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Bridges that Carried Us Over Project

Interview Summary

Interviewees:

Duan Kellum
Dorris Kellum

Interviewers:

Tiana Mosley
Kendall Green

Interview Date:

March 29, 2021

Interview Location:

Remotely via Zoom

Interview Summary completed by:

Tiana Mosley & Marissa Rodriguez, 2022

Description

Duan Kellum and Doris Kellum, a mother and son, discuss their lives as a military family who were stationed at the Norton Air Force Base and lived in Redlands, CA. Mr. and Mrs. Kellum recount memories of black owned businesses in Redlands and San Bernardino, CA, the racial dynamics and history of busing in the Redlands Unified School District, and their community in north Redlands. The Kellum's describe the importance of a close-knit community both at the Norton Air Force Base and in the Texonia Village, which played a vital role in Duan's positive upbringing. Mr. Kellum shares his experiences with racism in Redlands, starting with racial discrimination in RUSD to racial profiling from the police. Mrs. Kellum talks about her experiences growing up in Virginia and her encounters with racism during their drive across country to Redlands in 1969. The Kellum's discuss their hardships and experiences living through both COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter Movement. During the pandemic Mr. Kellum found solace in art, by running the SKOOLBOIZ art studio in San Bernardino, CA. Mr. Kellum talks about the importance of working for change both in the school district and society.

Subject Topic

- Redlands (Calif.)
- Norton Air Force
- Texonia Village
- Redlands Unified School District

- Virginia
- Black
- Latino
- COVID-19
- McKinley Elementary School
- Clement Middle School
- Lugonia Elementary School
- Teachers
- Ethnic Studies
- Rodney King
- Police discrimination
- BLM movement
- Black businesses
- Politics
- Racism

Spatial Coverage:

Name of Site (If Relevant)
Redlands, CA
Texonia
Texas Street
Lugonia
Norton Air Force Base
Trenton, NJ
Frances Street
San Bernardino, CA
Church of Christ
Second Baptist
McKinley Elementary School
Carlotta Ct., Redlands, CA

Temporal Coverage:

1969 - 2021

Key Organizations:

- Lions Club
- Redlands Human Relation Commission
- NCO Academy
- Pop Warner Football
- Cub Scouts

Interview Index:

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Digital Video	00:00:49.000 - 00:00:51.000	Growing up in Redlands, CA and Virginia
Digital Video	00:05:28.000 - 00:05:46.000	Prominent Black businesses when they first moved to the Inland Empire
Digital Video	00:10:02.000 - 00:10:07.000	Black community hardships
Digital Video	00:13:24.000 - 00:13:35.000	Biggest events you remember throughout your life
Digital Video	00:16:58.000 - 00:17:04.000	Community change over your lifetime
Digital Video	00:25:26.000 - 00:25:41.000	Experiences of racism in the school district
Digital Video	00:28:06.000 - 00:28:07.000	Busing in Redlands, CA
Digital Video	00:29:38.000 - 00:29:42.000	Racism throughout their lifetime
Digital Video	00:35:27.000 - 00:35:38.000	Community change after segregation
Digital Video	00:40:38.000 - 00:40:52.000	BLM and COVID-19

Full interview transcript can be found below.

Interview Transcript

Start of Interview:

[00:00:00]

Tiana Mosley: [00:00:02.000 --> 00:00:19.000] Okay, perfect. It's recording. So this is Tiana Mosley and Kendall Green, and today we are here doing the bridges that carry this over archive for Black History of the Inland Empire. And if you guys would like you guys please say your name and spell it for me please.

Doris Kellum: 00:00:19.000 --> 00:00:27.000

I'm Doris Kellum

D O R I S K E L L U M.

Duan Kellum: 00:00:27.000 --> 00:00:32.000

My name is Duan Kellum. D U A N

Tiana Mosley: 00:00:32.000 --> 00:00:46.000

Perfect, thank you so much. So the first question super easy like I said the very laid back interview nothing too crazy. So, either one whoever wants to start first Can you tell us a little bit about where you grew up, and then some of your earliest childhood.

Duan Kellum:00:00:49.000 --> 00:02:18.000

I go first? Yeah, okay. I grew up in Redlands, I was born in Trenton, New Jersey, moved out here when I was three. My family was stationed at Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino.

So that's how we got out here. My earliest childhood memories. Hmm, I've got a couple. First one is I grew up on Frances Street which is next to Texonia Park. And we grew, our house was right at the edge of the housing development and there were orange groves, right butted up against our house, so I remember as a kid, just reaching over the fence, picking oranges.

My dad would give us a like a grocery bag to go collect oranges and I remember for the longest not until college that I ever had to buy a single orange, my mind and how expensive they were because they were free. All of my life. So and I think, I don't think, this is a joke, but I don't think any of the kids ever got a cold because we were constantly eating oranges and we probably had a vitamin C overload, that we would be out playing you get thirsty you grab an orange, you know you get hungry, eat an orange.

Tiana Mosley: 00:02:20.000-->00:02:34.000

Perfect. thank you that's super cool I know with me living in Redlands I have, the amount of oranges I haven't had it's kind of concerning. And then Mrs. Kellum if you would like to go next.

Dorris Kellum: 00:02:35.000 --> 00:02:41.000

Well I was born in Virginia. Southern Virginia and I had two brothers and one sister so there was four of us in the family. My greatest memory back then was when we would go to visit our grandparents in the summertime, because they lived a distance from us and we went there to spend the summer you know with them.

And they were farmers. We used to work on the farm, you know, tobacco, corn, all types of vegetables because that's where you know our food came from, you know, was from the gardens. And they raised you know hogs, pigs. So, the families had you know they would have their own hogs and they will kill them at the end of the fall year and we would watch them as they put these pigs in this long pan with a fire underneath, and the hot water would get very very hot, they will put the pig in that, in that spray you know, then they hair, then they will cut them up into the parts you know.

And um I went to elementary school, which was only for, you know, a blacks then you know and we had to walk to school and that was fun you know and our school was um two rooms. The first through the fourth was in one room and the fourth through the seventh was in the other room, and after that we went to another city you know for college I mean for high school, which was Martinsville, and they have a classes where from seven to eleventh. We didn't go to 12th grade we only went to the 11th grade. That's about all I think. I could tell you a lot. But I would be sitting here the rest of the evening

00:04:40.000 --> 00:04:47.000

Tiana Mosley: And then Mrs. Kellum this is more towards you and then it's about when did you move to the IE and then what brought you to the IE.

00:04:47.000 --> 00:04:53.000 (00:05:13)

Dorris Kellum: Oh, we moved here in 69. Duan was three years old. We were a military family and he said, you know, and that's why we came because he got stationed here in California and we have been here since then. Husband is deceased you know but we lived here since Duan was three years old. Anything else?

00:05:14.000 --> 00:05:28.000

Tiana Mosley: Let's see the next one to, then when you guys moved to the I.E during that time. This is more towards like businesses around then do you remember anything specific like with downtown or how that felt like during then.

00:05:28.000 --> 00:05:46.000

Dorris Kellum: Hmm. Yes, I can slightly remember downtown, and we didn't go downtown too much, you know, but I can remember, this is going somewhere. That there was a five and dime store there that you know the blacks couldn't go in, you know, and sit.

00:05:46.000 --> 00:05:54.000

You know at the counters as you know like that anything but other than that you know

Duan Kellum: What here in Redlands?

Dorris Kellum: Mhmm.

00:05:54.000 --> 00:06:07.000

Tiana Mosley: See I had no idea about that either, and then kind of going off of black, black businesses, was there any black businesses around during that time that you guys knew about and the IE.

00:06:07.000 --> 00:07:08.000

Duan Kellum: The only one I remember. Wait, let's see. I remember there was a dry cleaners.

And I was at elementary at the time because the son of the owner we were on a track team together. Umm Ryan? Ryan Johnson perhaps? Other black businesses. I wouldn't say brick and mortar, but we had a neighbor, my godfather he was a gardener and you know he had his own business. That's what he did. Umm. I can't, No I can't recall off the top of my head any other, you know, brick and mortar black businesses in Redlands, I remember we would get our hair cut in San Bernardino on Mt. Vernon, I think, Ace of Spades barber shop, or we would go to Norton.

00:07:09.000 --> 00:07:16.000

Tiana Mosley: Yeah. Okay, perfect. Let me see

Duan Kellum: if I remember, There are a few beauticians.

00:07:16.000 --> 00:07:28.000

And then there was like a hair supply place in Loma Linda, and that was African American owned. Yeah, wow that's it.

Dorris Kellum: cause I had black beauticians that live in the area, you know

Duan Kellum: she operated at home?

Dorris Kellum: Mmhmm.

00:07:40.000 --> 00:07:42.000

Duan Kellum: Okay.

00:07:42.000 --> 00:07:53.000 (00

Tiana Mosley: Okay. Yeah, perfect. And then this question. kind of going on, not on the like questionnaire sheet kind of more personal also because my family is an Air Force family as well. So then I wanted to know like during that time especially like on the Air Force Base, was there any kind of like community you guys felt like necessarily with like the black community with other families or how was that during that time on the Air Force Base.

00:08:06.000 --> 00:08:09.000

Dorris Kellum: Oh no, we were mixed.

00:08:09.000 --> 00:08:27.000

Duan Kellum: And we lived off base unless we were here in Norton. There were quite a few families that were stationed in Norton that we socialized with. Yeah, so you know but with the Roberts

Dorris Kellum: Oh yeah and we had friends

00:08:27.000 --> 00:08:40.000

Duan Kellum: The Upshaw's

Dorris Kellum: which is still our friends through those years, you know.

Duan Kellum: There were the civil servants they work was it the Mitchums. Yeah. And the Lassenbees were they Air Force?

00:08:40.000 --> 00:08:59.000

Dorris Kellum: Yeah, yeah.

Duan Kellum: So there were quite a few in the area

Dorris Kellum: in the area, Air force.

Duan Kellum: likely that's where that connection was that that community

Dorris Kellum: I'm associated with among you know, bam, you know, but we did have our friends in the base you know that you know we went to, you know, that was my husband was um. He taught at the...

Duan Kellum: NCO Academy.

Dorris Kellum: NCO Academy he was an instructor there so there were a lot of fairs there that we went to that, you know, was mixed because you know the Air Force they mix with everything so we socialize a lot you know with them out there.

00:09:24.000 --> 00:09:40.000

Tiana Mosley: Oh, perfect. And then, when you guys came like more towards IE. Were you part of any churches on this side, by any chance?

00:09:40.000 --> 00:09:45.000

Dorris Kellum: What was the name of it?

Duan Kellum: Well, we went to the church at Norton

Dorris Kellum: Yeah we went to Norton Air Force Base chapel

00:09:45.000 --> 00:09:49.000

Duan Kellum: yeah we went to Second Baptist, I don't know if she remembers.

00:09:49.000 --> 00:09:52.000

Dorris Kellum: Second Baptist. But then we joined um.

00:09:52.000 --> 00:09:57.000

Duan Kellum: Oh, later on, when we joined the, what is the UCC in Mentone. Church of Christ and that's mainly a African American church.

00:10:02.000 --> 00:10:07.000

Tiana Mosley. Perfect. I think we're just going through these questions you guys are making it easy on me. Let's see. Um politics wise too during that time. Do you guys remember anything that stands out especially within the black community like any hardships when you guys first came to IE?

00:10:23.000 --> 00:10:29.000

Dorris Kellum: I can't think of any. Can you Duan?

00:10:29.000 --> 00:12:02.000

Duan Kellum: Politics. You know, I do remember again our neighbors. My godparents they had a foster daughter. And I remember her going ended up, she ended up going to San Bernardino High School. Because I remember there was something going on in Redlands, and a lot of the kids who are in high and I was much, much younger I was probably like six or seven, and they were going to San Bernardino high school and it was like kind of at the end of the kind of the Black Power movement in the late 70s, and I think they went there to get that more of a cultural an African American connection because there was very little here in the IE. Well in Redlands, and I remember there was an author, a local author who did a book. I believe it's called like Niggers in the back of the bus or something and it's a pretty prominent book I have a copy of it now. And I think a lot was going on at that time in San Bernardino within the African American community. We were it was, it was in that time we were doing busing. So we lived like I said by Texonia Park, but the kids in our neighborhood were bused to McKinley elementary school which is on the other side of Redlands, So, I would think that would be political.

Tiana Mosley: Yeah, definitely.

00:12:03.000 --> 00:12:11.000

Duan Kellum: The politics of education.

Dorris Kellum: Something I would like to mention too. That they had the Lions Club here in Redlands.

00:12:11.000 --> 00:13:08.000

My husband was the first black person that had ever been in the Lions Club. And at that time he was promoted to the President, of the club you know. So that was you know really even we were the only black family you know in the club you know. And after that you know that came a Mexican family. He and his wife you know came in, so then that

was the black family and the Mexican family and the rest of them are you know them, the white families, you know, but we always treated nice. We always had you know lots of fun together you know and everything.

They didn't show any segregation anything against us, you know.

Duan Kellum: But I don't recall any blacks being involved in local politics, city politics, city council or school board. Yeah.

00:13:12.000 --> 00:13:20.000

Tiana Mosley: That, that literally is the most perfect segway because I have Kendall has these like the other half of these questions and we talked about desegregation and all of that stuff.

So, Kendall you're more than welcome to start on this next part.

00:13:24.000 --> 00:13:35.000

Kendall Green: Sounds good. Um, so what are the some of the biggest events that you remember over your life and how did they change your community or like that Inland empire in general. Um, yeah. That'll be the first question.

00:13:41.000 --> 00:14:43.000

Duan Kellum: I remember as a kid, during the summers they would have a summer recreation program at Texonia Park, and I remember walking up there and doing Tie dye, and I remember learning how to do like heat transfers on T shirts which I still do now using sandpaper and crayons. It was fun we, you know, we were involved in like for my brother and I were involved for baseball for boys. We both played Pop Warner football. A lot of sports, we were Cub Scouts. Again, the only black in the troop, played soccer, when it was just beginning and that was interesting. Yeah. Add...I think I went off topic but can you redirect me Kendall.

00:14:43.000 --> 00:14:53.000

Kendall Green: Yeah, so like, just a couple of like themes maybe like talk about the civil rights movement you've kind of already touched on like the Black Power movement like towards the end of that. A desegregation, um, housing, you can talk about the orange groves disappearing.

00:15:00.000 --> 00:16:57.000

Duan Kellum: The orange groves disappear, next to us. They start putting in tract homes. I do remember next to us that they were planning on doing horse stables, and the neighbors, and community really rallied and fought against it because there were just going to be a housing development, our housing development and then boom horse stables and, you know, nobody in our neighborhood owned horses, or were equestrians so that was, that was one issue. As far as I was much younger, but we would go to the Sylvan plunge and swim. But years before I was able or old enough to go, probably about, maybe a half a generation before it was segregated the pool there, and the stories you know a lady from church used to tell us that they wouldn't let the blacks and Mexicans in the pool. Until the day they cleaned it, and then they would drain it and

clean it, then fill it back up and then let the whites use it. Then, on the day they cleaned it again so blacks and Mexicans can utilize the pool for one day a week that summer. But again busing.

There were no African American teachers. I didn't have my first African American teacher until college. I'm thinking civil rights movement. The only thing I do remember as well no that was probably much earlier but my dad wrote a paper for a writing contest called the ballot in the bullet. And that I remember he was still, you know, show me an award he won for that.

00:16:58.000 --> 00:17:04.000

Kendall Green: That's very interesting, that's definitely one of Malcolm's best speeches.

He gave us. Um. So how have you seen the community change over your lifetime, um, in. If there's anything that like stuck out in particular.

00:17:17.000 --> 00:17:23.000

Duan Kellum: Want to go first? Or do you want me to go.

Dorris Kellum: You go.

Duan Kellum: Ok I don't want to be the chatterbox.

00:17:23.000 --> 00:18:28.000

Duan Kellum: I remember that when growing up. Pretty much all the African American families, if they didn't know each other, they were familiar with each other. So by last name, "So oh Who are you?" "Oh I'm Duan." "Oh, so you're a Kellum boy okay you live over." And so that connection, and it, there was a sense of at least in our neighborhood a community. Funny story is when we were kids we weren't, you know, parents worked and we would come home from school, my brother and I, and we would play and the rule was we weren't supposed to go outside until parents came home and typical kids what do we do, we went outside and played, and we had a neighbor, and she would snitch on us all the time. Before my parents would pull up in the pulling up in the driveway, she would come out and say, Miss Kellum, Duan and Kevin we're out playing and I know they weren't supposed to be. I mean, so we were we were kept in check to by, by the neighbors. It was it was literally a community, you know, a village.

00:18:29.000 --> 00:18:44.000

Dorris Kellum: Oh yeah, all of us, you know, where they have a very close, you know, the families you know in the village we have and we knew everyone they know all the kids you know and everything. Why don't you tell them about Mr. Upshaw.

00:18:46.000 --> 00:18:56.000

Duan Kellum: I don't know if it goes in the line of the story, but there's a story, there's another military family, The Upshaws. And he was, he was had three boys three boys and we had two so we would play together. We grew up together. And coming home, he

would see us play and he would stop his car he be in his like airman uniform and run and tap one of us usually was me it was the youngest, and he would take off his belt or he would have some rope and tie me up, and just leave me laying in somebody's yard, and get in his car and drive home, and it was just it was hilarious and I think about it, it's like you could not get with anything like that now there was no malice in it. It was just, just fun and games and I found myself the little black Houdini because I could get out of his knots, you know that you were gone again.

Dorris Kellum: I think he liked that. He knew that too, he knew you were going to get out. He didn't tie it.

Duan Kellum:00:19:43.000 --> 00:20:10.000

Well he was pretty good with those knots. And then my godfather he was a, a gardener and he had a truck, and he would come down the street and we would wave him down he would stop and he let us jump on the back of the truck and ride the rest of the way home with you know will trying to play fireman and trashman so you know nobody fell, nobody broke any arms or legs, it was good.

Kendall Green: That sounds very fun.

00:20:13.000 --> 00:20:25.00

Kendall Green: Um, so in terms of like the racial and ethnic diversity of the city. How would you describe on the neighborhood and town that you lived in.

00:20:25.000 --> 00:20:38.000

Duan Kellum: it ,it's, it's changed where we live, it was predominantly black and Latino, you had Carlotta Ct. which is black and Latino then the, I would call it the Calhoun area, and all of that.

00:20:38.000 --> 00:22:25.000

Dorris Kellum: The park.

Duan Kellum: The park, I don't recall any, any incidents where there was conflict. We went we went to school together. We hung out together. There was this the inner mixing dating. We would party together so that when I was teaching I started teaching here in Redlands, and heard you know the black, brown you know conflict, it really blew us away, my contemporaries, people who grew up with me because we're like, there was there was no conflict. I don't know if this is, you know, a new generation, or, you know, created by outside sources, but it really it in a way it hurt us because we always had that contact and interaction.

The city's gotten more diverse I think when I was I was leading up talking about all the African American families being familiar with each other. I see African Americans, blacks all over, and it's like, I don't know who you are, you know, which is a good thing. There's many more of us than there were then.

I remember there were a couple of families that lived on the south side and that was always like wow they're rich. You know, we got rich black people around here, you know, and now and knowing it's, you know, They were hard working families just like everybody else. You got anything? I feel like I'm rambling.

00:22:26.000 --> 00:22:29.000

Kendall Green: No you are totally fine.

00:22:29.000 --> 00:24:17.000

Dorris Kellum: You know I worked at Norton Air Force Base at the recreation center and me being there you know I was with you know, everyone. And you know we got along well I had really good friends you know, and we visited each other. They you know the kids you know would come to the Rec Center and, you know, socialize the blacks and the whites and it was, you know, it was good. I stayed there for 21 years [laughing] so there were no problems you know there you know. During the years that I worked there. I just, I don't know, it's just been wonderful to me living here in Redlands you know. I've enjoyed every step right now live at The Fern Lodge, lodge over here on Fern street, a senior apartments. And being there I am the only black person there but you know they are whites and, you know, different other people they are from the country, and I love it, I call them my family. They call me you know and everyone treats me so nice. Sometimes they just go overboard you know they are very nice to me and I love it and I don't want to be anywhere but there you know so. I'm not to them and they don't look at me you know as a black person. They look at me as a person that's nice and they love me and I love them you know so.

Duan Kellum: I would say for me is that the community I grew up with really helped shape me and gave me a foundation because it was it was loving it where people who look like me, people who you know who you know I didn't think about it when I was younger but as an adult it's like these are people who owned businesses who, you know, they were construction workers, civil servants, gardeners, masons whatever and they were able to use that, and, you know, buy a home, start a family. And I know some of them didn't have very much education, you know they came from the south at one time. And you know came out here working industry, the aerospace industry. So I think that I think that's my saving grace that really helped me create a foundation, even though I didn't have that in school, outside of my home, outside of my community.

00:25:07.000 --> 00:25:26.000

Kendall Green: Yeah, definitely. Thank you for those answers from both of you. Um, so, do you guys have any memories of seeing or experiencing racism in the Inland Empire, and if so, can you tell us a little bit more about that.

00:25:26.000 --> 00:28:04.000

Duan Kellum: Well, I said I didn't have an African American teacher, and that's true, but it's not... I remember in sixth grade at the end of the school year we would take what's called the proficiency test to see how well you did. I remember being excited because I

did well in it. And so, the first day of seventh grade I was in an English class, and it was the only African American teacher there, and he taught remedial English. And he said, this is a class for the students who didn't pass the proficiency exam. And, you know, I wasn't very outspoken, but I did tell my parents and I remember them going up to the school and talking to either administrators or counselors, and I was transferred out of it. But the flip side was, I went from a class being with a lot of African Americans and Latinos, to being the only black in the class. So, was it the best thing? Don't know, it's So, I saw, I see that now was just kind of like, just rounding up all the blacks and Latinos and putting them in this remedial class.

I think about high school there weren't any, you know, really big racial incidents, again the blacks and Latinos we hung out together right on the wall on a church. Across the street there used to be a Red store where you can buy candies and hot dogs and things for lunch, even though we would go, you know, during school time. And I remember we hung out there and just chilled and everyone got along, and I was heavily in the martial arts at the time and I remember thinking I wish there was a bully, you know, because you had all those martial arts films and the bully things, and there weren't any, you know, I didn't experience it. I'm sure there were people who got picked on but I didn't see it. But, saying that but there's always been this underlying current of like racism in Redlands, so it was, you know, you didn't have to see it all the time it was, was the stares, it was it where the comments "oh you speak so nice, so well for a black person". This is all I know. I mean, you know.

00:28:06.000 --> 00:28:07.000

Kendall Green: Yeah. Yeah, the comments, definitely. Prevalent. Um, you talked a little bit about it earlier about the busing in like how black students didn't have buses, could you speak a little bit about that.

00:28:19.000 --> 00:29:28.000

Duan Kellum: We were bussed. So, in our neighborhood we were in. So we live on the north side. Again, Texonia, and if you go right up Pennsylvania. There's, there's Lugonia, and then there's Clement. So those were, would have been our neighborhood schools, but again we were bused there. And I remember having friends that lived in the what, I call them, we call them the projects on Texas that were, were, you know, bus to like Kimberly and Smiley. So it seemed like unless you are right around Lugonia, there was busing. And that busting didn't go the other way. They weren't taking kids from you know Cypress up on the hill and bringing them down near Lugonia or Franklin, it was, it was all one way. So, I think that would have been interesting to be in a school with predominantly African American and Latinos.

00:29:27.000 --> 00:29:38.000

Kendall Green: Yeah, definitely. Um, speaking like on the topic of racism. How have you seen it change over your lifetime?

00:29:38.000 --> 00:29:42.000

Duan Kellum: I asked you that the other day. What do you think?

00:29:42.000 --> 00:31:08.000

Dorris Kellum: Well here it has changed me because I came from the south, you know, we didn't have any of this you know back then. Coming to California you know really change from, you know, from living back there because in the south there were things we couldn't do. We didn't go to white schools. We didn't mix with, you know, with the whites, you know, with anything other than work for them you know. And that was it, you know. We had our own schools, we had our own churches, we had everything you know owned by the blacks. You know lived in one section and the whites lived in the other section. We walked to school. Although you know it was a distance even in the snow and rain we would, you know we would have to walk to school and walk back. But we were clothed and prepared for it. We had boots and gloves. And we enjoyed it you know we didn't know the difference you know on. And we were even bus to a high school, out of our city to another city because we didn't have a high school, you know, in the area that we lived in. So we had to go to our Henry County, you know, high school. But now you know they are all together. They go every place together and do everything together so there has been a big change you know since we left, since I left there.

00:31:09.000 --> 00:35:27.000

Duan Kellum: I've seen, maybe more of a boldness, with racist ideas and actions and ideologies, versus, maybe it was a lot more undercover. I was, I was probably about nineteen-ish. And I was working on my dad's car and I was, I was, as you're working you're you're testing things out and I knew his lights were out my, you know I was going to change the fuses, the fuses were the last thing I was going to do. And I remember driving it, and then getting pulled over, just pulling into our neighborhood by a police officer. And it's like, okay, it's like, just let them know you know I'm working on it, and I know the fuse. And so he comes up to the window, and I give them my ID and, you know, he looks at it. I'm like I'm working on it and he just kind of gets this attitude and looks at me goes, have I arrested you before. And I'm like, No. He goes, "You look familiar." And I go, "Oh, you know, yeah. growing up in Redlands like I probably went to school with you or your brothers or sisters." He's like, "No I'm not from here. I have arrested you before I'm sure." I'm like no you're not no you're not because I haven't been arrested.

And we have this back and forth exchange. And I think it was the youth and the testosterone. And fortunately, he got a call and he goes, Okay, I'm gonna let you go, but you better watch yourself. And I remember saying, No You better watch yourself, you know, and then after I got home I realized like that could have gone south, real quick. Real quick, and I remember my dad he was an MP. His early military career. And I remember you know people talk about the talk, and that's real he. You know being former law enforcement he's, you know, he would tell us you know when we got the age of to drive you know because you got to be really careful because you're going to be exposed to much more stuff. And, you know, police and racists and everything, and I have never seen it. You know, don't make any sudden moves, keep your hands here, and I remember he said he would he would literally get out the car if he got pulled over.

You know, he would just get out and stand in the back. And I'm like wow. So, it sounds cliché, but a lot has changed and a lot hasn't.

I mean we're going through this, this and you're familiar with this, this revolution here in Redlands Unified trying to get things changed and it's a battle. It's a battle. And I think there's going, I haven't seen this much effort for change. I haven't seen the desire for change up into this point and into some respects through the district office.

But, you know, I just, you know, that's right. I was on the Redlands Human Relations Commission for a while. And I remember we had an incident where some skinheads beat a homeless person to death. Right behind where, kind of where the Beet Cellar is right there in downtown, and that was an issue. And then there were graffiti written on the Redlands Bowl and it was right before the Redlands bike classic, you know, it was racist language, anti semitic stuff, swastikas. And I remember we had the time we did like a day, a march for peace, you know, kinda like a community rally for that. It just seems like there's something right there and I can't remember, but we'll go on, if it comes back in.

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Kendall Green: Yeah, no problem at all. Um, Mrs. Kellum kind of already touched on this, um, but this question is kind of like revolved around segregation and desegregation. Um, so how did you see the community change after desegregation. What were the positive and negative impacts of desegregation. Um, and, yeah.

Duan Kellum: Like in general? Or here in the I.E.

Kendall Green: Both

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Duan Kellum: At least for me, you know, I was really young, as things yeah I was born in 66. So, you know, things were still impacting the segregation. So, meaning, but I do. And this is a story, my parents told me I didn't believe I was 30 and it just blew my mind that when we're coming here from New Jersey we drove across country. And we stopped in Texas to get something to eat and my dad was telling me it was like a car hop, the people with the skates on and then you know the play cowboy pistols and stuff. And we sat there. Did you want to finish? Because you remember that.

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Dorris Kellum: Yeah we stopped with food you know and we sat there in the car and waited you know for them to come to you know. Then finally one girl came out and she said to us we can't serve you. And that was it you know yeah I had two little boys in the car. Everyone was hungry. And they tell us that they can't serve us because you know, we are black so. This was in 69. That was in 69. Because that is when we came out here was in 69.

And if we had to stop, you know to sleep, you know, we would try to find a place you know at a motel, hotel you know that that took blacks. But and I can remember stopping going to the bathroom at a service station and they were on the back side, and there were two so I just went in one. And this guy and his girlfriend or wife drove up. And as I was going in, he said "Nigga don't use that bathroom" you know like that. And I says "Oh well I didn't know." And I came, you know, I came on back they didn't say anything else but I just walked around front, got back in the car and told my husband you know what they had said that to me. And we drove off, but other than that, that was, you know, the only incident we had, you know, coming across country. We've just had to find places to stop to eat that we know you know would see this.

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Duan Kellum: And I don't remember any like movements or people doing anything as far as civil rights as, as a kid. My primary occupation was playing so...

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Dorris Kellum: No, because you were young when you came here you know and it wasn't you know as bad as it was when I was growing up, you know, you never had, you know and living in the south, you know you've always been here in town.

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Duan Kellum: But I do remember getting into some fights in elementary school, when people are just easily dropped the word. And I was a brawler. [laughing]

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Dorris Kellum: I can't think of anything. We knew what we should do and what we shouldn't do so we, you know, kind of made ourself, you know, not get, you know, um, involved you know what these people. We just tried to avoid them you know and stay away from them you know. And other than that you know we, we made it. We made it all the way across, but that was it, and we hadn't problems you know since you know leaving Virginia. We travel a lot, you know, and the Airforce.

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Kendall Green: Yeah, thank you for that answer definitely imparted a lot of knowledge in instances that you know you wouldn't really hear in the history books. Um Tiana will give you the next couple questions. Thank you.

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Tiana Mosley: Thank you Kendall. Okay so this next part is more current like about Covid and the whole BLM movement. So the first part is like say once again for whoever wants to go first, just tell me a little bit about this current moment living through Covid right now for you guys.

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Dorris Kellum: For me it's been very hard, because I haven't been able to go out you know and It makes me nervous. You know I have too much time to stay home and think

about things that I shouldn't think about, you know. I don't, we don't have you know any communication with the other residents that live here, you know. We can speak to them as we pass but we don't have any visitation and we don't have any activities. We had a lot of activities going on. And we sit in our apartment and we see each other in the hallway, say hello you know and, you know, might say a few words but other than that it's, it's really been hard for me.

But Duan has tried to get me out of the house at least once a week. And he's my dad. He won't let me go any place. He does all the shopping for me and everything you know that's been hard for me you know and I know kind of nervous, you know, but things are getting better now. I've had all my shots, and he said, maybe I can go back to Virginia this summer and visit my sister. So, I'm looking forward to that but you know that you know it's been rough and we've made it through this far and seemed like things are getting better every day, so.

Tiana Mosley: Yeah, definitely. I know hopefully you're able to go and see her this summer. I'll definitely be saying my prayers for you. And then same thing with you Mr. Kellum if you'd like to answer that same question.

Duan Kellum: 00:42:55.000 --> 00:45:59.000

I'm a creative, so it's really given me a lot of time to create. You know, you hear people say, you know, if I was back in the civil rights era, "you know this is what I would do." And we're living in now. And so there's none of that. "I would of." Either you're doing it or you're not. With the Covid. I was just concerned, my wife and I were concerned more for my mother and her parents who are older. And so we were gonna we were, you know, really tried to stay healthy.

For their sake, because again we were, you know, helping them and around them, did lose a cousin to Covid. He was my around my age so that was kind of a you know a shocker just to know someone that close and to know many people who've gotten it to varying degrees. You know, almost dying and in really bad shape.

The events of George Floyd, I think us being home, really gave us time to really process it and not get caught up in the kind of the news cycle and tossed aside. I was, I was, am active as possible using my voice, using my art, using education to help with this change.

I think like many thought that maybe we were beyond this. And we are we are in many respects, we haven't moved. In some respects, we backslid as a nation as a society, when it comes to issues of black lives and the sanctity of their lives.

It's really given me a lot of time to just see what people are doing, and evaluating what I need to do, and with whom. It's, it's, it can be exhausting. And, you know, you've got to practice the self care. And I don't think we're out of it. I mean we're approaching, you know, a year of George Floyd's murder and the trial starting and so there that

something's going to happen. Whether it's, and I won't even say a celebration of, of the, of the conviction if it happens.

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Duan Kellum: I am not optimistic. I am kind of like just neutral. I would be surprised if he was convicted, but I wouldn't be surprised if he was acquitted. I mean we've been down this so many times before. And now that you talk about and think about, I go back to the Rodney King, I was in college. So I remember that. And when that happened then having graduated and moving back out here and seeing the reaction of not only people in LA, but here in the Inland Empire, with the equivalent of four officers and stores being shut down and people being on edge and, yeah... The OJ trial, you know, now all these things are coming back. How people been divided, and so I see, you know, you go through Redlands, and you see, you know, you'll see you'll see a confederate flag on the back of a truck. You know, you see, you know, the Trump 2020 still, you see the hats, and it seems like people are at least drawing the line in the sand. We know where, for the most part where people stand. And so kind of going off of Dick Gregory "Do you want to know who the racist are or do you want them to kind of like smile in your face and say, Okay, then do their dirt behind your back". So, in a sense, it's, it's a good thing that this has come out you know with the election of Trump. That's really shown us where people's hearts and minds are. So we got this, this. I would say this community is more divided, openly divided, than I've seen it before. But I do see people working for change, which is good. So, you know, we've got change when city government, the school board, and the schools. I'm actually working with a team of teachers in the district, writing the ethnic studies curriculum for the district. So, I mean, there's change, but then there's it seems like there's still this heavyweight, and in some time. Sometimes it feels even heavier than maybe it was 20,30,40, years ago.

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Tiana Mosley: Thank you for that . That was a very powerful answer, I really do appreciate that. But even off of almost, piggybacking off of that, like you said, with the whole George Floyd thing and how the trials going and how we've seen the history repeat even throughout like the Trayvon Martin case where you hope for the best. We won't be surprised if the worst happens. My question is, how do you like what have you been thinking and feeling with the BLM protest especially like the one because I know you gave a amazing speech at our Nextgen protest we had downtown. And then how would you also kind of tell the younger generation like how would you navigate through the current struggles of racial justice that they're going through.

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Duan Kellum: That's a tough one. I think part of it is, education, knowing yourself. Knowing your history. Being comfortable in your own skin. Being around others that love and support you to go through that. I see this as kind of like this pandemic and the George Floyd is this, this generations, 911, Pearl Harbor. And, I mean, how did you, how did you deal with you know with Pearl Harbor? And 911, I mean we were numb. For a while, and I think technology helps and hurts. It gives us the information, but I think now we can be bombarded with it, and may be overwhelmed. I remember in

college after Rodney King, I was taking a politics and communications class, and the professor came out that the following week after the beating. And he had probably two three foot stack of newspapers on his desk and said every one of these is a police brutality, there's, there's a police brutality incident. And he goes, this wasn't the first. This isn't going to be the last. And that really stuck with me. So as we see these, these murders lynching's on film. How do I say, I don't have a lot of faith in humanity, but I have hope.

You know I'm playing around, but you know, as things open up, we're starting these mass killings again. And it's like, people. What the hell is going on. It's, you know, this is the normal.

You know there. You know, there weren't any school shootings during Covid because everybody was homeschooled. So, What does that tell me? So, you know, for the youth, you guys got a lot on your plate, you got a lot to deal with. We would have to deal with an occasional bomb scare every two, three years because someone didn't want to take a test and call in a bomb scare. You know now we are training for you know mass shooters, trainings for sensitivity and diversity, learning about issue the LGBTQ communities. And I think the more we know, and want to know there's an element that doesn't want to know, and wants to hang on to the past, the institutional, you know, isms.

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Tiana Mosley: That oh my god, that gave me chills with that answer. Thank you. But then, even on top of that to like looking back over your life like I know you said you were a creative and you have SKOOLBOIZ and all that kind of stuff do you feel like that, that creative outlet has really helped you through any of your struggles that you've had?

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Duan Kellum: Oh, I think I couldn't even tell you, I would probably be crazy if I didn't have those outlets and being a creative and having this past year. I don't want to. I was making lemonade. So 2020, I decided, Okay, I'm just gonna make lemonade. Pink Lemonade, you know, Green lemonade, but we're making lemonade with these lemons. And I do see this new drive and power through African American business and creatives and education,. And we opened up an art studio in downtown San Bernardino, and, and that to us that was huge. We decided, well, we were, we didn't, we didn't look in Redlands and we would have been priced out of Redlands, but to go to San Bernardino to go to the hood to create something, try to create something beautiful, something for the community, a destination for people to go and know that we call the shots. We are the owners. We don't have to wait for somebody else to do that. It's empowering and it they may be one of the reasons why others are afraid because you know we're getting this momentum and it's, you know, well Drake said, "Started from the bottom, now we here."

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Tiana Mosley: Thank you, but yeah that after that, that completes all of our questions so I want to thank you guys especially like I said you Mr. Kellum, me and Kendall go

way back to freshman year so just having someone who has such a strong especially black male figure this one for the younger generation like I said at REV I have cousins, I come from a multiracial family, and having cousins knowing that there's someone that they can look up to it truly means a lot to me so like I said thank you so much for this interview.

Duan Kellum: You're Welcome.

Kendall Green: Thank you Mr. Kellum and thank you Mama Kellum.

Tiana Mosley: Yes thank you Mrs. Kellum! I enjoyed all of your stories. I will be praying you get to see your sister and everything will be all good.

Dorris Kellum: Thank you so much.

Duan Kellum: You take care.

Dorris Kellum: Bye, Bye

End of Interview:

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