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I lived in Rogersville all my life. The memories I have of Swift are all... They're just part of life. We lived in an apartment called Hasson Street Apartments just right down the street from here, and when they would come down from the College to go to the movies, in the summer, we'd all be out on the front sitting. And we'd talk to them, and they were always just so jovial. You know, one thing I especially remember... there was never any problem with drugs or alcohol. They were just good clean kids, and we just enjoyed when they'd come up and down the street. They were always really nice and just friendly, and that's one of the things I really remember about the kids.

Well, my late husband called the football games for Swift. He and John Bill, another gentleman that has passed away, but they called the football games. I'd go to a lot of the ball games, and I remember them singing. When they'd make a touchdown, they'd all sing, "Hidey hidey hidey ho!" I remember the Maypole dances that they would have, and they'd dress in their white dresses, and they'd do the Maypole dance.

It was just such an integral part of this community and a good part. Actually, the memories of May Day are just that, just watching, just watching the Maypole dances. I do remember about the campus and the buildings. They were always very neat and just very... I don't think I was ever in the College, but you know, it was just how the grounds were always just really well kept. I don't ever remember any problems there. I do remember the main building on campus. Well, it was gigantic. I remember that. It had the big archways, and in fact my husband's – my late husband's – family lived just across the street. The dorm was next to the place where the house was. They were just street divided them, and so, it was just a very gigantic building to me at that time. My late husband and my oldest son – the bricks were just there, they were just there – they went and made several trips, and they cleaned some of the bricks, and they brought them home. We made a fireplace in our kitchen, and they're made from the bricks from Swift College. It is a pretty fireplace. Stella has seen it, and it is very pretty.

My daughter has a wall that she's planting – gonna plant flowers beside. That's from the bricks from Swift College, and also the sign out here... I think I sort of ran Stella down in Walmart one day because I wanted her to have some of the brick because she didn't really know I had them. I just didn't think to tell her when I'd seen her, and then I didn't see her for a while. I saw her in Walmart, and I think I just about ran her down. So, she was... I wanted them to be on display here at the Center. That's just sort of how all this got started, I think.

The football games were a lot of fun, and everybody was just jovial. I know they had a little tent set up. All the food was just delicious. So, it was just really exciting, and especially since my late husband called the games, I usually went to them. It was a lot of fun. I know they had the food... They had delicious chili. I remember they had delicious chili and hot chocolate. Oh, it was so good.

The race relations in Hawkins County have always been very good. I think the White and the Colored have always had respect for each other. I think part of it was the kids were educated, and they were strict. It was just a good blend. we've just always enjoyed each other. I think the thing is we've enjoyed each other, and the education from Swift did play a big part in that. I remember the town was saddened

when they knew the College was going to be torn down. One of the guys that I remember coming down, that would walk down the street from where we lived, he was from New York. He had red hair, and he could sing like a bird. Oh, he could sound just like a bird, just whistle. We always enjoyed just... we picked out a few like that which was really good.

If you've never been to Rogersville, it is a laid-back, quiet, quaint, beautiful little town. It's an old town, and the people here are... I've been told the people that come in, they sort of feel like outsiders. But that's odd to me because I don't feel that way about people, but it is a quaint little town. When I grew up, it was just such a safe, little town, and nobody ever bothered anybody else. You didn't lock your doors. It was just... You could play on the street, be out on the streets. The neighborhoods were all safe, and we just all played together. It was a very, very good, quaint little... It's an antique town, I think.

The people in Rogersville all knew about Swift College, and we all had a real appreciation for the College. Of course, growing up, being just a youngster, I really didn't even think about it. The people remember, that were here and still living, that knew about Swift. Swift was just a big part of the community and the town. I don't think people now remember the College as we did because it's been gone for a long time, and you would have to have been alive at that time, I think, to have really appreciated it. And I don't really think people now really do know that much about it, even the people that live here.

The role of the Museum in reminding the people of the College is... Oh, it is just very necessary. Stella has done a wonderful job in bringing it all together, and it's just been remarkable. When I walked in, the first time I saw the mural, it just brought tears to my eyes. It was just like I was there and standing on the sidewalk, just looking up at it. It was just really, a very, very special thing for me.

Actually, I didn't really have the interaction because I was with the kids because I was a lot younger. We moved away from the Hasson Street Apartments when I was about 7th or 8th grade, and the College was still there, I believe, at the time. But they were all older than me, and I didn't actually pass the College on my way to school. I walked to school, and it was the city school. So, I really didn't, that much, interact with the individual students because they were college students, and I was just a kid. I was a kid at once.

I think the College played a very big part. I think the aspects of it today have lived on, and the Center here has... It makes it alive. It's kept it alive. It's kept its memory alive, and a lot of the people my age and my race or the Black race has... They're going to pass on. It's just so good that we have the Center here to keep that memory alive. It's good memories. That's what I want to say. It's all good memories. It's just good memories for my generation and the generation that's coming up. They need to know that it's a prideful thing for them because they can have a lot of pride in what was done at the College here, and we've had a lot of celebrities here, too, in Rogersville. And you know, that's all displayed here, and so, that's all been a real part.

One of the things which doesn't really – well it does because the kids from the College would be there – but Saint Mark's Church, that's where they would attend church. On Sunday morning, if I hadn't gone to church myself, my mother and I, we had opened the doors and listen to them sing at St. Mark's. It was just beautiful. Oh, it was just beautiful, and that's a good memory I still have.

They did have the parades in town, and it was an exciting thing to watch the parades and the band. And they were good strutters. They really had some, good, nice parades, and we always loved watching that. We always enjoyed that. They would have parades in town, and they had a good band. And they were

high steppers; they really were, and they were always a lot of fun to watch. We always enjoyed that tremendously. Loved to go down and watch them.

When they tore down the administrative building, the main building, I believe it was in 1964. After a while, my late husband and our oldest son David just went and got some of the bricks and cleaned them. We now have a fireplace in our kitchen – it's just beautiful – out of the brick from Swift College. It is a point of pride and nostalgia for me to have the brick. It's like part not only of Swift College, but my childhood and growing up, and it lives in my home today. I point that out to just about everybody that comes into my house, into our home. It's also a reminder to my children and grandchildren that this is a part of a College that used to be in our town that has been torn down. Probably different homes in Rogersville also have a part of Swift in their home.