

Speaker 1: [indistinct 00:00:01] You know, I got out of my driveway and I asked her where to go. She said she [indistinct 00:00:06].

Serena Rhodie: Do you want to talk more about your parents?

Serena Rhodie: Well, were they active in church?

Speaker 1: [indistinct 00:00:19]

Creola Parker: [indistinct 00:00:25]

Speaker 1: [indistinct 00:00:30] She tore off her [indistinct 00:00:31]

Serena Rhodie: Were they active within any groups in the community?

Creola Parker: I don't think so, 'cause then they didn't have no groups and things like they do now.

Serena Rhodie: Working in tobacco, how did your father enjoy doing that?

Creola Parker: Well, we lived on, we lived in a neighborhood which was in Person County and he enjoyed it.

Speaker 1: [indistinct 00:01:06] Well, take her off it [indistinct 00:01:13]

Creola Parker: That's the first time [indistinct 00:01:22] somebody been doing that all the way there. But he hasn't done it, thank the Lord, He's been watching over while we were [indistinct 00:01:40]. But I had a lot of it [indistinct 00:01:57]. Everytime he does that it scares me to death. 'Cause I think I'm going to have him do it. But, if you want to, I have real deal friends. All of them are, over my, my everything. They will always be with me. And they're with me and they would understand me, even now, that's what I said. And we would just—and then years ago I had a friend that was watching out for me, and then I had a brother that would learn, you know. And we communicated so well together. And there was nothing wrong with her. And then she would support me. All of us would. We discovered that she had cancer on the larynx. And she didn't have no time. And I got over that year, because of larynx surgery. And here we were, we were talking about me, me going, you know. And then it ended up being her. And I still, right to today I miss her so bad.

Creola Parker: Yesterday, at church, [Indistinct 00:03:00] because it was homecoming at my church, and she used to—you know, she's been dead for about four to five years, but I still miss her. So yesterday being homecoming, I thought that she'd be there, you know, yet it's homecoming, she's not here. And I got real sad. I looked back in church and there was this girl that was wearing clothes also that she thought of her

daughter. I was her sister, she was his daughter. And when I looked back and saw her I thought "Lord, she ain't that dead," you know, that just made it seem more closer than—I sat there and I felt moved, dry water running down. And she came to me after church, "I just got to say something to you before I leave." All I could say is in a note that I wrote her. I had written her a note. I handed her the note so she saw that I was all [indistinct 00:04:08]. So she said, "But I'm going to write you." I said, "All right, 'cause I'm pretty sure you will," 'cause she saw that I was all [indistinct 00:04:25], you know. It just brought back so many memories yesterday. Yeah.

Serena Rhodie: Do you want to talk about some things you and her used to do together?

Creola Parker: We used to do everything, there was nothing we didn't do together—I, ain't nothing. She would say "I'm driving there, I'll be up there in a few minutes," all right, and she would say "I'm bringing so-and-so, you want lunch?" yeah. "I'm going so-and-so, you want to ride with me?" yeah. And "I'm doing so-and-so, I want to go with you," all right. We had tons of stuff we did. That's what we did. Hold on for just one minute.

Serena Rhodie: Was she also a housewife? What did she do for a living?

Creola Parker: No, she believe it or not she used to work in the [indistinct 00:05:29], oh yes, that's true. For years, I never went there, but that's where she worked for years. And then after then, she worked Operation Breakthrough, and that's where she worked until she retired.

Serena Rhodie: What exactly is Operation Breakthrough?

Creola Parker: It was [indistinct 00:06:01] Break through the beginning walls, or something like that [indistinct 00:06:01]. Yeah, maybe that's what it is.

Serena Rhodie: Was it kind of like a preschool kind of thing, or?

Creola Parker: Yeah, below, you know below grade three but you know, that kind of thing.

Serena Rhodie: So did she really like children?

Creola Parker: Yeah, evidently, 'cause she worked there for years. Yeah, she loved the children, and she was my son's schoolteacher. Loved people, everything. Yeah.

Serena Rhodie: Did she have children of her own?

Creola Parker: Yeah, she had one daughter.

Serena Rhodie: Do you keep in touch with her?

Creola Parker: Yeah, yes I keep in touch with her.

Speaker 4: What do you want now?

Creola Parker: I don't want anything.

Serena Rhodie: What do you like about coming to the center?

Creola Parker: People like her. I just like this better than—you know, we sit around and they like—I've always wanted to crochet, and I never knew how and she has taught me how to make the loops like I have, you know. She has taught me how to do some of that, which is something I've always wanted to do.

Serena Rhodie: What are some of the other things that you've learned here? We just couldn't get past crochet.

Creola Parker: Well, not this month, we learned how to make a lot of little things there now. I made some really pretty flowers last year, and that's what I gave the girls where I worked at. I gave them a [indistinct 00:07:59] my last day. And I put them all through the flowers and all, that's what I gave them for Christmas and they were just tickled to death for this reason, that I made them. Yeah.

Serena Rhodie: You said you gave them to who?

Creola Parker: The girls at the bank that I used to work with.

Serena Rhodie: [indistinct 00:08:23]

Creola Parker: Oh Lord, and I still have a good relationship. Once you're friends of mine, you don't ever lose me. That's the kind of person I am. Yeah.

Serena Rhodie: Oh. Did they have like a retirement party for you or—?

Creola Parker: No, not really. I just submitted a thing, that it was different than retirement, you know. 'Cause retirement is after you done got so many years. I'd been there for 13, and then neither one of those had been with me, so.

Serena Rhodie: You said you got a five-year kind of a plaque and a ten-year [indistinct 00:09:09] pin?

Creola Parker: A pin, a pin yeah. For just being, you know, a service pin.

Serena Rhodie: Okay, was it given to you in kind of a ceremony or just?

Creola Parker: Well, we would go and then at the end of every year they would have a little party

somewhere, and this is where they usually done those.

Serena Rhodie: Go back to when you learned how to drive. Who taught you how to drive?

Creola Parker: Oh well, I started off that my husband doing it, but then, you know how it is with a husband—you probably aren't married, but, gosh, a husband is just the wrong person to learn how to drive. So, I had a lady—I had to quit doing it with him 'cause he would fuss with me when I made mistakes. And I got in that view, and then he never even taught me how to drive 'cause he was fussing with me. That's a fact, yeah, I probably wouldn't have no license today if I kept on with my husband, cause he'd fuss every time I made a mistake, instead of just correcting me, he'd fuss with me.

Serena Rhodie: Did he make you nervous?

Creola Parker: Amen. One day we were going somewhere and he said, like, Mr. So and So. Well, I took my eyes off the road and was looking at that. I ended up going right straight to that and that's when—that's when I gave it up with him.

Serena Rhodie: You went straight to a -?

Creola Parker: Whatever that was, we supposed to be looking at, instead of just looking and putting my eyes back on the road, he had 'em going all over there with his arm.

Speaker 5: [indistinct 00:11:00] He paid so much to [indistinct 00:11:04] with you. [indistinct 00:11:08] You picked them, Jenna. And they put the [indistinct 00:11:14]

Serena Rhodie: So what did he say when you finally came home and you learned how to drive? How was it your driving was?

Creola Parker: Well, he still don't like to ride with me.

Speaker 5: Give him the money, though, and this guy, he was running [indistinct 00:11:36]. But we done give this guy money. He—

Creola Parker: [indistinct 00:11:58] You probably don't, you probably don't have that on now. Well, that's about it, that's about all I know to say, yeah. I hope maybe I said something to help you out, if I did, I don't know.