

Oral History Interview
Glenn Morgan
WH056

(written transcript and digital audio)

On July 10, 2009, Glenn Morgan was interviewed at the Independent Club of Colonia by Brenda Velasco at 4:45 P.M.

Brenda Velasco: I have the good fortune of being able to interview Glenn Morgan who is a very busy guy involved with Pop Warner, his jobs and everything but his family goes way back in Colonia history with the Independent Club of Colonia.

1. Identify individual-name, section, date of birth.

My name is Glenn Morgan. I currently live in the Colonia section of Woodbridge Township. I just recently moved from Avenel over to Queens Gardens.

2. How long have you lived in Woodbridge?

Basically, I've been a long time resident of Woodbridge Township almost since I've been born. My family moved over here from New York when I was probably about three or four years old. I've been living here ever since, other than the four years that I stayed in Brooklyn where I met my wife and stayed with her at her place before we moved back here to Colonia. So basically I've been a Woodbridge Township resident all my life.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, what was your date of birth?

Glenn Morgan: 11/4/55.

Brenda Velasco: Then you moved here in about 1958 or 1959?

Glenn Morgan: 1958 or 1959, somewhere in that area. My grandmother was a resident here on Walnut Street and she had owned property directly behind where she was living which the front of that would have been Pine Street so that's where we had our house built. My mother and my father had their house built there so we had back to back backyards with my grandmother.

Brenda Velasco: How nice.

Glenn Morgan: Real nice.

Brenda Velasco: Is this your paternal or maternal grandmother?

Glenn Morgan: My father's mother.

Brenda Velasco: So she was a Morgan too then?

Glenn Morgan: Yes, Frances Morgan.

Brenda Velasco: So Frances Morgan was your grandmother?

Glenn Morgan: Yes, Frances. So, I attended school here, elementary school; School #17, which is now the Evergreen Center. I attended kindergarten there. I even can go back a little further than that, I'm sorry, I went to Clark, Featherbed Lane.

Brenda Velasco: Ah, for nursery school, okay.

Glenn Morgan: My mother sent me over there.

3. Why did you or your family originally move to Woodbridge?

My grandmother originated from North Carolina, her and my grandfather moved up here from the Raleigh area. He was a retired railroad person, from what I understood and they moved up here.

Brenda Velasco: We've had other people who moved from North Carolina as well and into Colonia.

Glenn Morgan: From what I understand she owned not only the property in back of us, which was on Pine Street, but she also owned the property that was directly across from us on Pine Street, right over here. Eventually, much later on in years, she was renting out a house which eventually she ended up knocking down and we ended up building another house on there that we eventually moved into. My father who eventually, later on, had MS and she wanted to have more of a ranch style house.

Brenda Velasco: One level.

Glenn Morgan: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Which would facilitate his mobility. But he was employed by New York City?

Glenn Morgan: He was a policeman in the city of New York for twenty years. He was trying to go for thirty to retire but that's when the ailment came about. I attended School #17 from kindergarten to fifth grade and I also, at that point, my parents had divorced and we moved to Woodbridge where I lived in Kings Gardens.

Brenda Velasco: And now you're in Queens Gardens.

Glenn Morgan: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: So you've lived in Woodbridge.....

Glenn Morgan: Woodbridge, yes, and I attended School #1 in sixth grade. (School Street)

Brenda Velasco: Which school is that in Woodbridge?

Glenn Morgan: That is.....

Brenda Velasco: Ross Street?

Glenn Morgan: No it's School #1 but if you go straight down St. George soon as you pass Mauro Motors you make the right hand turn there and take that all the way down.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, right hand turn from Colonia that would be Mawbey Street School?

Glenn Morgan: Is that Mawbey?

Brenda Velasco: We'll find out.

Glenn Morgan: All I know is Mauro Motors right there on St. George is where I made that right, right after that, and took that all the way down on the left hand side., so I attended the sixth grade and I went to Woodbridge Junior High in the seventh and eighth. Then I came back home and lived with my father for a little while. What had happened is that's when he had started to show a lot of symptoms and I was trying to help out here with him. I attended junior high school, right here, ninth grade, in Colonia. So that was an easy commute, right across the street.

Brenda Velasco: Oh, right, right across the street, Colonia Middle School for ninth grade.

Glenn Morgan: I did that in ninth grade and then I went back to Woodbridge for tenth grade, Woodbridge High School, because I ended up going back and staying with my

mother at that time. Then she ended up moving to Queens Gardens. That's where I attended Colonia High School for eleventh and twelfth grade.

Brenda Velasco: What year did you graduate?

Glenn Morgan: '74.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, Class of '74. So you went through some tumultuous times growing up.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, I got around this township and knew quite a bit of people from both Colonia and Woodbridge.

Brenda Velasco: That's an advantage.

Glenn Morgan: Oh yes, it was definitely an advantage and it was really a big advantage especially when it came to sports and competition because I always looked forward to the Colonia/Woodbridge rivalry, which is still on today.

Brenda Velasco: Oh, by all means.

Glenn Morgan: But back then I knew everybody and they all knew me.

Brenda Velasco: Right, both teams.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, so when it came to baseball and football, which I participated in, it was something. I still have some of the articles from that, too.

Brenda Velasco: Great, because I know just from our previous conversation one of your sons is involved with football right now.

Glenn Morgan: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: So he had a good father as a role model for him.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, and Tyrone was great in basketball too. All of them graduated from Colonia. Tyrone was '95, Royce was 2002 and Tiffany was 2006. So it's a long string of us.

Brenda Velasco: It's in the blood. It's genetic with you as their father.

4. What did you like about living in your various sections of Woodbridge?

Brenda Velasco: I guess we should go to Colonia because that is where you spent most of your time.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, well, Colonia I spent most of my time here and the one thing I could say growing up here, the section that we lived in was predominantly black but we mixed with everybody. My mother was a very outgoing person and our house was an international house; all was welcome. So it didn't matter to me whether you were green, yellow or whatever. Growing up here, at that time, was almost like living like the Little Rascals because we did everything. I almost looked at myself being like the Spanky of the gang because I was constantly organized since I would go on hikes, bike rides, you know, that hill right there going over the bridge.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, we're talking about the hill on Inman over the Parkway Bridge.

Glenn Morgan: Wintertime, everybody was hanging out there, that was a sleighed hill. You know we'd go over to **A&P (ACE Hardware)**, what used to be across the bridge and get the boxes from there in the back and bring those down. Those were our sleds. You know, make shift sleds. They'd be three or four of us and get the long pieces of cardboard and just ride down. It was just so much fun. You know, there was just a lot more openness here. Everything wasn't as built up as it is. You know, you had a lot more woods around. It was a really fun neighborhood, you know, to grow up in. Families looked out for each other.

Brenda Velasco: And you had your grandmother right there.

Glenn Morgan: Oh, I had grandmother here, yes. If I could do it all over again I wouldn't change anything; it was just beautiful.

Brenda Velasco: That says a lot.

Glenn Morgan: Oh, yes.

Brenda Velasco: That says a lot about Woodbridge. Let's just go back with your mother now because you said it was like an international house. Now your mother, we're dealing with the early '60s, this was a tense time in the United States.

Glenn Morgan: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: It was after Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954 and the Civil Rights Movement. Your mother was part of an organization.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, you know, she founded her own organization that she was starting up at home which, until recently, I wasn't even aware of myself. You know, from that, it expanded off into the Independent Club of Colonia. She had her coffee clutches and what not. I remember just a lot of people coming over to the house always, all ethnicities, and just people getting together and having a good time. That's what it just looked like to me. You know what I mean? I don't look at it as oh they were having this big meeting or whatever. It just looked like everybody was congregating together and having a good time; picnics, parties, whatever.

Brenda Velasco: And it was interracial?

Glenn Morgan: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Interfaith?

Glenn Morgan: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Because you had people who were Jews, Catholics, and Protestants.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, because back at that time, from another thing I know she shared with me, you had a lot of conflicts that were going on. You know, even amongst our own, you know, whether it was the blacks or the Jewish or whatnot. I remember her, later on, speaking on it, you know, a little bit and she would talk about some of the deception even between their own and just trying to get people to put a lot of stuff to the side and come together. You know, and work things out and realize we are still all a community, let's try to get along. And like you said, yes even with all the tension and everything going on, just being around her and the environment that she created it almost made it seem like it wasn't there but you knew it was there but that was just the atmosphere that she created just being around her.

Brenda Velasco: It was a safe haven.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, it was really, really something, you know, and even when we had left here to move to Woodbridge, my sister, my brother and I, were one of only four blacks in the whole school, in elementary school. Where out here, at the time, even though there wasn't a lot of us there was a lot more here in this area. So I was used to being around more of us but going there you would think it might be a big adjustment for me but it really wasn't. I just said like, "hi how are you", you know, "what's your name". You know what I mean. I went around to people's houses I didn't know and I would see their kid playing out on the swings, whatever, and I would just walk up to their yard and start talking to him whether it was their daughter or son or whatever. As I got to know people, you know, I just went; being myself, you know. I'd like to really know what some of the parents thought back then.

Brenda Velasco: You played with their kids?

Glenn Morgan: Yes, I went, played right there. I was on the swings, swinging and swinging with this kid that I met and whatnot. Just hanging out and whatnot, just having a good time.

Brenda Velasco: So from Colonia, which was more or less a black knit community in this area, then you were thrown into Woodbridge where you felt a minority.

Glenn Morgan: It was really definitely a minority, but I didn't let that affect me. I, you know, just wanted to reach out and mother always told me, "accept people as they accept you". So, you know, if I felt that I didn't feel comfortable being around this person or that person then I just wouldn't be around them. But people were pretty much, you know, open. I met the parents and treated them with respect. Hello Mr. and Mrs. and all that kind of stuff, you know what I mean, so everything pretty much worked out really well.

Brenda Velasco: This is your experience in Woodbridge?

Glenn Morgan: Yes, and the thing about it, even when we finally got into where we lived at Kings Gardens, you know, later on my mother told me we didn't get in there as just as easy and simply as you thought we did. She told me what she had to do in order for us to even move into where we moved into.

Brenda Velasco: Do you want to elaborate on that now because it ties in right where we are now rather than later for Question #6?

Glenn Morgan: She put in an application and she was turned down and she doesn't understand because, you know, she made good money. She also, at that time, was involved with the Human Rights Commission in the area of the township.

Brenda Velasco: Because she was in the forefront for that Human Rights Commission which was formed in '64.

Glenn Morgan: She was also part of the MCEOC, Middlesex County Equal Opportunity Commission, so she was very well connected in the township and the goings on here and for her to get turned down and not to be able to have a place that she needed to live, she couldn't understand. So she ended up sending one of her Asian friends down there to the same place that she had just went to apply for an apartment and her friend was told that there was not a problem at all and that they could move in whenever they wanted to. So from that, well, we ended up moving in there shortly afterwards

Brenda Velasco: She was persistent.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, and she didn't stop there; she made sure that if there was anybody else that was coming in there that they did not have a problem, you know, she was on it.

Brenda Velasco: Your mom was Paula Morgan.

Glenn Morgan: Paula, yes.

Brenda Velasco: Because I've interviewed other people, such as Midge Custode, and she mentioned Paula and the role she played as the catalyst to get people together in this community. So that was quite an achievement in the early 1960s.

Glenn Morgan: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Which you're too young to remember totally about. And that gets us into the Independent Club of Colonia, that's Question #5 on our list.

5. Independent Club of Colonia

Glenn Morgan: I believe a lot of spinoff, from what she did at home, as far as organizing and the bringing together of people which basically was a way of, now we can have a place other

than just her home where we could come to mingle, play cards, have bus outings, parties, movies for the kids to see some time, you know, a lot of different activities. There were reading lessons going on here and just so much that was done here at this place. As a kid, you know, even like at school you can go back to your rooms in school now and you're like, wow, it's so small. Everything seemed so bigger then, you know what I mean and that's how this place seemed to us, it's like, wow, we're going to the cool house, yea, that got something going on here, it's so big, you know.

Brenda Velasco: Who organized all of these activities for the young kids?

Glenn Morgan: The parents that were a part of this whole community. Because you basically had Delaware Avenue, you had Walnut Street, my grandmother lived on Pine Street, you had Maple Street here, you had Cedar Street and then Willow Street at the end and basically you had the same thing on the other side.

Brenda Velasco: The Parkway split you.

Glenn Morgan: The Parkway split it and that's basically where the blacks congregated at mostly but there were still some spread out all around. It was basically most of those families that made up the main crux of the organization here. They would come together to organize a lot of those activities.

Brenda Velasco: So they gave up their time? They were volunteers then?

Glenn Morgan: Oh, yes.

Brenda Velasco: Now, we look at that, you had the role models whether it was your mother and I think your father was involved too.

Glenn Morgan: Yes. My father was, prior to him getting sick, involved with the clubhouse as well. He was also the president of this organization at one time and I know he also did a lot with the township as well in helping out. The one thing that I can really remember vividly about him was his involvement with this paint up, fix up, clean up campaign and I believe that's what they called it. I remember marching in a parade in Woodbridge in reference to that. It may have been something very similar to the Tooling Around.

Brenda Velasco: A predecessor, yes.

Glenn Morgan: I just know he was involved with that and we were just there to support him in any way possible, you know.

Brenda Velasco: So you got it from both parents this concept of civic involvement?

Glenn Morgan: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Plus the Independent Club of Colonia. That body of parents also reinforced that you had to get involved which you are still involved.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, I am.

Brenda Velasco: Even though your children are out of our public school system and have graduated college or in the process, you're still committed.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, I kind of like always, in some way, shape or form, been involved with different little things going on here. There have been various people that have tried to take on the task of doing something here at this Independent Club of Colonia. But the times when I've come here and saw what was going on it was more or less for their own preference, for what they wanted to do, you know. Or maybe they just wanted to have the place and have a picnic and to do this or whatever, but it wasn't anything community generated, you know what I mean, where they were trying to bring everybody back together because the diversity of this community has changed drastically.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, do you want to elaborate on that?

Glenn Morgan: I remember when we had our first crazy person move into the neighborhood right on the corner there on Cedar Street and everybody was like, oh! They were mad as hell. I remember that. I remember he had a little sign and whatnot and some of the guys and kids were messing with him and whatnot and I was one of the ones that said, “don’t do that, it’s not right, you know”. If anything, you want to make people feel comfortable coming in because you know what we’ve been through. Why turn around and do it to someone else. But he is still there to this day. God bless him. And he’s not the only one that we have living in this neighborhood that’s Caucasian, we have Indian as well. I think we even have some Haitians here, one on the street here as well, and I think I even met an Oriental guy who also said that he even had stopped by here to find out what was going on here and what kind of rules and wanted to help out with the organization.

Brenda Velasco: Terrific, and I know Beverly has mentioned about setting up a mentoring program to cater to people of diverse backgrounds. But you’re a microcosm of Woodbridge and a microcosm of New Jersey. This whole area right now is diverse. Let’s go back now, was your mom a member of this club? Not your mom, your grandmother.

Glenn Morgan: That’s a very good question.

Brenda Velasco: Because I know your father was the president.

Glenn Morgan: I don’t know.

Brenda Velasco: Because it goes back to the late 1940s.

Glenn Morgan: I don’t believe so. I know she had a lot of property out here in Colonia. Don’t ask me how she got it or whatever. I know she had that property, you know, those three pieces of property there and I believe she also had some property on Willow Street and I know she had given that up, from what I understood because basically there was nothing she could do. Later on when I found that out I was like, come on, save that for me.

Brenda Velasco: That’s right, that’s my legacy.

Glenn Morgan: But back then, you know a total different mindset.

Brenda Velasco: Yes.

Glenn Morgan: One of the things I do remember very clearly too was that there were only two houses on Walnut Street, one on the corner and then her house, my grandmother’s house there. By the Parkway you didn’t have the high fences or walls or anything. There was one little fence that maybe came about four feet high. Right to the side of her house is a house there now but before there wasn’t. That was almost like a little wooded area. It was all like a picnic area.

Brenda Velasco: You had a picnic grove there.

Glenn Morgan: We had not only back to back yards, but we had a little area there so that when we had everybody coming out here, all our relatives and whatnot, they’d take over the whole parking lot parking over there because that was a basketball court over there right next to the school.

Brenda Velasco: Great.

Glenn Morgan: So we stayed over there playing basketball all the time. It was like your own little.....

Brenda Velasco: You had your own property there.

Glenn Morgan: Oh, yea, it was beautiful. We had a pit there to barbeque. So those are the times I remember. The gathering of everybody, the people, and coming together and it was just such a joyous great, great time.

Brenda Velasco: So your family was a member of this club. So from the 1950s when you guys moved here from New York City, how long were they involved with this club?

Glenn Morgan: I would have to say, up until the time that we moved to Woodbridge. That would have put me in fifth grade or so.

Brenda Velasco: Okay.

Glenn Morgan: Because at that point my mother became a lot more involved with the Human Rights Commission especially the MCEOC. She spent a lot of time with that because I remember living in Woodbridge, when we were at Kings Gardens, a lot of the same members and people coming around. The gentleman you mentioned before was your teacher.

Brenda Velasco: Mr. Jackson?

Glenn Morgan: No.

Brenda Velasco: Benjamin Jackson?

Glenn Morgan: No.

Brenda Velasco: Jennings? Mr. DuPree?

Glenn Morgan: No, your teacher.

Brenda Velasco: Jack Fay?

Glenn Morgan: Yes, I remember him coming over to the house a lot. Midge Custode, that name, but when I look at her I'm trying to picture her but when I saw the picture of her in the paper that more or less.....

Brenda Velasco: Yes, because as we get into our seventies and eighties we change and you're not the little boy either.

Glenn Morgan: Right, exactly, and not seeing her in all of that time was like, wow! I'm trying to picture her, you know, it's not coming to me but the name. So many names mean so much to me because of how my mother mentioned certain people and the older people that were a lot more involved like you said, Jack Fay. She talked about him so much. These were people that would give their shirt off their back for you.

Brenda Velasco: Yes.

Glenn Morgan: You know what I mean. Go to war with you. Let me tell you those people went to war and they dealt with a lot of crap. Let me tell you, a lot. I remember just hearing some of the background as a kid. You know what I mean? You could hear stuff, different fighting and bickering going on. What they were preparing for next or whatever, you know.

Brenda Velasco: And Jack Fay was a fighter. He was out of Frog Hollow Elizabeth, Irish enclave. He was a fighter and a former Navy Seal during the 1950s before he went into teaching. So you had a good champion there.

Glenn Morgan: Oh, yea.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, now, I know your dad was president of the club. Did you hold any offices then for the Independent Club of Colonia?

Glenn Morgan: Right now I am the president of the organization, the Independent Club of Colonia. Prior to this I was vice-president and prior to that I was a member of some sort. I was always involved. If something was going on or they needed a little money here or there, you know, I was helping out or whatever.

Brenda Velasco: So your roots go back a long time.

Glenn Morgan: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: And I wish you much success in the revitalization. Alright, now looking at Question #5E, let's reiterate, what were some of the services that his club provided for you and your family?

Glenn Morgan: As far as services, I don't know if it was so much the services as more as it was just the community coming together: having a place to have everybody come to have a good time. You know, organizing picnics and bus outings.

Brenda Velasco: Where did you go?

Glenn Morgan: From what I can remember I want to say they went away like to Upstate New York to something like a Mount Airy Lodge or something of that type of venue.

Brenda Velasco: Lodges in the mountains, the Poconos.....

Glenn Morgan: Lodges and stuff like that; outings of that nature.

Brenda Velasco: Did you go to sporting events? Did they organize trips?

Glenn Morgan: They go to some sporting events, okay. Myself, no, I didn't go. I know that there's a lot of things that they wouldn't do. I don't remember myself going to sporting events. We were involved in enough sporting events around here as kids.

Brenda Velasco: Yes, and you still are. You have a busy schedule.

Glenn Morgan: So, yes, from a services standpoint, I think this was more of a great support system too. Kind of like, that was your service. It was just great to see the coming together of people from the neighborhood just coming and organizing and just talking about issues or whatever the case may be.

Brenda Velasco: And as I said, the 1960s was a tumultuous time for everyone and it was a challenge for everyone's value system as well. You had to think a little different if we were going to be an integrated society finally and there were challenges there.

Glenn Morgan: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Did this motivate anybody to get involved in politics or take a political action?

Glenn Morgan: As far as political action, that's where my mother, I felt, just stepped forward like you wouldn't believe. I mean her being involved with the organization, the Independent Club of Colonia, going with the Human Rights Commission, MCEOC, and marching with Martin Luther King in Washington. I'll never forget when she went down there with the bus ride to be involved in that and I remember a lot of other people from Woodbridge. Jack Fay, I would not be surprised if they were part of that group that even went down there too. I just can't remember all of that.

Brenda Velasco: You were a little boy.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, but she kept herself involved with that for quite a long time. My father couldn't stay into it as much because at that time that's when he was starting to show some of his illness.

Brenda Velasco: Right, the symptoms, of the MS. Okay, why do you think the membership declined in the Independent Club of Colonia?

Glenn Morgan: It definitely related to the aging of our parents and I guess the next regime not wanting to step to the plate to take over, you know, and take that full responsibility that you need to take. There are some that came in and tried from some of the younger generation that were older than me but yet younger than them. But they had their own way about doing things, but nowhere near the type that had the organizational skills that our parents had. Like you said, it was a different time. They had different views and, just, you know.....

Brenda Velasco: And it was a time of transition.

Glenn Morgan: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Until now we have a president. He's Barrack Obama, that's it. Yes he's black but he transcends everything.

Glenn Morgan: Yes.

6. Did you experience any significant happenings in Woodbridge or Colonia - construction, accidents, sports events, riots, discrimination, etc.

Well as far as the discrimination part of it, I experienced that with her trying to obtain the apartment in Woodbridge. You know, up to that time that probably was my first real reality check for something touching me right here at home in my own township. I didn't think something like that would go on, you know. I didn't find out about that immediately. It wasn't until later on that she shared this with me because she probably felt I was still too young to get me involved in that, you know, especially with her just leaving my father at that time, you know. You know, there was enough going on. So she was pretty good about handling her business. But, yes the discrimination bothered me but I did not let that deter me from still dealing with people.

Brenda Velasco: Did you experience anything in Woodbridge, personally, in the high school or Colonia High School?

Glenn Morgan: I would say for the most part Woodbridge and Colonia High Schools which I attended and attending both Woodbridge Middle Schools, now, which were junior high as well as dealing with two elementary schools, for the most part, I did not really deal with a lot of discrimination. I pretty much was able to hold my own ground. A lot of people really didn't mess with me for the most part. I just tried to carry myself in a way that I was very confident in myself and what I did.

Brenda Velasco: And this community gave it to you, the Independent Club of Colonia and your family.

Glenn Morgan: That gave a lot to me knowing how to handle myself out there. Even if I found myself in a situation, like you said, reverting back to what I was taught or whatever, you know, being in the situation and trying to deal with it rather than trying to fight or this or that or whatever; there's a way we can work this out. No I didn't have to deal with a lot of fights and stuff like that. I remember one incident though when my sister came back and she told me about a kid called her nigger, you know. And I know the one thing my mother she did say was, if somebody does lay their hand on you, you have to defend yourself, you defend yourself. I know that happened with my sister because I was in sixth grade, my brother was in fourth grade and she was in second grade and she was one tough cookie and I remember the kid that said something to her and he had messed with her and whatnot and I know she had laid him out one time. My mother had went down to the school and, a matter of fact, at that particular time, the principal was Dr. Buonocore and my mother knew him too so, anyway, the situation was resolved or whatever. But as far as sports events probably the best sporting event that I can even think of was when we played Woodbridge in my senior year.

Brenda Velasco: You were at Colonia High School.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, I was at Colonia High School and we beat them in football 7-0.

Brenda Velasco: Wow!

Glenn Morgan: The last second, a touchdown.

Brenda Velasco: That must have felt good.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, at that time Colonia was only new in '68 and Woodbridge was basically handling us and.....

Brenda Velasco: They had the tradition.

Glenn Morgan: Oh, yes, big time. So for us to win that game against them in the last seven seconds of the game was huge. We went on to have an 8 in 1 record that year which was the best record Colonia had up until that time.

Brenda Velasco: And this was in?

Glenn Morgan: '74, Class of '74. The next year they went up going 9 and 0, but up until that time we had the best record.

Brenda Velasco: And this was a new high school, that's the whole thing.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, during the '70s they had some really good teams and the thing about it is that you started to have a really good mixture of both black and white playing together. Oh, yes, you had your dissension and this and that or whatever. But again we tried to keep that together because, I felt, those were really some of your better teams; having that mix, you know. It just reminds me of that movie with Denzel in it, **The Return of the Titans**. I don't know if you ever saw that movie?

Brenda Velasco: No I haven't.

Glenn Morgan: You need to see that movie.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, I'll put it down. So that was your football and you're still coaching Pop Warner?

Glenn Morgan: Yes, I'm coaching Pop Warner still.

7. What do you like about Colonia or Woodbridge today?

Well I'm still living here so I must like it.

Brenda Velasco: I'd say so.

Glenn Morgan: Because if not I'd be somewhere else. It is challenging being in Jersey because of the taxes. I've had my thoughts about moving over the border to Pennsylvania, which I still might do, but even if I did do that, that wouldn't change anything about what I would be doing here in the Clubhouse and Organization and everything else that I'm involved in.

Brenda Velasco: Because you raised your kids here.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, I raised my kids here.

Brenda Velasco: Your three children.

Glenn Morgan: Yes, when I moved away for a short time to Brooklyn, where I met my wife, I lived with her for four years I had decided that, you know, once Royce came into the picture, she had a daughter also, and at the time we moved back here to Jersey her daughter was just in ninth grade and I saw some of the problems that she was having with her. I said, you know, I really think it would help getting her out of this environment and we ended up moving back here and she attended Colonia High School as well and she graduated from there. I also wanted my kids to have a different outlook. Not to say that they couldn't have made it in New York but I just felt that there were challenges that I didn't really want to try to deal with. It was one of the best decisions I made.

Brenda Velasco: Good, well I'm definitely glad you're back here. You continue the legacy of your family.

8. Do you still have any family members still living in Colonia or Woodbridge Proper?

No, I did but my brother Jimmy moved to Bridgewater a couple of years ago. As a matter of fact he was living in that other property in the house over here.

Brenda Velasco: On Pine Street?

Glenn Morgan: Yes, right on Pine Street.

Brenda Velasco: Wow!

Glenn Morgan: But he ended up moving out of there and selling the house in Bridgewater and now he's down in Atlanta, that's my step-brother Jimmy, and he's there along with my step-sister Eleanor as well as my sister Sherry.

Brenda Velasco: So they're all in Atlanta?

Glenn Morgan: They're all in Atlanta. My other brother, Derrick, is in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Brenda Velasco: So they really scattered.

Glenn Morgan: Chattanooga is really like on the borderline of Georgia.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, but your grandmother came from North Carolina, but where did your mother come from?

Glenn Morgan: She came from Georgia, Fort Valley. That is where her family originated from. Her last name was Floyd, the Floyd family which may have been Jones from what I understand. So there could be a discrepancy there. That's a whole nother long story.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, let it be another time. But I enjoyed the interview. Do you have anything else that you want to include?

Glenn Morgan: I probably cannot even expand on the fact that it's a blessing to come together to be able to do what I'm doing right now and to have somebody like you, yourself, Mrs. Velasco, to be involved as you are to bring all of this to the forefront. I would not even have known about some of the things that I would have known about had you not been involved. I knew my mother was involved in a lot of things. I was going to try to dig out some information out on her. I had dug some stuff up but I was going to make it a project and said, Glenn, you got to sit down one day and try to find out. But I can't even begin to say how much I appreciate it.

Brenda Velasco: Well, it's been a pleasure just discovering how unique Colonia has been in the history of Woodbridge and dealing with all the people that I have and it was an unusual community. I am not from this place originally but it's a unique experience. I'm just so glad with this oral history project and you will be going and entering the oral history archives; and we'll have your mom's name and dad's name as well as your name. They'll be transcripts and the digital audio to share with the rest of the community and for generations. So, thank you very much Glenn.

Glenn Morgan: Thank you.

Brenda Velasco: And keep up the good work with the Independent Club.

Glenn Morgan: I will definitely do that.