

Marshall University

## Marshall Digital Scholar

---

Oral Histories

Black History in Huntington, WV

---

7-16-2018

### Doris Atkinson

Ariana Redding

Follow this and additional works at: [https://mds.marshall.edu/african\\_american\\_oral](https://mds.marshall.edu/african_american_oral)



Part of the [African American Studies Commons](#), [Oral History Commons](#), and the [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Redding, Ariana, "Doris Atkinson" (2018). *Oral Histories*. 7.  
[https://mds.marshall.edu/african\\_american\\_oral/7](https://mds.marshall.edu/african_american_oral/7)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Black History in Huntington, WV at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact [zhangj@marshall.edu](mailto:zhangj@marshall.edu), [beachgr@marshall.edu](mailto:beachgr@marshall.edu).

Oral History of Doris Atkinson, interviewed by Ariana Redding on 07/16/2018 in Huntington, West Virginia.

Ariana Redding: Okay, do you remember it being this hot when you were younger?

Doris Atkinson: Yes.

Ariana Redding: Like how hot was it?

Doris Atkinson: Probably like it is now and sometimes hotter.

Ariana Redding: Okay, describe your neighborhood when you were younger – like was it better than it was now or was it worse?

Doris Atkinson: It was much better. Much, much better.

Ariana Redding: How?

Doris Atkinson: You could sleep with your doors unlocked, your windows open, sleep on your porch, sleep wherever. Didn't have to worry about somebody shootin' you or tearin' up your house, takin' your house, or burnin' your house.

Ariana Redding: What was your favorite place – like what was your favorite restaurant or fast food restaurant to eat in?

Doris Atkinson: Now?

Ariana Redding: Then.

Doris Atkinson: Then?

Ariana Redding: Like restaurants that were in Huntington before me and my mom, or anybody was even alive.

Doris Atkinson: Well really I didn't go much out to eat at all, so I really didn't have a typical place to go.

Ariana Redding: Well like what's one place that you –

Doris Atkinson: If it would be, it would be McDonald's.

Ariana Redding: Your favorite place to shop?

Doris Atkinson: If you talkin' 'bout for clothes, basically Sears, JC Penney's.

Ariana Redding: Oh there's, I think, my dad told me that there was a grocery store where the Cabell parking lot was I think. It was called Big Bear, I think?

Doris Atkinson: Big Bear.

Ariana Redding: Yeah. Was it like a big grocery store or was it small?

Doris Atkinson: It was good, it was a good size grocery store.

Ariana Redding: Like how long has it been there?

Doris Atkinson: Oh it had been there a long time. I don't know how many years, but it was great and they had one on 29th Street, too.

Ariana Redding: Was that one the same size as the one over there by the high school?

Doris Atkinson: Basically, it was pretty close size range. It was in the former Sears store on 29th Street.

Ariana Redding: There was a Sears store on 29th Street?

Doris Atkinson: There was. 29th Street and 5th Avenue.

Ariana Redding: I did not know that till now.

Doris Atkinson: Yes, I used to work there.

Ariana Redding: I thought you worked – wait, wasn't there one at the mall before that?

Doris Atkinson: Uh huh.

Ariana Redding: I though you worked at the one there.

Doris Atkinson: No, it went to the mall. It left there and went to the mall.

Ariana Redding: Can you describe the energy or rhythm of people on 8th Avenue and Fairfield?

Doris Atkinson: Can I describe what?

Ariana Redding: The energy or rhythm of people on 8th Avenue and Fairfield.

Doris Atkinson: You mean back then or now?

Ariana Redding: Back then.

Doris Atkinson: There were clubs on 8th Avenue, like go to clubs and you could go out and talk to people and stuff, and little restaurants stuck in there somewhere. But, you didn't have to worry about bein' shot. If people got in an argument, they would fight it out and go on about their business.

Ariana Redding: Tell me about your parents or your family background. Like where was your grandmother and your grandfather born?

Doris Atkinson: Alabama.

Ariana Redding: Was your grandfather or your grandmother from Alabama? Or was your mom and your dad both from Alabama?

Doris Atkinson: My mom and dad were both born in Alabama.

Ariana Redding: And then they –

Doris Atkinson: And my grandparents were from Alabama.

Ariana Redding: And so they moved up to West Virginia?

Doris Atkinson: No. My mom and dad came to West Virginia. My dad came up here to work in the coal mines and my mom came up here – I don't know why she came – oh, to work, just doing domestic work.

Ariana Redding: Like what?

Doris Atkinson: Cleanin' people's homes.

Ariana Redding: Oh. What did your parents do for a living? Did you contribute to the family income or help parents in their work in any way?

Doris Atkinson: Sure, I used to go work with my mom. Then when I started workin', would buy groceries or whatever, it didn't make any difference.

Ariana Redding: Where did you work at to help out your mom?

Doris Atkinson: Different people's homes, on the South Side.

Ariana Redding: Oh. What other relatives did you have contact with growing up? Like any cousins or anything?

Doris Atkinson: I had some cousins over in Ohio, over in Bidwell and Columbus.

Ariana Redding: Did you say Bigwell?

Doris Atkinson: Bidwell, Ohio.

Ariana Redding: Oh, how far is that from Huntington?

Doris Atkinson: About 45 minutes.

Ariana Redding: Oh that's not far. Where was your family originally from?

Doris Atkinson: Alabama.

Ariana Redding: What part of Alabama, like what city?

Doris Atkinson: Sweet Water, Alabama and Bessemer, Alabama.

Ariana Redding: Bessemer?

Doris Atkinson: Yes.

Ariana Redding: Is Bessemer like a big city or is it like about West Virginia – or not West Virginia – Huntington?

Doris Atkinson: About the size of Huntington. Sweet Water was smaller.

Ariana Redding: I thought Sweet Water was like a really big –

Doris Atkinson: No.

Ariana Redding: -- big city, like New York or something.

Doris Atkinson: No, no, no. It's about the size of Guyandotte.

Ariana Redding: Really?

Doris Atkinson: Um-hmm. Country.

Ariana Redding: Oh. What do you remember about your grandparents?

Doris Atkinson: Nothin', 'cause I didn't know them. I only met my grandmother one time.

Ariana Redding: Oh. How old were you when you met her?

Doris Atkinson: Eight.

Ariana Redding: How many children were in the family and when you were in the lineup?

Doris Atkinson: Huh?

Ariana Redding: How many children were in the family and where were you in the lineup? Like, were you the youngest, the oldest?

Doris Atkinson: I was the youngest.

Ariana Redding: Out of how many children?

Doris Atkinson: There was a total of five – three living – and I was the youngest of all of ‘em.

Ariana Redding: What happened to the other two?

Doris Atkinson: Crib death.

Ariana Redding: What is crib death? You'll have to [inaudible 00:06:41].

Doris Atkinson: It's just – early birth.

Ariana Redding: Oh. What did you do on Thanks – basically, what did you do on holidays, like Christmas, Thanksgiving, Fourth of July? Anything?

Doris Atkinson: Well when I was growin' up, you didn't do much. [Laughter] Okay, come on, hurry up.

Ariana Redding: What was school like?

Doris Atkinson: School was great.

Ariana Redding: Like describe it.

Doris Atkinson: You still had segregation and stuff, but I mean I went to a mixed school but still there was racial problems, tension, fights, and stuff.

Ariana Redding: Like, describe middle school or junior high. What was that like?

Doris Atkinson: Oh it was good. I enjoyed school.

Ariana Redding: How many class – excuse me. Were all the grades separated or just like going to the same class with different grades?

Doris Atkinson: No you had – it's basically the way it's set up now.

Ariana Redding: Basically like different floors or something?

Doris Atkinson: No, no different, I mean –

Ariana Redding: Everything was one level?

Doris Atkinson: No. You had more floors in the building. You had three or four floors in the buildings like you do with schools now and you went to different classes and your classes were wherever.

Ariana Redding: Oh.

Doris Atkinson: Then you went to the gym for kicks. [Laughter and whispering] Okay, come on. Give me another.

Ariana Redding: Where did you work at? Like what was your first job?

Doris Atkinson: Sears Roebuck.

Ariana Redding: Huh?

Doris Atkinson: Sears Roebuck.

Ariana Redding: Sears Roebuck?

Doris Atkinson: Yes, Sears.

Ariana Redding: Oh. Excuse me, how long did you work there?

Doris Atkinson: 13 years.

Ariana Redding: Where did you work at after?

Doris Atkinson: I went to the mall. Well, I was at the mall, worked in a couple stores up there, and from there I went to Marshall University and that's where I retired from.

Ariana Redding: Okay, when did you learn to cook and who taught you?

Doris Atkinson: My mom, family.

Ariana Redding: Like how old were you when you learned how to cook?

Doris Atkinson: Six years old when I started learning to cook. I would come home at lunchtime 'cause I lived close to my elementary school and she would tell me what to start for dinner, and that's what it would be. And I was cookin' and cleanin' and doin' dishes and everything, starting at age six.

Ariana Redding: Wow. Were there any special recipes or desserts that your mom or dad would make, or any relatives?

Doris Atkinson: No, we were a family that cooked food – cooked Southern style.

Ariana Redding: You didn't have any desserts that y'all made?

Doris Atkinson: No, nothin' special. If we wanted a pie, we'd make a pie. Want cake, make cake. [Laughter] Okay, come on. [Laughter and whispering] Hurry up.

Ariana Redding: What were your duties around the house as a child?

Doris Atkinson: Cleaned. [Laughter] Okay. Cleanin'.

Ariana Redding: Is that all?

Doris Atkinson: Anything that we were asked to do, we did it.

Ariana Redding: Oh. What did your – what did [inaudible 00:11:29] have to do?

Doris Atkinson: No, we weren't assigned. Everybody cleaned. If somethin' needed to be cleaned, you just cleaned.

Ariana Redding: Oh.

Doris Atkinson: That's just the way it was. And that was every week, too. You kept the house cleaned, you kept the laundry up, you worked right along with your parents. If they said do it, you get up and do it, and you didn't talk back.

Ariana Redding: Describe your siblings, like how were –

Doris Atkinson: My who?

Ariana Redding: Siblings.

Doris Atkinson: Oh.

Ariana Redding: Brothers and sisters.

Doris Atkinson: They were – thatta boy – they were okay.

Ariana Redding: Did you favor any siblings?

Doris Atkinson: No, we didn't favor 'cause with just the three of us at home, we were close though. So –

Ariana Redding: Describe your house. Did you and your sister share a room?

Doris Atkinson: Yeah, we did. There was plenty of rooms but we shared a room – big rooms. It was a big house, 10 room house, so –

Ariana Redding: Oh wow. What street did you grow up on?

Doris Atkinson: From what age?

Ariana Redding: From like, you were born until about seven or eight?

Doris Atkinson: 8th Avenue, Artisan Avenue. I moved off of Artisan Avenue at the age of six.



Ariana Redding: And where did you from the age of six, like –

Doris Atkinson: On to Doulton Avenue, and that was the end of it.

Ariana Redding: That's where y'all stayed until whenever?

Doris Atkinson: Yep.

Ariana Redding: What did y'all do –

Doris Atkinson: That's where I stayed.

Ariana Redding: What did your friends do – like what did y'all do for fun, basically? Did y'all have movie theaters and stuff like our kids?

Doris Atkinson: We didn't go out much. As we got older, we went to the clubs and go skatin'.

Ariana Redding: What was the skating rink like?

Doris Atkinson: The Roll-a-Rama.

Ariana Redding: Oh. Oh! How long has that place been there? A hundred years?

Doris Atkinson: There was another skatin' rink though.

Ariana Redding: Wasn't it called –

Doris Atkinson: I can't remember what they called it.

Ariana Redding: Oh.

Doris Atkinson: But it closed down. Bowlin'. I used to bowl a lot, go bowlin', that kind of stuff.

Ariana Redding: Wasn't there like a bowling alley right there where the –

Doris Atkinson: Imperial Lanes?

Ariana Redding: Yeah, what was it called? What's it called – Family Dollar on 8th Avenue?

Doris Atkinson: Yep. That was Imperial Lanes.

Ariana Redding: Was it big or was it like the same size as Family Dollar now?

Doris Atkinson: It was big.

Ariana Redding: Did it cover that whole lot right there?

Doris Atkinson: Yep.

Ariana Redding: Do you have any idea why they tore it down?

Doris Atkinson: They sold it and then the people died. So they sold it, got rid of it.

Ariana Redding: Oh. What was your favorite dinner? What was one thing that you enjoyed to cook for your family?

Doris Atkinson: I don't know.

Ariana Redding: Did y'all cook a lot?

Doris Atkinson: Yep. Had to.

Ariana Redding: What was it like in Huntington in general? Did y'all have big concerts or fairs or anything goin' on?

Doris Atkinson: No.

Ariana Redding: Nothing at all?

Doris Atkinson: Well, I mean it would be – every now and then there would be something come here, but not very often.

Ariana Redding: What was your parents' religious background and how was religion observed in your home?

Doris Atkinson: We were all Baptist – Southern Baptist even though around here you go to a Missionary Baptist Church with people. A lot of 'em are Southern Baptists even though the church said Missionary.

Ariana Redding: So, like, can you –

Doris Atkinson: Southern Baptist.

Ariana Redding: Can you describe that to me?

Doris Atkinson: What do you mean describe it?

Ariana Redding: What is Southern Baptist, 'cause I've never heard of it.

Doris Atkinson: I don't know. I don't understand what you mean. Our beliefs are not Catholic, or Methodist, or anything like that. I have nothin' against anything. I'm Southern Baptist and that's – the Southern Baptist beliefs is me. I don't discuss religion with anyone because I believe in my way. They have their right to believe in their way.

Ariana Redding: What was elementary – did it start with pre-K or did it start from kindergarten to sixth grade or fifth grade? Where did it start and where did it stop?

Doris Atkinson: Kindergarten to sixth grade.

Ariana Redding: And then was junior high seventh grade to ninth grade? Or was it just seventh and eighth?

Doris Atkinson: Seven, eight, nine.

Ariana Redding: And then 10th, 11th, 12th was high school?

Doris Atkinson: 10, 11, 12 was high school, which is the way it should be now.

Ariana Redding: Did y'all have any pets growing up?

Doris Atkinson: Yep.

Ariana Redding: How many?

Doris Atkinson: Cat.

Ariana Redding: How many cats? Just one?

Doris Atkinson: Well we had one. At one time, we had 11; then we had dogs, had a dog.

Ariana Redding: Was it big?

Doris Atkinson: Then two dogs. Then 11 dogs. [Laughter] And now I'm down to just one, my baby Roxy. But I miss my heart, and that was Bear, my first dog.

Ariana Redding: What kind of breed was Bear?

Doris Atkinson: Chow. [Whispering]

Ariana Redding: Was he mean or was he – just like to cuddle with everybody?

Doris Atkinson: No, he was just – he was protective.

Ariana Redding: Like how Roxy is? Sort of?

Doris Atkinson: Yeah, like Roxy.

Ariana Redding: Except she'll claw at your hand when you wanna pet her – or when she wants you to pet her.

Doris Atkinson: Bear would, too. Yes, you're my baby.

Ariana Redding: How old was Bear – no, how old were you when you first got Bear?

Doris Atkinson: I don't know, but Bear was 17 years old when he died.

Ariana Redding: 17?

Doris Atkinson: Yep.

Ariana Redding: That is a long time.

Doris Atkinson: Yep.

Ariana Redding: Wow.

Doris Atkinson: Get your butt down. You wanna bark? Okay, come on.

Ariana Redding: How many cars did you all have? What were the cars like basically, were they –  
hmm, how can I say this – were there like lots of vans and stuff?

Doris Atkinson: I don't know. My dad always had two cars and they were always Cadillacs and  
he changed cars every three years.

Ariana Redding: What do you mean by changed cars?

Doris Atkinson: All the way up until 1985. He just traded in for a newer model.

Ariana Redding: Every three years?

Doris Atkinson: At least one.

Ariana Redding: So your family had two cars –

Doris Atkinson: All the time.

Ariana Redding: -- in their house – excuse me, in their household.

Doris Atkinson: Mm-hmm.

Ariana Redding: And he'll trade one every three years?

Doris Atkinson: Mm-hmm.

Ariana Redding: That's what my dad used to do.

Doris Atkinson: Huh?

Ariana Redding: My dad used to do that. Rental car.

Ariana Redding: Was the mall – how many – I know you won't know this exactly but how many stores do you think were in the mall, in the Huntington Mall now – or then?

Doris Atkinson: I have no idea 'cause I –

Ariana Redding: Was it big or was it smaller than it is now?

Doris Atkinson: You mean more stores or what?

Ariana Redding: Yeah were there more store – are there more stores than it was now?

Doris Atkinson: No.

Ariana Redding: Or do we have more stores?

Doris Atkinson: No. There was more then than there is now.

Ariana Redding: Oh.

Doris Atkinson: Even though they added on the outside of the actual mall building itself.

Ariana Redding: Were all those restaurants like Olive Garden, Chili's, and all those – were those out there before I was born?

Doris Atkinson: Some of 'em.

Ariana Redding: All the fast food restaurants, were they out there?

Doris Atkinson: Basically, yeah.

Ariana Redding: Then they added like all the dine-in restaurants?

Doris Atkinson: Mm-hmm.

Ariana Redding: Okay. What did you like to do as a child? What was your favorite thing to do in the house?

Doris Atkinson: In the house? [Laughter]

Ariana Redding: Did you have any particular toys or anything?

Doris Atkinson: Nope. We didn't have a lot of toys and stuff. Very few.

Ariana Redding: Well what did you like to do with your family?

Doris Atkinson: We didn't do much of anything, didn't have time. We had to work, shoot.

Ariana Redding: Oh.

Doris Atkinson: Look at the dog.

Ariana Redding: Hmm, trying to think of another question. What was technology like back then? Were computers invented then?

Doris Atkinson: No.

Ariana Redding: I know you don't have cell phones, or not cell phones –

Doris Atkinson: No.

Ariana Redding: -- like regular land lines or something, and were the TVs always black and white or did they get color after a while?

Doris Atkinson: It was black and white then color.

Ariana Redding: What shows did you watch often?

Doris Atkinson: Peyton Place.

Ariana Redding: What is Peyton Place?

Doris Atkinson: Soap opera. Everybody watched Peyton Place, man, shoot. That was the show. And you watched the westerns Bonanza, Gunsmoke.

Ariana Redding: Bonanza and Gunsmoke still come on don't they?

Doris Atkinson: I know.

Ariana Redding: What did you do after you graduated high school?

Doris Atkinson: I went to work. I went to school, I went to Marshall.

Ariana Redding: Did you graduate Marshall?

Doris Atkinson: No.

Ariana Redding: Why'd you stop going to Marshall?

Doris Atkinson: 'Cause I had to work. My dad was gettin' sick and I had to help my mom take care of him.

Ariana Redding: Oh. What about your sister, did she graduate?

Doris Atkinson: Yep.

Ariana Redding: Did she – what was she going to Marshall for? Just to go, to get her –

Doris Atkinson: Business. She was a business major.

Ariana Redding: She wanted to open a business?

Doris Atkinson: No, she was a business major and she works for the C & O. She was a stenographer. She took shorthand and stuff and she worked there.

Ariana Redding: What's a stenographer?

Doris Atkinson: Shorthand.

Ariana Redding: What is shorthand?

Doris Atkinson: Like now they do – how you go in the courtroom and they got the little lady – what is it, what's she called? Court reporter? Well you could sit down and you would be talkin' and she do shorthand.

Ariana Redding: That's basically what she did?

Doris Atkinson: Yep.

Ariana Redding: That was basically like the job she wanted?

Doris Atkinson: Mm-hmm.

Ariana Redding: Oh that's kinda cool.

Doris Atkinson: But they don't do that anymore, they got computers.

Ariana Redding: Didn't they have typewriters at that?

Doris Atkinson: Yeah.

Ariana Redding: Oh, got it.

Doris Atkinson: I can type.

Ariana Redding: In schools, did y'all have – if you had to write a big essay or something, did you have to write it by hand or did you get to use a typewriter? Or would you get in trouble for using a typewriter?

Doris Atkinson: Just depended whatever your teacher asked for. If it was handwritten, single spaced, or if they wanted it typed out, it just depended on the teacher.

Ariana Redding: How long were classes? Our classes are about 45 to 50 minutes.

Doris Atkinson: Yep, that's right.

Ariana Redding: That's how y'all's were?

Doris Atkinson: Yep.

Ariana Redding: What was elementary school like?

Doris Atkinson: I dunno – I don't remember.

Ariana Redding: What was –

Doris Atkinson: I remember some of my teachers and stuff though.

Ariana Redding: Did y'all – excuse me. Well, how can I put this? Did y'all switch classes how middle school does now?

Doris Atkinson: What do you mean?

Ariana Redding: For some reason in elementary school now, where Anthony goes, they're making them do groups where they go to classroom, to classroom, to classroom how we have in middle school where we go to different classes.

Doris Atkinson: Uh, it just depended, you know, how it –

Ariana Redding: Did it depend on what school you went to?

Doris Atkinson: No, it depended on how they had the school set up. It was up to each school.

Ariana Redding: Oh. Well that's just – for some reason, they do that at Anthony's school, and I don't get why, but they do math in one group and then they go to the next classroom and they do, I think, reading, and then they do language. And it's kinda weird because they just sit there in silence.

Doris Atkinson: I mean we went from room to room.

Ariana Redding: Yeah, in elementary school?

Doris Atkinson: Uh huh.

Ariana Redding: Did y'all have recess?

Doris Atkinson: Yeah.

Ariana Redding: What about in middle school, what did y'all do in middle school? Did y'all –

Doris Atkinson: We had a break. I mean just hung around.



Ariana Redding: How long were your –

Doris Atkinson: I don't remember how long that stuff was.

Ariana Redding: No, like Spring break – like in high school, did y'all have – like how long was your breaks compared to ours?

Doris Atkinson: Just a week.

Ariana Redding: A week for all? Like Spring break, Thanksgiving break, and Christmas break?

Doris Atkinson: No. We were out –

Ariana Redding: Or not – I said Spring break [inaudible 00:27:02]. Spring break, Thanksgiving break, and Winter break?

Doris Atkinson: Depending on how the days fell.

Ariana Redding: When did y'all go back to – hmm. How could I put this in a sentence? How long was your summer basically? Did y'all –

Doris Atkinson: Three months.

Ariana Redding: Did y'all start school back in September?

Doris Atkinson: Yep.

Ariana Redding: Why can't we do that now? When did y'all get out of school for the summer? In May?

Doris Atkinson: May.

Ariana Redding: Well, is there anything else you want me to go over?

Doris Atkinson: No, but they do need to change the school system back the way it was.

Ariana Redding: Why do you think that?

Doris Atkinson: Because the kids learned more. They aren't learnin' much now.

Ariana Redding: In middle school, we have a bunch of – we have flex class. That's like where you learn – in sixth grade, you learned French, seventh grade you learned Japanese, and then in eighth grade you learned Spanish. Spanish was easy. But then they have a expert – or not expert – it's like how they have pre-algebra and algebra one – the “smart kids classes” is what we call it – and they have that for Spanish and you have to be nominated, and then you have to do all these large finals

before breaks and stuff. So basically, that class is preparing you for high school but you learn some of the similar stuff that you would learn in regular Spanish.

Ariana Redding: What was gym class like in high school?

Doris Atkinson: Fun.

Ariana Redding: What did y'all do? Did y'all play actual games?

Doris Atkinson: Yeah we played, I mean basically, like gym class is now, like competitions.

Ariana Redding: No, no, no.

Doris Atkinson: You don't know that. We did different things and they tell you to run around that track 50 times, you better get your butt up and start runnin'.

Ariana Redding: Our gym class is completely different. What we have to do – well in middle school – I don't have zero clue about high school, but in middle school what you had to do in sixth grade was only run for one minute and walk for two. In seventh grade, eighth grade, that completely changed. Now we have to run for two minutes without stopping and then goes to three, four, five, six, seven, eight, and so on. If you stop, you basically lose all your daily points and it's 10 points but you'll get a B out of the whole day, like, there's no way to earn those points back. And then, we'll learn to play different sports for about three and a half weeks; we'll learn basketball, then we'll go to soccer, um –

Doris Atkinson: We did all that, and we even had boxing.

Ariana Redding: I think it's called pickleball?

Doris Atkinson: We had boxing.

Ariana Redding: Um, wow.

Doris Atkinson: They gave you some gloves, and you put 'em on and you boxed whoever was up next until one of you was down.

Ariana Redding: Hmm.

Doris Atkinson: It was fun.

Ariana Redding: We play volleyball but towards –

Doris Atkinson: Oh that's my sport.

Ariana Redding: Did you y'all have sports in middle school?

Doris Atkinson: Yeah.

Ariana Redding: What middle school did you go to?

Doris Atkinson: Oley Junior High, the Indian Chiefs. Woo, woo!

Ariana Redding: [Laughter] Where was that located?

Doris Atkinson: 5th Avenue and 14th Street.

Ariana Redding: Wait, I'm trying to think of where that is. This street right here?

Doris Atkinson: Mm-hmm.

Ariana Redding: 14th Street up there or that way?

Doris Atkinson: That way.

Ariana Redding: Wait what? This way, going straight up towards –

Doris Atkinson: Down.

Ariana Redding: That way, towards – past McDonald's and all that.

Doris Atkinson: Mm-hmm.

Ariana Redding: Okay. So, did y'all have many sports in middle school?

Doris Atkinson: Yeah our gymnasium still sittin' over there. They had all kinds of stuff to do.

Ariana Redding: Wow. How long – wait, what was the name of your middle school?

Doris Atkinson: Oley.

Ariana Redding: Oley?

Doris Atkinson: Junior High.

Ariana Redding: Oh, Oley Junior High?

Doris Atkinson: Mm-hmm.

Ariana Redding: Oh, what was that – was Huntington High open?

Doris Atkinson: Yeah.

Ariana Redding: Huntington High is a really old school now that I think about it. Wow.

Ariana Redding: Well, were there any game consoles or anything?

Doris Atkinson: Game what?

Ariana Redding: Game consoles, how we have the PlayStation and the Wii and all that?

Doris Atkinson: I don't know. They liked to be outside doin' stuff. Boards or ridin' a bike, or playin' ball or somethin'.

Ariana Redding: In high school, were the gym classes the same as they were in middle or junior high?

Doris Atkinson: There's more to it.

Ariana Redding: Alright.

Doris Atkinson: We about done?

Ariana Redding: Is there anything else that you want me to go over?

Doris Atkinson: Nope.

Ariana Redding: Are you sure?

Doris Atkinson: Positively sure.

Ariana Redding: Well I do have one more question.

Doris Atkinson: Okay.

Ariana Redding: What was the segregation like back then? Was it bad or anything?

Doris Atkinson: It was bad.

Ariana Redding: Like how it is now?

Doris Atkinson: Oh it was 10 times worse than what it is now.

Ariana Redding: In the state of – or in the city of Huntington?

Doris Atkinson: Well there were places we couldn't go eat downtown and you weren't allowed to go out to the park until late, until they really changed all that. There'd be fights in school – racial – Huntington High against Huntington East, racially motivated, that kind of stuff, and –

Ariana Redding: Wait, Huntington High and Huntington East High?

Doris Atkinson: Mm-hmm.

Ariana Redding: Where was Huntington East High located?

Doris Atkinson: 5th Avenue and 29th Street.

Ariana Redding: I think I know where that's at, but I'm not too sure.

Doris Atkinson: Yep. Right across the street, down the street across the street.

Ariana Redding: Oh okay, okay, yeah I know exactly where it's at. Well, thank you for your time and –

Doris Atkinson: You're quite welcome, madam.

Ariana Redding: Have a nice day.

Doris Atkinson: Thank you, you too.