

**Devin Roth interviewing Patti Wilson-Aden clip 2**

**Topic: Main Street Newark/Racial experience in Newark**

**Interviewer:** Alright. And then, outside of school just in the town of Newark, are there any memories that stand out to you specifically, maybe on Main Street or-

**Patty Wilson-Aden:** So, I was past the point where Main Street was segregated, but we certainly knew the State Theatre for a long time was segregated and the Black families would go to Elkton to go to the movies. The drug store...You didn't go to the drug store, but when I came along in the Sixties, those things were opening up. But our parents still had trepidation about how we travelled and navigated the community. Black people did not go to Deer Park. Deer Park was notoriously racist. And I love the way they've made themselves over into like a fern bar or whatever, but when I was growing up it was a ramshackle bar and Black people were definitely not welcome at Deer Park. On the other hand, Newark was the kind of community where you could walk home from school, and you, you know, you went to Newark Department Store. My sister's first job was at Newark Department Store. My first job was at the Newark Free Library. You know, so I don't want to just focus on those troubling aspects because it was a tight community. You know my cousins lived on Ray Street so you could walk down the street around the corner and, you know, you were at family's house. My grandparents were right next door so I never needed a baby sitter because family was close by. So, there were very positive aspects of growing up in Newark and as I said those people that I grew up with, you know, extended family or, you know, family not by blood but by the fact that you grew up with them were still very much a part of our lives.