

Rhonda Mawhood: —dollars, the Pontiac when it was brand new?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Brand new.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Long time ago, wasn't it?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: But I used to drive that thing and pass everything on the road.

Rhonda Mawhood: So your father let you drive it?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Yeah, he didn't drive, he didn't drive. I had to, I had to drive it. My older brother drove it until he left. He had a job in Texas, worked in school in Texas for a while and came back and went to Michigan to work on his degree. Then I had to do driving.

Rhonda Mawhood: You said, Mr. Shute, that all of your brothers and sisters finished university, finished college. How did the family work that out? Did you help each other through?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Well, it didn't cost too much to go to school. Now, my two sisters went to Barber Scotia. It was more or less a junior college when I left at one time.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Yeah [indistinct 00:01:19].

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: They finished Barber Scotia College in their early 20s or late 19s, whatever, and they started teaching. They taught school for a number of years. Then the state made them bring a certificate up and they had to get a degree, so they went back to school, went to Smith. So far my brother's son, they were able to go to school because they worked in the summer, my older brothers worked in the summer.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Plus the fact, I think they got some, maybe if you want to call it a discount because my daddy worked there. See? Of course when I went off school, they were out. They were gone. They were out working at first, so the only two left was my baby sister myself. So anyway, and I used to work in New Jersey in the summer, in the kitchen. I did that for several summers. Little place called Ocean City, about 10 miles from Atlantic City.

Rhonda Mawhood: How did you hear about the job in New Jersey?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Well, how did I feel about it?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: How did you hear about it?

Rhonda Mawhood: How did you hear about it? But also afterwards, how did you feel about it?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Well, my older brother had been working there.

Rhonda Mawhood: I see.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: He worked there for years in the restaurant, restaurant right on the boardwalk.

Rhonda Mawhood: What was the work like?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I worked in the kitchen. I had to wash dishes and then finally worked up to the pantry man. I had to have coffee and pancakes and stuff like that. I did that for several summers.

Rhonda Mawhood: Did you see any differences between New Jersey and North Carolina? Well, what kinds of differences did you see between New Jersey and North Carolina when you were going back and forth?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: It was about the same. This was in the early '30s. We didn't have too much trouble. We didn't have too much trouble then, because people would come to the seashore to relax and spend the summer on the boardwalk and then at night you would go—there were not too many places to go in Ocean City. Most of the time, people would go to Atlantic City. Well, they would have a ball, so to speak.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: We would go to Atlantic City and have a big place that there where some of the big acts would come, Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway. But most time you spend your time working and after work, you go home, and it was in this Black section, and that was all too. You wouldn't look for trouble, most of the time you didn't have any trouble.

Rhonda Mawhood: How did you get to New Jersey when you went there to work?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I go on train.

Rhonda Mawhood: Do you remember changing from the Jim Crow car to other parts of the train once you got north?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Say that again?

Rhonda Mawhood: Do you remember changing cars on the train as you moved north or did you stay in—

Lillian Jenkins Shute: She means the Jim Crow.

Rhonda Mawhood: Or did you stay in the same car the whole time?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: [indistinct 00:05:21]

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: No, I think you were just that same car, same car. Because I remember, if I remember correctly, I went to Washington, went to DC and I had to change, and in Washington caught another train to Philadelphia, and from the ride to Philadelphia, I was sitting by a White man. He was reading a book and he paid me no mind, I guess. So then from Philadelphia to New Jersey, I had to catch the bus and they wasn't in trouble.

Rhonda Mawhood: And Mrs. Shute, how did you get through nursing school?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Well, the fees as small during that time, and they gave us the books. We didn't have to pay for the book. I think the fees were less than \$200.

Rhonda Mawhood: Did you work to earn money before going to nursing school also?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I must have, worked in private homes and made a little money. I guess maybe it was like being a babysitter, it wasn't popular back then to be a babysitter.

Rhonda Mawhood: Did you work for White families or for Black families?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: For White families.

Rhonda Mawhood: Did you talk about your decision to go to nursing school with your father and your Stepmother?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Well, I guess they didn't understand why I didn't want to go here in Charlotte, but I can see I wanted to get away. Never been away from home. They wasn't always [indistinct 00:07:21]. I stayed about a year and I got home sick, and I asked them if they would send me money so I could come home.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: They got in touch with my roommate and she told me things had been straightened out and they wouldn't send me money so I stayed, but I'm glad I stayed. But I guess I hadn't been away from home before. Something went wrong and all I had to do was go back home.

Rhonda Mawhood: But you stayed.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I stayed.

Rhonda Mawhood: Then you said that you worked in public health?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I was public health nurse for several years. After the children came, I worked at the hospital on the 11:00 to 7:00 shift.

Rhonda Mawhood: 11:00 in the evening until 7:00 in the morning?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Yeah, I retired from that night shift.

Rhonda Mawhood: What was it that I wanted to ask you? You've both been very involved in church life for a long time, and I'm wondering if you remember any particular conflicts that came up in church, how people handled conflict, how they worked out their disagreements.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: He can tell you that. He was a elder [indistinct 00:08:47].

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Well, normally or naturally, there will be some difference of opinion at times in the Presbyterian church is governed by a body, the session of the church, in the Presbyterian church is the governing body. And they have a constitution to go by, see, and they try to follow that to the letter, see.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: There are times that even in the governing body itself, there are differences of opinion but usually after possibly a prayerful session, they are able to get things together. But you talking about the church, I might tell this story. I don't know if Lila heard it before or not.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: But one man who was somewhat of an outcast, he did a little of everything. He decided to go to church one Sunday. But before going to church, he said, "I'm going by see my buddy, who is the devil." The devil was his buddy.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I've heard that one.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: He didn't see the devil, and he was late getting to church. And just as he got there, the church was turning out and who was coming out of the church? The devil, and he said, "Man, what you doing in the church today?" He said, "Well, I was up in the choir this morning."

Rhonda Mawhood: [indistinct 00:10:44]

Lillian Jenkins Shute: One of your tales.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I say that to say this, things happen in time, difference in the choir and different other things. But those things are usually resolved in time, patience and prayer, they're coming back.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: But in addition to our church activities, I have for about 25 years was a member of the YMCA Board of Management, and I enjoyed that. Since our retirement, Lil and I have worked at the crisis ministry for a number of years, crisis ministry to—

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Clothes and the [indistinct 00:11:35]

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Clothes ministry, they would give out free clothes to the needy. We worked every week. We go get one day a week there?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Three hours.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Three hours one day a week. We did that until her sister got very sick several years ago, and we stopped.

Rhonda Mawhood: You needed the time to care for your sister.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: How's that?

Rhonda Mawhood: You needed the time to care for your sister?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: My sister, she died in 1990. We were up through 1989 there helping her.

Rhonda Mawhood: When was it that you were a member of the board of directors of the YMCA, Mr. Shute?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Oh, I started, I guess I started in the '50s, I know that.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: When you were—

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I was on the board for about 25 years.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Before we moved, [indistinct 00:12:31]

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: At least 25 years. Let me tell you, it's more than that. They had a small one across town and close to [indistinct 00:12:47] development, Brooklyn. We moved on the West Side and they have a nice one up the street.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: But in addition to our services at the church and other things, now I'm the last one to shoot bail members, so it's my job to look after my sisters. I say both of them are over 90, and I look after them and then I go out when I'm feeling good and play a little golf.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I've never been [indistinct 00:13:30]. I enjoy the grandchildren when they come around. I think we've been very of blessed. We're blessed.

Rhonda Mawhood: Well, I appreciate you talking to me.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: How's that?

Rhonda Mawhood: I appreciate you talking to me today. I really do.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Oh well, this has been a pleasure.

Rhonda Mawhood: Very interesting. I'm wondering if this photograph, has this been copied by the public library here in Charlotte?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Yeah, it's—

Lillian Jenkins Shute: It's in one of those books.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: It's in the downtown library.

Rhonda Mawhood: I see. I wanted to make sure of that, because it's a beautiful photograph and I hate to think that it might not have been copied. There's a book that the library put out called an African American Album.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: It's in there.

Rhonda Mawhood: It's in there. I see, I see. It's a beautiful photograph.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Did you see our wedding picture?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: See how small I was?

Rhonda Mawhood: It's wonderful. Yes, Mrs. Shute pointed that out. You look very happy that day. Mr. Shute looks very solemn and you look very happy.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: It was a long time.

Rhonda Mawhood: Beautiful dress, beautiful dress.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I've gotten old and gray.

Rhonda Mawhood: We all do. Do you still have your wedding dress, Mrs. Shute?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: No, we [indistinct 00:14:53].

Rhonda Mawhood: They do that.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: My daughter said she's saving hers for her daughter. I guess hers is made out of better material too. She has one daughter, said she was going to save her dress.

Rhonda Mawhood: Did you take a wedding trip after you were married?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: No, didn't have much money. Afterwards, we went on several trips with the fraternity and other places but we weren't able to take a honeymoon.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Boys asked me, when they were kids, "Where'd y'all go?"

Lillian Jenkins Shute: That's what our son asked us.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: To him, I said I went back to work.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: He said, "What? No honeymoon?" We had several other trips after that.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Since we've been out, we've had a number of trips. We've been to California to fraternal meeting and Denver, Colorado, and where'd we go? New Orleans.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Louisville, Kentucky, Washington, DC.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: This is the picture.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: There we are.

Rhonda Mawhood: Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful copy. Did the library copy your wedding photograph as well?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: No.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: He didn't take it.

Rhonda Mawhood: Really?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: He just took the one picture, but I saw some other pictures [indistinct 00:16:20]

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: This is a picture of my dad's class.

Rhonda Mawhood: Oh, this is your father's class?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Here's my dad right there.

Rhonda Mawhood: I see, 1894. I see, oh and I recognize your father here in the corner, very handsome man.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Hmm?

Rhonda Mawhood: He was a very handsome man. We have this book at our center at Duke.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: You have?

Rhonda Mawhood: It's a very nice collection. I have to ask you, I'll try not to take too much more of your time, but I have to try to get some family history from the two of you. I'd like to do a form. Maybe I should do one form for the two of you. No, I should actually do a form for each of you if you don't mind. I'll try not to let it take too long.

Rhonda Mawhood: There are questions on it such as your date of birth, place of birth, mother's name, sisters and brothers names, things like that. Just so that people can do family trees or genealogies, get an idea of who you're related to. Is that all right with you to fill that out?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Yeah, fill out.

Rhonda Mawhood: So maybe I'll start with you, Mrs. Shute.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I tell you what, hold a minute. I may have that.

Rhonda Mawhood: Oh really?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I may have that.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: That's on his side, not my side.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: He's on my side.

Rhonda Mawhood: Well, while Mr. Shute looking for that, maybe I can ask you the questions. Your middle name, Mrs. Shute?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Amanda.

Rhonda Mawhood: And your first name?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Lillian.

Rhonda Mawhood: Lilia, how do you spell that please, ma'am?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Hmm?

Rhonda Mawhood: How do you spell that please?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: L-I-L-L-I-A-N.

Rhonda Mawhood: L-I—and your maiden name? Is this your—

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Jenkins.

Rhonda Mawhood: Jenkins. It's J-E?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: J-E-N-K-I-N-S.

Rhonda Mawhood: When this tape is transcribed, when we type out everything, how would you like your name to appear on the transcript? Mrs. Lillian Shute or?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I've been using Lillian Jenkins Shute.

Rhonda Mawhood: Lillian Jenkins Shute.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I never liked Amanda.

Rhonda Mawhood: No?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: There are other Amandas around now.

Rhonda Mawhood: It's gotten to be a more popular name.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: [indistinct 00:18:58], mm-hmm.

Rhonda Mawhood: Could you tell me your date of birth, Mrs. Shute?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: January the 20th, 1913.

Rhonda Mawhood: Thank you.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I was 80 in January.

Rhonda Mawhood: Oh, congratulations. Where were you born, Mrs. Shute?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Charlotte, North Carolina.

Rhonda Mawhood: And your mother's name, Mrs. Shute?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Her name was Lily, her maiden name is McNilly.

Rhonda Mawhood: How did she spell that last name, please?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: M-C-N-I-L-L-Y.

Rhonda Mawhood: Thank you. Do you know what year your mother was born?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Well, my sister told me she thought that she finished school one year and she married the next and she was born the next. In a way, I was trying to figure it out. My sister was born in 1904, evidently she was—Then Scotia in 18—

Rhonda Mawhood: 19.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: 1902.

Rhonda Mawhood: '02.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: And I guess she married the next year, and she said she was born in 1904. That's as near as I can get it. I don't have any records.

Rhonda Mawhood: So she was born around 1885 or something like that?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Maybe.

Rhonda Mawhood: If she finished Barber-Scotia, she would've been about 18 when she finished Barber-Scotia.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I imagine so because back then it wasn't a four-year college, but I remember her telling her that she was born in 1904, my sister. So it must have been about 19 [indistinct 00:20:54].

Rhonda Mawhood: Thank you, and your mother died when you were small. You remember what year?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I was three years old.

Rhonda Mawhood: You were three years old. Do you know where your mother was born, Mrs. Shute?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: No, I don't.

Rhonda Mawhood: And your father's name?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Charles Newton Jenkins.

Rhonda Mawhood: Do you know what year your father was born?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I think I'll try to look it up. I don't know.

Rhonda Mawhood: It's not—

Lillian Jenkins Shute: He died in 1934, so I'm trying to think. I don't know. This was in the 1800s.

Rhonda Mawhood: That's fine. Thank you. And do you know where he was born?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Well, a place called Wellford, South Carolina, near Spartanburg.

Rhonda Mawhood: And your father was a Presbyterian minister, correct?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Yeah, mm-hmm. He told us that his mother was slave. It seemed like I thought we met her one time, but I can't remember where. I thought he told us that she was a slave.

Rhonda Mawhood: She, I guess, was from South Carolina?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Yes.

Rhonda Mawhood: Can you give me your children's name please, Mrs. Shute?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: The oldest is Mathew Shute Jr, and the second boy is Charles Thomas Shute.

Rhonda Mawhood: Charles Thomas?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Mm-hmm. My daughter's named Valerie Lillian Harvey.

Rhonda Mawhood: And what year was Mathew born?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: 1942.

Rhonda Mawhood: And Charles?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: 1944.

Rhonda Mawhood: And Valerie?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: [indistinct 00:23:19] 1950.

Rhonda Mawhood: 1950, and you have 12 grandchildren?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: What did you say?

Rhonda Mawhood: You have 12 grandchildren?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Yes.

Rhonda Mawhood: All right.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: [indistinct 00:23:44] children's birthdate. [indistinct 00:23:46]

Rhonda Mawhood: When was the first place that you went to school, Mrs. Shute?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Fairview Elementary School, that was near our home.

Rhonda Mawhood: And you went there till?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: To the Sycamore High School. We didn't have junior high back then. We just went from the elementary school to the high school.

Rhonda Mawhood: From there you went to Lincoln?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Yeah, I was at home a year and then I went to Lincoln for nursing. Do you want the year?

Rhonda Mawhood: Yes, please, ma'am. If you know.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: What did you say?

Rhonda Mawhood: If you can remember it, I would love to know.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I entered in 1931 and finished in 1934. We made a three-year program.

Rhonda Mawhood: When you came out of nursing school, it was then that you worked as a public health nurse?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Yes, for about five years.

Rhonda Mawhood: Five years, and that was in Charlotte?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Yes.

Rhonda Mawhood: And then what hospital was it that you worked at, ma'am?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Good Samaritan Hospital.

Rhonda Mawhood: Good Samaritan.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Later, it was changed to Charlotte Community, and I retired from Charlotte Community.

Rhonda Mawhood: And that was from the 1940s on?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: When I worked there, I started, well, I'm trying to think. I was only the chair, but when was, I guess it was 19—I guess it was in 1950 when I worked at the hospital during the 1950s. Because I went home, went to work [indistinct 00:26:17]. I was home with the children for a while so I think it was.

Rhonda Mawhood: Thank you, and let's see, what church are you currently a member of, Mrs. Shute?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Memorial Presbyterian Church, and when we were married, I joined his church. I think he didn't join my church. He grew up in that church. He [indistinct 00:26:57].

Rhonda Mawhood: So which church was it that you grew up in, Mrs. Shute?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I grew up in, it was [indistinct 00:27:05] Presbyterian Church. But they have a new church now. They named it for my father. He was first pastor.

Rhonda Mawhood: Oh really?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: They build the church. I just thought redeveloping house. Father tell me we have a new church over there now and it is called [indistinct 00:27:28] Jenkins Presbyterian Church. I'm not a member of that. I just go some.

Rhonda Mawhood: Did you go to it when they built it? When they first opened it?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Yeah, when they had open services.

Rhonda Mawhood: Are there organizations that you were a member of, Mrs. Shute?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: At the church?

Rhonda Mawhood: Or anywhere else.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: [indistinct 00:28:02] I was a member of the women's organization with the church. I had served as a trustee, but now I'm [indistinct 00:28:18].

Rhonda Mawhood: You were a trustee?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: At the church, a trustee.

Rhonda Mawhood: Do you remember about when that was that you were a trustee?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Well, [indistinct 00:28:33]. Well, that's been several years. That must have been in the 1970s, I think.

Rhonda Mawhood: Thank you. The last question that we have is an all purpose question. We ask if you have anything that you want me to put on the record, any hobbies you might have or if you have a favorite Bible verse or poem or something like that? Sometimes people want those to be included with their life history. It's optional.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I like the 1st John, verse 16.

Rhonda Mawhood: Which is?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: [indistinct 00:29:14] a blessing. Is that it?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I didn't hear it, what's [indistinct 00:29:22]?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I think it's John, verse 16.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: What is it?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Gospel of [indistinct 00:29:28].

Rhonda Mawhood: Thank you, ma'am.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I guess my memory isn't so good as I get older.

Rhonda Mawhood: Oh well, it's been very good this afternoon. It's helped me a lot. That's how people like me to learn about the past is to read and listen to people who remember it.

Rhonda Mawhood: All right now, Mr. Shute, do you have a middle name, sir?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Mathew Atkins Shute.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Atkins.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Senior.

Rhonda Mawhood: When we transcribe this tape, is that how you would like your name to appear at the top of the page with the [indistinct 00:30:25] name, Mathew Atkins Shute Senior?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Right.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: The only other organization I was in, my alumni group, it's Lincoln High School Alumni Association. I was able to travel with them a few times.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Do they still meet?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Yeah, they meet there for two years. We're going to Baltimore this year, [indistinct 00:31:04] be able to make it.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: NAACP, and that was—

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Oh, we're a member NAACP.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: When did you join the NAACP?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: It's been several years now. We pay every year, and I think it's been maybe about 10—

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Just renew your membership.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Yeah, about 10 years, you think? It's just somebody at the church has been collecting. I think it's been about 10 years. [indistinct 00:31:31] used to collect it.

Rhonda Mawhood: And could you tell me your date of birth, please, Mr. Shute?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: 9/9/14.

Rhonda Mawhood: And were you born in Charlotte, sir?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Born in Charlotte.

Rhonda Mawhood: And your mother's name, please, sir?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Mother?

Rhonda Mawhood: Mm-hmm.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Annie Foster Shute.

Rhonda Mawhood: And Foster was her maiden name?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Yes.

Rhonda Mawhood: Do you know the year your mother was born, Mr. Shute?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: No, I don't.

Rhonda Mawhood: And do you know where she was born?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: She was born in Charlotte or nearby.

Rhonda Mawhood: And for her occupation, what should I write?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: She was a teacher.

Rhonda Mawhood: Teacher. And your father's full name?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Where was he born?

Rhonda Mawhood: Your father's, well, his full name first.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Charles Henry Shute.

Rhonda Mawhood: Shute, and do you know what year he was born?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I'm not sure.

Rhonda Mawhood: Was he born in Charlotte also?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Born in Matthews, North Carolina, just down the road.

Rhonda Mawhood: Your children, i'm assuming, are Mrs. Shute's. Where was the first place that you went to school, Mr. Shute?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: On Mattoon Street was a four-room frame building on Mattoon Street right down the street from [indistinct 00:34:00]

Lillian Jenkins Shute: What was the name of it?

Rhonda Mawhood: What was the—

Lillian Jenkins Shute: The name of it, she wants the name of it.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I'm trying to think of the name of it.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Biddleville School.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Biddleville School, that's what it was.

Rhonda Mawhood: What was that one, I'm sorry?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Biddleville School, Biddleville School.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: No, he said another part time, mine was family.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I was there for four years and then I went over to the Fairview School for two years.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: You had a lot of walking to do.

Rhonda Mawhood: And then you went—

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Sycamore.

Rhonda Mawhood: Sycamore.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Sycamore High.

Rhonda Mawhood: And then to Greensboro A&T?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: A&T State University.

Rhonda Mawhood: And what qualification was it that you received there, Mr. Shute?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I majored in science and history.

Rhonda Mawhood: I see. Thank you.

Rhonda Mawhood: Now, you told me the name of a company that you worked for in quality control. But if

you wouldn't mind spelling it for me, the textile company?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Thompson-Burke Fibers, what it be? Oh yeah, Thompson-Burke Fibers.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I want to show you something.

Rhonda Mawhood: Is Burke, B-U-R-K-E?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Mm-hmm.

Rhonda Mawhood: Yes, sir. Thank you.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: This is what the president wrote for me when I got ready.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: They didn't want to let him go.

Rhonda Mawhood: I'm sure not.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: He stayed a long time.

Rhonda Mawhood: That's very nice. It's very nice.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Thank you.

Rhonda Mawhood: That you were a very good employee to him, I'm sure. It's nice that he recognized it.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: They gave him a big party at the hotel.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Retirement party.

Rhonda Mawhood: And you are a member of the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame? That's correct?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Correct. It's A&T Hall of Fame, I believe that's what it's called.

Rhonda Mawhood: A&T.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: A&T.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: No, you're fine. [indistinct 00:37:39], North Carolina State.

Rhonda Mawhood: North Carolina, wonderful.

Rhonda Mawhood: You were a member of the same church your whole life, Mr. Shute?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Yes.

Rhonda Mawhood: And organizations that you belong to. Which fraternity was it again, please? You showed me Bill Cosby, and you showed me—

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I just received that.

Rhonda Mawhood: Oh there we are. Oh my, 50 years.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Mike Jordan's also a member of the—Michael Jordan's also a member.

Rhonda Mawhood: Really?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Yeah.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Jesse Jackson too.

Rhonda Mawhood: Oh, is that Reverend Jackson's fraternity?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Mm-hmm.

Rhonda Mawhood: Interesting. It is, thank you.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: [indistinct 00:38:49] you too, huh?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Yeah, [indistinct 00:38:52].

Rhonda Mawhood: And let me see, so you're also a member of the NAACP, are there any other organizations besides your fraternity and the NAACP that you're a member of?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I have been for 23 years, I've been the treasurer of my high school class. We meet on a monthly basis.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: What's the, Sycamore alumni.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Sycamore. I'm also a member of the Queen City chapter of A&T Alumni Association.

Rhonda Mawhood: What year was it that you graduated from high school, Mr. Shute?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: '32.

Rhonda Mawhood: '32. Thank you. You're a member of the Queen City chapter of A&T Alumni?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: That's right.

Rhonda Mawhood: Like my last question to Mrs. Shute, are there any activities that your hobbies that you want me to put on here, or a favorite quote or a Bible verse, something like that?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: My Heart is Playing God

Rhonda Mawhood: God, and is it?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: And my quote would be, I quote from the Bible, "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call He upon Him while He is near."

Rhonda Mawhood: I have, "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found," and what is the second half? I'm sorry.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: "Call He upon Him while He is near."

Rhonda Mawhood: Thank you. All right. There's just one more thing, which is that in order for people to use this tape of this interview for teachers and researchers and students to use this tape that we've just made, we have to have your permission for that, because no one can use this tape unless you say that it's all right.

Rhonda Mawhood: The original of this tape will go into the archives at Perkins Library at Duke University in Durham. A copy of it will come back to the Charlotte area. We're not sure where the copies are going to go yet. They might go to the public library, they might go to Johnson C. Smith University. That hasn't been worked out yet.

Rhonda Mawhood: But we know that one copy of the tapes and the transcripts will come back to this area, which means that researchers and students are going to be going to this collection in a couple of years, because it'll take a while to get it all together in Charlotte and in Durham to use these interviews to learn about history.

Rhonda Mawhood: Now, in order for your tape to be included in the collection, I would have to get your signature on a permission form. So I'll show that to you. There are two forms. One that I really hope you'll sign, it just states that there's open access, that anyone can use the collection in view of its scholarly value, its importance that anyone can use it.

Rhonda Mawhood: If you would prefer to put a restriction on it, usually the restriction people put is that someone who wanted to use the interview would have to get their permission to quote you, for example. Then you would sign this form, said interview agreement with restrictions. We would write the restriction

here, and then there's one for each of you. I have to get separate signatures for each of you.

Rhonda Mawhood: Then I would sign beside because my voice is on the tape as well. So the forms are identical except that one has restrictions and the other one doesn't, so I'll give that to you and you can take some time to look at it together.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Well, if we could see it, it would be to go to the library?

Rhonda Mawhood: I'm sorry?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: If we wanted to see it, we'd have to go to the library?

Rhonda Mawhood: Yes. But it would be there, and we're hoping that they'll be there for a 100 years. [indistinct 00:43:57].

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Well.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: I don't know. I don't know of any reason why I would stick to here.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Well, that's all right.

Rhonda Mawhood: Is that all right with both of you?

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: We sign this one?

Lillian Jenkins Shute: We sign both of them?

Rhonda Mawhood: Yes, sir. I would ask you to sign one, Mr. Shute, and you, Mrs. Shute, to sign the other. If you can use my clipboard here, if you could sign beside the X, Mrs. Shute? And same thing for you, sir. Thank you.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: I sign top line?

Rhonda Mawhood: If you sign beside the X, thank you, and I'll print your name on the top line.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Have you been made many contacts since you've been?

Rhonda Mawhood: Made quite a few, yes. Thank you, Mrs. Shute. You'll have to excuse me, ma'am.

Rhonda Mawhood: We have a list of about a 100 people who we'd really like to speak to, but not everyone is available. People are ill or they're out of town. We're only here for two weeks. We're leaving on the 18th.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: There's a group of you here.

Rhonda Mawhood: Yes, ma'am. There are seven of us on the team working every day talking to people. So I guess I've spoken to, I think this is the 5th interview I've done in Charlotte. And a couple of them have been with two people like yourselves. Then I have about, oh, 15 or 20 more to do before we leave Charlotte.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: You're going where after you leave Charlotte?

Rhonda Mawhood: We're going to Enfield.

Mathew Atkins Shute Sr.: Enfield.

Rhonda Mawhood: We're going to Enfield, and then after that we're going to Wilmington.

Lillian Jenkins Shute: Wilmington.

Rhonda Mawhood: And from there, we're going to New Bern, so I'm excited about it because—