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…And see that it was, it was the janitor’s closet, and now it’s the janitor’s closet again. Which is so full. Ignore the mess in here. Do you think it looked like that? Or was it different?

Well, it’s got a few more modern shelves.

Yeah.

But it’s the same janitor’s closet.

Okay.

Now this was the bigger janitor’s closet. Mr. Johnny Bowls (phonetic 00:33) was the janitor here for quite a number of years. I don’t remember exactly how many. Then we had over here, we had a men’s bathroom. And I think it looks pretty much the same as when we came in. So, we got the men’s bathroom. The stall, showers, pretty much the same.

Were there two stalls or three?

I think there were three.

Three. Okay. We’ve got two now.

When each class came down from first grade, come down for lunch, and would stop here and line up at this point.

Okay.

And then when the cooks were ready, they would have them come through. And there would be tables with chairs that were assembled to three…three chairs to each table. Lined up on this side, and on this side. And a little on there that walkway for you to go into the cafeteria, which would be where the cooks were.
Ms. Holubinka: (Unintelligible 01:39) kitchen.

Mr. Hall: Mary Bowls (phonetic 01:43), one of the staff (unintelligible 01:44). She was the cook. Her and this, oh, I can’t think of the name. Scott was his name. And he would come in, and we would go in to here. Also there would be chairs and tables along this side, and then there would be the cook’s stove, and the serving table would be on the side. So basically, the class student would come in, go to the table, get your food and your plate. This would be filled up with chairs and a few cabinets, and then it would come back and sit in the outside and eat in the hallway.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: When they were finished, they would put their dishes and scrape them and then bring them back over to a table and set them over here. And then the cooks would usually clean them up.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: Then the next group would come in and they would go through the same procedure, bring the food out, sit at the table and chairs, fill them up, and then would repeat until they got the eighth grades. Everybody was filled, served for their lunch.

Ms. Holubinka: Eighth grade?

Mr. Hall: Eight grades.

Ms. Holubinka: And how many were in each grade?

Mr. Hall: Usually there was, I’d say, a good twenty, at least a good twenty to every grade.

Ms. Holubinka: Wow.

Mr. Hall: Then there may be thirty, I guess, it’d depend on the size of the community. Not really sure exactly how many it would be. But basically, it came in first and second, third and fourth, fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: So the two grades would come down, first and second, then rotate right around, come back out. The after that would go back up the steps then outside to recreation. We had like about an hour for lunch. And we’d go back out on the playground and enjoyed the playground.
Ms. Holubinka: So was the kitchen in here, too?

Mr. Hall: The kitchen was right in here. The kitchen was… There was a stove and down in the corner and then there was the… There was a stove, and then there was a counter, and then there was… A stove, a counter, and a refrigerator somewhere along in here. I don’t remember exactly where it was located. And this was where Miss Betsy and Miss Sarah did the cooking for us.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay. Miss Betsy and Miss Sarah.

Mr. Hall: Miss Betsy and Miss Sarah.

Ms. Holubinka: Very cool. That sounds like a good system that they had.

Mr. Hall: Oh, yes. They had a pretty good system. Mostly them and the teachers had a little corner over here; the teachers had their meals at the time.

Ms. Holubinka: I can’t believe that the students would all sit in the hallway.

Mr. Hall: Yeah. They were very small tables and they weren’t much higher than that.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: Okay. Then with Boy Scouts, we met on Monday nights. We’d sit in the kitchen and Mr. Johnny Bowls (phonetic 05:04) who was the janitor, he had Troop Seventy. And at Troop Seventy was the Boy Scouts, and we went to Camp Horseshoe just about every year and then going to the last few years of the school, we went to Camp Rodney, which is up on Limestone Road.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: Horseshoe was in Maryland.

Ms. Holubinka: So would anything happen here during the summer when school was not in session?

Mr. Hall: Not really. Usually, the school would be closed during the summer after we finished our June… They had June graduation of the eighth grade, and then basically the school would be closed. Unless we had, they had a ball game or something like that. And Mr. Johnny may let them come in and use the restrooms, you know, because we didn’t have outside port-a-potties. So he would let everybody come into the bathroom and he monitored what was going on right from here.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay. Very cool. All right.
Ms. Warren: Sir? Do you remember 111C?
Mr. Hall: 111C?
Ms. Warren: Old Baltimore Pike?
Mr. Hall: 111C…
Ms. Warren: Old Baltimore Pike, Christiana.
Mr. Hall: I remember Old Baltimore Pike, but I can’t remember 111C.

(Laughter.)
Ms. Holubinka: What was that?
Ms. Warren: A sister school.

(Cross-Talk 06:38)
Ms. Warren: …school is two years older.
Ms. Holubinka: Oh really?
Mr. Hall: That was…
Ms. Holubinka: And did you go there?
Ms. Warren: No. I was painting there today.
Ms. Holubinka: Oh.
Ms. Warren: That’s 111C.
Mr. Hall: Oh, that’s what it looks like. Oh. 111C was where…
Ms. Holubinka: Are you her husband?
Ms. Warren: The Neils went, the Williams.
Mr. Hall: That was Iron Hill School.
Ms. Warren: No, that’s 118C.
Mr. Hall: 118C.
Ms. Warren: Right. That’s further down Old Baltimore Pike. That was on the other side of Purgatory Road. When we’re on the other side of 273.

Mr. Hall: Oh, I didn’t even know…

Ms. Warren: So, we’re both on Old Baltimore Pike, but we’re further up.

Mr. Hall: I don’t remember this one.

Ms. Warren: Yeah, this is 111C. That’s what I was doing, but I had to get over here, cause I know this school.

Mr. Hall: Yeah.

Ms. Warren: We all had to stick together for real. Like they say, we were close. Cause they had parties, dances at each others’ schools, and all of that.

Ms. Holubinka: Really?

Ms. Warren: It was a segregated world, and so they know each other.

Ms. Holubinka: Very cool.

Ms. Warren: Christiana Community.

Mr. Hall: Christiana Community. Oh! Oh, yeah! Now I know where it is. Christiana Community Center, yes. Okay.

Ms. Warren: Yeah, because we got incorporated in 1957, and that’s when it became the community center.

Mr. Hall: Oh, yeah.

Ms. Warren: But the school is 111C. Officially.

Mr. Hall: Okay, now I know where it is. Yes. Okay.

Ms. Warren: So that was my fun today, but, I got to get here, I got to get over there.

Ms. Holubinka: Thank you for coming.

Ms. Warren: It was last moment, but we, we’re trying to… That’s our school.

Ms. Holubinka: Oh, very cool. Okay.
Ms. Warren: That’s another building. And this was open September of 1920.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay. So, yeah. Two years before the George Wilson Center.

Ms. Warren: So it was two years before, and this is really a one-room schoolhouse.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Ms. Warren: Before they started adding levels and this sort of thing.

Ms. Holubinka: Very cool.

Ms. Warren: You know, we had the thing of building all the windows to one side for the sunlight to come in. DuPont did, he did have some very good ideas. He had an area for the teachers and stuff. He had a wood-burning stove. Had a kitchen in the back; they did cook. Has a well in the back.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Ms. Warren: So that’s what we were doing, trying to keep our school alive.

Ms. Holubinka: Yeah.

(Cross-talk 09:10.)

Mr. Hall: Previously before DuPont built this, there was a little, there was a school up on Cleveland Avenue…

Ms. Warren: Cleveland Avenue. And ours was on Old Baltimore Pike. It was on King’s Highway.

Mr. Hall: King’s Highway, yeah. Right.

Ms. Warren: Right. Yes. So…

Ms. Holubinka: Very cool.

Ms. Warren: That’s fun. Fun history.

(Cross-talk 09:33.)

Ms. Holubinka: I’m the coordinator for the community center here, so, Mr. Hall was just showing me around and telling me what…

Ms. Warren: What was in each room…
Ms. Holubinka: Yeah, what was where, because I had no idea. So, it's really interesting. So, he was explaining this was their dining hall and that was the cafeteria.

Mr. Hall: We always came in at that entrance there, and the girls…

Ms. Warren: And the girls came in another entrance.

Mr. Hall: And it was on this side.

Ms. Holubinka: Which makes sense because the girl’s room’s here and the men’s room’s there. Very cool.

[10:01]

Ms. Warren: And you all had from kindergarten through eighth grade as well?

Mr. Hall: From one to eighth grade.

Ms. Warren: One to eighth; you didn’t have kindergarten.

Mr. Hall: One to eighth grade. We didn’t have kindergarten.

Ms. Warren: And then did you all go to Howard as well? Or did you go down to Delaware State?

Mr. Hall: We went to Howard.

Ms. Warren: Okay.

Mr. Hall: And then after we left Howard, depended on, you know, what you did as to whether you went to college or you went off to the work force.

Ms. Warren: Okay.

Mr. Hall: Or military, whichever was your choice. But a lot of students that were from here went to Howard, and when they went to Howard, when they graduated, they mostly went to Delaware State, Morgan, Hampton, and Baltimore East, Maryland, over on the eastern shore, they went to school.

Ms. Warren: Okay.

Mr. Hall: Yeah. Because I had left here and went to Howard, and then I wanted to go to… I didn’t transfer during integration to go to Newark High because I had a possibility of getting a scholarship going to Maryland, Eastern Shore.

Ms. Warren: And you wanted that scholarship.
Mr. Hall: And I wanted that scholarship.

Ms. Warren: That’s right. That’s right.

Mr. Hall: Unfortunately, in the all-star game, I got injured, and they would not honor my scholarship.

Ms. Warren: What a shame.

Mr. Hall: Lost out. But then, that’s life.

Ms. Warren: And Newark Hall is now Pearson on campus. University of Delaware campus.

Ms. Holubinka: Oh really?

Ms. Warren: Just in case you were wondering where that Newark Hall is. That building still exists.


Ms. Warren: So, well I was just blessed that I, when I came here about thirty years ago, I ran into folks that were, went to school, to these schools, and they were very happy to hear the history of (unintelligible 12:08).

Ms. Holubinka: Yeah. It’s definitely what we need.

Ms. Warren: So, I was definitely like, “Oh, yes. Okay.”

Mr. Hall: Well, they’re still going in here, so we won’t get to cover this.

Ms. Holubinka: Yeah. Do you want to go in back behind there? Where we were?

(Sounds of other interview underway 12:24-12:47.)

Mr. Hall: This room here was the coal room, and coal would be stacked up to the ceiling. Now what they would do was, a coal truck would be coming from basically I think it was Howell (phonetic 13:00) Coal Company, and it was shipped here in this wall here. The coal would come down on the floor, and Mr. Johnny Bowls would shovel it back up. And then he would take his wheelbarrow at the winter time, load his wheelbarrow, wheel it out here, and the furnace was over here on the corner, and he would keep the furnace going. The he would take the ashes outside where they would be stored in a pile, and a truck would take them away. So, there was a coal stove, and so that’s how the building was heated during the winter time. So…
Ms. Holubinka: So this wasn’t even a classroom.

Mr. Hall: This wasn’t a classroom. This was like a stove set down in a little pit.

Ms. Holubinka: This was the boiler room.

Mr. Hall: It was the boiler room, and then you could walk through and go into the hallway back there.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

(Background interview 14:05-14:20.)

Mr. Hall: Go upstairs here?

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: Yeah, let’s go upstairs.

Ms. Holubinka: It’s so funny because we were so excited to use that room as an interview room because it’s one of the old classrooms. And it turns out it wasn’t even a classroom.

Mr. Hall: No, it wasn’t a classroom. And this was basically the stairway that the boys used.

Ms. Holubinka: So you said this stairway is pretty much exactly how it was when…

Mr. Hall: …How it was when we went to school. Except they did not have the grids here, but they had the bars. This was the entrance for students to come in the morning. [15:01] We were lined up outside, and each grade - you had first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth – lined up. And then Mr. Morgan (phonetic 15:08), that was principal, he would say, like, “First, second grade,” they would march in, then they would go into their classroom. Then the second, third grade, march in, go into their classroom. So he had to pretty much organize.

Ms. Holubinka: He had a really good system.

Mr. Hall: Principal Morgan had it set up pretty good.

Ms. Holubinka: Good.

Mr. Hall: And then here was basically a hallway that went all the way through. Except for, each room had a doorway similar to this, doorway that’s here, and a
doorway that’s here. And from the back along the way, we had classrooms. Two classrooms like first and second, third and fourth, fifth and sixth. And in between the second and third… First, second, third, and fourth was a doorways that opened up so that they could have an assembly. Where all the students could come in and they could get the information, you know, that the principal would like to have a play or a Christmas play or Thanksgiving play.

Ms. Holubinka: You said that there was a library too, right?

Mr. Hall: And then there was a library. The library was basically on this side that would be like seventh and eighth, and then there would be the library… Let’s see, seventh and eighth, and then we have the library, and I can’t remember… There was another… There was classrooms over here, so that would probably have been fifth and sixth.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: Probably fifth and sixth. The teachers basically used that entrance, and visitors came in, came through that entrance.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: Okay, so…

Ms. Holubinka: So, there wasn’t, like, a school office or anything.

Mr. Hall: No, there wasn’t a school office.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay. Not like we have today.

Mr. Hall: No. Basically, when someone comes in, the teachers would talk with them and direct them to whatever they, whatever classroom they wanted to go to.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: To get information on their child.

Ms. Holubinka: Gotcha. So this room in here… Would you say this was about the size of the classrooms? Or were they smaller?

Mr. Hall: This was about the size of the classrooms.

Ms. Holubinka: So then this, you said, would have been seventh grade? Or eighth grade?

Mr. Hall: This would have been seventh and eighth.
Ms. Holubinka: Seventh and eighth grade. Okay.

Mr. Hall: There were those little desks that you had where you have the little arm come out, and you sit and put your books down up underneath.

Ms. Holubinka: Oh yeah. Gotcha. And so there was no restroom here.

Mr. Hall: No restroom.

Ms. Holubinka: Because this was all classrooms.

Mr. Hall: Yes.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay. And right know, we use this as, we have a restroom here, and then we have our storage room that has the pottery kiln in it. That’s where we fire the pottery. And keep our stages and keep our TV for our camps and stuff. And keep some of our games and equipment. There’s a lot of drama props in there because they’re doing the show “Annie.” In three weeks, they have their show. So, there’s a whole bunch of props in there, including laundry baskets and a whole bunch of fun stuff. Sponges and…

Mr. Hall: It’s pretty, well, it’s been changed around, of course.

Ms. Holubinka: Definitely. And they, the rooms were all divided, you said.

Mr. Hall: All divided. There was a central hallway, and each room had a door to it. And each teacher would close the door when the classes were in session.

Ms. Holubinka: How long were the classes, usually?

Mr. Hall: I’d say classes usually ran about forty-five minutes to an hour for each class.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: And then we would have a recess. And then after recess, all the kids would come out of recess and go out on the playground and play.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: Then Mr. Morgan would blow the whistle. And when he would come out and blow the whistle, we would all run back and get in line and then come back and go to our classrooms.
Ms. Holubinka: Okay. Okay. Very cool. And can we look outside so you can explain what each outside (unintelligible 19:25)? And the classes? Was it, like, reading and math and science? Or what were the classes?

Mr. Hall: They had a basic reading, writing, and arithmetic were basically the classes.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: Now this was all a cement area here. The railing was not here.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: And so the (unintelligible 19:56) each grade would line up in a row until he got them all here and then Mr. Morgan was known as football head.

[20:07]

Ms. Holubinka: Football head?

Mr. Hall: What happened is he would take a football, and while we were lining up waiting to go into class, if we were talking, he would take a football and bang, pop you on the head, tell you to shut up. So you stood (unintelligible 20:21).

Ms. Holubinka: So it really was a good system that they had.

Mr. Hall: And basically they had the sidewalk came up through here, which was an entrance to the school.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: And as we get over on this side, this was mostly an open playground where everybody could just sort of lay around and play. Then when we got to move over… And this is right where we had the picnic area with a volleyball court. And most of the…

Ms. Holubinka: Was it a sand volleyball court?

Mr. Hall: No. It was just a dirt volleyball court where everybody played volleyball. The basketball court is pretty much the same. And down below where the swings are is just an area, an open area for sports activities where they went down to kick soccer balls.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.
Mr. Hall: Down where the baseball field is now, that was in all the outfield for the baseball diamond.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: The baseball diamond used to be… Up near where the trash cans are used to be the backstop. And there was a tree there where we sold refreshments. Hot dogs, sodas.

Ms. Holubinka: Really?

Mr. Hall: And we hit the ball down to the parking lot. And it was about a good three hundred yards. And if you hit it over the fence, it was a home run.

Ms. Holubinka: Oh, okay. So, this parking lot wasn’t here and that parking lot was not here.

Mr. Hall: And that parking lot wasn’t there. There was just a roadway that came around from the parking area right there that came to the boiler room and to the cafeteria where the milk man and anybody delivering groceries. They brought their groceries, and the coal truck delivered the coal.

Ms. Holubinka: Yeah, that’s what you were saying. Into the coal room.

Mr. Hall: Yeah. And then it was like a circle right around here where they could turn and go back out.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: And anybody parking parked on the side of the road which led in, and then they come back out.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: So this was pretty much, been a quite a bit of change.

Ms. Holubinka: And you said that there was a football field out there, too, right?

Mr. Hall: And down at the bottom where the baseball diamond is used to be the football field.

Ms. Holubinka: Really?

Mr. Hall: And the football field ran from, oh, I’d say back up to where the…

Ms. Holubinka: Where the tennis court is?
Mr. Hall: Well, yeah, from where the tennis court is down to the next adjoining property, which was the Tollson property (phonetic 23:28). And that was our football field, and we played football there right after every baseball game in the summer when school wasn’t going on.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: From this tree, these two trees right here, going out to where the swings and the slide boards are, used to be a little what we called mini football field. And after recess, we’d go out and have a short football game in the winter time, and the first and second grade would play the third and fourth. And the fifth and sixth.

Ms. Holubinka: Oh, okay.

Mr. Hall: So we had different teams.

Ms. Holubinka: Did you have any leagues or anything, though? Was there an official football team and an official baseball team from the school?

Mr. Hall: Basically, we had everybody was from the community, and then the community, they had several softball teams and, which were girls, and I can remember Dungaree Dolls and there was another softball team that they had. And the girls played softball. And the men, they had a baseball team, which was the Blue Devils, which was managed by William Brown, and William Brown used to live on the other side of the basketball court, so he was the manager of the baseball team.

Ms. Holubinka: Okay.

Mr. Hall: And then during the summer months, they held baseball games up here just about every either Saturday or Sunday. [25:03] Then sometimes, they would play Saturday and Sunday. The maintenance of the field was done by the ball players, so we would come up, cut the grass, and rake off the diamond and put the scratch down where we needed and set the bases of all the ball players.

Ms. Holubinka: That’s really cool. And so there was no pool here.

Mr. Hall: So there was no pool in the area here.

Ms. Holubinka: (Unintelligible 25:36.)

Mr. Hall: No, I think of it every once in awhile.

Ms. Holubinka: Yeah.
Mr. Hall:    But one of the biggest things that you want to think of, and give this to John Bowls who was janitor here, great credit. With all this space here, he had a power mower, and he kept the grass cut.

Ms. Holubinka:    Really?

Mr. Hall:    And that was part of his job as janitor, to cut all the grass in this area. But sometimes when Mr. Johnny was basically like my adoptive father for awhile, and I would come up and help him cut the grass, like on a Saturday, when he had duties inside, and it was a great help to him. Now, I guess the school has a grass cutting unit that comes in and cuts the grass periodically.

Ms. Holubinka:    You’re talking about now?

Mr. Hall:    Yeah.

Ms. Holubinka:    Yeah, we have our city parks crew come down.

Mr. Hall:    Oh, city parks crew comes in.

Ms. Holubinka:    And there, the grass grows really fast.

Mr. Hall:    Oh, yes.

Ms. Holubinka:    And I don’t know if you can see over there. So right now, we have the picnic area, we have the horseshoe pit, the basketball field, the tennis court, the playground, and the softball field, and of course the pool. But what’s really great is our newest addition is what’s called a “Gaga Pit” (phonetic 26:57). It’s just past that tree stump. You can kind of see the top of it right now. But what’s so cool about that is that we just had volunteers come in from Comcast…

Mr. Hall:    Okay.

Ms. Holubinka:    …And they funded that and they built it for us. And Gaga is one of the favorite games that the kids play nowadays. They absolutely love it. So, it’s very cool.

Mr. Hall:    Good. Good.

Ms. Holubinka:    So, a lot of kids who come through here and use this. It’ll be cool to tell them the history as well.

Mr. Hall:    Where the grey power boxes here? That used to be part of where our football field would go. From that green power box down to the tree, and
it would be, like, you went past the first tree, it was a touchdown. You went past this tree here, it was a touchdown.

Ms. Holubinka: Oh, okay.

Mr. Hall: And one day, we were out playing football, and like, on a Monday, and someone had come to the playground, and there was a broken bottle. And as the guy tackled me…

Ms. Holubinka: Oh no!

Mr. Hall: …I hit the broken bottle, and I had to have eight stitches put in my hand.

Ms. Holubinka: Really?

Mr. Hall: And that’s (unintelligible 28:07) when I was in, well roughly, like, the third grade. So that’s something I’ll always remember.

Ms. Holubinka: You still have the scar?

Mr. Hall: I still have the scar. Eight stitches were put into my hand.

Ms. Holubinka: Wow.

Mr. Hall: And, well, during that time, my parents sent me to my aunt’s cause they didn’t want me roughhousing and coming and playing until my hand healed.

Ms. Holubinka: Aw. Very cool. Do you have… What was your favorite memory out in this field?

Mr. Hall: Favorite memories? I think that one of my favorites was that I was in, say, roughly, high school. And I was about maybe a junior in high school. William Brown had kind of had a baseball team come in which was called the Alcohol Flashes (phonetic 28:58) which was a semi-pro baseball team. And we were playing the Alcohol Flashes, and the school was pretty close, and I came up to bat with two men on, and I hit a home run over the fence. So that was one of my greatest… And then, every Sunday, the Alcohol Flashes would try to contract me to go to Maryland or Pennsylvania to play semi-pro baseball with them. So I bet that was really great.

Ms. Holubinka: Very cool. Awesome. And so, with the school, too, I was reading your graduation ceremonies would be in the field across the street, right?

Mr. Hall: No. No.

Ms. Holubinka: Well, where were the graduations?
Graduation ceremony was basically… If it wasn’t held inside, it was held, let’s see…

Ms. Holubinka: It was held here?

Mr. Hall: It was held, yeah, right down through here.

Ms. Holubinka: Oh, okay.

Mr. Hall: It was held right down through here.

Ms. Holubinka: Wow. Very cool. Do you have any questions?

[End 30:17]