

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

VERONA JACKSON ZIEGLER

INTERVIEW 901

This is Dorothy Richardson representing the Memories of New Bern. My number is 900. I am interviewing Mrs. Verona Ziegler, interview number 901. This interview is being conducted on March 3, 1992. We are at Mrs. Ziegler's home at 1914 Trent Boulevard.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Mrs. Ziegler, it's all yours. Where were you born, Mrs. Ziegler?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: In a little country town half way between Pinetown and Plymouth in 1899.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: When did you come to New Bern?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: When I was ten years old. My father worked for the railroad and at that time they didn't have the use of coal in their trains. They had to stop the trains, think of it, and get out and cut down the pine trees and put in the engine for those train to, that's where their steam came from. They had no coal, and they would stop the train and get out, his fireman would, and cut the wood that they, that the locomotive would propel its self on.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: I didn't know that.

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Yes, yes indeed, that's an very interesting feature, but think of the delay of it and the antiquity of it. Oh yes, my, my. I've seen some changes.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Where did you live in New Bern when you first came?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Don't tell me I don't know. Where did we come to New Bern at. We lived in Plymouth for awhile, and I just cannot remember right off just when we, when we came to New Bern. I believe

it was in, I think I was ten years old.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Do you remember what street you lived on?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: I wish my sister was here. She's in there asleep. Where did I live. I just don't remember, for some reason, my mind goes blank at times.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: I have two. I did have. I have one now in California, Edgar Jackson, Jr., and I lost my other brother a year ago, Rudolph Jackson.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: And sisters?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: My sister, Louise Roberts, lives out in the Country Club area. My sister, Gladys Jones, lives right across the road from her. They live on, I think it's called Trent Road. Is it not Trent Road, but some kind of...

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Country Club Road.

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Yes, that was it.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: And they're still with you, can visit.

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Oh yes, yes. Yes Gladys stays with me right much if she gets too lonely. Of course, Louise loves her home so she won't leave there unless she just absolutely has to.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Were your mother and father New Bernians?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: No, they were born in the country out there between Pinetown and Belhaven. A little place called Hoke and my father, like I say, was a railroad engineer and he had the drive, I mean he drove the train from Pinetown to Plymouth.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: What did he do for the...

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: He was an engineer.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: When he came to New Bern, what was his...

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: He was running, when we moved to New Bern, he was, had been transferred to what they called the northern division, which was from Raleigh to Norfolk. And he would have a few days off every month and we enjoyed his being home about five days. But he kept that up until he became just, well, I often thought it was looking ahead, mile after mile after mile, particularly that Albemarle bridge which was about I think several miles, but the monotony of it and what could happen, but that was his daily going and coming back. And finally, well, they called it the northern division when he went to Norfolk to Raleigh. Then there was a time, I think they sent him down to Beaufort. My husband, well, that's another subject I guess. He was a joy.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Well, we'll go on. Did, you go to school in New Bern?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: I know I did. Oh yes. I think it was about the sixth or seventh grade, but I went all through high school and graduated from high school here. I believe in 1918.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Right during the war.

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Yeah. Yeah.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: When you were in, did you go to Central School?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Yes. High School, see I didn't get my high

school part there.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: And your grammar school, was that at Central too?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Uh huh.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Do you remember any of your teachers?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Right off, I don't, no. Ashley, I think there was a Professor Ashley that everyone thought so much of, and then there was a Miss Sadie Hollister I think her name was. She was one of their high school teachers. And, I don't know. Those things just go so far back in your mind, way, way, way, way, back.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Oh, yes, yes. About some of your girl friends, do you remember any of them?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: There was one, Ila Arthur. Our class had 18, our graduating class had 18, but Ila Arthur lived down on Change Street near where I was brought up you might say after we moved to New Bern. She was born on the same day I was. We graduated from high school on the same day. We were baptized over in the Neuse River the same day. All but getting married the same day. We did everything the same day. We didn't get married the same day.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Where, the Neuse River, you said you were baptized.

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Right at the foot as the Neuse River, as you go over the bridge, got off the bridge and then just sort of walked around to gauge the water and see how high it would come up. Yeah, I was baptized in the Neuse River.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: What church was that?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Well, now it's Broad Street Christian, and then I think it was just a Christian church, I think. They are all Christian churches aren't they. I don't know why.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Yes, yes, yes. That was an experience for you. How old were you?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Eighteen.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: What were some of the things, do you remember some of the things that stood out in school, any happenings, or funny things?.

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Not particularly here. Now I do, I went to school in Fredericksburg, Virginia, studying Home Ec. At that time, Fredericksburg wasn't far from Quantico, the Marine headquarters. In those days, oh, you were horrified to think of rooming in the same building, you know, like with a man, in a girls school, but those Marines would come from Cherry Point. I mean from Quantico and walk up and down on the college grounds. We were in windows upstairs peeping out and we would drop a little note and they'd come by and pick it up.

And I even had people, a man from New York City, one special friend, that came down and stayed at the old Gaston Hotel, and I was telling my sisters last night, I said, I believe his ten day visit was \$40, as near as I remember at the Gaston Hotel.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: At the Gaston Hotel.

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Uh huh. Forty dollars. Just think of it. But that's how I met him, by dropping the piece of paper down there

and he picked it up and wrote to me and then he got a chance to come down and visit and the Gaston Hotel is where he went. And I just heard from him until he got tired of waiting and finally married somebody else. But I have the saddest letters, you know, like some day we'll meet again, but I'll never forget those beautiful things. I always had a very romantic tendency, but finally you looked around, looked around, looked around, and finally I had married one.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Did, did, was he from New Bern, Mrs. Ziegler?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: No, no. He was from Ithaca, New York, but in the Marines, you see, they're from everywhere.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Yes.

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: But he came down here two different times and visited. But I particularly remember that one time at the old Gaston Hotel. You can't hardly believe the prices that were available at that time. Just think of it.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Would that include his meals?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: I don't guess so. That was probably just his room and he could eat where ever he liked. And there were garages all up and down there right in front of the Gaston entrance. I remember that. Oh my, my, my. Some of them are very clear and distinct and others are kind of vague, you know.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: A little vague. On your street, did you have side walks down there. Do you remember?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: On Change Street, there's a little narrow short street and I see now they've even had to go into the pavement

to put down the light poles. Now that's how narrow it is, and I keep telling my sisters, I say, one of these days I'm going down there and park my car in somebody's drive way, for there's no room on the street, and just sit there, and sit there, and sit there. They don't want to go with me.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: And reminisce?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Yes. It doesn't mean anything to my sisters much, memory doesn't, but it means so much to me. I think it's one of God's greatest gifts. And you can choose your memories. That's the nice thing. You can choose the memories.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Did you remember the kinds of things that the young people did for entertainment then.

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Yeah, yeah. We went on hayrides. Oh, we loved that. Get a big old truck and get all dressed kind of winter like, you know, on your head and all and just get on that truck and you'd sing songs and ride maybe for a distance out in the country.

And then come back in, maybe and go somewhere and have a little drink or something. I don't even know if we had cokes in those days. I guess we didn't, because New Bern is the home of Pepsi, you know. But, and then we have a, there was a man down at the foot of, well, it's off from East Front Street, but he had a boat and several times he would take a group of us out on a moonlight sail, you know, and that was really beautiful. But we didn't even think about drinks or care about them. I don't even know what we had to eat or drink, probably a lemonade or something.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Would you have a chaperon?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: I think just the owner of the boat maybe. I don't remember that. Now I know when the Marines came in, we went down to Camp Glenn. That's where they were, I think, stationed down there mainly. We did have chaperons when we'd go down there. I met several down there.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Was that during World War I?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Uh huh, yeah.

DR. What was it like in World War I, Mrs. Ziegler?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: A very uneasy feeling of wonder, and concern, and anxiety. We didn't, the news then was not like it is now, and...

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: How did you receive the news?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Well, the little newspaper that we had. I'll never forget the look of that one when the "War Is Over". The letters were so big that they covered the complete back page. I'll never forget that. When that paper was thrown in our front door, "War Is Over".

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Did you know anyone that served?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Not particularly, no. No, not in that war, I didn't. No, and I remember when Lindbergh, of course. We listened with the little ear phones, you know, they came along. Uh huh, and we listened. There were no televisions then, you know. And there was some station in Pittsburgh, KBKA or something like that. (KDKA) We listened to that to get the news. And, of course, those little things, some of those you could put slides in, you know, and you could look, but we listened when Lindbergh was flying. He, that took some

courage, didn't it? But that's what's founded our out view. Done so well by our nation, I think. People did have inquisitive outreach and their thinking would be...

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Mrs. Ziegler, do you remember back then any illness or sickness, and how were people treated in those days. As a child, do you remember?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: What is that word, they gave that to my mother. It was a new drug then. Some special drug when she had pneumonia. You know it would reach the tenth day. If you lived through the tenth day, you would recover, but that was the turning point, that tenth day.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: And she came through?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Uh huh, uh huh.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Did any of the other, of the family...

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Now my father, my father had his heart, is in most of our family, no cancer, no diabetes, but heart. However, now my grandmother and grandfather, they were in their sixties and our mother and father in their seventies, and here we are past our eighties. So you just wonder why people are living older than they did. Well, they are more conscious of what they eat. No one gave a vitamin a thought in those days, you know.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: What kind of, did you have three big meals a day or what kind of foods ...?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: I remember my mother would fix for my father when he was coming into, running into New Bern then. She would cook

beef steak, for his breakfast. That would be the only chance he would have, you know. I especially remember that steak for breakfast being such a stringy thing. But, our meals, we, just like children, we'd just run in and get a snack of this, that, or the other. And they delivered everything. I remember my mother, from Miss Mamie Sadler, did you remember her, well, she, and they would deliver, of course, all the time, but I'll never forget, nobody had any money once they knew.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: You're talking about the depression days.

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Yeah. Yeah. I remember that my mother would order specked apples. With all of us children, you see, you could have, get the good part out of it, but she'd order specked apples because they were cheap and they'd come by the peck. But I remember Miss Mamie Sadler would deliver. I've never forgotten that.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: You had a telephone?

VERONA J. ZIEGLER: Oh, yes, yes, telephone.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Your father's job was more secure wasn't it then?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Yes, yes it was.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: During the depression...

MRS. ZIEGLER: and paid real well. Un huh, considering, I mean for those days.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Did you see any of your friends or neighbors that really suffered during the depression?

MRS. ZIEGLER: No, not as far as, not as far as we knew. Everybody

was about in the same shape, same condition. I remember in World War II, you know, that, remember we had to, everything was rationed.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: But sounds like your mother was very frugal.

MRS. ZIEGLER: She was.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: That she saved...

MRS. ZIEGLER: Oh, my, yes. Everything she could think of. Everybody would buy specked apples for your children yet. I think that was kind of a barometer.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: That is.

MRS. ZIEGLER: People just didn't in those days, oh my, how different it was.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Did you wear hand me downs, did your mother sew for you?

MRS. ZIEGLER: You remember midddy blouses? Well, it seems to me like we had more of those than anything else. Every thing was a midddy blouse. Seems like I remember midddy blouses more than anything else, and was there such a thing as hook skirts?

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Yes.

MRS. ZIEGLER: Now what was that? They, and there were splits, I know, way up the, I think way up the back of the skirts or the side, but I don't remember too much about them. I mean details. Yeah.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: How were the dances then?

MRS. ZIEGLER: I didn't ever go to the dances. Now my sister Louise did. Oh my, she was voted Miss North Carolina, you know, one day down, I mean one time down at Morehead?

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: You didn't dance, MRS. ZIEGLER:?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Uh uh.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Was it because...?

MRS. ZIEGLER: I don't know. I didn't just feel like I could do it well enough, I guess. I think that was why, but I think it's just a natural. Some people, they just fall into it naturally. Well, Louise has a son. He's down at El Mex, you know, in Havelock and they're going to open a place here. Did you know that? I know they are very thrilled about it. We all are. But, oh my, the way he can do his legs and even age hasn't changed him. Just like they were not even fastened on to his body hardly, her son. But it was born in him, I guess.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: But you didn't...

MRS. ZIEGLER: No, I never did go to dances like Louise. Uh huh. I don't know why.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: But you did go on the hayrides?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Oh, I'd go on the hayride and the boat, and the sailboat.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Did your family participate in church activities?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Yes, yes, we always have been, tried to be dedicated church people. Yes, indeed, with the Christian Church, but out in the country, the old, what do they call them, the old time Baptists, hard shells or something like that. Our grandmothers were, grandfather. But there's a small Christian Church not far away, and

we'd go in a horse and buggy. At Granny's there were no automobiles. They did, we did, they did have a buggy. Some people didn't have anything but carts. And every time you'd get to a little water stream across the highway, why, the horse would have to stop and get a drink, and let out a drink.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Well, Mrs. Ziegler, were you married in the Christian Church?

MRS. ZIEGLER: No, not here. I had a very dear friend that we used to know each other when we lived in Belhaven, and she was in Norfolk. And we just kept our friendship up, and so we just kind of got together. I thought, well, no, I wouldn't bother to have a church wedding with all the bridesmaids and all the doings. It would be so expensive and I wouldn't do it. So, we, I called her and she met us in Richmond, and we were married in one of the Christian Churches in Richmond.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: What year was that, MRS. ZIEGLER:.

MRS. ZIEGLER: Well, I was thirty. We took our time. My husband was, he was nine years older than I was. I think I was about thirty.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Had you worked any...?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Oh yeah. I worked for the railroad.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Did you?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Uh uh.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Was that in New Bern?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Uh uh. Uh uh.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: What did you do?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Worked in the office, railroad office. It was down there where the Farmer's Market is now, the old railroad depot. Uh uh. And they'd get, even get...

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Where was that, MRS. ZIEGLER:?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Right here. At the foot of Railroad Street

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Hancock?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Yeah, there was a big ole depot down there, and then they'd unload. They had, they had wharves and everything. They had the unloading facilities there. Yes, I worked there and my Dad helped me out a lot. Now, I get, I don't know why, but I get a Social security check and I get a railroad retirement.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: That's nice.

MRS. ZIEGLER: They work kind of differently. Yes, I've been so blessed, but you see, I'm still working and they still, you know, take out part, I guess or some of it, you know.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: All these years you've been paying into Social Security.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: I'd like for you to tell me about your office at the end of Hancock Street. You say the boats came in.

MRS. ZIEGLER: The boats could, yes. Uh uh.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: And they unloaded?

MRS. ZIEGLER: And the railroad cars, you see they shift in and out. They were coming from Norfolk and I guess, there was that railroad going all the way through town, you know, and it went on down to the river where the depot was, where I worked, and they'd unload the old

cars down there, and automobiles would all come in that way too. Oh, yeah, and I worked in the office. I wasn't a very good worker, I don't think. My husband, no, I'm not sure, maybe that was before I was married. I don't know not all of it, but anyhow sometimes he'd, he'd come and pick me up and we'd go for a ride before I'd go to work. And nobody said anything and seemed like it was all right, so I wasn't in too big a hurry. Sometime I'd be about thirty minutes or an hour late getting there, and I wasn't a very good worker. I'll say that, and if I was over, I was in the cash stand to for part of the time.

That was kind of a promotion, cashier, taking in the money, you know, from people that had received their freight. So, sometimes if I was over, I'd take it out and if I was under, I'd put it in. And that's not good bookkeeping. No, indeed. But I've changed all these years, makes a difference, it certainly does, and I've had so many blessings.

I'm just so thankful that I reached this point and still can go. Getting stiff in my knees, but I hope it don't get too stiff that I can't go. I've been so blessed.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Well, Mrs. Ziegler, did the passengers on the railroad come in, up at Hancock and Queen?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Where the depot was. Yeah, that was the passenger station. See down there where the old meat market used to be and the Terminal Hotel. I think that was the name of it, Terminal Hotel. They said Charlie Taylor cut the chops, slices. He'd make a payment on one ham. He cut 'em so, the slices so thin, they told tales like that.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Do you remember any unusual people in New Bern, way back then, what we would term characters?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Any outstanding people? Well, I remember his father. You could see him riding around, you know, and different from anybody else.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Who was that?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Dr. Latham. Dr. Latham, I say. We could see him riding around and look forward to it, because it was different. We didn't see any caps, seemed like his cap was turned the wrong way, you know. And he just seemed so alert and so, go, go, going. Yes, he was sort of a fixture in people's minds for observing. And I guess it did him good, was good for him. How old was he when the Lord called him?

Fred Latham: Fifty two.

MRS. ZIEGLER: Fifty two. Well, that isn't too old.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: You were talking about hats, they were popular, were the plumed hats?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Most any kind. The big sailor, what were they called. They were kind of a pale tan woven looking material, but I think mostly they had brims and would have flowers or ribbons. And made them very, very pretty and they were flattering. They were very flattering I thought.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Did the ladies have separate, just hat shops?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Yes, they did.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: And their own...?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Went right out of business. That was it. I can't think of the name of them here, but I know that they must have had stocks and stocks of material. I've got a lot of pretty hats and I keep thinking, every once in awhile, I'm going to wear one. I know one of the men in our church, well, it's been about two years ago, said I'm going to appoint next Sunday, hat Sunday. I want to see hats. And people can go and, well, Louise has got stacks of them she said up in her attic, but she's afraid to get up there and get them herself.

MRS. ZIEGLER: When did you start your business, MRS. ZIEGLER:?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Oh, that was Highway 17 out there then. There was no motels here. There was one or two rooming houses and that was it.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: What year was that?

MRS. ZIEGLER: That was in 19, well, it was when the war was starting. What year would that have been, 18?

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: 1941.

MRS. ZIEGLER: That's right, yeah. Well, we, I think we bought this in that, maybe that same year, but anyhow, nobody had any money. But I'd go to my front door and there I would stand. See that was Highway 17 then, and I had this sign that said, Ziegler, and right beneath, no, "Tourist" and then beneath it the word Ziegler. And nights that nobody would come in, I'd get to thinking, I wonder if it's that word Ziegler. German you know and at war with Germany. And I'd think, well, what's more German than Eisenhower. He was the general then, you know. So, anyhow, they'd be standing at the door, a lady with

one by the hand and another in her arms. The last few hours some might have, ever have with their loved ones. I'd take them in the house.

I'd put them on little pallets in there. I'd put them on the sofas, in here, and in the rooms in the house too. There was no place they could go, and I just did not have the heart. And I know the first, now, I'm trying to think what I did with my husband. I saved one room upstairs for him, and then I began to rent the rooms upstairs. And, now that's the way it started. There was just nothing anywhere for New Bern to offer the people, because nobody built anything. I remember when they used to, my husband was in the jewelry store, business, Sam K. Eaton, and I know years that they would have a good potato crop in Pamlico County. Everybody rejoiced, because that meant good business for New Bern. Just think of it. New Bern counting on anything so unusual as that, but that meant they'd be, they'd be coming to New Bern, spending their money in New Bern. Yeah.

And then it was during the depression that they, they allowed them to have maybe five Elgin watches and maybe four or five Gruens, watches, and they just went down, down, down, with their rationing and all that kind of thing. And they were hard days. I think Miss Sadie Eaton had died in the meantime and they would struggle, struggle, struggle. I've got some, not that mirror, but I have one that they used to, seems to me they had the, the buildings around the, in the Sam K. Eaton Jewelry Store. They had mirrors and that reflected all the other stuff in the store and was real pretty, but times change and I have seen some changes.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: You really have.

MRS. ZIEGLER: Yes, I have.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: When did you build your building?

MRS. ZIEGLER: These little cottages back here had started, people began to come here and from Camp Lejeune and engage them before they were even finished. My husband was from the Pennsylvania farm area and farming was in his blood and he wanted to plant something and watch it grow, and he had put the back portion of our property back here, he was raising different vegetables back there. He just wanted to do it and then we decided to put in the little cottages. And they were in the, right near the finishing stage, when these people, these officers, I think it was, from Camp Lejeune, I mean from, yeah, Jacksonville came and rented them. So that's the way it started, but taking the people in there and putting them in here everywhere that lasted for awhile too. So the Lord has blessed me and I hope blessed some others through me.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Mrs. Ziegler,

MRS. ZIEGLER: Cause I've seen some changes.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: How much, back then, did you charge?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Oh, my, my, my. Those little cottages, I rented some of them, I hate to say it but I believe it was \$5 a night. It was just down, a dollar was a dollar then. And upstairs, I, and I never even thought about it being dangerous, you know, and my husband was, like I say, I kept him downstairs. He was a complete invalid for sixteen years. I took him to Mayo's. We, he stayed out there

six weeks. I was working for the railroad, you know, and I could get a pass. So I got a pass for us. That's the first time on the way out that I ever saw zero weather and I know crossing the tracks there in Mayo's I saw the first thirty, I mean first zero weather. They said that's what it was and I was blessed and able to get a room right across from the Mayo Clinic and I could look over and see mornings, they had a, there was a little rooming house right in front and somebody from New Bern, you might or might not remember, Meyer Hahn. Well, Meyer had been out and I knew what his wife, that his wife stayed at a place just for the Mayo people 'cause the rooms were so hard to get.

And so I called those people, contacted them, and I could look right across and see when his windows were opened or when the light was on, and I, I stayed, I think, I think I stayed about four weeks and then I came back. And, Mr. Barden, it was during the war, and Mr. Barden had some influence with some people who were connected with the airlines. And I contacted him about bringing my husband to, it's not Winston-Salem but it's on the east, famous hospital.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Raleigh?

MRS. ZIEGLER: I believe they said they had 6,000 there, and they had to have a plane that they, they had to have a plane that would swing like a hammock, you know. Put the person in the plane that way, and so they had to wait for that, but they got that and he came in.

And he was in Roanoke for, I don't know, I expect he was there for about six months. And Billy Graham, I mean, Oral Roberts came to, I think he was in, I don't know if it was Norfolk or someplace, but

anyhow, I believed in the healing power of the Lord and I believed and counted on him, so that Luby Hardison took us. He put a mattress in the back of his truck and put my husband on that and we took him, I think it was to Winston-Salem. And we went to the healing service.

A place that they took people, you know, then he came by and put his hands on them and prayed. And it was a full, a full day. Quite an experience that we were able to get to him, to this healing service.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: That was a kindness, a real kindness, Mr. Hardison.

MRS. ZIEGLER: You bet. He was a real friend. Yes, and he met him at the airport when he came home, and also took him when he had to go. He was a real friend. And it's wonderful to speak on your friends. It gives you comfort and joy. So, I, the Lord spared me here for, sometimes you wonder why he leaves some of us here so long and others just a short time. He has a purpose, I imagine. Where do you go, the Episcopal church? You do.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Mrs. Ziegler, what would you, in looking back, say was one of the biggest changes that you have seen in New Bern over the years.

MRS. ZIEGLER: In the general economy or general relationship.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Both, would be, the economy.

MRS. ZIEGLER: Yeah. Well, there are certainly changes. Everything has just gone out of sight it seems price wise. Is the value there or is something pushing it to make it appear that way? We just, our little minds can't take it all in, I don't think

sometimes.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: What about in the way of life in New Bern?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Well, I may not be appropriate or really down to facts from my point of view because this is a confining business. You don't get out. You stay here. Of course, you do get a cross cut of life. No doubt about that and as far as danger. It's a dangerous business. They don't even have to break in. They got free access when they come in that door. Yes indeed. And I stand on that 91st Psalm. When he promises to give his angels charge over us, and keep us in all our ways lest we dash upwards against a stone.

Fred: I've got a bunch of them you can see.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Mrs. Ziegler, you, we were talking about hospitals. Do you, the story that you heard about during the depression. What happened that you...?.

MRS. ZIEGLER: This person, and I don't have it down clear, it's vaguely in my mind. This person was able to get some changes and it isn't clear to me just what happened, but I know that he was refused entrance. This person, don't know the name or anything, but it just made an impression on me how things have changed, you know, with all the Medicare and the Medicaid, but that was the instrument or the means or prompted the radical change of health for people that did not have the money in an emergency, cause that was an emergency. But I think the, wouldn't know the name, it was just kind of impressed my mind way back then. I've never forgotten it; that that was the beginning right here in New Bern of the sympathetic feelings and that they could

not be turned away. And I think there was a neighbor over here, the same way. When he went to Duke, they demanded, it's been years ago too, that they, he was a government man, just lived there a little while, a short while. And I think he had to have, I think it was a big deposit before they'd take him. It was before all these Medicare and Medicaid things, you know. But they're in the past, and maybe, of course, be nice if people could realize the improvements today and what has happened that is good in helping so many people. Oh my, what would we do without it.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: What were the hospitals you remember in New Bern?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Well, I don't remember much about them, because I didn't have to use them.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: You were healthy?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Very healthy, yes, indeed. So blessed.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: MRS. ZIEGLER:, was there a hospital down on North Craven Street at the corner of North Craven, I guess, and Queen Street where the railroad track went from Hancock on down to the river? Do you...?

MRS. ZIEGLER: A hospital? No, I don't remember that.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: A brick building, the depot was here and it was a block from there, like where Craven Street started.

MRS. ZIEGLER: No, I don't remember any.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: You don't remember that.

MRS. ZIEGLER: Is there supposed to be one there?

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: That's what I wondered if you remembered.

MRS. ZIEGLER: No, uh uh. I think the old Salvation Army, their quarters were down there somewhere.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Well, Mrs. Ziegler, is there anything else that you think that you'd like to share with us?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Uh, not right off.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: You've seen so many changes.

MRS. ZIEGLER: Yeah, I have, yes. It just boggles your mind. You can't take it in really. It overwhelms you.

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: What do you think is one of the best changes that has happened in New Bern?

MRS. ZIEGLER: Would it be inter-mingling or inter-communication in every phase of society. I know there's limitations and you have to be careful, but I don't, I just...

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: Are you meaning that people of all races get along better now?

MRS. ZIEGLER: And I think that's good. I'd never believe in inter-marriage, never, because even the tigers and the lions, they don't do that or the bears, but we are different because we are human beings fashioned in the image and likeness of God. How he feels about it, we just don't know. We feel that it isn't right, but we just don't know what's on for tomorrow. How do you feel about that, those inter-marriages? I think it's awful. I can't help but, and yet, the same God created them, created us, but for the grace of God, we could be black, but...

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: You remember then back when there, they were not treated....

MRS. ZIEGLER: Oh, I remember when they started to put out my borders out there. They got fifteen cents an hour planting the things on those borders and when they'd come in the house to do anything in here was ten cents an hour. They got five cents more out there. Just think of it. Oh, my, my, my, and they came and helped me for so, so long. Haven't broke your camera yet, uh?

DOROTHY RICHARDSON: And I imagine you've always been very kind to people who were different.

MRS. ZIEGLER: Yes, yes. You cannot turn them away and the Bible says that. Turn them not away because you may be entertaining angels unaware. But I've had so many instances of angels protection. That's the promise. And I know it's happened. One time in China, we were in Hong Kong, no, not Hong Kong. Anyhow, that big city, one of the big cities in China, and this all white marble, those palaces and those places to visit. White marble. That's the steps and that's the flooring everywhere. And the group that I was with was over here and somehow I must have seen something over there that I thought I would like. And there were, I think, four big heavy steps there about that wide and all the same color. All white. And I just started just like this and to this day I don't know. I just, I missed the steps. I didn't touch the steps. It was just like I was floating through air.

END OF INTERVIEW