

Moorestown Historical Society
Oral History – West End Community Center
Mr. Joe Hall in conversation with Richard Grey
Recorded on September 11, 2024
Transcribed and edited by Shannon Reilly, January 2025

Transcription Methodology

Because one can't completely avoid the "observer effect" in translation nor transcription, my intention is to be true to the speaker's words while acknowledging that I will, in small ways, interpret the text. These transcripts assume that the reader will use them in combination with the recorded interview.

Here are a few guiding principles that I have applied to this transcription:

- Punctuation in the text reflects the inflection in a speaker's voice as I interpreted it.
- Instances in which the inflection is unclear to me, the text defaults to grammatical correctness.

Transcript

00:00:03 **Richard Gray:** Alright. Hey, P, can you hear us?

00:00:08 **Payton Gray:** Yeah.

00:00:10 **Richard Gray:** Alright.

00:00:11 **Payton Gray:** Clear.

00:00:12 **Richard Gray:** Hello Mr. Hall.

00:00:12 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Hello.

00:00:14 **Payton Gray:** Hello. [Laughter] Yeah, it says "Meeting's being recorded."

00:00:23 **Richard Gray:** Alright. Meeting's being recorded. Okay. Good. Make sure that I am going to do... just make sure that I have all the recording at the right levels. Audio settings. Okay, everything looks like it's good. And I think we're all set, high quality. Alright. Alright. Okay.

Let's see here, right. Let's make sure we have everything here. Alright. I think we're good.

00:01:01 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Alright.

00:01:02 **Richard Gray:** Alright.

00:01:04 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Now, I found some stuff, alright, but I didn't find the original stuff.

[Muffled]

00:01:15 **Mr. Joe Hall:** [Muffled]

00:01:18 **Richard Gray:** So yeah, yeah, I remember that picture.

00:01:20 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Alright. That's the picture. It's been sitting [MUFFLED] That's my grandfather there.

00:01:31 **Richard Gray:** That's your grandfather here?

00:01:27 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Okay. And ten was great.

00:01:32 **Richard Gray:** What's your grandfather's name?

00:01:33 **Mr. Joe Hall:** John Hall.

00:01:32 **Richard Gray:** John Hall. Okay...

00:01:34 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, I live right next, he lived right next to the Center.

00:01:37 **Richard Gray:** Okay.

00:01:39 **Mr. Joe Hall:** [Muffled] Like two houses down...

00:01:40 **Richard Gray:** That's right.

00:01:41 **Mr. Joe Hall:** And then you were right next door.

00:01:42 **Richard Gray:** That's right. Yeah. That's right. That's right.

00:01:44 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Okay. You can keep that if you want.

00:01:45 **Richard Gray:** I think I have a copy of it.

00:01:46 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You've got a copy of that?

00:01:47 **Richard Gray:** I've got a copy of it somewhere.

00:01:48 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Okay. This is something interesting if you want to see it.

00:01:53 **Richard Gray:** Oh! Okay, yeah.

00:01:56 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I found a picture of a party we were having there, and then you probably recognize a lot of people in there.

00:02:05 **Richard Gray:** I'm gonna take a picture of that. That's Uncle Mister right there, yeah.

[Laughter]

00:02:08 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:02:11 **Richard Gray:** Uncle Mister.... Let's see.

00:02:08 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You see...?

00:02:14 **Richard Gray:** I see. Mr. Muse there.

00:02:16 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. Mike, Mike, his sister.

00:02:20 **Richard Gray:** This is Aunt Mott over here.

00:02:24 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Your birth song, he's in here.

00:02:27 **Richard Gray:** Oh, this is something.

00:02:28 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. So you can make a copy of that, yeah.

00:02:33 **Richard Gray:** I'm going to actually take a quick picture right now.

00:02:36 **Richard Gray:** ...use the technology.

00:02:41 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I have some more of this stuff. I just, I hadn't found it... I just stopped working about a month or so ago and I ...

00:02:48 **Richard Gray:** Is that right?

00:02:52 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, I...

00:02:48 **Richard Gray:** Oh, you were telling me that?

00:02:52 **Mr. Joe Hall:** ..and I've got stuff everywhere, man. I'm, so that's my, that's my project now.

00:02:56 **Richard Gray:** What's that?

00:02:57 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You gotta get, to get rid of some of this stuff, you know.

00:02:58 **Richard Gray:** It was, tell me that's, that's, that's everybody's project.

00:03:01 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah.

00:03:01 **Richard Gray:** That's been the project for us to do with Mom's stuff and all that, you know.

00:03:05 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right.

00:03:07 **Richard Gray:** You accumulate stuff in life.

00:03:08 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Oh yeah, you do, man.

00:03:12 **Richard Gray:** Oh, that's terrific. Uncle Mister... Yeah, it's something, alright. And I've seen this Blue Chips...

00:03:15 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You've seen this Blue Chips...

00:03:18 **Richard Gray:** Yeah. Let me see... Let me check it out again.

00:03:20 **Mr. Joe Hall:** That was the women and the men.

00:03:21 **Richard Gray:** So this was, Uncle, Uncle Bill Harvey.

00:03:26 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Bill, yeah.

00:03:27 **Richard Gray:** ...and we, when, when he passed and we were cleaning out the outhouse.

00:03:29 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Oh, you found some down there?

00:03:31 **Richard Gray:** He had a whole crate full.

00:03:34 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right. Oh, yeah. I've got more stuff around, I just have to find it, yeah?

00:03:36 **Richard Gray:** It went from you all wearing, having thin ties and thin lapels to these afros and... [Laughter]

00:03:40 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right. Right, yeah.

00:03:45 **Richard Gray:** Okay. And let me get that anyway, Okay. And what's this picture here?

00:03:48 **Mr. Joe Hall:** And this is, this is the same group.

00:03:52 **Richard Gray:** You're saying that's the Blue Chips.

00:03:53 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, it's a different group, I mean, you know, same group with a different picture. Yeah. Yeah.

00:03:56 **Richard Gray:** That's right. That's right. I'm looking at that. I had a good chance to talk to Mr. Wright, Perry Wright last week.

00:04:02 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. How's he doing, man?

00:04:04 **Richard Gray:** He's doing okay. He's doing okay.

00:04:07 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I keep saying I'm gonna get down to see him one day.

00:04:09 **Richard Gray:** Yeah, I'm gonna try, I'm trying to get down to Atlanta too, see him.

00:04:11 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. And it's, this here, you can see. I don't know if you needed that or not.

00:04:15 **Richard Gray:** I'll take it.

00:04:16 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. But I still haven't looked through all my stuff and see what I have.

00:04:21 **Richard Gray:** Right. Right.

00:04:22 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You know, it's been like [Unclear], you know.

00:04:25 **Richard Gray:** Well, I just want to ask you a couple questions.

00:04:26 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. Great. Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Go ahead.

00:04:27 **Richard Gray:** I'm not going to take up a whole lot of your time. I mean, part of what we're doing, just so you have by way of background. We got a grant. I've been working with one of my students and been having conversations, and when I was coming back to take care of Mom.

00:04:40 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right. Yeah.

00:04:40 **Richard Gray:** Having conversations about just Moorestown and, and, and the history of the West End Center. And you know we had a couple of reunions, West End, West End Center reunions and, and realizing I connected with Quentin Law.

00:04:55 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Okay.

00:04:56 **Richard Gray:** I think he was, you know, the first Black city councilman and, and people were trying to figure out what they were going to do with what they're now calling Yancy Adams Park.

00:05:06 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Okay, yeah, I saw that. Yes.

00:05:07 **Richard Gray:** And there was a whole conversation that he was having about it. And he said, “Well, Richard, I want to make sure that whatever's done recognizes the history of what's there.” And so a lot of people who live in the neighborhood don't even know the history...

00:05:17 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right, right. Exactly. Yeah.

00:05:18 **Richard Gray:** So we had a call and when we explained the history to people, one of the things that I thought was really positive people were like, “We didn't know about this history. Whatever we do in this space has to acknowledge it and pass it on.” So we were able to get a grant with the Moorestown Historical Society. I think it's a part of when they have the 250th anniversary for the country, they want to say, “We want to make sure we document lost history.” And so we got \$25,000 to do some, some interviews with folks. And so I interviewed, a quick interview of my Aunt Marie Harvey before she passed. Mrs. Hall, Kathryn Hall. I interviewed my Uncle Pete before he passed. I interviewed Mr. Wright, and you, right. And the questions are, a couple of questions and we can go from there.

00:06:07 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, go ahead.

00:06:08 **Richard Gray:** The two main questions are: As you think about the West End Center and it's, you know, connection to community, your life, what are some of the most memorable experiences that you had? And I know that that's a loaded question. [Laughter]

00:06:23 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, well, me, I lived right next door to this.

00:06:25 **Richard Gray:** That's right. That's right.

00:06:26 **Mr. Joe Hall:** So, ... But what I remember more than anything is playing basketball out there.

00:06:29 **Richard Gray:** Is that right?

00:06:32 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. I think along with Dave Robinson, Bobby, Bobby Murrs, I'm going to say Hook, Phil, Phil Jackson.

00:06:41 **Richard Gray:** Phil Jackson.

00:06:41 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, we all played together and it, you know, whenever summer times, you're out, you know out in the back there, on the back, on the back playing ball, you know, that's what we did a lot. And then in the field up there, we played football out there, and baseball. And, it was good, you know? And we all knew each other and you know, memories like that you don't forget, you know, and I think kids today are missing a lot, you know, because a place like that's not there.

00:07:03 **Richard Gray:** Absolutely, absolutely. Right.

00:07:11 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Mr. Adams. My God.!

00:07:14 **Richard Gray:** That's what I can I keep hearing about Mr. Adams. I know of him, I only know him from, you know, reputation.

00:07:16 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah.

00:07:20 **Richard Gray:** But it seemed like he was a pretty iconic figure.

00:07:24 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yes, he was. Yeah, yeah. And his son lives around, around, right down the street, across the street from [Unclear] right now. Yeah.

00:07:33 **Richard Gray:** That's right.

00:07:35 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. But that's about it. I mean, you know, I mean, everybody knew everybody in the neighborhood. Things we did, you know, good things and bad things, you know.

00:07:45 **Richard Gray:** And was there...? I know that I think, what Randy Holmes had told me, sent me a picture. I didn't realize... my Uncle Pete had also sent me a picture, that they were actual sports teams that were affiliated with the West End. The basketball team that traveled around.

00:08:00 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, right. Yeah.

00:08:01 **Richard Gray:** I think he sent one from 1944. He was 120 pounds.

00:08:06 **Mr. Joe Hall:** That's why... [Muffled] ...this one right here. Yeah.

00:08:10 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, these guys, they play right back there, right? Were late. It was legal. You know that was before my time now.

00:08:18 **Richard Gray:** That's. Yeah, that's right. When Lenny was in the...

[Recording cuts out. Silence for several seconds.]

00:08:38 **Mr. Joe Hall:** ...original picture of it but I can't find it. So I....

00:08:42 **Payton Gray:** You cut, you cut. You cut off for a minute.

00:08:46 **Richard Gray:** [Unclear] I cut off, yeah...?

00:08:48 **Payton Gray:** And you're, I mean, the video's been freezing, but I mean, the audio has been clear.

00:08:55 **Richard Gray:** You know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna, because I think that the audio is more important. I'm gonna...

00:08:59 **Payton Gray:** Yeah, your connection's bad.

00:08:59 **Richard Gray:** ...gonna turn off the video feed. I think it'll us a little bit more. Yeah. Let me ask if that's better.

00:09:04 **Payton Gray:** You're connected. You've got the red bars by your, by your name, so...

00:09:11 **Richard Gray:** Okay. Can you hear me?

00:09:14 **Payton Gray:** I can hear you. I've been able to hear you.

00:09:16 **Richard Gray:** Okay. Well, I just turned off the video, so hopefully that should give us a little bit more bandwidth.

00:09:22 **Payton Gray:** Okay.

00:09:23 **Richard Gray:** Alright? We'll do the best we can, and follow up. And so, did you play on any of the sports teams that were at the West End? Or just more pick up?

00:09:35 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Nah. Yeah, more pick up, more pick up, yeah.

00:09:36 **Richard Gray:** Yeah. And so tell me your connection, obviously with the Blue Chips. I... Mr...

00:09:42 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I was the president for a couple years.

00:09:44 **Richard Gray:** Okay, how did you get, how did you get connected to, to the Blue Chips? How was that?

00:09:51 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Ah. [Muffled] Oh God... I don't know. I don't remember how we started.

00:09:57 **Richard Gray:** Were you there from the beginning?

00:09:59 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah.

00:09:59 **Richard Gray:** Okay. Okay.

00:10:02 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Bill Brooks was, was one of the organizers and I kinda got stuck in it as a president when I started work for a liquor company. [Laughter] You know how that goes, you know, and when I started working with liquor company and next thing I know a lot of stuff was falling, down here, so good stuff. Yeah. So. I don't know, just like you know, the older guys bringing us in, you know, you know, like, like somebody like, especially Bill Brooks. I mean Bill Brooks, he, he did a lot for us. I used to work with him in the, the centers, the rec centers. Ours, one down a little, Lenola, up Main Street. You know, like we refereed games and stuff like that. And you know, we got involved.

00:10:53 **Richard Gray:** I heard he was the first Black, like the certified Black referee in New Jersey.

00:10:57 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Well, he was there and his best friend used to live on Third St. Mike, Mike something I can't figure his name.

00:11:09 **Richard Gray:** Mike something. Okay.

00:11:13 **Mr. Joe Hall:** And they got me out doing it. Out doing baseball and basketball with these guys, you know, because I lived up at Willingboro here.

00:11:17 **Richard Gray:** Okay.

00:11:20 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You know, we're not refereeing the games up here.

00:11:20 **Richard Gray:** Okay.

00:11:23 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You know, for the young kids and same thing the animals, the animals.

00:11:26 **Richard Gray:** Yeah. Okay.

00:11:27 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, he, he, he, he, he forced you to do things. Yeah.

00:11:30 **Richard Gray:** Well, that's good. That's good.

00:11:33 **Mr. Joe Hall:** But I don't know. You know, it's a lot to remember but, you know, this, this used to be an important event, event for us.

00:11:44 **Richard Gray:** Yeah, there was, I know that...

00:11:46 **Mr. Joe Hall:** We had that every year. Yeah.

00:11:47 **Richard Gray:** At every it was a year. This was to raise money for the scholarships.

00:11:53 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, yeah, we did scholarships with that. Most of the time it was down at the old, on 38, what was the name of that place? The building's not there right now. You know where Cherry Hill Mall is?

00:12:01 **Richard Gray:** Yes.

00:12:02 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right down near there there was a big, big hotel, like...

00:12:06 **Richard Gray:** Oh, Okay, I thought I, I think I know what you're talking about. And I've seen a couple of the programs.

00:12:09 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yes, it's something Inn... What was it called? I forgot what we called it now... But we used to do that. That was our biggest one, yeah.

00:12:17 **Richard Gray:** Any of the, any of the Blue Chip events, activities that are sort of stuck in your head, like one of them? Because I know you also used to take trips. Actually I had that video, video...

00:12:25 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, we used to go on trips. Yeah. I don't have any pictures from the, from the trips, I don't think. I don't know. I might find them, you know. Over the period of time, you just collect stuff, and now that I'm not working, get some of this stuff out of here, you know? [Laughter] Yeah. But basically that's about it, you know. It was, it was something to do and I'm glad that it was around because, you know, it kept us out of trouble. I mean, you know, like, these guys, older guys kind of looked after the younger guys, you know.

00:12:59 **Richard Gray:** And that seemed to be a part of what the, what the Center was about. It sort of connected you to...

00:13:04 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. Sure.

00:13:06 **Richard Gray:** ...sort of connected you to elders. And I always remember my experience 'cause I was towards the tail end of the West End. And I was more Maple Dawson than the West End. And we didn't... And I think there was a big difference when you didn't have a building, you know, to be able to do events, but I always remember somebody like Bruce Austin who was clearly, like, he was younger and being mentored by the oldest...

00:13:28 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right, right. Yeah.

00:13:29 **Richard Gray:** But to us he was older, and so it seemed like at the West End Center you will connect somebody with an elder, but you also connected, once you got to a certain age, okay, you got to be responsible for younger people.

00:13:38 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, yeah. The West End was an important place for us coming up. I mean, they had downstairs. They had pool tables downstairs. Guys wanna box, they box downstairs. There was something to do here.

00:13:52 **Richard Gray:** Right. Right.

00:13:54 **Mr. Joe Hall:** And, it's not there today, you know.

00:13:56 **Richard Gray:** What about, my Uncle Pete had mentioned something about the dances they used to have.

00:13:59 **Mr. Joe Hall:** We'd have dances here.

00:14:01 **Richard Gray:** When? When? Were they like Friday, Saturday night?

00:14:04 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I don't remember. Usually on the weekend, yeah.

00:14:05 **Richard Gray:** On the weekends? Okay.

00:14:07 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Birthdays, this thing here. That was the birthday party.

00:14:13 **Richard Gray:** Right, right, right. Whose birthday party?

00:14:15 **Mr. Joe Hall:** That was my birthday party.

00:14:16 **Richard Gray:** Oh, that was your birthday party?

00:14:18 **Richard Gray:** Oh, okay.

00:14:18 **Mr. Joe Hall:** That's me down there.

00:14:20 **Richard Gray:** Oh, okay. What year, what year... What birthday was this?

00:14:24 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You know what? I don't know. [Laughter] I don't know. This is Franklin.

00:14:31 **Richard Gray:** That's right. That's right. And where, where are you?

00:14:35 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I'm down here. Right there.

00:14:36 **Richard Gray:** This you? Okay.

00:14:36 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Alright, that's Mike Muse. That's his sister. Barbara Short, John. I don't think we knew them. [Undecipherable] xxxx Young.

00:14:50 **Richard Gray:** Okay.

00:14:52 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Cynthia Burson. Who is that? Is that Bonnie?

00:15:01 **Richard Gray:** I think that might be.

00:15:05 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Umm. Meekins.

00:15:10 **Richard Gray:** Okay. Who's this here? He looks really...

00:15:14 **Mr. Joe Hall:** That's Jimmy Meekins

00:15:18 **Richard Gray:** Is that? Okay.

00:15:19 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. Jimmy Meekins 'cause that was, that's his sister there behind him.

00:15:24 **Richard Gray:** Okay. So this is at the West End.

00:15:27 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, at the West End, yeah.

00:15:29 **Richard Gray:** Okay. I'm going to try to see if can find out what year this was. Now, did you always have birthday parties at the, at the West End?

00:15:37 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I had this one. Yeah, I don't remember any, but somebody was always doing stuff. And like you say, dancing at nighttime, like on the weekends, somebody, there was always something going on.

00:15:49 **Richard Gray:** Let me ask you because you had mentioned it before. The, and I was thinking of somebody like my son, who, and younger kids who don't have any memory of the West End or even, you don't even have to be that old.

00:15:58 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right. Yeah, yeah.

00:16:01 **Richard Gray:** I think somebody who's maybe 10 or 15 years younger. Wouldn't have any memory of the West End.

00:16:05 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right, yeah.

00:16:06 **Richard Gray:** But they were still sort of people around to talk about it. If you would, if you were sharing, say with your, with your grandson about the West End, what is it that, what is something that you think that they should know about the West End Center or you would hope that they would have that you had from the West End Center that isn't there now? You had talked about the young people missing...

00:16:28 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You know, most thing I do remember. And it's so much that, for that area, maybe not so much the West End, but that community.

00:16:39 **Richard Gray:** Mm-hmm.

00:16:40 **Mr. Joe Hall:** And I tell some of the older guys, and they tell me they're starting to remember. Everybody, everybody on the block was, was a mother or a father to you. I mean, you

know, you, you thought you were getting away with something. And I remember one time your grandmother, she used to catch me coming into school late.

[Laughter]

00:16:59 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You know, everybody would leave out the house and go to work.

00:17:01 **Richard Gray:** Right.

00:17:02 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I'd take my time going to school. Many a day she'd open that door, "You know..." I know. I'd say "Oh my God!" [Laughter] I mean, everybody you grew up around the whole area was... Today you don't see that. You know you. "You touch my kid?"

00:17:12 **Richard Gray:** Mm.

00:17:17 **Mr. Joe Hall:** "That's not your son. That's my son. I'll tell my son what to do." You know, I got back then, man, the whole... You were raised by a block or, you know, a whole group of people. Which I think was very important, man. Because you thought you got away with something and when you get home, you got your ass beat. [Laughter] So, you know. I remember, that's what I remember. But we, but me and the older guys we talk about that. Everybody says the same thing. You know like that.

00:17:41 **Richard Gray:** Right. And you mentioned the, which was, I saw as an important part of being in that community, and I think it was reflected in the West End, is this idea of older people having a relationship to bring along the younger people. It's connected to what is in that file. Okay. In addition to telling you to stop doing this, I'm also telling you what to get.

00:18:04 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right, exactly. Yep. And that, that was important. You know that was, that's, that's, that's, that's the memory I have, you know. Older people taking care of the younger people.

00:18:16 **Richard Gray:** And you're talking about your relationship with the connection that Mr. Brooks, Billy Brooks had to...

00:18:21 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, we, he started me at a young age of, you know, doing stuff like refereeing and whatnot, working in that, next thing you know, I'm, I'm doing something else. I used to work part time at the gym down there and work in Lenola. And he was always encouraging me to do stuff like that, not just me, but people in the neighborhood, you know. And that meant a lot. That meant a lot, you know.

00:18:44 **Richard Gray:** It's been interesting talking to people because I knew Mr. Brooks. That's my, like I said, my my... When I think of the Moorestown Recreation, I think of Mr. Brooks.

00:18:54 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right, right. Yeah, right.

00:18:56 **Richard Gray:** Now for, like I said, some of the older generations, Mr. Adams was there and it was very clear that Mr., Mr. Adams was a mentor to Mr. Billy.

00:19:04 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Exactly, yeah.

00:19:06 **Richard Gray:** I thought it was many ways, like the same kind of relationship. So, because we talked about Mr., Mr. Adams doing the same thing talking with other folks.

00:19:19 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, it's good memories.

00:19:21 **Richard Gray:** And the Blue Chips were something... I'm wondering when did the Blue Chips...? When did they? When did they end? Because, I know they were always a part of me when I was, when I was growing up, I [Muffled/ Talking overlap] scholarship and...

00:19:31 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I can't. I can't... We kind of like faded away after you get older. Few people leave or pass away or something. Getting young kids to come in was hard.

00:19:47 **Richard Gray:** Yeah. Unfortunately, that's part of, you know, part of what we're hoping to do with this is...

00:19:50 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right.

00:19:53 **Richard Gray:** ...is, is, we're building a relationship here to document this history, not only with the Historical Society, but with AME and Second Baptist, and, and all of the institutions the same, the same thing.

00:20:00 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right. Yeah, yeah.

00:20:04 **Richard Gray:** They're having a hard time getting young people to come in to the Historical Society and the churches and maybe this could be a way.

00:20:06 **Payton Gray:** Yeah, church, right?

00:20:09 **Richard Gray:** Yeah, we got up talking with some people.

00:20:14 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right. Yeah, sure.

00:20:12 **Richard Gray:** Maybe we need to revive the Blue Chips. Maybe we need to revive some of these things. So if you were to say, well, you just mentioned some of the things, if you were to name some things that were, were in the West End, but also like you said were in the neighborhood, you say, "You know what, it would be good for us to bring this back." You know, just having even, like you said, having a place to go with something to do. Something, I'm just kind of curious. If you were to name something, what might those things be?

00:20:35 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I can't really think of it now because the neighborhood is, is a conglomerate now, of people, you know? And the different religions, different nationality and everything, right.

00:20:44 **Richard Gray:** Right.

00:20:52 **Mr. Joe Hall:** That was a Black area. And that's where we hung, you know.

00:20:58 **Richard Gray:** Right, right, right.

00:20:58 **Mr. Joe Hall:** At the corner. Right at the corner. Store was right there...

00:21:03 **Richard Gray:** I remember that.

00:21:08 **Mr. Joe Hall:** ...and Miss Mary, Miss Mary. She was the traffic guard for the tradesmen they come through, they had a little place, and stuff like that. You know, schools were actually...

00:21:11 **Richard Gray:** That's right. Right. Mr. Joe's Barber shop?

00:21:17 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. Yeah. Right. See all that stuff's gone, you know.

00:21:20 **Richard Gray:** Yeah, right. And the other thing I mentioned — and I won't take up too much more of your time and I appreciate the time you have — is I talk with people you know, something with, you know, surprise. This is not only a second Baptist thing to me, but I also at the West End Center is that, you look at a picture like this and you say, "All those folks live in Moorestown." Actually, there are folks coming from Mount Holly. People from, at the dances, people from [Muffled] and it seemed to be that the West End.

00:21:49 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah.

00:21:53 **Richard Gray:** And I haven't found any place in other places...

00:21:55 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right.

00:21:56 **Richard Gray:** ...that brought Black folks from other towns to a location like West End. And so, there were a lot of people... My Uncle, my Uncle Glenn, who, who grew up in Burlington, there are some people who swore he went to Moorestown High because he spent so much time at the West End Center.

00:22:08 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right.

00:22:11 **Richard Gray:** And so, it seemed to attract a lot of people, like Black folks from other places.

00:22:15 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Well, back then Moorestown had their own spot at the West End, Palmyra had a couple places over there.

00:22:21 **Richard Gray:** Oh, is that, is that right?

00:22:22 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. Burlington had a couple of places like that and we all used to, you know, go there, see somebody different. And you go, let's go look over here... We see some pretty girls over here, let's go here. [Laughter]

00:22:33 **Richard Gray:** Okay.

00:22:33 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You know and. That's the way it was. Yeah. And that you knew everybody in that parameter.

00:22:39 **Richard Gray:** And you knew where to go in, you knew where to go in that, in that town where you are welcome.

00:22:41 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Right. Yeah, yeah.

00:22:44 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Between Mount Holly, Burlington, Palmyra, Moorestown

00:22:47 **Richard Gray:** Right. Do you remember any of the places in in Burlington any of the locations or other places, any of the locations?

00:22:54 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Well, see, I remember in Palmyra there was a barber shop. What the hell was the name of that barber shop? Damn, I can't think of the name of it. And he had a barber's, barbershop upstairs, and he had a downstairs where he had a little dancing and whatnot.

00:23:12 **Richard Gray:** Oh, okay.

00:23:13 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You'd meet a lot of, of girls down there, you know. We used to ride our bikes over here sometimes.

00:23:20 **Richard Gray:** That's in Palmyra? Okay.

00:23:21 **Mr. Joe Hall:** In Palmyra. And Burlington had a place up here in Burlington. I can't remember what that was. But the one in Palmyra, it was a barber shop.

00:23:29 **Richard Gray:** Okay, okay.

00:23:30 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I don't remember what it was in Palmyra. I mean, in Burlington.

00:23:34 **Richard Gray:** Okay.

00:23:36 **Mr. Joe Hall:** But, it was, that's what we did, you know.

00:23:39 **Richard Gray:** I'm gonna ask my uncle, Uncle Butch, about the, about the, about Burlington, ask him about the places in...

00:23:46 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. A couple of places in Burlington that we used to go to, but like everywhere.

00:23:51 **Richard Gray:** Okay.

00:23:53 **Mr. Joe Hall:** You people hear you saying [Unclear], yeah.

00:23:56 **Richard Gray:** That's right. That's right. That's right. Okay. Well, that's, that's all. I just had a couple, wanted to ask you a couple of questions.

00:24:02 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah.

00:24:02 **Richard Gray:** I'm gonna follow up with you on a couple of things, but is there anything else you wanted to say?

00:24:06 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Well, if I if I run up on any kind of information with that, I'll, I'll give you a call. You know, you got, you got some kind of card or something.

00:24:13 **Richard Gray:** Actually, what I'm gonna do. I'm gonna. I'm gonna send you a...

00:24:16 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, that's a good. Yeah. Okay.

00:24:16 **Richard Gray:** I'm gonna text you my information. And we should be good to go.
Yeah. Should be good to go. But I appreciate your time.

00:24:24 **Mr. Joe Hall:** That's no problem.

00:24:25 **Richard Gray:** I'm sorry about, sorry about the delay in getting here.

00:24:27 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I was laying here dozing off [Laughter] because I didn't get much sleep last night.

00:24:32 **Richard Gray:** I'm gonna text this.

00:24:33 **Mr. Joe Hall:** That game was late. I mean not the game, the...

00:24:35 **Richard Gray:** Oh that, that, the debate?

00:24:37 **Mr. Joe Hall:** It was a game alright.

00:24:40 **Richard Gray:** It was a game or that was a game.

00:24:43 **Mr. Joe Hall:** That was a game.

00:24:44 **Richard Gray:** What kind of game? I don't know exactly. But, that was a little crazy.
Like I said, I, I don't understand why it's so close.

00:24:55 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I don't either.

00:24:57 **Richard Gray:** I do not.

00:24:58 **Mr. Joe Hall:** It's sad when you see it happening like that and you see more and more Black women, man, that that are turning away from her.

00:25:05 **Richard Gray:** Is that right?

00:25:09 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah. And you know, when she started, it was like everybody was talking like they was together. But then you started hearing little things. And I don't follow up like, with my friend, she listens to this stuff all the time. She, you know, she's involved with it, you know? And she was like, she called me today and told me, you know, some of the girls still

talking about how they want it, they don't like the girl was that's involved here and they, they want Trump and this and that.

00:25:34 **Richard Gray:** Oh wow!

00:25:35 **Mr. Joe Hall:** I don't get it.

00:25:36 **Richard Gray:** I do not get it.

00:25:36 **Mr. Joe Hall:** How can you? How can you fall for something?

00:25:39 **Richard Gray:** I don't understand it. I do not. I'm not trying to understand it.

[Laughter]

00:25:41 **Mr. Joe Hall:** No, I'm, I'm. Yeah, because he made it very obvious to us what he's about.

00:25:47 **Richard Gray:** That's right. Sometimes you know, I tell you, people talk about that.

You see Black folks. And what Black people support this? And I said, look, I mean if you went back in time, there's some people would've told you the Klan was a misunderstood organization. You're always going to have Black people like that.

00:26:01 **Mr. Joe Hall:** That yeah, right. Yeah.

00:26:03 **Richard Gray:** But as long it ain't the majority.

00:26:05 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Yeah, you're right, you're right.

00:26:06 **Richard Gray:** You know.

00:26:08 **Richard Gray:** Okay. All right up here.

00:26:09 **Mr. Joe Hall:** Alright, very good.

00:26:10 **Richard Gray:** Payton, you. You can get off. Thanks.

00:26:14 **Richard Gray:** So I appreciate it. Make sure that we were together. Okay.

00:26:16 **Payton Gray:** No problem.

00:26:18 **Richard Gray:** Payton alright.

00:26:18 **Payton Gray:** Yeah, no problem.

00:26:21 **Payton Gray:** You're welcome.

00:26:21 **Mr. Joe Hall:** All right, you take care.

00:26:24 **Payton Gray:** Alright, bye.

00:26:27 **Richard Gray:** Bye bye.