



THE ALEXANDRIA ORAL HISTORY CENTER  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA  
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA



# Oral History Interview

with

## Clyde Casey and Jimmy Lewis

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**Interviewer:** Francesco De Salvatore and Michael Johnson

**Narrator:** Clyde Casey and Jimmy Lewis

**Location of Interview:** Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4653 Taney Ave,  
Alexandria, Virginia

**Date of Interview:** 07/30/2024

**Transcriber:** Jaclyn Maraldo

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### **Summary:**

Clyde Casey and Jimmy Lewis recount growing up in Seminary and how it shaped their lives.

### **Notes:**

In 2024 the City of Alexandria commemorated its 275th anniversary. Oral histories were collected throughout the year of 2024 for the commemoration and this StoryCircle was part of this collection.

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<b>General</b>	Childhood in Seminary; Segregation; Desegregation; playing basketball; addiction and rehab; religious vocation; Vietnam War; racism; Baltimore Black Sox; baseball; Great Depression; military service; Loyola Ramblers; Brown v. Board; Japanese Olympics team; World Games; hepatitis C; cancer; Narcotics Anonymous; the seminary; National Basketball Association; outhouses; white subsidized housing; HBCUs; loss of family homes; Atlantic Coast Conference; Alexandria Athletic Hall of Fame; National Baseball Hall of Fame
<b>People</b>	Casey, George; Casey, Annie; Taff, Henry; Louis Johnson; Adkins, Robert; Thurmond, Arnold; Price, Charles; Lewis, Sr, James.; Lewis, Jr, James.; Quander family; Quander Lewis, Eunice Naomi; Lloyd, Earl; Lewis, Barbara; Lewis, Janice; Lewis, Karen; Lewis, Herman; Shiver, Jube; Bing, Dave; Lightfoot, Charles; Barber, Rayfield; Carnegie, Andrew; Rosenwald, Julius; Ross, Miss; Manning, Archie; Manning, Peyton; Harris, Kamala; Aunt Helen; Aunt Ada; Terrell, Butch; Ross, Ronnie; Louis, Joe; Herman Lewis; Harvey Lewis; Austin, John; Jones, Willie; Williams, T.C.; the Huntley family; Belkin, Arthur; Herman Howard; Dawkins, Nolan; Fine, Carlton; Belk, Jasper; Price,

	Bo; Thompson, William; Casey, George; Casey, Joe; Henry, Taff; Day, Leon; Turner, Cleveland Get; Turner, Carl; Turner, Howard; Paige, Satchel; Adams, Buster;
<b>Places</b>	Seminary neighborhood of Alexandria, Virginia; Alexandria Hospital; Coppin State University; Oakland Baptist Church; Parker-Gray; Lyles-Crouch; Manassas, Virginia; Luther Porter Jackson High School; Norfolk, VA; Charleston, South Carolina; New Jersey; Japan; Paris, France; Washington D.C.; Alfred Street Baptist Church; Haymarket, Virginia; 1607 Quaker Lane; Madden court; Charles Houston court; Randall Estates; Hoffman-Boston Middle School; Arlington, Virginia; Luther-Jackson Middle School; Merrifield, Virginia; Jennie Dean; Richmond, Virginia; Spingarn High School; Dunbar High School; Coolidge High School; Fairmont Heights High School; Frederick Douglass High School; Pomonkey High School; Groveton High School; Patrick Henry Recreation Center; Mudtown; DMV; New Orleans, LA; Loyola University; Tulane University; Mississippi River; Lake Pontchartrain; 1600 West Braddock Road; Blessed Sacrament Church and School; Old Town; the Arland; Seminary Road; Quaker Lane; Campbell's Auto Repair T.V.; Saint Louis, Missouri; Boston College; University of the District of Columbia; T.C. Williams High School; Carver School; Charles Houston Recreation Center; Detroit, MI; University of Virginia; Charlottesville, Virginia; Duke University; Howard University; Shanghai, China;

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:00:00] Yeah, yeah. [00:00:00][0.3]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:00:03] Question. Question. [00:00:04][0.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:00:05] Yeah? [00:00:05][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:00:05] Before you do that. [00:00:06][0.5]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:00:06] Yeah, you're good. [00:00:06][0.3]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:00:07] Alright, I only use Reverend-. [00:00:09][2.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:00:11] That's fine. [00:00:11][0.2]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:00:12] In church. [00:00:12][0.5]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:00:13] Yeah. [00:00:13][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:00:14] You know, I don't, you know, do it out here. [00:00:17][2.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:00:17] That's fine. Yeah, if you don't want to use it. Okay, you're good. We'll start. [00:00:20][2.7]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:00:23] I'm Clyde Casey. Born in Alexandria, [Virginia] at the Alexandria Hospital in the Colored Ward. Alexandria Hospital was at Duke and Washington Street at that time. I was born in 1944. October I'll be 80. My parents, George and Annie Casey, and they were married ten years before they had the first child. So when I came around, I'm the third oldest of seven and there's two of us left now. However, when I came along, all my uncles and all of them were deceased. I didn't know my grandfather or my grandmother. They were deceased. It's because my father was like, maybe the second youngest or something. So by the time, you know, after ten years and all that. Because my grandfather was born in the 1800s, 1880s or something like that. And I grew up in Seminary. I mean it was a wonderful place to grow up. I always like to say all the people in the neighborhood were, like, service providers. My father, he was a custodian. My mother did domestic. They worked two or three jobs. And, however, the downside was that we were sort of like raising ourselves because they always was out working and they'd leave pots of food on and stuff like that. However, we did all right because the neighborhood took care of us. You know [cellphone rings, Mr. Casey laughs] you could go anywhere in the neighborhood and you were held accountable. And, you know, you didn't have to buck it because, you know when you got home [laughs] the word got there before. I still don't understand how that word got there. They had telephones [laughs]. A lot of people had telephones then and, you know, the word would get to them before you. [laughs] So if you got in some fun, you can expect to get something else that- [00:02:24][121.2]

**Michael Johnson:** [00:02:25] Are you aware that, I did research up at Coppin State [University] I just want to ask Clyde this question right quick. I did research at Coppin State on the Baltimore Black Sox, and your dad played for 'em. [00:02:38][13.2]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:02:38] Yeah. [00:02:38][0.0]

**Michael Johnson:** [00:02:39] I don't know if you knew that. [00:02:39][0.9]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:02:40] Yeah, I'm gonna tell you about my dad. My dad-. [00:02:41][1.6]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:02:42] Really quick. [00:02:42][0.2]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:02:43] Okay. [00:02:43][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:02:44] We'll, come back to that, but if you want to finish your story- [00:02:44][0.7]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [00:02:47] Go ahead and finish. [00:02:47][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:02:48] Yeah. [00:02:48][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:02:48] What happened, my father was, I heard, I'd never seen him play, because by the time I got around, he was stopped playing. I heard he was the best baseball player in the area. Have a guy named Henry Taff. So he's come and see my father play. He said, "Don't fall down. He'd come down there and talk junk to you while the ball is coming. [laughs] Throwing strikes and stuff." He went to the Black Sox in Baltimore [Maryland]. However, he came home because he was homesick. He was nothin' but 17, 18 years old. And he came back. That was before he was married to my mother. And my father worked at Seminary [Virginia Theological Seminary] because my grandfather was the head cook there. And I used my imagination. I said, "Wow, he was the head cook there during the [Great] Depression." And I know there's no one starving in Seminary. [laughs] And he probably fed everybody. My understanding of him, you know, I'm getting it from word [of mouth], understand? He's like the patriarch of the Seminary because he was one of the founders of the Oakland Baptist Church. He was one of the founders. He was the chairman of the deacon board. And, what happened with that is he didn't want to be a preacher because he didn't wanna lose no power, [laughs] you know, because you can get rid of preachers but you can't get rid of deacons. They like U.S. Supreme Court justices. [laughs] They like that, you know. And the thing was, it would make me feel so good everywhere I go because my father was a nice, you know, and this was just a nice guy. And everywhere I go they say, "Oh, that's George [Casey]'s boy." They'd say, "Boy, can you play baseball like your daddy?" [all laugh] "No I can't play!" [laughs] Cause what happened, he taught me, you know, he'd take me out there, and he threw the ball and it hit my glove and it stung my hand. I put that ball down, that glove down and I said, "I need something bigger." [laughs] So I started playing basketball. And basketball has been just a great, great tool for my life. I've been to a lot of places, met a lot of great people because of basketball. I mean, I have no regrets from that. You know, just had, you know, I had no regrets from it. I've had a pretty good life with that. Want me to bring it up to date or just? [Someones gives nonverbal response] I went to high school, and I went to Parker-Gray. I got to Parker-Gray, and I was younger than the other people in my grade in eighth grade because I had skipped a grade, you know? And so when I got there, our 8th grade team and me and another kid, you know, our 8th grade team, we had an intramural [game]. We won the school championship, eighth grade! We beat the seniors, we beat everybody. And then the coach, Coach Johnson, he said, "You can't play for me, boy, because, you're too fancy." You know, but still he had to play me, on the JV [Junior Varsity]. And when I went away once, I think it influenced, [Arnold] Thurmond. He was a great coach, you know, a great coach. I think it influenced him. Mr. [Robert] Adkins took us away, and, Coach [Johnson] didn't go, so [Robert] Adkins played me. You know, I came [out there] and

scored a whole bunch of points in 9th grade against JV in Manassas, [Virginia]. And I came back and Coach [Johnson] kicked me off the team, he said he wouldn't go nowhere with me. He say, "You up there showing off, doing dribbling behind your back and all that kind of stuff." So I stayed there, and you know, I went out for the basketball team again in the 10th grade, but he cut me again. I went in 11th grade and he cut me again. However he told me, "stay around because in January, this young man will graduate and I'll bring you on." I asked him, I say, "Coach, why do you keep cutting me?" He said, "Well, who gave you [that idea]?" I say, "Ask them." [laughing] You know, so what I did, it wasn't too many people doing that then. What I did, I transferred, I went up to Luther Jackson, I went out and got my cousin's, Adam's, and used his address [laughing] and I went to Luther [Porter] Jackson [High School]. I went to Luther Jackson and this strange thing happened. I went to Luther Jackson and that was after they had already coached, they already had their team. And I got there and they let me come out. I came out and he cut me. So I say, "Well, okay." And I had to get a ride back home. So I got a ride back home with Coach [Charles] Price. And I was there the very next practice. I was there and they didn't have but 9 players there on the whole team, the first 5 was the team. And they say they was practicing the press. My strength. They looked over and said, "Boy, you got some shoes?" I said, "Yeah." I went out there and I didn't come off the floor after that [all laugh]. We went to the state [championship] and all that kind of stuff. Well, however, I came out of high school and I didn't go to college because my thing with my family was my father didn't finish 5th grade. He didn't even finish elementary school. And my mother, I think, might have graduated high school, but I don't know if she did or not. And the high point for us was graduating high school. And then my brother, who I thought was the smartest person I ever seen. He was! [laughs] And he went into the service, he went into the Air Force. And I didn't get any scholarships or anything like that because I couldn't validate myself. I really couldn't. I didn't know I was as good as I was. However, I went into the service, too, because my mother and my father, you know, looked at me, and my brother was sending money home, and then they looked at the money. They say, "You know, the service not such a bad idea." [laughs] And I was a mama's boy and it don't have to be my mom, you know? So I went into the service and I went in when they were drafting people. I went in at 17 and they were drafting. So out of the people in the service who was playing basketball, was college grads, professionals. And I started playing there and I started starting my first year up there at Fort McGuire I was the most valuable player on the team. And I was just turned 18 then. And we traveled and we won the match. Every team I played on seemed like we were great. I played on teams with guys who was played on national teams. Like, my best friend, his name was Heggins [John Egan?] He played with Loyola [Ramblers] the year before they won the championship. He was on my team. I was maybe the only one who wasn't in college, you know? And then I left there and I'd go to places and I'd see my friends. Like I went to Norfolk, [Virginia] to see [laughing, inaudible] saw the paper say, "A case of too much Casey" [laughing]. That kind of stuff, you know? And I went to, Charleston, South Carolina, and I saw the Hensons. But, I wouldn't pin the guy on the back, boy he [inaudible, laughing] you know. I mean, I'm playing. And it wasn't so much that I was playing for glory, I'm playing because I just loved it. You know, I never had anything that I loved like that. Even when I went through some tribulations. I went through addiction after coming out of the service because I picked up in the service, I picked up addiction. And I got married young. I got married, I was 21, the wife was 17 and pregnant. That was why I got married, really. And then I came back here and then the streets took over. And the strange thing about being able to play basketball, I say, you know, I'm the hustlers. I played on hustlers' teams and they taking care of me. I thought, you know, but I didn't know, and the addiction took me, it really took me down, you know? It took me down. I was at a point in life where, not only I couldn't do anything for people, people stopped asking me. And a blessing happened. I thought the worst thing that would happen with me was in the service because the segregation was so tough. Even

playing basketball, the Colonel would say, "That's my man right there." However, it would stay with me all the time, you know? It was the most racist place I ever seen in my life. And what happened to me in there was, it was me and another African-American. It was only two in there. And let me tell you, let me give you a history. The service didn't integrate til 1948. And, I will give you an example. Remember Brown Versus Boad of Education didn't integrate til 1954. However, when I graduated from high school, it was still segregated. That was '62. When I went in the service, it was still the Good Boys Network. And it was terrible and I suffer from it because what happened, that's, I believe, when my addiction took off, what happened. A friend of mine, we was riding back and forth. I was stationed in New Jersey. He was living here and we were, you know, catch the bus. Me and him was in the same thing. And a guy came in there and told me he was going get rid of us, too, "Ns," you know. And he said, "I'll get rid of y'all." And then that was in '65, and Vietnam has just started. However, they didn't say about us staring, they were sending us over as advisory. And they said, "Imma get rid of y'all." So they send my friend over there and he came back in a body bag. And the sergeant came down there and say, "You next." And then about a couple months later I got orders, TDY [Temporary Duty] orders. It was TDY to Japan. However, that's the route to Vietnam. I got there and I'm over there by myself. Matter of fact, I turned 21 over there. However, the blessing is from playing ball. The coach over there, the colonel, saw me play in the states. And I was there TDY, he say, "Well, Casey, come on out." I say, "Well, I'm just here for three months." He said, "Come on out here." So I went on the team and we went 33 and 0, we [laughs] played exhibition against the Japanese Olympics team, spiked them too, you know. I was supposed to be there for three months. I stayed there the whole basketball season. When I came back, okay, I was coming back to the World Games. And I came back here and I was here and by that time I'm drinking alcohol, you know, I'm drinking, and I didn't know it because I'm playing ball every day. And I'm not making good decisions. So I came here and my life just took a spiral, you know? And, after a while, I found out that I was on the streets and doing different things. But the blessing was that I got opportunity. I got married, you know, and I had two wonderful children. Then I had two other children, too. They not twins or nothin, but they in the same thing. And I have a great relationship with all of them. I mean a great relationship with them. I don't understand this [laughs], you know, I certainly don't understand. And they've done well. None of em went down the road I went down. And I got clean. As I said, I got to a point where in life that, not only I couldn't do anything for people, I became an IV [intravenous] drug user. I had hepatitis C. I had no more veins. When I went to the doctor, for things, they had to put a thing. And Imma tell you something else: they don't come back, you know. So I still have trouble going to the doctor now. What happened, though, because of the service I had opportunity. They had this treatment program. And it was a program where it was a three to six month program; they kept me there for seven. However, when I came out, before I was off the grounds, I was using again. And that was the first time, though, that I ever had that long a time without using. So I had the opportunity to compare. When I started using again all the guilt and shame came back. And I had the opportunity to start doing things and Narcotics Anonymous and stuff like that, and I felt that I was called to work in the field to become a therapist. So I went back to school. I got my Master's in human services. And I started working in the field. I started working in the government while I was going to school, and I asked my previous wife, I didn't know she was previous then, you know? I say, "Are we still married because I had to do security-." She said, "Oh I divorced you in '74." [laughs] That kind of stuff and I came here, you know, I got married again, well, after I got clean for about 5, 6 years, I got married again. Got the house, the car, the dogs. Got divorced, she got the house, the car, the dog [laughs]. However, I learned stuff along each way. And then I started working on myself. And I look at it, the best thing that happened to me was my addiction. Because nothing else come down the pipe that's been worse than that. And I got married again in '94. And, I mean, that's the best thing that ever happened to me,

really. I mean, it's the best thing that ever happened to me. And we get along, you know, we love. We dated first. And we got married, man, and went to Paris for a honeymoon. I hadn't been overseas since the service, you know? And what happened after that, I worked in the field, and I worked in the field of addiction. I was a pretty good therapist. Most people around here, I've helped somebody in their family. And especially in Maryland and D.C. I see people, they say, "Thank you" you know, "I don't even know how to thank you" because I've never seen anyone who I've helped. I've never seen anyone come in the room, come into my office or anything that was worse than me. My best friend who was in treatment with me, he said he'd never seen anybody come into treatment as bad as I was before or after. So I was weighing about 130 pounds when I went in there, shaking, talking in prayer. All I said three, four words, I started laughing, thinking you knew the rest of it, you know? And I was a babbling idiot. So I came and then I started working on myself, I started doing stuff and it flipped when I started helping other people. That was the key. That was the key. I found out it wasn't about me, you know? And I helped other people. And then I met my wife. We got married. I mean, we was just making it, I mean, because of my addiction and my credit was so bad, that some places, they didn't even accept cash [laughs], you know? And so, I built a credit up, and we got married. We was married for about a year. She told me, she say, "You know, I feel called to the ministry." And we were just making it on both paychecks. And I knew about faith then, because, see, I'd been clean for about 13 years and I knew what God was. I know it wasn't about me keeping me clean. You know, I know God, I know it was the faith, you know, faith is something. Faith and optimism is sort of passing. However, hope springs eternal. I have hope, you know, and she came and she said, "Well, I want to go to seminary, but I think I'll go part-time." Because she was a school teacher then. So I said, "I don't think God calls you part-time." You know, I say, "What we'll do, you'll go full time." I say, "And the worst that could happen, we could lose the cars we got and the house we got." And I'd say, "Imma tell you something. I had another house and I had a car. This house I'm in now, it's much better than there." I said, "If we lose this one, we gonna be living in the retirement home." [laughs] So that's what I told her, you know, and we went through it and we, you know, went through different times, but however, but we always ate, we always got the mortgage paid. People were coming in to help us. They say, "How are you doing?" I said, "Oh no." They leave and we look out on the thing, person left a check for a mortgage. So we went through that and then after, about maybe ten years, she got a call. She got her church, you know, the pastor's church. Then I got called to the ministry. And people, you know, as I found out it's very important. Some things you don't share with everybody because I was sharing with people. I say, "You know, I felt called to go to ministry" because I was real good as a therapist. I felt that I could be real great. Sometimes being good at something can keep me from being great at something else. So I said, "I felt called, I do. I felt called to the ministry because that's where I'd help people." So what I did, I went to the seminary and I asked the people. The people say, "Man, what you gonna go to the seminary?!" They say, "You'll be 65 when you get out." And I tell him, I say, "Well, I plan on being 65 anyway, so I just will get a degree with it." So I got my Masters of Divinity. And I was in divinity school in 2009 in October, my mother passed. During that time my mother had Alzheimer's, it was serious for about 10, 11 years. So my mother really was my mother-in-law, you know? And two weeks later, my mother-in-law passed. My last year of seminary, my last months of seminary, trying to matriculate, do all that. I go in there crying and they took me, you know, [and said,] "What happened?" However, in 2010, I graduated. I got ordained to preach the gospel and I became associate pastor at the church. And I got ordained on my birthday, so I always remember that. And then the next year, 2011, I was diagnosed with liver cancer. And I wouldn't have had liver cancer if I hadn't had hepatitis C for sharing drugs and all that. I had to have an operation for the liver cancer. And the blessing was, it was segregated and isolated, so they didn't have to do any chemo or radiation. They went in and got it. The next year, it's because I had pretty good insurance because I'm

working now. They gave me the pills to get rid of the, hepatitis C. Matter of fact, they gave it to me twice and people wasn't able to get it because it cost about \$100,000 or so. But they gave it to me. They gave it to me and they say, "It's clear, but we'll give it to you again." I'm talking about God working in my life now. And then 2013, because they checkin on me all the time, they discovered I had stomach cancer. Well, before I went to the stomach cancer doctor, I took a Mediterranean cruise [laughs]. I came back now with the stomach cancer. And we went through that, we went through that, and then 2020, I had, well, it's 2021 prostate cancer. Went through that. 2022 liver cancer came back, but by that time they had a new cyro abrasion [cyroablation] or something. They could put a needle in there and then freeze it and stuff. And now I'm at now, you know, I'm at now, and marvelous things have happened, though I go on. And I use everything that comes down my path. I use that, I let people know, "Hey cancer ain't no death sentence. Its the attitude you take in it." Hey, I always have a attitude that I will do this, you know what I mean? [laughing] And I have been blessed. I have fantastic role models in my family. And I say my family, I call Seminary my family. You know, Imma back up a little bit. In 1957, all of us were in one house, my aunts and all of us. But my aunt moved out, moved into government-subsidized housing, in those days they called them "the projects" [laughs]. And I went and stayed with her for 3 years. Soon as I went to Parker-Gray I would stay with her for 3 years. And I realized something about where I lived at in Seminary. Where I lived at Seminary, I ain't never had a key. I ain't never had a house key! [laughs] Nobody's door locked in the Seminary [laughs]. I never had a house key. And when I moved to my aunt in the projects, the first thing she did was give me some keys. She said, "Make sure you lock it, but if you don't lock it, make sure you lock this top one. That's the deadbolt." And then she told me, "Before it gets dark, bring the clothes in off the line." She said, "Matter of fact, bring the line in, too." So I mean, that's how the rules changed in the inner city. But I moved into the inner city and I got with them, you know, I got with the fast movers. However, I always played basketball. I think that's [mic feedback drowns out next few words]. I played basketball until my 60s. I mean, I'm still playing. Hey, hey, listen and still getting chose. [group laughs] Hey, you know what I mean? Hey, I think when I started playing, I was getting chose 3rd. [laughs] And even we remember things like that [laughs]. I still get chose. [00:27:53][1506.0]

**Michael Johnson:** [00:27:53] Alright [00:27:53][0.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [00:28:03] Well, this is a a great opportunity and I appreciate it, especially the company in which I'm with, especially my Seminary lifelong friend, Clyde Casey. My name is Jimmy Lewis. My official name is James Lewis the 3rd. And I, like Clyde, was born in Alexandria Hospital. December 15th, 1946. So I'm 77 years of age as of this speaking, from a wonderful family of extended members and friends that was really nurtured by that place in which I grew up, which was Seminary. And I tell the story about whenever I travel and someone asks me where I'm from, I know where I'm from. Some people say, "Oh I'm from the DMV [District of Columbia Maryland Virginia]" now. Some people say they're from D.C. and never lived there. But I would always say that I'm from Seminary and then when asked further as to where that was, then I would tell them the story of how it's a part of Alexandria, Virginia. So, I've been blessed all my life to have wonderful people, starting with my family, around me. I'm a 3rd generation James Lewis, as I mentioned earlier, I'm the 3rd. My father was James Lewis, Junior, and my grandfather was James Lewis, Senior. Both of my parents were hardworking individuals. My mother is from Alexandria, as is my father. And her maiden name was Quander. So, Naomi, excuse me, wow [laughs]. Eunice Naomi Quander Lewis was my mother. The Quander family is very unique and historic. And we're about to have our 99th consecutive Quander family reunion. So as my mentor, Earl Lloyd, would always tell me, he said, "Jimmy, you're from good stock." And that was an understatement that I have grown to really learn and appreciate the older I

got. I'm the youngest of 5. I had 4 older sisters, only 2 of whom are alive now. Naomi was the oldest and Barbara was 2nd. Janice was 3rd, and Ruth was the baby girl. And each of us were within 2 or 4 years apart. So my parents really knew about how to plan a family. And one of the reasons was, even though they didn't go to college, my mother was an outstanding high school student at Parker-Gray [High School]. In fact, she was the first May Queen and my father, we all felt that if he had opportunities, that he could have been whatever he wanted to be. But we thought perhaps an accountant, because he was a very detailed, specific, and disciplined individual with his life and with his career. And so, growing up in Seminary was the best. Wouldn't have wanted it any other way. Again, we were part of an extended family. Some of our friends, there were actual family members, cousins and the like. And we felt safe and supported. Certainly around our church, actually 2 churches, because my mother and the Quander family, for the most part, were members of Alfred Street Baptist Church, of which my family is now a member. But because of the proximity and the orientation that our grandfather, James Lewis, Senior, started, by coming from Haymarket, Virginia, and working for the Virginia Theological Seminary for 27 years, he and a lot of other members of the Seminary community were members of Oakland Baptist Church, of which my father was a member. So we were between Alfred Street [Baptist Church] and Oakland [Baptist Church]. And, so we had a double dose of [laughs] everything, really, wrapped in love. All my sisters were outstanding students. 2 of them became teachers and 1 became a principal after her teaching career ended. And another one got her doctorate and was a college professor. So I had good role models. And we were taught by a variety of individuals. The area in which we lived in Seminary, 1607 Quaker Lane, was a property that my grandfather owned initially. So he and 2 of my uncles and their wives and families lived in that house. And then because my father was the oldest of 12, when he married, he built a house on that same territory, or property, excuse me. So we always knew where we were from, literally and figuratively and historically. And it really gave me great comfort. I didn't realize all these things when I was growing up because I just did what I was told. I tried to be the best little boy I could be. I told my wife, Karen, we've been married 50 years, and every once in a while she reminds someone that when she first met me, my mother said, "Now you know, Jimmy's spoiled." Well, it was love that spoiled me and helped me to grow as a young man. I got into athletics through the neighborhood games that we enjoyed at Seminary. And back then the recreation department had several sites where the teams would compete against each other. Lyles-Crouch, Parker, Madden, Charles Houston and our beloved Seminary court. And so we learned at an early age how to compete because the older friends in the community of Seminary, most notably my uncle Herman Lewis and Taff Henry, were role models for us. And I don't know if we knew what a role model was then, but we knew who they were and how they lived their lives. And every time we were on the court or the field playing a sport, those 2 guys were there. And so here we are, you know, young teenagers and they're in their 20s and early 30s, and all, and they're teaching us how to compete, but how to respect each other at the same time. We never had altercations with each other. We just learned that, you know, there's a good way and a right way of doing things. And so it helped reinforce what my parents had taught and, like I said, it couldn't have been a better area for my development. I really thought that at an early age, my best sport was football. And at age 12, I, in fact, made the varsity football team at Parker-Gray [High School] as an 8th grader. Parker-Gray [High School], the high school started from 8th grade, and at one point only went to the 11th grade. But I went out and made the team, and unfortunately, I blew my knee out, with an illegal block but I have given him [others laugh] grace now and forgiven him. And I won't even call his name now [others laugh]. We all have those challenges in life that sometimes put a new opportunity in front of us. And so basketball then became my singular focus. And it gave me the type of satisfaction, of accomplishment, and development through the sport that I was able to help the varsity team, my 9th, 10th, and 11th grades at Parker-Gray [High School]. I was a leading rebounder, leading scorer those

2 years and the team was always impactful. And if nothing else, I just felt like I was in another, wonderful, nurturing, environment because our coach was terrific in how he respected us, how he taught us, and as a result, you know, he got the best out of us. So our best year was my Junior year when we lost in the Virginia state championship game. And then the following year, my family moved all of 5 miles. My parents were empty nesters by that time. All my sisters were married and living in other parts of the world. But we moved the summer before my Senior year in high school to a development, started by one of my high school teachers, Jube Shiver. He was our history teacher. Parker-Gray [High School] was very industrious and like a lot of our teachers were because teachers were not compensated, and still aren't for that matter, to the extent that they should be or should have been then. So he helped develop Randall Estates, which was a formerly farm area, property. And we moved there and it was primarily other teachers and government workers and their families from the area as we were. So it wasn't like I moved from Alexandria to California. I moved all of 5 miles. But because of the proximity, I finished my Senior year at the closest high school, and that was Groveton High School. And, back then, because my birthday was, and is in December, a lot of the students, had mid-year graduations. So bottom line is I only had a half a year of eligibility because the Virginia state rules call for 8 quarters, 8 semesters, excuse me. And so it ended up that I played ten games for Groveton [High School]. But I was prepared because of what I had experienced at Parker-Gray. We benefited greatly by where we were, being able to play against other Black high schools, like Hoffman-Boston [Middle School] in Arlington or Luther Jackson [Middle School] in Merrifield or Jennie Dean in Manassas, or schools in Richmond or Fredericksburg, but going across the bridge to play against Spingarn [High School] and Dunbar [High School] and Coolidge [High School] and those inner-high teams, plus a couple of teams from Maryland, Fairmont Heights [High School] and [Frederick] Douglass [High School] and Pomonkey High School. We really had to compete against, very often, the best of the best, not only team-wise, but individual-wise. 2 years before I graduated in 1964, we had 2 really interesting games against Spingarn [High School] and their high school All-American and now NBA and Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame player, Dave Bing. They were so good. They just really dominated us. But as we continued to grow as a program, and when I say grow, obviously you're working within, you know, the structures of the guys that you play with. And we were talented players. But the legacy of Parker-Gray began, you know, long before our time there. In fact, the teams, the boys' basketball teams in 1955, '56, and '57 dominated the state, in fact, the area, by winning 3 straight state championships and also being ranked number 1 in the Washington Post. So we knew again that we were from good stock [all laugh], that we were being taught and in the midst of some really outstanding players. They had a 6'6" teammate named Charles Lightfoot, who really helped me and I didn't know it at the time because his skills were not that strong, but he was big and strong and he could jump, so I became a better rebounder because I had to compete against him in high schools, excuse me, in practice. And I will say that from an academic standpoint, I felt very prepared. Groveton [High School] was integrated a few years before I went there, primarily by Rayfield Barber, who was a ninth grader, was friends to this year, to this day. And we graduated the same year, in '64. So, that was a time of change and turmoil. But also opportunity. And I think a lot of us took advantage of that. So my preparation academically, from how I was raised and how I was taught, the nurturing and expectations that were held by the teachers, administrators and coaches, for all of us, not just me, gave me a sense of confidence. And it translated basketball-wise as well, because, as I mentioned, we had really played against tremendous competition, much stronger competition than what I faced when I played ten games at Groveton [High School]. So that's kind of a part of my conversation. You know, I'm 77, so I don't want to have [laughs] the entirety of our time talking right now because I know we're going to have some other questions and anecdotes from other phases of my life. [00:43:01][897.4]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:43:03] And just so it's on record, my name is Francesco De Salvatore and I'm interviewing and we're at Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4653 Taney Ave, Alexandria, Virginia. And today is July 30th, 2024. And Mike Johnson is also here listening and asking some questions. So great! Thanks for kicking us off both of you. So let's maybe go around and also let's start getting into some of your earliest memories about Seminary. What are some of your first memories that come to mind when you think about where you grew up in Seminary? [00:43:43][39.9]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:43:45] Oh, my first memories is outhouses. We had a outhouse. We had a, well, you know, a well? [00:43:58][13.1]

**Michael Johnson:** [00:43:59] Can you describe outhouse? Some of the younger folks that are coming up now don't know what it is. [00:44:04][4.1]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:44:04] Outside bathroom, as you would say, however, they didn't flush 'em [laughs]. Matter of fact Mr. Bass used to come around in his honey wagon. He'd come around and pick it up [laughs]. However, and then, thing was I remember when we put the stuff inside the house and got inside plumbing. We had inside plumbing. We put the bathroom, the only room we had was a pantry so it was close to the kitchen [laughs]. They had a bathroom there. And we used to have a furnace. Our fuel was coal and wood. It had radiators that you had to drain. And I remember every one of 'em, every one without pass, we'd have to get the plumber, get one to close it, to get the pipes that would burst. Because city plumbing, when they put the plumbing inside, it wasn't under ground. It was upside [laughs]. So every summer the pipes burst. Every one of the pipes burst. I think it used to set up and pop up and wait for us, [laughs] you know? And, the other things I remember how it wasn't just basketball, we could invent things. I mean, like, [all laugh] I remember I made a scooter, you know, with a 2X4. When you knew somebody lose their roller skates we get 1 wheel [laughs], I mean the things we had. I remember when I was about 6 years old, and my parents, they didn't have, you know, they didn't have extra money. And it was a big deal, Christmas, my mother and father bought me a bicycle. You know how each family, because Gerald had a bicycle. Claude had a bicycle. And so one of my friends, he was sick. He was Phil Sherrill's son. He was sick. So we rode our bicycles over there to visit him. And what happened was, this property was on a hill like that and we parked back there. And I came outside. My bike had fell and Phil's father, Mr. Phil, ran over my bike with his dump truck, and all the other kids rode away. And I dragged my bike to home [laughs]. See my mother didn't take no joke. I know my mother was gon' straighten this out. So I wanted in there and I told her and I said, "Mom." She said, "Boy, what happened to that bike?! You know all the money I spent! What happened to that bike?!" I said, "Well, Mr. Phil ran over it with his truck." She said, "I'll put it in the trash." Cuz Mr. Phil's just shot up his family's house [laughs]. Couple of my uncles died down there at Phil's place, you know, was killed down at his place. So I ain't heard nothing else about that bike anymore. [all laugh] But the most thing that I remember was the camaraderie. Hey, no one was left, you know, no one was left out. No one was left out. Even if you didn't have any skills, you could still play, you know? You get talked about, how do you still play? You know, you can still play. That's the family. And I'm gonna tell you something else would remind me of Seminary. The demographics, I think most of all the the Blacks were service workers and all the whites was middle class, upper middle class. So we grew up playing with whites on the basketball court, playing with them. And when it was time to go to school, bused away. And I would tell you how we pick up things like I remember I seen a guy who was all-American, white, all-American. I played against him in the service. He was 5, 6 year older than me. However, back in that day, the white kids were going to basketball camps then. They come back and they tell you, "Hold, pick & roll with it," Hey, next time they think it was mine [laughs].

Cuz we pick it up like that, we passed on. And we had camaraderies then. However sometimes I forget that there was some European-Americans was doing worse than us. The Chinquapin and not only we didn't have nothing to do with them, the other whites didn't have nothing to do with them [laughs]. Do you remember Chinquapin, Jimmy? [00:49:21][317.1]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [00:49:23] Oh yeah, absolutely, yeah. [00:49:23][0.6]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:49:25] Can you describe what Chinquapin was? [00:49:29][3.2]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:49:29] You know, of course it was segregated. Chinquapin was government subsidized housing for European-Americans. And, you know, it must have been real bad if it was that close to us. [all laugh] And the thing was something else, too. They were looking up at us [laughing]. We must have been doing something there, that's what it was. [00:49:53][24.2]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [00:49:56] I just had a quick thought about how, you know, life's experiences, very often repeat themselves. So, what Clyde just mentioned about demographics, and I certainly, I speak for myself. I didn't think in the terms of, you know, we live in, some people call Mudtown, some people call the country, you know, we just knew, of which we were a part of a community. But the community extended itself because of where we had to go to school and where we went to church. As always, the Black church and Black schools, even now with HBCUs [Historically Black Colleges and Universities], you know, the jewels of our communities. And thank God that they're continuing to grow and grow and benefit. So I went to Lyles-Crouch Elementary School. Prior to that opening, my sisters went to, 2 of them anyway, a little 1 room school in Seminary. Learned later, it was one of the educational facilities built by, I know the name, but I'm 77. It was a entrepreneur that built Black schools around the country. [00:51:20][84.0]

**Michael Johnson:** [00:51:20] [Andrew] Carnegie? [00:51:20][0.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [00:51:22] No, not [Andrew] Carnegie. But the point is- [00:51:25][3.2]

**Michael Johnson:** [00:51:26] [Julius] Rosenwald? [00:51:26][0.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [00:51:26] [Julius] Rosenwald. There you go, yep, [Julius] Rosenwald. And my sisters again, like I did, you know, Miss Thomas was our first grade teacher. They remember Miss Ross as their teacher. And so the roles that these adults who had gone through similar situations from wherever they came, whether it was the DMV and whatever college they went to, probably a H.B.C.U. close by or somewhere in the state of Virginia. So they knew that they really had a responsibility and they took it seriously in terms of preparing and pouring into us, not only Xs and Os, Xs and Os ha! [all laugh] Not only reading and writing but how we should conduct ourselves. And the great conduit, Earl Lloyd again, I mentioned him once, I think, but anyway, Earl Lloyd was one of our heroes and still remains, one of the great individuals ever to come out of this region in the country. And I would submit the world because of the impact he had on the N.B.A. And we're watching the Olympics now with all these great players from around the world. So he's an alum of Parker-Gray High School and helped so many of us. But my point about having gone through certain situations and you learn from every experience, hopefully, to better yourself. And so fast forward from the time that I grew up in segregated Alexandria, you know, we knew where we could go, where we couldn't go and that kind of thing. And it wasn't like, I don't ever remember being a person that felt deprived. We had enough

Black businesses, and I mentioned the schools and the church and the activities from a cultural standpoint that, hey, what could be better? It wasn't like I needed to go to Groveton High School to validate myself. You know, it was just part of the transition of my life. And so fast forward, when we lived in New Orleans, Louisiana, where our 2 children, who are now 48 and 45 years of age were born. Most people know that New Orleans is a really small city. It's not, you know, expansive. It's a landlocked city with the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain. And so the years and years and years of segregation in New Orleans, you know, I experienced it in in the 1970s when I was there coaching at Tulane University. But it just reminded me how we had to live in close proximity to Europeans. And we really didn't, I don't think, think or see, for that matter, too many other cultures growing up in Alexandria, you know. I'm sure there were Asians that were there, but I didn't know any, okay? But one of my best friends was Italian. No, that's a joke. Okay, so [all laugh] But in New Orleans, they have what they call shotgun houses, where, again, the rule was if you get in trouble, you shot through the front door and it went through the back door because it was that narrow in its dimensions. But the Black population, this is not the entirety of New Orleans, but the greater part of it. Because there was no land, they were forced to live with whites. So where the whites may have lived on a certain street, where the streetcar goes up in big mansions where, you know, Archie Manning and his family or Peyton [Manning] and those guys all experienced that kind of growth in their lives. They also had to because of if they wanted to leave the house, they were going to experience a Black culture right next door, okay? Or right through the alleyway. So I just, I thought about that how in our country is, it's what it is, I love it, but when you see the greater world in which we live, there's some real similarities. And we saw that firsthand in Seminary in the 50s and 60s. And then as we continue to grow our horizons and experiences, things have gotten better. They've changed, we're going to have a Black female president in just a short time here. [00:55:54][267.8]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:55:56] Go on now! [00:55:56][0.4]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [00:55:56] "Kama, La" my wife bought this T-shirt yesterday, "Kama,La." L-A it's great. "Kama-La," so, okay. [00:56:07][10.7]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:56:08] You know, I want to mention something else, too. During that time, I always had a hustle working. When I was small, we'd have to cut grass, I'd hustle bottles. When I was about 14, I worked, it was over, you know where the co-op and all that? I got a job washing dishes. Okay? So when I washed the dishes, I had to bus the tables, too. I went out to bus the tables. You know, there was money on the table, so I took the money. And I came back, and the guy came back and said, "Hey, you took the money?" [Jimmy laughs] I said, "Yeah, I bus the tables." And he said, "No, that's Sally's money. That's Sally's tip." I said, "Whatchu talkin about?" I said, "I bus the tables." [laughs] He said, "No, that's tip." And I say, "Well, I'm finished here." However, what the deal was, I didn't know about tips because I never went out to eat. [00:57:15][67.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [00:57:15] Right. [00:57:15][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:57:16] Yeah. Did you remember all going out to a restaurant or something like that? [00:57:21][4.7]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [00:57:21] No. [00:57:21][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:57:21] I didn't know, I didn't know that. I realized I didn't know about tips. [00:57:25][3.5]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [00:57:25] Right. [00:57:25][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:57:26] So I'm just saying that's something I remember now. [00:57:30][3.4]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [00:57:30] Yeah. Yeah. [00:57:31][0.4]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:57:32] I remember quitting too. [all laugh] [00:57:32][0.5]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:57:37] Could you guys describe your childhood homes in Seminary? What did they look like? [00:57:45][7.6]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:57:48] We had a large house. Matter of fact, it was 1600 West Braddock Road, right across the street from Blessed Sacrament. [00:57:56][8.5]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [00:57:59] Blessed Sacrament. [00:58:00][0.1]

**Clyde Casey:** [00:58:00] High School and Church. And my father worked there. That was near the end of his last jobs that he worked there. First, it was a part-time, what with the other ones. However it became a full-time. He worked there and when I was small, I had 3 families in my house. My Aunt Helen and Beau and Joe. Aunt Ada, Maydell and my cousin, who's in hospice right now, Marcy. And then it was my family. When I was there, it was 3 or 4, by the time Beau left it was just 3. Then Pam came and then, Beverly, you know, it was 7 of us. You know, after I guess they found out what was working. [all laugh] After not doing the math. [laughs] However, I remember growing up, and it was a thing like this: my father, well, all my cousins called my father "Dad" because he was the dad then. You know? And they were moving out, it ended up just my immediate family there. And then something else had happened. I went in the service in '62. My parents wanted to sell the house and move. And they did, moved to the other side. However, my father, he, uh, he liked the taste of alcohol and the priest who he worked for, they would drink together. And he got my father, who I told you, he was illiterate. He was functionally illiterate. He got my father to sign the paper. Says he knew that they couldn't sell a house commercial. They had to sell it residential. And that took a lot of money because we had fantastic property. We had a lot of land there. We had a cherry tree up, walnut tree up. And we had property right there because I knew I had to cut the grass on time [laughs]. And so when I went in the service '62 and so we had to sell it. We lost a lot of money selling that. I mean, that we couldn't sell it like that. So they sold it though. And we moved into town because they moved into brick. Because most of the houses out there were frame. We had frame. They moved on up, you know? And the thing when I found out, though, my family when they moved to the South side in Old Town, they were the first or second family to move down there. And by the time I got out of the service, it was all Black then, you know? So, I'm just saying it was a segregated town. When I came out of the service, I was trying to get apartments and stuff. I couldn't find an apartment. I had to move to D.C. You know, because, you look at the paper, say, "Okay, I'm gonna go over here and look at this." I go over there. I didn't know. I wasn't politically aware-. [01:01:27][207.3]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:01:28] Right. [01:01:28][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:01:28] You know, at that time, you know? So I said, "I'm gonna go on over here to the Arland. You know where the Arland is in D.C., southeast [laughs]. I got over there. I'm just saying that that's how it was here. [01:01:41][12.8]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:01:45] Yeah. Again, we have so many similarities, you know? Because it's who we are and where we were. Clyde and his family and the majority of the Black families in Seminary who were about 2 blocks from where we lived. And we had, again, acreage-wise, it may have been 2 acres, let's just say 2 acres because, again, my grandfather's house was there. Our good friend Butch Terrell, at one of the funerals, he had all the guys. Ronnie Ross passed, it was his funeral, a Seminary guy. Butch, being the great communicator that he is- [01:02:27][42.4]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:02:28] Historian. [01:02:28][0.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:02:28] Historian, too. He said, "I see we have a lot of guys, all the guys from Seminary stand up." And about 8 of us stood up. All right? So, I mean, we're all from this small pocket, and within that pocket, our house here. Because Butch said, "Yeah, Jimmy's here because he used to live through the fence. We still look at his house through the fence." [all laugh] And I had never heard that expressed that way. So we had a fence in front of our property where my grandfather's house was there, a wooden house, 2 story house. Stories about the great Joe Louis training running down a dirt road. You know, that was then called, Seminary Road. It wasn't Quaker Lane when we lived there. We lived in a 1 level house. I remember when we got bricks for the front of the house and my 4 sisters all slept in the same room and my parents had a bedroom. And then when the little boy came along, they added on to the house with a bedroom for me. We had the outhouse, as Clyde mentioned earlier, and we had a garage and a well, and we had chicken coops, and we had a huge cherry tree, apple tree, pear trees and a garden that was extensive. And my uncles, Uncle Herman and Harvey, taught me how to play horseshoes there, you know. So, yeah, those experiences, they bring joy to my mind by growing up there. So it was a lot of similarities. And we depended on each other because we knew we had to without even anyone telling us. [01:04:07][99.1]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:04:07] You already mentioned some specific individuals, but you when you think of Seminary growing up there, who are some individuals that really come to mind? Like, who are some of the people that really come to mind for you? Either friends or adults, like who- [01:04:25][17.4]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:04:28] Did you say dogs? [01:04:28][0.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:04:29] Adults. [01:04:29][0.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:04:31] Or adults. [01:04:31][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:04:31] Or dogs! [all laugh]. [01:04:31][0.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:04:34] Okay, I'm sorry. [01:04:34][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:04:34] You know, I had a dog [01:04:36][1.6]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:04:36] Okay [laughing]. [01:04:36][0.1]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:04:37] Her name was Silver. My cousin Thomas, he came out of the service. He went into service. My cousin Thomas, he was in the house, too, but he left. He went in the service. He was older. And he went into the Air Force. He went into the Navy at 14 years old. He was so talented. He drew up a birth certificate. [Jimmy laughs] Seriously, he did the birth certificate, went in, came out and he worked at Campbell's. It was Campbell's Auto Repair T.V. repair place right there Mason Riles is, he came and got a job there. And he got a dog, Silver. And it was a German shepherd. Our folks would just put us out as kids and put us out on the porch because we all had porches. Put us down on the porch and nobody come [laughing] 'cuz Silver would protect us. What happened, they used to have a carnival right across the street from my house at Blessed Sacrament. [01:05:46][68.7]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:05:46] Yep. [01:05:46][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:05:48] I'm going over there and Silver was following me and protecting me, you know? And a little white girl put an ice cream out there for him to lick and he nicked her hand. [01:06:00][11.5]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:06:01] Yeah. [01:06:01][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:06:02] The next day, the police came and got Silver. [01:06:04][2.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:06:06] Yeah. [01:06:06][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:06:06] They came and got Silver. I don't know if they put him on the force or killed him, but I know we didn't see him anymore. [01:06:14][7.9]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:06:14] Right. [01:06:14][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:06:15] I remember that. I mean, I never wanted another dog. [01:06:21][6.5]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:06:23] Yeah, yeah. [01:06:23][0.1]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:06:23] Silver. [01:06:23][0.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:06:26] Yeah, we never had a dog [all laugh] because we knew what happened to Silver. [all laugh] Yeah. You know, again, you know, our memories. You know, our experiences, you know, Clyde says something and it triggers a memory. We looked forward, didn't we Clyde, to those fairs. [01:06:42][16.8]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:06:43] Yeah. [01:06:43][0.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:06:43] You know, with the Ferris wheel and the whole nine yards. And when you think about it again, yeah, I'm going to keep mentioning Earl Lloyd because he is worthy of being mentioned more than twice. So, Earl Lloyd used to tell me about some of his experiences, playing in the N.B.A. And the most racist town that he played in during that time was Saint Louis, [Missouri], where he couldn't stay in the hotel where the rest of the team stayed, blah, blah, blah. So he said, "But, you know, Jimmy," he said, "That didn't bother me because I was raised in Alexandria, Virginia, where the most severe racists you'd ever were to meet were," you know? I'm talking about a man who

graduated in 1946 from Parker-Gray. And now he's an icon. But, I reflect back again about however it happened, it was an opportunity that the Blessed Sacrament School and Church provided for the community to have a carnival right there on their grounds. And we were there, you know, we didn't have to do anything except show up and enjoy ourselves and not eat ice cream because we might get, you know. [all laugh] But again fast forward how, and we know again that the various religions of this world, and I'm not getting political nor into any particular religion or none, but, I had the good fortune of working at 2 Catholic universities during my coaching career at Fordham University and at Tulane University. And the Jesuits in particular were the learned priests. So I learned, you know, Fordham was a Jesuit university. And I don't even know what kind of denomination, Catholic-wise, that Blessed Sacrament was. But I know that we not only went to those carnivals and looked forward to them, but we played on their playground. We learned how to play football, baseball, and then subsequently, I don't think they owned the basketball courts. Now, I know they didn't, that was probably on the City. But right next to the school was the Mecca where we played basketball, where we would go to, and again, this is a source of pride, it's true. You know, sometimes things can be embellished, but we would seek out the best players and the best opportunity to play on certain courts where John Thompson or Dave Bing or whomever in D.C. was playing so that we could grow and learn from them. Well, every once in a while, guys heard that there was some pretty good players at Seminary. Not in Alexandria per se, but in Seminary. And to this day, I remember when John Austin, who was an All-American at Boston College, came and he said, "Hey, I heard y'all got some good players, y'all wanna play?" And we smoked them. [Clyde Casey laughs] And he went on back home, you know? Willie Jones, another, won a national championship with U.D.C. [University of the District of Columbia] and was a college All-American at American University, scored 54 points in a N.C.A.A. tournament game, was a high school All-American at Dunbar [High School]. And he came to the courts at Center Theater. Now, I think Willie [Jones], had seen my sister Janice somewhere, and I think he really came to get to know me to think he could get to my sister Janice. [Clyde laughs] But Janice didn't suffer any fools. So that didn't work [all laugh]. [01:10:29][225.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:10:36] I'm curious. What are your memories? I mean, you guys moved earlier than when T.C. [Thomas Chambliss] Williams was built. [01:10:46][10.7]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:10:47] Right. [01:10:47][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:10:47] But what are your memories of that era, right? When T.C. Williams is being built and families are moving out or having to change homes? What are your memories of that? [01:10:58][11.1]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:10:58] I was in the service. [01:10:59][0.5]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:11:00] And I was gone, too. [01:11:01][0.7]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:11:03] When I came back to the area, I didn't come out to Seminary. My folks had moved out of there, then I was transitioning mostly. I was on the basketball courts over here at Alexandria. I'd go out to play ball out in Seminary because it was out there by Blessed Sacrament. [01:11:21][18.4]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:11:21] Right. [01:11:21][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:11:21] I think that, over by the theater, I think that Blessed Sacrament owned those courts, too. [01:11:26][5.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:11:26] They may have. [01:11:27][1.2]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:11:28] You know, they built those courts over there because we used to make so much noise they couldn't have church [all laugh]. [01:11:34][5.8]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:11:36] But they let us play. [01:11:36][0.6]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:11:37] We moved the cars. We'd wait for the cars to move their parking lot, yeah. [01:11:41][4.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:11:43] Do you guys remember the Carver School? [01:11:45][2.8]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:11:46] Carver? [01:11:46][0.0]

**Michael Johnson:** [01:11:48] The [Julius] Rosenwald school that was set right there with T.C. - [01:11:50][1.6]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:11:51] Oh, they're talking about your one-room school. [01:11:53][2.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:11:54] Yeah. [01:11:54][0.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:11:54] Was it called Carver? I never heard that. [01:11:56][1.9]

**Michael Johnson:** [01:11:56] I think it was called Carver. [01:11:57][1.2]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:11:58] It was up on the hill with the baseball court. [01:11:58][0.7]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:11:59] Yeah. Oh, yeah. [01:12:00][1.3]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:12:01] By the time we came along that was gone. [01:12:03][1.8]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:12:03] Oh, yeah. No, I said my 2 older sisters went there. Maybe one of your older siblings. [01:12:07][4.1]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:12:08] Silas Pride went there. I went to Lyles-Crouch. [01:12:12][4.1]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:12:12] Yeah, right. [01:12:12][0.4]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:12:13] And my brother went to Lyles-Crouch. [01:12:14][1.3]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:12:15] Yeah, I did too. Yeah. That school, the structure became a rec center when we were coming through. Yeah, because, you know, proximity-wise again, well, it didn't matter, you know? We didn't have any kinds of influence or even thoughts about, you know, "Let's go to Charles

Houston [Recreation Center] instead of-". No, we went where we were told we were going to go. It worked out, you know? But, what was your question [laughs] about? [01:12:43][28.6]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:12:44] I guess it was about the schools. [01:12:44][0.1]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:12:44] Oh, that school? Oh, okay. Okay. Yeah. [01:12:46][1.5]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:12:46] Yeah. [01:12:46][0.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:12:46] All right, now I will say this because again, I'm sure Clyde probably, but I don't want to assume anything. Some of my relatives- [01:12:52][5.6]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:12:56] Lost their homes. [01:12:57][0.5]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:12:57] Lost their homes. Yeah, exactly. Yeah. Herman, I mentioned earlier. And the issues subsequently, i.e. the lights on the field and all, our son Chris was on school board for 2 terms. And people knew he was our son, you know, "Jimmy's son" or "Feet", whatever my nickname was, you know, from Seminary. But he had a responsibility and he didn't make the decisions. He was a member of the school board. But my point is, and I'm not going to get into all of what was said because I wasn't there, but the issue of the lights at the field, which now was like Friday Night Lights, you know, I coached there for a year just with the blue turf and everything. It's a beautiful setting for high school activity, with the Parker-Gray Stadium, standing strong. So, Parker-Gray, we closed in '65. And when all the changes began with the building of the school, T.C. Williams, a lot of people were displaced. But again, I was out working in Detroit, [Michigan] and other places, and so I didn't know directly about what kind of impact it had other than talking to people. [01:14:09][71.8]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:14:09] There's something else I wanted to bring up with T.C. Williams. I mean, with Parker-Gray and G.W., where they built the T.C. Williams for the Alexandria school, they changed G.W. into a middle school. Parker-Gray was such a bad shape that, that was out. They tore it down. Couldn't make nothing out of it. It wasn't worth turning into a junior high school or middle school. They say, "Let's get rid of this." And so that's the kind of- [01:14:46][36.2]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:14:52] Experiences that we dealt with and that our teachers and principals. And the structure, again, that was a new school in 1951, when Parker-Gray that we went to, so it's '65, 14 years later, you know, it's gone now. There's a historical marker there and we all celebrate, you know, the memories and the things on the, you know, with the alumni association and whatever. But we can't go without again, mentioning, did I mention Earl Lloyd? [Clyde Casey laughs] So, when Earl Lloyd came back to have the gym floor at T.C. Williams High School named after him, I was fortunate to be the girls coach at T.C. that year. And so he really had some trepidation about coming back because the school name, T.C. Williams was obviously after the segregationist superintendent who, you know, we have stories and well-documented, the whole nine yards, with, you know, the Huntley family and all. But he [Earl Lloyd] did because he knew there was a greater good out of having that. And now look at how many people know who he is. You know, young guys and girls that go through there and read about him. But yeah, time changes and sometimes, you know, the aches are still there, but we have to not look at it through our lenses of 70-year old guys. Never forget. But we have to participate in this community. I know when my daughter was looking at U.V.A [University of Virginia], where she eventually went, I didn't want to tell her that that was the worst place that I had

to experience as a basketball coach at Duke University in the A.C.C. [Atlantic Coast Conference] was in Charlottesville, [Virginia] from a racial standpoint and being the best player in the state of Virginia, I couldn't go there. Now, not that I would have wanted to go because number 1, it wasn't coed. So I wasn't interested in going to an all-boys school as U.V.A. was. But she loved it. And I would never, where I remember those situations, I would never tell her that, "Now you can't go there because they treated your daddy like a dog," you know? [01:16:50][118.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:16:50] And something else. You know how they say you make lemonade out of lemons? We had some of the fantastic teachers who were overqualified. They were overqualified because they couldn't get work in European-American schools, like, Arthur Belkin. [01:17:15][24.7]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:17:16] Oh, yeah. [01:17:16][0.2]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:17:16] Bebo. You know, he left there and became the director at- [01:17:20][4.3]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:17:22] Howard University. [01:17:22][0.2]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:17:23] Yeah, Howard University. [01:17:23][0.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:17:25] Music Department. [01:17:25][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:17:25] And the other teachers we had, I mean, we had over-credentials. I mean, Master's and Doctorate's degrees teaching in the high schools and stuff like it. [01:17:37][12.2]

**Michael Johnson:** [01:17:37] Was Mr. Howard still teaching there? [01:17:42][4.9]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:17:42] And as he was talking about a attorney- [01:17:43][1.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:17:45] Nolan Dawkins. [01:17:46][0.4]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:17:46] No, the attorney who was a real estate agent that you all put out there. [01:17:50][3.1]

**Michael Johnson:** [01:17:50] Trapp? [01:17:50][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:17:52] Yeah, it was Trapp. And Carlton Funn and all. I mean, Carlton, he was a fantastic teacher. [01:18:04][12.9]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:18:05] He was. 7th grade, Lyles-Crouch. [01:18:08][3.3]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:18:09] Yeah [laughs] he got me my seventh [inaudible]. I mean, he just taught me about my history. You know, that was the only class I learned something about our history. Something else I remember, going to school, the heroes were [unintelligible], Joe Lee. Those the heroes that I'm talking about in the history and the stuff I'm learning. I didn't understand, I didn't know. I was trying to get to learn. I'm trying to learn how to learn. You know, I'm going there, I'm thinking, "Wow. Wow." But bless them what they did with me going to college and getting me tools to how to research.

How to do my own thinking. And I found out about all these people that were their heroes. [01:19:04][55.2]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:19:09] That's right. [01:19:09][0.1]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:19:09] And it's just a shame to miss that and [wait until] my masters to get that education. [01:19:17][8.5]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:19:20] And 2 quick points about role models. And again, Carlton Fund, the teacher that we both had as a seventh grade teacher. First of all, there weren't that many Black male elementary school teachers at Charles Houston nor Lyles-Crouch. So he was a tremendous role model for us. I remember there was a D.A.R., Daughters of the American Revolution, award, and my sister Janice, who became a college professor and a Ph.D., won that eight years before I won it. And he recommended me because I was in his class. Alright, yeah, that's one thing. But the other point is, what's my other point? I have another point right here, but it's in the recesses of my 77-year-old brain. Golly! Oh, I know what it was, yeah. It was back to Seminary, okay? So that's, you know, that's the macro of our experiences were the teachers, professors, or administrators and all that. But back to where we had role models, and I'm putting it just on, even though it was much broader than that, just on the basketball abilities of the guys from Seminary on the great Parker-Gray teams. All right? Clyde's older brother, okay, was one of the best players on those teams. George Casey, alright, could shoot the lights out. [Clyde laughs] I don't think he ever passed the ball [Clyde laughs]. And I think it became contagious within their family. But, Jasper Belk was another tremendous athlete. Football and basketball. I mean, built like you wouldn't believe. Never lifted weights nor drugs or whatever. But these were Seminary guys. That Bo Price who, along with William Thompson, created a 2-person press when they were playing for Parker-Gray. They had the number 1 team in the entire area, 3 straight state championships, 39 wins in a row. So that's who we saw when we were on the playgrounds in Seminary, but also on the Parker-Gray teams when we were, you know, youngsters just thinking that maybe one day we could be there. So it really, it's Black excellence. That's what it is and was and no one could tell us that we weren't what the people who were most important in our lives were telling us we were. So that's important. [01:21:48][147.8]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:21:48] Another thing. Taff taught me and my brother George, probably Joe too, how to be inclusive. Because he would bring the best of the white boys. He'd bring them to the courts. [01:22:08][19.7]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:22:08] Yeah. [01:22:08][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:22:09] We'd smoke em [laughs]. I'm serious. I remember this guy was an all-American and all this, all-state from Woodson [High School] or something. He could go on a basketball game, he don't even have a jump shot. He had a jump shot, but he didn't get it off. [laughs] You know, I'm just saying. So that would validate us. Oh man. We got this today. We might not got paper. They might not [have] written us up for stuff like that. [01:22:43][33.6]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:22:43] Yeah. [01:22:44][0.7]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:22:44] However. It's just known, Seminary was known. [01:22:48][4.4]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:22:50] And that's the 3rd time we mentioned Taff Henry, okay? And to this day Taff is 90 something, alright? And the last time I think we saw him was perhaps at Ronnie Russell's funeral, okay? And so he doesn't see that well right now, but that's fine. He knows our voices. And so his wife Joan said, "Oh, Taff, that's Jimmy." I'm touching him on the shoulder. I said, "Hey, Taff, how you doing?" And he said, "Jimmy, let's go get Clyde and Ronnie [Russell] over and let's go play over in D.C." [Clyde laughs} And he had the baddest 1957 Chevy that you ever want to see. But that's the kind of guy he was. He saw something in us. He really did. I mean, not that he didn't help the other guys, but he saw something in us. And to this day, he'll call those names out. And Ronnie has passed and you know, and Elmer, you know, you'll get to know him and Clyde and I, and I think Butch, too, because Butch had a hook shot. Yeah. [01:23:40][50.6]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:23:42] This is the strangest thing. The strangest thing. I'm in Japan, Butch and I were in the service, saw that everybody was playin', and as soon as we got out of basic they separated us [laughs], you know? However, I haven't seen Butch no more. [01:23:54][12.1]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:23:55] Yeah. [01:23:55][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:23:55] I'm playing on that team I tell you in Japan when we was 33 in 0. And we was playing the Far East tournament. Butch came over there, a starting guard on the [unintelligible] team, you know. I say, "Seminary!" I'm serious, he was a starting guard. I say, "Look at this. Would you look at this?" [01:24:24][28.9]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:24:25] We've come a long way. [01:24:25][0.6]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:24:26] Yeah. [01:24:26][0.0]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:24:26] Last thing. My sister Naomi, again was my role model in terms of being a basketball player. She's in the Alexandria Athletic Hall of Fame because she was an outstanding player and student at Parker-Gray class of 1951. There is a school named after her now Naomi Lewis Brooks Elementary School. But my point in bringing her up is that she could play, yeah, but there was another thing. It was Taff- [01:24:58][31.6]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:24:59] Have you grounded because you couldn't beat her. [01:25:00][1.5]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:25:00] No, you're right, yeah, I thought I was good until the guys said, "Oh, you pretty good. But your sister's a lot better." So, it's okay. Let's move on. [01:25:08][7.9]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:25:10] Is there anything I haven't asked you guys about that maybe you want to share about Seminary? [01:25:14][3.6]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:25:14] No. [laughs] [01:25:14][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:25:19] This is something. I remember, the first person I saw dunk a ball was my brother. [01:25:25][5.5]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:25:28] Huh. [01:25:28][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:25:30] He could jump up there. And then might be the second one is Jimmy! I think Jimmy might have been dunking before me. [01:25:37][6.6]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:25:37] I was dunking when I was 12 years old. I just remember what I was going to say. All right, so here we go. So again, where Clyde is. And Butch and others have been all over the world, you know, through military service or whatever. I was fortunate to work for USA Basketball and we played in international tournaments. And so I was sent to Shanghai, China in 2006, in preparation for the Women's Olympic team. And so there were 4 teams over there. And I was there scouting, you know, for the 2 or 3 days that I was there. When I got back, my sister Naomi, who always kept me grounded, she said, "Jimmy, you know, you come a long way. You've gone from Seminary to Shanghai." [Clyde laughs] You know, it was kind of prophetic. So, yeah. Okay, that's it. [01:26:25][47.6]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:26:25] Okay. Well, thank you both for sharing all these memories. And, I mean, I'm obviously not from Seminary, but it's really inspiring to know that this place existed and it'll always still exist. And propped both of you up to have, like, wonderful, strong lives that you both have led. So thank you. Thank you for sharing with me, thank you for trusting me to listen to these stories. I'm really honored. [01:26:52][26.7]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:26:52] One more thing. We didn't have to go out of the house and go somewhere. And my father could sing. Oh, I mean he could sing. Even during the time, you know, during the 30s stuff, like he was going to sing, you know, in different venues. I mean, my brother could sing. [01:27:21][28.6]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:27:21] Oh, yeah. [01:27:21][0.4]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:27:22] However my father, my brother would always in the talent show were I mean, I'm talking about all of them could sing except I didn't get that part. But that's alright. And the other thing was this, my father played baseball so well. That they would have the games over at the monument grounds. I mean, I'm getting it from, you know, heard about it like Taff and them talking. And Hecht Company and things would sponsor the team. He pitched for this team in a doubleheader. He pitched for this team this game, the next game he pitching for the other team, [laughs] you know, to give them stipends and stuff. I mean, he was just that good. And it would make me feel so- [01:28:02][40.6]

**Michael Johnson:** [01:28:03] Since you brought that up, the research I've done on the Black Sox, had your father not come back home, he would have been in the Hall of Fame. It was Leon Day- [01:28:11][7.7]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:28:12] Oh, yeah. [01:28:12][0.2]

**Mike Jones:** [01:28:13] From Alexandria. He ended up going taking his place. He's in the Hall of Fame now. But it was, your father, Leon Day, Cleveland Turner, Carl Turner and them. [01:28:24][10.2]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:28:24] Oh, wow, their father? [01:28:25][0.5]

**Mike Jones:** [01:28:28] Carl Turner's father and his brother. [01:28:28][0.7]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:28:29] Okay. [01:28:29][0.0]

**Michael Johnson:** [01:28:30] Howard Turner. Yeah, they was real good. There was 4 guys from Alexandria that actually went to the Black Sox. And 3 of them stayed and then Geek Turner, Carl's father, stopped together because the coach didn't want to play one of them. But you're dad would have been on slate with Leon Day. His wife's still alive, Leon Day's wife, because he was about 20 years older than her. I think she's 90, 92, 93. But we're going to unveil that memorial, I told your brother Mike about it. We do have all of the resources and research done now, so they're gonna actually open up a Baltimore Black Sox memorial. You know, over in Baltimore. [01:29:10][40.4]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:29:11] Yeah, but my daddy, this is something about him. He didn't brag, you know? He didn't make it a big deal. [01:29:19][7.6]

**Michael Johnson:** [01:29:19] Right. I didn't know he was your father until I heard the name "Casey." Then I looked at Leon Day and I'm like, "Wait a minute." And then I had to do more research, and I told the guy from National Baseball Hall of Fame. And I'm looking at him like, "Hey these guys are from Alexandria," The guys look at me and say, "Where are you from?" I say, "Alexandria! I never heard of these guys!" I said, "But I know his son." You know, like that. And, yeah. So they had all the research coming out of Alexandria. [01:29:46][26.7]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:29:47] You know, I was telling him, I said, "Daddy?" He said, "Yeah. You know, boy, you know, the people came here." He said, "I pitched against Satchel [Paige]." [01:29:55][7.7]

**Michael Johnson:** [01:29:56] Yeah, he sure did. [01:29:57][0.3]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:29:57] Satchel Paige.[laughs] And the reason how I got that information from him was, during when he had dementia. I knew [unclear] his therapists and stuff, I knew I could talk to his long-term memory. And I was just saying, and I say, "Daddy, they say you and mom used to always have a car, a new car. Every other year y'all get a new car. I said, "Why did I never seen you in a car?" He said, "Boy, when you kids started coming," he said, "I couldn't afford a car and raise kids, too." So he gave his car to his cousin. [01:30:33][36.9]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:30:34] Wow. [01:30:34][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:30:35] I don't know if I'd have made that kind of choice. [all laugh] Then I'd tell him, I said, "Daddy, talk about how you pitched that ball." He said his cousin Buster, Buster Adams. [01:30:49][14.3]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:30:50] Oh, yeah. [01:30:50][0.2]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:30:50] Buster Adams was his catcher. He said, "They would pass Buster up and pitch to me and I take it out the park." [all laugh] You know he wasn't bragging. You know how he was just talking to me. And I say I could talk to him a lot. I got so much information because we didn't have storytelling time. [01:31:10][19.5]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:31:11] Yeah. [01:31:11][0.0]

**Clyde Casey:** [01:31:12] You know, you'd get it when you get it. However, other people would tell you about him. I was so glad to be George's son. [all laugh] Mr. George. I was so glad to be George's son. [01:31:31][19.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:31:33] That's great. Alright, thank you both so much. [01:31:36][2.7]

**Jimmy Lewis:** [01:31:37] You're welcome. [01:31:37]