

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

ELIZABETH NICHOLLS NUNN DUFFY

INTERVIEW 1038

This is Dr. Joseph Patterson representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 1000. I am interviewing Elizabeth Nunn Duffy at her home at 810-A Madam Moore's Lane in New Bern. The number of the interview is 1038. The date is February 2, 1993.

JOSEPH PATTERSON: And now Lib, the tape is on and I just want to tell you that I am very happy to be here talking to you in this beautiful home of your's on the Trent River and it's nice to see you again anyhow. So let me start by asking you Lib for your full name.

ELIZABETH DUFFY: Elizabeth - do you want my middle name?

DR. PATTERSON: Un-huh.

MRS. DUFFY: Nicholls Nunn Duffy. Is that what you want?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. Is that N-I-C-H-O-L-S?

MRS. DUFFY: Two L's.

DR. PATTERSON: Okay. And where were you born Lib?

MRS. DUFFY: In New Bern, North Carolina, on March 14, 1911.

DR. PATTERSON: At home?

MRS. DUFFY: At home at Number 6 New Street it was then.

DR. PATTERSON: You lived there from the time of your birth until growing up then? Ya'll never did move.

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, yeah, that's right.

DR. PATTERSON: We lived right next door to you for many of those years.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. Bill Wadsworth and his brother, James, and his mother and father lived there for awhile a long time ago.

DR. PATTERSON: Before you all.

MRS. DUFFY: No, before you all lived in your house.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes, in our house. Who was your doctor? Who

delivered you, do you know?

MRS. DUFFY: Dr. Jones, Robert Jones.

DR. PATTERSON: Dr. R.D.V. Jones your neighbor around the corner.

MRS. DUFFY: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: And my father's partner.

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: And your parents, their names?

MRS. DUFFY: Elizabeth Nicholls Nunn and Romulus Armistead Nunn.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib, was your mother from Louisiana?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did she come from down there?

MRS. DUFFY: She came from New Orleans.

DR. PATTERSON: Her father was governor of Louisiana, is that correct?

MRS. DUFFY: He was governor of Louisiana twice and he was chief justice of the Supreme Court.

DR. PATTERSON: In Louisiana?

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh. There's a lot about him that's not relevant to this.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. How did your mother and father meet with your mother way down there?

MRS. DUFFY: They met at Morehead City at the Atlantic Hotel.

DR. PATTERSON: Your mother was up here visiting?

MRS. DUFFY: Her father brought her and her sister to the Atlantic Hotel. I think it was a custom in those days to take unmarried daughters around, you know. They went to Roan Mountain and they went all around

and the Atlantic Hotel was one of the resort places so they were up there. And Daddy was a lawyer in New Bern and he went down to a dance or two and that's how they met. They were engaged for about three years while he built the house.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib, now where did your father come from?

MRS. DUFFY: He was, I think, born in Jones County. His father was a newspaper editor.

DR. PATTERSON: They moved to New Bern?

MRS. DUFFY: I know very little about that. Yeah, Grandma Nunn lived on the corner of Pollock and East Front. Well, you remember where Aunt Faith lived?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes, yes. That's Mary Nunn's parents.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. That long white house that's no longer there. Aunt Etta lived there with her mother as long as her mother lived and then she went to Mexico as a missionary, Etta.

DR. PATTERSON: Your father, of course, became a lawyer and then a judge.

MRS. DUFFY: He went to Davidson and then he went to Carolina. He studied law under Mr. Ward here in New Bern. What did they call it, read law? Didn't they call it that?

DR. PATTERSON: I'm not sure.

MRS. DUFFY: But anyway, yeah, that's the term. He, Mr. A.D. Ward - I don't think he got his degree in law from the university. Or maybe he went back and got it, I don't know.

DR. PATTERSON: I think that's the same way my grandfather began his practice in law. Your father went on then into a distinguished

career. He became a judge in New Bern. Was that a superior court judge?

MRS. DUFFY: Yes. Then he was defeated by eighty-two votes I think it was and then had to go back to practicing law again right during the Depression. He had to start all over.

DR. PATTERSON: Your father is remembered in New Bern by many people as a real historian. Everybody wishes they knew more of the things that he knew about.

MRS. DUFFY: I have an article that Joe McDaniel wrote about daddy. I was going to look for it for you last night but it's in a box in there that I couldn't get to very well.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, maybe you'll run across it.

MRS. DUFFY: I'll get it for you.

DR. PATTERSON: All right.

MRS. DUFFY: It was after daddy died. He just wrote sort of a little memorial.

DR. PATTERSON: I'd like to read that. Now you mentioned a little bit ago that your dad built this house on New Street.

MRS. DUFFY: Well, I don't mean he literally built it himself.

DR. PATTERSON: He had it built.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. Mr. Bishop's house was there then but there wasn't anything where your family's house was. I saw a picture of our house being built. Daddy had it up in the attic somewhere and I don't know what became of it but it was in the process of being built.

DR. PATTERSON: Just to identify this for people who don't know. We're talking about New Street standing on East Front Street looking

west and the Bishop house is on the corner and then the house we lived in was next to that.

MRS. DUFFY: You're looking east.

DR. PATTERSON: We're looking west up New Street.

MRS. DUFFY: No, I'm looking from my house down toward the river.

DR. PATTERSON: Okay.

MRS. DUFFY: And Mr. Bishop's house was down there on the corner.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. And right behind his house was our house.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah, after awhile but when this picture was taken it wasn't anything there.

DR. PATTERSON: And then the house that you all lived in that your father had built.

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh. That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: And you grew up there and you had the one sister.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah but actually Mother had two children to die before I was born.

DR. PATTERSON: Born in New Bern?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: And then your living sister was Eleanor?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. She was five years later.

DR. PATTERSON: You grew up then in a neighborhood right along New Street and East Front Street and in that area. What do you remember about those childhood days?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, I remember all the children.

DR. PATTERSON: Who were they?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, there was Elizabeth Bryan the daughter of Henry

and Willie Bryan who lived around on East Front Street next to Senator Simmons. I remember Bay and Annie Ste Dunn who lived around on East Front Street to the left. I remember Meta Moore who lived in the big house on East Front and Short Street. And I remember Janet Hollister who lived in the next house. And I remember the Jacksons who lived on Change Street, Helen and Louise Jackson. And we all were varying ages but more or less in the same five years.

DR. PATTERSON: As you grew a little bit older there were some other folks on New Street and in that area.

MRS. DUFFY: Well, the house across the street had lots of people in it. When I was very young there was a family called Wade, Martha and Violet Wade.

DR. PATTERSON: That's the house that the Jacobs lived in later.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. I always wanted to be named Violet. I thought that was the prettiest name.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah a pretty name.

MRS. DUFFY: But then the Jacobs moved in there.

DR. PATTERSON: That's Harry Jacobs.

MRS. DUFFY: Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs and she had her sisters and one brother that she brought into her home to live with them because their parents had died. And that was Margaret Dunn now, Margaret Gibbs at the time, and Florie and Len. Then Mrs. Jacobs had some children of her own - Olier, Harry and Virginia. But they were a good deal younger than us.

DR. PATTERSON: Who were the children on either side of your house?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, there was Harry Foote.

DR. PATTERSON: What do you remember about the Footes?

MRS. DUFFY: I remember that Harry Foote lived with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Duffy in the house next to us and Harry was adopted by them. They used to dress him in little sailor suits and he was a cute looking boy and one of my best friends. And then Mr. and Mrs. Duffy died. I don't remember of what but not exactly the same time but then Harry's mother and daddy came down.

DR. PATTERSON: We were talking about the Footes and Harry Foote.

MRS. DUFFY: (Laughter) The Feet? Oh, yeah well, Mr. Foote used to put on...

DR. PATTERSON: Excuse me, you were talking about young Harry. He had been adopted.

MRS. DUFFY: He was adopted by the Walter Duffys who were his kin. Mrs. Duffy was an aunt of his.

DR. PATTERSON: They adopted him from his parents?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah, see the parents had twins. They didn't exactly adopt him. They just took him down there to bring him up.

DR. PATTERSON: I see.

MRS. DUFFY: And they left him the house. So naturally, Harry being a little boy had this house so his mother and father and younger siblings came down and they were twins, Dolly and Sonny. Life was never the same again.

DR. PATTERSON: On New Street?

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh. Mr. Foote had a - I guess you would call it, it wasn't a trailer, it was a big truck. Do you remember that?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. It was sort of was a trailer kept in his



back yard as I remember.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah and he used to put on minstrel shows. Do you remember that?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. DUFFY: That was what he did for a living and Mrs. Foote took in boarders.

DR. PATTERSON: Did she have a dining room in her home for the boarders?

MRS. DUFFY: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Did she also help run a boarding place at the Lumsden's house on East Front Street where the bridge is now located? That house is gone now.

MRS. DUFFY: Mrs. Foote?

DR. PATTERSON: Mrs. Foote I think.

MRS. DUFFY: Not that I know of. But she would cater parties and she had a colored woman named Harriett there for years and years. Everybody we knew got Mrs. Foote to make their refreshments for, I mean the grown people, beaten biscuits and things like that. Is the tape on?

DR. PATTERSON: You want me to turn it off?

MRS. DUFFY: Unless you want to hear about how dirty it was. But the doors were always open and we'd go in there and we never could understand why she could put out such beautiful food in such circumstances, you know, because she never changed the sheets and it was just...

DR. PATTERSON: Tell me about Sonny. What sort of fellow was

Sonny?

MRS. DUFFY: Sonny was a, it's hard to describe Sonny. He was one of a kind. Sort of goofy. Dolly was a rather pretty little girl and got to be a good friend of Eleanor's and mine. Sonny was always kind of fey, is that the word? F-E-Y.

DR. PATTERSON: Un-huh.

MRS. DUFFY: You never knew what he was going to do. He wasn't mean but he was just unpredictable.

DR. PATTERSON: Dolly later went away to Washington, D.C. and became a nurse and married a physician up there. That's the last I know of Dolly.

MRS. DUFFY: I don't know whether she's still living there or not.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib...

MRS. DUFFY: But her mother finally went up and stayed with her. Frances Roberts told me that Mrs. Foote went to live with Dolly but she never would come out and eat meals with them or anything. She just stayed in the kitchen like she had here. She came from a very good family in South Carolina.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember across the street next to where the Jacobs lived there was a colored family living there?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: What do you remember about that? How did that look?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, it was an old wooden house that was level with the sidewalk, a one story thing without any electricity. This woman

named Lucy lived there. She had a son, a mulatto was named Harvey and they never opened the windows. There was a light at night, a lamp, you know, on the inside but nobody we knew had ever been in the house. I don't remember anybody ever being in there.

DR. PATTERSON: There was a fence around it, wasn't there?

MRS. DUFFY: A what?

DR. PATTERSON: A fence.

MRS. DUFFY: No. There might have been a fence in the back but there wasn't a fence in the front because it was right even with the sidewalk. Then there was another colored family that lived up the street too probably where...

DR. PATTERSON: Where Sam Jones' apartments are.

MRS. DUFFY: On the east side of William Baxter's there was another colored family. Then of course, Honey Barron had the house on the corner and her sister, Jo, lived right next to her. Then on Short Street there was a woman they called Fetty Guion who was a mulatto but she lived entirely to herself, never went with anybody and she went to our church. She'd go sit up in the balcony. Do you remember that?

DR. PATTERSON: No I don't. So there were four black families in that area then?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah, four black houses anyway. I don't know whether you would call that woman a family or not. But the little children that Honey Barron had, Honey, well it was her maiden name, Honey Williams - we would go up there and play in the back yard, you know, with them and nothing was thought about it. I mean, it was just part

of life and I guess we knew we'd go different ways when we grew up.

But there wasn't any stigma or anything else living in a neighborhood with black neighbors. I might add here though that if they called them black then they would be highly offended. They were colored people.

DR. PATTERSON: Was Miss Ola Ferebee's house along in there too?

MRS. DUFFY: Miss Ola Ferebee's house was between Honey's and Fetty's. It was a little place where she taught music.

DR. PATTERSON: And wasn't there another, another lady lived across from Honey Barron on the other side of New Street who also taught music next to Bill Baxter's house.

MRS. DUFFY: I don't remember.

DR. PATTERSON: Who lived there in that house next to Bill Baxter?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, Miss Hatchie Harrison.

DR. PATTERSON: That's who I'm thinking of.

MRS. DUFFY: But she didn't teach music.

DR. PATTERSON: She didn't? Okay.

MRS. DUFFY: But one of the people that lived where Bill Baxter lives now or did live, was Miss Nannie Frizzell.

DR. PATTERSON: Before the Baxter's moved in?

MRS. DUFFY: Miss Nannie Frizzell and the Ferebees and Miss Hatchie and all of them were Christian Scientists. Miss Hatchie loved children and she would have little parties for kids.

DR. PATTERSON: Where you went to school you just walked up New Street to the school green?

MRS. DUFFY: Yes, it was three blocks. We walked from home to

Craven and then to Middle and then to Hancock. On Hancock Street the train would be occasionally across the way and sometimes we would blame our being late on the fact the train was blocking.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you have any trouble getting to school? Did people throw things at you on the way?

MRS. DUFFY: (Laughter) Well, at one time there was a boy named Hillary Humble who was the son of the Methodist minister and he lived back of the church in the parsonage there on New Street and he would throw oyster shells from the street at the girls. And so we got so we'd go three blocks out of the way rather than pass this place.

DR. PATTERSON: You'd come back home on Johnson Street.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. We went down Middle to Johnson to Craven and home that way.

DR. PATTERSON: There were two houses, were they, behind the Methodist church on New Street?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. Libby Ward lived in one of them, (his family I mean).

DR. PATTERSON: And the other was a Methodist parsonage.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: And New Street in those days was paved with oyster shells?

MRS. DUFFY: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember, Lib, when asphalt was put down on the street.

MRS. DUFFY: I have no faint idea.

DR. PATTERSON: What was school like? What were your younger

days in school, who were your teachers and what did you think of it all?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, everybody went to Miss Molly Heath in the first grade. Elizabeth Bryan was a year older than I so she went to school a year before I did but I could read before I went to the first grade so we would have an argument about how to pronounce words in the primers.

She would say Miss Molly says "It's come with me to thuh tree" and I said "It's come with me to the tree". She said well Miss Molly says it's the tree. I said well my mother said it's the tree. Well, Miss Molly knows more than your mother. End of argument. (Laughter) But in the second grade we had Miss Tillery who later married Steve Fowler.

DR. PATTERSON: What was her name?

MRS. DUFFY: T-I-L-L-E-R-Y. Miss Alice Tillery. And she was a lovely lady but would get very much outdone with some of them in the class, you know, and one time she broke a ruler when she was slamming it down to correct somebody. That's the outstanding thing I remember about her.

DR. PATTERSON: She wasn't laying that ruler on you was she?

MRS. DUFFY: Not me, on the desk. (Laughter) And then Miss Fannie Howerton in the third grade. I was thinking about all of this last night. I couldn't sleep for a long time trying to think of the names of teachers. In the fourth grade we had a Miss Flemming. There wasn't anything outstanding about her. And then in the fifth grade Eleanor Marshall who is still remembered here, you know, as one of the most outstanding teachers, even had a building named for her.

DR. PATTERSON: Out in Ghent.

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh. And then in the sixth grade we had a Miss Coble. In the seventh Miss Mary Uzzell and she was supposed to be a holy terror. Everybody was scared to be in Miss Mary Uzzell's room because she was a perfectionist. She wasn't as big as a minute, you know, but oh this authority she had. It wasn't as bad as we had dreaded. You know, everybody dreaded the seventh grade. Then it was high school.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib, how did you all dress in those days?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, horribly. When I look back on it now and see the pictures with middy blouses, the tackiest looking clothes I ever saw. And in the wintertime we'd have to wear long drawers and shirts underneath.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you get in any trouble in those first years of school? Was punishment meted out by the teachers very much?

MRS. DUFFY: No. No. Daddy would always say if I got a whipping in school I would get another one when I got home. I mean he never took my part on anything but I didn't do anything. I was too timid I guess.

DR. PATTERSON: How was high school?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, it was fun. We had a lot of fun. We went to basketball games and started going to dances. Taught the boys how to dance.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you play basketball?

MRS. DUFFY: I was terrible. I had to. We all had to but I never was any good at it.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did you play?

MRS. DUFFY: Over at Stanley Hall.

DR. PATTERSON: The Ghent Casino, did you play out at the Ghent Casino?

MRS. DUFFY: What?

DR. PATTERSON: There was a casino, a big building out in Ghent.

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, no. We didn't play basketball out there. Somebody might have but not us. We used to play basketball in tobacco warehouses back of the station somewhere you know.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you go out of town and play games?

MRS. DUFFY: I never was on the team you know. I was just one of the hangers on but I remember going to Wilmington to a night game one time.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did you have dances?

MRS. DUFFY: We had dances at the warehouses.

DR. PATTERSON: The tobacco warehouses?

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: In New Bern?

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh. And they had dances at the Elk's Club. Of course we didn't start going to dances until we were about fifteen I would say. But I remember the Elk's Club was a place where they had the dance and the girls that were two or three years older than I would go to these dances. Of course, in those days you could hear the music all over town and I would sit by my window on New Street and hear them playing. There was an orchestra named Hootie Green and I just couldn't wait to get to be old enough to go to dances. But I made it.

DR. PATTERSON: You finally got old enough to do that.



MRS. DUFFY: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib, did you go down to Morehead to dances at that time or did that come later?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah we went during our senior year I'm sure. Yeah because that was when there was just a two lane road down there. It was about the senior year that we starting going to dances and we went to June German. We went to warehouse dances all over the eastern part of the state.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah I remember that too.

MRS. DUFFY: You'd get a little postcard that would say get up a crowd and come to Williamston or go to Greenville or Kinston and they'd have a big band. And of course June German was the main thing.

DR. PATTERSON: What was the June German like?

MRS. DUFFY: It was like nothing else.

DR. PATTERSON: The bands played all night?

MRS. DUFFY: Yes. The boys had to wear tuxedos and it lasted all night. There were lots of intermissions and people in Rocky Mount would have parties. You'd be invited to parties for this intermission and that.

DR. PATTERSON: As I remember it was just about the biggest event of the year.

MRS. DUFFY: Well it was and people from all over eastern North Carolina went. And Ham Styron and I wanted to go one time but we were not "going steady". I mean going together but he wanted to go to the dance and so he said "I'll take you. And let's get Betsy and get a date for her". So we got Charlie Buford. Charlie had to rent a tuxedo.

I think Ham had one. So Betsy and Charlie and Ham and I went over in his aunt Leila's Dodge car. And when we got there of course we said well, I'll see you later and we had people to look after us. But Ham would kind of see if I was alright during intermission you know. But we were just good pals like that.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember in my years we had a crowd of people who would go to these dances all over eastern North Carolina. The same crowd would go. Is that the way it was with you?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. You'd see the same ones.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you go to the Atlantic Hotel dances?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh yeah, un-huh. I remember we used to go down to the Atlantic Hotel almost every summer. Mother would take some of us down there. I think she took some of us down there. I think she took Janet and Meta or somebody, I don't know. We were a little too young to go to dances at first and so we would sit on the sidelines and watch the gals, you know, that were popular and bet on how many times they'd get broken in on, longing to be old enough. The girls from Kinston had such beautiful evening dresses. We'd go up and watch them dress for the dance. We were about twelve or something. With this thing I can't...

DR. PATTERSON: Lib, you lived right down on the river. Did you swim in the Neuse River?

MRS. DUFFY: We didn't swim in the Neuse River right off New Street. We would swim in the Neuse River by going over to the railroad bridge on the other side. Daddy used to take a car full of kids over to the railroad bridge and we could swim over there. Of course we

had to wear our bathing suits over there. They didn't have any...

DR. PATTERSON: You went across the river? Is that what you're saying?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. The railroad bridge. After you get to Bridgetown you turn to the left and go up that way.

DR. PATTERSON: That was Shady Beach?

MRS. DUFFY: No, Shady Beach was to the right. But the railroad bridge - of course we'd all have our bathing suits on and carry towels and all. There were no bathing facilities over there. When we were real small we'd wade in the Neuse River off East Front St. much to the chagrin of our parents.

DR. PATTERSON: They didn't want you to do that?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, you see the sewer dumped right in there.

DR. PATTERSON: Un-huh. And you were told not to even wade in the river?

MRS. DUFFY: No we weren't supposed to put a foot in there.

DR. PATTERSON: But you did?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, we did. When the tide was low you could see the sewer pipe going all the way as far as it went you know.

DR. PATTERSON: You can still see it.

MRS. DUFFY: And all kinds of things could be seen besides that. In fact, I could tell you something funny about it but I can't with this...

DR. PATTERSON: All right.

MRS. DUFFY: Anyhow, we'd get punished if anybody told on us for wading in the Neuse River and so Mrs. Bishop called mother one day

and said she didn't want to alarm mother but I was, Elizabeth was out there wading in the Neuse River. So when I got home I was told that I could not attend a birthday party that Janet Hollister was having.

It must have been in June. And I remember I just screamed and cried but nobody let me go to the party.

DR. PATTERSON: That's a terrible blow.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Well, I mean that. Lib, what happened to you after you graduated from high school? Where did you go and what did you do?

MRS. DUFFY: I went to St. Mary's, St. Mary's in Raleigh. And I finished there in 1930 and then I went to Carolina and took an A.B. in journalism and finished in 1932. But my interest in journalism I found out was more an interest in people that liked journalism, you know. I mean I didn't have any talent myself but I loved the people that did.

DR. PATTERSON: Who were some of those people?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, E.C. Daniel was one of them, Margaret Truman's husband. And Billy Arthur. I'm just thinking about people that you might have heard of.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you come back to New Bern after you finished at Carolina?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh yeah I came back and that was really in the Depression. And that summer I would go up to daddy's office and answer the phone for him and read from the library of Colonel Bryan who had all these books stored up there. I read some wonderful books up there.

I don't know what became of all those books. I guess they went to the library. But I would read. I thought I was really, you know, a brain then. Didn't understand half of it but I would read.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you stay in that situation for awhile or did you...?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, not very long because Miss Margaret Bryan got the congressman to give Mildred Chadwick and me jobs in Columbia, South Carolina. And so daddy I'm sure was delighted for me to be leaving the nest, you know, by that time. I wanted to go to New York but we just didn't have any money. I always wanted to go there and see if I could - I think everybody ought to go there and try it.

DR. PATTERSON: What did you do in Columbia?

MRS. DUFFY: I worked for the Federal Land Bank as an experienced legal stenographer and I was not but I got by.

DR. PATTERSON: How long did you stay down there?

MRS. DUFFY: I don't know, about two years and then I got a job with the Forest Service up here.

DR. PATTERSON: Back in New Bern?

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh. Then got transferred back to Columbia by the Forest Service. But who wants to know all this?

DR. PATTERSON: Well, I think, I would like to hear it. Did you stay in Columbia with the Forest Service for awhile then?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, they kept transferring people to different places. I was sent to Newbury, South Carolina and also up to Troy, North Carolina, to Lenior. But when they said Crestview, Florida I resigned. I came home.

DR. PATTERSON: Came back to New Bern?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: What did you do then?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, I guess I got married.

DR. PATTERSON: Tell me about you and Rody. Rody Duffy was a lawyer at that time, was he?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah, he was the solicitor of the recorder's court for awhile.

DR. PATTERSON: Had he been to law school in North Carolina?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, yeah. He got a law degree at Chapel Hill. But I don't think he ever really wanted to be a lawyer. The Duffys were mostly doctors you know. But his mother had a lot of influence.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was Rody living at that time?

MRS. DUFFY: Rody was living in the big house that was Blackbeard's house.

DR. PATTERSON: This is the house...

MRS. DUFFY: His mother lived there as long as she lived and Rody lived there with your Aunt Mamie and Rody's Aunt Mamie and Polly and Frank lived there until they went off somewhere, you know.

DR. PATTERSON: Now just to identify it. This house is now gone. It was at the southeast corner of Pollock Street and East Front Street.

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: And now that is a parking area which I think was made a parking area for the Holiday Inn. Now that area which is bare is for sale.

MRS. DUFFY: It's just a parking area.

DR. PATTERSON: But this house, when you all got married did you go to this house to live? Is that where you first lived together?

MRS. DUFFY: No, Rody had a little cottage across the Neuse River and so we lived over there for about a year. He had been living over there with Henry Henderson as a bachelor. It was just a small house but we enjoyed that. But then we decided we'd rather have the apartment. But by that time Mrs. Rice was living there and she was renting rooms to the Marines.

DR. PATTERSON: This was in the...

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh, see it was 1940 when we got married. So we had a time getting Mrs. Rice out of the apartment. But she moved upstairs and stayed with Aunt Mamie. But she had been renting every space that you could put a sleeping bag on for these exorbitant prices you know for these Marines that were desperate to have somewhere to stay. So when we got there it was kind of a mess but we fixed it up. It was rather nice.

DR. PATTERSON: Now did that house belong to you and Rody?

MRS. DUFFY: It belonged to Rody and Polly and Frank, the three of them. And Frank died. The three of them, I mean it was just a third his.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib, how did this house ever get to be called Blackbeard's house? It was built after Blackbeard's death as I understand it.

MRS. DUFFY: Well, from what I've heard the Historical Society ladies just thought it would make an interesting landmark and so they had all these signs printed and put around town and the sign said that

the old part of the house was said to have been the home of Blackbeard the pirate. Later when the USO was down at the end of our street the Marines and other people would come by and read under the street light in all kinds of accents, "The old part of this house said to be the home of Blackbeard the pirate". And so we got a little tired of that so we removed the sign and took it to the camp to put it on the outhouse.

DR. PATTERSON: (Laughter) When was that house built, about when, do you know?

MRS. DUFFY: Blackbeard's house?

DR. PATTERSON: Un-huh.

MRS. DUFFY: I don't know. I think you'd better ask Johnny Green that, John Green.

DR. PATTERSON: At one time it was a school. There was a school in that house.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah called Vance Academy. And Bryan Duffy used to know all about that. He gave Rody a brochure about what the fee was, you know, for three months including meals and everything. Something like fifty dollars. It was an interesting house and during the hurricanes you felt fairly safe because the walls were, two or three feet thick. I remember in 1955 when all the houses below us which were houses owned by Rody's family were damaged so terribly that most of them were just torn down afterwards. But I remember these poor people's things were bouncing around on the street, in the water way up to... But we didn't get any in the house because it was high up.

DR. PATTERSON: One of the things that I used to hear about,



getting back to the Blackbeard thing for a minute, was that there was a tunnel from that house underneath to the waterfront.

MRS. DUFFY: Well, in the first place that doesn't make any sense because it would have been full of water you know. But that was the story.

DR. PATTERSON: Now did you all sell that house? What happened about the house?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, it sort of needed a lot of repairs. The roof needed to be replaced and lots of other things. Our little part of it was in good shape but the back part wasn't. And Rody's nephew lived in Seattle. His niece lived in Philadelphia. They had no interest in it so they just sold it to Frank Efird and he tore it down. It nearly killed me to go by there and see that thing when he...

DR. PATTERSON: Yes, I agree with you. When did you all move over here... this house... when you built it?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh well, we started it, it was started in 1970 but we used it more as a vacation house and stayed in the apartment until we got it fixed fairly like we wanted it.

DR. PATTERSON: Have you been happy in this house?

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: It's a beautiful place.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib, speaking of World War II and the Marines staying in your former house, what was New Bern like during those war years?

MRS. DUFFY: What was New Bern like?

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah. Was it a busy place? Was it jammed with people?

MRS. DUFFY: Well I remember Trent Pines was the sort of social center. You remember Trent Pines?

DR. PATTERSON: Oh, sure.

MRS. DUFFY: And we got to know a lot of the Marines, mostly from Cherry Point, not so many from Lejeune. And there was a little crowd that would come in to see us you know. We'd sometimes go to the Officer's Club. It was rather exciting. Rody tried to get in the service but he couldn't get in.

DR. PATTERSON: The Depression, you mentioned the Depression awhile ago, not having any money in 1932. I guess not many people in New Bern did have any money then. Was it a hard time?

MRS. DUFFY: I remember that summer that I couldn't even get enough money to, I had a ride back to Raleigh but I didn't have enough money to get back home on the bus. I think it was about three dollars. Daddy had a client, Mr. Suskin, who had a little store on Middle Street and he couldn't pay Daddy and so he just said let your daughters come down and look around and they can have, you know, what they want. Of course they didn't have much but we were delighted to get anything new, you know, a cotton dress.

DR. PATTERSON: One of the things that we're trying to do in this history of New Bern is to see how New Bern handled race relations and civil rights. You mentioned when you were young you played with the colored children in the neighborhood and had no problem with that. As you look back do you think that race relations in general were

pretty good when you grew up?

MRS. DUFFY: Well they, to be trite, knew their place and I think they wanted to be there. I mean they had their own churches. They had their own crowds, their own way of dressing, their hats you know and they had their white people that they worked for. Some of them would stay with the folks years, you know, be like a member of the family. There wasn't any trouble. I mean you just didn't associate. You didn't go, grown people didn't go together you know.

DR. PATTERSON: But things were pretty smooth?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. But nobody wanted it any other way.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah. How do you find it these days?

MRS. DUFFY: I don't know much about it. I think I'm sort of - I know one thing about it, my help I love. But I don't know how to give an overall view of the New Bern racial situation. I don't know.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib, when we talked yesterday you told me some interesting stories about growing up in New Bern. Would you like to look back and speak to some of these again? You spoke about Miss Fannie Howerton.

MRS. DUFFY: No, I just said Miss Fannie was a memorable teacher because she used to read a psalm every morning before she'd start any classes. She'd pick a psalm to read and she had her favorite ones and it sort of stayed with me the rest of time. Sometimes when I'd see a Gideon Bible in a motel I'd look up certain psalms that Miss Fannie used to read to us.

DR. PATTERSON: This was in school at the beginning of the school

day?

MRS. DUFFY: This was in third grade.

DR. PATTERSON: And Miss Nina Basnight?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, Miss (Laughter) Miss Nina was not, she was a substitute teacher. She taught music and she would come and hold a class when our teacher was sick or something. And she would sing Santa Lucia for us and try to get us interested in singing with her but we didn't. I remember a boy pushed her down one day.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did Miss Nina live?

MRS. DUFFY: Miss Nina lived about where Alfred Ward's office is. The Luptons live there.

DR. PATTERSON: Right across from the Athens Theater.

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: She took up tickets at the Athens Theater, didn't she?

MRS. DUFFY: No, that was Miss Ina Bright.

DR. PATTERSON: That's right. I get them mixed up.

MRS. DUFFY: (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Miss Ina Bright was Charles Styron's aunt.

MRS. DUFFY: Aunt, un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: You told me a story about Eleanor and some boy getting some caterpillars.

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, some boy? His name is Joe Pat. Eleanor and Joe Pat got a cigar box and they didn't have any trouble getting some gray caterpillars out of the walnut tree. They'd fall on the ground, you know, that time of year. So they filled the box with gray

caterpillars and the little girl across the street was younger than they so they took the box over and told her to shut her eyes and stick out her hand and they'd give her something pretty. She put her hand in the box and she came up with all these repulsive gray caterpillars. (Laughter).

DR. PATTERSON: I can't imagine anybody doing a thing like that.

MRS. DUFFY: I can't either. I never would have done that.

DR. PATTERSON: (Laughter) That was Olier Farrow Jacobs.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah, Olier Farrow Jacobs.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember Mr. Jacobs' Soda Shop?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah, I do.

DR. PATTERSON: That was where Mr. Bradham had his pharmacy.

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh. I remember a soda jerk in there named Bingham Mattocks.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember Bingham Mattocks.

MRS. DUFFY: (Laughter) I had the first drink of corn likker with Bingham Mattocks and John Stevens and Elvy Slater, Mildred Chadwick and Betsy and I. It was during spring break at St. Mary's and they decided that they wanted to, we all decided that, you know, drink some corn likker. So we went up to a bootlegger named Dad Carter and they got a pint of white lighting and we stopped to get a chaser.

I'd never even heard the word chaser then. And we got some paper cups, the boys did and we drank some corn whiskey out of paper cups and chased it with 7-UP. (Laughter) And one pint, you know, for six people. But Betsy spent the night with me at mother's. They never did know it but Mildred Chadwick got very sick which is the thing that

didn't turn out so well. (Laughter) And John Stevens and Elvy were the most prissy boys. They didn't even take a taste of it. It was just Bingham Mattocks but it was Elvy Slater's car.

DR. PATTERSON: Now John Stevens went on to a pretty distinguished career in the Army.

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, he did. He was a general.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah. I remember on New Street I used to get into different kinds of trouble with Eleanor. In your dining room in your house Eleanor and I had a cart. We'd push each other around the dining room table, round and round. We called it the lemon-go-round. And we'd fly around that dining room very fast.

MRS. DUFFY: You and Eleanor were - it was you and Eleanor against Simmons and me. Simmons and I would think up things, you know, to do to you all.

DR. PATTERSON: What were some of those things? They were bad I know.

MRS. DUFFY: I can't remember any. (Laughter) I remember Eleanor said that I shut her up in the closet under the steps one time with a lot of mops and furniture oil and everything else and made her stay confined in that closet for about an hour but I don't remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember Eleanor and Latrelle LaFrage used to play the victrola which was right next to our house just across that little driveway and they'd play it loud as they could play it and I'd be over in our house wanting to get over there with them and they wouldn't let me in.

MRS. DUFFY: (Laughter) I came across a diary that I kept in

a composition book when I was about thirteen and it said "Played bridge with Eleanor and Joe Pat. It was because I had nothing else to do".

(Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: (Laughter) I bet that was a short bridge game.

MRS. DUFFY: Three handed.

DR. PATTERSON: I never did learn that game.

MRS. DUFFY: Three handed.

DR. PATTERSON: I spoke to you yesterday about your mother's wonderful...

MRS. DUFFY: Pralines.

DR. PATTERSON: Pralines. I call them prawlines and you say it's pralines but anyhow they were very good. What was the recipe?

MRS. DUFFY: I don't have, I mean I have it but I don't know it. I've never made any. But she didn't use anything except brown sugar and vanilla and water and pecans. But they were better than any that I've ever tasted.

DR. PATTERSON: That's right, I agree.

MRS. DUFFY: Better than the ones you get in New Orleans with a lot of cream and stuff in them. Mother made okra gumbo too. She just had a few specialties. She was not much of a cook.

DR. PATTERSON: Are you still in touch with your kin folks in Louisiana?

MRS. DUFFY: What's left of them, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you go down there sometimes?

MRS. DUFFY: I haven't been in a good while but Bill Hodges who is my first cousin's son and his wife and I went down, I forget what

year that was, and had a wonderful time. We drove. They have split up and he's married again now. Married somebody a great deal younger than he is. He's forty-seven and she's about thirty-two. So I don't see much of him anymore. But I still like his first wife. I keep in touch with her. In fact, this morning I had a call from New Orleans.

DR. PATTERSON: Wonderful.

MRS. DUFFY: A man that wrote the biography of my grandfather. His name is Casso and he keeps in touch. He's almost as old as I am. But he called up this morning. He's been up here once but he says it's too far.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib, when you were growing up in New Bern, where would you all as young people go out for dinner or for fun, to hang out, to have meals? Downtown I'm thinking of. Do you remember restaurants?

MRS. DUFFY: We didn't go out to dinner a whole lot. We'd go up to a dance and at intermission we'd go to the Central Cafe.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was that located?

MRS. DUFFY: About where that man's store is on Middle, on...

DR. PATTERSON: Bryant-McLeod?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Who ran that?

MRS. DUFFY: Some Greek, I don't know.

DR. PATTERSON: You'd go there at intermission?

MRS. DUFFY: We'd go there at intermission. Or we'd go down to Gyp Lucas' store. You know he had a grocery store.

DR. PATTERSON: Was that on South Front Street?



MRS. DUFFY: Gyp Lucas' had - the end of Middle Street. And it was Lucas and Lewis you know.

DR. PATTERSON: Un-huh.

MRS. DUFFY: But we'd go down there and go in the back and he'd get out sardines and crackers and stuff and we'd take some drinks.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember Davis Soda Shop?

MRS. DUFFY: Davis, no.

DR. PATTERSON: Robert King's.

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, yeah, yeah, sure.

DR. PATTERSON: Down there where the Clarks store was.

MRS. DUFFY: Davis Drug Store.

DR. PATTERSON: That was a favorite hangout too, wasn't it, for awhile?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, Gaskin's was the one you know.

DR. PATTERSON: At the Elk's Temple.

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh. And then we used to go out and get oysters. You know there was a great, Guy Hamilton had a wonderful oyster place.

DR. PATTERSON: That was at the foot of the Trent River bridge at George Street?

MRS. DUFFY: Un-huh. And then there was another one, a man named - I don't know, there was another one at the end of Craven Street and you would sit there on a high stool and eat oysters, about a dozen raws, you know, and they'd pour out all these steamed ones. You'd have drawn butter. That was one of the favorite things to do.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember Charlie Parker's Oyster Bar?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah but that was later.

DR. PATTERSON: That was much later. That was out there where Nichols store used to be.

MRS. DUFFY: Mrs. Valevais.

DR. PATTERSON: When you were young, younger, do you remember much traffic on the river, boat traffic?

MRS. DUFFY: No.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you go sailing?

MRS. DUFFY: I didn't have a chance to go sailing. Nobody had a sailboat. Well, Sarah Meadows and all of them used to go to Straits and they were great sailors you know. But nobody that I knew around in my neighborhood had boats.

DR. PATTERSON: So you didn't get out on the river a great deal?

MRS. DUFFY: No. I remember Mrs. Smallwood had her, I don't whether it was her grandchildren, I guess they were, would come down here from Massachusetts. Randolph Fox and Sam Fox. And she had a little boathouse in the back of her yard then and when they were here she would always rent boats, you know, for them. I mean skiffs and canoes. And we just loved for them to come down because we had the whole run of the back yard and the boathouse. But we rode bicycles a lot.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you skate in those days?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah we skated.

DR. PATTERSON: On the sidewalk?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, yes except in front of the courthouse. Five dollar fine to skate, to walk on the grass or spit on the sidewalk.

(Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Well, there was more sailing I guess when I was coming along.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah, it got more popular.

DR. PATTERSON: Betsy Williams and Ecky.

MRS. DUFFY: But nobody had enough money I guess. But it was this way if you did go out on a boat and somebody else was on a boat you'd always wave to them you know because - now you wouldn't even think about waving to anybody in a boat.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you know most everybody you saw on the streets in those days?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: In church?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, you knew of them or you knew them or you'd seen them before.

DR. PATTERSON: When you'd go to church on Sunday did you know most everybody?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, yeah. I even remember where they sat.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib, do you remember the fire of 1922?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. I was eleven years old and everybody had gone to Raleigh or Chapel Hill or somewhere to a football game. Do you remember anything about it?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. What do you remember?

MRS. DUFFY: I remember that there was an old man named Pugh and he was sort of cracked, sort of flaky anyway. You know, used to hand out little religious cards, you know with sort of dire warnings on them. But he was in evidence that day on New Street and the wind was

blowing, you know. It was a horrid looking day anyway, kind of cold. He announced that there was a fire that was going to be something else and those cards and the man's visage you know and everything. It was just sort of chilling.

DR. PATTERSON: Was the fire burning then or was he warning that it was coming?

MRS. DUFFY: No, he knew that it had started. And of course, the - you remember that fire alarm they had in New Bern? It was the worst sounding thing.

DR. PATTERSON: It was a whistle, was it?

MRS. DUFFY: It wasn't a whistle. It was a roar or something like thunder. But it was just awful. Like a big animal of some kind. It was the worst sounding thing I've ever heard.

DR. PATTERSON: Could you see the fire from your home on New Street?

MRS. DUFFY: You could see smoke.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember standing at the window upstairs in our house and across the alley way from your house and seeing the glow.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah, at night you would see it but in the daytime there was smoke, lots of smoke.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you all leave your house during the fire?

MRS. DUFFY: Un-uh. But up on Metcalf Street they were dynamiting a house. I remember Lib Bryan and I went up with our little Kodaks and plowed through some of the remains of these people's possessions and came across some letters and we took some pictures. I gave you two of them you know. That one of crazy Bill with the brick in his

hand. Do you remember those two little snapshots I gave you? And there was a place across from the cemetery called Stuart's Sanitorium and it was a brick thing which I don't remember at all before the fire. Don't you remember it? But we had that picture of the ruins of that.

DR. PATTERSON: Let me go back a few years before that when you were even younger. Do you remember the flu epidemic in New Bern in 1918? I think it was pretty bad but not many people remember it.

MRS. DUFFY: No, I don't remember it. I mean I guess I remember when it was because we used to have to wear Asafoetida bags around our necks.

DR. PATTERSON: What did that do?

MRS. DUFFY: It was supposed to stave it off. You'd wear a string with a little bag of Asafoetida. Can you spell that?

DR. PATTERSON: I don't want to try. (Laughter) Did anybody on our street get sick? I don't remember anything about that. I was a little too young.

MRS. DUFFY: I don't remember. But in those days whenever you got sick they'd put a yellow sign on your door. And when we were kids we thought it was fun to collect yellow signs, measles, whooping cough. But...

DR. PATTERSON: What did you do, take them off the doors?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, we would see who could get the most you know. But when influenza came along it was a little bit more serious.

DR. PATTERSON: All of these contagious diseases were cause for quarantine in those days.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Measles.

MRS. DUFFY: Chicken pox.

DR. PATTERSON: Chicken pox. The whole household would have to stay in, is that the way it was?

MRS. DUFFY: Just the victim.

DR. PATTERSON: But not the rest of the family?

MRS. DUFFY: I don't think so. I don't think daddy ever stayed home because I had the...

DR. PATTERSON: Well, he was a lawyer. He could make his own rules. (Laughter)

MRS. DUFFY: I can't imagine. He never stayed home a day of his life that I know of.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib, do you remember the ice wagons that used to come by?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh yeah. You do too?

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah, I remember them too.

MRS. DUFFY: And that little ledge that you could jump up on, you know, and hold on and ride around. I remember the colored woman named Martha who had a cart and an old horse and she would sell whatever she had out of her yard which was corn and tomatoes and cucumbers and whatever she had. She would say nice corn, you know, and just had a loud voice all over the place. Sometimes she'd let the children get on the cart and then she'd add children to the list of things she had. But I remember sort of an adolescent voice, colored boy who would early in the morning cry, "Huckleberries, huckleberries! Just only a few more left!"

DR. PATTERSON: And people would sell fish walking down the street too, fresh fish.

MRS. DUFFY: I don't remember them.

DR. PATTERSON: Butterbeans.

MRS. DUFFY: Oh butterbeans, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember those folks too and I remember the black people coming down New Street to be baptized.

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, yeah. We'd sit on the front porch and watch them go by and they'd be - well you did too. They were all dressed up, you know, in the whitest clothes you ever saw in your life and the hair ribbons. Then we'd go over to Elizabeth Bryan's house and watch the ceremony. You know she lived up on that - we could see it very well from her yard. And they would come up out of the water just yelling and screaming, you know.

DR. PATTERSON: Now did the baptism take place down in front of what was the Shrine home then?

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Not right at the end of New Street but it was down near Broad Street.

MRS. DUFFY: By the Shrine home.

DR. PATTERSON: They'd go out and be ducked one by one as I remember. But they'd come by singing hymns as I recall.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah. Just a flow of them.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you all have an early radio in those days?

MRS. DUFFY: No but I remember Mr. Parker. Do you remember Mr. Parker? He was on Change Street and he was the first one that had

a radio that could get Cincinnati. And he played it so loud that everybody in the neighborhood could hear it at night you know. Well I think it was. Oh, Janet and I just thought they were perfectly marvelous and so her father got a radio. Daddy didn't get one. But I used to go to Janet's under the guise of studying, you know, and we'd play the radio and it was one of those that had a blue horn. But we would say just think, we're listening to Chicago! It's coming out of Cincinnati.

DR. PATTERSON: Still can't figure it out.

MRS. DUFFY: But everything was so innocent then. I'd think nothing of going over to Janet's at night you know and she'd walk half way home with me. We'd part at Dr. Jones' house. She'd run back and I'd run on around home. We never thought about being afraid of anything.

DR. PATTERSON: It wasn't much automobile traffic on the streets then.

MRS. DUFFY: No, we used to, I don't know whether you remember this but we used to play turn over fruit basket at the corner there at night. Do you remember that on summer nights?

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah.

MRS. DUFFY: The big bugs would get under the street lights you know. They're awful looking things for somebody to step on. But we played turn over fruit basket.

DR. PATTERSON: What were the rules of that game?

MRS. DUFFY: I don't know. But somebody had to hide their eyes or something and then you'd try to get somebody else's place. I don't remember what it was.



DR. PATTERSON: I remember playing ball in New Street as a child and if a car came along you really resented it a great deal.

MRS. DUFFY: (Laughter) I remember playing baseball in your back yard. I remember your mother's electric car.

DR. PATTERSON: What are your memories of that? I remember it a little bit but not a whole lot.

MRS. DUFFY: Well, the main thing I remember about it, tell you the truth, is that it had to be charged. There was a special house down there and the blue lights, you know, when it was being charged. Then she would drive it around. It had a little vase for flowers and there was a horse block out in front of your house and it was kind of high so you'd use a horse block to get in it. But it was a very neat little square car.

DR. PATTERSON: Somebody told me the other day that that was not the first electric car in New Bern. I thought it was. But that my grandmother Simmons had an electric car first. I don't remember that at all.

MRS. DUFFY: I don't remember that. Who told you, Johnny Dunn?

DR. PATTERSON: No, I forgot who it was. It wasn't Johnny.

MRS. DUFFY: (Laughter) He's probably the oldest person that remembers anything around here.

DR. PATTERSON: What kind of cars did your dad have?

MRS. DUFFY: Oh, my God. Daddy was just - first he got a second hand seven passenger Cadillac, convertible I mean, the top down and kept it. Oh Lord, we'd have to go up to Black Mountain in it and when he got up there he would fill it with children and take them all around.

He loved children. But it finally just wore out. He never would trade it in. And then he got a Hudson. He was never good - we were always ashamed of the cars we had. He had an Essex. I reckon that's why I'm so crazy about them now.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib, I remember the rivershore as being a very nice place in those days. How do you remember it?

MRS. DUFFY: What did you say, a nice place?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. DUFFY: Well, it was always a nice place. Yeah. But it wasn't built up like it is. It had that granite, you know, around it.

DR. PATTERSON: It had a shellrock break water.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah, that's right. Well, that's where Betsy and I and Elizabeth Bryan learned, what is it, roughly called the facts of life because Louise Jackson and Helen had two older sisters, Verona and Gladys. And they would come down there and tell us these things that we'd...

DR. PATTERSON: The things that were floating in the water.

MRS. DUFFY: Never believe that. Well, it's certainly so because Sitty Gaggie said so and Roney said so!

DR. PATTERSON: (Laughter) I remember that too.

MRS. DUFFY: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, Lib do you have any other memories of New Bern that we haven't spoken about or anything you'd like to talk about?

MRS. DUFFY: Well, one thing brings up another you know. You just have to have it apropos to something. I don't know of anything

else.

DR. PATTERSON: No special memories?

MRS. DUFFY: If I think of anything I'll let you know.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, if you don't have any special memories maybe we'll just say we're finished then.

MRS. DUFFY: All right.

DR. PATTERSON: It's been a fun time. I've enjoyed it.

MRS. DUFFY: I've enjoyed it but I think I would have been a little bit more in detail if I hadn't known it would be on tape. I mean in some instances.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, this has been fine.

MRS. DUFFY: In fact, there are probably some details you want to leave out.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, it's been a fun interview and I thank you for letting us do this, helping this program.

MRS. DUFFY: Well, I was just glad to help if I could. I know a bunch of it but there's just a lot of, you know, crap.

DR. PATTERSON: Okay, well I'll turn this off.

END OF INTERVIEW