

Gordon Roberts 12-13-15, b. 1927

Chris King, the interviewer, introduces himself at the opening of the tape, stating that he is talking with Gordon Roberts, 88, from Orange, although technically born in East Orange.

Gordon also participated in the Oakwood Avenue group interview, where he revealed that he has excellent recall for details like the big and little businesses on Oakwood that disappeared over time, especially as a result of the building of the freeway. He was an active person, played basketball for the Orange Triangles, and football for OHS (Class of 1945) and at Howard University. He is well educated, and seems to be a kind, thoughtful, caring person, with a gentlemanly manner that would put anyone at ease, as shown in his reluctance about blowing his own horn too much, or saying or doing anything that might cause discomfort to another person.

Schools, athletics, and school segregation

Gordon starts out by stating that he went through the Orange School system, starting with kindergarten at the Park Avenue School. He went from Park Avenue to Cleveland Street to Oakwood Avenue School. He also went to Lincoln Avenue School and Central Middle School, and to Colgate. He suspects that these changes were, at least in part, "a racial thing." As evidence, he points out that his first year of high school was at Colgate, and his sophomore year was at Orange High School (OHS). Colgate was on Cleveland Street, near the corner with Main Street [and therefore in a heavily Italian ethnic neighborhood]. It apparently took ninth graders only [thus letting students from other, "whiter," parts of Orange start out right away at OHS].

Later on, asked for clarification, Gordon states, "The kids from this side of town, the Oakwood Avenue side, went to Colgate [for their freshman year]...while the Italian kids all went [directly] to Orange High School, basically." Everyone was at OHS for 10-12.

The old OHS [on Central], Gordon says, is now the middle school, with the high school in a new building on an adjoining site behind it [and thus facing Lincoln Avenue]. Chris knows the middle school as Orange Preparatory Academy, or OPA, and Gordon also recognizes that new name as the school he is talking about.

[OPA is on the corner of Lincoln and Central, a block down from the Lincoln Avenue School. According to Paul Modugno in the 10/22/15 interview, Lincoln Elementary was a mostly white school in an Italian neighborhood. In the Oakwood Avenue interview someone states that Oakwood students would walk to Lincoln for cooking, or to see the dentist.]

Put on the spot with dates, Gordon says he probably started kindergarten around 1932, since he was born in 1927 and graduated from high school in 1945. He says the actual classes were not segregated, but there were very few black or African American students in most of his classes, and only thirteen in his graduating class.

Gordon states that the schools west of Central like Haywood and Forest were pretty much all white schools. He seems a little hesitant to talk about school segregation or demographics in a way that might be taken the wrong way by people without his long view, but does feel that in the schools where he was in a minority he got a good education. He did not feel any discrimination in the earlier grades, "and everybody had the same curriculum." He thinks students today get an inferior education to what he had.

At Colgate the black students were treated differently: The counselors "advise[d] all the African American students against taking college preparatory courses....And the reason was that, ah, most of the, you weren't going to get into a good white school, and if you went to a black college..." He was told to just take a general course and if he got a job "at the corner store or something" he'd be "doing great."

"At that time, at Orange High School, they offered a classical course, a scientific course, and then, a general course, which is just, you just get through school, you know." There was a vocational school too, Orange Vocational, and the district tried to get as many black students as possible to go to there where, he says, they did not offer "a real education, just basic stuff." Gordon says he took the scientific course at OHS.

[sbh: Tracking probably accounts for the small number of blacks in Gordon's 1945 graduating class. In the 19th century, Anna Julia Cooper, being both black and female, famously rejected the "ladies course" at Oberlin that Lucy Stanton had been forced into, and took "the gentleman's course," which offered a degree. As for literary vs. scientific, in the early thirties, if you took any Latin during your years at Harvard, you got a BA; otherwise you got a BS, which was considered slightly less prestigious, probably because it was too practical.]

Gordon goes on to say he played sports, and Monte Irvin, who played four sports, football, basketball, baseball, and track, "was around" then. Asked about the name of a special award for four-sport athletes, he says he will mail an article about Jesse Miles [OHS athlete who later coached the Orange Triangles], who was probably the first black athlete to play four sports, and was before Monte, adding that from the early thirties until his freshman year, 1941, you were likely to see only one or two black players on the field in a game of football, although there might be more on the roster. [He does not say how or why, or even exactly when, this changed after 1941.]

Pointing out that Irvin went to Lincoln University [Oxford, PA] and subsequently played baseball with the NY Giants, Gordon mentions Monte's nephew [inaudible; ?Hardy?], who is now in the Rutgers football hall of fame. He also mentions Johnny McBrown, and states that his own family provided HS athletes from the time of Monte Irvin until that of Malcolm Badely. [On Badely, a grandson, see below.] "My little brother made All-American in football, and I made All-County and All-State my senior year."

Segregation at white businesses like movie theaters, and restaurants; black

businesses

Gordon says that Orange was a segregated town. He recalls being at a film in the Embassy Theater when Pearl Harbor was bombed; he was sitting in the balcony because blacks were not allowed to sit in the orchestra, or even move past the stairway to the balcony, which went up from the side immediately past the main door. Racial separation was also maintained at the other theater on Main Street, the Colonial.

There were quite a few restaurants that would not serve blacks. As for black restaurants, Gordon, like others, especially recalls Mabens, on the corner of Parrow and Hickory. He also mentions the black pharmacist on the opposite corner, at a mom and pop operation called (?) Beiman and Kaplan, and other small family business owners on Oakwood and Hickory like the stores on Hickory owned by Clyde Golden and Bill(?) Cook.

On Oakwood, starting at Main Street, between Main and the railroad overpass, there were three doctors, including Dr. Johnson, and [Dr.] Lanky Jones. Lanky Jones was a basketball player who, like Monte Irvin, Johnnie Brown, and Ernie Wilson, went to Lincoln University, and played on what was said to be "probably the best college team, black or white, in the country."

Continuing down Oakwood Avenue, the black "downtown"

Continuing down Oakwood from Main Street, the ice house was on the west side, right after the tracks with the Womens' "Y" next to it. Gordon says the pool building joined the Womens's and Men's at the back and was shared, with each facility using it for three days a week. On the street side an apartment building separated the two facilities. This arrangement was also explained in the Oakwood Avenue tape; both buildings disappeared under 280.

There was a house on the other side of the "YM," and after that, on the corner of Webster, was Dr. Alexander's house. The doctor was gone before 280, but his house was still there until it came through.

[sbh: Webster Place remains. It never crossed to the west side of Oakwood, but runs eastward, parallel with with the freeway but a jog closer than Parrow. All the houses on the north (freeway) side of Webster are gone, but those on the south side remain, facing the roadway and practically on top of it. The traffic noise must be horrendous.]

Gordon adds that "On the opposite corner there's a little restaurant that's open now and then, and basically they're all dwellings on this righthand side up until you get to Central Avenue." [sbh: The restaurant may be the **Mustard Seed Faith Soul Food Café**, on the SE corner of Webster and Oakwood.]

Asked about Shorty's barber shop, Gordon says it was on Hickory, but he has not finished describing Oakwood, and now enumerates buildings on what he calls the the lefthand side, but must be the west side going down: A doctor next to the railroad overpass, then buildings, "but when you come down to that corner where they have that

storage place now...on Hill Street, that lot is where the Rheingold brewery was. [This is a little confusing on a modern map, because Hill Street is now a little cul-de-sac off the other side of Hickory, but apparently went through to Oakwood earlier on. The storage place, Extra Space Storage, 37 Oakwood, is just north of Freeway Drive West. Farther north, across the RR tracks and north of Main Street, Oakwood is called Hillyer.]

[Historical map of brewery location: <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orangebrew/websitetesting_000001.htm> Note the name, 'Michael Winter.' One of the men on the Modugno/Ginefra tape points out that the brewery was first Winter's, then Trommer's, then Rheingold. The Prince Street on this map, like Hill Street, still exists, but has been cut off, and no longer crosses the RR tracks.]

There was a lumber place on the opposite side of the street [presumably across the former Hill Street], and then Reid's Temple, which was a black church, also lost to 280. On the Oakwood tape, Gordon also locates the Temple at the corner of Hill and Oakwood, and states there that he lived on Oakwood "pre-Rheingold." He claims that lot [presumably the lumber yard lot] once featured an ice house.

"Moving on,...there were like three houses after the lumberyard, then, right on the corner of South Street and Oakwood Avenue, was where Monte Irvin and his family lived....right where 280 is going through."

Across South Street was Fitchett/Fitichett, a black tailor. [Fitchett is also mentioned, perhaps by Goldie, on the Oakwood Avenue tape. Interestingly enough, several London tailors with this very British name are listed in *Draper and Clothier*, an 1860 handbook for the textile trades.]

Next to Fitchett's, on the corner of Oakwood and Parrow, was the A&P, a "small outlet" of this big chain of supermarkets "that served the neighborhood." [The young interviewer is not familiar with the A&P name.] "Then, on the opposite corner, the same minister, that Reid, he owned a little confectionary store on the corner of Oakwood and Parrow. And next to him, was a place that everybody in the area frequented, that was Fred's Poolroom....And then, moving on, you come down to Oakwood Avenue School...."

After a house next to the school, was the parish [house], or parsonage, of the minister of the Union Baptist Church, then Woody's [Home for Funerals]. "On this (sic, probably meaning closer to wherever he is) side of the street, opposite the little confectioner's store, that was Cotton's, original Cotton's Funeral Home," in a greenish-blue building that is still there across from the school, although Cotton's is now on Main Street. [Gordon now seems to be on the opposite side of Oakwood below 280, going according to a block by block scheme covering both sides, and apparently begins with the first building after the Mustard Seed Cafe mentioned earlier, a greenish house at 103 Oakwood, right across from the end of Parrow. It is not directly across from the school but closer to the freeway.]

Possibly overwhelmed by this return to the top of Oakwood, the interviewer states that

they should run through all this again sometime when he has with him his blank map, which shows streets like Hill Street, Orchard, and Collins, and Gordon responds that [with a map] he can point out the location of the taverns, etc., that were up on those lost blocks.

Hickory Street

Now turning to the Hickory Street area, Gordon mentions Golden's store, and Shorty's Barber Shop, adding that there were two locations for this, because Shorty moved the shop down to Pierson and Hickory after the freeway took over the part of Hickory where his first shop was.

Chris and Gordon agree that Pierson and Hickory is right near Freeway Drive, and Gordon adds that the next block, he thinks, is Taylor, "where they have all the shootings and things," [sbh: He may be expecting the interviewer to be familiar with events that took place in August of 2015: <<https://www.rlsmedia.com/article/multiple-rounds-gunfire-erupts-orange-street>> but must also have on his mind the loss of his own grandson, Malcolm Bagley, killed there in 2012: <http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/06/100_rally_in_orange_for_slain.html>]

Growing up in the Y

Gordon now changes the subject. He says he was not very "active," probably meaning active in desegregation activities, and goes on to talk about his youth, going through "the whole 'Y' system," and the boy scouts: "That was a nice little outfit, but, you know, we had, a whole black troop." He was a lifeguard at the "Y," and learned to swim there. The "Y" program included trips to camp, although "We used to go to camp separately too: The white "Y" had their week, and we had our week....That's the way it was, back then."

Getting the young folk into colleges

Now mentally back on Oakwood after mentioning the "Y," Gordon mentions Dr. Longshore, [This doctor is also mentioned in the Oakwood Group interview, in Woody's interview, and by Mildred Hicks Harris. Google News preserves his obituary: <<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1532&dat=19570831&id=7rg9AAAAIBAJ&sjid=5ysMAAAAIBAJ&pg=1932,13073240&hl=en>>].]

Asked if Dr. Longshore was "active," Gordon says yes, and states that he was active in encouraging young blacks to go to college, Lincoln and Howard Universities, the places "where most of these doctors went," adding that every alumnus would encourage attendance at his own former school, and says, "Now, back at that time, not only was there a color line here, there was a color line at Howard....If you were 'light and bright' you were in one group, you know, and like if you're brown you go in another group, and if you're dark in another group. The only people that transcended any of the groups was an athlete." Therefore, because of his football scholarship, he had "freedom,...but basically every little group kept to themselves."

[sbh: Gordon says below that he went to Howard in 1947, after army service. Most of the Howard yearbooks for this era have been digitized, although 1948 is missing. A look at the 1949 book is instructive in connection with the comment about skin colors, with a pretty pale range of faces on most pages, Gordon is shown with the football team on p. 28, aka 198: <http://dh.howard.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?filename=5&article=1117&context=bison_yearbooks&type=additional> Can he be the Jesse Roberts listed with a Montclair address and pictured in the 1950 and 1951 books? The Montclair Roberts looks a lot like the young man in the football photo.]

Facing up to the color line

Realizing that Chris, at 23, has no experience of this kind of white on light on brown on black social discrimination, let alone the blatant and pervasive racial discrimination that he experienced, Gordon moves on to point out that there were restaurants that did not serve you. As an example, he mentions a Main Street restaurant on the border of East Orange that would not serve blacks:

"You know, we did some pretty wild things, we sort of started integrating things ourselves." After having been kicked out by the white employees, his group went back at night and "whipped the white boys up stuck in the garbage cans." [sbh: Probably catching them while they performed the nightly ritual of stomping the trash before closing.] After that they were no longer thrown out, he says. A similar story concerns "straightening out" a restaurant around the corner on Central Ave., where some girls were threatened with rough treatment. He ends by stating the theme that has been brought up in several interviews, that the people of Orange were "tight knit" and stood together: "We didn't have this gang stuff, where this is my territory, this is your territory."

Effects of freeway construction

Asked if the construction of 280 created "distance," or prevented people from, for example, getting to Main Street from below the freeway, Gordon agrees that during the construction, "you would have to go up this way, through East Orange, and then come around....You couldn't go up Oakwood Avenue." He then points to "the white church," Mt. Carmel, stating that it is almost directly behind where Reid's Temple was, "So, why do you take Reid's Temple and then go over to the right, to go around the Church [of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel]?" [sbh: Gordon's "directly behind" must mean 'in a direct line with,' as the Mt. Carmel Church is two blocks from Oakwood. The freeway definitely does curve around it.]

"They took the two 'Ys,' which deprived both the female and male youth of a community, to have, uh, an outlet." After that, "You just had no place to go. Really. They start letting people, you know—Okay, there was what we called, we called at the time the 'White Y,' where the white boys went; then they start gradually letting you come in there. They had a 'Y' in the Italian section, on, that's Henry Street....And then...280 also took the Friendship House away from us."

Gordon says that although the Friendship House sometimes used to use rooms in the basement of the OAS for activities, the main building had a basketball court, and

provided constructive activities for kids of both sexes. He says 280 "took the place away," explaining : "And they took that away from us. So that's part of the problem with the kids today, they don't have that [inaudible: ?stuff?].....And you start off, like I said, going to a white 'Y'— [knowing laughter] — You know what I mean."

Gordon adds that a bathhouse with a swimming pool that used to be right across from Orange Memorial Hospital also started letting Oakwood Avenue people in to swim. [sbh: It is not clear if this was intended to soften the effect of Gordon's statements about all the things that were taken away, or is just a clarification in connection with the idea of being let into new places.]

Community organizing and community service

Gordon says he came back to Orange in the 70s, working with a federal anti-poverty program as Assistant Director of the Orange Neighborhood Development Corporation, and was thus the first Youth Developer for the city, providing jobs, and "this was the first thing that kind of replaced all the things that we lost." He formed the first Essex County Youth Council, and, among other things, took kids on overnight trips of two or three days. He will have to look up the exact years when he was active in this.

[sbh: Gordon should be asked about Leroy Joseph Jones, Sr.: <<http://www.ecode360.com/documents/ES1525/public/194985785.pdf>.]>

"The basis for this program, they figured that they owe black people something, so they brought out this program, for the black neighborhoods. But, ah, I say it was a done affair, because after they got you started, you had to sustain yourself. Asked if this meant financially, Gordon agrees quite emphatically. He then explains that the program was intended to calm down some of the uproar and other problems that stemmed from the Newark riots. [The implication seems to be that once everything quieted down a little, the powers that be lost interest.]

Additional activities for the anti-poverty group:

- Gordon recalls nearly "emptying out the town" by taking eleven busloads of people, "kids and families," on a combination boat and bus ride up to Bear Mountain for a picnic at a recreation area on Bear Mountain Lake.
- So that they could see what college life was like, and understand that they could do that too, Gordon took kids down to J. C. Smith [Johnson C Smith University in Charlotte?], where Bobbie Butts, an All-Stater that Gordon thinks made All-American in basketball, was a student at the time. At one point, the mayor, according to Gordon, declared a Bobbie Butts day.

[The Star Ledger lists Bob Butts (OHS 1968) as an honorable mention for one of the top ten NJ basketball players for his decade: <<http://www.nj.com/hssports/century/stories/bballdecades.html>> and he is registered on the Orange High School net: <<http://orangehighschool.net/orange-nj/alumni/3866833/bob-butts.html>>.]

- The program was well received by, e.g., the Board of Education, which appreciated the fact that Gordon would send adult chaperones to high school games to make sure the fans behaved themselves. Asked for clarification about the need for this, he explains that when the team went to Bloomfield, "And, you know, it's all the white kids on that side and all the black kids on this side....At half time, a white boy came up, 'Gimme a couple niggers, I wanna fight!'" Chris: "What?!" Gordon: "That's actually what he said. So, you know, the cop comes, and he's gonna admonish my kids! You know? So that was my job....I straightened it out."
- Gordon also took kids, and sometimes their parents, to pro games.
- He did some work with senior citizens at a senior citizen center, Orange Senior Citizens, located in the basement of 98 Parrow, part of the now-demolished Alexander Housing. The Center also had a branch in the Valley section, in the Valley Settlement House, on a street that ran parallel to Scotland Road. [The VSH is currently located in West Orange, on Tompkins Street, which is more or less parallel to Scotland Road but about three blocks west of it.]

At the very end of the tape, after commenting on his longtime interest in sports and attendance at OHS games, Gordon states that after he came back from Howard in 1951, he worked at Ballantine Brewery in Newark. He had to start as temporary help there because they would not hire blacks as full-time employees. He stayed there until in 1957 he became the liaison between CORE (Congress of Racial Equality), the NAACP, and the brewery workers, "and we fought against the Union and the Brewery Workers' Association to break the color line." As a result, in 1957 Ballantine "began to hire African Americans as permanent employees." Because all the breweries were under the NJ Brewers' Association, this opened up jobs at Rheingold, Pabst, and Budweiser, as well as Ballantine.

The Orange Triangles — and army service

Gordon now brings up the Orange Triangles basketball team, a pro team in the Negro Leagues, and agrees, when asked, that it was related to Triangle Tailors. The Triangle clubhouse was on Parrow, about two buildings in from Oakwood Avenue, and "I'll tell you something funny,...the end of 44/45, my senior year in high school, I played for the Orange Triangles professionally, but they only gave me another name, John, Jackson, any [inaudible]—" [Perhaps in order to preserve his amateur status, because he explains that his time on the Triangles was before he went to college.]

Gordon actually went to Howard in 1947, after his army service, where he served as an IE (Information Education) Specialist in the post-war occupation forces. His job was to teach democracy to our own troops and to German youth.

Gordon says, "The first home of the Orange Triangles was a place called Lincoln Hall, on Lincoln Avenue," and explains that it was between Mechanic and another street, "just before you get to the train tracks if you were coming up from Central Avenue." Later he says it was two blocks before the Orange train station. The building is gone now, and he

thinks that was a result of the highway.

Gordon thinks he has more information that might be useful, but is not sure he will be at an event scheduled for 6:00 PM on the sixteenth, and at 105 Wilson Place, because he will need to find a ride. The interviewer explains that "We're pretty much going to be doing this, but on a larger scale though." [The event referred to must be the Walter G. Alexander interview.]

Wilson Place reminds Gordon of a Mr. Lee, the only black photographer that used to be in Orange, on Oakwood Place [which runs parallel to Central Place, starting from Wilson and, like Central Place, hits Central Avenue at the top end of the park]. The interviewer thinks Mildred Hicks mentioned the same man to him.

Lee took Gordon's "service picture," he thinks, and Sharon [?Bagley, his daughter?] might have it. Sharon, however, who is present, says Charisse has it, although she has a copy on her cell phone. [Charisse seems to be Sharon's sister, and, like her, is active in Not Orange, the community response to the death of Sharon's son Malcolm.]

As for the photographer, Lee's son took over the business.

Asked if he recalls somebody named "Sweets," Gordon immediately thinks of Sweets Dixon, and comments that Sweets is younger than he is. Then he mentions a one of Sweets' father's uncles, a man named Cobb Dixon, who was closer to Gordon in age, and got into a fight with Tony Galento, not realizing that Galento was a pro boxer known for once having knocked down Joe Louis, and Cobb was proceeding to beat him up when someone pointed that out. Gordon adds that Galento had a tavern where he used to demonstrate how he floored Lewis.

Probed for more details, Gordon goes on to explain that Galento used to use an unfortunate black employee, a cleanup (swamper/swabber) man named Titus, for his demonstrations, knocking him out and resulting in a certain state of wooziness.

[sbh: Tony Galento must be the boxer I heard as "Golano" in the noisy Benevento/McCardle interview, where he is said to have knocked down Joey Maxim, the Light Heavyweight Champion of the World. According to Wikipedia, however, Galento actually did knock down Lewis, although he lost the bout.]

Gordon now changes the subject by showing the interviewer his military photo. The interviewer suggests the idea of using the photo for the project along with the audio.

[Here is the photo. Note the comment by Walter Preston. <<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10207129201460913&set=pb.1608183417.-2207520000.1453696626.&type=3&theater> >]

Some advice for Orange

The interviewer asks for guidance about "What exactly are we missing? Why isn't

Orange clicking?"

Gordon seems reluctant to reply and his hesitations and repetitions are preserved below. Interlocutions by the interviewer are not included:

"To tell the truth, ah, I think, administration-wise, it start right at the top. It started right at the top. That's that's that's what has kind of screwed Orange up. Ah... (A reluctant sigh). I'm not a, just a out-and-out sexed up law and order man, but I believe that people should be made to obey the laws. I believe that it's up to the city fathers to protect the people, and to produce things for them. You know, you pay taxes, for instance, I still own that house on Center Street, I'm paying \$10,000 a year taxes. That's crazy! You can't sell the house because nobody wants to live in the kind of, that type of area, a drug infested area, or, you know, a crime infested area. So, this is what I'm talking about: They need to clean up the city. They make—they need to make the city attractive. Because the city is in an excellent location, but, they need to clean up the city, they need to clean up the school system, they gotta, need to start making these kids go to school for an education. You know? Ah, but then, you have to pass something for kids to do. And they don't have anything for kids to do, here in the city. What do they have for the kids?"

Told that there are a few programs, Gordon points out that those programs are "nothing on a scale of a 'Y' or the Friendship House....Or any kind of recreational outlet for kids....And that's where the strength of your city is. Of course, if you develop an interest in the kids, they will, they're going to do something in return." He goes on to talk about the high rate of absenteeism in the high school, and suggests organizing "some kind of Youth Council, you know, get a nice core group, and do something that make kids *want* to belong to the city. That's the main thing. You've got to make kids *want* to belong to something."

He goes on from there to reminisce about the situation in his youth when he would never curse in front of an adult, although he realizes that sort of thing is old fashioned now, and cannot be expected today. However he sees that as an example of a general loss of respect of the type people learn at home, giving as an example a young man on a bus who leaps into a seat leaving a young lady standing: In place of the manners people used to learn at home, these days everyone just focuses on money.

To emphasize the need for youth activities, Gordon points out that, as a youth playing basketball, he was so tired at the end of a day that he'd be in bed sleeping, and not out on the streets. He then talks about how kids could stay at the Friendship House until it got dark, how younger kids could stay at the 'Y' until six, and the older ones until 8, and the men's side was open until ten or eleven, thus creating a progression, with men looking out for the older kids, the younger kids looking up to high school kids, the high school kids looking up to people like Monte Irvin, and ?Course/Coarse? Pierson.

As an example, Gordon mentions Austin "AD" Davis, a policeman who played professional basketball with the Orange Triangles. (His son, also Austin Davis, is now a

security guard at the high school.) He then brings up Reggie Miller, who won a slam dunk contest at the Meadowlands his senior year, pointing out that he, Gordon, took Reggie to the contest, and did that because Reggie was a younger person who needed to be brought on.

Gordon then reminisces about his longtime interest in local sports, and how, when he came back to Orange in 1951, after Howard, he would go to all the OHS games, and kept doing that until he stopped driving six or seven years ago.

Gordon ends the interview by stating that he has to catch a bus back home, but says he will try to attend the 105 Wilson Place meeting mentioned earlier, and hopes he can interest a friend from Orange that lives in the same development he does and still drives. The friend, Walter G. Preston, was named after Walter G. Alexander, and is about the same age as a former mayor, Joel Shain, as is LeRoy Jones.

[On Shain: <<http://politickernj.com/2009/04/a-tale-of-two-orange-politicians/>> Preston is the friend who comments on Gordon's military photo on Facebook.]