

Watching Mount Holly Change

By Ruth Moore

I was raised during a time when segregation was a part of everyday life. When I attended Rollins Elementary School I remember my grandmother walking me to school because she lived close to the school. If a white person wanted to pass on the sidewalk, my grandmother would tell me to move to the grass so there would be no trouble or confusion. When my family and I would go to the doctor's office or to catch the P&N at the train depot, we sat in separate sections labeled "colored." No blacks worked in the local mills until the early 1960s. Very few women had the opportunity to go to school—most stayed at home doing domestic work.

Mount Holly has changed dramatically since those days, and I have witnessed it change for the better. I have lived in Mount Holly my entire life, attending Rollins Elementary and Reid High School. I married John Moore, and we have four beautiful children. My family and I have lived in the same house for thirty-nine years. I have served as a cafeteria worker at Mount Holly High School, as secretary for a company in Charlotte, and as lab technician at Burlington Industries, Inc. After integration from 1964 to 1965, I started working at Burlington Industries in 1966 as a quill twister. After working for fifteen years I was promoted to lab technician. I held this position for ten years. After I retired from Burlington I helped with the Meals on Wheels program for three years.

A large part of my life has been dedicated to Mount Zion Baptist Church, which I have attended since I was ten years old. It is the oldest African-American church in Mount Holly, established in 1849. We renovated the building about five years ago, and ended up building a brand new church. I served as historian and youth choir director for many years, and helped with mission work.

Along with my involvement in the church, I also enjoy spending my free time working with senior citizens. It brings me such fulfillment to bring happiness to the lives of the elderly. I have enjoyed growing, living, and spending my life in Mount Holly. Most of all, I have enjoyed watching this City grow and change.