

Student Barbara Scott Née Evans

I attended LCPS schools from 1945 - 1956, graduating from Douglass High. All the schools I attended were for Black students only. When I lived in Leesburg, I walked to the Union St. School. When we lived near Middleburg on Benton Farms, my father and Mr. Anderson had a carpool arranged. We were driven to school every morning, first to a two room school house in St. Louis for three years and then to Banneker Elementary in St. Louis. We'd walk the 1.5 miles home in the early fall and spring unless there was inclement weather. In late fall and through the winter we were driven both ways. When I was in the 8th grade I attended Carver by bus. Instead of going to the only Black High School in Loudoun county (as would normally be the case for 8th graders), St Louis students (Banneker) took a bus (#16) to Carver in Purcellville. All the buses I rode had Black drivers and carried no white students. The buses were kept clean and generally in good condition and carried from 30 - 40 students. The bus to Carver was driven by a student driver (Norman Brooks). The route was 12 miles on route 611, and mostly dirt and gravel until we got to Purcellville. In those days, route 611 was narrow with many curves. When there was oncoming traffic, both vehicles would creep by one another by driving on the shoulders. In dry weather, the road was so dusty that the bus would be coated with a layer of dust by the time it got to Carver. On rare occasions the bus suffered engine trouble on the way to Carver. When that happened, we'd wait until a passerby would happen along. They would get word to the school transportation office which would send out a service truck. If our parents got word of the breakdown, they might drive out to the stricken bus and we could leave with them. Strict order was maintained on the bus by the safety patrol. Students were not allowed to put their hands outside the bus windows or hang out the windows. In the case of a breakdown, no one was allowed to leave the bus unless it was with their parent or school transportation. When I started the 9th grade in 1952, I began taking the bus from Middleburg, east on route 50 and north on route 15 to Douglass High in Leesburg. This was about an 18 mile trip. Our driver was an adult. The bus picked up both Elementary and High school students along routes 50 and 15. On occasion when our bus would pass a white school, some white students along the road would stick out their tongues at us and shout 'nigger!'¹.

¹ From July 29, 2020 interview with former LCPS Student Barbara Scott Née Evans conducted by Nathan Bailey