

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

ANNA LAWTON LUMSDEN PARKER
(MRS. JOHN HARVEY PARKER)

INTERVIEW 402

This is Marea Kafer Foster representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 400 and I am interviewing Anna Lawton Lumsden Parker (Mrs. John Harvey Parker), interview number 402. This interview is being conducted on Wednesday the 28th of August, 1991. We are in Mrs. Parker's home at 213 New Street in New Bern.

MAREA KAFER FOSTER: Now, Mrs. Parker, if you'll give me your full name, your parent's name.

MRS. PARKER: I'm Anna Lawton Lumsden Parker and my mother was Clara Burrus Lumsden and my daddy was Horace Charlton Lumsden.

MAREA FOSTER: And your birthdate.

MRS. PARKER: February 7, 1999 -- 1899.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. Were you born in New Bern?

MRS. PARKER: I was born in New Bern on East Front Street.

MAREA FOSTER: And is that house still standing today?

MRS. PARKER: Huh?

MAREA FOSTER: Is that house still standing today?

MRS. PARKER: On the corner.

MAREA FOSTER: Right on the corner of...

MRS. PARKER: East Front...

MAREA FOSTER: East Front and...

MRS. PARKER: New Street.

MAREA FOSTER: ...and New Street.

MRS. PARKER: Um huh.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, that's wonderful! That's the Patterson house isn't it?

MRS. PARKER: No.

MAREA FOSTER: No? Whose house is it?

ANNE HORNER: It's the one that was Simmons-Patterson house.

MAREA FOSTER: Is that the Simmons-Patterson?

MRS. PARKER: Simmons' house, Simmons-Patterson.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh!

MRS. PARKER: Granddaddy sold it to Senator Simmons.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, this is so interesting!

ANNE HORNER: Her granddaddy was Walter Burrus.

MAREA FOSTER: Your granddaddy was Walter Burrus.

MRS. PARKER: Walter Burrus and he sold that house to Senator
Simmons.

MAREA FOSTER: And how long did you live in that house?

MRS. PARKER: I didn't really live in there because we lived on
Broad Street but I was born in that house.

MAREA FOSTER: Born in that house.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh.

ANNE HORNER: That's where her grandparents lived.

MRS. PARKER: Because you see mother came home to have me.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I see, and she probably stayed in bed a month
or so after your birth. (laughter)

MRS. PARKER: I have no idea. (laughter) I don't think I can
tell you that. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: I'm sure you had nurses.

MRS. PARKER: Oh yeah. I had a black nurse that came when I was

two weeks old and she stayed with me til I was ten and her name was Delia Jones, a black nurse.

MAREA FOSTER: Did she live in the house with you?

MRS. PARKER: Yes, she lived in the house and had a bedroom right next to my bedroom when I was a child.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh how nice.

MRS. PARKER: On East Front - on Broad Street.

MAREA FOSTER: On Broad Street.

MRS. PARKER: 21 Broad Street. It's 221 now.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay, 21 Broad Street that's now 221. And what is in that location now where your house was?

MRS. PARKER: It's just the next block.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay, but is your house still standing?

MRS. PARKER: Yeah! It's lawyers offices.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, okay! I know where it is.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, that is wonderful. Now tell me about your childhood, anything you want to tell me and who your playmates were...

MRS. PARKER: My playmate, best playmate was Rose Carraway. We were just a week difference in our age. And Rose stayed with us more because I was the only child. And she had a brother and a sister.

So we used to play of course. And then next door Gates Matthews lived there, Gertie Matthews' son.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: And one time they had redone the jail over, so our

nurses, Gates' nurse Hannah took him and Delia took me and we went down to look at the new jail.

ANNE HORNER: Was Rose with you?

MRS. PARKER: No, Rose went on home. So we went up there and we went in the jail and he (the jailer) was showing us how he locked and unlocked it. He locked and he couldn't unlock it.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Well, how did you get out?

MRS. PARKER: They had to telephone to Raleigh to find out how to open the jail. And you know telephone lines didn't go through then, so we got out about three o'clock in the afternoon.

MAREA FOSTER: I know your mother was angry with you!

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, cause she had no idea where we were.

MAREA FOSTER: And how old were you at this time?

MRS. PARKER: I was below, younger than ten, because I moved from New Bern when I was ten years old and that was before I moved.

ANNE HORNER: I think she was about seven.

MRS. PARKER: So I was about eight or nine.

MAREA FOSTER: Eight or nine.

MRS. PARKER: Um huh.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. Well, tell me, what kind of games did ya'll play when you were young? Can you remember any special games that you liked?

MRS. PARKER: I know we took, I don't know whether we did, no, that was in Philadelphia, in Baltimore we had the double...

MAREA FOSTER: Double jump rope.

MRS. PARKER: The jump rope, but that wasn't here, because you see I left when I was ten.

MAREA FOSTER: And you moved to Baltimore?

MRS. PARKER: We moved to Baltimore first, then we lived in Philadelphia, then we lived in Camden, New Jersey, and then we lived in Norfolk, Virginia and I was married there and came back to New Bern.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, and when were you married?

MRS. PARKER: I was married at Ocean View 1925, January the 5th, 1925.

MAREA FOSTER: And then you and Mr. Parker came back to New Bern to live.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, after our honeymoon we came back to New Bern and we lived in an apartment, Mrs. Rawls' apartment on East Front Street. I think it was 52, which is 252 now East Front Street.

ANNE HORNER: That house has been torn down.

MRS PARKER: We lived there for three years and then we moved out on the Old Cherry Point Highway on the river, rivershore, and lived out there for years and then til we moved in here.

MAREA FOSTER: Into this house at 213 New.

MRS. PARKER: And now we're at 213 New Street.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, Mrs. Parker, tell me something, because I'm real interested in this, what type of wedding gown did you have?

MRS. PARKER: A what?

MAREA FOSTER: A wedding gown, a wedding dress.

MRS. PARKER: It's upstairs in the chest. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: Oh is it really!

MRS. PARKER: No, you couldn't get it. It's under the bottom of an old chest. (laughter)

ANNE HORNER: She may still have her christening gown.

MAREA FOSTER: Christening gown too?

ANNE HORNER: She was christened in Christ Church.

MRS. PARKER: I remember it had a lot of beads on it and it was kind of a beige color.

MAREA FOSTER: A beige. Was it long? Did you have a train?

MRS. PARKER: No, it was short.

MAREA FOSTER: It was short.

MRS. PARKER: Uh uh, cause I did not have, I only had one attendant at the wedding. I had Mary Lumsden that was first cousin. We were living in Baltimore - where were we living? We were living in Ocean View at Willoughby Beach, and she used to come down. She lived in Baltimore and she used to come down to see us a lot, and she was my first cousin. She was Mary Lumsden, daddy's brother's child.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, let me ask you, did you dance the Charleston?

MRS. PARKER: Oh yes, of course we did! (laughter) Who didn't? Who didn't? (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Everybody did. And did you have a wind up victrola? Tell me all about the dances.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, we had a victrola. One I could pick up and we carried it out on the beach cause we lived at Ocean View on Willoughby Beach, and we used to take it out on the beach and dance out on the

beach.

MAREA FOSTER: I know you danced barefooted.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. Well, I was living at Willoughby and that's such a long time ago I, Charlotte Howe, Charlotte, what was her name? Charlotte, I can't even think of it, can't say it.

MAREA FOSTER: That's all right.

MRS. PARKER: But anyway, there were two or three around in the neighborhood and we used to get out on the beach and dance.

MAREA FOSTER: And dance.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. Out on Willoughby Beach.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, that just sounds wonderful.

MRS. PARKER: It was right next to Ocean View you see.

MAREA FOSTER: And you still have your wedding gown upstairs?

MRS. PARKER: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: (And Anne Horner, who is a dear, dear friend of Mrs. Parker's is here with us, so you may hear her voice in the background.) Anne, tells me that you still have your christening gown.

MRS. PARKER: My chris...

MAREA FOSTER: Your beige christening gown.

MRS. PARKER: Yes, if I still got it. I think I have.

MAREA FOSTER: And where were you christened?

MRS. PARKER: Here in the Episcopal Church in New Bern.

MAREA FOSTER: And who was the minister at that time?

MRS. PARKER: Mr. George.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, your memory is remarkable!

MRS. PARKER: Right on over there that I just heard that.
(laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) And then where were you confirmed?

MRS. PARKER: I was confirmed in Philadelphia in Church of the Advent in Philadelphia. It was just outside of, it was really West Philadelphia.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, now, when you came back to New Bern to live with...

MRS. PARKER: No, I was married in Ocean View, Willoughby Beach, I was living in Willoughby Beach and was married in Ocean View, and then was married and went on a honeymoon and then came back to New Bern.

MAREA FOSTER: Where'd you go on your honeymoon? I'm real curious.

MRS. PARKER: We went to New York. We went to Washington City and stayed two days in Washington, then we went over to New York and almost froze. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) I bet you did, it was in January.

MRS. PARKER: It went down to 6 degrees cause it was January the 6th.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, didn't Mr. Parker buy you a fur coat?
(laughter)

MRS. PARKER: Huh?

MAREA FOSTER: Didn't Mr. Parker buy you a fur coat to keep you warm?

MRS. PARKER: (laughter) No, no. I don't think he bought me

anything on that honeymoon. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Well, he was glad to have you.

MRS. PARKER: We went to New York for our honeymoon. I'd never been to New York and I'd never been to Florida, and I don't know why we didn't go to Florida. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Yeah.

MRS. PARKER: It went down to 6 degrees that night.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh my!

MRS. PARKER: And it was just too cold. We tried to go, we went to shows and was just almost too cold. Course we only had to walk about a block or a half a block to the show and it was almost too cold.

MAREA FOSTER: Too cold to go.

MRS. PARKER: So we went anyway.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, now, when you and Mr. Parker moved back to New Bern...

MRS. PARKER: Well, he was living in New Bern.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: So of course I came back here.

MAREA FOSTER: You came back. And you lived, as you said, on Old Cherry Point Road.

ANNE HORNER: No.

MAREA FOSTER: After awhile.

ANNE HORNER: After awhile.

MAREA FOSTER: Yeah, after awhile.

MRS. PARKER: Yes. We first came to New Bern lived on East Front

Street in Mrs. Rawls' apartment.

MAREA FOSTER: Right. And then...

MRS. PARKER: Then we moved out there on Old Cherry Point Highway on the river and we lived out there until we moved here.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, you weren't in New Bern then when we had the big fire of course in 1922?

MRS. PARKER: No, we were living in Norfolk, and I just could hear it over the radio...

MAREA FOSTER: Oh!!

MRS. PARKER: ...that New Bern was burning up and all I could think was this section. I didn't know it was the colored section.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: And I declare it was awful. It was terrible.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, I know you were here when we had some hurricanes.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: And how bad was it at your house? Do you remember the hurricane?

MRS. PARKER: Well, one time it came up in this house but we weren't living here. Yes, one time it came up the second step and went in the basement when I was living here.

MAREA FOSTER: Um huh.

MRS. PARKER: But it has been in this house, but we weren't living here then.

MAREA FOSTER: I can't remember what year, I think maybe '33 or

'35 when the...

ANNE HORNER: '33 was the bad year.

MAREA FOSTER: ...was the bad year when the bridge was washed away.

Do you remember that, that bad hurricane?

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, the bridge was broken.

MAREA FOSTER: The Neuse River Bridge.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, Neuse River Bridge. One section of it was turned.

MAREA FOSTER: I have a picture of that and I should remember it because that's the year I was born. (laughter)

MRS. PARKER: (laughter) It was in '33, wasn't it, when I was living here?

MAREA FOSTER: Yeah. Now tell me some of your daily activities when you were a young wife.

MRS. PARKER: Well, I worked right hard with the Red Cross during the war, because I did a lot of knitting. I knew how to knit and I would teach knitting and we did a lot of knitting. In the Parish Hall, twice a week we had meetings in the Parish hall. We were living out four miles from here in the country on the shore and I only had enough gasoline to come in town twice a week, so I spent that time knitting for the Red Cross.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, how wonderful!

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. Of course I got my groceries and everything then, what I needed to get.

MAREA FOSTER: And were you able during the war to still have

a maid?

MRS. PARKER: To have a what?

MAREA FOSTER: A maid, someone to help you in the house.

MRS. PARKER: Oh yes, I had a black maid. I had her for twenty-five years.

MAREA FOSTER: And what was her name?

MRS. PARKER: Daisy.

MAREA FOSTER: Daisy.

MRS. PARKER: Daisy Jones.

MAREA FOSTER: And what about church activities?

MRS. PARKER: Well, I haven't done too much in this church except we used to put on suppers, because we used to go to Morehead a lot for weekends. I had a friend who had a cottage down there, Lila Moore. Lila and Bert Moore, they had a cottage in Morehead and we used to spend a lot of weekends down there. So I did most of my church doing on Wednesdays. And we used to put on suppers. Mother did a lot of the work. She could plan a supper for 200 people and not have anything left over.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh that's fantastic!

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. Mother really was smart about buying the food for it. There used to be an A & P store right across from the Episcopal Church.

MAREA FOSTER: I remember that.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. And then we used to get those things and we could run over there in time if we needed anything.

MAREA FOSTER: And I remember your mother's wonderful devil crabs!

MRS. PARKER: (laughter) I think everybody remembers Mrs. Lumsden's crab.

MAREA FOSTER: They sure do because they were wonderful.

MRS. PARKER: And all they had to do when she sold some to a restaurant place, say, "Mrs. Lumsden's crab." They went like hotcakes.

MAREA FOSTER: They certainly did because they were just delicious!

MRS. PARKER: Well, you know why they were good? She cooked her own crabs. She never bought crabmeat. She cooked her crabs and picked them out.

MAREA FOSTER: That's a lot of work!

MRS. PARKER: Yes. But she never would make devil crabs without her live crabs cooked. And I used to cook them, pick that meat and cook them and everybody said, "Yours not as good as your mothers!"

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) She must have had that magic touch.

MRS. PARKER: Well, no, it was just fresher crabs.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: Meat was better.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, let me ask you, do you remember your first bathing suit?

MRS. PARKER: Bathing suit?

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: I remember I always had two bathing suits. Mother always had me two bathing suits, because if one was wet I could put

a dry one on. And I know Rose Carraway bought one one time. When she went on a house party she took it, and I got a picture of her. She took her dress and made a bathing suit out of it. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, did she really!

MRS. PARKER: Mother was a good sewer.

MAREA FOSTER: And what were your suits made of? Were they cotton, or what material?

MRS. PARKER: They would kind of, you know, would stretch a little bit. I don't know what they were.

MAREA FOSTER: I remember my father had a woolen bathing suit.

MRS. PARKER: I don't think mine was wool. They were, it wasn't that cold.

MAREA FOSTER: I don't know how you could stand it in the summer time.

MRS. PARKER: No.

MAREA FOSTER: And did you by any chance when you went to the beach wear these little rubber bathing shoes they called them?

MRS. PARKER: I had them. One time I used to go barefooted and I got the itch. (laughter) So from then on I put on shoes and walked to the river, to the edge of the water, then took my shoes off, because I swam a lot. I was a good swimmer. I used to love to swim. And I never have, I used to try to get Rose Carraway to swim. I would hold her and hold her and hold her and every time I'd turn her loose she'd sink.

MAREA FOSTER: And she never did.

MRS. PARKER: She never did learn to swim. Rose and I grew up like that together.

MAREA FOSTER: Almost like...

MRS. PARKER: Just like twins. You see, I was the only child and so mother said it was easier to take care of two than one...

MAREA FOSTER: That's right.

MRS. PARKER: ...so Rose was with me so much. But see, she always took Rose with us, cause see Rose had a brother and a sister.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, it's wonderful that ya'll have been friends for ninety-one years.

MRS. PARKER: And we're still good friends.

MAREA FOSTER: I know it, and I just think that is wonderful!

MRS. PARKER: Are you taking all this down?

MAREA FOSTER: Yes mam, I certainly am, and it's wonderful. I'm enjoying every minute of it. Wait a minute, Anne. (laughter)

MRS. PARKER: What?

ANNE HORNER: You and Rose were down at Davis and you...

MRS. PARKER: I got a picture of that. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: Okay, tell me that.

MRS. PARKER: I got a picture.

MAREA FOSTER: That sounds fun.

MRS. PARKER: We used to go down to Davis Island for the summer lots. This friend of mother's and daddy's had owned an island, Davis Island, off of Beaufort, and we used to go down there and they were gonna take our picture and we had two hats; one was turned up like

this and one was open. So, we had a fuss cause mother made me give Rose the one she wanted, and when we took the picture my hat looked better than hers. (laughter) Rose was my company, so I had to give the best thing up to my company.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, being your best friend, you didn't mind.

MRS. PARKER: No, I didn't mind. (laughter) But it was so funny. Then when she saw the picture, Rose says, "Yours looks better than mine!" (laughter) I think I got a picture of that.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I would love to have some of the old photographs, and maybe Anne can...

MRS. PARKER: Wait a minute, I got my Kodak book.

MAREA FOSTER: You gonna get it now?

MRS. PARKER: It's right in that drawer.

MAREA FOSTER: Tell me about the houses your daddy built, Mrs. Parker.

MRS. PARKER: That was my granddaddy.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh your granddaddy. I'm sorry.

MRS. PARKER: My granddaddy. My granddaddy lived on the corner of New and East Front Street, and he had a deep backyard so he built two houses there, and one of them is still standing. And then he moved into that house and sold the big house to Senator Simmons.

ANNE HORNER: They're both still standing.

MAREA FOSTER: And they're both still standing, which is wonderful.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, they're both standing there and people living

in them.

MAREA FOSTER: Let me ask you, did you have paved streets then?

MRS. PARKER: No, we had dirt roads.

MAREA FOSTER: You had dirt roads.

MRS. PARKER: Dirt roads. And of course on Broad Street we had dirt roads there. I remember that.

MAREA FOSTER: And what kind of sidewalks?

MRS. PARKER: We had, some had pavements and some didn't, because we used to go by where there's skates. We wanted to skate, so we'd go by where paved streets were.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh!

MRS. PARKER: And Aunt Myra Gray that lived on the street next to Broad, what is it?

ANNE HORNER: Pollock.

MAREA FOSTER: Pollock Street.

MRS. PARKER: And she had a paved street that I used to go around there and skate.

ANNE HORNER: That's the house that's now the Henderson House.

MAREA FOSTER: The house we're talking about is now the Henderson House on Pollock Street.

MRS. PARKER: And I lived on Broad Street and I'd go up there to her house, up at the house, and go in the backyard and jump over the fence and sit on the fence until the cow would go in the barn and then I'd make a B-line for the gate to go in the house when Aunt Myra came in. They lived in that house on Pollock Street. That was when

I used to live in New Bern, and I moved when I was ten years old, but all that was before.

MAREA FOSTER: Before you were ten.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, tell me about starting school in New Bern.

MRS. PARKER: Well, I went to public. I had diphtheria when I was six years old, so I couldn't get to school for a couple of years cause I couldn't talk after diphtheria. I had to learn to talk after having diphtheria, cause they thought I was gonna die, I was so close.

I had a brother that died with diphtheria when he was seven years old, and I was six when I had diphtheria. So I didn't get to school until I was eight because I couldn't talk. They had to teach me to talk over again. And I lived there in 21 Broad Street which is 221 now.

MAREA FOSTER: Yeah. And where did you go to school?

MRS. PARKER: Well, I went to a private school to Mrs., it was on Johnson Street, cross the street where Aunt Myra lived, and it was, what was her name, I ought to know her name.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, that's okay.

MRS. PARKER: And then I went to the second grade. I went to public school here in New Bern for the second grade.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, was the second grade in the New Bern Academy?

MRS. PARKER: Yes. It's the same building that is there right now. That little first building.

MAREA FOSTER: The Academy Building.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. I went in second grade. And then third grade I went to Baltimore. We moved to Baltimore in third grade.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, in the second grade do you remember who your teacher was?

MRS. PARKER: No.

MAREA FOSTER: And do you remember any of the subjects that you studied?

MRS. PARKER: Cut it off a minute.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MRS. PARKER: ...in New Jersey. (showing picture)

MAREA FOSTER: Was that the car you learned to drive?

MRS. PARKER: No, that was just a friend's car. I was driving before that.

MAREA FOSTER: And it was a Ford. What kind of car did you learn to drive on?

MRS. PARKER: I bought myself a Ford, but I learned to drive down Hyde County on Fords, on other cars, before I sixteen. I was driving when I was fourteen.

MAREA FOSTER: And did you ever travel by horse and buggy?

MRS. PARKER: Oh yes! We'd go down Hyde County in the summer time. I always spent the summer down with Aunt Ada Burrus, cause we were living up in Philadelphia, up north, and mother would send me south each summer. And I'd go down to Hyde County with Aunt Ada Burrus and there we had horse and buggy dates as I grew up.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh how interesting!

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh.

MAREA FOSTER: And I know you probably went on lots of picnics.

MRS. PARKER: Oh yes. They used to have, they used to have, different people would have open picnics or house and all the families would come and bring something and put it on the table. And we used to have a big "Do" down in Hyde County when I used to go down there in the summer time.

MAREA FOSTER: That sounds like fun.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. That was when I would visit Aunt Ada Burrus then.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, now, Mrs. Parker, let me ask you if you remember the early hospitals in New Bern.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah. They had Stewart's Sanitarium. Don't you remember Stewart's Sanitarium was out there on National Avenue.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh.

MRS. PARKER: Where the ballpark is now.

MAREA FOSTER: Ohh! I don't think I'd ever...

MRS. PARKER: Heard that? Yeah, that's Stewart's Sanitarium, and that was the hospital. That was before I moved to New Bern.

ANNE HORNER: Ask her which ballpark she's talking about.

MAREA FOSTER: Are you talking about Kafer Park?

MRS. PARKER: Kafer Park?

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, the park.

MAREA FOSTER: That's where it was?

MRS. PARKER: Right across from the cemetery.

MAREA FOSTER: Right across from the cemetery.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh.

MAREA FOSTER: And then what about, wasn't there one called New Bern General Hospital?

MRS. PARKER: Yeah. That was down here at the end of Middle Street, wasn't it?

MAREA FOSTER: Right.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: Craven. It was on Craven at the end of Middle.

MRS. PARKER: Where the two streets went together.

MAREA FOSTER: Right.

MRS. PARKER: And it was right there, cause I was there sick one time when I... (interruption).

MAREA FOSTER: When you were in the hospital, who was your doctor?

MRS. PARKER: Dr. Gibbs.

MAREA FOSTER: Dr. Gibbs.

MRS. PARKER: He was my mama's first cousin. I would call him Cousin Norfleet, Norfleet Gibbs, Dr. Norfleet Gibbs.

MAREA FOSTER: Yes.

ANNE HORNER: The Gibbs' went up to see her family in Philadelphia on their honeymoon.

MRS. PARKER: What she say?

MAREA FOSTER: Tell us, Anne, that.

ANNE HORNER: Didn't you tell me that Dr. and Mrs. Gibbs went

up to see you all on their honeymoon when they got married?

MRS. PARKER: Oh yes! Cousin Norfleet and Rosa Gibbs, that's Jane Baskerville's mother...

MAREA FOSTER: Right.

MRS. PARKER: ...went to see us when we were living in New Jersey, and they came up to see us on their honeymoon, stopped to see us.

MAREA FOSTER: Who did you have at New Bern General?

MRS. PARKER: I had Dr. Gibbs.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. And you were in the front room.

MRS. PARKER: I was in the front room and the people kept opening the door, screen door, and slamming it and slamming it and slamming it, so I said I think I'll lose my mind, so they'd put me in the back room.

MAREA FOSTER: Back room.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. Cause I was so sick.

MAREA FOSTER: Til you felt a lot better.

MRS. PARKER: (Interruption. Conversation picks up here.)

.....that's where you used to buy stamps.

MAREA FOSTER: And we're talking about the original post office on the corner of Pollock and Craven Street.

MRS. PARKER: And across the street from the Stewart's.

MAREA FOSTER: Jane Stewart's house.

MRS. PARKER: Jane Stewart, and Grace Stewart was my friend. Grace Stewart was older.

MAREA FOSTER: Do you remember when they built a new post office?

MRS. PARKER: No, I think I was moved away.

ANNE HORNER: No, uh uh, she was here. It was in the thirties.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MRS. PARKER: I think I had moved away before that.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MRS. PARKER: What?

ANNE HORNER: It's where the post office is now, was built in the 1930's.

MRS. PARKER: No, I was living someplace else.

ANNE HORNER: No, you were living right out there on Old Cherry Point Highway.

MAREA FOSTER: (Interruption. Conversation picks up here.)
...and you were growing up, do you remember what type fire department we had?

MRS. PARKER: Oh, we just had a grand time with the fire departments.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh good!

MRS. PARKER: There was Atlantic and a Button.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: And the Atlantic was pink and white and the Button was blue and white, and I was a blue, daddy was a Button. You know the men helped fight the fires and then belonged to certain fire departments.

MAREA FOSTER: That's right.

MRS. PARKER: And we just lived a half a block from the fire

department. See, it's right next to the courthouse and we were living at 21 Broad just in the middle of the block. And so every time that thing would ring, we would run to the corner, they wouldn't let me go across the street, and we always waited. They had Atlantic and a Button. And they had horses that would go around and hitch to a wagon and pick up trash, and when the fire bell rang, they would stop right still and the driver would unhook them and get on the horses back and ride to the firehouse...

MAREA FOSTER: To the firehouse.

MRS. PARKER: ...and put the harness on. And we always would root to see which one got there first, the Atlantic or the Button.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Oh, I just love that! And if I'm not mistaken, that fire department was down near where the old Mitchell's...

MRS. PARKER: It's right where it is now I think. It's that near the post office. Isn't the fire department down there?

MAREA FOSTER: Well, I think the original one was down near Mitchell's Hardware, wasn't it, on Craven Street?

MRS. PARKER: Yes, the one was down there.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: I forgot about that. At one time I went up in that building and painted a cloth big enough for a flag, as big as an American flag and on the other side we painted the New Bern flag. And I ought to have kept that flag, cause they wanted to give it to me, I didn't do it. But I painted the New Bern flag, and the New Bern flag has

a bear.

MAREA FOSTER: That's right.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. And they had one up over that courthouse out there and I used to go and put a piece of paper up there and draw it and then come back and draw it on the board and made that flag and painted it in. Instead of sewing it in, we painted it on to the material.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, that sounds wonderful.

MRS. PARKER: And I sat up there and the police department, the Chief of Police sat up there to listen to all of what was going on, or send policemen to certain places. That's where I made it and painted it in.

MAREA FOSTER: Do you remember who the Chief of Police was at that time?

MRS. PARKER: No. I don't believe I ever knew his name.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. Do you remember when they built the Neuse River Bridge, you were back here, and when they put it at the foot of Johnson Street?

MRS. PARKER: It was down Johnson Street and they had a big argument where they were gonna put it and they put it on Broad Street.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MRS. PARKER: I was married then. I was here.

MAREA FOSTER: Yeah, you've been married quite awhile at that time.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh.

MAREA FOSTER: And do you remember the old wooden bridge across

the Trent River?

MRS. PARKER: Oh yes!

MAREA FOSTER: Well, let me ask you, when you were a little girl, was there always a bridge across the Trent River where there is now?

MRS. PARKER: No, they used to take a boat and go over there.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, okay.

ANNA HORNER: And they did over the Neuse too.

MAREA FOSTER: And the Neuse too.

MRS. PARKER: (Shows picture) That's me when I was growing up. I lived in Philadelphia.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I love that! Before you moved away to Philadelphia and Oceanside, as a little girl living here on Broad Street, do you remember any of the baptisms that the black churches would have?

MRS. PARKER: Oh yes!

MAREA FOSTER: Please tell me about them.

MRS. PARKER: Well, every time the blacks would start going down, they would baptize them out at the end of Broad Street right there in the river, and all of us children would run down there just as fast as we could because they'd dip them and they come up, their sermons, oh, they would have a pounding! They were shouting and we just loved to watch them!

MAREA FOSTER: And you had an enjoyable afternoon watching that.

MRS. PARKER: Yes, we loved to watch them. Every time the niggers started down that way, we all went down, all the childrens in

neighborhood. Gates Matthews lived next door. But he's dead now.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: He was two years younger than I was. And Rose Carraway lived where she lives now, and Catherine Richardson lived on the other side of me. She's dead too. So Rose and Catherine and I, all three, were just like this. And Mrs. Richardson said one time she didn't see how three girls could get along so well together without fussing.

MAREA FOSTER: But you did.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, got along fine. I was the only one married. And we took Catherine one time on a trip to some ballgame up in Norfolk, the East and West used to play ballgames, and Duke was playing. We took Catherine with us. And that's one Rose wanted to go to but she didn't tell us she wanted to go until after we got back. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Well, she should have told you in the beginning.

MRS. PARKER: I don't think she even knew that she wanted to go cause she was never interested in ballgames, but Catherine Richardson was. So of course John said, "Think Catherine would go with us?" I said, "I know she would." So I said, "Go call her." So he called her and invited her to go with us to Duke to that ballgame cause it was East and West playing at Duke.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, that sounded wonderful.

MRS. PARKER: That was since I've been married.

MAREA FOSTER: Um huh. And I suppose when the, oh, gracious sake,

I can't even think what I want to say, when the circus would come to town.

MRS. PARKER: Oh, when I was little daddy always took me to the circus! He loved the circus better than I did, and I know we went to one circus twice. And then after I was married, John had some tickets cause they put the advertisements in his store, and we went to the circus, went with John, and my daddy was sick cause I didn't go with him, (laughter) cause I think daddy loved the circus. Daddy loved dogs and animals.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: He always had a dog. And when we lived up in Philadelphia he had a cat and that cat went in four different states with us.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, that is wonderful! Now did you ever see the circus arrive in town? Did they come by train?

MRS. PARKER: Oh yes. We always watched them go and watched them unload.

MAREA FOSTER: Was this out on Park Avenue?

MRS. PARKER: I don't know where we went. I know where the railroad tracks were.

MAREA FOSTER: Out near Spencer Avenue I think.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh.

MAREA FOSTER: Where the Ghent Casino was. Did you ever go to the Ghent Casino?

MRS. PARKER: Here in New Bern?

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh, when you were younger.

MRS. PARKER: Yes!

MAREA FOSTER: Oh tell me about that, please.

MRS. PARKER: Well, I don't know.

MAREA FOSTER: Were there dances out there?

MRS. PARKER: Oh no, I didn't go there because I had left New Bern before that.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay, before that.

MRS. PARKER: Cause I left when I was ten years old. My mother used to have on the river, they had a platform out there and they used to have dances. And when we lived on Broad Street, 21 Broad Street, they used to have a pavilion down there where they danced and women, grown people danced.

MAREA FOSTER: This is down here on the Neuse River?

MRS. PARKER: Down the street out from Broad Street. Down Broad Street. The end of Broad Street.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, oh I see. Well, I didn't know that.

MRS. PARKER: Un huh. They had a pavilion out there and some storm took it off I think. But anyway, when we were little, they used to have a dance down there I remember cause mother and daddy would go down there.

MAREA FOSTER: But when you and Mr. Parker, after you married and you came back to New Bern, was the Ghent Casino still standing?

MRS. PARKER: No.

MAREA FOSTER: It wasn't?

MRS. PARKER: (Interruption. Conversation picks up here.)
...well, all three of were real good friends and Mr. Richardson who always wondered why we didn't fuss with three of us together. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: Cause you were real good friends.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh.

MAREA FOSTER: Let me ask you, when integration first took place in New Bern, you know...

MRS. PARKER: In the afternoon, when I was a little girl, I had Delia as a black maid.

MAREA FOSTER: Um huh.

MRS. PARKER: There was the cook and the maid. And she was with us when I was two weeks old until I moved to Baltimore. And she used to take me downtown and I would go in and get an ice cream soda and she'd have to stand on the sidewalk.

MAREA FOSTER: That's sad.

MRS. PARKER: Wasn't that bad?

MAREA FOSTER: Yeah.

MRS. PARKER: And I was selfish enough to eat my ice cream cone.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Well, I probably would have done the same thing.

MRS. PARKER: It was an ice cream soda. It wasn't a cone, it was a soda. I could have taken the cone out. They didn't have cones I don't think then, I don't remember them. But we used to go down and get an ice cream soda and she stood on the sidewalk, and I think now how selfish I was.

MAREA FOSTER: Cause she didn't have any.

MRS. PARKER: She couldn't go in there.

MAREA FOSTER: That is really sad.

MRS. PARKER: That was.

MAREA FOSTER: Which drug store did you go to?

MRS. PARKER: It wasn't really a drug store. It was just like a soda fountain right there on Broad Street just a little ways in the middle of the block after you passed the church parish gate a little ways. In the middle of that block they had kind of like a soda fountain.

MAREA FOSTER: Ohh! Daddy has told me that the McSorley's had...

MRS. PARKER: That's it.

MAREA FOSTER: Was that it?

MRS. PARKER: No, McSorley was down...

MAREA FOSTER: They had a candy shop, didn't they?

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, they had a candy shop, but that was on the end of Pollock, not Pollock, what's that, well, on the next street, Front Street, East Front Street.

MAREA FOSTER: Right.

MRS. PARKER: South Front Street and Craven.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, let me ask you, when you were growing up did ya'll use patent medicines, medicines out of a bottle that you bought in the drug store?

MRS. PARKER: I don't remember medicines. I think I was healthy enough not to take it, except I had diphtheria when I was six years old.

MAREA FOSTER: Yeah, so you had some kind of medicine.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah. (Interruption. Conversation picks up here.)
...mad with Dr. Primrose because he brought Gates back a baby and didn't bring it to my house.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) The baby must have been his sister Catherine.

MRS. PARKER: That was Catherine Matthews.

MAREA FOSTER: How 'bout that. (laughter)

MRS. PARKER: And I got so mad with him cause he brought her over there.

MAREA FOSTER: He probably wanted to give the baby to you.

MRS. PARKER: Well, he always used to tease me. One time I was having my tonsils taken out at the house and I was under ether and he wanted to go get a black baby and bring it to me cause I kept begging for a baby. (laughter) And Mother wouldn't let him.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Well, who took your tonsils out, do you remember the doctor?

MRS. PARKER: Dr. Primrose.

MAREA FOSTER: Dr. Primrose did.

MRS. PARKER: Un huh. He took my first tonsils out and then later in Baltimore my tonsils came back and what else? What was those...

MAREA FOSTER: Adenoids, is that right?

MRS. PARKER: Adenoids.

MAREA FOSTER: Had those out.

MRS. PARKER: It wasn't, it was adenoids he took off first and

then the adenoids grew back and they took the adenoids and tonsils when I was living in, I think it was in Baltimore.

MAREA FOSTER: And they took them out at home in your house?

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, took it out at home, the tonsils, I mean the adenoids, when I was a little girl.

MAREA FOSTER: When they took them out, were you in your bed in your bedroom or did they put you on a table to take them out?

MRS. PARKER: I don't remember what I was on. I must have been in the bed cause that's where I woke up. And Dr. Primrose wanted to get a black baby and bring it to me. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) I love that! (Interruption) When you were growing up, what type of work did your daddy do?

MRS. PARKER: Daddy was a bookkeeper auditor. He put in systems at different places. So that's why we moved in so many different towns cause he'd put in another system from one place to the other. He put in the system of the old Bayline in Baltimore and that's when we moved to Baltimore.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: And then they moved over to Philadelphia and it was a truck company that he put a system in there and that's when we moved to Philadelphia.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, when did he and your mother move back to New Bern?

MRS. PARKER: After I was married.

MAREA FOSTER: After you were married.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. Then he came back and worked for John.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, and he was his bookkeeper.

MRS. PARKER: He came back and was John's bookkeeper. I kept going back to Norfolk to see mother and daddy, and he said one day, "If your daddy will come work for me..." I said, "Mother and I will make him." (laughter) But he was glad enough to come back, cause he was more or less traveling and putting in systems.

MAREA FOSTER: Yeah.

MRS. PARKER: Different places systems, and sometimes he would be out of town or down Little Washington or some places like that they'd put in systems.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, now, when you lived away from New Bern and you would come back for the summer to visit, did you travel by train?

MRS. PARKER: Yes.

MAREA FOSTER: What was it like?

MRS. PARKER: I was in Baltimore, I would get on the old Bayline, a boat, to Norfolk and then take a streetcar and go cross Norfolk or all the way down to the railroad track and get the train, and then I'd come on to New Bern. One time the porter put me on the wrong train and I was going the other way, and when the conductor took my ticket up he said, "You are supposed to be on another train!" So they stopped the train and stopped the one coming this way and I came on and got on that train, and when I got to New Bern I got in at night here instead of in the morning and Rosa Gibbs was to meet me in the daytime when I was supposed to be there on the train. I came on another one you

see, so I got a taxi and went up to her house. That's when I was just a little girl living in Baltimore.

MAREA FOSTER: What were the taxis like then? I mean, you know, were they Ford cars or...

MRS. PARKER: No, they were just cars I think. I don't know really. I don't quite remember what they were, I just know I took a taxi and went up there.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, you were certainly a clever young lady. And what were the trains like? Did you have a compartment?

MRS. PARKER: Oh, we had seats, and you could turn one seat over and have them both this way if you wanted to.

MAREA FOSTER: Facing you. Had one seat facing another.

MRS. PARKER: No, I remember those kind of trains.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, did they serve meals on the trains then?

MRS. PARKER: I don't remember eating on the train. I used to eat them on the old Bayline boats.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh, but not on the train.

MRS. PARKER: Not on the train.

MAREA FOSTER: Mrs. Parker, tell me about your mother, Miss Caddie, breaking horses for Mr. Jones and teaching ladies to ride.

MRS. PARKER: She used to ride horse back and they used to go fox hunting.

MAREA FOSTER: Fox hunting here in New Bern?!

MRS. PARKER: Fox hunting in New Bern, uh huh. They'd go out in the country and go fox hunting. And then daddy would put me in

the horse and buggy and go too. That's when I was a little girl and lived on Broad Street.

MAREA FOSTER: Did they use side saddles?

MRS. PARKER: No, mother...

MAREA FOSTER: Rode astride.

MRS. PARKER: I imagine she was on a side saddle cause they wouldn't think about straddling that, going over.

MAREA FOSTER: Do you remember what her riding habit was like?

MRS. PARKER: No, I just knew it was a riding habit. I couldn't tell you cause that was before I was ten years old.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, you have got a remarkable memory for everything else, and I think this is wonderful. Mrs. Parker, when your mother went fox hunting, do you remember who went with her, who else?

MRS. PARKER: Dr. Gibbs I know was one, but I don't know any one else, cause he was the one that got it all together. And they would go out where foxes were. The people's farms were glad to get rid of the fox.

MAREA FOSTER: Do you remember which farm in particular?

MRS. PARKER: I know we went over James City way.

MAREA FOSTER: Over that way.

MRS. PARKER: Uh uh.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. (Interruption. Conversation picks up here.)
Where is that?

MRS. PARKER: That's where James City is. And it was called

Jamesville.

ANNA HORNER: Graysville.

MRS. PARKER: Graysville.

MAREA FOSTER: Graysville. And who owned that property?

MRS. PARKER: Uncle Ralph Gray. That was mother's brother-in-law. Aunt Myra Gray was mother's older sister, and mother was the youngest. There were five of them. There was Aunt Myra; Aunt Ada that lived down in Hyde County when she was married. She married a Burrus. She was a Burrus and married a Burrus. Then there was Aunt Jennie and Uncle Leo Burrus and then mother.

MAREA FOSTER: And this farm you're talking about was called Graysville over by James City.

MRS. PARKER: Graysville in James City. It was in James City. It was Graysville because Uncle Ralph Gray owned a lot of that land and it was Graysville then.

MAREA FOSTER: Was it on the water, the farm?

MRS. PARKER: It was the water and over the highway too, cause there used to be a road over there.

MAREA FOSTER: Ohh.

ANNE HORNER: I'll show it to you sometime.

MAREA FOSTER: (Interruption. Conversation picks up here.)
...the Henderson House, what is now the Henderson House.

MRS. PARKER: We thought it was a figure, a woman's bust figure, and we thought it was a person as we were children, and we could see it but we thought it was somebody living down there and we were scared

to death of it.

MAREA FOSTER: Was this in the cellars?

MRS. PATTERSON: In the cellar of the Henderson's House.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) And this was where your aunt lived.

MRS. PARKER: Aunt Jennie, Aunt Ada Burrus, and Aunt Myra Burrus lived there. And we would go down that isle between the two houses and we would ride, drive, when we'd go there go like lightening across that street!

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) That was one of the haunted houses.

MRS. PARKER: Haunted house, uh huh.

MAREA FOSTER: Did you ever hear of the John Wright Stanly House as being haunted?

MRS. PARKER: Yes, down there on the corner. Yeah. And we used to go down there and peep in the windows to see if we could see the ghost. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Do you remember that ghost story, Mrs. Parker, about the Stanly House?

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, They used to say a ghost stayed in that house, I knew that, but I don't know too much of it.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, I've heard that too. (laughter)

MRS. PARKER: (Interruption)I could see him.

MAREA FOSTER: But you never did.

MRS. PARKER: No, I never saw him. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: Were there any other houses in New Bern that were supposed to be haunted?

MRS. PARKER: I don't know of any.

MAREA FOSTER: I don't think I ever heard of many. I have heard of another one.

MRS. PARKER: (Interruption)was one of them. It was in the Episcopal, where the ministers lived in the Episcopal church.

MAREA FOSTER: Right, right there on Craven Street, the rectory.

MRS. PARKER: Right there on Craven Street.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: And somebody told me they were standing on the post up there and saw that man walk up the post, go up the steps. Now who was it told me that?

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Now that one I hadn't heard, but I do remember the rectory.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, the rector lived there and there was supposed to be a ghost in the house. Do you remember that?

MAREA FOSTER: I just remember the house, but I don't remember hearing the ghost story.

MRS. PARKER: (Interruption. Conversation picks up here.)
....whole church putting on suppers.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh did she?

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. And mother used to put suppers on and she always worked with us too, Mrs. Sadie Kafer.

MAREA FOSTER: Yeah, Nannie loved to do that.

MRS. PARKER: And she had a son that loved to play bridge, that's Charles Kafer, and he loved to play bridge. And I was always a good

bridge player, but he would have the games at night and John didn't want me sit up to twelve o'clock at night and come home!

MAREA FOSTER: Well, I think you're talking about Dr. Charles Duffy.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, Charles Duffy.

MAREA FOSTER: Yes. He was Sadie Kafer's nephew.

MRS. PARKER: Is that what he was?

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: Oh yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, where did ya'll play bridge?

MRS. PARKER: In his house upstairs.

MAREA FOSTER: In his house on Pollock Street.

MRS. PARKER: On Pollock Street. I didn't play but twice because John didn't want me coming home at twelve o'clock, cause he didn't play bridge. He'd go to a Masonic meeting and get home about ten, then I would come in at twelve if I played, so I only played two nights with him. But he wanted to play so bad with me as a partner cause I was a right good bridge player.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MRS. PARKER: And the two times I did play with him I came out ahead of him.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, well that's wonderful! I love that one. (laughter) I really do! Well, did you have an afternoon bridge club?

MRS. PARKER: Oh yes, we all had clubs, uh huh. I was trying to think some of them. Rose Carraway wasn't in it because she was

in the night plays, night games, nighttime.

ANNE HORNER: Cause she was working.

MRS. PARKER: Let's see, who all was in those? We used to play a lots in the afternoon.

ANNE HORNER: Lila Moore was one. Ask her about her.

MAREA FOSTER: Who?

ANNE HORNER: Lila Moore, Dr. Moore's wife.

MAREA FOSTER: Dr. Moore's wife.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, Bert Moore -- Lila Moore.

MAREA FOSTER: Lila Moore played.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. And then there was somebody else that lived out there in Ghent that we used to go play. She used to play a lots.

MAREA FOSTER: Would that have been Lillian Tolson?

MRS. PARKER: Who?

MAREA FOSTER: Lillian Tolson? She's the only one I can think of.

MRS. PARKER: No, I think it was somebody else.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

ANNE HORNER: Mrs. Cannon lived out there.

MAREA FOSTER: Yeah, Mrs. Cannon lived out there, but I don't remember...

MRS. PARKER: Who?

MAREA FOSTER: Mrs. Cannon, Mrs. Cora Cannon, but I don't remember Mrs. Cannon playing bridge.

MRS. PARKER: Uh uh.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, Mrs. Parker, this has been wonderful! And this side is just about through.

MRS. PARKER: Are you writing a book?

MAREA FOSTER: Well, I'm taping everything you say except for what I promised you that I would erase and I will.

MRS. PARKER:Mr. Foote, and he used to get children's plays up. He'd put on a play and sell tickets and all and so, and I was in one of them and I had a dance out there, Catherine Richardson and myself had dancing, and I said, "Catherine, let's don't get off", and we kept on dancing. (laughter) They were sitting in the corner and doing just like this. Now I was ten years old before I moved from New Bern, so that was before.

MAREA FOSTER: That was before.

MRS. PARKER: And I was dancing and Catherine Richardson was dancing and we said let's stay out. They had to put the curtain down to get us off the stage. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Where was this dance? At the Masonic Theater?

MRS. PARKER: Yes, wasn't it?

MAREA FOSTER: Was it there or the old Athens Theater?

MRS. PARKER: Old Athens Theater. Over the Athens Theater is where they used to sell tickets and were movies sometimes don't you remember.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh, but that was on Pollock Street.

MRS. PARKER: On Pollock Street, uh huh.

MAREA FOSTER: And the Masonic Theater was over on Hancock.

ANNE HORNER: Where did this Mr. Foote live? I think it was the house across the street.

MAREA FOSTER: Yeah. Do you remember where Mr. Foote lived?

MRS. PARKER: Mr. Foote lived, yes, he lived on, it's right down here some place.

ANNE HORNER: Is it this house over here that Mr. Bell lives in now?

MRS. PARKER: Yes, it's there

ANNE HORNER: That's what I thought.

MRS. PARKER: Right there, and I lived on Broad Street.

ANNE HORNER: Didn't Mrs. Foote and your mother have a tea room one time?

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, they had a tea room.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh!, tell me about that.

MRS. PARKER: They had a tea room on East Front Street, there across the street from East Front Street right on the river. You know where you come down Broad Street and it was over near the river there and they had a tea room upstairs. Mother had an apartment downstairs and somebody else on the other side, and Mrs. Foote that used to live here on, I don't know where she lived down here someplace, (New Street) and they had a tea room up there.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh! Do you remember what they served?

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, they served lunches and parties up there, you know, Luncheon parties for people, and they had lunches up there.

They had all the rooms upstairs.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, how nice!

ANNE HORNER: What kind of food did they fix?

MRS. PARKER: Huh?

ANNE HORNER: What kind of food?

MRS. PARKER: It's just regular dinners.

MAREA FOSTER: Regular food?

MRS. PARKER: Regular food. And mother saved all her money that she made in that tea room and put it in the bank and the bank closed and she didn't get any back.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh my!!

MRS. PARKER: You remember when the banks all closed here.

MAREA FOSTER: That was about the time I was born I think.

(laughter)

MRS. PARKER: How 'bout that.

MAREA FOSTER: I brought the Depression I think.

MRS. PARKER: I had seventeen cents in my pocket and John had nineteen cents and I gave him a penney to get shaved. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Would he go to the barber shop?

MRS. PARKER: Yes, he never could shave himself.

MAREA FOSTER: And did he have his own mug and shaving brush in the barber shop do you remember?

MRS. PARKER: Now I don't know about, but I know he always had a shave. He never could shave himself, John couldn't.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, Mrs. Parker, do you remember The Green Door?

MRS. PARKER: Yes! Mother was one that ran...

MAREA FOSTER: The Green Door?

ANNE HORNER: No, no.

MRS. PARKER: Mother and Mrs. Foote.

MAREA FOSTER: The one that, The Green Door, that Mrs. Waldrop ran.

MRS. PARKER: No, mother didn't do the Green Door. No. Mother had a place. The Green Door was over this way.

MAREA FOSTER: That was on the corner of Broad Street and Middle Street.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: But did you ever go in there?

MRS. PARKER: Oh yes. I used to eat there lots.

MAREA FOSTER: And weren't they famous for their, wasn't it Boston Cream Pie?

MRS. PARKER: What?

MAREA FOSTER: Were they famous for their Boston...

ANNE HORNER: For their Black Bottom Pie.

MRS. PARKER: I don't remember that.

MAREA FOSTER: But the food was good.

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, the food was good.

MAREA FOSTER: Do you remember who owned The Green Door, Mrs. Eula Waldrop and...

MRS. PARKER: Mrs. Waldrop and who else? It was somebody else with her.

MAREA FOSTER: Betsy and Amy Williams' mother?

MRS. PARKER: Yeah, that's who it was, Amy Williams, I mean the Williams...

MAREA FOSTER: Their mother, Betsy and Amy's mother owned it.

MRS. PARKER: Uh huh. (Interruption)street of East Front Street.

MAREA FOSTER: This is where your mother's tea room was?

MRS. PARKER: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: Did it have a name?

MRS. PARKER: I don't think so. If it did, I didn't call it. They had the tea room upstairs and mother lived downstairs and the tea room was upstairs.

MAREA FOSTER: But everybody knew the food was delicious.

MRS. PARKER: Oh yeah! And then she used to have luncheons sometimes up there.

MAREA FOSTER: Um huh.

MRS. PARKER: Mrs. Foote and mother ran it.

END OF INTERVIEW