Burton, Karen. “Iva Davis Story Corps interview - August 28, 2015.” SoundCloud audio, 56:48, August 28, 2015. https://soundcloud.com/karen-ad-burton/iva-davis-story-corps-interview-aug-28-2015.

The following is a transcript of minutes33:05-39:20 of the audio recording.

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| Karen Burton | So, you and Evans decided that you were going to start a grocery store…  |
| Iva Davis | Yes. |
| Karen | In Flint. |
| Iva | Uh-huh.  |
| Karen | So, he was still working in the [General Foundry] factory, right… |
| Iva | Oh yeah. |
| Karen | When the grocery store started. So, who ran the store? |
| Iva | Well, Ivadid most of it. |
|  | [laughter] |
| Iva | Because he still had his day's work. And my mornings were facing that Clark School crowd that wanted those five-cent candy bars and those penny candies. [laughs] But anyhow, I wore, I even wore my shoes thin. [laughs] I think that's why I still got corns. |
|  | [laughter] |
| Iva | Oh dear. |
| Karen | Well, you were doing a lot of running, running the store.  |
| Iva | Yes.  |
| Karen | And your store was across from Clark School in Flint? |
| Iva | Oh yeah. |
| Karen | So, you had a lot of children coming in and out of the store.  |
| Iva | For penny candy and things like that. But I had children too. But then I decided to get things that people liked. And then I had greens, fresh fish coming all the way from Carolinas. But there was a big fish central market where they would deliver them to me. See. So that was good. |
| Karen | So, who took care of your children while you were running the store? |
| Iva | Well, think of their ages. Hassan rode his bicycle around in the store when he was two and three years old. He knew not to run over anybody. He was only two and three. He stayed right there with me.  |
| Karen | So, while you were running…  |
| Iva | And then I had one little boy that used to want to mop the floor. And boy, I let him do it just, you know, so I could wait on some customers. I did have Yolanda on weekends off and on. But when I looked around that floor, I was almost swimming.  |
|  | [laughter] |
| Iva | He was the floor mopper. |
| Charles | Who was that?  |
| Iva | [laughs] Charles Evans Harris. |
|  | [laughter] |
| Karen | So, you were running the store. You were operating the store.  |
| Iva | Yeah. |
| Karen | And you took your children to the store with you.  |
| Iva | Yeah. |
| Karen | You were taking care of them while you were operating the store. |
| Iva | Yeah. Well, one had to, one went to Clark.  |
| Karen | Okay. One was at school during that time. |
| Iva | Yeah. Okay. |
| Karen | But after your children had children, your grandchildren also worked in the store. We can say with quotes…  |
| Iva | Yes. |
| Karen | “Worked” in the store… |
| Iva | Yes. |
| Karen | And got to hang out with you… |
| Iva | mm-hmm. |
| Karen | Mostly on the weekends and after school…  |
| Iva | Yes. |
| Karen | At the store. And we are grateful for that because that taught us how to count money. |
| Charles | How to mop. |
| Karen | How to mop. |
|  | [laughter] |
| Iva | Yes, indeed. |
| Karen | How to take inventory… |
| Iva | Sure did. |
| Karen | And things like that. |
| Iva | Yes, indeed.  |
| Karen | So, we appreciate your entrepreneurship. |
| Iva | Thank you. I learned a whole lot. Yes, indeed. |
| Karen | So, did you have any business experience before you worked in the store? |
| Iva | No, I had to learn from penny candy and things like that. |
| Karen | You just jumped right in.  |
| Iva | But I had some, look, I had some money for the meat case, and I was able to get that. And it came from some land that the family had in Georgia.  |
| Karen | Okay. |
| Iva | I think that paid for the meat case. |
| Karen | Oh, when you were setting up the store, you needed money to get a new meat case?  |
| Iva | Yeah. And so, we had a nice-looking meat case. |
| Karen | All right. So, your store, Davis Food Center, became like a neighborhood hub where people liked to come, and the kids liked to come and hang out.  |
| Iva | Yeah. |
| Karen | And everybody in the neighborhood shopped in your store, not just for candy, but for groceries for the week. |
| Iva | Oh, yes! You know, along the way, yeah. Soon I had a good business for fish and greens, and farmer Pete, if anybody ever heard of them, they put a great big sign up on the wall. And they taught me, they sent men in to teach me how to cut any kind of steaks, any kind.  |
| Karen | So, you were a butcher also?  |
| Iva | Yeah. Sometimes, a couple of times I heard people say, let's go down here where the lady butcher is.  |
|  | [laughter] |
| Iva | And then I know, I won't forget, there was a lady that, you know, she's kind of skeptical, and she wanted a box of oatmeal. One in the morning she came in, maybe she wasn't very hungry, but she looked and she said, this oatmeal is three or four cents more than it is over the Hamady’s. I should have said, go over toHamady’s. But she didn't know that I couldn't sell it as cheap as Hamady’s were.  |
| Karen | Right. |
| Iva | So, I'm saying I had to learn all those things, you know, because I had a card, you know, told me how much that I had to go buy and everything. |