

00:01

Hello, my name is Emily Perry.

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I am the Chair Person for the Lincoln-Dixonville taskforce.

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The stories you're about to hear are long time residents of the East Side, better known

00:14

as Dixonville.

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Mrs. Larissa Robinson, Mr. William Peoples, Mrs. Santino, Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. Dorothy Gilmore,

00:27

and Mr. John Mackey

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You know, there was a comment that I used to hear growing up that said, nothing good

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was gonna come outta Dixonville.

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And, I beg to differ.

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I came outta Dixonville.

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Others came outta Dixonville.

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That's why I'm passionate about what I do, and what I fight for in the community.

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Because I stand on some broad shoulders.

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You had to see what's inside.

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What was inside was love, compassion.

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It was a village.

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It was everything that you imagine because nobody knew that they were poor.

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Everybody looked after everybody.

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You know?

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It was a close knit community.

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If her mother got sick, you know, my parents would go in and get the laundry, you know,

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if she was bed ridden you know, and she'd bring it home and we had a washboard and we'd

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wash clothes and whatever we had we shared.

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That's the way the families grew up.

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Anything you done, your parents would know it by the time you got home . And in

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fact, it wasn't very few telephones around but anyway, the message would beat you home.

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We all was around together.

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Everybody was together.

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One big happy family, looked like.

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We played jack rocks and hop scotch and jumpin' the rope and countin' high.

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You know, just similar things like that.

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And you knew everybody.

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You know, you knew all the people that lived in your neighborhood.

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Back then, you knew 'em.

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I don't know half the people around me now.

02:01

This was called East Side, but it wasn't exactly including Dixonville, it was like

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they say, anytime we would cross the tracks, people say we lived in Dixonville.
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And I had one friend, girl, that would get mad
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at ya if you said she lived in Dixonville.
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Viola Dixon.
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Vi, Vi would get mad.,
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She said, "I don't live in no Dixonville.
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I live on the East Side of Salisbury.
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That name, Dixonville, to us was degrading.
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Because we always didn't want to be part of it.
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We don't belong up there.
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We live on the East Side.
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Because..
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I don't know why we did that.
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We would correct you.
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I think about the fact that our parents knew something that we didn't have a clue to.
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That was to keep a mind occupied because an idle mind was the Devil's workshop.
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We had a lady that lived on Concord St called Ms. Ethel Miller.
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And, she had no children but she loved children.
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And she would gather us in the summertime because there was nothin' for us to do.
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Not a thing in the summertime.
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And she would gather us and take us on a picnic.
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Now, we walked, and I can't tell you where it was.
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We walked -- and it was a long ways -- and she would always have picnic baskets and food
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for us to eat when we got to this ladies house.
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And I remember it was a red hill with nothin but red dirt.
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And we would slide down the hill.
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And this was, this was what she was trying to do to keep us, to help us have somethin'
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to do in the summertime because there was nothin' else to do.
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(laughs) Well, we all had chores to do after we got out of school, like Margaret said,
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you
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came home from school you had something to do.
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And the mill over here, uh, used to blow the whistle every day at quarter to four.
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And I had to be home from uh, high school on Horah St. I had to be home at four o'clock.
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And the whistle would blow at quarter to four and I knew I was supposed to be somewhere
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and I could be home on time.
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I went to Lincoln School from grade 1 through 8 and uh, we had, uh, we had some real good
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teachers there.

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Back then, when I was growin' up, you might a been a little slow.
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But, they'd never let you know it.
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They just spent more time with ya.
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Ms. June Ross started off tryin' to teach us Home Ec.
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We did not have a Home Ec room, but we had a hallway.
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And there they put a stove there and a table and she tried to teach us how to cook, how
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to set a table, because we had..
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Our things were limited what we had.
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But she tried her best to teach us how to set a table, how to eat, what to cook..
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What was healthy and everything.
04:57
We honored Lincoln School because that was where we got our first training.
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That was where we begin to learn what it was like to.. what is was gon' be like to be
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in.. and to move outta this little area and they taught us how to start our life off.
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We had to go through the cemetery to get to, to school you know.
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We had to go through there and uh, there was a big ol pear tree there and a pecan tree
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and we would stop there and get pecans and everything.
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I have good memories about that cemetery because that was the way I went to school every day
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is through that cemetery.
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And, in the mornin's we would put our books down and go over there.
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They had a persimmon tree and we would go over there and pull, eat, pick persimmons.
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In the afternoons we would come through that same cemetery on the way home.
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And sometimes we had fights, and everybody fight break out over there, and everybody
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run to see the fight and when the fight was over, we would go get persimmons or locusts
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or pear or whatever else was growin' over there in that cemetery.
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If you don't watch out, you'll step in a hole.
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You know, you be goin' through there and somebody push ya or something and you might
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step in a hole.
06:23
Say, "you better get off that grave!"
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But, but but, you know, we, we enjoyed goin' to school over there.
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We need to keep our heritage goin'.
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And, uh, it's something especially to talk to your family and tell you about certain
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things
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and show 'em if there is any pictures, show 'em you
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know, how we had to survive on little to nothin'.
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Well I think it's still important that we still honorin' and doin' these things.
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It's still important to me that I can look back over the years and remember this.
07:01

Only thing I can think of that I would like to see is uh, some kinda beautification of
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the cemetery.

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I like for this area to become one of the, um, most traveled, um, well visited historic
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sites in Salisbury

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and it has the potential.

English

AllWatched