Joetta’s Journal

February 23rd, 1963

Today, we were getting ready to go to our Aunt’s house. Byron and Kenny were going to scrape off the car. Kenny always has to do Byron’s part because Byron is lazy. I was getting packed when I heard Kenny burst in the door and yelling for Momma. Byron was stuck right on the car! Daddy was laughing really hard, but Momma was really scared and crying. I was crying really badly too. Finally we got him off the car and went somewhere warm. Kenny was really funny in the car when he was making fun of Byron.

May 27th, 1963

Today, Momma and Dad were acting really weird. I didn’t know why. Then we went to the hardware store. Dad bought something for the Brown Bomber and I wanted to know what it was real bad. Dad then called everyone to gather around the Brown Bomber. He gave me the brown paper bag from the hardware store and it was a car air freshener. It smelled so good. Momma wasn’t that happy. Then Momma told us we were going to her hometown Birmingham. I am so excited.

June 13th, 1963

On this very fine day the Watson’s are going to Grandma Sands’ house in Birmingham. It will take us a few days, but I’m really excited to see Grandma Sands. She hasn’t seen me at all since I’m the youngest. I hear all these stories from Byron saying that Grandma Sands is really mean and strict. I hope she is really nice.

June 30th, 1963

Today, I was going to Sunday school (Kenny never goes, I wish he did). It was starting off to be a good day, but then it happened. I was outside of the church because it was really hot. Then behind me I heard a big boom as I looked back there was a big hole in the church and there were people running everywhere. I was so scared and then I saw Kenny. I chased him home and he wouldn’t help me find Momma and Dad. After that we went home.