

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions
Oral History Documentation Project

Clifton Fenwick

Interviewed by Alma Jordon

July 15, 2026

at the U.S.C.T. Interpretive Center in Lexington Park

Transcribed by REV.com July 10, 2026

Edited by Brenda Coates September 19, 2026

[this interview is not logged as of July 20, 2026]

Original is digital video recorder download (mp4)

48 minutes, 59 seconds

[the beginning of this interview was not recorded due to technical difficulties]

Also in attendance: Brenda Coates, Anna Moseley, Nathaniel Lawrence

Alma Jordon:

Good afternoon. This is Alma Jordon with the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions and today is July 15, 2026. We are at the United States Colored Troops Interpretive Center in Lexington Park, Maryland. We are interviewing today Mr. Clifton Fenwick to learn more about the Black Baseball League. We also have with us today, Brenda Coates, Anna Moseley, and our president, Nathaniel Lawrence.

Clifton Fenwick (00:45):

[When I went into the Army, I wanted to be an MP, but they told me I was too short, so] I ended up in Signal School at Fort Gordon. So, in June of 1962, they sent me to Saran in France. That's where I was until September 1963. But the experience overseas was pretty good. I got to see some places over there that I would never have seen, I guess. The Louvre, some places like that, the Eiffel Tower. But that was, for some reason, the Eiffel Tower was one of the biggest disappointments in my life. It wasn't what I thought it was going to be. I mean, they had this steel monster up in the air. And the space below that, empty and whatnot. It didn't do anything for me. And so, in '63, I got out in October '63, came back home, and then in 1964 I got back into this baseball thing. And we still were disorganized. Again, there were teams, but the teams had to make their own schedule, book their own games and everything.

(02:07):

So, I think in 1964... the guys that started out, I think, in '58 and whatnot, I guess we had become in our mid-20s. And some, at that time, in the early 30s. And we decided that we had to do something because otherwise the league was completely gone. So, we got together and we got things established again, and got it back on board, on par. And we had other teams in there. We had at one time, I think from '64, it was the beginning of '65, we had about 16 teams. And in January of '65, I was elected the president of the league for the first time. And I was the first president since Mr. James Forest. So, I was the second president of the *Southern Maryland Baseball League*. And from that, we went and then we started getting raggedy again.

(03:23):

So, we got to the point, I think in '68, '67, that we had teams dropping in and out. Guys played in shorts, street shoes, and all that kind of stuff. It wasn't conducive to baseball, with one team having uniforms, other teams having shorts and blue jeans and whatnot. And I had a white guy on the team. I think I told you at the college that our team was actually the first team that integrated into Southern Maryland. And we had this white kid. I had a white kid on the team before he came. And he played one game; we played this team with the shorts and whatnot. And so next week, he didn't come back. So, the week after that, he didn't come back. So, I said, "Gus, where's your friend?" "He's not coming back."

I said, "Why? What did we do?"

He said, "Well, he's one of these guys that everything has to be right. And he didn't like the idea of playing against players with shorts and shoes, and stuff like that."

(04:20):

I said, "Okay." I mean, I could understand that. And then in 1970, we decided we had to do something again. So, at this particular time, at the end of 1964, 1969, Leroy Holly and Bill Martin, both of them are deceased now, and I, we had the task of putting this league back together again. So, we rewrote the constitution and bylaws and things, and then we named it the *Southern Maryland Independent Baseball League*. From 1969 until it folded in 1994 it was the *Southern Maryland Independent Baseball League*. And so, that was my second time being elected president in 1970. I don't know why I resigned in '67... for some reason.

But anyway, our next president was Lowell Hancock, but he was only for one year. Then, Bill Martin became president. He had to resign, I think, in 1969 because of health reasons. So again, I was the president from '70 to '72. And then I resigned again because I decided I was ready to go to college then. When I came out of high school, my grandfather, the principal at Banneker at that time, I don't know if he was the principal at that time, but David Smith. They wanted me to go to college, but I said, "Okay, I will go in the second semester," which would have been in January. So, the second semester came around, I put it off again, and I never got to college until after 1972 when I enrolled into a DC Teacher's College in DC, which actually became Federal City. Then it merged into... what was that? Let me see. Federal City became UDC, I think. And that's where I was, in UDC.

(07:11):

And I was working and going at night, and I had some day classes. And I had a boss that encouraged people to go to college and whatnot. So, I was taking some day classes also. And if there was enough time left in the workday, I would go back to work. And in school, college, and whatnot, I sat in class some days and be looking out at the UDC [campus]; they were out there playing baseball, and I wanted to be out there with them. At that time, I guess, I was in my 30s, I said, "No, no, I better stay here." So, at UDC, I had ninety credit hours, and I decided I was going to take a year off. When I went back, they had changed presidents, and I had lost 30 credit hours. So, then that made me angry and I quit. I said, "No, no, no. I'm through." And I didn't go back. And years later, my daughter, she talked to me, wanted me to go back and do it online and whatnot, but I never got back to it. And I was a major in accounting.

(08:41):

And then, I was back here. I came back, this was in '74, I decided that I was going to build a house and put my parents into it. So, I did that, and I was still living in DC. So then, I think, about '77 or '78, I looked up one day, "Wait a minute. Why am I paying rent in two places? Paying a mortgage bill and I'm paying rent up here, too." I had, we hadn't got divorced, but my wife and I, we got separated. And so, I came back home in '78 and commuted from Chaptico to Washington to work, up until, I think, I retired in 2008. I had my gallbladder taken out in 2007. That was in November 2007. My doc had told me it's going to be an in and out thing. And I said, "No, no, you're not going to take part of my body out," and then

going to tell me I'm going home the same day. "No, you're not going to do that." So anyway, I ended up being in the hospital for a whole week.

And from that point, like every day, I kept on saying, "Okay." After that, about every week I would get up to go to work." No, no, I'm not going today." So that happened up until February of 2008. Then I called in one day. I said, "Look, I won't be back." That's how I retired, from having my gallbladder taken out and not going back. But getting back to the baseball thing, and I think it was in the mid '80s, we started getting teams from Parole, Bowie and out of DC and Virginia in our league. That put us up to what, 20 some teams. And then the teams from Parole and Bowie decided it was too far for them to drive, and they went back and started the *Chesapeake League*. And the *Chesapeake League* is still going today. I think they have about eight teams in there. We had two teams in the area. There's one team over at the *Night Life*, over at Oakville. used to be Jolly Gents, one team playing over there. And the other at Wicomico, they are now playing down in Newburg, at the *Elks Home*.

And we went that way until, I think, in 1993 our league had started going down south again. And I got to the point I really had burnout. I mean, I had been there since '54. I was 16 years old then. And now, I was in the late 50s. So, I decided that I was going to quit. Then I think that I had served my last term as president of the league from 1990 to '93. I was going to actually give it up completely. I had this white guy with me, and he asked me would I manage the team that he was going to put in the *Charles-St. Mary's League*. So, I told him, I said, "Okay, I'll do it one year." And when I won that one year, it extended to four years. So then when I actually couldn't get the players that I wanted, we never had a winning team in that league. And some of the guys that was working with me decided that they were going to give it up and whatnot. So, I think in 1999, I didn't go back.

And one of my cousins that was working with me, said to me, "Let's do one more year."

I said, "No Francis, this is it. We're not going back. We're through." And so, that's when I was finished with the baseball part of my life.

Alma Jordon (13:26):

We talked about baseball. What position or positions did you play?

Clifton Fenwick:

I did just about everything. I started in high school; I was in center field with the softball team. And then we had a guy that came from St. Joseph's was faster than I was. His name was Charles Lewis Holt. And I moved to left field. But on that team at Banneker, we started out with George Forrest as the catcher and then Rudolph Somerville came from St. Joseph's, George moved to the outfield, Joe Boy Dorsey at third base, Eddie Thompson at shortstop, Leander Curtis at second base. We had George Holt, Raymond Holt, and Aloysius Jennifer who shared first base. And Joseph Bush, who we called 'Nuke,' was our pitcher. And I said before, earlier, from the eighth grade until we graduated, we dominate the grades above us and below us until we graduated. And when I got to baseball, I started out in left field there on the baseball team, hardball team. And then I played center field for a while.

And then I think in 1961, my cousin, William Mills, he... I don't know whether he stopped playing, or he was sick or what. Then I moved to shortstop. But I played that for about 10 years. And then we bought another guy called James Hill from another team. I was being selfish when he got there for the first game. I mean, I was calling the shots, because I was the manager. And I decided he wasn't going to play shortstop the first game that he got there. So, I played that game. Then the next game, I moved to second base and he played shortstop. And then from second base, I went to first base. And that's where I ended up at first base. But one other position I played... But I only played, I think, maybe two games. The first game after service in '64, Sonny Thompson was our manager, and we were playing the *Arline*

Foxes, over in Calvert County. And look, all my life I played either outfield or infield. This particular day, he tells me, "You're playing... You're catching."

I said, "Wait a minute, I'm catching?" I said, "I ain't never caught in my life."

"You can try it, right?"

I said, "Yeah, I can." I got back behind the plate. Anything that the batter wasn't swinging at, I caught. Everything that the batter swung at, whether he hit or missed, I was closing my eyes, so I wasn't catching nothing. So, that was my career behind the plate. And then I think I went out there one more time and tried the same thing. So no, catching is not for me. And I couldn't pitch. So, other than catching and pitching, I did everything else on the field. And I think I was 59 when I played my last game, and not because I wanted to. I had to, to stop from forfeiting the game. We didn't have eight players, so I had to play it.

Alma Jordon (17:10):

Do you remember when the teams might have been integrated, were there any white players on any of your teams?

Clifton Fenwick:

Yeah, our team. My team. We started, I think, it was in the early '70s. This one guy came to me because he lived in Cheverly and he was driving a *Canadian Dry* truck delivering sodas down here in St. Mary's. And he wanted to join the *Charles and St. Mary's League*. But because he didn't work in the county or live in the area, and at that time they were strictly Charles and St. Mary's, and they wouldn't take him. So, he knew my youngest brother, and he knew him. And he talked to him. My brother brought him down here, and he played with us for about six or seven years before he stopped playing. And then we started getting sailors off the base that started coming to us. And I remember the first time that we went to Wicomico with these white players, the fans, and even the ball players, they couldn't believe it. They were down on us because we picked these white players up.

And then after that, I think Mr. Yorkshire, Lawrence Yorkshire of Oakville, started getting some. And then after that, all the teams started getting white ball players also. And I think in '93 or '94, when the league folded, all the teams that was involved in the league, even the 16 or 17 of us, all had at least one white player on the team. But at that time, when we integrated, we were the '3Cs'.

Alma Jordon (19:08):

And the '3Cs' again was?

Clifton Fenwick:

I'll put it this way. There was one club in three locations. We started in Avenue, then we went '3Cs', Chaptico, Crossroad, and Clements. And then in the '80s, in the late '70s, we moved to White Pines Club in Chaptico and became the '*Chaptico Braves*'.

Alma Jordon:

Okay. What effect do you feel baseball had on the community, and the county, and the country?

Clifton Fenwick:

The community had a big thing to do with that [baseball] because the people were involved into it. The families around the community was involved in it because it seemed as though most families had at

least somebody playing on a team or whatnot. And as guys were saying earlier that it was a thing that in the summertime, it was church and baseball. You go to church, you come out of church, and then you play baseball. They were there for the, I don't know, food was good, chicken, the hot dogs, the cold beer, and whatnot. And this is what most of the fans will tell you about that if you ask them. And after the game, the players enjoyed a beer or two. And the county itself, *Charles and St. Mary's League* started out as the *Catholic League*. It was the Catholic Church that had the teams. They were also segregated at that time, also, and didn't allow us to play. Then it became *Charles and St. Mary's League*.

And for some reason, I mean, I always knew that I could play with them guys, and I knew that the guys that I played with could play in those leagues. That we were just as good as they were. And I knew that we were faster than most of them were. But up until, I think maybe in the late '80s, that they started having Black ones. I think that maybe Herbie Smith was the first Black one that played in that league. Then after that, some of the teams started taking some. It was way up into the mid '80s and whatnot actually, before they started to accepting Black ball players in the league. And baseball in the early days, that started back in '46 or whatever when Jackie Robinson came into the league. And up until, I guess, let's say early '80s, Blacks dominated the Major League Baseball, but now you don't see that many Blacks in Major League Baseball. Most of your dark-skinned players are Latinos, that's in baseball.

And you might have, I don't know, 3% of Blacks are playing baseball in Major League now, because a lot of the younger kids, they went to basketball and football. And so, I think that it might be trying to make a comeback, but it's still lacking Black American negroes in Major League Baseball.

Alma Jordon (23:25):

During your conversation you didn't mention, you talked about management, leadership, and that type of thing, what about your umpires? Did they have a group?

Clifton Fenwick:

Yeah. The first time William Martin retired, he resigned from the presidency because of health. The second time he resigned was to start an umpire association, and I think this was in maybe '73 or '74 that he started this organization. And that was the same organization that was still going strong when the league folded. And we had assigned 2 umpires per game until we got to the playoffs and championship games, then, we had 4. And I think the fees started out at, when we first started, was something like \$25 per game per man and then it started going up. I think when they stopped, they were getting \$75 a game. I know when I was president, I asked Mr. Martin in a meeting. I said, "Wait a minute, are these guys doing this thing because they love the game or they're doing this for a part-time job?" Because the price kept on going up.

And I thought it was a hobby and they was doing it for love, but they wanted more money, wanted more money. But we had to pay it if we wanted umpires. And he did a good job with the umpire association. And as I said, we're still going strong when the league folded. But getting back to leadership, I think you remember me saying that softball and bingo was the cause for the demise of our league. But also, I've talked to George Briscoe about this since then, part of it also could be leadership. When the league started folding whatnot when we were young, we got together and kept going. But when it started going downhill in the later years of my career, guys like the age of George Briscoe and Herbie Smith and them guys, they didn't step forward to keep it going. And that's another reason why it folded because those guys did not step forward like we did to keep it going. And George, also, he admits to it that was probably the problem, but he has no explanation for why they didn't step forward like we did.

Alma Jordon(26:27):

What about uniforms? Did you have sponsors? Or how did you-

Clifton Fenwick:

We have. I think most teams had sponsors. We had to set up our own sponsors, each team did. I know that we had a guy doing it. We had different stores and whatnot to put their name on the back of our uniforms for maybe a period of three years for maybe \$150, about \$50 a year for three years. But they had to sign up for at least three years to buy the uniform. The uniform would last us about three years if whatnot. But there was one year that I went to a beer company in Waldorf, Bozick beer company, that sells Coors and whatnot, and he sponsored 28 suits, that beer company did. But the name, 'Coors', was on the back of the uniform. And one time I went to a sponsor, it was a lumber company up in Charlotte Hall by where the farmer's market used to be. I went there one year for some lumber to put up around our fence, and his father said to him, because this guy was running for county commission that year. His father said, "Go ahead and give him the lumber he might vote for you." I mean, he was a republican, I'm a democrat. So anyway, I voted for this guy. And would you know that this guy actually won by one vote and I never let him forget it. I never let him forget it. Every time I saw him, I said, "You know, you won your county commission seat, by one vote and I voted for you." And the whole time that he was still in the sawmill business, whenever we needed some lumber, we got it. But that, and getting back to the papers, I think it was in 1971 or something, I was president, and I had grown up with this guy called Joe Norris. He was the sports editor at *The Enterprise* at that time. Because from '59 until '71, we didn't get any coverage at all. And I went to him and asked him would he cover our league, and he said yes. And then from '71 until the league folded, *The Enterprise* covered our league.

And they had got to the point, some of the sports writers or the editors, they were covering our league more than they were covering the *Charles and St. Mary's County League*, and Charles County didn't like that. But our league had the most fans, and the writers were saying that it had more excitement than the other league had, and they preferred covering our league.

Alma Jordon (29:46):

What's your fondest memory of playing baseball?

Clifton Fenwick:

I have two. Number one was in 1961. I think it was my last game before I went to the service. I was playing the *Piney Point Eagles*, and I don't know what I was doing that day, I was showing off, I was going from shortstop to the outfield, catching balls and all of that. And after the game, Roy Cutchember, a guy that I had heard about, but I never saw him play. I heard about how good he was and whatnot. And he came up to me and said, "Young man, I never saw anybody play shortstop the way you did today." And I never forgot that.

And the second one was playing long enough and still able to play, so that I could play in the same lineup with my son for two or three years once he started playing.

Alma Jordon:

Well, that leads me to my next question. You mentioned playing baseball for a long time. Did any of your siblings, or you mentioned your son, get into playing for the teams?

Clifton Fenwick:

Yes. My brother Leonard, when I went to service in '61, he was playing with us. When I got out of service, he had gone hot rodding. His time was spent up on the street that did racing cars. He was no longer into baseball. Then my brother, the second youngest, after I got out of service, he started playing with us. His name was Charles. He started playing with us. I think he only played about three or four years. My youngest brother, he was athletic, but basketball was his thing. He never played baseball. And my sister Theresa, she never played softball after school. In fact, she never played any sports at school, but she was just athletic as we were because, I guess, she was the only sister, and she didn't have an option but to be out there with us to play and whatnot. And by my mother started us off with sports, she was involved into it, and she never stopped loving sports. She was into everything: football, baseball, and whatnot.

And when the *Mystics* first came to Washington, her and her friend bought season tickets for the first couple of years. And then when their traveling started throwing her off and whatnot, then she stopped buying the tickets, but she always was engaged in sports. But most of my siblings, not my siblings, basically someone on my maternity side of the family was always involved in baseball. I had, what? Eight aunts and six uncles on my mother's side of the family. And somebody from every one of those families were involved into our baseball club.

Alma Jordon (33:29):

Just tell me a little bit about your family. Your parents, their names, and your siblings, and your children.

Clifton Fenwick:

My parents, they were sharecroppers and whatnot. And for a while, they moved around, I think. I was born in Clements. And then from Clements, we moved from Clements to Clinton. We were there, I think my sister was born in Clinton in '42, so we were in Clinton in 1942. Then, we came back to Budds Creek. Budds Creek, I say, I think we stayed on Budds Creek from 1944 until '48, and then we moved to Medley's Neck. And we stayed in Medley's Neck from '48 to '50, then we moved back to Clements. And that's where we were. And that's where I am now. All my family, except my brother next to me, David, are deceased. And most of us were either government or private.

My youngest brother, he was a master mechanic and was mostly in garages or whatnot. But others of us, we were in some type of government work or private firms that was associated with the government. I worked for a private firm that was associated with the government. I was an import specialist, and I had to go out to Dulles Airport. In the beginning, it was at National Airport, and then the custom service moved from..., what wasn't transported to that National Airport, to the Georgetown Post Office. And then they moved the service out to Dulles Airport; then, I had to go out there. So, that's what I was doing when I retired: importing stuff for this firm from Mexico that had to come through the country. You had to write up forms, and pay duty and everything at that time, because at that time it was nothing free. You paid duty on everything that came into the country.

And my oldest brother, he retired from the police. No, not my oldest brother, my brother who retired from the police department, David. He retired from the police department in DC. My sister, she retired from the DC Public School Systems as a teacher's aide. Leonard, he was working at Indian Head, and Jerome, he was in the construction business; he had his own construction company. And Charles worked for the DC government also. As I said, Leo, he had his own business, mechanic business, and whatnot. But my parents, they were farmers, as well as my grandparents. My mother's father's name was William Henry Mills Sr. My grandmother was Millie Elizabeth Young Mills. And my dad was named James Earl Fenwick. His father was James Thurman Fenwick. My mother was Lillian Theresa Mills Fenwick.

The thing about my mother, she never went outside the house to work until my youngest brother got into high school. Then, she decided that she was going out to work and she went to work for the school board, working in the cooking division and whatnot. And she did that for about 18 years before she retired. And my father, he stopped farming and went into construction work.

Alma Jordon (37:35):

Okay. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?

Clifton Fenwick:

Well, I don't know. It's okay, it's actually about my son [Reginald], the son that was playing with me, he was in the wrong place at the wrong time in 1990. Him and his girl was living together; they had two kids. And this girl's sister was living with them. She was going with a guy that was involved in drugs, and one night they got after him. And he knew that this girl that he was dating was at the apartment and instead of him going away from the apartment, he went there. And when he got in there, just before he could get in there, the guys that were chasing him stuck the gun through the door and my son was shot. And this guy was, I think... I don't know. He was involved in a lot of stuff because he got 25 to 50 years, and he was not supposed to get out unless they notified me.

But I had gone to the BOP, prisons organization, and got his number so I could keep track where he was at and whatnot. They kept transferring him from one prison to the other, but he only received 50 years with my son. But then when I was following him, he was serving life. And then I think about three years ago, the girl that my son was dating, they had two kids together. She called me and told me that he was getting out. Someone from the DC government had called her and told her that he was getting out. I said, "What do you mean he's getting out?" I said, "He's supposed to be in for life." He's getting out on some kind of appeal because of health problems or something like that. But as of today, they still haven't contacted me. And that was one of the things they promised me in 1991 when the trial was going on, that they would contact the family before if he went up for parole or anything. But the government didn't follow up on that.

But it's been a good thing, and I was reluctant to do it, but I think after Gwen called me to do this thing at Sotterley and whatnot, I enjoyed it. And I have had some good conversations with you because of that, and I enjoyed those conversations and whatnot. So, it worked out for the best.

Alma Jordon (40:36):

Well, I learned a lot from you.

Certainly. And I want to ask, do any of you have any questions for Mr. Fenwick?

Brenda Coates:

I have one. Where was the ball field in Drayden?

Clifton Fenwick:

I don't know. I never played in Drayden, so I don't know. Was there ever a ball field down there?

Nathaniel Lawrence:

Yes.

Clifton Fenwick:

It was?

Nathaniel Lawrence:

Yes, near Happyland in Valley Lee

Brenda Coates:

No, he said Drayden.

Clifton Fenwick:

You said

Brenda Coates:

Earlier in the interview, you had...

I believe I heard you say Drayden, and I was just wondering.

Clifton Fenwick:

No, no, no. No, the only team field I played at there was Piney Point and Valley Lee.

Nathaniel Lawrence:

There you go. Okay.

Clifton Fenwick:

Those were the fields I played. There was one on St. George Island, too. I forgot the name of that. I believe there was a ball field on St. George Island.

Alma Jordon:

I'm not familiar with a ball field on St. George's Island. I do remember one in Piney Point.

Clifton Fenwick:

Yeah, the one in Piney Point that we played was Morgan Beach.

Alma Jordon:

Right.

Nathaniel Lawrence:

Right.

Nathaniel Lawrence(41:51):

I heard you mention Roy Cutchember, did you know Edward Smith?

Clifton Fenwick:

Yeah.

Nathaniel Lawrence:

Okay.

Clifton Fenwick:

See, I didn't know them guys playing ball. I met Edward through the shop, Smith's Small Engines, down there. I got a tractor down there. Is that the Edward Smith you're talking about? Yeah, that's where I met him at. Now, the only guy other than Roy that I heard talk of playing ball down in that area before I started was James Kittrell. But when I started playing down Piney Point... who was on that team? I think they were younger guys like Jr Briscoe, Charlotte and Delores' brother, Roy Jr., and those guys. And Valley Lee had the Briscoe brothers. Garland, Harold, Robert, Milton, Vincent. Vincent wasn't a brother, but Vincent was on that team also. And also, Kittrell was on that team for a while. Because I didn't know until Barbara Ann [Forrest] sent me some names that Kittrell also played with the *Leonardtown Yankees*. And the surprise of that name she sent me, I'm pretty sure a lot of you heard talk of Maury Wills. Barbara Ann told me that Maury played with *Leonardtown Yankees*.

Nathaniel Lawrence:

Is that right?

Clifton Fenwick:

That was what she had on a list that she sent me. And I think she knows what she's talking about because she has him playing with and managing the *Dodgers*. And I went and did some research. His father's from Calvert County. Maury father's actually from Calvert County although Maury was born in DC, but his father is from Calvert County. I don't know where the third district of Calvert County is, but that's where Maury's father was born at. And I think he was born in 1900. I think when he moved to Washington, he was 20 years old. So, it's a possibility that Maury did play in St. Mary's County.

Clifton Fenwick:

She said it was a lot of guys who came down from DC on motorcycles and stuff like that.

Alma Jordon:

So, Maury went to..., He played professionally?

Clifton Fenwick:

He played professionally. He went to high school at Cardozo in DC and he was a quarterback, ranked track, and did baseball at Cardozo. And he was drafted by the *Dodgers*, and I think, I forgot what year he came up. But he also had a son that played in the major leagues also, boy did. His name was Bumps. And he played with a team in Arizona.

Alma Jordon (44:44):

Right. That name came up when I was doing some research with, speaking to some people about baseball down here. So, I do remember that name.

Clifton Fenwick:

Maury Wills?

Alma Jordon:

Yes.

Clifton Fenwick:

Okay, yes. Because Roy Chesley, who sat in for me at the Juneteenth thing, I was telling him about it. I told him, I said, "I got to do some research on this because I wanted to know where his father was born." I figured Roy played baseball somewhere in this area, his father had some connection to this area, and his father was born in Calvert County, but nobody can tell me where the third district is in Calvert County. I don't know whether Prince Frederick, or the lower part of the county, or where.

Nathaniel Lawrence:

If I remember, Wills had a base stealing record. Is that one?

Clifton Fenwick (45:45):

Maury had a record until Lou Brock broke the record.

Nathaniel Lawrence:

Oh, Lou Brock. Okay.

Clifton Fenwick:

Lou Brock broke the record. I mean, I don't know, baseball was a thing with me, I just was consumed with it. I subscribed to the *Baseball Digest*. I bought the *Sporting News* every week from, I think, 1959 until I got too busy. I didn't have time to read them; I had them piled up by the stacks, hadn't got time to read them and everything. And I stopped doing that, well, they stopped printing it, really. But anything with baseball, I was consumed with it. I mean, I started in high school when they built the new school, Banneker School. They had a real small library, and they always had the *Afro American* in there and I would go in there and read the sports section. And that's where I became familiar with the guys, the Black guys like Monty Irvin, Hank Thompson, Don Newcombe, those guys. That's before I read the *Washington Post*. I got those names and things from the *Afro American*.

And then in the summertime, after school closed for the summer, I would walk about two miles to our local post office to meet the bookmobile and get my reading. I think it came through every two weeks. My books were either baseball or history. So, that's what my reading habits were, it was history and baseball. I mean, right up until about the last three or four years ago, I was still following baseball, like, I don't know what. But now, it doesn't bother me anymore. I mean, I can take it or leave it. And most of the time, I leave it. I mean, I'm watching baseball tonight. I'm switching to other things, not watching a complete game and that wasn't me. I started watching the game, I watched the whole complete game without flipping. But now, I guess age, and just I'm out of it. I guess, I would just say I'm completely out of it now. But it consumed my life.

Nathaniel Lawrence:

Great.

Alma Jordon:

Well, thank you very much, Mr. Fenwick. You have shared a lot of information about baseball and activities in St. Mary's County, and we really appreciate it. Thank you so much.

Clifton Fenwick:

Thank you for having me.

Nathaniel Lawrence:

Thank you. Thank you so much. Very, very, very interesting

Alma Jordon (48:40):

Wow.

[recording ends 48:58]