

BUSINESS

TIME: 2:35

SHIRLEY DENMON

I would say Hardy Avenue was the main street for businesses. There was a dry cleaners. . .

CLARA CLARK RAGLAND

And then it was Miss Ossie's café. Miss Margaret's café.

HACKETT: The Dewdrop Inn, Miss Margaret Watson.

RAGLAND:

Miss Margaret she sold ice cream and stuff for the kids.

HACKETT: They had good fried chicken. And good barbecue always had good barbecue.

RAGLAND:

And she used to bake those skins, called meat skins. And that's what everybody loved, Ms. Margaret's meat skins.

HACKETT: [Laughs.] I can remember an accident occurring at the Dewdrop Inn. Someone lost control of their automobile and they ran into the side of the stand. The joke was "the sign said 'do drop in.'" [Laughs.]

RAGLAND:

And the laundromat which Miss Rosa Lee had then.

ROSA BEARD

My husband and I started that little business up there. And it wasn't the South Rome Laundromat then, it was a pool room. A little pool room.

PASTOR FANNIE LOU JACKSON

We had nine grocery stores. And one drug store -- it was Enloe's drug store up on South Broad.

DENMON:

There was also a grocery store on Branham Avenue. I believe that was ran by a Mr. Armstrong.

HACKETT:

I can remember two stores right there in the little South Rome area, it was Brown's grocery and Brock's grocery. I can remember us picking up bottles, and taking them, redeeming them, getting money to go swimming

DENMON:

There was a home store located on East Main, where we really went and got most of our groceries.

HACKETT:

Brown's store was like, a little mom and pop store. Over Brown's store was apartments.

RAGLAND:

Down on the corner of Butler and Pennington, that was a grocery store. And that was Mull's grocery store.

F.L. JACKSON:

And Miss Bradshaw had a grocery store. As I say, going to town to buy groceries, we didn't have to do it, because everybody had stuff over there.

DENMON

Also right next to Lovejoy Church there used to be a club where adults went, and it was called the Brown Betty Tea Room. They would go in and dance, but we couldn't go.

F.L. JACKSON

And then up on the corner of Hardy Avenue to the right, we us had a barber shop up there and a café. And up there that was Scott's barber shop and then we had the "Try Me Café."

HACKETT: They had some of the best hamburgers. Gee.

F.L. JACKSON

And it was just fun. Everybody would go in there and eat and sit down and drink.

[FADE]