

Moorestown Historical Society
Oral History – West End Community Center
Perry Wright, in conversation with Richard Grey and Nadine Baldasare
Recorded on Sunday, August 25, 2024
Transcribed and edited by Shannon Reilly, December 2024

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.

Audio file link: [interview-with-mr-perry-wright-about-the-west-end-center_TRIMMED.mp3](#)

00:00:07 **Richard Gray:** One second. Seems to be starting again. Alright, it is recording.

Alright.

00:00:19 **Richard Gray:** So, we'll, we'll, we won't keep you for the full hour. Actually, I blocked out an hour; usually, it's shorter than that. Just really had two questions, Mr. Wright. And, and actually, a couple of things that came up from other interviews that I wanted to share with you and get your recollection. But as I, as we said as a background, the West End Center was such a central part of, of our community for, you know, from the early 40s till the time that the Center was closed. I know that you are a central part of that. And what we're trying to do is document people's experiences with the Center and their, their sense of how the Center actually played a role in the community, played a role in their own lives. And how the story of the Center in the lives of the Black community can give us some idea about what's important today. And so the two questions that I have for you and I shared them with you, Nadine, was just to talk with you, Mr. Wright, about, you know, what were some of your most memorable experiences with the Center? So you can start with picking whatever, whatever comes to mind.

00:01:43 **Mr. Perry Wright:** First of all, I lived right across the street from the [Center]. And I became very much involved with the, Mr. Adams, Jim Adams. He was the manager. He hired a young, young man named Billy Brooks to take care of their, you know, the operation, you know, people would come over. They had a basketball court. They had a baseball court. But Mr. Adams was more or less the manager of this. I became very close to Mr. Adams. And the young men of the West End Community Center began to come together. And I was part of that and I was proud to be a part of that. But what happened there, after a bit, we had meetings that we decided to clean the basement out of this place and make it more livable. And we did. We all went to work as though we were getting paid. And we cleaned that, cleaned that basement out. Put up plywood where we could to make it look fantastic. We got a pool table from somewhere. I don't know where the pool table came from, [Laughter] but that was a drawing card for the young men in the West End Community Center. I was over there I guess each and every day that I, because I was living with my in-laws and I hadn't built my home, which was on Perry Ave. But I was there constantly, and I saw where when we were, it was a place we were welcome to because of the fact that we had no option of going uptown. So, that was our home more or less.

00:04:13 **Richard Gray:** Right.

00:04:14 **Mr. Perry Wright:** We had basketball players. We had baseball players.

00:04:21 **Myra Wright:** You had professional basketball...

00:04:23 **Mr. Perry Wright:** We had professional basketball players.

00:04:27 **Richard Gray:** Who were those, who were those professionals... You remember who those players...?

00:04:30 **Mr. Perry Wright:** I remember one guy. There was a Guy who? Guy who? You remember the pro player from the 76ers? The Guy, Guy... What was his last name? I don't know, but we had several used to come over and...

00:04:48 **Richard Gray:** Did Will Chamberlain come through?

00:04:51 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Pardon?

00:04:52 **Richard Gray:** Will Chamberlain? Did he come through? Because I know his, his mother lived in Moorestown for, for a time.

00:04:56 **Mr. Perry Wright:** His mother lived there years. She lived in the Towers over there, and occasionally he would stop by.

00:05:03 **Richard Gray:** OK.

00:05:05 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Occasionally, Will Chamberlain would stop by.

00:05:08 **Richard Gray:** Got it.

00:05:10 **Mr. Perry Wright:** But we had two or three. Right now I can't think of the name but one Guy, I know one named Guy. He was there quite often.

00:05:20 **Richard Gray:** Got you.

00:05:22 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Well, we had players that played with them that went to Moorestown High, namely one guy that, that should have gone pro was Eddie.

00:05:37 **Richard Gray:** Eddie Douglas.

00:05:39 **Mr. Perry Wright:** What was the last name?

00:05:40 **Richard Gray:** Eddie Douglas.

00:05:42 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Eddie Douglas. Yes.

00:05:44 **Mr. Perry Wright:** And. I think that he, he picked up a lot of skills and a lot of basketball skills from those guys that come from the 76ers over.

00:06:05 **Richard Gray:** Got you.

00:06:05 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Also.

00:06:06 **Richard Gray:** My uncle said he played baseball with, you mentioned a Pen, Pen Muse.

00:06:15 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yeah, Pen. He was a pitcher.

00:06:16 **Richard Gray:** Right.

00:06:17 **Mr. Perry Wright:** And they, and they say, at his age, he still could pitch nine innings of baseball there. [Laughter]

00:06:26 **Richard Gray:** Right.

00:06:27 **Mr. Perry Wright:** But I was a, like a newcomer to, to Moorestown. In fact, I admire and always was given credit from your grandfather.

00:06:42 **Richard Gray:** Hmm. How so?

00:06:46 **Mr. Perry Wright:** He was, he was from Virginia I think he was...

00:06:51 **Richard Gray:** Right, right. King George County.

00:06:53 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Am I right? Yeah. And he used to talk to me. He said, "You are a working man." He said, "You just continuously to work." And well, I met your whole family. And your father was a police officer.

00:07:13 **Richard Gray:** Yes, Sir.

00:07:15 **Mr. Perry Wright:** And, we had little racial problems.

00:07:21 **Myra Wright:** Explain that with him, Dad, how you couldn't go to some of the other places. That's why the West End was so important.

00:07:28 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Well, the West End was important because that's the only place we could go, really. But they made me a special police officer so I could work with your father.

00:07:39 **Richard Gray:** Is that right?

00:07:41 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Your father and I, together, tried to make, make the, the greetings between, between ourselves and the West End and the other, other people from Lenola and Maple Shade. And there was a point where, where when, they were jealous, jealous of us. And it was, I vividly remember the night they came down and said they were going to run us out of the West End. And believe it or not you had people like Billy Martin and people like that. They said, “They don't, people not going to come now you just and run these, run these individuals out.” And, I said and I wondered, and I talked with the, at that time, he was the judge, Judge... what was his name? Judge, his son owned, owned, a store right up by the Second Baptist.

00:09:07 **Richard Gray:** OK. I think I know what you're talking about.

00:09:12 **Mr. Perry Wright:** OK, he... Yeah. I talked with him. And he said, “Well, Perry,” he says, “Get as much information as you can and bring it back to me.” He said, “We're not going to tolerate this.” And I did. I got all the information that I could. Your father and I collect as much as we could and what we had to do to, to keep peace, in the valley, so to speak.

00:09:41 **Richard Gray:** I got you.

00:09:43 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Well. After we went through a few problems, that's when they came and paid us with a nice... In other words, they got nice to us. They came and paid, and paid for the basketball and you know, and made everything more likable for...

00:10:09 **Richard Gray:** Was that the town you said? The “they” was the town? Did the town of Moorestown started paying, giving more resources?

00:10:16 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yeah. Yes, Mr. Mr. Adams did the best he could.

00:10:20 **Richard Gray:** Right.

00:10:22 **Mr. Perry Wright:** But you know, he was a, he was a, I think, a Navy veteran and whatnot. But he, they only allow him so much leeway as far as organizing. Well, we had a group of men that, fellas, thought that “This is going to be our home, so let's make it as pleasant as...”

00:10:50 **Richard Gray:** That was the Blue Chips there, you're talking about the start of the Blue Chips, Mr. Wright?

00:10:54 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yeah, the Blue Chips got started really by sitting down and talking and whatnot. And I was one of the people who worked with the, Billy Brooks and we organized the Club Blue Chips. We became a very, very outstanding group of men working for our own people. Our, our job was to send as many people as we could to college. We had the senator, senator, that used to... Forgive me for my memory, but the senator that used to own the house house out there. He's one of our guest speakers. And he had been keeping records on us. And I never forget, we had a, a big meeting at the Cherry Hill Inn and he let everybody know that we had done more for sending people to college than any organization, north or south.

00:12:10 **Richard Gray:** Wow.

00:12:11 **Mr. Perry Wright:** And that, that really put a spark on us. We'd have big dances for the whole community with Lionel Hampton, Count Basie, and, and anybody we could get that would draw a crowd. In fact, Lionel Hampton, after we paid him gave us a certain amount of money back to help sending...

00:12:40 **Richard Gray:** Is that right?

00:12:43 **Mr. Perry Wright:** To send these kids to college. Well, then, then the Blue Chips continued on. By now I had built my home on Perry Avenue. And the, we used to have meetings at each other's houses, including Bill Harvey and I allowed them to come to my house and whatnot. And the Blue Chips was an outstanding club. My heart beats when I think of the things

that we used to do. We'd take one for ourselves, we did one thing a year. We would go to different, different places. We went to Canada. We, we, we have had a, a whole car from Amtrak and we went to Canada. We had a good time. We did one thing a year for ourselves, but our motive was to make money to send people to college. They're a lot of successful people [Muffled] was involved in that and we honored people that we thought needed honorship. A fella that was a recruit, recruiter from the Phillies, when I was president, we honored him. We have another great guy that we honored but these things I'm going to have to put in order. You know when Blue Chips was, was operating. I guess there's only two of us living now. My guess is... I'm 97 years, almost 97 years old, and I think I'm the oldest left. I think Joe Hall, I think he had a, he had had something to do with that. But the rest of them is all deceased now. But, I'm sorry I had to move out of Moorestown, because I could no longer live by myself. And then my wife had passed. So, my daughter had got me down in Atlanta. All the information that I can give you or you need, I can't give you probably at this time. But I would like for you to know that, that West End Community Center started, we started the Blue Chips. We started, were men having, having somewhere to go rather than sit down on their porch and we really, really enjoyed doing it. Mr. Adams...

00:15:59 **Richard Gray:** I want to show you something. I want to show you something, Mr.

Wright. My, can you see your screen?

00:16:05 **Mr. Perry Wright:** What's that? Yes.

00:16:09 **Myra Wright:** Yes.

00:16:10 **Richard Gray:** Do you see? Do you see this? Now, this is one of the Blue Chips, this is one of the Blue Chips trips that you went to.

00:16:18 **Myra Wright:** Oh! Is that?

00:16:20 **Richard Gray:** That's Mr. Brooks there.

00:16:22 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yeah.

00:16:24 **Richard Gray:** That's my father and my mother right there.

00:16:27 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yeah.

00:16:28 **Richard Gray:** This is one of the Blue Chips... I know there's, there was an image of you here. My Uncle Bernard Winchester took a lot of 8 millimeter, 8 millimeter and so I have, I have some of the clips of, of some of the trips. I think there's, that's my Aunt Virginia Winchester there. That's Miss Gosnell.

00:16:48 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yeah.

00:16:50 **Richard Gray:** I'm not sure where this trip was. There's Miss, I think that's Miss, Miss Eldridge there on the right.

00:16:58 **Mr. Perry Wright:** OK.

00:16:59 **Richard Gray:** Yeah, so we have, we have some of the whatever you have, if you could go through whatever you have, I know that you are clearing out your house on Perry Ave. But you know this was in my Uncle Bernard's house. I remember he used to have all these 8 millimeters, films that he took. And then he took all the 8 millimeter films and put them onto a VHS, and he had that. He used to go watch Dave Robinson play at Penn State and so he took film of that. And then him and my Uncle Clarence Harvey used to go to the Indianapolis 500 and so he had a bunch of that. And then he had a bunch of things from the Blue Chips. He even had some of the baseball players that would have been playing in the back of the West End Center. So, there's a lot of those. We're trying to get as much of that things out of people's attics and basements that are all the memorabilia about that era. I don't know if you... And actually Miss Hall had that, had the program from the Lionel Hampton Blue Chips event. And so those are all

things that we need to keep, keep record. Oh, there's... There is one story I wanted to ask you. My mother said this. And she said she had just started, you know, she was just married to my father. You know she lived in Burlington? And she came to, she said she came to, she said the West End was a place where she got to learn. And she said she was going to Perry's second birthday party and she said it was at the West End Center and her comment was, "That was the most people I ever saw at a 2-year-old's birthday party in my life." [Laughter] She said everybody, she said if there were events at the West End Center, everybody came. And she said she'd never seen it. She just thought she was just going to, you know, it would be Perry and a few others. She said the entire town was out at that for that, that party for Perry. Do you remember some parties at the, having events at the West End Center?

00:18:57 **Myra Wright:** I remember having my birthday party there before I was in kindergarten.

00:19:01 **Richard Gray:** Is that right?

00:19:03 **Myra Wright:** Yeah, my mother would. And them. You're absolutely right. It would be full. And I remember it was before I went to kindergarten and we were still living across the street with my aunt, that they would throw me birthday parties at the West End Center.

00:19:22 **Richard Gray:** Yeah. She said that was one of her, she said, she said, "What kind of place is this?" She said, you know, "I thought I was going to a party for, you know, a particular set of people," but she said it, "Once it was a party it was a party for the, you know, if you threw it in the Center..." and somebody said if you threw it in the Center, you needed to expect there to be more people. Don't have a cookout at the Center and only bring 12 or 13 hot dogs. You better have more than that if you're going to have it at the Center, so.

00:19:50 **Mr. Perry Wright:** That's right. That's right. And I remember vividly, and after, after we did the basement up we used to have dances over there.

00:20:02 **Richard Gray:** Right, right.

00:20:04 **Mr. Perry Wright:** In the community, I vividly remember Mr. Southerland [Recording unclear] came over with his wife and they were then, he said, "This is, This is what you come in with you , you don't mind living in." He says, "You fellows, they've done a tremendous job." I said, "Well, we're working on one accord." And it was, it was amazing that now, now that you, you know, brought all this up. But I, I really enjoyed each and every day that I went over there and did something. I remember when your father and I used to ride around at night on the, on his shift and we talked about it. What we can do and what, and whatnot. I'll remember all that now. But like I said I'm, I'm... I think I'm the only one living now that that was in the...

00:21:08 **Myra Wright:** Original.

00:21:09 **Mr. Perry Wright:** The original people that, that was there, was there. And then when they tore, when the tore the Center down... What was the name of the lady that own that? That started off there? She was a, she was a Black lady. Yes. Her name was Nancy. Somebody was was...

00:21:39 **Richard Gray:** OK. I'll try to find out. So Nancy was, but Nancy was the name.

00:21:44 **Mr. Perry Wright:** I think Nancy was, was her first name.

00:21:48 **Richard Gray:** OK, you said she owned, and what was her connection to the Center?

00:21:54 **Mr. Perry Wright:** She, she, she owned that building or, or something. I've never met her personally. But I think when they tore the Center down I think they put something out there in memory of and her name was on that on that Center.

00:22:18 **Richard Gray:** Oh, I know what you're talking about. That would be, it's now the Yancy Adams field, where the Center is. Was that Miss Yancy?

00:22:27 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. Miss Yancy. It was Miss Yancy.

00:22:29 **Richard Gray:** OK. Right. Miss Yancy, right. I think she was on the, you know, I'm right. You know my Uncle Pete just passed.

00:22:41 **Mr. Perry Wright:** And yeah, yeah. Before we go any further, let me express my condolence.

00:22:47 **Richard Gray:** Thank you. I appreciate that. I appreciate that.

00:22:53 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Because, because he... Him and I talked about a month ago. I called him on the phone and, and him and I talked. We were, we were, we were pretty, pretty close.

00:22:57 **Richard Gray:** Oh. That's good.

00:23:09 **Mr. Perry Wright:** I remember when, when, when, when, when he. When your uncle was working in drug stores before he became a state police, police officer. I remembered all that.

00:23:15 **Richard Gray:** He told me. Yeah, I didn't... I'm so glad you got a chance to talk to him because one of the things... [Aside: "Thank you, Sweetie."] One of the things that he had mentioned to me about the Center was the dances. That was the thing that he remembered. And he said it was a point of tension a little bit because he said some of his classmates would say, "Well, why don't you go to reunions?" And he said, "Well, because, you know, after school was over. You all would hang out up at the drugstore and you all would have dances. We weren't welcome. You know, we would go across." And so his, his memory of dances weren't high

school dances; they were West End dances. Because that was the place where he felt most welcome.

00:24:05 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yeah.

00:24:08 **Richard Gray:** Sorry about that. That's my dog. So. But.

00:24:15 **Mr. Perry Wright:** But. I was there. I was very much involved in that. I love, I love that. I love that.

00:24:23 **Myra Wright:** Because you came from Plainfield, New Jersey so you didn't grow up in [Moorestown].

00:24:27 **Mr. Perry Wright:** No, I migrated to, I migrated to, to Moorestown from Plainfield, New Jersey.

00:24:36 **Richard Gray:** When, when? What year did you come to? Do you remember when you came to Moorestown?

00:24:43 **Mr. Perry Wright:** I was in the service, excuse me. I was in the service.

00:24:47 **Richard Gray:** Got you.

00:24:48 **Mr. Perry Wright:** I think that was 1950....

00:24:54 **Myra Wright:** Well you met...

00:24:54 **Mr. Perry Wright:** You were, you were born in '56.

00:24:56 **Myra Wright:** And you got married in '55.

00:24:59 **Mr. Perry Wright:** I got married in 1955. I came to Moorestown. How I came to Moorestown. You remember my wife's brother, Ross Baskerville?

00:25:11 **Myra Wright:** He probably was too young.

00:25:02 **Richard Gray:** Yeah, Ross Baskerville, yeah.

00:25:17 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yeah. Well, I brought him home from Fort Dix. We were in Fort Dix in our training, we were to be shipped to Korea. And I brought him home and that's how I met my wife. Because she was working in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and I offered to to take her back because she was riding. You remember the Quaker City Bus? You've heard of it? She was riding the bus, 2 and 4, North Jersey to South Jersey. And I met her through my brother-in-law who, we took training together. And that's when I started living in Moorestown.

00:26:02 **Richard Gray:** OK, OK.

00:26:06 **Mr. Perry Wright:** I got lucky and got property up on Perry Ave. and up and that's where I built my house.

00:26:12 **Richard Gray:** I always used to think that when I was a kid, I used to think that that street was named because you lived there.

00:26:20 **Mr. Perry Wright:** No, no, no.

00:26:25 **Richard Gray:** But you know, as a kid, it's like going to visit Mr. Perry Wright on Perry Avenue. I said that must be they must have named that street after him.

[Laughter]

00:26:36 **Mr. Perry Wright:** How surprised to know that their name is Perry? I don't know. Very surprised. That was...

00:26:43 **Richard Gray:** Oh, go ahead, please go ahead.

00:26:46 **Mr. Perry Wright:** No, you go ahead because I was just going to tell you that was all woods when I, when I purchased it.

00:26:53 **Richard Gray:** Right, right. And when did they...? Because I know they built Park... Originally there was Church Street and then there was Locust, and I know they built Park Blvd. And I know that Farmdale came when the...

00:27:09 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Engineers, yeah.

00:27:09 **Richard Gray:** Engineers from RCA, but I know there's Stanley, Perry, those, those dead end streets. And I used to think you could get lost in those woods at the end of those dead end streets. And I didn't realize they were building those woods there to keep the barrier from the white community and the Black folks that lived on those streets.

00:27:27 **Myra Wright:** Right.

00:27:30 **Richard Gray:** But one last thing I wanted to ask you. Oh, go, please, Mr. Wright. I'm sorry.

00:27:38 **Myra Wright:** He was... Did you have anything that...?

00:27:42 **Mr. Perry Wright:** No, but if I, if my... First of all, let me explain to you. When you get to be 77 years old, I mean, I mean, 97 years old. Your memory goes and comes. I'll probably go lay down somewhere and a lot more will come to me. [Laughter] But I'll save it for you. I'll, I'll save it if I have to write it down. I'll save it.

00:28:17 **Richard Gray:** I appreciate it. I appreciate it. Well that means we got to talk more than one time.

00:28:23 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Oh yeah. Oh yeah.

00:28:23 **Richard Gray:** We'll come for a few days. You'll take a nap. Go to sleep. We'll both go to sleep. We'll get back up. We'll talk. We'll go to sleep. We'll get back up and talk. And then that way we'll, we'll be able to do it. And one thing I just wanted to ask you was about if anything that you can remember, and whatever you remember is, is, is golden for us, is what do you remember about why the West End Center was closed? Like we hear, you know, there was a, all kinds of controversy about it being a segregated center. But like you said, it played a very important role. And I know my mother said that there were people within the community that

were sort of on different sides of that and I was just curious if you remember what led to the closing of the Center.

00:29:11 **Mr. Perry Wright:** No, I don't. I don't remember because I, Club Blue Chips got an advisor. A guy who moved into Moorestown and he worked at the Friends School. He taught history at the Friends School. Name was Tabin Buckley.

00:29:40 **Richard Gray:** Buckley.

00:29:43 **Mr. Perry Wright:** And he, and he used to... He was in connection with the with the white people uptown, and he used to tell me; we were very close. He used to tell me a lot of them bore a sense of guilt because they knew that it wasn't rightly done. And... What? What's that, judge's name? I can't think. But he also expressed to us that he thought that we got the short end of the stick. And when he bought what used to be the old place up there, and then made a hardware store out of it.

00:30:37 **Richard Gray:** Mm-hmm.

00:30:37 **Mr. Perry Wright:** He knew that I was close to his father. And his father was... Start with a T and I couldn't, couldn't think of his name for nothing. Well, it'll come to me. That, that, that, their guilt is what led to making me a special police officer to help your father. In many, many respects. So, I used to ride with him, Oh, on his night shift. I used to ride with him on the shifts and whatnot. So, we tried to find something that would ignite those people uptown to give us more support down the West End. But I don't know what or why they closed that.

00:31:30 **Richard Gray:** Gotcha. Was it Collins? The judge?

00:31:37 **Myra Wright:** Collins, he said. Was that it?

00:31:41 **Mr. Perry Wright:** No. No. Judge...

00:31:47 **Richard Gray:** We'll, we'll we can, we can, we can look at that.

00:31:51 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yeah, yeah, I'll come up with it because every time I come, come town always go talk with his son.

00:32:00 **Richard Gray:** Got you.

00:32:02 **Mr. Perry Wright:** His son, his father, who was a judge, we were very, very close.

00:32:09 **Myra Wright:** You're saying that his son owns the hardware store?

00:32:12 **Mr. Perry Wright:** He owns the hardware store.

00:32:14 **Myra Wright:** By the Baptist church?

00:32:16 **Richard Gray:** By the Second Baptist? Right.

00:32:17 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yeah, yeah. Up there by the Second Baptist Church.

00:32:20 **Richard Gray:** Second Baptist? Over near Beech Street, Beech and Mill, yeah. I was going to ask Nadine. We've been around too long. Nadine, just, just texted a message with a B.

“Could I ask a question?” and I and I was about to say, “Nadine do you have a follow up?”

Please go ahead.

00:32:39 **Nadine Baldasare:** Hi, Mr. Wright. I just had one quick follow up question. And you know, there's no pressure to answer with any names or anything like that. Really what I wanted to get a sense of is, I guess it's two questions, I'm sorry. One is the first, did you, did I hear you say that you were the President of the Blue Chips?

00:32:58 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Beg your pardon?

00:32:59 **Nadine Baldasare:** Were you, were you the President of the Blue Chips? Did I hear that correctly?

00:33:06 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Well, we had different presidents. I was a president at one time.

Billy Brooks was the president one time. We had several, several people that was the president at a given time.

00:33:21 **Nadine Baldasare:** And you took, you took your turn at the helm. Is that what I hear?

00:33:24 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yeah.

00:33:28 **Nadine Baldasare:** OK. Go ahead.

00:33:29 **Mr. Perry Wright:** I was going to say my, my turn as President, I think it was two years. Uh. I had the one who gave the scout for the Phillies honorship, and I think it was at Cherry Hill Inn that that we did that.

00:33:58 **Nadine Baldasare:** That's great. And then I had one other question for you about the Blue Chips, if that's OK. My question is: When I think I really wrote something down because it really struck me what you said. You said "When we started the Blue Chips. It was really just men having somewhere to go rather than sitting on their porch", and I'm wondering once you all started the Blue Chips together and you were having such an impact on your community, how did it how did it change the way you were walking in the West End and walking in Moorestown? Did it, did it have any impact on the way that, that, that you all felt in, in, in the whole neighborhood and in the in, in the town at large?

00:34:49 **Mr. Perry Wright:** Yes, we, we... I don't want to sound like we're boasting. But we changed the whole neighborhood, so to speak because of that when our purpose was to, to raise money to, to send unfortunate people who come out of, out of high school with, with good grades, send them to college. And I think we lived up to our standing, you know, because, Senator, I can't think of his name. But he used to own the Ice House up by, by the Second Baptist Church. Senator...? It'll come to me sometime later, but he, he had kept a record for us and he found out that we had donated more money to college students than any other organization or any other club in South or North Jersey. And that, that gave us an incentive to keep on. Keep on keeping on.

00:36:11 **Nadine Baldasare:** That's amazing.

00:36:11 **Myra Wright:** So, I think, I think it also did, I mean even just looking on from the outside and I was young, but you could see how they became role models, especially for young Black males. It gave them something to, to look at and aspire. Even when they had the dances, they all wore tuxedos and, and their wives would, would you know, be dressed in formal attire...