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Retired Volusia County teacher publishes second book

EDGEWATER – Local author and former Volusia County Schools elementary teacher, Cecelia Burnell McKinney, recently published her second book since her retirement in 1989.

Second Batch: A mix of my memories through the years follows her first book, *Ingredients of My Life* that was published in 2011. Both books are filled with memories of McKinney's life from early childhood to becoming a grandmother. Her memories span growing up during the Great Depression that took her parents and six siblings from Indiana to Florida for seasonal work, then the Southern Tier of New York and back to Southeast Volusia, Florida.

McKinney is the sixth of seven children in a poor farming family that traveled from north to south as her father followed farm work and various other jobs to provide for his large family. The family spent many years on New York's Southern Tier when they found their "dream farm" atop a hill overlooking the Village of Friendship.



McKinney began her teaching career in 1957 in the Volusia County School District at Read Pattillo Elementary in New Smyrna Beach. In 1964, when integration of Volusia schools began, she worked as a Variable Instructional Services (VIS) teacher. Her first assignment was to work in an all-Black school in DeLand. Eventually, she moved to schools closer to home in Southeast Volusia. She taught at Samsula, Coronado Beach Elementary and Edgewater Public, as well as Read-Pattillo. She continues to make a difference in children's lives, volunteering to read to young elementary students weekly at Edgewater Public and Spruce Creek Elementary schools.

Second Batch: A mix of my memories through the years also highlights her college years at Berea (Kentucky) College where she received her bachelor's degree in elementary education. McKinney coined her years there as "The Time of My Life."

Second Batch: A mix of my memories through the years is available on Amazon in paperback and ebook. When it is safe to be in large gatherings again, McKinney will announce book-signing events she plans to hold locally and at Berea College in Kentucky.