

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

HAYDEN H. JONES

INTERVIEW 414

This is Marea Kafer Foster representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 400. I am interviewing Hayden Hodges Jones, interview number 414. Today is Tuesday, the 16th of June, 1992. We are at 1005 Sunset Road in New Bern, in Hayden's home.

Marea Foster: Now, Hayden, if you'll give me your personal history, your full name, your birth date, and parents names.

Miss Jones: My name is Hayden Hodges Jones, born May 15, 1941. My parents were Kenneth Raynor Jones II, and my mother was Helen Louise Hodges. I had one brother, Ken the third.

MF: Hayden, you just had the one brother and no sisters, is that right?

Miss Jones: Correct.

MF: Where did you grow up?

Miss Jones: In New Bern, 1512 Trent Blvd., DeGraffenreid.

MF: Who were your playmates?

Miss Jones: Kitty Whitty, Bunny Jackson, Sue Jo and Reggie Lowrey, the Chagaris family.

MF: You had a whole neighborhood full of children, didn't you?

Miss Jones: Yes, and you were in the neighborhood I think.

MF: I was, but a little bit older than you. You played the usual childhood games of what?

Miss Jones: Spin the bottle. (laughter)

MF: And hop scotch and jump rope?

Miss Jones: Right, and skating parties, things like that.

MF: Where did you go to school?

Miss Jones: I started out at the Catholic school downtown for one year, and then Eleanor Marshall, then Central, New Bern High, then Charlotte College.

MF: Why did you go to the Catholic school for one year? Probably the same reason I did.

Miss Jones: I really don't remember it except it was just a basic and good education. Why did you go?

MF: I went because my mother thought I was old enough to go to school and my birthday was after the cut off date, and I was going to have to wait a year. So, I went so I could go when I was six. What about childhood illnesses? Do you remember anything special about them? Did you have the usual ones?

Miss. Jones: I think I had the usual problems. I had to have my tonsils taken out and that was done at St. Luke's. On the last day of the recovery from surgery my father said, "Stay quiet", and I decided to stand on my head in bed, and of course they ruptured, and I hemorrhaged. Dr. Charlie Ashford was on duty and he asked my father permission to wait five minutes before he operated and my dad never answered him, but they were able to clot it with ice over a period of time.

MF: So, he did not have to operate again. Weren't you lucky? Next time, I'm sure you will remember that and say, "I will mind my daddy."

Miss Jones: That's true.

MF: Any other illnesses that stand out?

Miss. Jones: I don't remember illnesses, but I remember jumping from the second floor of my grandmother's home in Kinston.

MF: Why in the world did you do that?

Miss Jones: Because I was about three or four years old and I thought I was in the circus. You'd go up a flight of stairs when you turned the balusters were out, and I reached up and I was swinging, and there was an old fashion sofa on the first floor over by the wall under the last few steps and I thought I could let go and swing over and bounce like in the circus. That was when I learned the law of gravity! I went down and I had a cast on my leg as big as I was.

MF: You poor thing. That's happened, all of us thinking we could do things that we can't. When you had your college years and when you were out looking for a job, did you start right in with the New Bern Public Library, was that your first job?

Miss Jones: No. My first job, one of many odd jobs, was baby sitting, which was a job of responsibility. When I was away at school I worked in a kennel that had cocker spaniels, and the owner showed them. I like animals and so I went there to clean her kennels and just worked with her. When I came home, after my mother passed away and my brother decided to get married, I worked for my father keeping books for the Amoco station. He was a distributor. While I was working there one day, Mary Louise Guion called me and said "she was looking for someone to drive the bookmobile to help them out." At that time Sara Meadows' parents were real sick and Sara needed some time off or needed some help, and "could I tell her some people that were home

from school," and I said, "no, I just don't know of any." We hung up, and later I talked to my father and I said, "why can't I go drive it for Mrs. Guion and help them out and I'll come do my bookkeeping later." I said "they only want me for three days, 8:30 to 3:30," I believe it was. He said "that's all right, go help them out for a while." So, that's how I got started. Later, they asked could I type and I said "yes." So, I'd come in off the bookmobile and type until 5:00 or 5:30, then I'd go on down to my father's office. Eventually, it worked into full time. The position I hold now as secretary came about in 1966.

MF: Hayden, what year did you start as a relief driver or temporary driver with the bookmobile?

Miss Jones: January 10, 1962 was our first trip.

MF: Tell me about being on the bookmobile, the route you took, and about how many books you had, what type of van you had at that time.

Miss Jones: Gergenslager was the type make of the body. Sara Meadows was the bookmobile librarian and she was a very interesting person, in fact, one of the most interesting ladies I've ever met as far as her knowledge of wildlife, fish, crabs, you name it. There wasn't a plant or a bird or anything that you could mention that she didn't know, right on down to how to cook them. The first time we went out, we went down to North Harlowe which is down towards Havelock.

She told me to bring a sandwich and coffee and a blanket because the heater didn't work too good. I showed up that morning and we started

travelling and it started snowing. We stopped at Havelock at the patrol office or license bureau and they said "it was okay to go ahead, that it was going to stop." Eventually, we stopped to eat, and it was funny because I never had packed sandwiches for a lengthy time, and when I bit into my liverwurst, it was tough as shoe leather because I had toasted the bread. Sara was sitting over there laughing at me. She said "don't you know you can't toast bread and then take it out for a long period of time, it gets tough like that." She said, "but I love liverwurst, so how about letting me have half of your sandwich and I'll give you half of mine." Marea, it was the most beautiful half of sandwich I've ever eaten in my life. It was shrimp salad, and that's when I learned what a gourmet cook she was. I went to pour some coffee and my thermos was broken, because it didn't steam when I opened it, so she had to share her coffee with me. It's a trip I've never forgotten. Of course, she had brought a blanket to put over my legs because it was quite cold. I'll always remember that first trip and I'll always remember Sara Meadows for teaching me the Dewey decimal system and how to run the bookmobile.

MF: How do you run the bookmobile?

Miss Jones: The bookmobile makes monthly stops. We do two weeks in Craven, two weeks in Pamlico, at least that's the way it was then and basically still is. You had to have at least five people at one stop that would use the bookmobile, five families, not just five members in the family. It was all out in the rural area. At that time you did not make city stops. We had schools and we stopped at

the libraries to replenish them.

MF: You mentioned the schools. Did you supply the schools with books?

Miss Jones: The teachers would come out, if I remember correctly, with one or two of the students and they would get maybe thirty books so each child in that room could have one. We're talking about Lowland down in Pamlico County. It just help supplement what they had in the lower grades.

MF: They did not have a public library in Pamlico County at that time, did they?

Miss Jones: I don't know when one came. One was involved after that because it was in a house at first. I don't know what year it was, who ran it, or anything. I remember we went down and moved it with the bookmobile, and they became part of us, but I do not remember the details. The first time that I remember it was in a little brick building that was the register of deeds or something, the records were kept there. I use to call it the little jail house, and for years I thought it was a jail house because of the thick safe doors, a very thick steel door.

MF: Elinor Hawkins mentioned this on her interview. Getting back to your bookmobile and the teachers getting books for their students, the school libraries must of been very small at that time, did the schools pay you a fee to use your books or was this just a service to the community?

Miss Jones: It was a service. Fines were not charged on the

bookmobile out in that area or any of the county stops. If you lost a book, that was a different thing, but if you weren't there we would renew them and then the next time we would come around two months later, usually the people came back with their books. It was interesting.

I had one friend who later worked with us. She use to ride up on her horse, because I can remember giving the horse an apple when he stuck his head in the door. It was Libby Tingle. She's now Libby Staples and lives in Southern Pines and is a school librarian, and is raising Arabian horses.

MF: Were these stops made in someone's home, or at someone's home, a grocery store, a filling station?

Miss Jones: It could be all those things. Mainly, homes, but there was one place that we stopped at Arapahoe at a church yard.

This was where the people would gather. This is where they chose for us to stop, and so we would post that as a stop, and they would all come there, park and get on the bookmobile. But the majority were homes, a few schools. We'd go all the way down to the Hobucken bridge down at Lowland. My first recollection of that or one of the times, was mosquitos. I mean you had to turn on a windshield wiper to get them off, it was just a bad year, and I've never seen mosquitos like that. They were so thick that summer and very bad down that way with all the water and marshlands.

MF: Hayden, do you remember how much your salary was at that time?

Miss Jones: If I had to guess, I would say seventy-five dollars



a month.

MF: Before or after taxes?

Miss Jones: That part I can't remember. I just remember seventy-five for some reason.

MF: I guess that was pretty good because that was minimum wage at that time I guess.

Miss Jones: I can't remember whether that was part time, three quarters time, or full time. I really just don't remember because I was only making twenty-five dollars a week at my father's to do the bookkeeping. Of course, he paid more for that, but I was just doing it to be doing it because I was mainly getting interested in the library field.

MF: How long were you with the bookmobile?

Miss Jones: I started in 1962. I would say I probably quit before we left East Front Street; right before we made the move to come to the new library, because I remember they told me that was going to be my office. It was probably 1966 or 1967. I believe Helen Ruth Scott was working with us then and she became the bookmobile librarian. I remember I quit smoking because I was going to a new library and I didn't want smoke in my office, and I just didn't want to mess it up. I had my mind on the office and a new building, and I would not go in there smelling it up. So, I quit smoking.

MF: How very considerate. Was Sara Meadows still with the bookmobile at that time or had she retired from the job, do you remember?

Miss Jones: For some reason I think she had phased out by then

because of her parent's illness, but I really just cannot remember.

MF: When you needed to use the lady's room, you just had to stop?

Miss Jones: I held it! (laughter) No, there were times and there were homes that you'd go to, and people would invite you in. There were some places that would want you to have collards and things. But with Sara, we liked to pull off over on the roadside and listen to nature and talk, and as I said I learned a lot. We usually took our sandwich. Later, probably when I worked with two or three other people, people would ask us to go in, and it became more relaxed, some how you just weren't pushing. But with Sara, we just enjoyed sitting on the steps and eating and looking at the water or just sitting by a ditch or wherever it was. I do remember one time she told me that she was travelling in a certain area and she had to go and of course all that was available was an outhouse. She said, "when she looked over to the side there was a chicken sitting next to her", and I said "I'm a city girl, I don't think I can hack this," and so I was very selective and I got where I didn't drink much. I drink an awful lot now at work, coffee or water, but on the bookmobile I decided not to drink in the mornings. They were long days but fun days, and very rewarding.

MF: I'm sure they were and you made a lot friends with people throughout the county.

Miss Jones: I did and I pretty well remember the route. I don't think it's changed all that much in all these years. It was just really rewarding to see these people come in or if they couldn't come in,

you'd select the books and you'd take them to them, and it was a good feeling. Especially the large print things for people who couldn't see good. It was just a good feeling to reach out and get books to people, because you knew they were bettering themselves or they were getting their religion or a cookbook or whatever. You knew you were doing a good service.

MF: How many books did you have on the bookmobile?

Miss Jones: If I had to guess, I'd say 1,500.

MF: On adult fiction, non-fiction, and for children, what would your ratio be?

Miss Jones: Marea, that was really too far back. One side was all adult. What I'm seeing now is the design of the bookmobile that we have now, but I know that down low we had picture books, and then I think one side was probably for children and one side for adults, but I've been on this new one so many times, just run on to speak to the bookmobile librarian or seeing to it that it was properly cleaned, that I see it now and not the old Gergenslager. Before the Gergenslager I remember seeing pictures of the one that looked like a little old fashion bread truck. You'd open the doors on the side and they'd raise up from the side like wings and the books were on the side of this little panel type truck.

MF: You did not drive that?

Miss Jones: No, but I just remember pictures of Sara Meadows doing that. The most interesting thing though that I guess I ever experienced and learned, and I guess Margaret Nassef was with me then,

but it might of been Sara, was what is known to us as the "Jubilee."

It was either at Minnesott or Kennel's beach, and I really can't remember which beach 'cause they are opposite, but that's when the temperature of the waters or the gases or the heat is just right and the moon's just right, the flounders come in and they just flap in the water. The water absolutely trembles and behind it are soft shelled crabs and they're following the flounder, and they, for some reason, come right up on the beach and you can just rake them in, throw them in buckets, and go off. It's unreal! I saw it, and I later wrote North Carolina Wildlife, and State Magazine, and they published the article because it was so interesting. They later reprinted it again when I wrote back and tried to prove to some friends that this happens.

My friends laughed because I said "the waters tremble." Well, they did tremble! I called daddy, and at that time he was married to Sarah Lancaster from Vanceboro, and told him to come on and bring the wash tub and a rake, pitch fork, I didn't care what, and get it because I was on the bookmobile and couldn't get any flounder. For some reason they waited that night until 11:00 to go down there with their lanterns, and they called me later the next day and said "where were the fish?"

I said "what time did you get there?" They said "eleven o'clock with our lanterns," and I said, "it was all over." I said, "it happened that morning and when it happens it happens." I don't know how many hours it lasts, maybe two or three hours, but that's it and then it quietens down. It is just unreal the number of flounders you see and the crabs, and you just throw them in buckets, you'd just rake them

in as fast as you can.

MF: You got some didn't you?

Miss Jones: No. I was on the bookmobile and there was no way I could bring old dead fish on the route. But I'm glad I saw it.

MF: I've never seen that.

Miss Jones: The Reel boy and Johnny Ward went down and spent seven nights waiting for it in August I believe it was. I think Johnny came home for something else that night and to rest and the Reel boy stayed and that's when it happened, Archie Reel's boy, and it happened that night. So, my cousin Johnny never got to see it. It's once a year that usually this will happen.

MF: Hayden, tell me about your duties as secretary. You really began your job as secretary, did you say on East Front Street temporary quarters, is that when you started?

Miss Jones: Yes. I think when they were building the library, Frances Gish, the consultant from the state library, told Mrs. Hawkins that she needed a full time secretary now and to pull me off the bookmobile since I was doing book ordering and etc. and pretty well performed the duties as secretary as well as performing the bookmobile duties. When we got down there, I was just responsible for, at that time, typing the National Library Week or the summer reading game things, just whatever typing needed to be done throughout the region, stuff that comes to the headquarters. I was still ordering books, doing shelf list cards, and all this. Now, that's all died down nearly twenty-five years later because everything is automated. They just

print them out and they come out of a little box and you tear them up. Of course it's not that simple. Someone has got to catalog.

MF: You do not catalog?

Miss Jones: I do not do that. I'm full time designing, mimeographing, story hour programs, book marks, reading list, genealogy list; fulfilling the duties for Mrs. Hawkins as Secretary of the region, any of her correspondence and whatever the Chairman needs. I also, since 1968, just sort of "fell" into the responsibility of running the auditorium. Whenever there was something scheduled, I would handle the application, have it approved or not approved, and then be on duty that night to run it or close up or whatever; through the years, I'd work with those people when they'd find artist, Artist of the Month, line it up and meet them, put up the art, do the program, and then close up; type the budget, statistical reports, answering phones. Today Mrs. Hawkins is called out a lot to a lot of board meetings and she's out in the region, and when we especially have a building program going on like the one we just had, and development fund, there are a lot of phone calls. I pretty well had to be up on what was going on so I could either take a message or give them an answer. But it's big now!

MF: Oh yes! Let me get back to the way it use to be. Did you order books then from Baker and Taylor, and do you still order from them?

Miss Jones: There were a lot of book jobbers back then. One man's name was Fred Price, and I cannot remember the name of his company

right now, but I guess that he was one of my favorite salesmen. Mrs. Hawkins had several. You typed the orders and sent them usually to the state library. Back then you had a process and belonged to the processing center and they processed them.

MF: Explain processing center, where was it?

Miss Jones: They were in Raleigh at the state library. Those people, when you would order books, would order from the jobbers, get them in, put jackets on them, catalog them, put pockets in them, and when they came, all we had to do was write in the spine where it came from, how much it was, and the date, and put the right book cards in, and designate it to where it was going. We became a region in the early Sixties and so we were supplying for three counties; Carteret, Pamlico, and Craven. Today we have four libraries in Craven County, one in Pamlico which is a joint school library. We were the first to attempt this and it just worked out pretty nicely. We have the Carteret County Public Library, Newport, and then Bogue Banks came about. So, there are three in Carteret.

MF: What are the four libraries in New Bern, Craven County?

Miss Jones: Havelock, Vanceboro, Cove City and their headquarter in New Bern, and two bookmobiles. One that serves Craven and Pamlico, and one that serves Carteret which is a long stretch.

MF: The one that serves Carteret, do they leave from New Bern?

Miss Jones: No. That bookmobile is stationed in Carteret, it strictly does that.

MF: Books can be, and are, rotated among all the libraries?

Miss Jones: The three counties, yes.

MF: You also have inter-library loan. Tell me about that.

Miss Jones: If we don't have a book in one of our libraries that you want that you need for research or just for pleasure reading, inter-library loan in our reference department will write Raleigh. Raleigh has a big catalog or some way they have to check, and they know where that book is in the state of North Carolina. Those people borrow them. If they don't have it in Raleigh, then they will write Charlotte, or whoever, and through that, that library will send it to you, or maybe it goes to Raleigh and then comes down, I've never ordered one. It is nice. The patron pays the postage, and that's all you have to pay to send it back. It comes and then we send it back. We can't afford all the books and we couldn't house all the books that would be needed, so the inter-library loan is a way of meeting a demand and getting into the technical part that you want. I always remember Craven Community College for the real technical things they teach. When I used to work the desk, I would remind people, of the community college which was just beginning when I first started. In fact, I think it started about the time I started. They were in the Harvey Mansion, because I took courses there in that little white building.

MF: When did you start having records, and tapes, and prints for your patrons to check out?

Miss Jones: I would say 1968 when we opened the new library.

MF: Is this a service that a lot of people enjoy? Do a lot of



people take advantage of the tapes, the records, and the prints?

Miss Jones: Marea, I think they do, but I am not out in the circulation area. I'm always in the office and have been for years, so I really just do not see or am aware of what's going on like I use to when I first started. I mean, when the statistical report comes in, I do, but basically I'm typing figures that someone has gotten up and I'm just typing them, and then someone combines them, and then I do the combining that goes to Raleigh. That's when you see all these things. But I think music and tapes, and then some of our videos have become very popular. For me, I still think it is very important and the number one cause, personally, the number one cause is a book. Just to be able to read it and pick it up. You can't be lonely if you are lost between two covers.

MF: You certainly cannot. Books are wonderful, wonderful friends. They really are. I want to get into the financing of the library. Our library I know - the city and county contribute funds. Does the state contribute funds?

Miss Jones: Yes.

MF: Does the federal government contribute funds to our library?

Miss Jones: I'll have to tell you like I tell everybody, I just don't make remarks about where the funds come from, because I do not understand it. It is very technical. There are a lot of forms that we fill out, and the bookkeeper - Mrs. Hawkins, knows that best. The forms come through, I put the figures down, but I just don't get involved. Yes, I think everybody helped us build the library in 1968.

The library we're in now, the expansion, it was built by the public - donations.

MF: A lot of donations.

Miss Jones: There was some state involvement there, but it was the public that came through there us, and the Kellenberger grants, and a few special people. We are very thankful. Now that we've got such a big beautiful building, you know as well as I know, the problem now is getting money to buy books. In my heart and in my prayers when I hear people fussing, I just pray that people will think of us and will give a book a month or give us some money to buy a book. I have heard that libraries are closing in other states. The main library stays open but little branches are closed or they're cutting hours and all that. About a year ago, as far as I know, in North Carolina, according to my boss Mrs. Hawkins and Patric Dorsey the Secretary of the Cultural Resources, we have not closed any. That's something to be proud of in North Carolina.

MF: I think so too. But it's a very busy library in New Bern, I know that. There are always patrons in there. Hayden, do you remember when you first started, and the library was in the John Wright Stanly House, what were the hours of the library?

Miss Jones: For me it was 8:30 to 3:30 on the bookmobile. I would say they were from either 10:00 to 5:00 or 10:00 to 6:00 back that far, Monday through Friday, then on Saturday maybe 10:00 to 1:00.

It seems so long ago I just really don't remember. Then, we opened on a couple of nights. One thing led to another until now we're open

seven days a week. A lot of changes.

MF: Yes. A Sunday opening is very nice. Mrs. Hawkins, in her interview, stressed the fact that Sunday is family day and that you all do see a lot of families coming in. I think that's wonderful.

Miss Jones: Marea, one of the first things I remember when I started at the library, one of the first conversations, and I think I'm quoting Mrs. Hawkins right and I've heard her say it many times and that is, "The public library is from the cradle to the grave."

I've seen the truth of that. The first time - however she expressed that - I've just always remembered that. They start telling you to read to a child when he is six months old, and now they say before he is even born just read out loud. Her son is a good example, how she read and how well educated he is and how he loves reading today.

When I look back at some of the family and things, and even remember my childhood, those who really went to their library, their parents who would take them, and they'd use it, and they were read to, the difference in their education today and how they went on further or how they could find it in books and how they succeeded. There's a big difference. The library is free and it's there, the doors are open.

MF: You have a wonderful auditorium. Tell me the use of the auditorium.

Miss Jones: It is used for things that are educational in nature and open to the public. Not a regular scheduled thing, like meetings where minutes are read and minutes are taken and dues and etc. It has

to be open to the public. We have old movies once a month, Artist of the Month once a month where we sponsor a local artist, and people can use it to promote programs or bring in a speaker. We're getting ready to have one on railroads, something about railroads. Fay Leary has been working on that and that will be a series on the history of railroads. She did a series on antiques. Not in this library, but in the one before, one of the biggest turn outs we had was when the Smithsonian Institute came down and you were invited to bring in something that you couldn't identify - a fossil or whatever. I'm hoping that we'll get back into quilt shows and Day Lily shows. We did that many years ago. We just took the tables and put pepsi cola bottles out and stuck all these day lilies in them so people could learn. I didn't know there were so many, but I learned that there were. And quilts, I didn't know there could be so many quilts.

MF: I remember all that Hayden. Those quilts were beautiful and so were the lilies.

Miss Jones: It's there and I'm sure we are going to see the auditorium used more and more for things for the public to come to. It will seat quite a few people. I'm always thrilled, like the New Bern fire of 1922. I've always wanted to see a room filled and I saw it twice in this new building and twice in the old building. It's very disappointing when you work hard and when you promote and you don't get any one and you can't really figure out why. A lot of it is by word of mouth, I do know now that I'll just do what they did for the New Bern fire in 1922 and I can fill up the room every time.

It's just word of mouth, put out the word!

MF: It was a fantastic program, it really was. Well now I want to ask you some questions and I doubt if you'll know the answers to some of them, but, yet, you may have heard the ladies down there speak about them. Have you ever heard anyone say anything about the WPA supplying book menders in 1938?

Miss Jones: No. I know that's how the Vanceboro library was built or started, something about WPA, wasn't it? I'll have to ask Mrs. Hawkins about it. I remember something about the WPA, but I guess I was too young then and it just didn't register.

MF: Well, you weren't even born then for heaven sakes, Hayden.

Miss Jones: I was planned though.

MF: The children's librarian, do you happen to know when they first had a librarian just for children?

Miss Jones: Do you mean just to have someone stay in the room all the time?

MF: No, like Mary Ann Flythe.

Miss Jones: She's the regional children's librarian and I'm not sure how long Mary Ann has been there, maybe eight, nine, ten years.

MF: But you had someone before her and probably someone before her. This is a question I neglected to ask Elinor - if you remembered when you first started having children's librarians. Did you ever hear of anyone speak of Miss Frances Jones Howerton, Miss Fannie Howerton?

Miss Jones: Yes.

MF: What about her because I'm not familiar with her at all? Evidently, she was the librarian for a long, long time.

Miss Jones: I think she went back to the Christian Science building. She goes back quite a ways. I always heard that she was a school teacher and that she opened the library a few hours and there were certain books that she kept in her desk drawer. How I really learned about her was through Mrs. D. L. Ward, Sr., Leah Ward, my Aunt Leah Ward. She was very fond of her. I learned that my grandparents gave her room and board.

MF: Your grandparents being who?

Miss Jones: Mr. and Mrs. John Amos Jones, gave Miss Fannie room and board in their home. It's interesting because when I started working there at the library, Mary Louise Guion who is my aunt, was getting rid of a big Victorian bed and I just fell in love with it.

I said "Aunt Mary Louise, please don't throw that away, what are you going to do with it?" She said, "you can have it." I said, "I can't just take it, I'll have to pay you for it." She said, "well, just give me a dime if you have to pay for it." We're talking about back when I was starting my career. I reached in my pocketbook, and I'm ashamed to say, I didn't even have a dime. All I had was a nickel, and I said, "I'm sorry, all I've got is a nickel." She said, "it's yours." So, I hauled that bed home, and of course at that point I was living on Trent Blvd., and when I left there in 1964 the bed was taken to Vanceboro. The reason I am telling you this story, I later

took pictures of that bed and was showing them to my Aunt Leah in her last couple of years of living, and she said, "My goodness, I know this bed." She said, "I did not realize that's the bed you're talking about, that is Fannie Howerton's bed." She said, "I even had to sleep with her when we had such a full house." So, my Aunt Leah was very fond of this person. She was the youngest of the children, she got to know her. In fact, when they were asking for donations, she did give a sizeable amount requesting that Fannie Howerton be remembered, the name be mentioned in a room. So, she chose the reference room, and that's the room she bought when we were trying to raise money for the new library.

MF: This was your Aunt Leah and you're talking about Mary Louise Guion and the first library on Johnson Street?

Miss Jones: No, this one that we are in now. Different people gave money for book shelves or whatever, and she gave so that Fannie Howerton's name would be remembered as the librarian for so many years.

A picture of this woman is in that room, in the reference office.

MF: And it's called?

Miss Jones: It's just in memory of Fannie Jones Howerton. Then, when we had the dedication, it was amazing how many people went into that room to see this woman again, and remembered her. I remember a man came in bringing his child, his son and said, "I want you to see who Fannie Howerton was when I was growing up. So, it kind of made me feel good to know that she did remember this person and did this because there are many people who still remember her. Amy McKnight

covered for her one week and ran the library while Fannie Howerton was on vacation. I just didn't realize the feeling that a lot of people still here in this town today have of this woman that I'd heard so much about. She was, as a young woman, very attractive. We have one photograph of her, or portrait, but they chose to put the older picture up because people remember her that way. She must have been a very, very dedicated person, probably as dedicated as Elinor Hawkins is today.

MF: Probably so. You're right about that. I'm glad to know about Miss Fannie. Hayden, did you ever hear anyone speak about Margaret Chapman who was librarian starting in 1940?

Miss Jones: I think I heard her name or I might have seen it in the old minute books, but not that I can mention.

MF: Okay. What about Rosamund Meadows?

Miss Jones: No. What year was that?

MF: It was before Margaret Chapman, who was appointed in 1940. Rosamund Meadows and Lula Broadstreet were paid by the WPA. Did you hear anything about them?

Miss Jones: WPA, I remember, that just keeps ringing a bell how it was done, the government and everything, but I don't recall. Hilda Lancaster could probably tell you.

MF: Did you ever hear anyone speak about Mrs. Elizabeth "Betty" Flowers' book review program on the radio station WHIT? This would of been in the Fifties.

Miss Jones: I don't remember her book reviews and everything



on the radio, but I do vaguely remember Mrs. Flowers.

MF: She was a librarian. Do you, and when I say you, I mean the library, do you deal in rare books? Have you ever, to your knowledge, dealt in rare books? Elinor has told me a little bit.

Miss Jones: There was a book in the John Wright Stanly House.

MF: I think that's the one she told me about.

Miss Jones: Something about Mississippi. It was about \$1,200 we got for that book. The Smiths, I believe, came down and paid us for that book. The cutest thing was they came down to celebrate, and they did it by co-cola and a package of nabs, and we all shared it. That's how few staff members we had.

MF: Who was on the staff at that time?

Miss Jones: If it was at the John Wright Stanly House, I'm sure Sara Meadows might have been around. Hilda Lancaster, Nina Jacobs, Elinor Hawkins, myself, and Hannah Weskett were at the John Wright Stanly House. Charles Duffy, Jr. was there when I first started, but he later went on to collecting books on New Bern and things and opened his own library.

MF: Did you ever hear anyone talk about the opening of the Negro Library on West Street in 1936?

Miss Jones: Not the opening, but I later became involved when they were merging with us and got to know Sadie Lowe and she finally came on our staff for a while.

MF: Was Mrs. Sadie Lowe the librarian at West Street?

Miss Jones: Yes.

MF: But she was not what we would call today a professional librarian?

Miss Jones: I don't know how she held that position. She probably was just appointed and a very dedicated person. Her education, I never knew about if that's what you mean. Was she a degree librarian?

MF: That's what I wanted to know.

Miss Jones: I don't think so. I do not know what her profession was.

MF: I understood that West Street did not get any federal or state funds because they did not have a professional librarian. A professional librarian indicates someone with a degree in Library Science. You're right, Mrs. Lowe was a very dedicated and very nice person. So, you really don't know anything about the opening of that.

We do know that the libraries exchanged books. You had a system of rotating books with the West Street library?

Miss Jones: Yes.

MF: This is something that I do not know about at all. The Mary Hendren Vance Memorial Fund for book purchases. Have you ever heard of that?

Miss Jones: Oh yes.

MF: How was that established and by whom, and for whom, and why?

Miss Jones: Marea, I'm sorry to say I can't answer any of those question, I just know that there's a folder that's been in my files for years.

MF: Is this an inactive fund? Is this one that they had years

ago but the funds have been depleted, so to speak?

Miss Jones: I really can't answer that. Mrs. Hawkins would have to update you on that.

MF: Okay. I think if it were still functioning, you would be aware of it. This was on some of the information we'd gotten when we did research on the library and thought they were very interesting.

I know about Mrs. Hawkins' story hour. When they have "Tell a Story" on Saturday, that's at the TV station, but does she ever tell stories in the auditorium for children?

Miss Jones: Yes. Not as much as she used to. Mrs. Hawkins, I think, is a person born to be a director because she is such a good director. She has done so much throughout the whole region in pulling together and making it stronger and building new buildings. As I recall when I first started out with her, her title was Librarian, she loved it, she loved to order books, tell stories, she loved children. This is where "the cradle to the grave", if you can get them when their young, you've got them for life. I just remember this image of her in telling stories on the "Tell a Story Time". As many things happen, time and things change things, she became a director and she does not get to tell as many stories as she used to right in our auditorium, but every opportunity that she gets, she's there to participate. There's a big summer reading festival that is held down in Carteret County, and she's always right there to take part in this festival.

They have a big turn out, maybe six or seven hundred people during the day would come and hear Mrs. Hawkins and other librarians and other

people would come and join them to tell stories. They would usually take ten minutes each and some of them would repeat. For example, Mrs. Hawkins would start that morning and wind up in the afternoon.

I'm sure when she retires, which we all know is coming this month, she will probably still do "Tell a Story Time", and I'm sure she'll find her way back into the auditorium and the children's room. They worked so hard designing the auditorium with the rainbow, "Fulfill your Dream" and every thing. I'm sure she'll be sitting right behind that little stage doing what she wanted to do and it was interrupted while she built so many libraries and pulled us all together these years.

MF: The library is certainly something to be very, very proud of. Now, Hayden is there anything that you would like to add to this interview? I'm sure there are a lot of things that I should've asked you that I don't know to ask. Any interesting stories? Any amusing incidence with patrons that are nice and humorous? Is there anything that you would like to say for the record about how the library is run?

Miss Jones: There have been a few things in my life that I have loved. I grew up in a filling station, and some things you never get out of your blood. I'm kind of glad that we pump our own gas today because it reminds me of the filling station days and where I had a good time and learned how to take care of my own car, etc. My brother is the same way, get in a filling station and we feel like we're right at home, around the grease and the hammers and different things. The

library has sort of been the same for me, it has been my life. I've been with it a good little while. I've given it my best. It's my family. It's something, I'm sure you experienced when you were there, that you just love, and it gets in your veins, and you don't get rid of it. If you truly love it, it flows in your blood, and it's just always with you, and you strive to do more and more and reach more and more people, and please more. It's a life, it's a career, and I'm glad it's been my career.

MF: A wonderful career. You've had 26 years of it.

Miss Jones: Thirty.

MF: Thirty, I beg your pardon. I was thinking of from the time you became secretary, but actually 26 as secretary.

Miss Jones: This past January. I couldn't have worked under better Boards or better people. Some of my family have been involved.

In the beginning I didn't even really know how many were involved, and I'm glad to be another member of the family to have been involved.

It's been such a part of my life, and I hope to continue as long as I can. If the time comes that I'm not there, I hope I can participate in other ways to support it and back it, because I think it's very important. All I tell people is it's there, it's free, it's for you, the doors are always open. I just hope more and more people come.

MF: I'm sure they will. Hayden, I want to thank you for this very interesting, this wonderful interview. As you know, this tape will be transcribed and parts of it, I'm not saying all of it, but parts of it, will probably be used in our book. Thank you so very

much for participating in the oral history of New Bern.

Miss Jones: Thank you, Marea.

END OF INTERVIEW