Name of Project: R.O.O.T.S of Sunflower County

Date of interview:

Location of Interview: Indianola, MS

Name of Interviewer(s): **(A)**

Name of Interviewee(s): Debbie Kilby Allen **(B)**

Name of File: 015.MOV

[0:12] **A:** Are you from Sunflower County?

[0:13] **B:** I am. I’ve lived in Sunflower County since I was seven years old.

[0:18] **A:** What brought you to Sunflower County?

[0:19] **B:** This is where my family moved because my father got a job and I opened a business here.

[0:27] **A:** Do you know the reason why it’s called Sunflower County?

[0:32] **B:** Well there are lots and lots of stories—no to be perfectly honest with you I do not know exactly why it’s called Sunflower County because it’s been renamed several times in history.

[0:46] **A:** What do you like about Sunflower County?

[0:47] **B:** I like the fact that it’s a small community and pretty much everybody knows everybody.

[1:00] **A:** Do you feel there are problems in Sunflower County?

[1:02] **B:** Oh sure there are problems everywhere but I mean the problems here that we have, I feel, are more communication and the education. That’s where our downfalls are.

[1:18] **A:** Since you were little do you think there have been changes in Sunflower County due to education?

[1:21] **B:** Oh yeah there have been lots of changes—some for the better, some for the worse.

[1:29] **A:** As a young person like myself do you have any advice I should know about Sunflower County?

[1:37] **B:** I think one of the things that you should be very aware of is that you have grown up in a small community and when you get out in the real world it’s going to be really different. Uhm, you have been confronted with a lot of things that people in larger communities are not aware of but yet, you also are sheltered from a lot too.

[2:06] **A:** What do you think of African American men these days?

[2:18] **B:** I think that the saddest part here in Sunflower County is that many of them are fatherless and they don’t have a role model. I think, though, there are plenty of people that are out there that are willing to help if the young black community will just allow them to help.

[2:46] **A:** What changes should be made in Sunflower County?

[2:49] **B:** I think we need to beef up our educational system. I think the problem here all stems from education; I don’t think that we have the best system that we could possibly have. Of course, we are limited, we are a tiny spot in the whole big world but I think if we could figure out a way to beef up our educational system it would make a major difference in the outlook.