

SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #12
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Speaker 1 (00:00:19):

So if you were 18 or 19 years old in 1961, and one or two of you were thinking about where is the place to change rewater society and you had no resource clear, logical place was to go to south. And we are lucky enough to have one of our speakers who was one of those three. And when I got there in June, July of 62, there were nine, 10 people, almost older, them were in the room. It's nice to see and know. Um, but the initial notion of the people who came in 60 was to register folks to vote, but they had to adapt and adjust to the situations they found.

Speaker 1 (00:01:45):

And so yes, there was voter registration, but it quickly switched to demonstrations in downtown Albany supporting protests in Albany state. Eventually people started black, started running for office Thomas Chapman for Sydney commission Slater king from the mayor. Albany CB came for Congress. There were cooperative forming projects going on then and continue to go on today, con form in subject county. So in many ways, Southwest Georgia was a testing ground and experimental proving for Smith and what we could do. And Mike do, and the black belt, we have a terrific panel of people. Two of whom are local residents and Southwest George, a couple of who are outside a, Let me, I'm gonna let them introduce themselves for the most part, except for one person. But first we're gonna hear from this,

Speaker 2 (00:03:45):

This,

Speaker 3 (00:05:05):

I,

Speaker 2 (00:05:42):

I don't do that very much.

Speaker 3 (00:05:44):

And

Speaker 2 (00:05:44):

They got me on him. Um, After completing one year of college in Florida and, and university, I came back home during the summer of 61 and I was running down the street one day. And Mr. Charles <inaudible> came up to me. Uh, do you want to be free? Say, what do you mean I am?

Speaker 2 (00:06:22):

And I'm the reason why I said that is because my dad sheltered us while we were growing up. I knew that I was in a segregated high school, knew that went on white program, couldn't go to movie or, you know, you can kids can't do those things. He didn't let us experience, um, restaurants. I didn't know. I had to go to the tobacco. He didn't let us experience any, anything that would let us know that we were not free. So he shed us from that. But when I started working in the movement, when CC I joined Georgia started working on voter. I realized that I was not free, but the good part about working on voter registration. And, um, there was a school citizenship school. There was this young man who was 90 years old, never learned to write, write, and Yeah, went to jail jail three times. A total of 14 days I spent in jail had Job, but a wonderful time. Three.

Speaker 2 (00:08:24):

I'm gonna talk about the music of, uh, Jordan. The songs came from spirituals, gospel, the freedom singers who are an artist in Albany, Georgia during the nation. There are four of us be Johnson, Reagan, Charles ne hall. Who's deceased now. And this group was organized with the presence of raising funds, for who traveled 50,000 plus miles and telling the story, the civil rights movement through. So one of the most, I don't even know how to explain it. Um, I don't even know what to say about it. It just enjoyable to me and this experience that I will never, ever forget. And I'm still singing with songs now. I travel around by myself sometimes and sometimes with Emery and, but I do, and I'm thankful for that. And I've organized a group for the Albany movement in 1998. And this group performs every second subject at the Albany civil rights movement. And I see one of my senior staff,

Speaker 4 (00:10:22):

She

Speaker 2 (00:10:22):

Was the first in the first group with her job for to visit. So she never seen that much whenever she gets a chance. She, um, I guess that's all, but I'd like to sing And I like to teach it. And the name of this is called dogs. There was this black family and this white family who lived in the country. This song was written by, um, Jamesville who succeeds now. And he noticed that the dogs can play together. He noticed, you noticed that the dos can play together. So he said, well, the dogs can go together. So there's a part that I'd like for you to Right. Uh, repeat after me dog,

Speaker 4 (00:11:51):

Dog

Speaker 2 (00:11:52):

To Toka a dog, dog, dog. Toka took a dog, dog,

Speaker 3 (00:12:02):

Dog,

Speaker 2 (00:12:02):

Dog, dog. Toka took a dog, dog,

Speaker 3 (00:12:07):

Dog,

Speaker 2 (00:12:08):

Dog. Toka took a dog, dog, Dog, dog to the dog Dog. Okay. Now when I talk, you, that's what I say, right? Dog, dog, dog, dog,

Speaker 3 (00:12:32):

Dog, and, and dog dog. And you, me, you don't me. You, you now can you see you? You,

Speaker 2 (00:13:39):

My little was playing one day Down in the bed. Another,

Speaker 3 (00:13:55):

You

Speaker 2 (00:13:56):

Don say, let's get together. Anna, eat this dog,

Speaker 3 (00:14:01):

Dog, you dog, you, you owe my, and you understand now dare you see you and me, you whoa,

Speaker 2 (00:15:08):

I'm penny patch. Um, I worked for NIC for 1962 in 1965. And, um, in Southwest Georgia. And then in Mississippi,

Speaker 2 (00:15:20):

I actually have some notes. Cause the only way these days I'm a nurse midwife in Vermont. Um, but when I was a 18, I left college and I went to Southwest Georgia. Um, we were an interracial group, um, recruited by <inaudible> and our was I believe S Nick's first integrated NIC project. And I was the only white woman. Um, I was Northern, I was middle class. I did not, I had limited knowledge of black history and black experience. Um, I had limited organizing experience. What I, what I did have have, um, was a pretty bone deep understanding of genocide and political oppression because I actually grew up, um, in Europe and most particularly in Germany in the direct aftermath of the second world of war. So I knew, well, I knew a lot of survivors, uh, Jewish survivors or the Holocaust during my childhood. And I also knew and had close relationships with people who were German and consequently were perpetrators and bystanders. And years later when ick and the movement presented itself and right in front of my doorstep at college, I knew that I wasn't gonna be a bystander. I'm gonna talk just a little bit about, um, that I, the dynamics of being a white girl, um, the pluses in a black movement, the pluses, the minuses for the movement as I see them. Um, and it's a little hard to talk about some of this, but that's why I have notice

Speaker 2 (00:17:37):

When Shera, um, was recruiting for the project. My understanding was that he was arguing that, um, the image of black and white together working in equality and friendship, um, was going to break down some very important stereotypes in the minds of black people and white people.

Speaker 2 (00:18:04):

Um, and Braden in December of 1962 in the seventh Patriot, I quote her and she says about us quote, most important as Negro and white students consciously walk together down the streets of those little country towns. Those images Shara talked about are broken. The immediate effect may be fury from some white and fear from some Negroes, but the images will never be the same. Now in a little while, I also understood that there was a more pragmatic reason for bringing Northern white people into the freedom movement in the south. And that was, but because potentially we could attract media attention and possibly federal intervention. And remember, this is two years before the Mississippi summer project. So what happened was I was welcome <affirmative> and you already deeply welcome When I canvased, um, I was traveling around most often I were, who was working with black women that was considered safer and less inflammatory, Although it's a made us feel very visible. Um, There's a report that I found, um, That there was an incident that I remembered of when I walked up onto, um, an elderly woman in's porch, um, with two black coworkers and this elderly lady got up and offered me her chair, only me.

Speaker 2 (00:20:03):

And this was of course really disturbing to me. I did not take her chair. Um, I found a report, um, that was written to the SCC office in Atlanta, by penny Damon, who's here in the audience. Um, and in that report, she said, I quote penny express dismay of this, but we later all realized the value that it occurred by Penny's refusal. This is perhaps one small bit of progress that lady will not forget. So my job was to not take that chair. My job was to clear the table, do the dishes. Um, and was that useful maybe? Um, was there more violence in the black community because of my presence and the presence of my white male, civil rights, other white, um, civil rights workers who were male. Um, but we all know that there was, um, a lot that there was violence. There was huge amounts of violence, um,

Speaker 2 (00:21:17):

That happened against anybody who resisted, um, whether the presence of white people increased that violence or not. I don't know, you know, it's possible. I do know that mom and Dolly rains, um, who was a wonderful lady who fed and has Smith workers in Lee county out, you know, out in the vicinity, in the rural counties around Albany, um, who was a midwife who delivered, um, delivered a thousand babies in that community and who would guard her house with a shotgun, you know, sitting at her window, she asked, um, the SNIC project to have we move from her house. Cause the vial, the threats that were coming into her were to, and So, you know, that does say a lot. The other thing I would say about violence is that as a white woman, I was more protected than any of my black coworkers or the white. And I was often arrested. I was shoved around roughly, you know, there was one time my clothing was ripped. I was threatened all the time, but in all my three years in SNCC, I was never really beat. Um, I guess, I mean, I was in a house that was shot into, I was in a van that got rolled by a white mob. So my white woman status didn't protect me completely. But,

Speaker 2 (00:23:00):

Um, it, it, I was different. I mean, and in jail I was segregated and I said, and So all the will say she had a good time in jail. <laugh> I remember hearing my black Smith and movement comrades being brutalized in jail on the other side of the wall. And I remember listening to the same thing going on with my white male And thank God we could sing and we could hear each other. And you sang A little bit about publicity. Um, there was a lot of publicity about white people who came south, um, One minute. Okay. All right. Well, there was a lot of publicity and there was one headline that always made me CR and there white girl in seeding Meyer of hate. So I did struggle to find my place in the movement. We had long staff meetings talking about our issues. Um, I remember at one point that I wanted to be back in Albany, um, doing direct action and not voter registration out in the rural counties. Um, and I'm gonna read you a quote from Kathleen Conwell, who is not with us, but this is also from her

Speaker 1 (00:24:47):

Report.

Speaker 2 (00:24:51):

I hope penny that if she felt a commitment, pulling her to go back to Albany, she should do that Because the need for direct action seemed terribly pint up inside penny and the need of release for her own satisfaction And discovery of her role. Further conversation showed penny slow, but mature commitment to her county and voter registration. It strikes me as though we're not really a conflict between the two areas rather was a feeling of not being muted as a white student, a sense of frustration that made the of action more appealing. I'm really struck by Kathleen's thoughtfulness. The fact that apparently we spent valuable time on my issues. <laugh> I think Kathleen was right and was not clear and early on how I fit in. I was an experiment and we were making it up as we went along and it was complicated

Speaker 1 (00:26:03):

When, uh, Bob Manz, John Purdue right here, And Ralph Went to county Americans. Perhaps the first person we Started talking to Was a young man, but he became the heart and soul of the south county America's movement. Joan Christian unfortunately is not with us today. And so our next speaker is Sandy Mahome from America's Georgia.

Speaker 1 (00:26:55):

Uh, I'm from America's Georgia, born and raised educated, graduated high school. Um, when I seven children, uh, on parents who were by and large marginally educated, my father probably had about 50 education. My mother had the same amount of education. My father worked all of his life as a factory worker. Uh, my mother was an domestic worker who every morning who, uh, made the Trek out to the end of the street and got into the backseat white man's car to be

taken across town to the north side town, to cloth and feed and take care and nurture, uh, white children. And so we were left to think ourselves to get our, to and make.

Speaker 1 (00:27:48):

Um, and when you look in a situation like that and rules something place like self, you take a lot of things for that. You don't see this stuff as being disenfranchised or period. It just is what it is. You get up every day. And, and that what the situation is, the lines of locations are very clearly noted. Uh, you know, that there are certain places you can't go to there, certain things you can't do, you're not supposed to do or ed upon the store. My first, uh, overt encounter, I think a racism system, um, came one day, my brother, who had come home, who was in, in the military and who had come home on leave and who had sort of had a taste of what the outside world was like, he able to tell around the world, uh, had developed a new kind of dignity about himself to come on a home on leave. And I think I was, uh, in the, uh, just started my junior year of high school. And I don't know if you know the term policy man, that's the insurance man used to come around to your house. And actually, um, in south Georgia, the customer was that this person didn't have to knock on the door. He sent to come up on the steps, walk into your house, UN house and collect the privacy money.

Speaker 1 (00:29:24):

Well, my brother happened to be home that day. And to me, a company occurrence, you know, something that was happening, we didn't rise and protest against it. But this particular day, my brother was sitting on the front porch and this guy walks up on the porch coat and potentially walk into the house. And my brother literally jumped up and uh, asked him, where would he thinking, what do you think he was going? So, uh, he said, I'm going to the house. He said, no, you're not. We don't know who you are. So a confrontation development. We, uh, the end of this story that we both driven us found out, uh, literally pushing this man off the porch and, um, gave him a pretty beating.

Speaker 1 (00:30:11):

Um, the result of that is that my brother who, um, my parents were afraid and, uh, told us that we both had to leave town. Cause we, they knew something was gonna happen. Mm-hmm <affirmative>. So my brother put me into his car, told me all the way to Atlanta, which was about two and a half hour drive away and nothing was relatives. And he went on about his business. Um, I stayed there for about a week and I went back home and, uh, everything was, was okay. Um, when Don Harris and a few little sleep workers came to town, uh, Americas had just witnessed, um, while we were currently witnessing what was happening, Albany Georgia, the made movement and Martin Luther king had been brought to Americas one weekend, uh, in jail for safety, opposed to a safety. Uh, and that was the talk of the town, why the team was in jail in America's.

Speaker 1 (00:31:12):

And so it created quite a stir among us as high students and high school students, and, uh, became more in tune, more interested in what was happening in Albany. And about the same time the is young, um, snake workers came to town with Levi jeans and, uh, broken boots, um, who started approaching us and talking to us about border, um, <affirmative> and was very impressive upon us as young students who had never left the city, uh, and through a series of meeting of them and discussions got to narrow learn about people that I met, never existed, like course, like, uh, my angel, uh, Wende broke, uh, uh, Sanchez writers like Richard, Robert, James Baldwin, people who were just out of out space for us, cause we had no emotion.

Speaker 1 (00:32:18):

And so, uh, I began to go through the snake office, uh, every day and, uh, became involved, began registered voters. We were canvas the streets night and day registered voters. We would take them down to the courthouse if they didn't have rise, we formed literacy classes, uh, feed

them houses that we set up to actually teach people who couldn't read or write to how to vote. Um, and from that point I had escalated into, uh, direct action in terms of challenging the laws of public accommodation, um, testing, some of going to the restaurants that refused to, uh, uh, serve blacks, uh, and becoming arrested and, um, going to jail for long periods of time. Uh, there was certain, um, uh, America was a very small town. They had a very small police force and so quite rapidly when as more students became involved, uh, the police were outnumbered.

Speaker 1 (00:33:26):

And so what would happen in many instances when the police, uh, they came outnumbered, they were deputies or fire who were right next door, give them badges and give them guns. And when they, when all the firemen with Johnson, they would go and get the so-called white citizens council, which was like the Klan in many instances, uh, who were local white businessmen who had businesses, uh, during the day, but at night they were the attending Klan meetings. Um, so we were at the peak mercy of a, of a, uh, a police force that, uh, at any given time could, uh, uh, impose their ties. Uh, America was one of the pivotal cities, I believe in leading up to the pastors of the voting rights act and, and the civil rights because it came, uh, just before the, uh, Selma, uh, marching. What have you. And, uh, I think that from my own perspective, from my own perspective, um, once I became involved in the movement, uh, and I think anybody who became involved with a test of the fact that you never the same, um, you go through certain periods of, of, of protests and, and, and, and, uh, fighting certain issues.

Speaker 1 (00:34:49):

But no matter where you go, it's, it's, you, you, you can't, you don't, you never divorce yourself from that even to this day. Um, I joined Snick, um, my senior year of high school graduated and continued to work, uh, for, uh, uh, couple more years. And then CC actually had sent me off the school. They sent me to tub college in Mississippi, where the education continued, not just on the campus, but tubal college was one of the first, I would say the first, uh, African American school that, uh, uh, organized against the Vietnam war. And, um, so again, my education was continuing, I continued to be an activist there, uh, and we got a chance to go through the Delta from time to tell the Delta to work with sheriff and happened. Um, and so it, it continued, I came to Atlanta, uh, where I now reside.

Speaker 1 (00:35:52):

And, uh, there were issues that we faced there in terms of police brutality. <affirmative>, uh, came back to the matter, the time of a missing and murdered children. Some of you might know about, uh, which was, uh, really highlighted tensions in the city. Shortly after that, we were faced with a police department who began, began executing young black men, uh, through the SWAT squads, which were just be informed around the country using the same tactics that they use in Vietnam. When they left Vietnam, they came here and employed the same tactics within the police departments of this country, uh, so that there was other issues that we had to deal with. So, um, I guess that, uh, <affirmative>, that has, uh, is what molded me. And I think that, uh, my whole, uh, uh, uh, my emphasis now is to make sure that young people have a sense of, of who shoulders they stand on.

Speaker 1 (00:36:54):

That seems to get a challenge for all of us. Um, we're faced with some very got consequences in this country right now. When you look at the statistics of young black men in prison around this country, uh, when you look at the, the birth rate, the low birth rate among African American women around this country, uh, when you look at, uh, the challenges that we face, uh, we see things resurface. We, we seem to be revisiting what we fought 40 years ago when we look at the movements like the so-called tea party movement that we talked about here earlier today. Uh, and we see, uh, that, that surface racism that's, that's exploding now. So the fight continues. It's never over, and that's the message that I want to get out to young people today that we can't just rests on the laurels of those, uh, in the past, and think that things will, will, are okay. It's a

difficult task because there's so many diversions that around every day, uh, uh, a lot of us went well, often we were, then things have come a lot easier than they did for, for generations past, but it's incumbent upon us people on this panel here to remind people, uh, that, that we still have a job to do.

Speaker 1 (00:38:18):

We can't, um, go on without hearing from John Perue. Thank you, Don. I feel connected to a lot of people in this room. I see a number who were either born and raised in Southwest Georgia, Albany America, or who, or baker county in the case of my wife, or who came from somewhere else like I did to Southwest Georgia dissipated the movement. So there many people in this room who could speak to, well, what was the Southwest Georgia movement all about? And what was the regional movement? Um, I came to it, uh, from college from a pretty much an all white or nearly all white background, but parents who grew up in Denver went to a high school, 3000 students with three, three of who were black. So I had very little exposure to our experience with black students. And I went to Harvard and the proportion was still quite, quite low of life.

Speaker 1 (00:39:28):

But I heard about, I read about, uh, Birmingham and, and things were happening in south. And I just decided I wanted to spend a summer in the south as summer, grew into three years and really changed my life. And, uh, Don and I spent, uh, three months in jail, thanks to a, uh, charge of inciting to insurrection our, our was to leave a very spirited mass baby. We like the mass baby that's caused for capital crime in charge. And of course our crime really was defined Jim Crow and being a big thorn in their side. And the, the police had decided to crush us and to go after, particularly after the outside agitators arrest us, throw the book at us, which they did, and then the whole thing would blow over. Unfortunately for them, it, it certainly didn't blow over. There were protests every night for a couple of weeks, and, and most of the black teenagers in town were in, ended up in jail.

Speaker 1 (00:40:46):

And in fact, the, when school opened up or tried to open up in the fall, such a large proportion of the high school students, black high school up for the, the black high school were in jail that the rest of them decided to white God. So it spread, it affected, uh, the entire town of Americas. I felt that my job was to be a lightning rod, and I caught some lightning. If I wasn't followed by the police or hassled by them or something wasn't happening, I felt like I wasn't really doing my job. So that's, um, and it changed my life. One of the people I met, one of my favorite people was Sammy. And, um, he was cool. He wore sunglasses and he, he kind of projected a, an air to me anyway, that, uh, of a cruel guy. But I discovered that he, he had a lot on the ball. He was very sensitive guy and continues to be

Speaker 5 (00:41:52):

<affirmative>.

Speaker 1 (00:41:54):

Um,

Speaker 1 (00:42:00):

Some historians, some misguided historians portrayed the episode in Albany, that king was involved in, uh, he was arrested and some demands were presented to the Albany, so called city fathers, white, white leadership. And, um, the, the end of it was that the demands were not granted. And, um, came, had to learn something more about the strategy. So that, that was presented as a failure because the, the demands were not granted. And that, that says two things to me. One is that you might as well call Lincoln a failure or the, the union civil rights, civil war, civil war, uh, side failure, because they lost a few battles at the beginning of the war. Of course, they openly prevailed. Um, you don't win every battle, but the, the key thing to me was not, we

weren't trying to achieve a particular, uh, get a particular demand grant it, this is my interpretation. Um, we were trying to defy the, the, the Jim Crow, uh, society in whatever way we could. And that I think in that we were very successful. I mentioned earlier that, uh, in 19 61, 3 people decided they were gonna change the course of society

Speaker 1 (00:43:52):

We have with us. One of the people who is everything that Southwest Georgia means to all of us and who represents the person who got us there and who remains there, Charles, And then my wife and I, you sit down, I'm gonna talk old time, talk about what's and I'm gonna talk a little louder, nothing wrong, My way my wife tell me that I want old times the thing that I talk in generality for the most part, and we'll talk for five minutes. My wife talk for minutes about that. We still have gone. We movement is not dead. One problem that we had in Southwest Georgia was Atlanta <laugh> people all over the country, cause of Atlanta thought that Georgia was free. So we had to show them that Georgia was not every now and then the cop kill folk, black, black fishermen, and do all the other things. But in south Georgia, we had, we got white folk to come work on our project for three reason. Oh, that's another, I, first of all, I see one of my fellow workers, one of the first work put

Speaker 1 (00:46:58):

Southwest judge <inaudible>. He was the director of the registration. And, uh, he stayed for a good long time. First of all, some not all west Georgia project, 15 to 25 counties. One of the ideas we have from, from the GetGo was that we would have a second district, uh, Congressman and mm-hmm <affirmative>. And on top of that, we have, uh, a number of counties there where we have the majority. We have the, the school board, majority, the county commission majority. So in some 10 to 15 counties, we have that. We have an, or the same thing.

Speaker 1 (00:48:00):

We came into a county that was described, as you heard people describe the fear of death. So if you can't deal with the fear of death, you need, you come to work with us. Cause we are dealing with death nigger. Don't, you know, I will blow your brains out with a gun at your head. If I see you here tomorrow, nigg, I I'm going to blow your brains out, pick the bone, blow your brains out, pick upon again, blow your brains out. And that's nice way of saying, so we had to continue. If they find every day, deal with fear. I said, Lord, I can't work like this. I'm scared. I can't work like this, my hands moving, my knees. Aren't moving. I'm supposed to. I'm just, I can't think Lord, I can't think free me Lord from this Lord and the Lord I a bad nigga. <laugh>

Speaker 6 (00:49:24):

And the

Speaker 1 (00:49:29):

Love what you do. We're not doing nothing wrong, but that feel when I feel that feel nothing, that you call foolish and stupid, but they have to be, we had to do confrontation and go to the courthouse, knowing you'll get slapped down, knowing you'll get beaten. And one about this thing, one little incident of an instance that we had this day people and when the Gator grows out everybody and they did woo, wow. He said, well, I had to stand up the Gator And seeing five big old guys, white guys with their arms, big as my thigh. You, I mean, big country, boy <laugh> would sticks with, uh, Chain ax, a five AXS coming. They beat me down to blood in the ground. And there's a lady auntie Ran Over my body Lord, but we had to come through that kind

Speaker 4 (00:51:15):

Bound.

Speaker 1 (00:51:17):

But, and the one thing before my wife comes, How did we get People who, And with reason to be afraid, How did we get those people? Who's that Yas Not looking at the white at, do you want me to? I think the wagon go over here. He looked at the white folks again,

Speaker 4 (00:51:53):

How

Speaker 1 (00:51:54):

That look. And they got a stock cap on her head on her head, but can't put this hat on and try the hat on. Unless she got the stock gap and the white folks, The, that ind, how did you deal with people who had that kinda mentality? And I quickly say That there was a group of folk Who didn't know ma No, that group of folk were chilling 15, 20 years old. They didn't know nothing about that bitching and all that. And they was not afraid. They weren't afraid of damn mama. They not afraid of daddy. And so we got this plus somebody ask a question on section. Now question, we organized, there were four gangs in all these drugs, we organized the games. The gangs came to us outta C curiosity, but okay. Outta curiosity, but We got them to with us. And so when the young people went to jail and I told my, When the young people went to jail, The showed me the, to my don't listen, cause they stopped sitting down. They, they, they stopped having and they made the mans, they went to jail. I'm talking across the board. All people won't allow you to mislead. The children

Speaker 2 (00:53:56):

Say this has happened to me for 45 years.

Speaker 2 (00:54:00):

But, um, I came into the movement after my father had been murdered by over man in baker county who was never prosecuted for the murder. And I made a commitment on the night that he died, that I would stay in the south and work for change. And we've continued that work. That's why it, it bothers me when they, when they refer to Albany as a failure, because that work started back then. And it can 10 years now, some of you know, of the, the land trust that we started, where we had 6,000 acres of land. And I'm sure you know, of the struggle we had is trying to hold onto that and eventually lost it. In 1985, I started working at that point with the Federation for, we realized, uh, we were losing so much land as black people, that we had to do something about it. So a lawsuit was found and because of some people who had actually take some things in a government office, I, you know, I worked for the government now. Um, I, I am an Obama appointee state director for

Speaker 3 (00:55:10):

<inaudible> the

Speaker 2 (00:55:19):

Other side of the story. So I've learned that there was evidence that, that they managed to hear where they knew they couldn't go to court against black farmers because they would lose and lose big time. So they were ready to settle. And that lawsuit was settled in 96. And we started, I know our work was working throughout the south, trying to help farmers get their claim cuz the end, because they only had six months. And about three months into that process, I realized we were farming in 90. I was driving from Alabama one night where I've been over working with some farmers. I realized we've been farming and we could file a claim. So I want you to know that we did file that claim and it was a 10 year struggle. But on July the eighth, 2009 on the night of July, the eighth, I lawyer Rose Sanders from Selma called and said, Shirley, have you heard? I said, no. She said we won.

Speaker 3 (00:56:17):

She said, um, she said,

Speaker 2 (00:56:19):

You wanna know how much you want to guess how much I said rose? Is it at least a million? She and she was riding with someone. She said, is it at least? She said, is it at least a million? You said is 12. But it actually works out to be more like about 13. Wow. Cause it seems that this guy whose wife ruled against us, he he's the chief adjudicator. And she was a hearing officer and she actually roomed against us, uh, back in 2002. And he was faced with having to reverse his wife's

Speaker 1 (00:56:49):

Decision <laugh>

Speaker 2 (00:56:51):

But it looks like he got mad. I wish I had brought it. So you could all read it because he made, he gave us economic damage that he actually, uh, awarded my husband and I 150 in each for mental anguish. And he told them that you have to, you have to give them out accounting of everything. They paid on their loans from 1981 to 1985 and give that back to, so that's what takes it up to about 13 million. So new communities is still living.

Speaker 1 (00:57:26):

Yay

Speaker 2 (00:57:34):

Is still living. We have some of the young people here who are involved, who are involved in, in the women's project. Um, new communities. You'll hear more about the future of it as we move along, um, there, because there are gonna be some good times coming. And

Speaker 2 (00:57:54):

That's what he's telling me that there's we organized the Southern that's so much you all cause the movement didn't end and this is not enough time to talk about it. It did not. In, in Southwest Georgia, we have lots of work going on. And part of that is the Southern rural black women's initiative for economic and social adjustment. We're working with older women and we are working with younger women. Our two, how many of the younger women is? Two of them are sitting here in the audience today. We, we also have a part that's that two, you know, we do a young women's Institute. Attoo college every year during the summer where we are doing leadership training and doing all kinds of stuff with too much to talk. Anybody want to talk to me outside of this? You know, we can talk about it.

Speaker 1 (00:58:49):

Okay. We've got time for questions and comments. Please use the microphone to everybody here. Sean started to say, there were three reasons. One because white folks don't care learn about us, but they care abouting. So we brought their children. Secondly, because we can get publicity. Anytime we walk to with a white person, like I said, okay, y'all go up town and just walk from the street Hand Together. And we have a confrontation and we need some, we haven't got the last three or four weeks about our present. We make the, we, we can control some just cause we white folks and white care about white folks. And third I'm many black folks here. I got moms and pops and uncles, uncles and cousins who are multimillion, But the white folks, they got aunties and, and

Speaker 4 (01:00:26):

I like that

Speaker 1 (01:00:29):

They got prison, big money. And so,

Speaker 4 (01:00:43):

Yes.

Speaker 7 (01:00:45):

Uh, I don't know if you did this before I came in. And so just tell me to chill, but with Bernie's permission, can we just take a moment and honor Cordell, just quietly, lovingly, all of this energy to him as we did back in the day where we looked out for one another, whatever. So just thank you. If you just take a moment and send the love so strong that he's sit, he's sitting now smiling. Cause he know we haven't forgotten. Thank you. BES with your kind permission. Be blessed. Thank you, John. Yes. Be blessed. Thank you, John. Thank you.

Speaker 4 (01:01:32):

Question comment.

Speaker 1 (01:01:40):

I was from,

Speaker 4 (01:01:43):

Could you do the micro? Oh,

Speaker 1 (01:01:55):

I was from 63 to 65 and I want say first the up,

Speaker 4 (01:02:01):

What's your name? Peter

Speaker 1 (01:02:02):

Deli. Yeah,

Speaker 4 (01:02:03):

You

Speaker 1 (01:02:08):

Uh, the people on the panel are among the people I respect most in the world. And I'm glad to finally meet you. See Sam that I've heard so much about for so long

Speaker 1 (01:02:18):

And uh, most particularly our leader, Charles, who, uh, started off by demonstrating that he can be quite quiet, but actually he can be completely silenced as anyone who was in the SCC office and understood his mode of leadership. Uh we'll remember that Charles ARD mentioned was, well, the movement didn't end. And as Charles said, it's going on today. But as you read the official history of the civil rights movement, Albany, George, they usually stop when Dr. King left down and then they describe a kind of attack. But we were there from 60. We were doing all sorts of things. So there's all sorts of stories about all the old cast of characters, um, who were, uh, there started with, uh, the sheriff G John that Charles describing and Randy came from the area where he was the sheriff. He and then Randy became C King's, uh, riding guard driver. And then Charles talked about how we now have a black Congressman from office Georgia now who, who started that a great pioneer was attorney CV king and anybody who was in the south Georgia goes about a attorney. He became, and everybody offered.

Speaker 1 (01:03:59):

That is all funny story because I was sitting at a table, was lunch all during the, during the lunch, I kept looking this beautiful woman and I kept thinking she's a child. She, she wasn't in the movement. How, how is it that I, I remember her afterwards, my friend down Roberts, who I'm gonna let say a word second, who was turning CD king main assistant, uh, said, well, this is C stone. Just like that's what was remembering. Well, uh, uh, there are many stories out on the web

and the literature about CDK, who was first African-American practice law effort through south Georgia and the first to run for Congress pioneers away when he ran for Congress. And we have stories about this congressional campaign. Okay, Peter. Okay. I'm gonna, I'm gonna give you now the best stories in the world. Oh, here's Danny lion. Yes, I thank Albany, Georgia. You guys changed my life. I kidding you.

Speaker 3 (01:05:10):

<laugh>

Speaker 1 (01:05:12):

You know, I, I didn't know anybody from any place. I had zero training in the first place I stepped over. Actually I stepped over bus K and Chuck was there,

Speaker 1 (01:05:25):

But, but they, me, the Nashville land going on the, I stepped up that was on the bus. And he said, you better sit here. And the cop said, uh, where you going? You know, that's a ni town, that's a white stuff. And I went to the white, uh, Y M C a and, and a woman Southern woman reached out. I had this beautiful dark brown girl of hair. And she said, is that hair real? May I touch it? You know, but I was so naive. I, so she touched me. Yeah. But then I crossed over it to the movement and you guys changed my life. The people I miss you Don, but I knew who you are, but everybody else was there. Foreman was there. And, and, and, and I, I, you know, I wanted to take pictures and nothing was going on and it's a lot of people were in the jail and, and, and some guys we'll we'll get arrested for you. And that was the beginning of a pattern. They went on for two years. All those stitches were posed. They produced the greatest differe

Speaker 3 (01:06:28):

<laugh>

Speaker 4 (01:06:29):

We

Speaker 1 (01:06:29):

Went out a drugstore on Sunday morning. I don't think it was even open. You know, they went into the store and suddenly, you know, like, uh, you know, like fairs out the ground, these huge fat cops come from <laugh> guy. He was a gang guy. He like looking like boo was him. And that's why Graham and that became classic image. That was probably the first photo. You. Thank you, Charlie. Thank you, Don. Thank you. I could speak very loud. I'm not, uh, Reverend Moland, but I could help. I wanted Charleston though, when, uh, I came to Albany, I had relatives in Albany and in Tai over in new, but they were, they were not Brownings. They were my mother's side of the family, but they were relaying resort back about what? Just not all from the, I worked with CB I Dennis Roberts Time, but I, national lawyers Guild had this project, summer 63, we were getting whited up, getting more students who were in law school to come down to various places in the south and work with black lawyers. And I applied a lot of people, you know? I mean, that was the middle of class in <inaudible> Harvard, lawyer, you and Yale lawyer, Columbia, Lord, you guys. And see, he tells a story about, have he has huge stack applications. He Shapiro Cohen Goldberg gonna get Papa, you know, like, forget it says Dennis Roberts

Speaker 1 (01:08:40):

Resume bus boy. And the CA was, was in steward's department in the Marine. So CB had been in Navy Stewart's apartment was Filipino or black. So he was that's it, you know? So he told me, come on dad. And I started thinking like, what if he doesn't realize I'm white? And is that gonna be a problem? Why you can't call a man up and say, excuse me, my wife. So I don't do a send, send picture and tell him, you know, so you know who I am. He to get off the bus gets the

picture, invites me back, welcoming me. Can't wait for you to get there. So needs to be the bus station. We walked up at his office then was, I mean, it was hard over a juke joint pool hole the whole way he can't imagine he did subsequently Dean brother Slater built this beautiful office. Richard, all the white lawyers would drive by night to look at

Speaker 3 (01:09:48):

<laugh>.

Speaker 1 (01:09:50):

He opens the door and I walk in and the secretary, miss Jesse hooks up. I told you was a white lawyer Argued for several months.

Speaker 1 (01:10:06):

CD I'll be real quick. CD was a brilliant lawyer. I mean, I worked with the best. I worked with bill KU office cause no lawyer, you know, I mean, I had a very excitingly. He was the best. And one of the things he learned many, many years later, he have to understand. It's almost impossible to pass a bar exam without taking one of these bargaining courses. Well, he wasn't allowed to take bargain, but the white did. He was no college in Georgia, at least not a good college that he could go to. I guess he went the fifth of the graduate and then he no law, certainly. So he had to go up to case west and reserve him in Cleveland, came back, couldn't take the bar due for us. The bar library was flooded to the federal library. Well, the was outta there, you know? So he Atlanta's office and he, he read George law cause he learned George book. He read George law there. Number of years later, a guy who was a bar examiner came up to me said, you know, you repeat this. I liar. He said, but you scored the highest score. Anyone has ever scored in Georgia bar exam.

Speaker 1 (01:11:28):

Young lady who was six years old when I do. And she, I wanna say single handedly, there was a slave graveyard in New York and they were gonna build some kind of, you know, condominium of God in his life. And he's an architect and she stopped him. She stopped him. And A question, can I have ask a question for sure. As, uh, one night we went in bed and we had stop sign. Oh sweet. Who's sweet. You got, will you me do my presentation, making this section and see messing me up and all the stuff signs and Albany, the charges just had stop him. And the next day all over had stop segregation on him. <laugh> now you don't get arrested, but can I ask you, did you do that? I did that. Oh yeah.

Speaker 3 (01:12:56):

<laugh>

Speaker 1 (01:13:03):

Did back with one of those, not with Randy, not with Randy. I did that with another unbelievable character and this book you together because it,

Speaker 1 (01:13:18):

The people that you never know about never heard about, you'll never read about 'em anywhere else. And they're the kind of people who made the movement. James Daniel was a bad gangly and a definitely a bad guy. He had been known to find a truck full of hogs at the old stocky yard in central Albany with the motor running for the guys cup, jump in the truck, drive in Alabama and sell the hog <laugh> so he and I got these Stens and we, the, of us, uh, did that there a picture of him in this book by Danny, that's the only picture in existence. And it's never been. Yeah, but I didn't tell him steal a hog <laugh>

Speaker 3 (01:14:08):

But

Speaker 1 (01:14:08):

You discovered man, beautiful things. And not all the reason we got into that was that Charles organized the gangs that these guys are genius. As these guys are diamonds in the rough, these pets everybody's started getting their heads beat marks, but who's gonna go to jail. Now, the gang kids, James went forth led the first March. He led the first March to fifth article. We all wound in jail, panic, John per John. And I did a hunger strike of three weeks in jail. How we didn't eat for three weeks. I only young, but James, I uh, was, uh, one of those guys. And, uh, and, and, and he, he led that personal. And then he and Randy jumped in the, in the pool. Just, uh, couple of announcements before. One last question. Um, John produced play is tonight when at, at seven o'clock at the hotel at the hotel hotel at the Marriot and Ruth is on state court crab tree crab tree, the Crabb tree crab second, uh, for those of you.