

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

MARY FOY MUNFORD

INTERVIEW 1401

My name is Jessica Lasitter McManmon representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 1400. I am interviewing Mary Foy Munford. Her interview number is 1401. This interview is being conducted on July 15, 1992. We are in my apartment at 2402-A Griffin Avenue, New Bern.

Jessica McManmon: Mary, would you tell me something about your family, where you were born, and where you lived as a child?

Mrs. Munford: I was born in New Bern, North Carolina, August 22, 1926. My father was Jacob Foy, Jr. and my mother was Minnie Sidberry Foy. My mother passed away when I was a baby. There were two children.

My sister, Martha, was born April 18, 1924. My daddy worked as a sharecropper for C. J. McCarthy, and we were raised up on his property where the 70 East by-pass is now going through. With the help of my grandmother and aunt, my father raised my sister and I both by himself.

He did not remarry until after we were grown and married. When we got old enough, and my sister got old enough to go to school, he enrolled us in St. Joseph's Catholic School. My sister was six years old and I was three. Of course, I wasn't considered as a student until 1932, but I had to go with her because he wanted both of us to be together and never wanted us separated. My grandmother passed away in 1942.

That's when my sister had to drop out of school and take care of my grandmother. Well, I continued to go to school and I graduated from St. Joseph's in the eighth grade in June of 1940. At that time they put on two more grades, the ninth and the tenth grade. So, I went right on back and finished in 1942. Then, we had to go into the public

schools. At that time they were graduating in the eleventh grade, so we went ahead into their graduating class. I think they were the worst days of my life because I never got adjusted to the public schools due to the way we were treated.

JM: How were you treated, Mary?

Mrs. Munford: They didn't want to hear our lesson because they wanted to put us back in the tenth grade. We had so many units the state would not let them put us back into the tenth grade. We went into their graduation classes and we graduated with the class. Mary Brimmage and I graduated from that school in 1943. After that, I got a job and went to work and in 1944 I got married.

JM: What type of work did you do?

Mrs. Munford: House work and restaurant work. Then I got married to Raymond Munford. We were raised up on the same street in the same neighborhood and from that we married and there was five children.

Eugene was born January 16, 1945; Raymond Levon was born November 5, 1950; Michael Anthony was born August 29, 1955; my first daughter Janet Cecelia Munford was born January 21, 1959; and my baby daughter Maria Bernadette Munford was born November 2, 1966.

JM: Mary, before we start off on St. Joseph's School, would you tell me about your two sons who died?

Mrs. Munford: Yes I will. I will be glad to. My son Eugene Munford, he was a senior at St. Joseph's High School. He held the highest honor in his class from the first grade to the twelfth. He was class Valedictorian. On May 27, 1962, which was two weeks before

the graduation date, he and some of the boys decided they would go swimming. One of the boys, Harold Foy, he couldn't swim. The boys came out of the water and left him and he was drowning and hollering for help. So, my son jumped in to save him. Of course my son was a smaller boy, and he drowned. The other boy drowned him. This was two weeks before he graduated which was suppose to be June 10, 1962, and he was already accepted in North Carolina Central College in Durham at the time. It was a tragedy of 1962 because there was a third boy, Olester Dove, was trying to help him to save this boy, and my son Raymond who was only eleven years old, he jumped in a boat and he went out and tried to save his brother, and in the meantime he pulled Olester to shore and people waited on him and revived him, and my child did not come up until the rescue squad went out and got him up. And my second son, Michael Anthony, he was thirty years old, and he had completed his education and he had graduated in 1969 from St. Paul's Catholic School. He went on to New Bern Senior High School and on June 1, 1973 he graduated from New Bern Senior High School. He went on to North Carolina Central University in Durham and he received his B.A. or B.S., one of them, in Business Administration from North Carolina Central University.

JM: That would be a B.S., in Business Administration.

Mrs. Munford: And that's what he received in 1977. He came back to New Bern. He was a very quiet, shy young man. He never changed. He went to college for four years but he came back home just like he left, very quiet and very sweet and very active with the church.

He was employed with King's Department Store and also served as a hall monitor in J. T. Barber High School the year he graduated. From there he got a job with J. C. Penney Company and that's where he worked.

On May 17 he had an aneurysm, and I found my child dead, actually sitting up to the headboard as if he were asleep, and he was dead, a sudden death. An autopsy diagnosed that he had had an aneurysm.

The way they described it to me, I think they used to call it a stroke at the brain when you're asleep. Of course you know I'll carry the grief to the grave with me. And being Catholic, and my children, all five of them were so active in the school and the church, I never want them forgotten. I have a Mass said for them and my father on their birthdays and their death days and I set up a Memorial Scholarship Fund in St. Paul's Catholic School. I have it on the first weekend in May because both of them died in May. Eugene died May 27, 1962 and Michael Anthony died May 17, 1986. From those scholarships I've gotten up to as high as a little over six hundred dollars which I do all the baking by myself, and I intend to continue doing this as long as my health will allow it.

JM: Where do you have the bake sales, Mary?

Mrs. Munford: I have it at St. Paul's Catholic Church in the Atrium.

JM: You have one after every Mass?

Mrs. Munford: After every Mass as long as the food last but, usually the food gives out. But I have a schedule for every Mass. We are very successful. We are at the six, the eight o'clock Mass

and the ten thirty Mass, very successful.

JM: Mary, let's start talking about St. Joseph's School now. St. Joseph's School wouldn't have been as successful if it wasn't for Father Julian.

Mrs. Munford: Father Julian. St. Joseph's School would not been successful or anything else, I think, if we were without Father Julian.

JM: What was his last name?

Mrs. Munford: Father Julian Endler.

JM: Could you tell us some of the special things that he did for your school while you were there?

Mrs. Munford: Well, he fed us, clothed us, sheltered and did everything. He was so proud of that school. He had people coming from the North to visit, and he would bring them in that school and introduce them to each class. We had two classes in one classroom.

Then there were times when he would have Mr. Hatem to come into the school to show movies. Of course I'm so old now I can't remember the name of the movies. There were times when the whole school, the Nuns would take us, we would walk from Bern Street down to the Masonic Theater where we saw movies free of charge. When the carnival which was owned by the family of the Kraus, that carnival was put up on McCarthy's property where we lived and McCarthy was called McCarthy's Square, and each year we would walk with the Sisters from Bern Street out to Pembroke to the fair and we got food, we did rides, all the entertainment and everything was free. At Christmas time we had Christmas parties and each child got a bag; food, toys, clothing that helped us. He

not only did this for we Catholic children, he did it for anybody that came to him for help. He gave them money, food, clothing. He was a living angel.

JM: Well, you had a lot of non-Catholic children in St. Joseph's.

Mrs. Munford: We sure did. We had non-Catholic children in St. Joseph's.

JM: You were not a Catholic when you first went to the school were you?

Mrs. Munford: No, I was baptized in 1937. I was confirmed in 1939. I made my first communion in 1937.

JM: How old were you then?

Mrs. Munford: I was born in 1926, so, I would of been eleven years old.

JM: You lived in Pembroke when you were a child or near here.

Mrs. Munford: Yes.

JM: How did you get back and forth to school?

Mrs. Munford: We walked on Pembroke Road to Queen Street to Pollock Street to Bern Street.

JM: Did you ever have a ride?

Mrs. Munford: No, we didn't have a ride.

JM: Did your father ever fix up a truck?

Mrs. Munford: This was way back when my children were born. When we were born, when we was young, he only had a horse and cart and we rode on that sometime but he didn't take us to school every morning, we walked Pembroke Road. Because that's the way he made his

living, plowing, and he also dressed chickens at the food stores, the markets, on Fridays and Saturdays. You see, we were raised up very poor.

JM: Being in a Catholic school, did you open your day and close you day with prayers?

Mrs. Munford: We opened our day with prayers, and we closed it for lunch with prayers, we said our blessing, when we went for the afternoon session we said it with prayers, and when we closed it for that evening, we closed it with prayer.

JM: Did you eat your lunch at the school?

Mrs. Munford: Yes, we ate our lunch.

JM: Did you bring your lunches?

Mrs. Munford: We brought our lunches and everybody that didn't have lunches, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary would take us to the Convent and feed us. They did have a program a couple of years that they was serving oatmeal. I forgot just when that was, but it was when I was still real small.

JM: That would be for breakfast?

Mrs. Munford: For breakfast.

JM: Did you have a choir composed of the school children?

Mrs. Munford: We had a choir, we had glee clubs, we had plays. You know, could of been used in these theatricals groups now. We had a Sister St. Hugh, I think she knew how to do everything. She was an Immaculate Heart of Mary Nun and she taught Music, in fact she taught as I always say, "The black richest children got their education."

Some of them went to the school, but most of them went and took music from our school; such as, Barbara Rivers Morgan and Jessie Daves White.

All of the Daves' children took music in our school and I think some of them attended St. Joseph's School.

JM: When you were in high school at St. Joseph's, you were taught all the same type of subjects that were taught in public school weren't you?

Mrs. Munford: The same types of subjects. We had foreign language; we had Latin, French, and Spanish. We had Algebra I, II, we had Geometry, we had Trigonometry, then we had Geography and History.

In fact, our high school, St. Joseph's High School, was accredited the highest in the state of North Carolina. I might of forgotten some of the subjects, but we had all of it.

JM: They also taught Industrial Arts, didn't they?

Mrs. Munford: Industrial Arts and we had Home Economics where you sew and cook and all of that.

JM: And then you had shorthand and typing?

Mrs. Munford: Yeah, they had all the business.

JM: Mary, in 1943, there was a disastrous fire over at St. Joseph's School. What buildings were destroyed?

Mrs. Munford: The Church and part of the classrooms. The Church was completely destroyed and part of the school, most of it.

JM: Would you tell me about some of the help that he had, especially about that little boy who made a donation for the school?

Mrs. Munford: Yes, I'll be glad to. There was a little black

boy that came up to Father Julian and said that he had one penny and he gave that to him to help him to get started back with the new school and church and all. The Marines came from Cherry Point to help with the clean up. With the contributions that came in from celebrities like Bing Crosby and other big celebrities and everything, the school and everything was rebuilt in three months. They attended school in the Rectory and the auditorium and part of the Convent while it was being replaced.

JM: Then the high school went on, and did it become accredited after that?

Mrs. Munford: It became a full accredited high school in 1945.

JM: I believe you have something about the graduation from 1945.

Mrs. Munford: The first graduates from St. Joseph's High School was June 14, 1945. There was Anna Wynn Fisher, she was class Valedictorian, Sarah Jones Adams was Salutatorian, Ruth Armond Best, Irene Powell Harris, Vernonica Wright Taylor, Martha Johnson Thomas, and one boy, Haywood Foy. Father Julian sent the six girls to Xavier University in New Orleans for their first year of college. Anna returned to New Bern after her first year and she worked with I. H. Smith Realty Company, and then she married Frederick Fisher and they had eight children. She was secretary of St. Paul's Catholic Church twenty-three years and retired in 1988. Sarah Jones Adams, she went to Winston-Salem and received her degree as a Registered Nurse. She returned home and worked at Good Shepherd and Craven County Hospital until she retired due to health problem. She was married to DAVIS

Adams and they had three sons. Martha Johnson met Charles Thomas at Xavier University in New Orleans and she left and went to California with him and they married and she had two children, a boy and a girl.

Irene Powell Harris, she went to New York and she married Clifton Harris and they had children. Of course I don't know many because the only time I saw her was when we had the reunion in 1987. Ruth Armond Best and Vernonica Wright Taylor all went to New York and that's where they worked. Veronica and Ruth both are now deceased. Haywood Foy, he is still living in New Bern. He's my first cousin and he was a chef cook until he retired due to health problems. That was the Class of 1945. In 1946 they had one graduate, Elsie Outler. She married Turner Downing and they moved to Washington, D.C. In 1947 was Ernestine Wynn Patrick and Johnnie Mae Jones.

JM: This certainly shows that the children, that the graduates of St. Joseph's School, really accomplished a great deal in life as they came out.

Mrs. Munford: They did. Willie Mae Wynn, she graduated in 1948, but she is one of the successful ones because she didn't go to college.

She went to Baltimore and she got a job with the federal government and she worked there and then she transferred to Philadelphia where she bought a home, took her mother up there and took care of her until her death. Willie Mae retired after thirty years at the age of 55, and she never went to any kind college, all this came from St. Joseph's High School. I forgot to mention to you when I was talking about my older son, Eugene. All my children took music. This particular one,

the Nuns put him on the organ and the piano in the church. He was organist for the church and Glee Club in 1955 and there he did all of this until his death in 1962.

JM: All five of your children went to St. Joseph's?

Mrs. Munford: No. Three of them went to St. Joseph's because St. Joseph's closed when my son Michael, finished the first grade. So, he went to St. Paul's, Janet and Maria went to St. Paul's and they graduated from St. Paul's and then it was a must that they go in to the public schools. My son Michael was the first one of my children to walk in a public school in 1969 when they closed William Gaston Catholic High (formerly St. Joseph's).

JM: Did you have any children who attended William Gaston High School?

Mrs. Munford: Oh yeah, my son Raymond. He graduated in the class of 1968. He attended North Carolina A & T State University in Greensboro and he received his B. A. in Social Studies and History, and he came back to New Bern and he taught in New Bern High at J. T. Barber school for a year. Then, he's been at H. J. MacDonald Middle School teaching History and coaches and he's a licensed referee. He's been at H. J. MacDonald for the past sixteen years. He's a member of the Knights of Columbus and he married Deborah Staten, March 27, 1976 and they had two premature children. Keiah Nicolle weighed 2 pounds and 6 ounces when she was born, and Raymond Eugene weighed 2 pounds and 4 ounces when he was born, and both of the kids are now students in St. Paul's School. Eugene is first grade and Keiah is going into the fifth grade.

Deborah is a Spanish major and she got her Master's degree from the University of Mississippi in foreign language. My daughter Janet, she graduated from New Bern High School in 1976. She gave birth to Christopher Munford, the child that I am now raising, October 26, 1975.

She was out of school two weeks. She was just out of school two weeks when this baby was born. Of course I took the child so that she could finish and she went on off to school. She went to Craven Community College and got all she could get there, and this job that she was recently transferred to in Virginia. She got her degree from the American College June 22, 1991. My daughter Maria graduated with honors from New Bern High School, the National Honor Society, in 1985. She received her B. A. or whatever it is, in Psychology in 1991. From there she went to North Carolina Central University. She's working on her Masters. She's determined, she says, to get her PhD but she's going to try to come out and go to work. She's got a job now working for the summer with the North Carolina Central Prison for Women and the Pope Juvenile Center for Youth as a counselor. She will get her Masters from North Carolina Central University in 1993.

JM: That's wonderful.

Mrs. Munford: I wanted to mention another smart girl that came out of St. Joseph's High School, Acie Lou Ward. She graduated in 1961. She was an Associate Attorney General in Raleigh. Now she is a Professor of Law at North Carolina Central University, and she graduated from St. Joseph's High School in class of 1961. I could

tell you about a mess of them but we don't have the time so I'm just picking out the ones that are important, like the Dove family, Oscar Dove. When he was going to St. Joseph's High School, they only had the eighth grade and he finished in the public school and he went to Gupton Funeral School in New York and got his degree in Funeral Director or whatever it is. He has left a successful business with his three children and his wife and it's still growing.

JM: What business is this they have?

Mrs. Munford: They are funeral directors and embalmers and what have you.

JM: Are they in New Bern?

Mrs. Munford: They're in New Bern right out there in Pembroke. It's Oscar's Mortuary, Inc. They are St. Joseph's successful graduates. Sonny, the oldest one, graduated in 1961. Sonny William Dove, he graduated from high school in 1961 and he got his degree from some mortician school in New York. Dorothy, she graduated from North Carolina Central in business education and she got her Master's degree from somewhere, she worked in Maryland, so that way she got her Masters. Eileen, she just went to Craven Community, but they do have a successful growing business.

JM: They all work at Oscar's Mortuary?

Mrs. Munford: They're all in there. All of them are funeral directors. I don't think the girls are embalmers. But they run that business and it has grown and is tremendously successful.

JM: Let's get back to you for a minute because you were also

very active. When your children were in school, you were also very active at St. Joseph's. I believe you were adult advisor.

Mrs. Munford: I was adult advisor for the CYO.

JM: And that's the Catholic Youth Organization.

Mrs. Munford: Catholic Youth Organization. I was on the Executive Board for years, what they now call the Parish Advisory Council. We had an Executive Board. I was a member of the Legion of Mary where you go out and get the fallen away Catholics back. I've always been active in the church. Even church organist and still fumbling, trying to keep it going.

JM: You play the organ at St. Paul's Church now.

Mrs. Munford: Yeah, and I played it at St. Joseph's Church downtown. When the church was integrated and Father Haddan was here by himself, he had a seven o'clock Mass. The seven o'clock was up at our church at St. Joseph's, and the ten o'clock Mass was down at St. Paul's, so, I did that.

JM: Did you play for both Masses?

Mrs. Munford: I played for both Masses for a long time.

JM: When we were talking about the school, we forgot to talk about the uniforms. When you were in school, did you wear uniforms?

Mrs. Munford: We wore uniforms. They were navy blue pleated skirts, white blouses with, we call them, the sailor collars and red bow ties and white anklets. Most of us we only had two uniforms, so, we had to wash every day so that we would have a clean uniform for the next day.

JM: Did your children, when they went to St. Joseph's, wear uniforms?

Mrs. Munford: All of my children wore uniforms. The boys had to wear a collar and tie from the first grade right on up through senior.

JM: Did they have special colored pants that they wore?

Mrs. Munford: They wore navy blue pants and white blouses and navy blue ties. Then, they went into navy blue pants and the girls wore the opposite, the skirts and the blouses and the ties. When Janet got in there, she wore a jumper, a plaid jumper. They're not still wearing the same jumper, but they're wearing jumper's now, which is better because little children's skirts did not fit right. My kids were coming home with their skirts hanging this way that and the other but the boys they could wear anything dressy. In high school they had to wear a suit and coat with the collar and tie.

JM: How did your children get to school?

Mrs. Munford: My first child, I had to pay somebody to take him for a while. After my father was hired there as janitor of that school, he was able then to buy a truck and he put a cab or covered it up to close it in, and that's what he used to bring all of the kids from Pembroke to St. Joseph's School so that they wouldn't have to walk like we did. He was janitor for St. Joseph's until his health got bad and he had to retire and quit. He passed away in 1972.

JM: In 1962 was when they first started the integration, but in 1962 you had two boys who came to go to St. Joseph's High School.

Mrs. Munford: I didn't have but one to complete St. Joseph's

High School. Levon, we call him my son Raymond, when they integrated the school, Levon was going into the sixth grade and my son Michael was going into the first. Raymond graduated from the St. Paul's and went back up to William Gaston and that's where he graduated in the class of 1968.

JM: Who were the first two white boys that attended St. Joseph's School in 1962?

Mrs. Munford: Phil Fetcher's son was one and the other boy came. I can't think of his name to save my life, but there was two of them.

JM: They were the only two who attended in 1962?

Mrs. Munford: They were the only two who attended in 1962.

JM: Then, what changes were made in St. Joseph's School in 1963?

Mrs. Munford: They took our school and made the high school out of it. They took St. Paul's School and made that the elementary school. When my son graduated, he came on back up to his home school, St. Joseph's. In the meantime, they had the dedication and at the dedication that's when they announced the changing of the name from St. Joseph's High School to William Gaston Catholic High School and it was a slap in the face! It was a knock out! Of course there wasn't nothing we could do about it but we were very disappointed in it!

JM: They hadn't told you they were going to change the name?

Mrs. Munford: They hadn't mentioned nothing! They just changed it right over to William Gaston. I didn't know anything about William Gaston. I never had even heard of him. But they had a successful high school thanks to Msgr. Howard from Havelock. There was only a

few families that supported this school.

JM: A few local families?

Mrs. Munford: A few local families and I got their names. The Robert Blanford Family, Phil Fetcher, Dr. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Brandt, Walter Scheper, the Harmatuks, and Annie Pace Armstrong and the kids from Jones-Pott Music Company were the only white ones that went to that school. The school was supported by Havelock, Morehead City, Cherry Point Base, Jacksonville, and Swansboro. A bus carried the kids to and fro each day.

JM: Do you remember what year it was that the school closed up?

Mrs. Munford: The school closed in 1969.

JM: Did they have sports? Did they participate in sports?

Mrs. Munford: They had sports. They had everything. They had basketball and things like that, but they didn't have the band. A lot of our parishioners wanted their kids to go to the big New Bern High School but it wasn't integrated then. They would keep them from still being involved with the blacks. They used the excuse that the children wanted to join the bands and be in the drill team and stuff that the Catholic school didn't have. But that was the excuse that they used. Finally, at last they had to close the high school and that was a sad day, because I had one graduating from St. Paul's that had to march right into the public schools in the same hell that I walked in, if you'll excuse the expression.

JM: What year did he go into the public school?

Mrs. Munford: He went in 1969. He said the happiest day of his

life, he never adjusted to it, but June 1, 1973 when he graduated from there. So, my two daughters had to go there. But my oldest son, he graduated with honors from St. Joseph's High School. Of course he was dead, he graduated June 10, that was his graduation date, the class Valedictorian. My son, Raymond, he graduated from William Gaston Catholic High School in 1968 and he was the only black spot there was in that class.

JM: Did a lot of black children drop out of St. Joseph's High School?

Mrs. Munford: A lot of them dropped out.

JM: Did they go to the New Bern High School then?

Mrs. Munford: Some of them went to New Bern High School and some of them just went out and got themselves a job and went to work. They just called it quits.

JM: But you feel that they probably might have stayed on and finished school had it remained just St. Joseph's?

Mrs. Munford: Had it remained St. Joseph's, they would have. A lot of it is just like my son said, "That they were outnumbered, they had no voice."

JM: Mary, can you tell me something about some of the other alumni who graduated from St. Joseph's School?

Mrs. Munford: I can tell you about a few of them like Mary Stanley Pollock. In 1957 she won the first place in the school oratorical contest. Then, she went on in the state and she won third prize for the state. Then, you had Joseph Gregory McCotter. His father was

Leroy McCotter and he was janitor of St. Joseph's when I was knee high, and he died suddenly. His mother raised him and he was very musically inclined. He was taught music by Sister St. Hugh. He graduated from St. Joseph's High School. I don't know where he got his degree in the music from, but as of now, they say that he has a PhD in music in some part of Georgia. That's about it as far as I can remember.

JM: Did you have Sisters most of the time or did they have to bring in some lay teachers?

Mrs. Munford: When I was there, we had Sisters, and we called the principals back then in our day Mother. We had four Sisters and the principal was Mother. And those IHM nuns were good to the children. We black children too because they fed us, clothed us, and sheltered us too.

JM: The IHM were the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Mrs. Munford: The Immaculate Heart of Mary's is what we had.

JM: Did you have lay teachers up at St. Joseph's High School?

Mrs. Munford: No, we only had Nuns. We had a Sister Frances Xavier. The Nuns came, and in those days they came and stayed five, fifteen, sixteen years. Because Sister Xavier was my son Raymond's first grade teacher and she was his principal when he graduated in 1968. We had Sister ST. Hugh. She stayed there umpteen years. That's when I was in there, Sister St. Hugh. I can remember three teachers that I had; the first grade teacher was Sister Ligorium, my second grade teacher was Sister Agnes Cecelia, and then when we changed, I got Sister St. Hugh. We had two classes in each classroom, two grades,

and as I moved up, she moved up until I came out of school in 1942.

She moved up with me. She was just a Nun. She was a jack of all trades. She was the one that taught music and we had plays, that, was, I reckon, just as good as these movies. She taught us dancing and everything.

JM: And you wouldn't of had any lay teachers until they had William Gaston High School?

Mrs. Munford: When they got to William Gaston High School, that's when they brought in the lay teachers.

JM: Mary, there's one person in your family that I have been wanting you to tell me about. Would you tell me about your grandson, Chris?

Mrs. Munford: I'll be glad to. Chris was born on October 26, 1975 while his mother was a senior in high school. He was educated in St. Paul's Catholic School and he graduated at St. Paul's School in 1989 and he went on to J. T. Barber, which he is not adjusting to the public school system. Now at J. T. Barber's, he had a bad year.

In New Bern High School so far, he is adjusting to it better. He's in his sophomore year and he's a rising junior now, but he wants to hurry up and get out of New Bern High School, so, that means he doesn't like it either.

JM: Well, it's different going to the parochial school and then going to the public school.

Mrs. Munford: It makes a lot of difference. Chris is very active in the church. He was recently confirmed April 25, 1992 at Infant

of Prague Church with sixty-two other candidates and he's a very active altar boy, and as long as the youth program is active, he's in that too. Very active as an altar boy and anything that he can help in the school, he even volunteered this summer with the Bible School.

Every year he works and helps out there with the Bible School. But the main thing, he's sixteen years old and he has applications, went all over New Bern and can't get a job for the summer which bothered him.

JM: It's very difficult for the children to find jobs.

Mrs. Munford: It's very difficult to find jobs.

JM: I know you're very proud of him.

Mrs. Munford: I'm very proud of him. I just put him in God's hands and pray that he will never get hooked up with the wrong crowd or be led astray, but all you can do is let him go and trust in God.

And that's the way I do cause he's been with me all his life. His mother lives in Virginia but she comes home once a month. She never misses. Once a month to visit with us and him, he's her family and blood, to do things with her son because he do not want to go to Virginia with her, but the main reason he doesn't want to leave me.

JM: But she had to go up to Virginia because she got a promotion, didn't she?

Mrs. Munford: She got a promotion and then they sent her to college to where she got her degree in Business Management and then she just got that June 22, 1991. We all went up. We were real proud of her, and Chris was real proud to see his mother get her degree.

JM: What college did she go to up there?

Mrs. Munford: I can't think, American something, got it in Washington, D.C. She worked days and went to school at night.

JM: I think you should be proud of all your children. They have all accomplished.

Mrs. Munford: I am proud of all of them and I thank God for his blessings cause it's hard raising children. I'm hoping and trusting that I can be just as proud of my grandchildren; although, I don't have but three, as I am of my own children.

JM: You will be.

Mrs. Munford: I hope so.

JM: Mary, is there anything else that you would like to say?

Mrs. Munford: I would like to say I am very proud to be a Catholic and had a Catholic education and was very well trained and educated under the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary which I'll love as long as I live! The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and of course the Passionist Father and now the Diocesan Priest, and that's it.

JM: Well, Mary, I want to thank you so much for coming and sharing with us and telling us all about St. Joseph's School which was a wonderful place for anybody to go to school.

Mrs. Munford: I hope I've done my very best.

END OF INTERVIEW

