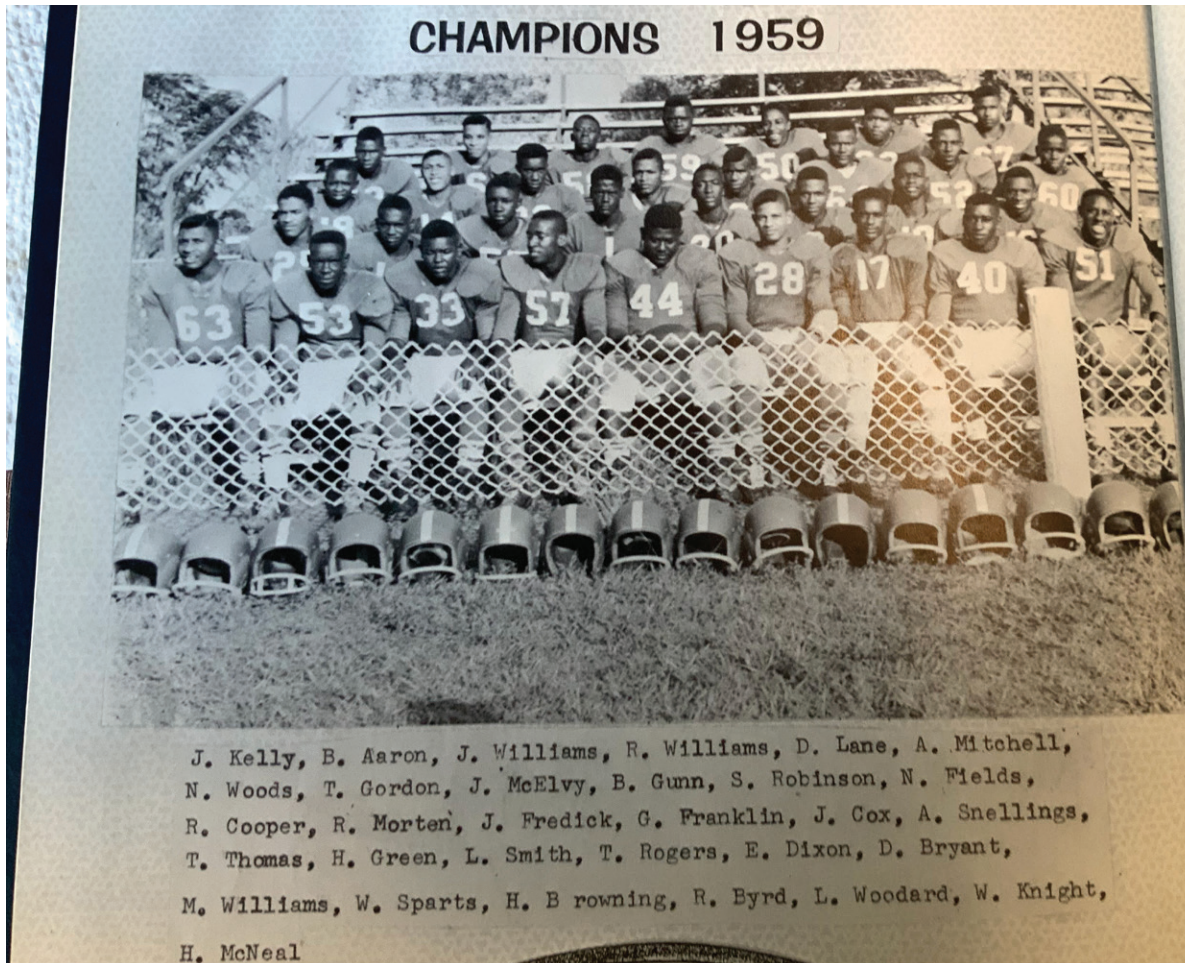




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Growing Up in Gadsden County Florida: The Value of Lessons Learned

By Daniel D. Lane



Carter-Parramore High School Football Team, Quincy, FL (1959)

Growing up as a young Black man in Gadsden County, Florida provided me several experiences. Education, Sports, Religion, and Work are some of the activities I participated in during my young life. All these activities occurred during the time period when segregation of the primary races was legal and promoted by Federal, State, and Local laws.

Quincy Florida, the county seat, was surrounded by various small towns and neighborhoods. Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Sawdust, Gretna, Havana, Midway, and Oak Grove are a few of these towns. Elementary and middle schools were located in

some of these towns. The only high school in the county was located in Quincy. All administrative personnel and teachers were Black.

A common tread advocated by parents, teachers, and principals was to get as much education that was available to us at that time. My father could only go as far as the 6th grade, which was the highest grade level for him when he was in school. The teachers and staff at Stevens High and later Carter-Parramore High encouraged all students to learn and get their lesson and as much formal education as possible. *(continued on next page)*

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(continued from pg.1) I graduated from Carter-Parramore with the class of 1960. While not an A or B student, I was motivated to continue learning and go on to college. While a student at Carter-Parramore, I played football for four years. I served as the Captain of the team in my senior year. Carter-Parramore was known for having good sports teams, including football, basketball, and swimming for both girls and boys. I am happy to say that Carter-Parramore won the State Football Championship trophy in 1959.

After graduation from Carter-Parramore, I, along with four other C-P graduates and football players, was recruited by Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA. The other players were Louis Hightower, Mack Hill, Wilton Sparks, and Johnny McElvy. The five of us were members of the Southern University football team. I served as Co-Captain of the team our senior year.

Following graduation from Southern in 1964 with a BS Degree & B+ average in Recreation Administration, I attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin. At Wisconsin, I took several psychology courses and accounting and business courses. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1966 with a MS Degree and B+ average in Counseling and Behavioral Studies. My first job after college was working as a Rehabilitation Counselor with Goodwill Industries in Racine, Wisconsin and two years later as a Rehabilitation Counselor with Morgan Memorial (the Goodwill Affiliate) in Boston, Massachusetts.

I moved to Nashville, TN in October 1969. I enrolled in Owsn Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University in 1971 and graduated with an MBA (Master of Business Administration Degree) in June of 1972. In 1975, I went to work for three years in Governor Winfield Dunn administration where I established the office of Minority Business Enterprise. Following that job, I started and operated a retail Office Supply Business for approximately ten years. In 1989 I obtained a real estate affiliate license to sell real estate. After that, I obtained my real estate broker license, which allowed me to engage affiliate agents in the selling of real estate. I then started my real estate brokerage and property management business, which I oversee to this day. The name of my current company is ABL Realty Services.

I mentioned Work as an experience that influenced me in my early years. My Dad and Mom were sharecroppers in Greensboro. Our family raised and processed tobacco crops for our income during my parents' life. As a by-product of raising crops for the landowner who was White, we also raised crops and animals for our own food, which we shared with neighbors both Black and White. On average, we grew about 3-5 acres of all types of vegetables each year. We also had a chicken yard with 10 to 15 hens (and roosters) who produced more eggs than we could consume weekly. We also raised hogs and cows that provided meat for the family. From these farming activities, we gave excess produce, meat, and eggs to our friends and neighbors. Neighbors who fish regularly gave us fish in return for our sharing our produce with them. This imprinted in my mind the importance of giving back to community. I have given each year an affordable amount to the following institutes: Fisk University, Tennessee State University, Vanderbilt University, and also make contributions to Southern and the University of Wisconsin.

In addition to operating my businesses, I also contributed to Metropolitan Nashville Government by serving on the Industrial Development Board, The Social Service Board, Metropolitan Transit Authority Board, The Traffic and Parking Commission and finally, served on the Solid Waste Regional Board for thirty-two consecutive years up until the year 2018.



It is important that we give back to our Black Institutions & Schools that gave to us. It was the teachers, principals, and staff, including janitors and cooks, that helped us during those segregated times, and also now, as we make progress for black folks. We need to also support those White individuals and businesses that help us.

Together we progress. Divided we fail. Give back to support and encourage our Gadsden County High School Graduates to continue their education and contribute to making life better for Black Families. I will end with this saying “DO WHAT YOU SAY YOU WILL DO AT THE TIME YOU SAY YOU WILL DO IT, AND BE WHERE YOU SAY YOU WILL BE AT THE TIME YOU SAY YOU WILL BE THERE”. A saying imprinted in my head by my Principal, the late Mr. Verdell D. Hamilton. My note: Don't Be Late and please give to support our young potential leaders.



Daniel D. Lane was born and raised in Gadsden County, Florida and is a 1960 graduate of Carter-Parramore High School. He received a B.S. Degree from Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA, a M.S. Degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI and a MBA from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Daniel is the founding owner and principal broker for ABL Realty Services, located in Nashville, TN. He is paired in this venture with his son, Anthony Lane. Daniel and his current wife, Patricia Ezell-Lane have lived in Nashville for more than fifty years. During that time, he has served as a very active member of the Nashville community. Daniel has a daughter, Maria Lane-Holley, who also lives in Nashville. Daniel is a member of the C-P Alumni Scholarship Fund Board of Directors.

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