

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

PHILIP J. KENNEL &
NORA HARDISON KENNEL

INTERVIEW 1037

This is Dr. Joseph Patterson representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 1000. I am interviewing Philip J. Kennel at his residence at Kennel's Beach, North Carolina. The mailing address is Grantsboro, North Carolina. The number of the interview is 1037.

The date is January 29, 1993. Fred Latham will be sitting in on the interview and may be participating in the discussion.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, this is Dr. Patterson. We're at the Kennel's home at Kennel's Beach. It's actually the Kennel's daughter's home we're in right now. Fred Latham and I are here with Mr. and Mrs. Kennel and we're gonna have a discussion about the Kennel's and their memories of New Bern. So, now, we'll go ahead and I'm gonna ask Mr. Kennel (I'm gonna call him Phil and Mrs. Kennel, Nora) gonna ask Phil, or Lefty, to tell me where he was born.

MR. KENNEL: Well, I'm a Yankee. I was born in Brooklyn, New York.

DR. PATTERSON: On what date?

MR. KENNEL: On the April 2, 1908. So if I make it to April of this year I'll be 85. I went to school in Brooklyn, New York. Graduated from high school and got a job over in New York City with the Title Guaranty and Trust Company running a transit and a survey party. My folks, they ran a phonograph and record camera supply store in Brooklyn.

In 1926 they purchased this Kennel's Beach area which was then known as the Bay. It consisted of about 110 acres. My dad at that time bought this place, 110 acres and a house for \$1,500 in 1926. Well, after they bought the place, the only thing my mother and I heard was,

"Let's move down to North Carolina." So mother sold the business and Pop packed all his belongings in a freight car, including a boat packed in the freight car, had it traveled down here to Grantsboro and then trucked it down here to Kennel's Beach. I, at that time, did not want to come. I had a job in New York. But, anyway, I came a year later and have been down here ever since. And, as you know, in '28 and '29 we had a very big Depression in New York, well, here also. So my job played out and I decided I'd better come home and eat off the old man.

DR. PATTERSON: Now you were in New Bern at that time?

MR. KENNEL: No, I was in New York City.

DR. PATTERSON: You were still in New York.

MR. KENNEL: I was living in New York. So I came down, and so of course, I've been here ever since.

DR. PATTERSON: You came to Kennel's Beach.

MR. KENNEL: Came to Kennel's Beach and I stayed with them. At that time WPA was hiring people. They didn't have anybody in the Pamlico County who could run a transit for some of the work that they did for the WPA, so I ran a transit. They gave me a high-falutin name which didn't mean nothing. We ran levels for the little creeks and streams that led into Bay River, and for that they paid \$45 a month. And, \$45 a month then was pretty good.

MRS. KENNEL: Catfish Lake too.

MR. KENNEL: Well, that was later on. But, anyway, in '28 Pamlico County had a baseball team and they came around and wanted to know could I play some ball. I had played a little ball in Brooklyn.

DR. PATTERSON: Was this high school ball?

MR. KENNEL: No, it was sandlot ball; although, we had teams and they played the equivalency of high school. Anyway, they asked me could I play. I remember going to Stonewall one day. They said, "Could you pitch?" I said, "Yes." I was left-handed. So I went there to pitch the game against New Bern. John Tinky Morton was pitching for New Bern that day, and we beat them. I forget the score. We had a team of mighty good hitters, but they couldn't field worth a lick.

I know you're not interested in the Pamlico County baseball players who played on that team because you are more interested in New Bern.

But, anyway, through that winter and into the next year New Bern had a team, Battery D team.

DR. PATTERSON: That was the Reserve Army unit.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, that was the National Guard team. Nicky Simpson managed that team, and so I got to play with them that season. That was 1929 I believe. Well, we played ball in the summers with the Battery D team and for a couple of winters I stayed in New Bern. I stayed at Burke Taylor's house.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was he living then?

MR. KENNEL: He was living on the corner of George Street and Broad Street, the house that...

MRS. KENNEL: Big old two-story house.

MR. KENNEL: It's the southeast corner. Swan lived there since then.

DR. PATTERSON: Hugh Swan.

MR. KENNEL: Anyway, I lived up in the attic, and Mrs. Taylor charged me two dollars a week to stay up there. I ate down at Mrs. Midyette's boarding house down on Craven Street between Pollock and Broad. I worked in the Charles' store, in the basement of the Charles' store, as a shipping clerk and got \$10 a week. So, you see, you didn't have a lot of money left over, you know. I can remember there was one week somebody had broken a crate of candy. Do you remember the orange, sticky, gummy's candies, looks like little orange slices? Man, I used to eat up on that broken bunch of candy until I couldn't stand to look at one of those slices anymore. (laughter) But, anyway, you are more interested in the baseball.

DR. PATTERSON: We're interested in memories as you go along, Lefty. Just keep right on talking.

MR. KENNEL: Okay. Well, I also worked at one period there in the old Pender store on Broad Street across from the firehouse. I think the Pender Company became Big Star, and then Big Star in turn became Colonial. I think they're out of business now. There was a New Bern boy, young fellow, Tommy Powell who worked in there, and he later on was the salesman for a sandwich company. For years and years I would see Tommy. So then in the summertime, in '32 we still played for the Battery. We played teams from Dunn and Erwin and Little Washington and Raleigh. In those days we just played three days a week; Wednesdays, Saturdays, and sometimes Sunday. We had to play out of town at that time on Sunday cause the folks didn't want baseball on Sunday, they'd have to pay admission to it.

DR. PATTERSON: Lefty, who was on this team with you?

MR. KENNEL: I'm more familiar with the '31-'32 team. There were the Ferebee boys. Francis Ferebee played third base; Smokey Ferebee played shortstop, he had played for Carolina; Billy Ferebee played second base and was a very good fielder, was one of those no-hit good fielders; Claude Allen played first base; Ham Ferebee caught; Bill Ferebee pitched. He had pitched in several professional leagues. Bill was coming back home because he was in love with the Fuller girl.

MRS. KENNEL: Celia.

MR. KENNEL: We had a couple of fellows from Pamlico County and myself. I pitched, played first base, and played the outfield. There was Bill Whealton from Pamlico County from down around Mesic way. He was a good hitter and could really hold liquor. He once told me that he didn't make any more liquor than he could drink and I believe it. He was a mess! Then there was a fellow from New Bern, Lanky Lane.

I don't know whether you remember him. He was here for a good number of years. He played football for the University of Delaware. There was a pitcher from Bridgeton by the name of... gosh, I can't think of his name. It may come back to me. But that's my trouble, I forget so much now. (Ernie Ryman) And Nicky Simpson, he was the manager.

DR. PATTERSON: Did Archie Reel play on that team?

MR. KENNEL: Archie played second base also on that team, some. Cecil Reel, he was Archie's brother, he also pitched some. So that took care of '32. But now in the next year, New Bern got into this Coastal Plain semi-pro league.

DR. PATTERSON: May I interrupt just a second? This first team that you described now, was this semi-pro ball? Were you getting paid for this?

MR. KENNEL: Yes, some, not much. But it was only when I got into the Coastal Plain League, I got \$25 a week playing for the Coastal Plain League.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you play at Kafer Park when you were in New Bern?

MR. KENNEL: Played at Kafer Park. They had fixed Kafer Park up by that time and it was pretty good. And I'll tell you right now, the people would really come out to the games.

DR. PATTERSON: We're still talking about the first team.

MR. KENNEL: They would come out any. If it was baseball, they would come out!

DR. PATTERSON: I think maybe I'm getting things mixed up a little bit. Why don't you go ahead with the second team and then we'll just come back and just talk about it.

MR. KENNEL: Okay. When New Bern got into the Coastal Plain League it consisted of Kinston, Snow Hill, Greenville, Goldsboro, Tarboro, Ayden.

DR. PATTERSON: LaGrange?

MR. KENNEL: No, no, no. Never was in. The first year we had a semi-pro team we had Chick Doak who was coach at N.C. State College.

DR. PATTERSON: Who is this?

MR. KENNEL: Chick Doak.

MRS. KENNEL: D O A K.

DR. PATTERSON: Oh yes, yes.

MR. KENNEL: He was a baseball coach at State and he was the manager of the New Bern team. Bunn Hearn of Carolina, he managed the Kinston team. Greenville had somebody from Duke, but I can't remember his name. So New Bern had about five Carolina State boys on the team.

Kinston had a half of a dozen from Carolina. Charlie Keller played for Kinston at that time. He finally became a good Yankee ball player.

Greenville had the Duke ball players. Ayden had the Wake Forest ball players. There was some local players, but mostly they were college boys out for the summer trying to make some money.

DR. PATTERSON: Now did this second team include many of the people who were on the first team; the Ferebee boys for example? Who was on that team?

MR. KENNEL: Not too many. Not too many. Smokey Ferebee played. Fred Shipp, I guess you remember Fred, he played. He played also in the other league for one year I think.

DR. PATTERSON: Was he a shortstop?

MR. KENNEL: He played third base. Francis didn't play. The Ferebee's kind of faded out about that time. So I played in 1933, '34, and '35 for the Coastal Plains.

DR. PATTERSON: Were you mostly first base or outfield?

MR. KENNEL: Pitched most of the time. I had a couple of good years. I had a couple of good years when I had won 13, 14, 15 games. Then in '35 I hurt my arm, but I wanted to play ball. My salary had

blossomed to \$47 a week. (laughter) Nora and I were married. We had little Robbie, our son, so it was necessary. So I would pitch. I could tell I had lost a lot of fast ball and I was getting by on my brain mostly. Anyway, Doc Smith was managing New Bern at that time and in the middle of the season he traded me. He traded me over to Snow Hill for a shortstop they had over there. So I spent the rest of the season over in Snow Hill. That was the last season that I played, because that winter I got a job in the post office. I can remember over there in Snow Hill. The day before the last game of the season, I was unhappy because New Bern had traded me over to Snow Hill, you know, and the last game of the season New Bern was playing Snow Hill in New Bern and I wanted to pitch that game. I wanted to pitch that game. I vowed I wanted to pitch that came, beat those blankety blank guys that traded me off, you know! Anyway, the day before we were playing in Kinston and into the ninth inning the score was tied and Charlie Keller was coming to plate to bat. The manager for Snow Hill, he pulled his right-hander and he had me go in there to pitch to Keller.

Well, luckily, I struck Charlie out in the ninth inning with three curve balls. Well, man, I swelled up like a balloon, you know!! So we started the tenth inning and I went to pitch. Tie score and I was gonna pitch the tenth inning. The first man up was a fellow by the name Greenberg. He was brother to Hank Greenberg, the old Detroit player. That rascal hit the first pitch over the fence to win the game and all my blowing up was deflated. (laughter) But I did beg him to let me pitch the next day against New Bern and I had a good

day. We beat New Bern 8 to 2. I had a no-hitter going into five innings.

Then Worley Knowles, I don't know whether you remember Worley Knowles, he played for New Bern and I always had had trouble getting him out.

He was a tough man to get out. (laughter) He hit a double to knock two runs in. But I did win the game and that was the last game I ever pitched for Coastal Plains.

DR. PATTERSON: Going back to that New Bern team, can you go around and just name some of the players who played the different positions?

MR. KENNEL: Well, try to. The coach down at Wilmington played third base.

MRS. KENNEL: Brogden.

MR. KENNEL: Brogden, he played third base. There was a fellow from over in Trenton, a Brock, he played out in the field. A State boy by the name of Norwood, Swamp Norwood I think they called him, he played centerfield. Mule Shirley, Mule played and became professional. This was still semi-pro. Stuart Flythe pitched for New Bern. Fred Shipp played.

MRS. KENNEL: Fred was always on third base, wasn't he?

MR. KENNEL: Yeah. Well, Smokey was a better shortstop.

DR. PATTERSON: Fred played his college ball at Duke.

MR. KENNEL: Well, I don't think Fred played baseball. He was a football player at Duke.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. KENNEL: In fact, he didn't play for Duke. It was when Duke was...

MRS. KENNEL: Before it was Duke.

MR. KENNEL: Before it was Duke.

DR. PATTERSON: Trinity.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, he played up there. And old Fred, he went and played out west for a professional team over there and he was good.

'Cause Fred never weighed over 145 pounds, but he was all guts.

MRS. KENNEL: Fast!!

DR. PATTERSON: My brother said they called him "Wings."

MR. KENNEL: "Wings" Shipp, yeah. "Wings" Shipp he was.

DR. PATTERSON: Who was catcher?

MR. KENNEL: Well, there was a fellow by the name of Evans who finally went and played in some years in Washington in the American League. He caught that year.

DR. PATTERSON: Lefty, where did all these folks stay in New Bern, just in people's homes?

MR. KENNEL: Okay. I remember there was three boys from Richmond, two boys. Two brothers from Richmond, a second baseman and a pitcher from Richmond, University of Richmond. Now they all stayed in two places; down on Pollock Street about five doors up from East Front Street on the south side of the street, and then the rest of them stayed on Metcalf Street about fourth or fifth door up from South Front Street.

There was a great big boarding house there. That's where most of them stayed.

MRS. KENNEL: Is that where Mrs. Daniels used to live?

MR. KENNEL: Yeah. In fact, Mrs. Daniels was the lady ran the

boarding house. This was in '35.

DR. PATTERSON: All of your home games were played at Kafer Field.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, all our home games. I think we played at that time, in the semi-pro league, four games a week.

DR. PATTERSON: Were these night games?

MR. KENNEL: No, no, no, no. No night games.

DR. PATTERSON: Afternoon games.

MR. KENNEL: All afternoon stuff. The night games never got in there until New Bern got into Class D Coastal Plain League.

DR. PATTERSON: That was later on?

MR. KENNEL: From '36 on. Now, if you want information on that part, I suggest that you see Harry Soufas. Harry Soufas managed New Bern for about three years there and he could tell you more. I went to all the games, you know. We always went to the games and watched the games and enjoyed them, but I can't tell you too much about it.

I remember Mule Shirley came. Harry Soufas can get you squared away.

DR. PATTERSON: The difference between semi-pro and Class D is that one's all professional and one's part professional, is that correct?

MRS. KENNEL: One in the same, wasn't it?

MR. KENNEL: No, no. Class D was a professional league. The salary was about \$180 a month I think, at that time. The balls that we played, the semi-pro ball that we played, was not professional and the ball players from college had to take it kind of under the table.

DR. PATTERSON: They were not allowed to accept any money.

MR. KENNEL: Supposedly.

DR. PATTERSON: But they did get some in this league.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: But they couldn't play Class D ball, that was out and out.

MR. KENNEL: They couldn't play professional ball, no.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember how long the Class D League existed?

MR. KENNEL: Pretty close. Started in '36... about ten years. You see, it started with Burke Taylor, the old automobile dealer. He ran the team for a couple of years. In fact, he ran it the last year that it was semi-pro.

DR. PATTERSON: He was the manager?

MR. KENNEL: No. He was the owner.

DR. PATTERSON: He owned it.

MR. KENNEL: The owner. He was having financial difficulties and a lot of his checks would bounce. I can remember one time, Bill Ferebee was working in the bank, First Citizens Bank, and Bill would tell me when Burke had put some money in the bank and I would run over with my check and get it cashed ahead of time. (laughter) Course some of the boys didn't get paid that week. Then the next year, Burke dropped it and the fire department took it over and the fire department ran it most of that time. I think in the last year somebody else ran it, but I've forgotten his name. But I think it petered out along about '46.

DR. PATTERSON: In those days I know there were bleachers along first base and third base. Were there stands behind home plate?

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, we had grandstands with a cover on it.

DR. PATTERSON: What were the crowds like at the games?

MR. KENNEL: On a Sunday, I think we'd have 1,000, 1,200, something. We had all the seats filled! I can remember the colored folks, the blacks, they would be looking over the top of the fence, you know, watching the game. To this day, I'll meet some old man on the street and he would say, "Good morning, Mr. Leslie." Over the fence they were listening and they would hear "Lefty", but it sounded like Leslie to them and they would say, "Good morning, Mr. Leslie."

MRS. KENNEL: Some of them found some convenient knot holes too.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember sitting along the third baseline many times with my father and eating peanuts and drinking coca-cola, putting the peanuts in the coca-cola.

MRS. KENNEL: Oh yes!

MR. KENNEL: That's what made it good!

DR. PATTERSON: That was a great affair. Now, you were a pitcher, but you were a power hitter too.

MR. KENNEL: Well, yeah, I hit a long ball.

DR. PATTERSON: And a lot of them!

MR. KENNEL: And I struck out a lot. You know as years go by you, you think of the times you hit, but you don't remember the times you struck out. (laughter) Way back there when we had the Battery team we used to go to Morehead City. Morehead City had a pitcher by

the name of Cecil Longest who was a good pitcher, pitched for Carolina.

We went down there to play in that game. I had a good day. I played first base I think. Anyway, I hit 6 for 6, 2 homers, 2 doubles, and 2 singles. I have kept, somewhere around, I've kept the box scores.

My son, he played four years for Court up at State, and when I would want to bring him down to my size, I'd get that clipping out and say, "When's the last time you hit 6 for 6?"

DR. PATTERSON: The outfield that you played in, well, the outfield that you had, was a group of real power hitters. Weren't the outfielders known for their long balls?

MR. KENNEL: Oh yeah, yeah. What I'm talking about is semi-pro stuff and the Battery D stuff. The Battery D stuff, this Bill Whealton, he was a long ball hitter. Claude Allen, he hit a long ball. Claude had the same trouble as I did, strike out a lot.

DR. PATTERSON: Were the Ferebee's pretty good ball players?

MR. KENNEL: Good fielders - no hit. Billy Ferebee couldn't hit a lick, but he could field. He was a lot better fielder than his brother Smokey who had played for Carolina. Smokey was probably the best ball player, outside of Bill pitching, of the Ferebee crowd. Francis was, I would say midling. Ham was a good catcher, but Ham couldn't hit.

Ham knew how to get me mad. (laughter) I'd be wild, you know, one day and never get the dog gone ball across the plate and he'd come out and he'd lay a cussing on me and I'd throw the ball across the plate just to get even with him. (laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Now, you didn't mention Jim Tatum.

MR. KENNEL: Oh. Well, he managed one year in..Kinston.

DR. PATTERSON: '80.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah. Football.

DR. PATTERSON: Did he play ball too?

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, he caught. He caught. I pitched again Jim, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: He was a great ball player, wasn't he?

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, Jim was good. He's a big man! And he was a good hitter here.

DR. PATTERSON: Just for the record, he later became football coach at Carolina as part of his career..

MR. KENNEL: Is that what he was?

MRS. KENNEL: Was there a fellow by the name of Parker that you were trying to think of a while ago?

MR. KENNEL: Ace Parker. Well, we won't talk about it. I have an incident with them that I'm not too proud of. Ace played for Greenville. He was a good football player, and a good baseball player.

In fact, he played a couple of years for the Philadelphia Athletics way back then. I was pitching one day and Ace come to the plate and he hit my first pitch, for a three base hit. "My gosh!" Next time he come he come up, wam!, another three base hit off me! And I vowed to myself, I said, "He ain't getting another hit today." He come up the next time, the first pitch I knocked him down. He got up, dusted off, and looked at me, the next pitch I knocked him down! He started mouthing at me, you know. The next pitch I drilled him in the side,

I hit him. That caused a fracas, you know. But he didn't get another hit that day, 'cause he stayed away from that plate. He was getting out of the way.

DR. PATTERSON: You scared him half to death.

MR. KENNEL: Some fellows, they hit you like you are their cousin, they are cousins of yours. Peahead Walker was a guy who could hit that thing against me all the time. He's the old Wake Forest school coach.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. Where did he play?

MR. KENNEL: He managed Snow Hill for about three years back in there. He was bandy legged with long arms. Little short bandy legged guy. He could take those long legs and let them out and reach across the outside corner of the plate and drill the ball down through third base. When you pitch a left hand you try to pitch them outside so that they don't get all the plate, you know. I was pitching outside til he drilled the ball down. Fred Shipp standing on third base begging me, "Don't pitch him outside! Don't pitch him outside!" (laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: How much did it cost to go to those games?

MR. KENNEL: Fifty cents I think. There was no such thing as grandstand seats and bleacher seats. I think it was all one admission. Seemed like fifty cents. It might have got to be a dollar, but I know it was never over that.

DR. PATTERSON: Wednesday afternoon was a popular time, wasn't it?

MR. KENNEL: Oh yeah. Everything closed downtown. All the stores

closed on Wednesday afternoon. Right in the middle of the street of Broad and Pollock they used to stick a sign right in the middle of the street, "Baseball today." All the cars that came would have to go around the sign.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember Joe McDaniel announcing the games?

MR. KENNEL: Yes. Joe was the official scorekeeper, and Joe used to do some announcing. Joe and I were very good friends; in fact, he was one of the best friends I ever had in New Bern.

DR. PATTERSON: Lefty, do you remember June Oakley?

MR. KENNEL: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Tell me about June Oakley.

MR. KENNEL: June was the groundskeeper, and he lived over in Bridgeton. He used to come out there and he would work hard. He would walk around and always had a big cut of tobacco in his mouth, you know, and he used to spit it all over the place. But, in fact, most ball players in those days, they all chewed tobacco. I didn't, but most of them did.

DR. PATTERSON: Did June use to dust off home plate before the game started? I've been told that the games wouldn't start until June dusted off home plate and bowed to the crowd.

MR. KENNEL: Well, probably so. I don't remember that really. But June was the handyman around there.

MRS. KENNEL: That was his money.

MR. KENNEL: Any dirty work, he had to do the dirty work.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. Well, what other memories about baseball

do you think we ought to talk about before we go to Nora and get a little story from her?

MRS. KENNEL: In effect, that's how you got your job in the post office.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, that's how I got my job. At the end of 1935 the post office held an examination. The first time they had held an examination to hire people in ten years. All through the Depression they never hired. So, anyway, I took the examination and it was 115 or 118 that took the examination. Well, at the end of the year they announced the results of the examination and luckily I was number one, I was top man. I think I made 96.8. Some of them had ten points for, you know, being a veteran, but I wasn't. But, anyway, I was happy then, and I said to myself, "Well, here I was with Nora, baby. Boy, I'm going to have a regular job after all these years!" First time, they called up a job opening. In civil service they have to take one of the top three, so they took Kermit Guthrie. He was number three.

I said, well, maybe I'll get the next one. Well, about a month after, they hired another one and they took Billy Ferebee. He had been number two I think. Well, there I was, knowing that if they pass you up three times they were allowed to throw you out, and there I wanted a job mighty bad. So I went to Barden. At that time you had to get in this political mess. I went to Barden and I put it to him, I said, "Hap," I said, "I need a job." I said, "The list is about to pass me up."

He says, "Lefty, I'm not gonna give you a job." He says, "I'm not give any job to a damn Yankee." So there I was downfallen and feeling

very unhappy. Yet, the season had ended and I had been going down weekends down to Atlantic in Carteret County pitching down there. Beaufort, Atlantic, and Morehead, didn't like each other and they used to import ball players. They had teams. And so I would go down there and play the outfield one game and pitch one game and I'd get \$25.

Then they'd give you all the sun dried roe from mullet. Anyway, so that one Sunday morning I'm sitting on the porch of the grocery store down there run by Joe Morris, Captain Jim Morris. Capt. Jim, he'd come out and sit with me, he said, "What's wrong with you today, Lefty?"

I told him my troubles. He said, "You want that job?" I said, "I sure do." He said, "Let me go see Barden." I didn't know it at that time, but he held the votes of Atlantic. Morehead and Beaufort votes always killed each other and his votes from Atlantic carried the county every time. So, the next day he went up to Barden. Barden called me about four days after, he says, "What you got on that old man? He wants me to give you that job!" He said, "The old man told me he thought as much of you as any of his sons!" So I got the job. So that's how baseball got me the job. But, man, I was downhearted. I was licked! But back there in '35, you know, it was tough.

DR. PATTERSON: Where were you all living then?

MR. KENNEL: We lived in Tryon Palace. The remaining wing of the Tryon Palace was into four apartments, wasn't it, Nora?

MRS. KENNEL: Yes.

MR. KENNEL: And Nora and I were living in the upstairs apartment. Our son was born up there, so we've always said that Robbie was born

in Tryon Palace.

DR. PATTERSON: Let me go to Nora and get a little bit of information from her now. Nora, what was your name before you were married?

MRS. KENNEL: I was Nora Lee Hardison from Arapahoe.

DR. PATTERSON: When were you born?

MRS. KENNEL: November 15, 1913.

DR. PATTERSON: And, Lefty, I don't think you told me when you were born.

MR. KENNEL: April 2, 1908.

DR. PATTERSON: Nora, tell me about yourself and where you went to school and all and where you and Lefty met and how that all evolved.

MRS. KENNEL: Well, I lived about two miles up the road toward Grantsboro from Arapahoe, and those were two miles that I had to walk back and forth to school every day. I went through eleven grades, which was high school at that time, and graduated in '31. There was nothing to do, like getting a job, other than working on the farm.

I was a farm girl and I had plenty of experience working on the farm, like digging potatoes and chopping corn and cotton and all of that.

We did get paid a little bit for the work that we did, for our father sometimes, but for other farmers we would get paid. We picked cotton as well, and we got a cent a pound for picking cotton. I admired some of the young boys at that time who could pick so very much cotton, about 200 pounds a day, and I said I'm gonna do that too. But I only made it to 180 pounds one time, but that was very good for me because

I was a young girl. I was athletic. I played along with the boys, was a tomboy. I played basketball, and that was my great love in high school. I was a guard. Our school played other teams in the county, the high school teams. I remember John Morton was coaching the Stonewall High School team at the time, and they must have been pretty good. Anyway, they most always beat us. (laughter) But we were the only school that did not have an indoor court to play on. Oriental had one, and Alliance had one, and I think Stonewall as well had one.

Anyway, we enjoyed playing, and there was a great sense of competition among the high school teams. Then, well, I did go to New Bern after graduation and got a job at, well, we called it "The Pant Shop." It was Cohen-Goldman's Pant Shop. You remember it, down at the Depot?

I worked there. My sister worked there. We had an older sister who was married and lived in New Bern and we stayed with her and her husband.

His name was Albert Ensley and he was a barber. He was a real good barber.

MR. KENNEL: People's Barber Shop.

MRS. KENNEL: People's Barber Shop. You may not remember it.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was that located?

MRS. KENNEL: On Middle Street. Fred Miller was also a barber, I think, there, wasn't he, Phil? Anyway, the way that Phil and I met, on the farm, Papa would give us a little something to look forward to and he'd say, "Well, at the end of the season we will go down to the river and have a fishfry and everybody can go swimming." And so that's what we were doing down here. There was an old boat pulled

up on the shore and sand put in it, it was no good anymore, and the women would fry the fish up on that boat. The men would go out and in just a very short while they could catch all the fish that we needed.

So, that's what we did. That was sort of a payoff for a good summer's work. And that's when I met Phil. He was down here with some of his friends from New York City on vacation and they were out along the shore pitching back and forth the baseball. They were showing off, you know, for all of the young girls there. Phil had already met my brother, Fred Hardison, who he actually had played baseball with a little bit, and football a little bit. You actually played football, Phil, in the National Guard. So, he was real cute. He came over and he said, "Are you Fred Hardison's brother?" And I thought, "Well, what a crazy thing he is!" But, anyway, he must have liked my looks, and so he went back to New York and he wrote his dad and told him to get a picture of that girl! And he did. Mr. Kennel, "Pop" we called him, took a picture of me down by a tree that we called the monkey tree at the time because it had so many real strong limbs to it and people could climb up in it, and they often did. So, when he lost his job in New York and came down, well, we were dating. We decided to get married in 1934. I was still working at The Pant Shop and I was earning about \$17 a week, which was very good! It was piece work.

I mean, according to how fast you worked, you could earn. We were staying with my married sister Dollie and Albert Ensley right beside St. Luke's Hospital. It was the old Scott home. Phil said, "Well, you know we really ought to get our own apartment", and so we did in

the Tryon Palace. I think Mrs. Loni Duffy, owned the Tryon Palace at that time. We rented from her - \$10 a month. Ten dollars a month!

We had about four rooms and they were big rooms. Then she decided she wanted to go up on the rent to \$10.50. The Tryon Palace was used by Mrs. Loni Duffy for awhile as a boarding place, boarding house.

My married sister, Dollie Ensley, helped her prepare the food and serve it in there. This was long before Phil and I were married though.

But, we enjoyed living there. After we moved across the street, we stayed there maybe a year and a half or two.

DR. PATTERSON: Now this was when you moved on George Street.

MRS. KENNEL: It was still on George Street.

DR. PATTERSON: Across the street.

MRS. KENNEL: Across the street. I forget the man's name that owned that... I believe it was a Mr. Goulding.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it near the Eaton house?

MRS. KENNEL: Yes, it was next door to the Eaton house.

DR. PATTERSON: The Sam Eaton house?

MRS. KENNEL: Uh huh. Right beside of that little old house that we lived in, was what remained of the original walls of Tryon Palace.

But we didn't pay it any attention. We didn't know anything much about it.

DR. PATTERSON: Before we leave that, were they comfortable? Was the building a comfortable building, or what was the building like?

MRS. KENNEL: In the old Palace?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes, the old Palace.

MRS. KENNEL: Oh yes, it was comfortable. Probably the walls were so very thick that it was not hard to heat. The ceilings were high. And on the floor itself there were some places where you could tell that it had been on fire. There were some places that had been burned.

DR. PATTERSON: So you moved across the street and stayed there for...

MRS. KENNEL: A year, year and a half.

DR. PATTERSON: Then where did you go?

MRS. KENNEL: Then we moved to 601 Johnson Street. We were on the corner of Johnson and Metcalf Streets. While we were looking at that place, there was more to be considered. That house on the corner was owned by this black man next door, Ike Smith.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, which corner was that? Was it the northwest corner?

MRS. KENNEL: It would be the north corner, wouldn't it?

MR. KENNEL: The southwest corner.

DR. PATTERSON: The southwest corner.

MR. KENNEL: Directly across from St. Cyprian's Church.

MRS. KENNEL: The Episcopal church, St. Cyprian's. Well, it seemed right across the corner on the other corner there, across Metcalf corner street, was a lady by the name of Mrs. Melus.

DR. PATTERSON: How do you spell that?

MRS. KENNEL: M E L U S, I think. She was sister to a Mrs. Nora Hardison that lived over there, Ida Barfield's mother, Nora Hardison.

Mrs. Melus was one of those ladies that liked to have a lot to say and to kind of run things if she were allowed to do it. She didn't want anyone living in that house. I think she probably was afraid that some black might move in there sometime. So, she gave us the nod, I mean, she approved of us. So she told the owner that we could move in. Said, "Yes, that would be fine!"

MR. KENNEL: Ike Smith, he was black and he owned that whole block.

MRS. KENNEL: And he and his family were nice people. We lived there for fourteen and a half years and had no problems whatsoever.

MR. KENNEL: In other words, we've never had any black problem at all.

DR. PATTERSON: The neighbors were blacks?

MRS. KENNEL: Yes. Right.

DR. PATTERSON: Both sides?

MRS. KENNEL: No, on just the one side.

DR. PATTERSON: Just on the Johnson Street side.

MRS. KENNEL: Yes. Uh huh. He had two little girls and they would get out on the street on the sidewalk and play hop, skip, and jump, and our children did the same thing.

DR. PATTERSON: By that time you had two children?

MRS. KENNEL: We had two. We had Charlotte and Robbie. We went there with Robbie and then Charlotte was born there in 1939. It was very, very nice because they only had to cross one street to get on

the school green, you know, into the block where the school green was.

So Robbie started school there and Charlotte started school there.

Robbie was in the Academy building his first classes. So then Ike Smith decided that he wanted the house for his married daughter and that we had to move. So then we moved out to Riverside on High Street.

That was the house that Guion Lee had built for his wife. That was their first house on High Street. We lived there for nine years. Then, in about 1954 or '55, came those storms, those terrible storms.

Ione was the last one of three in a row. The water came up underneath our house into the furnace underneath the house. We said, "Whew, this is too much!" We saw gas tanks floating by and boats floating by, and so we decided to find another place. Then we bought a lot out in Oakland Gardens at the time and Murray Phillips owned it. He bought it. It had been a farm, owner by a Daughtry. Murray Philips, what did I say?

MR. KENNEL: Smith.

MRS. KENNEL: Oh, excuse me. Did I say Smith? Oh, well, we used to know a Murray Smith too. Murray Philips owned it. We had a house built out there. Buck Jones built our house. We lived there for thirty years before moving down here.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, let me pick it up here again, Lefty, and go back to you. Now you had gotten this position with the postal service. What was your job?

MR. KENNEL: I was a substitute city carrier. Each carrier in town in the post office, they had one day off a week, and my job was

to work in their stead on that day. So I got to work all over the town. In fact, the days I would go through Duffyfield area, the smell of frying sweet potatoes and salt fatback, to me to this day is the best smelling thing in the world. Then after two years I became a regular and then I had the downtown route. I used to carry that downtown route passed your place twice a day. Twenty-five miles it amounted to the full day.

DR. PATTERSON: You had the whole downtown?

MR. KENNEL: Everything from Hancock Street to the river and from East Front Street to Queen Street.

MRS. KENNEL: Twice a day.

MR. KENNEL: Well, twice a day I'd go to coca-cola company, and Louis Daniel was in it. When you went in there to talk with Louis Daniel, he'd say, "Help yourself to a coke", and I'd go into where they were bottling the cokes and I'd take me a coke off the line. And to me that's the best tasting coke. (laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: You must have a lot of memories of New Bern in those days. You were in and out of there all the time. Would you reminisce a little bit about what it was like?

MR. KENNEL: Yes. Let me tell you a real funny one. Next to Duffy's Drug Store downtown there was a little store run by Leon Cohen.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember him.

MR. KENNEL: Leon, he would sell fireworks on the side and little old trinkets and all the kids would go in there and buy things. He was a very volatile person. He would get mad for no reason at all.

The kids would pester him, purposely would pester him. I'm delivering the mail down the other side of the street one day and I come down and see two kids beating on his door and run. I see Leon open the door, comes running out, he had a raincoat on, and when he ran out, the door slammed behind him and he chased the kids around the block and when he come back he couldn't get in. He had locked himself out.

I didn't know it then, but he didn't have anything on but the raincoat.

So he went and he got a ladder and he put the ladder up to the second floor and he climbed up the ladder through the window. And there he was climbing with his tail flying, his bare tail hanging out. (laughter)

I swear all the people on the street laughed! It was a funny sight!

DR. PATTERSON: Now, some folks remember his place being across the street on the west side, but I remember it being on the east side next to Duffy's Drug Store.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, that's what I remember. On the corner on the west side, McSorely had an ice cream place.

MRS. KENNEL: Candy too. They made candy.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah. Had an ice cream place with one of those old timey bars of stone. You'd go in there and you get you a lemon phosphate - five cents - and they were good!

DR. PATTERSON: Now, this was on the northwest corner of South Front Street and Middle Street.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah. Then a couple of doors up from that was a Syrian who ran a hotdog place. Zaytoun, I think he called himself. He used to put out good hotdogs.

DR. PATTERSON: Charles Ellis had a store there too, Army/Navy store.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, I think so.

DR. PATTERSON: That's where Albert Ellis grew up. Charles was his uncle. What other memories do you have of that area?

MR. KENNEL: As you went on down you came to Maxwell down on the waterfront on the north side. He had a warehouse there where he sold grocery supplies.

DR. PATTERSON: This was at the foot of Middle Street?

MR. KENNEL: At the foot of Middle Street on the north side, he had a warehouse. Every day they would send him his orders. People would mail him their orders that he wanted. And if he could get them early in the day he could get them packaged and put into trucks and delivered. So he had them mail them in special delivery. Part of that time I was the special delivery man and when they'd come in at the post office and they're opening the mail, the special delivery is always on the first two or three letters on top of each package.

Then you would put them aside, and then you would have to write them up and then you'd take your car and you'd go deliver those all around town. Maxwell had an agreement with the fellows who delivered the special delivery that he could come up in the morning first thing as the mail was opened, they would save his letters out and then give them to him so he could go down and fill them. Man, that was easy money, because we used to get I think seventeen cents a piece extra money for each special we delivered, and Maxwell would always get four,

five a day and there was seventeen times five every day you didn't do nothing, see. First thing you know the inspector got hold of that and he wouldn't let us collect. It used to make us so mad cause that was gravy money, you know. Well, that was just something. Just a thought.

DR. PATTERSON: Lefty, right now on Middle Street down toward South Front Street right up from where Bryan Duffy's drug store was there are two vacant lots. The buildings are gone.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: What used to be there? Was it Lipman's Furniture Store?

MR. KENNEL: No. Wait a minute. Lipman was on that side of the street.

MRS. KENNEL: Lipman was on a corner.

MR. KENNEL: No. He's talking about Joe Lipman.

MRS. KENNEL: Oh, Joe Lipman.

MR. KENNEL: It might be. He was down in that area, but seemed like he was a little further up the street.

MRS. KENNEL: Did the Charles Store used to be on that side at one time? Coplon's.

MR. KENNEL: No. Coplon was on the other side of the street.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, for a while it was on the east side across from where Belk's used to be.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, that's where Coplon's was. Sam Lipman's place was on that side the street too, on the east side of the street from

East South Front Street. There was Duffy's on the corner.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. KENNEL: And then the Leon Cohen's. Then Louis Howard had a clothing store. Then after that, Sam Lipman had maybe two or three houses made into his store.

DR. PATTERSON: I think those lots are the vacant lots now.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, they're vacant now.

DR. PATTERSON: Was the hotel in operation then?

MR. KENNEL: Which one?

DR. PATTERSON: Well, on Middle Street on the east side. You know, the New Bernian or the Hotel Albert or whatever it was called then.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, it was there in those days.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it called the New Bernian then do you remember?

MR. KENNEL: No, I don't think it was. It might have been. But Nora's brother-in-law, Albert Ensley, he had the People's Barber Shop in that New Bernian Hotel downstairs.

MRS. KENNEL: Phil, I insist that Sam Lipman's store at one time was down on a corner, because my father and mother used to go there.

MR. KENNEL: Well, it could have been before my lifetime in New Bern.

DR. PATTERSON: What was on the corner of Pollock and Middle Street where Mr. Bradham used to have his pharmacy? It's Hearne's Jewelry Store now, but in those days, was there a soda shop there?

MR. KENNEL: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it Jacob's?

MR. KENNEL: Jacob's.

DR. PATTERSON: Jacob's Soda Shop.

MR. KENNEL: Jacob's was there.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, your route took you all over town. You have any particular memories about other parts of New Bern? Let me take you up on East Front Street, as you cross Johnson Street, do you remember a little grocery store that used to be run by Mr. Bell?

MR. KENNEL: Sure.

DR. PATTERSON: That's where I live now.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, I remember going in there.

DR. PATTERSON: What was that place like?

MR. KENNEL: It was just a little place. I should remember his name but I don't, his first name.

MRS. KENNEL: J.R. Bell.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah. I mean, he had a few groceries. It was no big place. Right next door to him a fellow by the name of Hal Foscue who was a rural carrier, he lived. He had two daughters. One of the daughters married one of those alcohol agents.

DR. PATTERSON: That's Clara. Married Elliott Bennett.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: And Julia married someone else.

MR. KENNEL: And then a little further down one of the Blades lived.

DR. PATTERSON: Vernon Blades.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, Vernon Blades lived.

DR. PATTERSON: Was there a lumber yard back of all that on the Neuse River at that time? Did Mr. Blades have a lumber yard back there?

MR. KENNEL: My recollection of a lumber yard is further on down towards Queen Street on East Front Street. I think there was a lumber yard there.

FRED LATHAM: Back of Dr. Hand going down to the bridge that blew away during the '33 storm.

MR. KENNEL: Where Dr. Hand lived.

FRED LATHAM: He had Dr. Hand's gang. He had a boy's club down by the bridge.

MR. KENNEL: On the corner of Johnson and East Front Street, Ham Ferebee had a Texaco gas station, and that's where we would hang out mostly before the ball games.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, that sounds like a huge job to go through all of downtown New Bern twice a day.

MR. KENNEL: Well, the way it worked, on the morning trip you carried first class mail, and the second trip you carried the junk, what we called the junk was the magazines. Of course with the first class you carried any newspapers with you. It was just another job.

DR. PATTERSON: How long did you do that, Lefty?

MR. KENNEL: I carried that route for about four or five years, until the World War II came in there and I was offered the chance to go to Camp LeJeune as supervisor of the post office down there. It was a branch of the New Bern office. I went down there and stayed

there until the war was over. Then the post office was going to make it a branch of the Jacksonville post office and I didn't want to be saddled, having to live down there, so I asked to be transferred. We had the best post master in the world in old man Raymond Eagle.

He was a wonderful person. He brought me back as a clerk, and then I worked as a clerk until 1949, four, five years I guess. Then I got a chance to get a rural route. The rural route man on Route 2 was Charlie McSorley. You may know him.

DR. PATTERSON: I don't.

MR. KENNEL: But, anyway, at that time they were fixing the road that led out from 55 leading out towards Spring Garden... anyway, it was a clay road and it was a mess. He would get stuck. He would get stuck there. One day he had been stuck for four hours. He came in discouraged. He said, "Anybody wants this route can have it!" I had been wanting a route mighty bad. I took him by the arm and we went in to see Mr. Eagle. I said, "Mr. Eagle, this fellow doesn't like his route", and I said, "and I'd love to get it." He said, "Charlie, you don't want it?" He said, "Will you take Lefty's job?" Charlie says, "Yes! Anyway to get away from that there." He said, "Okay."

So two weeks after I got the job, and I carried that rural route for 21 years.

DR. PATTERSON: Then you retired from the post office.

MR. KENNEL: Then I retired in 1970. The month my daughter graduated; I had said for years, the day she graduates from college, I'm quitting. So that was in May of 1970 I retired and I've been eating

off the government for 23 years now.

DR. PATTERSON: You had this house down here, your house, for a long time.

MR. KENNEL: Oh yeah. My dad.

DR. PATTERSON: That was your dad's house originally?

MR. KENNEL: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Was that the first house on Kennel Beach?

MRS. KENNEL: Yes.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, it was the first house.

DR. PATTERSON: I'd like to get back to that in a minute, but let me ask Nora about living in New Bern. You had the three children. You had two daughters and the one son.

MRS. KENNEL: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: You became active in the New Bern scene.

MRS. KENNEL: Yes. First in school, you know in the school supporting our children, you know, at school and through the PTA work; grade mothers and all that kind of stuff. Then I held several offices in the PTA. Never was I a president in the PTA in New Bern, but I held lots of chairmanships. We did have a PTA council in New Bern, and Genevieve was president of that and I was the secretary of it.

DR. PATTERSON: Genevieve Dunn.

MRS. KENNEL: She and I used to get together, you know, to plan out what we should do, who we should write to and so forth. I enjoyed all of those activities. I remember especially one banquet that we had, PTA council banquet. It was held at this Queen Anne Hotel. You

know where it was on Broad Street. That was a beautiful place! Why they ever tore it down I don't know. We had a picture made, and on the picture were a lot of people that have passed on now. Well, of course, Mr. MacDonald is still living and Genevieve is, but many of the others have passed on. But it was a very good picture.

DR. PATTERSON: What was the hotel like?

MRS. KENNEL: Well, it was sort of an elegant place, you know. It was an elegant home to start with, then they had converted it into an eating place.

MR. KENNEL: They had built it deep. They had built like the way these motels are now. There was about, I would say, 35 rooms in the place.

MRS. KENNEL: Well, I didn't know anything about the rooms themselves, but the place we were in, the banquet hall, was nice and it was beautiful on the outside. I loved the columns, you know, on the front.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. I remember it very well.

MRS. KENNEL: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: And so you continued in the school work?

MRS. KENNEL: Yes, I continued in the school work. Then I was asked by the New Bern Board of Aldermen to serve on the school board.

DR. PATTERSON: This is city school board?

MRS. KENNEL: City school board. This was right many years before the merger of the city and the county school systems. Burke Taylor was serving on it.

MR. KENNEL: Weren't you on it six years?

MRS. KENNEL: About six years. The news, you know, and it began to be talked about the integration of the schools. It was kind of a worrisome time. We didn't want to do anything wrong, yet, we didn't want to immediately say yes, we're ready for it. I don't know whether we sort of backed water or not. Perhaps we did a little bit. Mr. James Allen was the assistant superintendent at the time and we were meeting on New Street in the house, oh, what is that known as. It's actually on the school property block.

DR. PATTERSON: The Jones house on the corner of Metcalf?

MR. KENNEL: Corner of New and Metcalf.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. KENNEL: That's where we were meeting. There was a black man on the board, Mr. Faison I think his name was.

DR. PATTERSON: O. T. Faison.

MRS. KENNEL: O.T. Faison. And the manager of Belk's at the time, Harry Wright, was on the board. But we had some pretty hard decisions to make. And I always felt proud of our board because we did make plans to integrate the children in the schools by sending some back and forth, you know, from school to school. Sent some blacks to formerly all white schools and sent some white students to all black schools.

What I felt proud about was that we never operated under a court order.

Now most school systems, you know, they were so hard against it until they rebelled and would not do and then the court had to step in and make them do what the court said. But we didn't do that and I felt

proud of that.

DR. PATTERSON: You were dealing with the New Bern downtown schools and the West Street school.

MRS. KENNEL: Oh yes, and the high school.

DR. PATTERSON: And the high school.

MRS. KENNEL: Uh huh. Riverside school.

DR. PATTERSON: And you did start this mixing of races.

MRS. KENNEL: We started the mixing of the students.

DR. PATTERSON: Did it go well?

MRS. KENNEL: Yes it did, pretty well. Of course there were some occasions out at the high school where some blacks did come and had a lot to say, but we got through that.

DR. PATTERSON: Were you on the school board when Martin Luther King was assassinated?

MRS. KENNEL: What year was that?

MR. KENNEL: '68, '69.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes, it was late sixties.

MRS. KENNEL: Well, I guess I was.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember any particular problems that you had then?

MRS. KENNEL: No, not especially. I can't remember the name of the young man, but there were some who were being pushed, now, what you might say pushed by some strong black leaders who were using some young people to sort of push their ideas and they gave a lot of trouble at the time. I can't remember the names of some of those young people.

(I think the name of the young black man that was being promoted by the older blacks was Ben Chavis. Would you believe it he is now at the head of N.A.A.C.P.? He became a minister and had served some time in jail because he was mixed up in some racial troubles in Wilmington, N.C.)

DR. PATTERSON: The members of the school board, though, worked together very well on this.

MRS. KENNEL: Oh yes. Oh yes. Very well. I imagine, well, maybe Genevieve Dunn remembers.

MR. KENNEL: Was Burke Taylor on it?

MRS. KENNEL: Yeah, Burke was on it. Now, Burke was kind of... but he worked along with us, but he was inclined to say, you know, "To heck with it. We'll just have our schools." But the board did vote.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you stay active in New Bern affairs after getting off the school board?

MRS. KENNEL: Yes I did. I was in on the first organization of the Craven County Mental Health Association. I was the first secretary.

I was a charter member of it in the early sixties. That developed into quite a good organization and did a lot of work. But more recently, it has just fallen by the wayside and I don't really know the reason why.

DR. PATTERSON: Who were some of the people you worked with in that?

MRS. KENNEL: Well, the head of the welfare department at the

time was one of the strong supporters of it. She was not married.

I can't remember her name right now. (Connie Rabin) Ruby Hancock was in on it, Mrs. Durwood Hancock. She became the executive secretary of it and she was really great. Well, most of the leaders from most of the different organizations within the town were members of it.

MR. KENNEL: Weren't you on the state board?

MRS. KENNEL: That was PTA. Well, yes, I've been on the state mental health board and I've been on the state PTA board, just as chairman of different committees.

DR. PATTERSON: Let me ask you about your children. Will you tell me about your children?

MRS. KENNEL: Oh! (laughter) I could go on and on and on. Well, our son Robbie has been a very fine boy in our way of thinking and he's been a very successful student wherever he was. He seems to be very, well, I'll use the word versatile because I think that's what it is. He got a scholarship. Out of high school he got a scholarship to State College at the time. Mr. Barnhardt was one of the persons that helped him receive that, and so was Paul Cox. Paul Cox was a graduate of State and he also helped him. It was the very first scholarship of its kind. It was called "A Talent for Service Scholarship." It was \$1,000 and it was to last for the four years.

Well, of course, we had to add a lot to it, you know, but that was great. He came out of that school with a degree in nuclear physics.

Then he was going with a girl he was in love with and they were going to be married. He got a chance to play baseball, the Knoxville team.

He was bought and he played at Knoxville, but what was the parent company? The Baltimore Orioles bought him.

MR. KENNEL: Baltimore Orioles signed him. That's another story.

MRS. KENNEL: Yeah, that's another story. He spent a year there playing baseball. Then he had to go into the service, the Air Force, and he spent three years in the Air Force. He was located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. From there, when he was out of the service, well, he and that wife divorced, she left him. Then he moved to California and worked with a company called Aerospace Corporation.

He was doing all sorts of things into missiles, anti-missiles, into nuclear testing, underground testing. One night we were in San Bernardino when they lived there and he worked in California, he said, "Want you all to go outside and look up", and we did. It was nighttime.

He says, "You're gonna see my missile pass over." We saw it and we saw it separate!

MR. KENNEL: There was one of them that was heading for Kwajalein at that time.

MRS. KENNEL: It went all the way to Kwajalein Island.

DR. PATTERSON: He was instrumental in that, was he?

MRS. KENNEL: Oh yes! He was in charge of it. He was the project leader. That missile landed in the bay there. It wasn't destroyed. So they proved that it could be reused, something could be reused. Anyway, he's had a lot of experiences. He lived twelve years in California and then moved to Virginia and he's been there about fifteen years. He's in with a company that builds power plants. He's in

alternative energy; either wood, coal, or natural gas. And that's what he's presently doing.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, Robbie was just totally outstanding in school here in New Bern.

MRS. KENNEL: He did real well.

DR. PATTERSON: Was he offered a Rhodes Scholarship?

MRS. KENNEL: He was.

MR. KENNEL: He was a finalist on a Rhodes Scholarship, but when he told them that he was planning to get married, that spring, why, they passed him over. But he did get a scholarship with...

MRS. KENNEL: Rotary.

MR. KENNEL: He had a Rotary Scholarship. He and his wife, they went to Australia for a year on a scholarship at the University of Melbourne. Now, this was his first wife, Jean Hargett. You remember Frank Hargett?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. KENNEL: It's his daughter.

MR. KENNEL: Well, Jean is his daughter and she and Robbie were married back there when they graduated from college. They lived together three, four, somewhere like that, and...

MRS. KENNEL: '58-62.

MR. KENNEL: They parted, and of course then he married a girl from New Mexico and they've been married now 26, 27 years.

DR. PATTERSON: I have tried to remember the association I had with Robbie. I did know Robbie, and somehow we worked together in

some way in those days. But I remember your boy as a very outstanding, fine person.

MR. KENNEL: Well, he's very much interested now. He's tied up now in the State University Alumni Association. I think last year he was the president of the Alumni Association.

DR. PATTERSON: I think I saw that.

MRS. KENNEL: Well, there's another thing that he's presently in. He got the idea, and I think the idea did originate with him, to have a group of what he called the governors from each of the greater university schools to have an organization where they met and talked the problems over of, I mean, of all the schools.

DR. PATTERSON: Is that the North Carolina schools?

MRS. KENNEL: Yeah, uh huh, within the state. He's the president of that group right now.

DR. PATTERSON: So his distinguished career continues right on.

MRS. KENNEL: Well, he seems to have a knack for getting himself involved.

MR. KENNEL: His present job is the vice-president of the power section of the Louisville Gas and Electric Power Company. They're building plants. Right up in Weldon they're building a three hundred million dollar plant right now.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, you have had two daughters, and I know there was a tragic accident involving one of them.

MRS. KENNEL: Yes, Charlotte.

DR. PATTERSON: It was a plane crash.

MRS. KENNEL: Yes it was. In New York in 1962. Yeah, Charlotte was a real loving girl. She went to Watts Hospital first off to study to be a nurse in Durham. You're familiar with that place. Then first summer, actually before she went up there she was already in love with this young man who was a young minister from Raleigh, out of Hillyer Church, Hillyer Christian Church in Raleigh, by the name of David Blackwood, but she went on to school anyway in Durham. They kept the mails hot, you know, love letters. Then they decided to get married and let her transfer to a school down in Texas at Texas Christian.

MR. KENNEL: Brite School.

MRS. KENNEL: Brite School, is the seminary part of Texas Christian. She wanted to go to the nurses school there. They would not accept married students, so then, she did go to school herself at Texas Christian and she was studying to be a speech therapist. David and Charlotte, when they finished down there, they moved back to North Carolina at Charlotte to a christian church there by the name of Eastway Christian church. That was his first real church.

MR. KENNEL: They organized it.

MRS. KENNEL: Yeah, they were in on the organization of it. It was an outgrowth of First Christian Church. They were on this trip to New York City. David had been invited to go to the United Nations to some kind of symposium for ministers. The accident happened at Idlewild it was called at that time. The plane crashed and about half of the people on board were killed and burned, and they were among

them.

MR. KENNEL: And our third daughter, Jennie, she graduated from UNCG Greensboro and she taught for nineteen years at Sanderson High School in Raleigh. She was gymnastic coach. The Sanderson school won the state championship seven or eight times while she was there.

Then, of course, after nineteen years she wanted to come back down this way and it worked out so that she's now teaching over at Arapahoe in the school; 7th and 8th grades, Math and Science.

MRS. KENNEL: At Sanderson they required her to deal with more than 200 students a day in physical education and that just got really to her.

DR. PATTERSON: You have a right to be very proud of these children.

MR. KENNEL: Oh, we are.

DR. PATTERSON: Nora, let me take you back to your early days in New Bern. The Cohen-Goldman Plant that you worked in is a place that not very many people know about.

MRS. KENNEL: No.

DR. PATTERSON: Would you tell me what it was like?

MRS. KENNEL: I was up on the second floor.

DR. PATTERSON: This is the big building right across from the terminal.

MRS. KENNEL: Yes, the big building and it was filled with machines, you know, like sewing machines of all different kind. Some were what they call tacking machines, some were regular sewing machines, and then over to the side there were the pressers. Ed Nelson

was a presser and Graham Wayne, a fellow from down in Pamlico County, was a presser and a Hartley fellow was a presser. The people were given bundles of the materials. The pants had already been cut and the side seamers had done their work and then it was up to each different operation to further work on the pants, you know, complete them. My job was bar tacking, this was before the time of zippers, on the fly of the pants. You know this little fine heavy stitching in between the button holes on the fly, that was my job, and at the corners of the pockets and on the back pockets. We were always working on the kind of material that was out of season. For instance, the heavy woolens we were working on in the summer and the lighter weight, the linens and cottons and so forth, were in the winter. It was a regular den of noise in there with all the machines starting and stopping, you know. I mean, you had to really put your mind to what you were doing, not to even injure yourself. In my case, if my needles broke and I had my finger in the way, I could cut the end of my finger off, but I never had that happen. I don't know how many people, there were a lot of people working there.

MR. KENNEL: About 150?

MRS. KENNEL: Yeah. At least a hundred. I'm sure there must have been a hundred.

DR. PATTERSON: They were not all women.

MRS. KENNEL: No, not all women. All the ones on machines were women. Now, some of the cutters may have been men, I'm not sure.

MR. KENNEL: Of course the pressers.

MRS. KENNEL: The pressers were all men. I mean, it took some weight on the thing that they stepped on to bring the thing down with the steam.

DR. PATTERSON: Was that on the first floor?

MRS. KENNEL: No, that was on the second floor. One of the overseers, the main one, was Mr. Ed Posta. Have you ever heard of him?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. KENNEL: Well, he swaggered up and down the isles, you know. He was the big dog and everybody was scared of him. (You all are gonna have backaches when you leave here.)

DR. PATTERSON: No, we're fine.

MRS. KENNEL: He swaggered up and down and everyone was afraid of him. He was so exact and everything had to be done exactly right, which it should have been. There was no one loitering around there, I'll tell you. Everybody was working! Some people have referred to it as almost like a sweat shop, you know.

MR. KENNEL: Well, it was.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, what sort of things were you making?

MRS. KENNEL: Just trousers.

DR. PATTERSON: Just trousers?

MRS. KENNEL: Only trousers.

DR. PATTERSON: In the whole plant?

MRS. KENNEL: Yes. Men's trousers.

DR. PATTERSON: What was on the first floor?

MRS. KENNEL: I can't remember. There may have been machines on the first floor, but I did work on the second. We went in, we went up some stairs almost right at the front entrance. Are you familiar with the old building?

DR. PATTERSON: Where Johnny Ray Kinsey had his exercise place.

MRS. KENNEL: Yeah. They had pine floors, and when Mr. Posta would come walking down that aisle, the very dry wood would kind of crack, you know..."Here he comes." (laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: What were your working hours?

MRS. KENNEL: Early in the morning, I guess about seven-thirty or eight o'clock to begin and maybe two, two-thirty.

DR. PATTERSON: Nora, we were talking about the Cohen-Goldman Pant Shop.

MRS. KENNEL: Well, my sister and I, we lived with our married sister on George Street and we had to walk to work. That corner of Queen Street and George Street, there's a big opening in there. That is the coldest corner in the world. That one and the one downtown, Pollock and Middle Street. Now that's a cold corner too! But walking early in the morning in the winter time, now that was cold! About 17 degrees I remember one morning when we were walking to work, and I tell you, that was something!

DR. PATTERSON: Now, was there another shift that came on when you left?

MRS. KENNEL: No, it was the same shift.

DR. PATTERSON: Where were these pants merchandised?

MRS. KENNEL: Well, we had no way of knowing that. I guess they were shipped to the north somewhere probably depending on where they were needed, I mean the kind of material they were.

DR. PATTERSON: Were Mr. Cohen and Mr. Goldman alive then? Did they run the place?

MRS. KENNEL: Yes, they were. My brother-in-law, Albert Ensley, was helpful in getting a job for me. Now my sister already worked there, but he spoke to, I don't know whether it was Cohen or Goldman.

I don't know which one it was that he spoke to. But they weren't hiring very many people and everybody needed a job. It was hard times and I was lucky to get a job.

DR. PATTERSON: I don't know who Mr. Cohen was or who Mr. Goldman was. Is he any kin to Raymond Goldman.

MRS. KENNEL: I think he may have been in the same family.

MR. KENNEL: Maybe. I don't know. I never heard a connection though.

MRS. KENNEL: Mrs. Goldman, young Mrs. Goldman is living, Raymond's wife. Sometime, you know, she might tell you.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. I could ask her. How long did that business stay in operation?

MRS. KENNEL: Well, it had been there a number of years before I ever went, and I think it kept in operation some years after I quit.

I quit because we were going to have Robbie. It was a real steadying factor around in New Bern, you know. Employment for that number of women was really helpful.

DR. PATTERSON: What years were you there?

MRS. KENNEL: In '32 and '33 and '34.

DR. PATTERSON: Someone mentioned to me the other day that there was a retail outlet in that store, a discount outlet where people could go and buy things. Do you remember that?

MRS. KENNEL: I never knew of that. Maybe that came afterwards. You mean of the merchandise that was manufactured there?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. KENNEL: I had never heard of that.

MRS. KENNEL: I never have heard that.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, Lefty, let me ask you about Kennel's Beach a little bit more. Your father owned this property and that's where the name comes from, because this was your dad's land.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: And he built the first house here.

MR. KENNEL: No. When he bought the land it had a house on it. It has the original old house where you were this morning. Of course we have added to that, you know, made it larger. See, when my dad and mother came down here they had sold their business in Brooklyn and they thought they were pretty well established, that they would enjoy themselves. But the monies that they were planning to use for their retirement was in this company called Pathe' Phonograph Company. In '29, '28, that went broke and the company went bankrupt and the stocks that they had were no good. So here they were down here living and no money. Well, I had a little job up there. Wasn't making but

\$35 a week and I would send them three, four dollars a week to help buy some cow feed and stuff that they had. He had a cow and pigs.

He had three juniper skiffs that he would rent out to people who would come down fishing, fifty cents a day. I have known that he would rent them out, they'd come back in some time and he'd go meet them, say, "What you catch?", said, "Mr. Kennel, we didn't catch a thing", "You didn't catch anything?!", he'd give them their fifty cents back. He had done that a many a time. But after awhile, my mother died in '39.

The cow had gotten loose and they were trying to coral the cow and she was running to head the cow off and stumbled and fell on a cyprus root and hit her stomach with cyprus root. From that an infection formed. Dr. Wadsworth was our doctor at that time. She went to Duke and stayed up there nine months where they were trying to get this infection out of her bloodstream and they had grafted skin on her stomach. But anyway, mother died, and after that Pop was down here by himself. Along about that time there would be people going down to go fishing and somebody would say to him, say, "Mr. Kennel, we'd love to stay down here some. How 'bout renting me something?" So Pop say, well, we'll rent 'em a lot. The lots were 40, 50 foot wide.

He would rent them. He gave them a lease for \$12 a year and let them write their own time limit on it. Some of them would write 15, some of them would write 20 years. In fact, one fellow wrote and had a 99 year lease at \$12 a year. Well, anyway, Pop had about, I reckon he had maybe fifty of these small lots laid out, rented, and people would come down and have a good time. They were not folks with a lot

of money, but they were good folks.

DR. PATTERSON: Would they build on the lots?

MR. KENNEL: They would put up a shack of some kind. So that's how come we got so many small lots here. After Pop died, why, I could see that the \$12 a year wasn't right, and most of those folks also realized that and they would like to own. So we would come to a compromise. I couldn't get really what the lot was worth, but being able to sell lots kept us from having our nose to the wheel. One of the nice features was, after I retired, why, we had a preacher friend from Kinston who would take groups overseas on trips, and he'd send us a brochure and we'd look at it and say, "HMMMMMM! Switzerland! HMMMMMM!", and so I'd go sell a lot and we'd take that money and we'd go on our trip. So we've had some nice trips. We've been in about 19 or 20 different countries and we've got that to look back on and enjoy.

DR. PATTERSON: That's wonderful. Now, have you sold all of the lots off now?

MR. KENNEL: No. Still have fifty acres. But what we're doing is we're deeding that to Robbie and my daughter. Robbie is mostly doing that road that you saw. That's a new road he just had built back there. There's another road he's gonna build on the other side. That's gonna be some one acre lots and he and she will sell those.

DR. PATTERSON: How many people are living here now?

MR. KENNEL: There's 140 houses out here, such as they are. Of course, when they were renting, anything would go. But we found out

after they bought it, why, they improved their places. It's no big shot place. Most of the people are from Johnson County, Selma, Pine Level. There's some from Raleigh.

DR. PATTERSON: Is all of the waterfront property gone?

MR. KENNEL: Yes, all the waterfront property is gone and I'm glad of it. I've been through too many hurricanes.

DR. PATTERSON: The hurricanes are pretty bad down here?

MRS. KENNEL: Oh yes. Terrible.

MR. KENNEL: Oh yes. The old house, the '55 hurricane water was eighteen inches in the house.

DR. PATTERSON: And the winds are pretty bad.

MRS. KENNEL: The winds are real strong. That old house, the original house was built by the same person that built the house that the Millns are now living in and it's about that old. Cason Brinson was the name of the man that built this house down here. The boards are about this wide and a lot of them were hand hewn and they were put together underneath with wooden pegs.

MR. KENNEL: The main part of the house was built in 1870's.

MRS. KENNEL: Or before, we don't really know. But it was by the same person.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you all live there much of the time?

MRS. KENNEL: The warm months of the year.

MR. KENNEL: We'll be staying there most of the time always now because we're just putting in a heating and air conditioning system in there.

MRS. KENNEL: That house will be Robbie's. The house we had in New Bern was Jennie's. But she said she didn't want to live in New Bern, and so we got the idea we would sell it and let her use the money on her mortgage here.

MR. KENNEL: All of this was jungle out here. About four years ago I had bulldozers come in and clear it out. (We're speaking of Jennie's lot). We have about five acres down here.

DR. PATTERSON: Fred, you have been listening to all of this. Do you have anything you'd like to ask about, any remarks?

FRED LATHAM: Yes, I'd like to ask about my wife's father, John Jarvis Day, Captain John Jarvis Day, and I see a big smile. He was from Oriental and originally from Cedar Island. He had business in New Bern early on and then he was at sea and had all these ships and everything. He was in commerce, hauling everything from lumber to I believe Phil said something like maybe a little bit of illicit alcohol from down South. I'd like to hear some of the tales that he might have told you.

MR. KENNEL: Well, actually, some of the tales he told, you can't tell in company. (laughter)

FRED LATHAM: You can edit those.

MR. KENNEL: Well, there was a little shack up there next to where our house was and Captain John Day and two other fellows from Oriental would come in this time of the year and also a little later when shad fishing and they would fish. They would stay here two months at a time, and at night, why, they would sit around a tin heater and talk

and tell stories. He told a lot of stories about some of his trips and things that he had done. To this day I can remember him making, he just would take plain old flour and he would add water and salt to it and he would fry it into a cake about half inch thick and it was good, I'm telling you right now. We were sitting around there and he would give us a piece of cake, flapjack, or whatever they called it, and it was good. And with a piece of fried fish to go along with it, why, it was good eating!

MRS. KENNEL: But this place being known at that time as the Bay, Carraway Bay is what it was known as, and there was a point that went right out here, and right far and up river there is still a point that goes out, but it also has worn down, and this one's gone.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, this is gone.

MRS. KENNEL: And in times of storm the boats would put in here. It was a gradual beach. It is a wonderful beach for haul netting. Very great for haul netting. It's a smooth beach. I mean it's a smooth bottom and the fishermen always enjoyed pulling their nets in here, and they still do. What's that fellow, Billy Truitt, from Oriental that comes in here. But now he doesn't pull up the nets like he used to.

MR. KENNEL: He's a mullet fisherman down at Oriental.

FRED LATHAM: Billy and Lucille.

MRS. KENNEL: Lucille.

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, yeah. He comes up here right often and sometimes he comes in with his boat right to the gunnel full of mullets. He'd

talk about, well, he says, "Got a good price today! Good price today."

In fact, the way he talked, with his roe mullets he was getting fifty, sixty cents a pound for them. And the other days I would call, he said, "Let me know when these mullets are jumping." I would call him up and tell him, "Mulletts are jumping in this area" and he'd come up to get them. And I'd call him, he'd say, "No need of me going up there. Not only a nickel a pound. They're not worth catching."

DR. PATTERSON: When I was a boy growing up on East Front Street, this would be the late twenties, the river was full of mullet right at the rivershore there.

MRS. KENNEL: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Big schools of mullet. You don't see them anymore. How would you describe the location of Kennel's Beach in relation to New Bern and Oriental and Minnesott.

MR. KENNEL: Well, we're ten miles as the crow flies from New Bern. We are directly across, 4.8 miles across the river here is Flanner's Beach. About a mile further down, mile and a half further down, Slocum's Creek, and Cherry Point starts from this direction.

We are two miles from the mouth of Beard's Creek and two miles below the mouth of Broad and Goose Creek. They come together.

MRS. KENNEL: Fairfield Harbor.

MR. KENNEL: Broad Creek then branches off to a little creek called Norwest Creek and that's where the Fairfield Harbor complex is.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you go to New Bern by boat ever?

MR. KENNEL: A lot of the folks do who have boats down here.

I, personally, I don't believe I've ever been by boat to New Bern. Now, Nora, she would go when she was a kid from Upper Beard's Creek. That was the only way to get to New Bern. They didn't have any good roads.

MRS. KENNEL: That was the way that I went the very first time to New Bern, was by boat, when I was 7 or 8 years of age.

DR. PATTERSON: Where would you put up in New Bern?

MRS. KENNEL: We didn't stay over night.

DR. PATTERSON: No, where would you dock.

MRS. KENNEL: At the foot of Middle Street.

DR. PATTERSON: There were a lot of wharves there?

MRS. KENNEL: Oh yes, there were. That was the way people down here got their supplies. They would go maybe once or twice a year and buy supplies and clothing. I guess I was about seven or eight years of age the first time I ever went to New Bern. It was a wonderment to see the stores. It was at Christmas time.

MR. KENNEL: What's the name of your boat?

MRS. KENNEL: "The Margaret" was the tug boat that I went on and it would go out the mouth of Beard's Creek and then up river. It was an all day thing. The stores at that time, you remember how they used to string the streamers out from one way far corner over to the far corner that way and in the very middle they'd have this great big bell, you know, paper bell that would hang down. Never had seen anything like that! That was wonderful!

DR. PATTERSON: New Bern was a very big city to you then.

MRS. KENNEL: Yes! And we were afraid to get off Middle Street for fear we would get lost. Yes sir, we were!

MR. KENNEL: This tug boat, it was used mostly to haul log rafts. You remember the old time log rafts. That's the way they used to get the stuff to the mills.

DR. PATTERSON: Where would they take them, Lefty? Up the Neuse River to which of the lumber yards?

MR. KENNEL: Up there where Arant is now. It wasn't Arant then.

DR. PATTERSON: Was that Roper's?

MR. KENNEL: There was a Roper's somewhere. Yeah, Roper's, that's what it was.

MRS. KENNEL: That's the name we would hear.

MR. KENNEL: And Rowland.

MRS. KENNEL: Rowland was further out in Riverside.

MR. LATHAM: They burned and then it was taken over by Rowland in 1922.

DR. PATTERSON: Was there a lumber yard at the end of Queen Street?

MR. KENNEL: Yeah. You asked me that question a while ago. There was a lumber yard there that ran from Queen Street to the river. Then on the other side of Queen Street right next to Bordeleaux's house, remember the music professor in that first house?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. Bordeleaux.

MR. KENNEL: Well, between Bordeleaux's and Craven Street there was an office for that lumber company.

DR. PATTERSON: Now tell me where Mr. Bordeleaux's house was.

MR. KENNEL: It's the first house up Queen Street from Craven on the south side of the street on the corner.

MRS. KENNEL: That was always a judge's house or something wasn't it?

MR. KENNEL: That was that brick house that burned; the Dill house. This is on Queen Street. This was a wooden house.

DR. PATTERSON: A wooden house on Queen Street right adjacent to Craven Street. Is that right?

MR. KENNEL: There was this lumber yard office, and then right next to it was this wooden house where the music teacher lived.

FRED LATHAM: Was it on the corner?

MR. KENNEL: No, it wouldn't be around the corner. There was this lumber yard office on the corner and then this was next to it.

MRS. KENNEL: Well, there's an old home there that's been an established home that's on the corner, isn't it, that was a Judge Somebody.

MR. KENNEL: Are you talking about Queen Street?

MRS. KENNEL: Queen. Oh well, maybe I wouldn't know. Something I did want to say about my activities maybe in New Bern, I became involved in the Woman's Club and that has been a real influence in my life. I just am here to say that I think the Woman's Club in a town does a great deal of good. Women do get out and do things that maybe no one knows about.

DR. PATTERSON: Why don't you tell us something about that, Nora. What activities were you all involved in and what did you all do?

MRS. KENNEL: Well, gosh, I can tell you about the Mental Health Association too. But the Woman's Club, we're involved in projects that help the town that we live in; beautification and under privileged people, the women's shelter for abused women and children. Some of the divisions furnish scholarships for community colleges. Quite a few of those. My particular one, the citizenship division, was involved in most of those projects as well as we had our own individual one which was being involved in the naturalization aspect of things. We were required to, we were asked not required, asked to provide a person to give a welcome to the new citizens and to provide the music for the occasion. We've done that through the years, and those ceremonies have really been meaningful.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. KENNEL: We involve people from the community college as well. There's Philip Evancho, I know you've heard of him and heard him sing, has been to sing for us a lot. And we involve the public schools as well bringing their Glee Clubs out to sing, giving them the experience and to observe how a ceremony is and how it is conducted.

We even had a class from the Plymouth High School to come. They wrote and asked if they could come and sing for us. I think they came twice. So it's really educational as well.

DR. PATTERSON: Have you been involved in this since the early days of the Woman's Club in New Bern?

MRS. KENNEL: No, I haven't.

MR. KENNEL: Well, just about. Anything that the Citizenship

Division of the New Bern Woman's Club did, you were into it.

MRS. KENNEL: No, listen, the Woman's Club in New Bern is very old. It's more like almost a hundred years old. I came into the Woman's Club in 1969. I don't know, somebody may have just liked what I was trying to do, you know, with myself and out and around, and I was named as Woman of the Year that year. I wasn't a member of the Woman's Club, and I thought, well, my goodness, if they thought enough of me and what I had been trying to do to name me like that, I will join and I will work along with them to help them whatever they're doing. So I've been a member since '69.

DR. PATTERSON: And you're still active in it.

MRS. KENNEL: I'm still active.

DR. PATTERSON: That's where you and I met.

MRS. KENNEL: That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it a citizenship group?

MRS. KENNEL: Yes, citizenship group. Yeah.

MR. KENNEL: Of course I'm on the outside looking in on that, but isn't the majority members of the Woman's Club now mostly folks who have come in and retired?

MRS. KENNEL: Well, a great many of the members nowadays are people who are not native of even North Carolina. Most of them are from other states, but they're fine people. They don't understand all of the little quirks of what people around here might think and how people might do, but they're willing to learn. But they like to do on their own too, and sometimes they do honestly try to change people that are

here and some of us have fussed about that.

MR. KENNEL: Well, you see, they're all stinking Republicans.

MRS. KENNEL: No, they're not all.

MR. KENNEL: Just about. (laughter)

MRS. KENNEL: No they're not. They're not all, but some are.

DR. PATTERSON: Fred, I really sort of cut you off a little bit.

Do you have other things you want to talk about?

MR. KENNEL: But I remember your daddy very well and he was a fine person, fine person.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you know a lot of the doctors in New Bern, Lefty?

MR. KENNEL: We got mostly new ones, it seems like. My own doctor is Dr. Baggett. I figure he's the one that kept me alive for the past twenty years, and now he's gone, he's quit.

DR. PATTERSON: But way back there, you remember Dr. Latham, do you remember that group of doctors?

MR. KENNEL: Dr. Ashford.

MRS. KENNEL: Dr. Ashford was our doctor.

MR. KENNEL: Dr. Ashford he brought two of our children in, and he did some operating on me.

MRS. KENNEL: And me too.

MR. KENNEL: Dr. Wadsworth, Dr. Kafer.

FRED LATHAM: Dr. Barker.

MRS. KENNEL: Yes.

MR. KENNEL: Who?

MRS. KENNEL: Dr. Barker.

MR. KENNEL: Oh yeah, Dr. Barker. I knew his brother, the General or Colonel or whatever you call him. I knew him better.

FRED LATHAM: The Admiral.

MRS. KENNEL: Their father was Dr. Barker and then there's Dr. Barker the dentist now. But he's retired.

MR. KENNEL: We're not talking about Chris. The one who traveled around with Burke Taylor all the time.

MRS. KENNEL: Chris.

DR. PATTERSON: Chris.

MR. KENNEL: Was he an Admiral? Admiral, that's it. Admiral.

MRS. KENNEL: Funny thing about Dr. Ashford, when Robbie was going to be born we didn't have the money and we went to the bank and borrowed from the Morris Plan Bank.

MR. KENNEL: Remember the Morris Plan Bank?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. KENNEL: We borrowed fifty dollars.

MRS. KENNEL: We borrowed fifty dollars, but we didn't get but forty-six. They took the interest out to begin with.

MR. KENNEL: They take the interest before they give it to you.

MRS. KENNEL: Forty-six dollars and thirty-five of that went to Dr. Ashford for the delivery. Now that's how hard times were.

MR. KENNEL: Times were tough.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, I think this has been a fine interview. Are there other things that you all would like to speak to before

we close this out?

MRS. KENNEL: Well, one thing I did want to say, that Mental Health Association for many years did a great deal of good. We collected clothing. Phil helped me with that. We had a clothing closet out in front of Montgomery Wards and we would go and collect the clothing that people brought there and we would take it to the old Good Shepherd Hospital where they let us use a room there and sort it and take it to the Caswell Center and to Cherry Hospital. We did that for years.

Phil helped me do that. We had a whole trailer load full every time we went. And besides that, we would bring patients down from those places, more so from Cherry than from Caswell, and provide a meal, a sit-down meal for them in New Bern at some restaurant or other and have a program. We'd have music. At Christmas we would have little gifts for them, and, you know, just some things that would change the pattern of their lives a little bit.

DR. PATTERSON: You'd take them back then?

MRS. KENNEL: Oh yeah. Well, they would come on a bus and they would go back on the bus.

DR. PATTERSON: Oh, I see.

MRS. KENNEL: But we did that for quite a number of years.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, we thank you for letting us come down here and do this.

MR. KENNEL: We've enjoyed it. We've enjoyed you folks.

DR. PATTERSON: It's been a fun interview and a good interview, and the Memories Program thanks you very much for this.

MRS. KENNEL: Well, that remains to be seen when you get back and listen to it.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, I'm gonna cut this off now. I'm turning this back on because Mrs. Kennel has shown me that she has been very active in Eastern Star in New Bern and she's gonna tell us about Eastern Star.

MRS. KENNEL: Well, I became a member in the early forties. Fact is, I think pretty soon I may be getting a notice of my fifty year membership in that. I started out accepting some offices and worked through the chairs, what they call the chairs, until finally in the year '50-'51 I was the worthy matron of the chapter. At that time we were about 375 members strong. Part of the reason for how strong we were was because during wartime it seemed that Masonry really grew in New Bern because of all of the people located at the bases nearby, and maybe our fees for joining were not as great as they would be in some places. And besides, they had maybe nothing much to do and they wanted to do something, so they became members of the Masonic Order and the Eastern Star, and that is a real wonderful work. In conjunction with the Masons, they support Oxford orphanage and an old people's home in Greensboro where close to two hundred old people live there.

That is supported by contributions from the members. They have the ceremonials of course and everybody usually is familiar with that.

That's the Shriner's. But the Masonic lodges do a lot of good work as well in, I don't know whether relief work or not, but anyway, for the old and the real young. It's ritualistic work. There's a lot

of memory work to be done in that, but it is beautiful work. And when one does take part and learns their part that they're supposed to do within the meeting, they enjoy it. They go to meetings. They visit each other's chapters and they also go to the state meetings which usually are in Raleigh at the Memorial Auditorium.

DR. PATTERSON: Who are some of the folks you've worked with in this area, Nora?

MRS. KENNEL: Well, Mrs. Orringer. Remember Ann Orringer?

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh.

MRS. KENNEL: The mother, Orringer. And John Boyd's wife and Jimmy Boyd's wife and Guy Mathis' wife, Nannie Mathis, and lots of others. And the Sutton's. You remember the two Sutton girls? One was Frances Weiss. One, Eleanor Lee, is married to a Heath at this time. All of those I named were active members. We met in that St. John's Lodge room first off. Have you ever been in there?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. KENNEL: Isn't that beautiful?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. KENNEL: That's where we met first until we got over into the new part. I think I was the first matron into the new part. And Bob Pugh used to come in. He was a member as well and he would speak to us from time to time. His wife was a member as well, Lottie. And the Sutton's. Both the mother and father Sutton were in it as well. Well, maybe that's enough to say.

MR. KENNEL: You're living out in Riverside. You remember Albert

Parker, your mailman?

FRED LATHAM: I certainly do.

MR. KENNEL: Well, one of the funny tales they tell about Albert Parker, you know how he was slow, we called him Pokey Parker because he's slow. He's methodical about his mail, but he delivered it. Well, there was Mrs. Sutton, she lived up there on National Avenue somewhere.

Albert used to go deliver her mail, and she had a dog. Every time Albert would go in there that old dog would run him out. 'Ole Albert complained to the post master and Mr. Eagle finally sent her a letter, "We can't deliver your mail here anymore until you get your dog settled right." Anyway, she called back to Mr. Eagle, and, "Everything's all right, Mr. Eagle. Send Albert out." So Albert comes out with the mail and comes in and walks in the gate with it and the old dog comes out there...ooooo!!! When the dog comes at you, what you do is give him your leather sack to chew on to keep him off you. Albert's down there holding the dog off, you know, and Mrs. Sutton leans out the window and says, "Mr. Parker! Mr. Parker! That dog won't bite you, I've had him altered!" He says, "Mam, I never was worried about that dog raping me! Biting me is what had me worried!" (laughter) He was some man.

FRED LATHAM: And he was also big in radio.

MR. KENNEL: Yesssss!!

FRED LATHAM: He built an amateur radio. He built one of the first.

MR. KENNEL: One of the first around New Bern, yeah.

FRED LATHAM: He built his own radios.

MRS. KENNEL: He lived upstairs over what was the Whitty Store at one time in an apartment up there. I had visited his daughter Audrey up there.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, where was that, Nora?

MRS. KENNEL: Downtown on the corner of Craven and South Front Streets. It was a big old red brick building. I mean it was big! And upstairs is where they lived.

MR. KENNEL: Whitty's was downstairs.

MRS. KENNEL: And Whitty's was downstairs. 'Cause we used to play cards up there with them in a bunch.

MR. KENNEL: A little further down the street, the Mitchell house, on the other side of the street, and there was twenty steps to the top of that house.

FRED LATHAM: That was even taller than the ones at my house.

MR. KENNEL: And I used to have to walk that twice a day, to get up those twenty steps to put the mail in that mailbox. I used to say, "Goodness!"

DR. PATTERSON: Now the Meadows' house next door was just about as bad, wasn't it?

MR. KENNEL: Yeah, just about.

DR. PATTERSON: Just as many steps. Well, we better let you folks go, and I'm gonna cut this off now again.

MR. KENNEL: Well, we appreciate you coming and we enjoyed it.

DR. PATTERSON: We're the ones who appreciate it.

END OF INTERVIEW