09:59

Interesting, were they? Was it hard for them to find the work where it was? Were the professions kind of closed to them because of race, or did they find other things more lucrative?

V.F. 10:11

Well, I don't know. That's a very interesting question um, and to think about it now, I think that it was that they were going to be their own man, and then when they went in these professions, they weren't treated, you know, like adults. So therefore, um and I do know that one friend of ours, of his, because he had more friends, because I was brought here, and he would do a break of but, but while they're all of them, almost all of them into they went, and they went, and some of them, even though they were education major, some of them just went into tech

T.L.H. 11:11

interesting

V.F. 11:12

yes, no, I think that they could work on their own. Maybe that's why

T.L.H. 11:19

sure I feel that autonomy. And

V.F. 11:23

yeah uh huh. I guess during that time, and that was during the 60s, I think that, you know, during that time, it was that um we were really boycotting and we were fighting for our rights, and we were, you know, demonstrating

T.L.H. 11:45

Mm hmm.

V.F. 11:46

So, because I know, before I married, that's and I was in school, that's what I did, you know, oh, I was, yes, I was in even though I was, I was in pharmacy. But when they said, Come on.

T.L.H. 11:59

mm hmm

V.F. 12:00

you know, Oh we're going down to uh to it was great and downtown.

T.L.H. 12:11

So you were a civil rights activist?

V.F. 12:12

Oh yes, yes, I was a civil rights activist. In fact, I would go home. I'm I'm from Eastbury.

T.L.H. 12:21

okay

V.F. 12:22

and that's in Lake County, and it's certainly a Ku Klux Klan town. That's mean that you would wake up and see coffins burn. But anyway, I would, but by that time, I would go home on the bus. It was a greyhound bus. And I remember that one time I was going back to school and my mother was taking me to the bus station, and it had a black sign and a white sign. So I told her, we went to Black I said, No, Mom we going around here.

T.L.H. 12:59

Wow, did she go with you?

V.F. 13:00

She said, Well, Loria, I got to live in this place. *laughing*

T.L.H. 13:10

Oh, I can't blame her. *laughing*

V.F. 13:13

Yeah, I think they were fearful. When I did come home, they were really fearful, because I even took my sis- Yeah, so we went around there, I wouldn't we've been around to the white side. So I think she was fearful, even when I went home, because I took my sister, who was 15 years younger than I am, so she's lived and so we went down to Wilworth. I said, Come on, we go. I didn't tell her where he was going. So I made them sit down at the counter, then they had counters.

T.L.H. 13:43

Yes, the lunch counters

V.F. 13:46

and so, yeah, so anyways, and she probably glad that I did not come home during the summertime.

T.L.H. 13:57

So this was all during your college years. Did you continue your protesting?

V.F. 14:02

Yeah

T.L.H. 14:03

after that, when you lived on on in the Ribault area?

V.F. 14:08

um not in demonstrating by that time umm things had and stuff had kind of cooled down, and you got certain laws that was, you know, in 64 and that you had, you had you had certain rights in the Black so that's how we got into, you know, the housing. into the better housing, because in the Ribault area at the time, it was built for though, You know, with the schools right there in the neighborhood and everything, and even the air- area and the water and the surfaces, everything was good, we didn't have any problems and how and how the houses was built. Most of the houses were built and blocks of bricks. And so they were, they were sturdy houses, so you didn't have any any problems. So how long did you live there? Actually, I still have the house.

T.L.H. 15:16

right, yeah.

V.F. 15:18

so see, my daughter is um born in 1970 so that would be 54 years.

T.L.H. 15:25

Wow, yeah,

V.F. 15:28

54 years. So I'm, I'm gonna sell the house now, there's nobody there.

T.L.H. 15:33

Oh, you're selling it

V.F. 15:35

yeah, I decided. they're fixing it up so I can sell it. Yeah. So we added also, it's so we had a lot of. we have a lot of memories in the house.

T.L.H. 15:48

Oh, bet, and your children don't want to live there?

V.F. 15:52

No, everybody have their own. I have, you know, my daughter has her house, even though she might get moved down to the beach. With me, she said, because her daughter's in college now, so you have all these houses, just sit there, and my son, he's in where's he in? Orlando, or next to Orlando. Okay, so he has some. young people, don't come back. You know, don't come back home. They have their own.

T.L.H. 16:24

Do you get to see them very often?

V.F. 16:26

Oh, yeah

T.L.H. 16:27

good

V.F. 16:27

yeah.

T.L.H. 16:27

I see all the lovely photos here. You have a lovely family

V.F. 16:29

Oh Yeah yeah Those are my grands. Those my favorite. Gotta put some more up.

T.L.H. 16:37

You have five grandchildren?

V.F. 16:39

I got five

T.L.H. 16:39

Wow wonderful

V.F. 16:40

One just graduated this year. So I have to ask her for a picture. The other one um he got like two years. He's artistic, but he's at home, but when I get his picture, so, you know, gotta have some kind of graduation.

T.L.H. 16:57

nice, nice

V.F. 16:57

then I have his picture. So anyway, I used to have it down here with me.

T.L.H. 17:04

Wow. So 54 years, how does that feel to be letting that house go?

V.F. 17:09

Actually, I was just uhh using two rooms because it was

T.L.H. 17:16

ooo

V.F. 17:16

yeah, we had added on. So it's about 3100 square feet

T.L.H. 17:20

Okay.

V.F. 17:21

so it was a, you know, and no one was there, and then I had bought this house.

T.L.H. 17:27

When did you buy this house?

V.F. 17:28

In 07

T.L.H. 17:29

Okay, and tell me about this move. Like, why American Beach? which is a lovely place to be. aww

V.F. 17:37

we would ride up and down and about, buying probably down here. And we look at one lot that says for sale, 'oh we could get this one'. We didn't have any money. We're still sending our children's to college. But so I just happened to, I don't know, how did I happen to find out this house? somehow I was still looking. I'm still, you know, how you still be looking? Yeah, you call it the realtors and find out that this house was, you know, on the market, and they

had someone else who had already, you know, inquired about it. So I kind of outbided them, and so I got this house. Well, my husband and I used to uhh come down here, and we would green

T.L.H. 18:41

You got it. Well, congratulations. So what? What drew you and your husband to American beach?

V.F. 18:48

Well, I had never heard of American beach until I got married, and um so we used to love just being on the beach and just the atmosphere. I love the country atmosphere. And you didn't have the pavements, the cements, you know, some

T.L.H. 19:10

nature

V.F. 19:10

trees, yeah, the nature was beautiful at that time. You didn't have all these houses. I think it was, it was, it was two houses. Oh, wow. It's a- lot on the street

T.L.H. 19:23

my goodness

V.F. 19:24

yeah.

T.L.H. 19:25

How does that feel? It's not really the country atmosphere anymore.

V.F. 19:31

No, no. And then it was always us, Blacks down here. I mean, they didn't have anybody. Then they started, you know, building these big houses and not it was always the older houses was built. If you have read the history of it,

T.L.H. 19:52

AL Lewis

V.F. 19:53

and how they built the houses and why they built them, you know, a certain ways. Means. But now these houses are being built. I said with paper. You know that? Yeah, I'm scared. You know they have the boards,

T.L.H. 19:59

Mmhm. yes

V.F. 20:11

strong wind blow. These other houses been on, you know, just standing still

T.L.H. 20:19

for a long time. What year is this house?

V.F. 20:22

69 and so as they work on the road, my neighbor said they could get a, you know, the whole house shakes and things come out out of their pantry.

T.L.H. 20:23

Oh Okay Oh, my

V.F. 20:39

yeah.

T.L.H. 20:40

Oh, goodness.

V.F. 20:42

ask me anything [shake]. I said no

T.L.H. 20:45

you got a solid home.

V.F. 20:47

Yeah, it's old.

T.L.H. 20:50

That's the best way.

V.F. 20:51

Yeah, yeah, I love that. Everybody, you know, and and everybody older, but they building up up,

T.L.H. 20:56

they are

V.F. 20:57

well, mostly, I said, when you get older, you really don't want to go up the stairs. I know that I was younger, and I would go to my sister who had upstairs. I didn't like, you know, going up and down the stairs.

T.L.H. 21:09

So how does it feel to you to be here now? You said you love the beach, you love nature and the trees, so

V.F. 21:18

I like it, and my neighbors are really wonderful, yeah, I have he's from Delaware, very nice neighbor. And he helped me a lot. So then if I need

something done, a big I just call on him, my neighbor over here, where they're from? He just retired. They just built that house about three years ago. They're wonderful. They're wonderful too, because he has, he has his yard man to do my yard. Yeah. So, yeah. So I just so I really have a plus all all the way around.

T.L.H. 22:03

That's good

V.F. 22:04

yeah, so I so it's been, it's been great living here.

T.L.H. 22:11

That's good

V.F. 22:14

And everybody's about the same age. You got people my age, you know, in my age bracket, but then you have others, which is good in the 60s, early 60s, that's retiring, so that's good for them and for me, you know, I can just enjoy, you know, their youth and activities. Cause they do the things.

T.L.H. 22:43

Do you get out to the beach at all, or go to Bernie park or

V.F. 22:48

well

T.L.H. 22:48

you're not far?

V.F. 22:49

No, I'm not far. Sometimes, you know, I'll walk down to the beach, probably in the afternoon. I will walk down there. Otherwise, I used to do more so, but now I just enjoy just being here or being in the backyard, yes, because all the trees and things and seeing the seeing the turtles come out. yeah, so it's-

T.L.H. 23:23

that's nice.

V.F. 23:24

It has a calming effect.

T.L.H. 23:26

It is a calming. that's nature in general, isn't it?

V.F. 23:32

It is. So in Jacksonville, everybody has by now, like I said, they've moved on, either died off, you know. So I said that we were in our Flemish, right? And so that was over 50 years ago.

T.L.H. 23:50

right? So your neighborhood, your neighbors, they either passed away or moved, moved on

V.F. 23:58

and you had the younger ones. But it was good, because our all our kids knew each other. They were playing, you know, they played together. And so

T.L.H. 24:11

what do you think of the neighborhood there now? Is it okay

V.F. 24:13

I don't know i don't know anybody, I know maybe one or two people. It's nice and quiet still. yes, you know you don't. I don't see anyone like I used to. It used to be an activity where you saw the kids playing outside. You don't see that.

T.L.H. 24:33

Oh, well, everybody's on their devices, aren't they,

V.F. 24:36

yes, yes but then uh, but it's quiet. I don't even see the the adults.

T.L.H. 24:42

Oh okay

V.F. 24:43

You know, they're I guess they work.

T.L.H. 24:47

There's a lot of effort to kind of get people out, enjoying the river, enjoying the parks on the river.

V.F. 24:56

Yes.

T.L.H. 24:56

What do you think about that?

V.F. 24:59

Well. I think that, not knowing the people there, it's like it's a new generation, and we had at that time, I guess we enjoyed it, because a lot of the ones that had boats my husband had a boat and they would enjoy the river, but uh. I don't think that they really- like you said, with all these uh uh, phones and all these, you know, being on internet and all that. I think it kind of, it kind of took away a lot of things, from people

T.L.H. 25:52

you mean nature? It took, took them away from nature

V.F. 25:55

from everything. Nature, reading

T.L.H. 25:58

oh mhm

V.F. 26:00

music, the whole bit, you know, we used to. I used to have kids in my house, and they would play outside, and I would feed them, you know. And it was just things that they would do, and games they were playing, but you don't see anybody,

T.L.H. 26:24

not so much

V.F. 26:25

[you don't see] young people playing.

T.L.H. 26:28

And I think most of the time, a lot of kids are complaining about the heat, and they don't want to be out in that too. But what, what do we used to do?

V.F. 26:35

Basically, it look like it kind of Ribault, kind of and when I was moving out, I see it turned from a place where it was very active, very active. And before they even put Edgewood, see none of Edgewood, and made them a four

lanes. Our children used to go down there to the corner of Edgewood and Lake Park. And it was, it was like a dune

T.L.H. 27:14

ohh

V.F. 27:15

sand dune. And they would slide down you know, so, oh, you know, there's, it was. So they enjoyed the area so but now I guess as they modernize it and put more buildings there,

T.L.H. 27:41

it's changing.

V.F. 27:42

It has changed tremendous, you know. And it was a really all the neighbors knew each other, and we knew their kids, my son would leave his bicycle way down there to Palmdale and Barry playing, and then he would come on home playing. And then he would have forgotten his bike, and the neighbors would see it, and they would bring it

T.L.H. 28:12

nice. It was neighborly.

V.F. 28:15

Yes. Everybody Yes. So they grew up together. So that was

T.L.H. 28:22

that's special.

V.F. 28:24

Yes

T.L.H. 28:25

and you're right. It is rare now.

V.F. 28:27

And everybody in the neighborhood went to the same school. caught the bus.
something said

T.L.H. 28:34

Which school did they go to?

V.F. 28:36

What is that? A Ribault uh Ribault high.

T.L.H. 28:45

and Middle School?

V.F. 28:46

that was some of the other ones went to Stanton. But in the early years to Catholic school.

T.L.H. 28:51

Mhmm. Was that? What was the Catholic school near there? St Pius

V.F. 28:55

yes, St. Pius and you know they were there first through the fifth grade.

T.L.H. 29:02

Okay, okay. so you see a lot of changes have happened, anything that you- things that you wish hadn't changed, or things that you wish wouldn't change now.

V.F. 29:19

umm Well, you can't really go back. You can't go back to your friends. They've They've gotten older with you, and I'll be 82 this year

T.L.H. 29:37

Oh, happy birthday. Early. *laughing*

V.F. 29:43

So, you know, the years look like they just, you know, they went forward, but then at the same time they stood still because you couldn't see them moving. Yeah, so it's all been good. It's all been good, even with you know, even with selling my house, I look at, but I just, I just remember the memories and the things that we used to have there weddings there, we used to have yeah

T.L.H. 29:52

oh what's your, what's your clearest, fondest memory there? if you can pick one.

V.F. 30:19

I think that we used to have wedding receptions.

T.L.H. 30:22

Oh, lovely.

V.F. 30:24

We had the room that was my husband had built. I guess he was a brick layer. And it was 25 I think it was 25 by 50 feet

T.L.H. 30:35

beautiful. That's big.

V.F. 30:37

That's big. Yeah

T.L.H. 30:38

Did it have big windows looking outside? Or what was it? What was it like?

V.F. 30:43

Well, it had windows there, but we used to, but just playing, going and play, you know, piano, all men and all that, you know, we had pool table in there. We had a ping pong table there. So for us, it was a reparations, uh huh. Yeah, it was a way to keep separate yourself from the children.

T.L.H. 31:13

Yeah, have some, have some play for the adults

V.F. 31:15

yeah yeah but uh, but it was nice. I enjoy it, I enjoy, I enjoy the young people who used to come to the house around the neighborhood. They would come there to eat because I only work part time so I could cook, you know, I had time to cook.

T.L.H. 31:15

Right, right

V.F. 31:39

Yeah, I'll just see what they were doing in the neighborhood. And I would go out there if they were doing something wrong. I would go over to the house.

They want to know why is so and so in this house cause you're momma working. she don't know nothing. Well. They going home. Whether she knows it or not they going home, Yeah, I would go there, yeah. Imma keep an eye on the neighborhood and go over there and knock. But the kids was very respectful though, of course they were, you know, they would be embarrassed. They would and and mumble, but I would, I guess I was the neighborhood watch, also

T.L.H. 32:32

keeping everyone's kids in line.

V.F. 32:34

Yeah, the parents didn't know it, but I would, I would keep them

T.L.H. 32:40

that's sweet, and you'd feed them.

V.F. 32:44

Oh yeah, yeah, just come in. this part of the routine

T.L.H. 32:52

that's nice. Do you still cook a lot?

V.F. 32:54

Oh no, I might cook twice a week. Maybe. it's just me and so you lose your appetite, a lot of things. Cause you as you grow older

T.L.H. 33:14

well, what are, what are any things that you wish would change in that that neighborhood? Can you think of anything that you think needs to be either brought back, or anything that needs to evolve?

V.F. 33:31

Well, when I see them, when I go there, I don't see any children.

T.L.H. 33:42

Why do you think that is because of the electronics that we talked about, or something else?

V.F. 33:46

that might be they're not having I see I see young people going to work, but I don't see any young I don't see any young children outside, out. They invite me in the house, and you not know it, but, but there is no chatter, no laughter, no riding bikes. You know that we see this.

T.L.H. 34:19

What do you think is lost? When that is lost?

V.F. 34:30

I think you can lose your youth because it can pass by. So what do you have to really to go on and to talk besides Tiktok have on somebody, you know, it just sounds almost like you know your limbs, if you never, if you it's because you, you have a hand, you never use it. Because everything else is being brought to you, and you don't have to. feed it to you. So I think if you lose the appreciation for it,

T.L.H. 35:15

for what you could do, yeah, your own creativity you mean

V.F. 35:18

creativity, yes, and bigger things and reading, yeah, so I Yeah. I enjoyed, you know, the Ribault area, I guess, over there. But I had a. but my life was, I call it. It was complete. I worked this part time, but, but I, I taught my children. But on the weekends, they had to go, go to the nursing home.

T.L.H. 35:50

Oh, they volunteered?

V.F. 35:53

I volunteered them.

T.L.H. 35:54

You volunteered them.

V.F. 35:57

And the neighbor too.

T.L.H. 35:58

Oh, and what did they do there?

V.F. 36:00

They will have to send scripts and sing songs. And then I would tell them. I would tell different nursing homes, the one up there on. What is that on Moncrief? we used to go there. Our people go to somebody's home who was sick, and then they couldn't come out. We could do it in the yard. We would sing heaven if they couldn't come down. We would have a good program outside in the yard, and have them to sing to them and they learn to appreciate it. But um

T.L.H. 36:36

what did they learn to appreciate?

V.F. 36:37

They did. the kids did as they got older, they um I think they learned to give up themselves. in the neighborhood, you know, of course, they used to, they used to rumble now, they used to rumble but but they were good about about still going, yeah, yeah, yes. And so, you know, so we did a lot. club scouts, and I did it with the, you know, prayer ministry on the weekend I would go. So I had a lot of things that I did.

T.L.H. 37:19

What was your church?

V.F. 37:22

Greater Grant Memorial.

T.L.H. 37:23

Greater Grant Memorial mmkay

V.F. 37:25

Then I would go to nursing home, and not nursing home, but the seniorcitizens. And I would have them to bring the medicines and they had any problems, I would tell them about the you know what they can do or why they, you know, having problems

T.L.H. 37:45

Because of your pharmacy?

V.F. 37:46

Right uh huh, I would get the medicines, and then I would also, um for those who could not afford their medicines, I would contact different, you know, places that they could get them, the medicine at a discount. I pray. You could do all that when you're young. So, you know, it all depends on so. I did all you know, I would do that. I worked, and I love it. Dr Smith one time on Kings Road, so I would go across the street. Once a week. And um have them to bring their bags. they were taking the Same thing over the medicines with

them. some that couldn't afford it. And I would go and contact, you know, whoever was, you know, different companies, and have that was a sense of them.

T.L.H. 38:52

So you did a lot of engagement, community engagement, and a lot of service. And you taught your children that too.

V.F. 39:01

Yeah, yeah, uh huh, yeah, yeah. My daughter, Anna, she was in you heard of young life,

T.L.H. 39:11

yep, I do.

V.F. 39:12

Oh, okay, you're involved in it?

T.L.H. 39:15

tangentially.

V.F. 39:16

Oh, okay, yeah, yeah, so I know she was involved, and she used to go around the summertime, get people, and then she ended up being a missionary,

doing missionary work when she finished college I think she did an internship in the islands.

T.L.H. 39:30

Very good

V.F. 39:33

five years.

T.L.H. 39:34

Wow. So you taught them well?

V.F. 39:37

yeah, I guess it got in their blood.

T.L.H. 39:45

And what about your grandkids? Do they have that in their blood?

V.F. 39:48

I think that some of them enjoy people, you know, and they and they're very helpful. So, but I didn't go around like I did my children. I didn't take them.

T.L.H. 40:11

And their parents didn't

V.F. 40:12

But I did, but I did take them. I took them different places, at church and then, and if they and the community things like that, I would take them, and they were small. But um

T.L.H. 40:25

With all of that community engagement that you did? Do you think it was contiguous with your civil rights work? Do you think it was of the same part of you? It came from the same place in you?

V.F. 40:37

Um, in my head, I never thought about it like that.

T.L.H. 40:43

I guess I just wonder what, what motivated you in your civil rights efforts, and what motivated you and and just being of service to people?

V.F. 40:53

Well, I don't, I guess I looked at it and. People don't know in different areas, what path to take, or how to get there. And that goes with, even if, if you have a low income or you don't have insurance, how do I get other medicines? Without, you know, and passivate. I did the same thing that, you know, with people who was in, I had interns, and I was I was working I helped hundreds of interns. But um, and the paths they should take and guided them it now, not only did I got, no, I think about it, and talking about only the education part, but how to do things like, as if I send them somewhere, and they would walk,

and they were, you know, they would do it. So I was, I would tell them, they come back, how to walk. You're going to place a business, you're working. Learn to walk bristly, as if you you're enjoying you're going somewhere. I said, because other people are looking at you. I said, they have a tendency to say, Oh, you if you walk slow, oh, they're lazy, so you have it. I said, Oh, you got to walk so and so even though you're doing the same thing. So, you know those kind of things, I didn't just teach them.

T.L.H. 42:31

You taught them. You professionalized them,

V.F. 42:33

yeah and how to, yes and how to. And yes. And I had fun come from all different nationalities. But it was,

T.L.H. 42:50

was it rewarding for you?

V.F. 42:52

It was, it was because I kind of, you know, you get that you're in that field, and you. I have got a lot of them, especially, some people who are very smart in that, you know, in that class and the high school, are the ones who come here from Africa. And, you know, they, you know, so they feel that. I used to laugh. I would do two things. I would do one thing. I always had questions, easy questions, three, three questions. And I would ask each one, every, every intern I, I, and then I will get to start typing as they

T.L.H. 43:46

What were the questions?

V.F. 43:47

Huh,

T.L.H. 43:47

What were the questions?

V.F. 43:48

It was, oh, it was easy. It's going to be, how, when and where. About the different in medication?

T.L.H. 43:59

Oh, okay

V.F. 44:00

Yes

T.L.H. 44:00

About the medication

V.F. 44:01

But it would be easy that they would this thinking question, because you had that's what's that's what it's all about in medicine. But they have to tell me about the medicines. But if you can think like that,

T.L.H. 44:17

Mm, hmm,

V.F. 44:18

then you can, you can ask almost any question, any deal, you know.

T.L.H. 44:25

Yeah, those are appropriate questions for everything.

V.F. 44:30

So if you don't know, find the answers.

T.L.H. 44:33

Yes

V.F. 44:34

I don't care what it is, but it was something simple, but very simple. I didn't and then I was outside. But it was so funny. I had one Indian and he would tell me about who was rich, and he said, when I go to India, I don't even have to put my feet on the ground. They pick me up and carry me I say oh. Very nice young man. So that's one of them. So I. So I asked them for the first three and

the reason is to get their respect. They come in, they might be the smartest. They will have no respect show you. And the older you get, young people don't have much respect like they think you don't know nothing.

T.L.H. 45:21

That's true. That's a shame. That's a shame because there's so much, others teach us.

V.F. 45:27

yeah, you know, they think that you're you're ancient, and so that was the reason. And nobody, so one young man. This young man, he got sick. He said, I couldn't answer not one thing. He said, in the class, obey the teacher. Get it, I guess the question I have an answer. I said, now it's time to he was smart that's how he got here. He was so funny with him. I gotta say, all of them are nice, but to get that respect, he always mad. He always fainted. Oh, my goodness. I thought I knew I thought I was smart they always say that. Then he holler oh I'm dumb. You're not dumb.

T.L.H. 46:37

book smarts, there a lot of education.

V.F. 46:40

I said, Now I said, it's just some things that you just, you come here to learn, and you will so, you know, afterwards I'll be very gentle with them, but it'd be so funny, but they

T.L.H. 46:55

Sounds like you were a good teacher.

V.F. 46:57

But otherwise, you know how young people, they think that they can outsmart you when they come to that

T.L.H. 47:01

Sure

V.F. 47:03

You know and show you up.

T.L.H. 47:04

Yes, yes, yeah.

V.F. 47:06

So you get them first

T.L.H. 47:07

Yeah. So you had a way of reading them and knowing them,

V.F. 47:11

Yeah.

T.L.H. 47:12

Right from the start. Well, that's that's wise,

V.F. 47:15

Yeah. They were very Yeah. But I enjoyed them

T.L.H. 47:21

That's wonderful.

V.F. 47:22

Yeah.

T.L.H. 47:22

Those sound like good memories too.

V.F. 47:24

Yeah.

T.L.H. 47:25

Your work and your your neighborhood life.

V.F. 47:27

Yeah. so yeah, I may have them to the house and teach. And I was trying to help them. The pass the tests, the board

T.L.H. 47:36

Oh okay

V.F. 47:36

And, you know, time to take the board I would go over, over the some of the questions,

T.L.H. 47:45

good, yeah, you were a thorough teacher.

V.F. 47:48

I would do that. I would have them and feed them

T.L.H. 47:52

Nice. Do you miss it? No

V.F. 47:58

I've worked for over 50 years.

T.L.H. 48:02

Okay, what was it like to retire?

V.F. 48:06

When I retired, I just got up one day and said,

T.L.H. 48:11

Well, how did that feel?

V.F. 48:13

It felt good. It just felt It felt good. And, you know, I liked my job.

T.L.H. 48:22

Yeah, that's, that's.

V.F. 48:23

I didn't retire because I was just tired. And I was tired of it I was, it was I didn't do that.

T.L.H. 48:33

Was your husband still working when you retired? Or did he

V.F. 48:36

No, no he died in 04.

T.L.H. 48:36

Oh, okay.

V.F. 48:36

In 2004 he passed Yeah, I just decided one day, but I was 70 years old anyway, kept asking them young ones Mrs. Frazier when you gonna retire. You always think you, think young people like you because you. But experience I had been there so I knew how to I was telling them, I'll be here when your grandchildren come.

T.L.H. 48:42

I'm sorry 20 years Wow.

V.F. 49:19

Okay, so, but then I did so and by that time I had bought this, well, I had, I had moved here, yeah, but I had moved here. I just really decided to move here, wasn't it last year.

T.L.H. 49:39

Okay, so you just moved in 2023?

V.F. 49:41

Yeah, yeah, I would come here.

T.L.H. 49:44

Oh

V.F. 49:44

And spend time,

T.L.H. 49:46

Yeah.

V.F. 49:47

But then I would Jacksonville, maybe spend a month or two.

T.L.H. 49:49

Oh, okay.

V.F. 49:51

And come back here.

T.L.H. 49:52

Nice.

V.F. 49:52

But then I decided, and I would, I would just come move here. I. And so I felt so about 23, four months ago, I thought that, hey, I might as well, you know, just have this one house. I can't stay but in one house

T.L.H. 50:15

True.

V.F. 50:16

And so,

T.L.H. 50:20

So, that was that,

V.F. 50:21

Yeah that was that, So now I'm trying to get it all fixed up. So.

T.L.H. 50:24

Right

V.F. 50:25

Yes it had a flood in it, but

T.L.H. 50:27

oh, did it?

V.F. 50:28

They get it, yeah, they getting it together.

T.L.H. 50:30

But what's going on with the flooding? Because you said that that was high land and.

V.F. 50:35

Oh, it was a pipe that broke.

T.L.H. 50:38

Oh, okay.

V.F. 50:39

And since the ones in the household, you know, the whole house itself.

T.L.H. 50:44

So it has been safe from like storms and the river. Oh, very good. What year is your house? It was that house.

V.F. 50:53

Um, that house is, I think, 60. 65.

T.L.H. 51:02

Oh okay. Interesting, wonderful, wow. Well, I want to be respectful of your time. I said I didn't want to take up more than an hour of your time. Is there anything that we haven't talked about that you'd like to share or

V.F. 51:18

Well, I um. I guess in being in the Ribault area, it was like I say that the camaraderie came with the neighbors was really good for the children.

T.L.H. 51:31

Sure.

V.F. 51:32

Everybody grew up together.

T.L.H. 51:36

May I ask where your husband is buried?

V.F. 51:39

At Edgewood.

T.L.H. 51:40

Edgewood cemetery. What do you umm and that was the close one?

V.F. 51:45

Umm why did I bury him there? I don't know why. Is anybody else buried out there? I'm tryna see.

T.L.H. 52:01

You mean your people?

V.F. 52:02

yeah, yeah, I just thought it was a nice as well, nice, okay, yeah,

T.L.H. 52:12

is it still nice?

V.F. 52:14

Yes, they're very nice. Nicely kept.

T.L.H. 52:19

That's important.

V.F. 52:21

Yes,

T.L.H. 52:23

Do you go out there ever?

V.F. 52:25

Occasionally, my daughter go out there and put flowers.

T.L.H. 52:32

That's wonderful. Well, thank you so much. That's wonderful. And I just, I am grateful for your time and and hearing your stories. And just, you know, appreciating

V.F. 52:44

Yeah.

T.L.H. 52:46

Who you are so Oh, that's that's important too.

V.F. 52:51

Well we were actually the Ribault area. Is the one that came, came from the Civil Rights Era. That's funny. We were from the civil rights and we're allowed to come and have a decent places of living by so, so that's what it's about. Ribault it's not about the beginning of the end of civil rights. And I said that because of the laws that was passed, and what year was that? Was it 64? Laws that was passed then. So it was so that's when we started to come in and buy. So that was the beginning.

T.L.H. 53:51

Well, thank you for that. Thank you for that. You all have done important work, and I really do feel gratitude for that, for the world you've you've made possible.

V.F. 54:07

Thank you.

T.L.H. 54:07

Thank you!

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