

Pat Snapp-Charles

Rogersville, Tennessee

2012

My name is Pat Snapp-Charles. I attended Swift from '56 to '60.

I do. One of the main ones was during our home economic classes. We sewed, and on May Day, we got to model everything that we made. So, we had a little fashion show, and I remember how they used to play the little music. And we'd stroll out the side to walk in front of the King and Queen. And we also did the maypole and wrapped the maypole, and that was always a lot of fun. We used to have softball games in the field down from the gymnasium. And it was just all the people – all the people – from Hawkins County used to gather there and spend the whole day. It was just food and fun, and you'd see people that you just saw once a year. It was just so much fun. It was something that you really looked forward to.

How many times I got in trouble! And our principal, Mr. Price, how we used to pick at him a lot and do things that we knew would upset him, which wasn't very nice. Now I know, but we had a lot of fun doing it. All my friends... and you know, it was just something to look forward to. I played basketball, and we'd go on basketball trips and visit other schools. During prom time, schools would visit other schools for prom. We just really had a blast.

It just brings back so many memories. You can walk through that museum, and you can see pictures. You can see little items from Swift, and it just brings back so many memories. And it's sad because all those things is in the past, but it's still nice because you still have a part of that with you, that you can carry with you til the day you die. Swift was really something big for Rogersville, for the Black community of Rogersville. Swift was really a big deal.