

TAPE LOG COVER SHEET

Fieldworker Gutchen Quinonez Date 4/1/99
Artist/Informant Rebecca Harvey / Shannon Sutton Time _____
Recording Location Valdosta, GA at home Project Eng 8700
Other People Present _____

General Subject Sakin Specific Subject childhood v. present

Cultural Group _____

Equipment Used Wolfsen SAx

Stereo _____ Dolby _____ Tape Brand/Length Maxell 90

High Bias _____ Normal/Low Bias _____ Metal _____

Amount Tape Used: Side 1 most all

Summary Description of Recording Context/Technical Assessment of Tape Quality

difficult to hear at some points

Summary Description of Tape Contents

Talk about Sakin of their childhood & how it differs from the present. Give reasons for not residing there now.

Shannon Sutton/Rebecca Harvey Carter
Interview

GG-Tell me some of your childhood memories of Jakin.

RHC- Remembers Miss Daisy's store getting Cokes in the bottle and how Miss Daisy would always give away half dollars.

SS- she always gave you candies.

RHC-she gave you something always. Talks about the old fashioned advertisements and metal signs as well as Miss Lucille Whittington our Sunday school teacher sitting there visiting.

SS-remembers the kerosene heater in the store and the back of the store, which had once been a butcher shop.

Both discuss the store, which was on the other side of Miss Daisy's, which is no longer there. Shannon says that at some point, it was a video arcade, but her parents didn't want her to go there, because of bad children who were there. (The shop was later closed due to criminal activity)

RHC- the skating rink (old Jakin gym, no longer standing) got pretty bad too. Says that her older brother told her about the kids who came at night and stayed in the parking lot smoking and drinking. Said Mrs. Eleanor (the owner) came after them with a gun.

(We all think this is pretty funny, because Miss Eleanor is about 5 feet tall and talks non stop)

GG-I don't remember going at night, but remember the Jerry Lewis skate-a-thon.
Shannon remembers going to birthday parties held there.

RHC-mentions Day Camp, which was held in the summer, and sponsored by the Jakin Methodists (we're all Methodists).

SS-Ooh yeah, we'd all go out to Miss Virginia (Harvey) cabin and Sarah (Rebecca's sister) would teach us art and we had dried corn and peas and we'd make all kinds of stuff with it.

GG-used to be a lot of people at Day Camp

SS-I don't know where all the children went.

GG-bring up Vacation Bible School; ask them if they HAD to go to VBS (because I did).

SS- at the Baptist church?

RHC-I went a couple of nights and begged not to go back. Says she didn't like it because she didn't know anyone.

GG- talk about the difference between Day Camp held during the day and offered different activities and VBS was at night, inside and was just like a Sunday school class.

We talk about some of the other things we did at Day Camp such as going swimming at Howard's Mill (now drained) and wading at Kirkland's Creek (now closed and blocked by the county).

RHC-I don't know what happened to Day Camp, if everybody in charge of it got tired of doing it or what?

We talk about other church/community functions that don't exist any more: Halloween carnivals, hayrides, and Christmas parties, which featured Shannon's father as Santa Claus.

RHC-I remember meeting at the log cabin and you would ride on those flat bed trailers and it would be so cold.

We talk about functions that were held at the Jakin lunchroom (the only part of the school left standing). They mention that Donsonville churches used to come to the lunchroom to have functions.

We discuss community softball games that don't happen anymore.

SS-I think everybody knew everybody like their grandchildren and their children all still lived there.

RHC-I don't know anybody in Jakin anymore.

We agree we don't either.

GG- ask them about the Centennial

SS-It was great to see that many people who'd had some kind of contact with Jakin at sometime.

RHC- it was nice to see, especially the library, which was a big part of it, historically. So, people could see it the things that happened. I think that was a big event that brought everybody back together the way things used to be.

SS-It was good to see that people cared that it was important to them, to improve downtown.

GG- So what now?

RHC-Well, I think since the Centennial especially in the last few years, well even before the Centennial--It makes me sad to see there's a community, both nothing like we had when we were younger or like we heard about. Just listening to my Aunt Virginia talk, people met in town, people sat on the porch and talked. It was nice to know you had people their, people you could call on if you needed them. Its just sad to see people aren't getting to know each other well or taking care of the community.

SS-well people are either moving away or keeping to themselves so much, I guess. I don't know if it's just the way people are nowadays. They just don't take time to get to know people but the library they've got computers now. I think they've got a good many that still go.

GG- ask them why they haven't' moved back.

RHC-I left to go to school and get away from home a little bit. Says she always had plans to go back, but doesn't think she can do it yet.

SS- until you're really secure. Complains about the lack of jobs you could go back to, just not that many opportunities.

GG- I talk about all the things that I see that need doing, but I couldn't go back either. Tell them I'm glad that Jakin isn't a suburb of Atlanta, because it would be erased, but I worry about what its going to become.

They talk about their fear of the paper mill leaving. Rebecca says that in today's world both partners in a marriage have to work and when you get home you just want to sit down instead of meeting people. Says she knows its not only Jakin.

GG- ask them if they have any other comments and Shannon screams "I LOVE JAKIN" then Rebecca adds "ME TOO"

SS- I wish, I think it would be nice to raise kids in a place like where we were raised. I think it would be good to raise kids there now, it'd be very peaceful, but it wouldn't be exactly the same.

Knock at the door end of tape.

Both Shannon and Rebecca echoed some of my feelings about the future of Jakin and some of the current problems. Like me, they also want to help but cannot articulate exactly why we are all unwilling to move home just now, although part of it involves economics.

Some of the things I remembered they did not and vice versa. The only comment that seemed odd to me was Shannon's notion that maybe since computers had been installed in the library then more people would come. Maybe this is just my personal techno-phobia, but I question the ability of computers to create a sense of community. I know she did not mean it actually this way, but rather as just additional facilities for the public.

Some of the things that they say are muffled and unfortunately the knock on the door was too loud.