

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

DR. GRAHAM A. BARDEN

INTERVIEW 503

This is Dr. Francis King, number 500, interviewing Dr. Graham A. Barden, number 503, at his home on July 28, 1992.

Dr. King: Now, Bardy, can you tell me when you were born and where?

Dr. Barden: March 31, 1924, Craven and Change Street in New Bern, North Carolina, the corner of it. A small while bungalow.

Dr. King: Your mother's family were long term natives of this area I understand.

Dr. Barden: Dating way back.

Dr. King: How far back?

Dr. Barden: I couldn't tell you exactly, but the early 1800's.

Dr. King: And your father, where did he come from?

Dr. Barden: From Burgaw, North Carolina. He was born in Turkey, North Carolina and then when he reached school age they moved to Burgaw because of the school system. In fact, at one time he went to a single room school house. His father paid the teacher to teach dad and several other kids in the neighborhood. One of the teachers was Judge Grady who was a life time friend of dads who lived here in New Bern.

Dr. King: He was involved in politics and was in Congress a number of years.

Dr. Barden: For twenty-six years.

Dr. King: Yes. Now, can you tell me something of your early, early life? I understand that there's some interesting little tid bits about it that Mary, your wife, has clued me in.

Dr. Barden: No telling what! Starting way back, I have flashes

of downtown living but most all my childhood was in Riverside better know as "Little Russia." Exactly where the name "Little Russia" came from, supposedly from the fact that the boys out there had so many fights that they named it "Little Russia." But that name is persistent through the years and Riverside south of Sunnyside which the railroad tracks south of the National Cemetery on down to the railroad tracks intersecting National Avenue, that was the major area. The school was right across the street from where I lived so there was no problem getting there.

Dr. King: That was Riverside school?

Dr. Barden: Riverside school during the early years and then Central school. We had to go downtown for the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades.

Dr. King: Was that the Bell building or the Moses Griffin building?

Dr. Barden: No, it was in the Bell building, that's where most of my early classes were, and then the upper grades were in the Moses Griffin building. In fact, I know my mother went to the Bell building and I'm not sure about my grandmother.

Dr. King: That was built in the 1880's. She may or may not have been.

Dr. Barden: It would have been just my mother then.

Dr. King: Your wife had some comments about some of your punishment in school and the way you avoided them; such as, writing your name a number of times. Can you tell me about that?

Dr. Barden: Well, that was rather difficult because my third grade teacher roomed in our house and whenever I did anything that was out of line, my father who was a former school teacher, reenforced her discipline. She had as her pet punishment writing the multiplication tables several hundred times depending on the degree of the infringement. At one point the boys quickly adopted a method by which we could use three pencils to write the multiplication tables out. Needless to say, I never had trouble with multiplication tables after the third grade.

Dr. King: But you wrote three at a time with three pencils in your hand?

Dr. Barden: Two or three. Three was a little difficult but I used to write two anyway.

Dr. King: Well, you certainly managed to grow up well. Any other events in your childhood you might recall?

Dr. Barden: About the second or third grade, at that time you could own wild animals, dad bought a buck and a doe deer and we raised a fawn in the back yard. I never have shot a deer because they are more pets to me than they are anything else. I think it's a great sport and I think boys enjoy it very much in this area, but I just never have.

Dr. King: Now, you had the doe and the buck in your back yard?

Dr. Barden: Yeah.

Dr. King: Right on the Riverside?

Dr. Barden: Right on National Avenue.

Dr. King: And they produced a fawn. What was the fawn's name?

Dr. Barden: I don't remember the fawn's name. I remember the doe's name was "Doe", and we named the buck "Lindy".

Dr. King: How long did you keep them?

Dr. Barden: They were there. I also had a pony that dad had bought from a circus who was too smart. We had him for I would say at least three or four years. Then, one morning early he reached over the fence with his lips and undid the latch and let everything out.

The buck and the fawn, as near as we know, made it to the woods, last seen out on a railroad tracks heading for the woods. The doe went downtown and walking behind a man over on, I think, it was Bern Street, and he pulled out a snub nosed revolver and shot her. It seems to me there were a string of penalties involved in that from carrying a concealed weapon to shooting deer out of season, shooting a doe deer, shooting a deer on Sunday. There were quite a few penalties involved.

Dr. King: Did you have anymore animals after that?

Dr. Barden: I had a billy goat, and I had guinea pigs, I had rabbits. Dad made a mistake of buying me a pair of rabbits. We wound up with thirty-three! Of course, white rats, and we had one rabbit we called "Peter Rabbit" we had trained very highly. Mom said he would sit by the front door until I came home from school. He'd be in the house playing, he was actually house broken, and he would suddenly stop at about 3:15 and run to the front door and sit right by the front door when I came in at 3:20. How he knew it, I don't know!, but he later died, and of course dogs and cats.

Dr. King: How did you mother manage all of this now?

Dr. Barden: Oh, she did well. The only time I ever saw her put here foot down though; one night dad came home and he had a friend of his in the Coleman Brother's Circus, they were in town, and I was about ten years old. Wiley Post had been advertised with his lion that he carried with him, and dad came in one evening and asked me if I wanted a cub lion. I immediately ascended to cloud ten, not nine, ten! Mom was reading the paper, she slapped the paper down and looked up and she said, "Hap, if that lion comes in the front door, I'm going out the back door!"

Dr. King: Hap is the name your father went by?

Dr. Barden: Yeah.

Dr. King: That must of been an interesting neighborhood with all your animals. Did many other of your friends have that many animals?

Dr. Barden: We all had pets, dogs. There were a couple; Leon Scott here in town had a pony and then another boy, Brinson, who also had a pony. He could always outrun mine unless I'd turn mine toward the stable and then he would outrun anything!

Dr. King: You went to school here then through high school?

Dr. Barden: Through high school.

Dr. King: Did you play athletics?

Dr. Barden: Football. I won my letters in football.

Dr. King: What position did you play?

Dr. Barden: Right Guard and Tackle.

Dr. King: Your father was a football coach early on.

Dr. Barden: Yep. He coached a championship team of New Bern High School.

Dr. King: The same year as the fire as I recall.

Dr. Barden: Yep. The high school at that time we had eleven years with eight month sessions, so, it's entirely different from what they have now. It made a lot of difference when you hit college too.

Dr. King: Any other interesting things that happened in your childhood or earlier life, teenagers?

Dr. Barden: Well, used to, we'd all run to the fires. One time my mother finally coaxed me into a blue serge suit by saying my grandmother had bought it, whom I dearly loved. When I came home from church, the fire bell went and I went out the door with the blue serge suit on. Ordinarily, I wore either overalls or corduroy. At the fire one of the firemen asked the very needless question, "Did I want to handle the nozzle of the fire hose?", and he let me have the nozzle of the fire hose. When I came home, I don't think I ever got into the blue serge suit again!

Dr. King: What was your mother's reaction to this episode?

Dr. Barden: Resigned! But then there was another one at Banner Warehouse, there were three of us took a line in that. That was out on National Avenue where the S. B. Parker Company is. Three of us took a line in one door of that and were playing water on the fire inside and went back up into, the warehouse forty or fifty feet and were playing water on the fire with the fire hose. It was about a two and a half, three inch hose.

Dr. King: How old were you then?

Dr. Barden: I was a teenager then I believe.

Dr. King: So, you could handle it.

Dr. Barden: We could handle it, the three of us. It meant that you had to have at least three men. Two men might hold it down but the last man to turn loose gets beat. We were in there and we heard a noise way in the back. A couple of the beams had fallen and all of a sudden it started like a house of cards. I was on the nozzle and I told the boys to get out of here. One of the boys just broke and ran, the other one held onto the line with me and we ran out of the warehouse and as I came out I looked up and a wall had started falling over. So, I screamed at him to turn to the right and we ran off to one side just as the wall crashed where we would have been if we had of kept going straight. That was about the closest shave I ever had at a fire. Of course, the warehouse burned to the ground. There was no way to stop that because they were made out of wood and once they start that's it.

Dr. King: That was a tobacco warehouse?

Dr. Barden: Tobacco warehouse, one of the biggest in town. It never was rebuilt. But the fires were one thing we had a lot of action with. Mostly the biggest social club in New Bern at that time I think was Troop 13. Most all of us were in Troop 13. I joined when I was about eleven as a mascot and continued and am still active with it.

Dr. King: Now, Troop 13 was the Boy Scouts?

Dr. Barden: The Troop 13 Boy Scouts.



Dr. King: Who was your Scout Master?

Dr. Barden: Mr. B. M. Potter and he could rule any of us!

Dr. King: Was he a good man?

Dr. Barden: Excellent!

Dr. King: In what way?

Dr. Barden: Well, he was very patient considering the Troop at one time had seventy boys, or seventy-five boys on the rolls, one was in the Merchant Marine, two off at college, and we never had less than sixty-nine boys in full uniform. Yet, he had very tight discipline.

Dr. King: What was his first name?

Dr. Barden: Mr. B. M. Potter. He was a wonderful fellow to all of us.

Dr. King: Did he begin that Troop?

Dr. Barden: I'm not sure on that. I should be up on that.

Dr. King: Who followed him then?

Dr. Barden: I think Charlie Taylor was in on it and Jack Gwaltney fathered it for quite a while. There were several in between that.

Dr. King: Did you all have a lot of good experiences in the camp?

Dr. Barden: We did. It kept us busy which is the important thing. Most all of us would go on up through Eagle.

Dr. King: Were you an Eagle scout?

Dr. Barden: Yeah. We took our time getting it and had a lot of fun. We had summer camps every summer.

Dr. King: Where did you go to camp?

Dr. Barden: One of the favorite camps was Kiro. That was the

old Kiwanis camp down by Croatan.

Dr. King: Was it the Croatan National Forest then?

Dr. Barden: No, I think it's position was on the edge of it, No, I believe now it's developed.

Dr. King: It was sponsored by the Kiwanis and Rotary Club.

Dr. Barden: Combined, yeah. Then we had another camp down at the straits called Camp Salt Air. It was a house down near Gloucester, I mean Harker's Island. There were several areas.

Dr. King: At that time you could only get to Harker's Island by boat.

Dr. Barden: Yes, or use the Ferry, but this was at Gloucester just across the strait from Harker's Island.

Dr. King: On the mainland. When you finished high school here, where did you go to college?

Dr. Barden: Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia.

Dr. King: And you were there for the full time?

Dr. Barden: No, I was there for two years. In fact, my class there, I believe to the best of my knowledge, there are only four of my class ever graduated VMI except those who came back after WWII. We were all sucked out at the end of our second year.

Dr. King: To do what?

Dr. Barden: Well, some of us went V-12 in the Navy. or Army ASTP.

Dr. King: What did you do?

Dr. Barden: I was in V-12 of the Navy and was transferred into Duke.

Dr. King: This is when now?

Dr. Barden: That would be in about 1943.

Dr. King: That's how you got to Duke then. Did you serve in the Navy?

Dr. Barden: Well, we went through that and then under the accelerated program I was Class of '45 at VMI and Class of '44 at Duke. Then, we went into Med and the war ended before we finished our med. They had us on accelerated course there to try to get us out as fast as possible.

Dr. King: So, you were not active duty until after you went into Med school?

Dr. Barden: Right. Except for Boot Camp.

Dr. King: How did you get interested in medicine? Can you tell me about that?

Dr. Barden: Well, I was at Pre-Med at VMI.

Dr. King: Well, I assume then that you had a long interest in going to Med school.

Dr. Barden: Oh yes. My great uncle was Dr. Raymond Pollock here in New Bern and he had fostered a little bit of interest there. He was my grandfather's brother-in-law. Then too, my best friend was Fred Latham and his father was a physician here in town who was ten years ahead of this town medically, and he used to take me on house calls with him.

Dr. King: What was Dr. Latham's first name?

Dr. Barden: Joseph.

Dr. King: And you went to Med school at Duke for the four years then? It was after the war actually when you finished, wasn't it?

Dr. Barden: Well, actually we finished early. My class was one of the youngest that they had. I had one classmate that graduated from Med school at twenty-one. I was barely twenty-four. Actually I finished Med school when I was twenty-three but we graduated about a three to six months ahead.

Dr. King: What did you do after you graduated from Med school?

Dr. Barden: Worked for a while in one of the state hospitals and then went into Vanderbilt on Obstetrics and that's when I got very interested in pediatrics and came back to Duke on pediatrics. Then, from Duke I went with Dr. Sidbury down at the Baby's Hospital in Wilmington.

Dr. King: How many years were you at Duke?

Dr. Barden: In the internship, one year, and then I transferred to Dr. Sidbury's hospital. At that point I volunteered again for the Navy during the Korean thing. That was my second tour in the Navy.

Dr. King: What was Dr. Sidbury's first name?

Dr. Barden: It's J. Buren Sidbury.

Dr. King: And you were there for a year?

Dr. Barden: Almost a year because actually the Navy called me up about April or the end of the year.

Dr. King: You mentioned you were volunteered. Does that mean they volunteered you or you volunteered?

Dr. Barden: No, both times I volunteered but it was a question

of getting on back into a Reserve unit because there would be a general call-up. And while I had served before, this time I was a MD and so that meant your eligibility for draft shifted back to 1-A. So, rather than taking a chance on that I joined the Naval Reserve.

Dr. King: This was in the Korean War?

Dr. Barden: Korean War.

Dr. King: And were you called up then?

Dr. Barden: Called up then and then went in for two years at that time.

Dr. King: Were you in the actual active Navy after medical school or during medical school other than the V-12?

Dr. Barden: I went through Boot Camp. You see, you leave the V-12 program and then when you're put through Boot Camp - I was a Corpsman. Then, that fall I was called back into Med school, but I was actually in the Navy at that point. My orders had gotten fouled up. The Dean thought I was going to contact him and I thought he was going to contact me and I actually arrived at Med school about three days late.

Dr. King: What year did you graduate from Med school?

Dr. Barden: 1948.

Dr. King: What did you do during the Navy then?

Dr. Barden: Pediatrics at LeJeune and then was transferred to Puerto Rico where I was actually the only medical officer on the station at Roosevelt Roads.

Dr. King: As I recall, that's when you got interested in scuba

diving.

Dr. Barden: No, I had always been interested in scuba diving. I started that back about 1939. A friend of dad's was Dr. Herbert Prytherich and he was in charge of the fisheries place down at Beaufort.

Dr. King: Was he a medical doctor?

Dr. Barden: No, he was a PhD. He imported some Japanese pearl diving mask and we had to cut them to our face. They were made out of hard rubber and we had to shave them down to fit our face to get a water seal. We used to dive out at Cape Lookout.

Dr. King: Was that diving or snorkeling?

Dr. Barden: We didn't have snorkels, we just straight surface dive.

Dr. King: And you had this over your face?

Dr. Barden: So we could see. Then of course after the war, we got a lot of French masks and snorkels and Costeau lungs and so forth. No, Costeau came later I believe, but it was the French equipment that really went heavy in the market at that time.

Dr. King: What about the scuba mechanism, the RBA?

Dr. Barden: I didn't do that until about 1954 or '55 somewhere along in there when they came out. I had one of the first Costeau lungs with the rubber twin hoses. I still have it in fact.

Dr. King: You mean by that, the self-contained?

Dr. Barden: Right, the self-contained under water breathing device but not rebreathers.

Dr. King: And they were they early ones that you could manage

to do that. Did you use those during the war?

Dr. Barden: US divers was one of the first came out using the Costeau Aqua Lung.

Dr. King: I remember you tried to get people here interested as I recall.

Dr. Barden: Yes a whole lot of people were interested. We had a lot of fun with it.

Dr. King: Then you came to New Bern when?

Dr. Barden: I came back to New Bern when that Navy time was over, it was about 1953. I started a practice then.

Dr. King: Do you have any other comments about your Naval experience?

Dr. Barden: I enjoyed it. It was unusual because I was about third from the bottom at Camp LeJeune as a JG and down in Puerto Rico I was Senior Medical Officer afloat, and in fact the only Medical Officer. It was quite a difference. I was filling the billet of Lieutenant Commander and the base had 700 personnel with their dependents and it was very good. I got to see a lot of the flying and so forth.

Dr. King: Did you do the pediatrics there?

Dr. Barden? Well, pediatrics was a part of it but I was more of general medical officer.

Dr. King: Then you came to New Bern after you got out of the Navy?

Dr. Barden: After I left the Navy, I came on back.

Dr. King: You came in 1953?

Dr. Barden: Yes, the Spring of 1953.

Dr. King: Tell me about how things were then.

Dr. Barden: You came when, in 19?

Dr. King: 1952.

Dr. Barden: Yeah, you were just ahead of me. Well, you know there were about eighteen of us. That was all in the county society.

Dr. King: Yeah, I think there were thirteen when I came but then there were four that came my year and Suzanne Little, I believe came in 1953 too.

Dr. Barden: Yeah, she came after me I think, she and Reece. We had three hospitals; St. Luke's, Good Shepherd, and Kafer. All three, the pediatrics facility were not shall we say the best. One hospital I had one open ward in which you put surgical and medical mixed-up.

Dr. King: Pediatrics you mean.

Dr. Barden: Pediatrics. I walked in there one day horrified that they had post-T and A next to a pneumonia next to a another surgical patient and across the room was a blazing summer diarrhea, and it was not very good. Down at St. Luke's at that point they would put the kids in rooms right on the adult wards and had no special pediatric nurses. With the Sisters, I finally was able to get a pediatric ward started down in the basement and that's where we started.

Dr. King: Tell me about that. How long was it before you were able to get that?



Dr. Barden: Fran, I don't remember the exact year. It was certainly within just a year or so of getting here. I know they were very cooperative once they found out it was feasible. We had a lot of T and A's and things like that. The surgical staff would take over part of it and then I used my other rooms for the private beds and while Kafer and Good Shepherd had pediatric wards, certainly the more serious cases we put at St. Luke's. In fact, St. Luke's was pediatric wise, integrated long before the rest of the hospital I think.

Dr. King: You put them altogether then?

Dr. Barden: We had separate rooms depending on what the sickness was. The sickest ones would be there rather than Good Shepherd.

Dr. King: Did you have the equipment that was necessary then?

Dr. Barden: Such as what we had and we had fairly good equipment as far as the standard of that day goes.

Dr. King: I mean they were able to buy that then?

Dr. Barden: Yes. I bought laryngoscope 'cause nobody had one in town. I used to carry it in my bag and that's where I got in the habit of always making rounds with a bag.

Dr. King: Laryngoscope was to look down in the throat with?

Dr. Barden: For newborns to put tubes down if we had to and what not. Then, we tried to get a croup tent and that was fun because there was always a shortage of funds for equipment. So, I bought a croup tent myself and based it at St. Luke's with the provision that if I needed it at Kafer or Good Shepherd, it went with me.

Dr. King: Kafer Hospital for the purpose of this was another

hospital that was privately owned.

Dr. Barden: It was a privately owned hospital. Wasn't it Baptist backed?

Dr. King: Well, initially it was Dr. Kafer that opened it and then the regional Baptist organization owned it and then Good Shepherd was built in the 1930's by the Episcopal church and it served the black community which then was completely segregated.

Dr. Barden: Lula was in charge of it. Dr. Lula Disosway was in charge of the Good Shepherd Hospital and did a super job out there.

But when it came to the critically ill infants or children, the Sisters there at St. Luke's were pediatric nurses and trained in pediatrics.

Dr. King: Who was that now?

Dr. Barden: Well, Sister Paulita was one of the lead ones.

Dr. King: I don't remember her.

Dr. Barden: She was a little short nurse.

Dr. King: Of course, I didn't do any pediatrics. But eventually you worked into a reasonable service.

Dr. Barden: It was a very good ward, it really was. We got the croup tent. When I carried it over to Kafer when they wanted it, it was always in use at either Good Shepherd or St. Luke's, so they bought one. Good Shepherd saw that it was a useful machine so they bought one. St. Luke's wasn't going to be out done so they bought one and I wound up with about four or five croup tents which all of us used of course. They used mine if some of the other doctors had a patient,

if my patients were not using it, they used it.

Dr. King: Were you the first one here that just confined your own practice to pediatrics?

Dr. Barden: No, there had been several before me. Dr. Junius Davis who was ahead of me and he was called up by the Draft, I think, in the Army just before I came back. I think it was a year before I came back. I was the only one here a couple of years and then he came back. Then, we were the only ones east of Kinston for quite a while that were doing straight pediatrics.

Dr. King: There was a Dr. Bender here when I came.

Dr. Barden: That was way back. Dr. Bender was my wife's pediatrician.

Dr. King: I assume he did general practice with emphasis on pediatrics?

Dr. Barden: I think he did largely pediatrics. That's what Mary told me. In fact, it seems like my wife was somewhat of a problem with Dr. Bender that she really didn't care for his attentions. At one point when she was walking down the street one day he stopped and looked at her and said, "Mary Louise, tch, tch, and to think you married a Pediatrician!"

Mary Louise Barden: He flat out said "that I was the worst patient he ever had!"

Dr. King: How did your practice go in your pediatrics?

Dr. Barden: Oh, it started right off vigorous, there was no question about that. We saw so many unusual cases because in those

days prophylactic pediatrics, or taking a child in for well care and stuff like that was not in vogue. That came along. We finally got some of that in but at that time very few people did it.

Dr. King: You mean the vaccines?

Dr. Barden: The vaccines and then well baby checks and things of that sort. If a child got sick, they stayed sick several days before they were brought in. Early on, I had one child brought in dead, DOA.

I had another that died in the office. Just as soon as she walked in and put him on the table and that was it before we could do anything.

Dr. King: What was wrong with him?

Dr. Barden: Both of those I believe was diarrhea. That was the killer.

Dr. King: Young babies?

Dr. Barden: Young babies.

Dr. King: And died of what, dehydration?

Dr. Barden: Dehydration. If they'd been caught earlier, we'd of been all right. They were just first time visits, I mean, just walked in the office and boom! Some of the cases were quite unusual.

I know at one time they gave a CPC conference up at Duke and all the cases they presented were cases I'd sent up there.

Dr. King: Such as what? What were some of the diagnosis you used, do you remember?

Dr. Barden: I don't remember off hand, but one of the boys that called me said the whole conference was cases I'd sent up there.

Dr. King: Did you have to send many to Duke?

Dr. Barden: That was really the only Tertiary Center around except Carolina, and having been trained at Duke I naturally had more ties with Duke.

Dr. King: Well, Carolina didn't open until later though.

Dr. Barden: I thought they had a hospital there.

Dr. King: Well, in 1954 I guess it opened, '55, somewhere along in there.

Dr. Barden: Yeah, but I knew all the staff at Duke. It flourished after that. I mean, there's been no question about that, but the cases were so unusual. I know there was one that had an aneurysm of the anterior descending artery on the heart and I'd picked up a rub that I didn't like and a slight murmur and that was all. Come to find out it was at the time, according to my brother-in-law, Dr. David Sabiston at Duke, there were only four cases like it in literature.

Dr. King: That was the rub of the heart, the pericardial rub?

Dr. Barden: The pericardial rub plus a murmur, and it didn't fit any clinical picture I knew, so I sent it right on up and they operated and in fact he is doing fine now.

Dr. King: As I recall, you were very busy in your practice here.

Dr. Barden: A little bit. You had to make do. For instance, I did exchange transfusions for RH at that time. We didn't have the lights and stuff that we use now. To do an exchange I had to make up my own sets. I use to buy those, in fact I still have one or two around, a metal plunger syringes and things of that sort that we used for the exchanges. I had to buy those.

Dr. King: Let's define that a little better.

Dr. Barden: That was the RH in which the baby's bilirubin rose so high we had to do a washout on his blood system and we exchanged the blood.

Dr. King: And you removed the whole lot of blood?

Dr. Barden: Put in fresh blood.

Dr. King: You didn't try to separate the blood cells?

Dr. Barden: No. In those days you used compatible donors and you used the whole blood.

Dr. King: And that would prevent brain damage.

Dr. Barden: That it would. If you didn't do it, they were goners. But things like that were a little exciting. I know one time before we had - remember these thermal blankets?

Dr. King: Yes.

Dr. Barden: There was one of the patrolman, I don't know whether you remember it or not, it was out near your house in DeGraffenreid, one of the patrolman was on a motorcycle and a car pulled out in front of him and he hit the car and pitched off the motorcycle and got very bad brain damage. They had him in the hospital and Dr. Joe Patterson called me and said they were having trouble regulating his temperature and did I have any ideas on that? Well, I always did like to get near war surplus shops and the one in Bridgeton that I went over to see and occasionally get jeep parts because I had a place on the outer banks that I was maintaining a jeep. I remember seeing some World War II Marine Corps air mattress that were one continuous coiled tube.

It just amazed me that they made it out of one continuous tube and just coiled it back and forth. So, I ran over and the owner, a very fine gentleman, gave me one of the mattresses. I took it back and put a rubber hose in one end and a rubber hose in the other.

Dr. King: You mean like a garden hose?

Dr. Barden: A garden hose. And I went into the shower in a room where the patrolman was and took the head off the shower and screwed in a fitting so that the garden hose would fit it and with that we could regulate the water temperature a little bit. Then, took a five gallon lard stand and coiled the hose up in the lard stand and weighted it down with bricks so that we could put ice in that to ice it down, and then had the patrolman on the mattress.

Dr. King: Now, the temperature of the patrolman was real high.

Dr. Barden: It was 104, 105, 106, you couldn't get it down due to the central brain damage. Once we had our cold water flowing through the mat, his temperature came right on down to normal.

Dr. King: Did he lay on the mat?

Dr. Barden: He laid on the mat and then put a sheet over him. Then, had one end of the hose ran to the drain of the shower and the other came from the water supply and they just circulated through the bucket with the ice in it and it maintained his temperature beautifully.

I thought it was rather Rube Goldberg type rig and one day I went upstairs to the operating room for some reason and they were operating on someone that had high temps, and I looked at them and there came two hoses out of the operating room!

Dr. King: Same one that you had?

Dr. Barden: Yeah, it was mine. It stayed there for years and I don't know when they finally threw it out, but it stayed there for years.

Dr. King: Did you get a patten on it?

Dr. Barden: No.

Dr. King: Well, you always were a sort of innovative type thing. So, any other thing?

Dr. Barden: Well, I started cultures on the throats and things of that sort.

Dr. King: They hadn't been doing those?

Dr. Barden: Most boys didn't do it in the office. A lot of them did, some didn't.

Dr. King: I mean you did them in your office?

Dr. Barden: Oh yeah, we did them in the office all the time.

Dr. King: This was the culture for the bacteria germs?

Dr. Barden: Mostly strep. I wanted an incubator so I took a chicken incubator and fine tuned it and added so it would hold the temperature to cause the cultures to incubate and that's the way I ran it. I run out every morning before I went to rounds and read my cultures and I had the plates ready, the information ready for the office. It worked! It's too expensive to do it at the hospital, Fran, I mean just for routine. Also, it would mean the patient would have to leave the office and go to the hospital and go through all that.

Dr. King: It's not a bad thing to do it that way.



Dr. Barden: Oh, we do it in the office all the time.

Dr. King: Your wife, Mary, said on one occasion that someone said their baby was sick but they wasn't going to bring it in cause they couldn't afford it or words to that effect. Did you have many experiences that way?

Dr. Barden: Dr. Aiken joined me in about 1961. In the late Sixties, Hovey and I suddenly realized that fifty percent of our nursery was charitable and seventy percent of our ward work was in the hospital.

We realized also that a lot of kids were falling through the cracks because of that. So, that's when he and I, and Verna Barefoot got together and we got up this health clinic. At that time they had supposedly well baby clinics in the public health clinic. We would take turns going down there and seeing the children.

Dr. King: This was in New Bern at the Craven County Health Department and Dr. Verna Barefoot was there?

Dr. Barden: Yes. I don't believe Verna Barefoot was there initially, she came in a little bit later and was terrific with it.

Dr. Hardin was there before, but she was very aggressive with it and it worked beautifully. When we would go we suddenly realized that really instead of a well baby clinic, we were just seeing sick children that just didn't have any medical home.

Dr. King: This was at the health department and you would give your time for this?

Dr. Barden: Yes. We just ran it as a free clinic. We figured we ought to have something better or more reasonable. I found out

later I think that there was one in Laurinburg and it was the only other one. We organized the health department to where I called Dr. Sam Katz up at Duke and he was kind enough to lend us one of his national health service doctors. There were some allocated to the state where the boys would get their funds from the federal government going to Med school and then they'd serve in community service for two or three years and he had a slot there and we were able to get one of the boys in from that and that's when we set up this twenty-four hour, seven day a week health center.

Dr. King: That was some years ago. When was that?

Dr. Barden: Fran, I don't remember exactly. It's been quite a while back.

Dr. King: But it was before East Carolina Medical School?

Dr. Barden: Oh yes, it was before East Carolina Medical School. We had no Med school interest in this area then. We set it up and then later Mark left.

Dr. King: He was the young doctor from Duke?

Dr. Barden: Yeah. When he left, I believe it was Tom Irons who came in then. This clinic was unique in that it did give twenty-four hour a day service just like a practice and admitted to the hospital which very few medical societies fostered in the early days. We had that going and then eventually East Carolina saw the teaching potential. So, then when Tom left and went to East Carolina, they took over.

Dr. King: That was Dr. Tom Irons?

Dr. Barden: Yeah Dr. Tom Irons and he's associated with East Carolina University now. Then it was tied into the University hospital. Now, we have two assistant professors over here now who run the clinic and use it as residency training.

Dr. King: Now at that time when you initiated that, it was a need, did it help you in your practice or was it a burden to you?

Dr. Barden: Didn't bother us at all. In fact, we helped them every way we could. We stood call for them sometimes. The load was there and we were able to cover the load better, is what it meant. The clinic being over there increased the well baby care and decreased the severe illness outside of it. In other words, we did not get dead babies brought in like we did before. That was the important thing and on top of that, we worked with them whenever we could and it's been more like a team work than anything else. I've enjoyed it and it's really helped the hospital quite a bit.

Dr. King: Were there nurses there that could handle some of the routine stuff in the health department?

Dr. Barden: Oh yes. We had the PA's there. There were several there at first and we used those. They were very good pediatric nurses. We had no trouble at all.

Dr. King: At the health department?

Dr. Barden: Yeah, at the health department. They did very good work. We upgraded the pediatric care. Paul Winslow came in on pediatric surgery and he was able to upgrade the pediatric nursing staff quite a bit and they began doing the IV work and things of that sort which

made it a big help.

Dr. King: You mean putting in the IV's?

Dr. Barden: Putting in the IV's and a lot of things that used to take our time but they could be trained for. The biggest trouble when I was first in practice, the office would run from about eight in the morning and I quite frequently did not get out of the office until about eleven or twelve at night and then had to make hospital rounds and so it was quite a load. Then, when Hovey came in, we would still be running late to seven and eight at night. On top of that, we'd get in the critically ill babies and then that really did stress us. The premature's were always a burden because we had no tertiary centers to refer them to like we do now.

Dr. King: Nearby?

Dr. Barden: Nearby.

Dr. King: Could you send them to Duke or was that too hazardous a trip?

Dr. Barden: Too hazardous in most instances and besides they didn't have intensive care nurseries in those days anyway.

Dr. King: So, your thing here with the health department was rather unique I gather?

Dr. Barden: To the best of my knowledge I think Laurinburg either had one before we did or got one soon after we did.

Dr. King: But it was sort of independent of it?

Dr. Barden: Oh yeah, and as far as we know it was the first one in which it was fostered by the local medical group and carried the

full practice. In fact, ECU made it clear when they came over, you realize this could be a competitive situation. I told him sort of like a forward observer, sometimes you have to call them in pretty close. But it's gotten the job done. I don't believe there is a single kid in Craven County that their parent can say that child did not get good medical care because they couldn't afford it. It's there! There's no question about it, it's available! All they have to do is get it!

Dr. King: As I have observed, you didn't have a shortage of patients to see even with all this going on, did you?

Dr. Barden: I've been very fortunate. It's been a lot of fun. I think it's been an upgrade thing all the way down the line and still is. Our nursery has upgraded quite a bit. Use to the hottest thing we had was an Armstrong warmer. It was an incubator which depended on a 100 watt light bulb for its heat source and would hold the temperature and that was about it. Oxygen, you ran in and you didn't have ways of checking the baby's blood oxygen and you had to go by the color of the baby which is not too accurate.

Dr. King: These are prematures?

Dr. Barden: For prematures.

Dr. King: If you gave them too much oxygen, they sometimes developed eye trouble.

Dr. Barden: Got retrolental fibrodysplasia and we were very fortunate there. You had no way of controlling your oxygen or getting the percentage in the baby's blood, so, it's just a chance thing whether or not they got it. That was the big argument in the Fifties. It

was a big argument between Texas and England. One of them said that it was due to too much oxygen and the other one said that it was due to not enough and that left you in the middle. So, what you did was try to get enough to keep them alive and it eventually solved out that it was due to too much oxygen and that's when we then began to get development like we have now. Oximeters and things of that sort that we can measure the level of oxygen and the blood saturation point of the oxygen of the blood which makes it a lot easier. We do get blood gases of course but of course to get blood gas you have to do an invasive procedure.

Dr. King: That is put a needle in the artery.

Dr. Barden: Put a needle in the artery. The umbilical arteries we use those after a while. The umbilical vein procedure was earlier, I'd learn the exchange transfusion from Dr. Sidbury and Dr. Louis Diamond up in Boston. He was a close friend of Dr. Sidbury and would come down and give us lectures on it and Dr. Sidbury did them and I learned mostly through him.

Dr. King: Dr. Diamond as I recall was one of the earlier ones that worked on the RH Factor using erithoplastosis.

Dr. Barden: He was the father of it. That was where I got most of the input.

Dr. King: You were doing that when you came.

Dr. Barden: Way back when I was in the Navy in Puerto Rico, there was only one man on the island that knew how to do exchanges. I was working with one of the Pediatricians who was a native of San Juan,

and he wanted to learn how to do them and so I taught him how to do it and he was tickled pink because he was the second man on the island that knew how to do them. In fact one time to get blood, down there was a fight and according to him it was either in 1950 or 1951 somewhere along there we had blood from Miss Puerto Rico in 1950 or 1951 because we had to have O negative blood from a girl who had never been pregnant.

No chance of pregnancy, so there wouldn't be any antibodies and no transfusions and he had talked her into giving a pint of blood for us.

Dr. King: That was Miss Puerto Rico the beauty queen?

Dr. Barden: Yeah, the beauty queen. That was Hector Hidalgo. He was a fine fellow. The doctor before me in Roosevelt Roads had a routine every Friday where he went up to San Juan to the Army hospital up there. It was quite a trip, about a two hour trip, forty-six miles and two hours to make it because the roads were so bad. He told me to keep it up and I did and every Friday I would go up, leave about nine in the morning and go up to San Juan.

He would save spinal taps and blood punctures and exchange transfusions, anything like that that he could and we would do them while I was up there just to keep my hands in it cause of course out on the base we didn't have a hospital, we had a little dispensary.

It kept me sharp in that and I taught him how to do exchanges. He was calling me up in the middle of the night and I would have to get in the car and drive like crazy for San Juan and help him do the exchanges but it worked all right, but that was all part of that training. Now,

of course exchanges are done infrequent. We very seldom have to do one because of our use of bili-lights and the use of the vaccines to prevent the RH reaction from occurring.

Dr. King: Now the light is what kind of light?

Dr. Barden: It's a fluorescent light with a wave length I believe somewhere around 450 MU. By radiating the skin with the light, it causes a breakdown in the bilirubin and the by products are excreted much easier than they are through the liver.

Dr. King: Excessive bilirubin causes brain damage.

Dr. Barden: It's broken down, and that's the one that causes brain damage, and they've never had any bad reports on that and it's been in use now for years.

Dr. King: What was that figure, 450?

Dr. Barden: I think it's suppose to be in the 450 MU range. It's a light wave frequency. We now have high tech bulbs. We even have meters that will tell us how much light the baby is getting. But it's terrific.

Dr. King: One question which I get asked and I think is apropos to you, is people complain of course of the cost of medicine. A lot of this they don't realize but it's coming from increase in the technology and high tech, is it worth it?

Dr. Barden: Well, depends on whether you want to live or not! I think it's worth it but also one of the things that I cannot understand why the medical profession hasn't gotten into and why the people haven't gotten into. Remember when Danny Jackson was there



in the hospital back in the early Eighties? At that time the government had gotten into the hospital system and it required this, that, and the other be done and so forth. Well, Danny got curious. He sat down one day, he was a very good administrator, he sat down one day and he took a patient's average hospital bill, a good size bill. Then, he applied what his knowledge of hospital administration, what procedures were done and what the cost of administrative cost was to meet the government requirements that were required by the federal government that had absolutely no influence on the patient's care.

Dr. King: Were these medical procedures then?

Dr. Barden: No. These were procedures in the hospital that caused the hospital bill to be up high.

Dr. King: Give me an example.

Dr. Barden: Government reports. Government requirements that certain things be done a certain way in the procedures to collect their various bills and so forth. At any rate, he said he went through that and when he subtracted all those cost away, the patient had forty percent of his bill that was due to procedures that were they extracted from the hospital would in no way influence his medical care. Forty percent of that bill was there because of the federal government. I expect it's even higher now and in the office OSHA is going to blow it up.

Dr. King: OSHA

Dr. Barden: The Office of Occupational Safety and Health Administration. They have come in now to where we have to use special

procedures. You have to have special uniforms, this, that, and the other. CLIA now you have to pay a terrific fee to be inspected in order to do lab work. If you don't, you send the patient to the hospital lab or to the out-patient lab where it costs them about double what it does in the offices and you don't get the reports back in time to do any good anyway. I think the cost of medicine was credited to the doctors and to the hospitals. I think we're getting in the same situation that the railroads got into in which the government required them to have whistle stops, to have feather bedding with personnel, and things of that sort to the point that the railroads went broke and the government took them over. Then, they eliminated the feather bed and eliminated the whistle stops that weren't making money and still go in the hole. I think right now if we paid a little bit more attention to the federal cost and publicized it, I think people would find out they're getting a pretty good bargain on the medical side of it.

Dr. King: That's one aspect. The other aspect to that is what I was talking about, is the increase in the technology like you said worth it if you want to live. I guess you would agree that it's a lot different than the last forty years.

Dr. Barden: High frequency sound instruments are terrific. It saves you major surgery because they can do that stone breakup from your renal stones with sound waves. Your time on the operating table is cut down, the incisions are cut down, complications are cut down with the use of lasers.

Dr. King: How about in your work in your pediatrics as far as diagnosis?

Dr. Barden: Our lab is updated terrifically. In the office we can do a lot of procedures we use to have to do at the hospital. In fact, we didn't even have available at the hospital. Now, in the hospital, of course our labs are out of this world. If we go into the cardiovascular surgery it's going to be even more than that. Our anesthesia department there at the hospital is fantastic.

Dr. King: Do they do good work in pediatrics?

Dr. Barden: Paul Winslow says it's one of the best services he's ever seen.

Dr. King: Dr. Winslow being a pediatric surgeon?

Dr. Barden: Yes, and he says it's one of the best teams he's ever seen. Paul, when it comes to anesthesia, is about like a old maid. It's got to be just right or else! So, coming from him that is quite a compliment. I think the medical situation is excellent, Fran. I don't think there is anything bad about it at all.

Dr. King: Now that you are allegedly slowing down, what are you going to do to occupy your time besides build a dock?

Dr. Barden: I don't know. I try to keep up with my wife now.

Mary Louise Barden: He's got a backlog of forty years of things he's wanted to do!

Dr. King: Wait a minute, let's go back again now. We're back to the rabbit and his name was Peter Rabbit.

Dr. Barden: I'd put him up to the table, I'd put a chair up to

the table, he'd hop up in the chair, put his paws on the table and just watch every mouthful of food I took. I would throw him a tidbit every now and then.

Mary Louise Barden: He knew when it was 3:00.

Dr. Barden: At 3:00 he'd head for the front door and wait for me.

Dr. King: Was he house broke?

Dr. Barden: Yeah. Mom would put some newspapers down in a special corner. That's the only place he ever messed up. He was a crazy rabbit.

Mary Louise Barden: How about Lee?

Dr. Barden: That was the circus pony. That was the pony that dad bought that was too old for the circus. In fact, I kept him until I went off to school and then dad farmed him out to several people who could. Bill Powell had him for quite a while. I think he finally died. But that was quite a few years later. He'd drink coke colas out of the bottle. He'd count his age. He was a circus pony and he was well trained. I had a ball with him.

Dr. King: How did he drink a coke cola? Just flip it up?

Dr. Barden: No you would hold it up like that and he would get right to it. He would spill very little of it. He loved it.

Dr. King: How did he count, with his paws?

Dr. Barden: Yeah, with his hoof.

Dr. King: Hoofs I mean, not paws. Anything else?

Mary Louise Barden: Mack Lupton.

Dr. King: Tell me about Mr. Mack Lupton.

Dr. Barden: Well Mack was mayor on New Bern for a while you know and he had a tomato cannery. He also canned fish roe right over across the river. That was a summer job. It paid real good. We got twenty-five cents a hour. We'd go over there and work all summer in the tomato cannery. It was right much fun.

Dr. King: How old were you then?

Dr. Barden: I must of been in high school.

Dr. King: Where was the cannery?

Dr. Barden: It was over in James City about where the ship yard is now over there. It was a tin building, hot! But we'd work over there with him on that. What was that other one, Mary?

Mary Louise Barden: Out there building the air field. You helped with that.

Dr. Barden: Oh yeah. We helped on that when I came home in 1941 from VMI for the summer break, I got a job down at Cherry Point as surveyor, lineman. Of course, Mr. Potter's occupation was civil engineer.

Dr. King: He was Boy Scout?

Dr. Barden: He was a Boy Scout leader and he taught us what a lineman was and something about surveying and things of that sort, and all of our merit badges, all of us had that one. I was down there as a lineman where we cut lines for the surveying parties, boy was it hot, but I went to work one morning and they said, "well boys we can't work today were working on this auxiliary air field at White Oak" over in Pollocksville. We were building that at that time. He

said, "we can't work this morning." Well, I was being curious and young and I said, "well, why?" and he says, "we got to get some maps from Washington, we don't have any maps of that area." I said, "well what kind of maps do you need?" He says, "oh you wouldn't know anything about that." I was a fresh college kid. "Well, I don't know what kind you need," I said, "but would soil maps and contour maps of the entire area help out a little bit?" He looked at me and he says, "where the devil did you get those?" I said, "for twenty-five cents from the superintendent of documents in Washington." He says, "we've been trying for months, they're out of prints. They say they're put on a restricted list as well." He says, "you still have them?" I said, "yes I use them in Boy Scouts; when we go on hikes I can tell where the campsite is going to be, what the land elevation is, what type of soil it is and how close it is to the river so I could know where my campsite would be," cause we'd go out all the time camping.

Dr. King: These are the maps for the area down where you are surveying at Cherry Point?

Dr. Barden: I had them on Craven County, Jones County, Carteret County, I just loved maps and I still got a pile of them back there. I'd collect them at that time. And so he sent me up to New Bern in a truck and I pulled out the ones for Jones County. We went to work that afternoon.

Dr. King: Over at White Oak.

Dr. Barden: Yeah at the air field. They couldn't move until they had those maps and they couldn't get them out of Washington.

Mary Louise Barden: What was the name of that field? It wasn't White Oak.

Dr. Barden: You're right, it was Oak Grove.

Dr. King: Now we decided that the name of the air field was what?

Dr. Barden: Oak Grove Air Field near Pollocksville. We just went on and did that. But that was one of the flashbacks on it.

Dr. King: Twenty-five cents an hour was the standard wage at that time?

Dr. Barden: Oh yeah for high school employment.

Dr. King: Tell me about the dynamite.

Dr. Barden: Fred Latham and myself had a penchant for chemistry. We had more chemicals at our disposal than the high school lab.

Dr. King: Where did you get the chemicals?

Dr. Barden: Even cent of allowance we had and everything we could make went into chemicals. Fred since became a professional chemist. But we used to make explosions occasionally and some of which were pretty good. We made our own concoctions.

Dr. King: What did you explode?

Dr. Barden: Just made little bombs that we'd sit around and see how loud we could make them. We made a an electrical cannon one time in which we'd make a powder and we found out that the Ford Model A spark plug had pipe threads on it so we would put a spark plug in it, get a Ford coil, pack the cannon and then hide, I mean get behind a tree when we cut it off in case it blew up and throw the switch and

she'd go off with a roar. Shot marbles in it.

Dr. King: The spark plug, was that in the breach end and the other end was open with the pipe?

Dr. Barden: Yep.

Mary Louise Barden: He used fifty feet of dynamite fuse and run blowing up things. And he made stink bombs in high school.

Dr. Barden: Oh well, that was just a little high school chemistry.

Dr. King: Where'd you make the stink bombs? Tell me about the stink bombs.

Dr. Barden: Well, I didn't do that. I think Freddy or Nat Gooding, I forgotten which one of them engineered that one. It seems as if we learned quite a bit of chemistry by then and timed it by getting the strength of the hydrochloric acid such that it would take heat for it to attack the ferrous sulfate to make hydrogen sulfide which of course was rotten eggs and secreted it behind one of the radiators in upstairs Moses Griffin building.

Dr. King: The Moses Griffin building was the high school building.

Dr. Barden: The high school building. It was rather horrible that afternoon!! It took them quite a while to find out where it was coming from and fortunately they didn't find out who set it!

Dr. King: That's what I was wondering, did anybody set it?

Dr. Barden: They never found out who did it.

Dr. King: Did they have to leave the classroom?

Dr. Barden: That afternoon they did!

Dr. King: Well, your wife is sitting listening to this portion



of the conversation, how did she know about this?

Mary Louise Barden: I heard.

Dr. Barden: She heard Fred and I talking. Cause she was a wee bonnie lass at that time.

Dr. King: You were going together at that time?

Mary Louise Barden: No.

Dr. Barden: No. She was one of these little girls that grew up while I went off to Med school. Of course I tell a tale on her about that too.

Dr. King: What was that?

Dr. Barden: I told her that when I came back, that the family had been here so long I was afraid I was kin to most everybody around. So, I looked all over town and found a good looking Republican. I knew cotton pickin well I wasn't kin to her so I married her. She swears her family wasn't Republican though, but her great-granddaddy was a federal judge.

END OF INTERVIEW