



## Transcript for Not Allowed

**Desiree Platt, Santee Indians:** I'm Desiree Platt, I'm a member of the Council Board of the Santee Indians and I'm proud of it.

**Dr. Will Goins:** Now tell us, you grew up in this community as well.

**Desiree:** Yes, I did.

**Dr. Goins:** Did you attend this school?

**Desiree:** Yes, I sure did. I didn't go to Holly Hill School, really I didn't apply to go to Holly Hill School because I didn't want trouble, I went to Orangeburg school. I left here and I stayed at my grandmothers and I went to Orangeburg school, because in my life growing up my mother and my grandmother told the stories about how Holly Hill was and knew my mother and grandmother lived about a mile or so from the school in Holly Hill and they had to walk from Holly Hill out here because they wasn't allowed to go to school. And back then the Indians weren't like the Indians are now. They'd just keep quiet and they'd walk, rain, sleet or snow but they'd walk here to go to school. My grandmother she was turned down from school, in fact, she really didn't get past the first grade of school, but before she died she was as if she was in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade because she could read and she could do as much as a 12<sup>th</sup> grader except write. She couldn't do writing good, but I know my husband's mom she said she lived about a mile, mile and a half from the school and they wouldn't let her go to school there.

**Dr. Goins:** Now why wouldn't they let them go to school?

**Desiree:** Because they wasn't good enough, they wasn't recognized as an Indian they wasn't recognized as nothing. They wasn't recognized as Indian, they wasn't recognized as black, they wasn't recognized as white, they wasn't recognized as nothing, they was just somebody. That's the way it was.

**Dr. Goins:** Was that an exclusively white school?

**Desiree:** Yes.

**Dr. Goins:** So did they have a black school?



**Desiree:** Yes. They had a white school and they had a black school.

**Dr. Goins:** Now, did anyone attempt to go to that school..... What would happen if you went to the school and tried to go there as an Indian person.

**Desiree:** You would have to ....now I don't know what would have happened back in my day because I didn't even try, but back in my grandmothers' days if you had tried to go to school they had to go there being prepared to fight. Or they would get thrown out or they would get bricks thrown at them or they would get sticks thrown at them or they get things thrown at them. They might have gotten lock up if they even tried to go to school there in the days of my grandmother.

**Dr. Goins:** Well you went to Orangeburg.

**Desiree:** I went to Orangeburg School while my grandmother was living in Orangeburg and I stayed with her there and I went to school there.

**Dr. Goins:** And you figured that you wouldn't have the problems there.

**Desiree:** I didn't have the problems there as I had here

**Dr. Goins:** Why is that?

**Desiree:** Well, when I was going to school in Orangeburg they didn't consider me really as an Indian they considered me more as white than Indian. They knew I had some Indian in me, but they considered me as white, because there was some other ones in school that was dark like I was and they were going as white so they included me as being white.

*End of Video.*