

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

ALFRED D. WARD

INTERVIEW 1024

This is Dr. Joseph Patterson representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 1000. I am interviewing Mr. Alfred D. Ward at his office at 409 Pollock Street in New Bern. The number of the interview is 1024. The date is December 10, 1992.

Dr. Patterson: So now, Al, we've turned the tape on. I'm glad to have this chance to sit here and talk to you and get your memories of your life and the things you remember about New Bern. To start with, why don't I just ask you to tell me your full name, when you were born, where you were born, your parents names, where you grew up in New Bern, where you went to school, and something about your early life in town.

Mr. Ward: Joe, my full name is Alfred Decatur Ward. I've been called Al Ward and Dec Ward all my life since I left home to go to school. Of course my family called me Alfred and I'm still called Alfred by my family. I was born on July 3, 1924. As were my brothers, all of us were born out at 408 Spencer Avenue. It was 408, they've changed the postal numeration. I don't know what it is now. I think it's 1600 and something. It's the house that is the second house on what was the 400 block. It was next to the Bartling home, which incidentally was a Sears Roebuck model house. That house, the Bartling house, is across the street from the Godfroy house which was also a Sears Roebuck model. We grew up there at 408 Spencer Avenue. It's the bungalow with the flint pillars and flint chimney. I had a great time growing up. Dad kept ponies there for us. He bought a shetland. Dad had a first cousin who lived in Raleigh, John A. Farrior. His

middle initial was A and they called him John A. He had a farm there on the outskirts of Raleigh, what was then the outskirts of Raleigh, about where Meredith is. Dad bought a shetland pony from him and put him in the back of a Dodge automobile and brought him home. He took the seat out and put the pony in there, and he stood up. When we were older, we had horses there and otherwise. Dad built the house next to that one, the one that's west of that, two-story brick house during the Depression. He used a lot of timbers that he bought when they tore down these buildings where McLellan's is located now. We had them stored in our backyard there. We moved over into the brick house for about two years. Then we moved back into the bungalow when somebody came along and wanted to rent the brick house, didn't want to rent the bungalow. That was Mr. H. B. Edwards, Harry Edwards, when he came here to take over the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad. His company was the Atlantic & East Carolina Railway. Bill and Winslow were his sons. I went to school at Ghent. The old Ghent building is no longer there. It's been torn down. It was the same building as the one out in Riverside, which is still standing. Went through the sixth grade there. That later became known as the Eleanor Marshall School. In the seventh grade I came downtown to school. We had the seventh through the eleventh grades there on the site of the old school. The Bell building that Robert Lee Stallings (Bob Stallings) has converted to apartments was where we had the seventh and eighth grades. The high school was in the old Griffin building which was next door which is now the location of some of these historic homes that have been saved

and moved to that site across from the Masonic Theater. During those days, I rode a bicycle downtown. My grandfather's home, my aunt's home (he was living until 1940) was where the Aerie is now, next to Raleigh Federal. I had lunch there almost every day that I went from the seventh through the eleventh grade. One thing that always comes to mind when I speak of that is the Kafer Bakery which was located on Broad Street just a couple of doors from the corner. As I recall, it was right next door to the old ABC Store that was on the corner.

Dr. Patterson: That's the corner of Middle and Broad.

Mr. Ward: No, the corner of Hancock and Broad. I used to come by there every day. I had quite a sweet tooth. I'd stop in there and get some bakery goods and carry it on around to my aunt's home at 509 Pollock Street.

Dr. Patterson: When you grew up out in Ghent, what was it like out there as a boy?

Mr. Ward: It was great. Of course in those days, looking at it through a child's eyes, we had a big front yard. During the time, dad was building the brick house, which he later sold. He sold it in the early forties. We played baseball in our front yard. We played football in our front yard. There was not a big problem as far as vehicle traffic was concerned. In the earlier days, of course the trolley ran right down Spencer Avenue and came downtown. I have memories of that. I can't tell you right now when they quit running.

I remember several things about Spencer Avenue. One, some of the city people were working out there one day, and we had a little white

dog, it was just a stray and she had a bad skin condition, mange, and we named her Mange, and I remember one day that one of the street people working out there for the city, she was barking at him and he turned and hit her in the head with a hammer. My brother William was not at home. William is just sixteen months younger than I am. He was born November 22, 1925. I ran to where he was to get him to tell him what had happened to our dog. Another memory is one Halloween. Back in those days we didn't know anything about trick or treat. Never heard the phrase until after all the Marines came here during the war and people from other parts of the country settled here. But I remember Mr. L. C. Newman, who lived on down the street from us on the north side of Spencer Avenue, had a brand new 1938 Buick. I don't know whether it was in Halloween of '37 or Halloween of '38, but we got some string and the property across the street from our houses was not developed at that time and we pulled some of the weeds from those lots and put them on that string. We saw Mr. Newman coming across the street. It was dark. About the time when there was no way on earth he could stop that car, we pulled it up just like a barricade and he nearly wore his tires out trying to stop. Of course we took off, and he cussed us for everything it was worth. (laughter)

Dr. Patterson: Were there many houses out in Ghent during those years?

Mr. Ward: Yes, it was largely developed all the way out to the area, probably 7th Street. It is 7th Street. The area beyond 7th Street stretching on over to Trent Road had not been opened up. There

were a few vacant lots around but most of the lots were occupied. There were some nice homes out there.

Dr. Patterson: What do you remember about Fort Totten?

Mr. Ward: I remember that was one of the areas in which we played. At that time of course the old earthworks were there. There was a path made by I reckon kids like us riding bicycles as well as people walking up and down. We used to ride our bikes around on those earthworks. In retrospect, it seemed like they were 15, 20 feet high.

I don't know how high they were. But we rode across the earthwork, or down it, and then there would be a break and we'd ride down that and up the next one. We had a wonderful time playing on those things.

When I came back here after the war and found that they had been taken down, I was very upset about it.

Dr. Patterson: That was done during the war years.

Mr. Ward: As I recall, it was done probably at the end of the war. Probably the last year or so of the war, there was a great deal of construction across from Fort Totten in that addition to DeGraffenreid Park and then going on west on Neuse Blvd. the area where Chattawka Lane is on the north side of the highway where Clark Avenue is. All of that area was built toward the end of the war, small tract houses.

Dr. Patterson: When you were a boy, do you remember finding Civil War artifacts at Fort Totten?

Mr. Ward: No, I never found any. I was not particularly interested in that, so I didn't look for them. And of course we didn't have any

metal detectors then as the Civil War buffs do now.

Dr. Patterson: One or two people have told me they have picked up mini ball out there and found other things.

Mr. Ward: I have a mini ball here in the office right over there on that table that someone gave me.

Dr. Patterson: When you went to school at Ghent, do you remember your teachers?

Mr. Ward: Mrs. Armstrong was my first grade teacher. She lived along right next to the Menius' I think, the second block of Ghent. As you know, the streets are Park Avenue to the south along which the railroad used to go, Spencer Avenue which was an eighty foot right of way, and Rhem Avenue which was an eighty foot right of way, and Spencer Avenue, well the school was between Spencer and Rhem. As a matter of fact, it used to be Rhems Avenue and they changed it and dropped the s. But Mrs. Armstrong lived there. The second grade teacher was Mrs. Nina Lafrage. She was still living several years ago and wrote my brother Kennedy a real nice note.

Dr. Patterson: Was she the mother of Brigham and Lutrelle Lafrage?

Mr. Ward: Don't know, but it's the only time I ever heard that name. I have real warm thoughts of her. She was a good teacher. Every day just before lunch, we'd have a spelling test, and if you got all the words right you got to go home early for lunch. I missed one word the whole year, "been", I spelled it "ben", and I've never forgotten it.

Dr. Patterson: Well, that's one way to spell it.

Mr. Ward: Mrs. Purser was the third grade teacher. Very strict, very good. She lived over on Neuse Blvd in DeGraffenreid Park. Miss Hattie Dill was my fourth grade teacher and Hattie was something of a character. She had a ruler that she didn't mind whacking you with on your hand. She didn't put up with any foolishness, but of course, all of us tried something on her. Mrs. Waters was the fifth grade teacher. I missed about half of that year. I was appointed a page in the legislature and was in Raleigh for about six months. I'd go up on Monday and come back on Friday and I'd do any homework I had to do on the weekend and take any test that I had to take. Mrs. Waters was a very nice person. She lived downtown for years. I'm not sure where she lived then, but she lived on Craven Street in the block where my brother William lives now for many years and died fairly recently.

She told me that she would have had me skip a grade if I hadn't been out that six months. I've always been delighted that I didn't. I've seen many kids who have skipped grades and I would not have liked to do that. I would rather have stayed with my crowd. Eleanor Marshall was the principal and the sixth grade teacher. She lived in a beautiful old home that was torn down to build a rectory for a church up on Fleet Street.

Dr. Patterson: And then you went downtown. You came down to the school green downtown.

Mr. Ward: That's correct.

Dr. Patterson: How were those years of schooling?

Mr. Ward: I have good memories of them. When we got downtown,



I think in the seventh grade was the first time we had different teachers for different subjects. I know we did in the eighth grade and I think we did in the seventh grade. I met, I won't say I met, I did meet some of the people who became part of our social group, our crowd. Most of them I had known all my life. But we enjoyed it. We had some good times down there. Of course this was in the heart of the Depression and nobody had a lot of money. We made do largely with what we had. We had some parties. We had some good times.

Dr. Patterson: Who were some of your friends during those years?

Mr. Ward: Graham Barden, Jr., Bardie, whose now a pediatrician here. He and I grew up together really. Fred Latham was one of them. Fred and Bardie lived out in Riverside. They terrorized their neighborhood out there. They made explosives and did about everything bad little boys can do. (laughter) Well, I shouldn't say bad little boys, innovative little boys could do. Wesley Conkling, Enola Sue Flowers who grew up down the street from me. She was a beautiful little girl and she was an early sweetheart. Camilla Griffin was my first sweetheart; she lived right next door to us out there in Ghent. Sophia Sue Duffy, Wesley Conkling. We had a good group. Jane Bryan Pugh, now Constantine.

Dr. Patterson: Do you remember your school teachers in the downtown school?

Mr. Ward: Not all of them. I remember the earlier ones better. Miss Lanta Winslow taught me in either the seventh or the eighth grade. Her nickname was Windy. She was a very good friend of my mother.

I think she's still living, although, she's close to a hundred years old. She was from Ashboro. She went back there.

Dr. Patterson: I remember her.

Mr. Ward: Mrs. Smith was a very nice person, taught French. Harry McDonald came in later and taught Chemistry and Physics. Mr. Shields was the principal. I'm not sure that H. B. Smith wasn't the principal before him.

Dr. Patterson: Wasn't he head of the lower grades? He had his office in the Bell building.

Mr. Ward: Mr. Shields?

Dr. Patterson: No, Mr. Smith.

Mr. Ward: I'm not sure Joe. I know that Mr. Smith became the superintendent of schools, and my impression is that when he moved to superintendent, that Mr. Shields came in as principal of the high school. During that period, because money was tight, and this is the point I started to make earlier, we had only eight months of school and we only had eleven grades. The twelfth grade was added after I left the local school system. The eight months was I think in part due to the fact that the children were needed on the farms in many instances, in part to lack of funds with which to pay the teachers.

We had a beautiful blonde woman who taught French. I can't call her name. She was a little on the heavy side but she was very pretty and very nice. We had a young lady named Grace Robbins who taught speech and dramatics, which I took as an extra course in the eleventh year because I enjoyed it. I had been in several plays that were put on.

I was supposed to have been in a play my junior year but could not because I got the worst case of poison oak you've ever seen. I went out to a little farm, what we called the little farm, that my father had purchased out in the Riverdale section. He had had the lines cut out and it was a hot day and he wanted to go walk the lines around the property. I ended up taking my shirt off and within a day or so I was eaten up with poison oak. I had my first bout with tobacco in connection with that. I had tried everything under the sun to get rid of it and somebody told me that you could put tobacco juice on it. I had never smoked at that point. I started shortly after that.

I got a plug of tobacco and put it in some hot water and I coated myself from my waist up. I was not actively nauseated, but almost. I was sick as a dog.

Dr. Patterson: Did it help?

Mr. Ward: Nope, didn't help.

Dr. Patterson: You just absorbed a lot of nicotine.

Mr. Ward: I absorbed a lot of nicotine and it made me deathly ill. But because of that, I had to back out of the play. I was going to be in this play that we were gonna put on. So, I had to get out of that.

Dr. Patterson: Were you involved in other activities during school?

Mr. Ward: Yeah, I played football. I went out my junior year and I was really too small. Then I got the flu and that interrupted the practice, so I dropped out. I played football my senior year when

I was sixteen. I was seventeen during the summer after I graduated.

Dr. Patterson: Who was your coach?

Mr. Ward: Frank Alston. I was a 145 pound midget in a line that averaged over 200 pounds. I played left guard. Not with any great degree of expertise, but I tried, and I enjoyed it.

Dr. Patterson: Were you a pretty serious student?

Mr. Ward: Yeah. I was fortunate, it came easy to me. I was not valedictorian of my class. I missed it by some small amount.

Dr. Patterson: Who was the valedictorian?

Mr. Ward: I think Mary Lib Gaskins Humienny was. Zan Harper did extremely well. Zan was one of those persons who skipped a grade, and by reason of that, he was always a year younger. He was a year younger than the rest of us and it made a difference.

Dr. Patterson: What happened to you, Al, after you graduated from New Bern High School? What was your next step?

Mr. Ward: Went to Chapel Hill in the fall of 1941. Of course Pearl Harbor came along December 7. Congressman Hap Barden, who was Bardie's father, appointed me to Annapolis, the Naval Academy. I thought I could stay in Chapel Hill the rest of the year and get in on certificate, but I found out about Christmas time that I would have to take the entrance exam. So my father made arrangements for me to go to Columbia Preparatory School in Washington, D.C. It had been, uh, (Puhl's, I think) Academy. It was a preparatory school for the service academies. There were people there preparing for West Point, Annapolis, and the Coast Guard Academy. I was there for two and a

half months from the latter part of January. Jack Taylor, John R. Taylor, Jr. was there at the same time. He had gone off to school a couple of years earlier and was at Davidson. He and I went up the same time, about 28th, 29th of January. The man that was running that place had a real knack for getting the best out of an individual. There were some of the kids there that if he had ridden me like he did them, I would have thrown him out the window. But with me, what he did, the first Saturday, I went downtown to look around and took in a burlesque show I think. The following week I started getting telephone calls and mail from home, "Don't you want to go to the Naval Academy and blah, blah, blah." What he did was to stir up my family to get all over me to make me spend more time studying. I got a good high school education in two and a half months. I mean literally.

I passed the exam. We took the exam the middle of April. Jack and I, I'm getting a little ahead of my story, Jack and I came back to New Bern. We rode the train until either Cove City or Dover. We got tired of spending so much time stopping, so we got out and we thumbed a ride on a panel truck which had frozen slabs of meat or boxes of frozen meat in the back of it. We sat on those boxes of frozen meat.

By the time we got to New Bern, you can imagine our tails were cold.

But we got off on Broad Street right at Jack's house which was two doors from the Rhem house on the corner across from St. Luke's Hospital.

I walked from there down Broad Street to Craven Street and then south on Craven to my parent's home. It was the first time in my life that I had seen people that I had never seen before.

Dr. Patterson: In New Bern?

Mr. Ward: In New Bern. I don't mean I knew everybody in New Bern, because there were some eleven thousand plus in that 1940 census, but I saw strangers for the first time. A product of Cherry Point.

The base had opened and we had a lot of Marines here, had a lot of people come in to help build the base. I really felt like I was almost a stranger in my own hometown as I walked down the street. After I got word that I'd passed the entrance exam, Dad made arrangements for a flight surgeon down at Cherry Point to give me the Annapolis physical.

The surgeon had been a friend of his in school at Wake Forest. He told me that I passed with flying colors, no problem. So I went to the academy in June of 1942, and much to my surprise I found that they had changed the eye requirements. They had gone from a four year program to a three year program because of the war and they had changed the eye requirements. I had three or four eye exams in the four days I was there, and they sent me home. I had a little myopic, astigmatism.

They said that I probably could not take the intense study without having to wear glasses. Back at that time if you had any vision impairment you couldn't become an officer. They have since learned better. I found when I was in law school that that was true. I put on glasses in law school after I developed severe headaches and wore the glasses while I was in law school. Then I took them off and didn't wear them again until after I was 41, 42, years old. But I came home.

I wanted to go back to Chapel Hill. At that time it was a very small school, just several thousand students. I wanted to go back up there.

I joined the navy reserve. My mother, and I'm sure Mom and Dad talked about it, but my mother said, "There's a war going on. You're going to a military school." I did everything but say I was not going. I went down to The Citadel. In the meantime, my brother William had graduated from New Bern High School and he wanted to go where I was going. We'd been very close growing up; although, he had a very violent temper which nobody would believe now, but I've got the scars to show it. But he decided he wanted to go down there with me. So we went down and I adjusted to it very well. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and had it not been for the war, I probably would have stayed four years.

I had to go in as a fourth classman, a freshman, because I only had partial credits from Chapel Hill. Having been to Columbian Prep School, with a minimum of effort I made straight A's the first semester and I think I made one or two B's the second semester. That was the type program that they were conducting at Columbian Prep School at that time. William despised it. He got off on the wrong foot to begin with. In one of the photographs I showed you earlier, I had a full head of hair, a nice big pompadour and so did he. I think that photograph was taken shortly before we went down to The Citadel. I went to the barber shop there on campus and had my hair cut, and of course, it was cut short. I wore it that way until after I got out of law school.

But William went downtown to the hotel down in the main part of town and he was gonna get his hair cut down there by what he considered a civilian barber. When he saw what the man did to him, he was absolutely furious. He turned livid, and the barber told him that General

Summerall had told them they were to cut the cadets hair just as close as they got them cut on campus. So he despised it. He didn't like the discipline. Then at the end of that year, I was called to active duty in the navy reserve. I went over to University of South Carolina.

That was in early July of 1943. I had pledged to the fraternity in Chapel Hill but never was initiated.

Dr. Patterson: Kappa Sigma.

Mr. Ward: So I repledged down there. That was in July. In August I went to a fraternity function. We didn't have houses down there.

Before the war, they had segments of the dormitories that would constitute a house for each of the fraternities and sororities. When I got down there, they had all been taken over by the Navy and other students and we had a store front deal downtown, upstairs over a store.

One day I went to some function, one Saturday or Sunday, and I was told by one of my fraternity brothers that he'd gotten me a blind date for a house party that we were gonna have after the August Germans, and of course, as you know, the Germans are the big dances. I asked him what her name was. This was Bob McNair who became a lawyer later and was governor of South Carolina and probably has the largest law firm now in the state. In fact, the McNair law office is in Raleigh as well. Bob said her name is Muggins Sweeny. I said, "Thanks a bunch.

Forget it!" He told me that Muggins had been on campus the year before as a freshman. Obviously we did meet on that blind date, and obviously it took because we've been married for over 48 years. Muggins had been born and reared in Wilmington and her father had maintained his



reserve commission in the Navy. He had been in the first World War, Sam Sweeny. He was called to active duty in early 1941. Muggins finished her sophomore year at New Hanover High School and then she moved to Charleston. She and her mother moved down there to join her father. He was communications officer at the Navy Yard. She went to dances there at The Citadel that year that I was at The Citadel.

She was a freshman over at South Carolina but she went to dances at The Citadel. We never did meet. In fact, she'd got an 8x10 photo that was taken of her dancing with a boy who was in my company at The Citadel, H Company. Anyway, we met, and then she came back to school in October. South Carolina had gone on a trimester basis cause of the Navy. We dated that whole year. She finished her second year. Then I went to midshipman school at Columbia University.

Dr. Patterson: This was after one year at The Citadel?

Mr. Ward: No, after one year at The Citadel and one year at South Carolina, three semesters at South Carolina, I went to Columbia University Midshipman School and I graduated from midshipman school October 26, 1944 and we were married at four o'clock that afternoon.

Dr. Patterson: Lucky day for you.

Mr. Ward: We were married in New York. We were married in Westchester County. Her father was overseas at that time. He had been shipped overseas. I'm not sure whether he was on Guadalcanal then, but he had been earlier. Not knowing what my orders were going to be, we were married from her aunt's house. She had an aunt and an uncle who lived there. That was her father's home. So we were

married there in Scarsdale and I by that time had gotten my orders. And although a friend of her mother had given us a penthouse apartment for ten days in New York for our honeymoon, we stayed there one night and got up at six o'clock the next morning and went to Asbury Park.

It turned out it was very fortunate. Most of my class went to the auxiliary fleet and I had orders to a small gasoline tanker, AOG19.

It was like a coastal tanker; in fact, it was built for the coastal service, most of the super structure aft. I got orders to Asbury Park.

The Navy had taken over two of the big hotels there on the ocean and they were using it as a stop over point for men coming out of V12 programs that they didn't have immediate room in the midshipman schools for.

I was a company officer and had two unmarried ensigns for assistants.

So I was very fortunate in being able to spend every night in our little one room apartment that we had. And although I was supposed to have been there only for thirty days, they kept us there until about December 20. I had a five day break, came home, and then went overseas.

Dr. Patterson: Where did you go?

Mr. Ward: I went to the Southwest Pacific. I took the train to San Francisco and spent several days there.

Dr. Patterson: Muggins stayed home.

Mr. Ward: Oh yes.

Dr. Patterson: She didn't go with you.

Mr. Ward: She stayed home. As a matter of fact, she and her mother stayed with this friend who lived in Boston, Nell Mercer, the one who had offered us her penthouse apartment in which we stayed one

night. But I did not see or hear from Muggins or anybody else in the family from December 25th until April 15th, no 13th. It may have been the 14th. I went out on the USAT Sea Cat. US Army Transport.

Dr. Patterson: A sea cat?

Mr. Ward: The Sea Cat. It was an Army transport. The ship was supposed to be in Hollandia, New Guinea. I got there in late January of '45, mid to late January, and the ship had left early that morning, my ship, the Sakatonchee, AOG19. I found out later that it was right around the corner in another bay. If I'd had a rowboat, I could have rowed to it, but I didn't know it was there. Nobody could tell me where it was. I tell you, Joe, some of the things that happened to me out there, it's a wonder we ever won the war. I'll comment on that later. But I spent several days in a transient officer's camp there in Hollandia.

Dr. Patterson: Excuse me, Al, where was this?

Mr. Ward: Hollandia, New Guinea. I caught another Army transport up to Leyte Gulf. When I got there, I inquired of the port director as to where the USS Sakatonchee was and he had no idea. So I was sent over to a transient officer's camp on Samar, which was a neighboring island, Guiuan Samar. I believe that's the spelling. I was there from the latter part of January until April 13th. Every day I went down to the quonset hut where the port director had his office to see if they had any news on where my ship was. Every day I was told no, they had no idea. Finally on April 13, I shipped out aboard a destroyer tender, no, a seaplane tender that looked very much like a destroyer.

The ship was supposed to be at Palawan which was another one of the Philippine islands. Went down there on that seaplane tender, got there, no ship. It had left a couple of days before. That's what I was talking about, a miracle we won the war. So I went ashore. They had just recently cleared out the Japanese. They had a port director's office and the postal clerk's office in a little quonset hut. They said I could stay there over night and then I could fly back up to Leyte the next day. When I got in the quonset hut, I saw some sacks of mail over there with the name of my ship on it, so I found the postal clerk.

I said, "I've got to see if I've got any mail in those sacks." "Oh no, you can't do that! It's against all postal regulations." I said, "The hell we can't", and I got a stack of letters out, I'd say probably twelve inches side to side. That was the first mail I'd had. The next day I had my first flight, and it was on a C46 I believe. It was one of the old two engines. It really was the work horse. Flew back up to Leyte Gulf and there was the Sakatonchee. I bummed a ride out to it. It was anchored out there in the bay. When I got aboard, I found that she had been in Leyte Gulf most of the time that I'd been at Samar, but nobody knew where it was.

Dr. Patterson: Were they expecting you?

Mr. Ward: Yeah, they wondered what the hell had happened to me. It was a small ship. We had about nine officers and it seems to me we had 20, 25 enlisted men, crew. I was put in a double, well, it was a small stateroom with two bunks, with a warrant office named Barker who was chief engineer. I was twenty years old at that time and most

of the people were older than I. It was quite an experience. We spent the time I was out there, and I was there until December when we brought the same ship back.

Dr. Patterson: December '45?

Mr. Ward: '45. We came back through Guam and Pearl Harbor and brought the ship back on into San Francisco. But we were in on the Borneo invasions. They took good care of us. We couldn't go as slow as the rest of the group with which we were travelling, so we had to bring up the rear and we'd come up on then and then turn around and then come back again, cause we just couldn't slow down. We had a single Fairbanks-Morse engine and that was the speed at which it ran. But it was an interesting experience. It was one I wouldn't care to do again. I came on back and came across country. I managed to get out a little early. I got the skipper to transfer me to the district headquarters, Naval District Headquarters out there when I found out that what they were doing with people who didn't have quite enough points to get out. If they were transferred to the district headquarters, they'd be sent back home on leave and then report. In my case, I reported to Norfolk.

Dr. Patterson: You were discharged there?

Mr. Ward: I was released there. I was not discharged.

Dr. Patterson: What month was that Al?

Mr. Ward: February of 1946. No, March of 1946.

Dr. Patterson: What did you do then? Did you go back to school?

Mr. Ward: Our older daughter Nancy had been born while I was

overseas. She was born in August. I came into Raleigh. This is when I came back from San Francisco, I came into Raleigh. My brother William drove my mother's 1941 Plymouth to Raleigh to meet me. Muggins and Nancy were with her parents down at Wrightsville Beach. Sam had been released in late '45. I dropped William at the bus station in Goldsboro and he caught the bus on home and I drove on to Wrightsville Beach and got in there in the middle of the night. That car would still run 96 miles an hour. My father nearly had a fit when I told him that I had driven it that fast. Then it was five, six years old and the tires were five or six years old as well. But we came on back to New Bern and stayed in an apartment that belonged to my mother around on New Street, at 219 New Street.

Dr. Patterson: Which house was that on New Street Al?

Mr. Ward: It's the one almost directly across the street from where the black family lived that had a child that was drowned in one of the hurricanes.

Dr. Patterson: That's the Barron family.

Mr. Ward: It's right there on the street. The Ferebees were next to it on the west side of it. My mother bought that house for one reason. She bought the house and the furniture to get a desk, one that she thought was a Goddard desk which is a very fine piece of furniture, which is in her house now. But we were there until June. I applied for admission to law school and was admitted.

Dr. Patterson: Now you had enough credits then from the various places you'd been to school to get you into law school. You didn't

have to go back to college?

Mr. Ward: That's correct. I had senior hours, although some of them were navy courses. But at that time, of course, the law school, was looking for students. What they did, if you had two years undergraduate school and one year in the service, as I recall, you could be admitted, and I was.

Dr. Patterson: Where did you go to law school?

Mr. Ward: At the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. I went straight through, which not many kids did. But I was married and had a child and I wanted to get through with it. Initially, the only place we could get to stay was an apartment in a little bungalow out on the old Durham road just inside Orange County. I could step over or spit over the line. I had to buy a car because it was several miles out. This is out the road that runs behind the Blue Cross Blue Shield building that they have up there. Looked for a car. I couldn't find anything that wasn't junk. I went by my mother's house and I commented to her, she was there playing bridge with some friends, and I made the comment that I was looking for a car and had to find one because of where we were going to be living. Mrs. J. A. Jones, one of her daughters was there playing bridge with Mom. Leah Ward was one of her daughters and this was another one who lived up on New Street whose name escapes me now, but she said that her brother Kenneth was trying to sell her mother's 1940 Packard. Her mother had recently died. She had the typical "little old lady's never driven out of town" car. It was a 1940 Packard and I bought it five years to the day after

she bought it and paid the same thing that she paid for it when it was brand new, \$1,009. Kenneth told me that was the maximum he could charge for it under price control. I've never been convinced that was the case, but I paid him anyway and I've got that check in my scrapbook. But we went on to Chapel Hill and stayed in that little apartment out there. Incidentally, that \$1,009 was money that Muggins had saved. It was costing us about \$135 a month to live. When we first got to Chapel Hill, the GI Bill was paying \$80, \$90. It was increased to about \$110, \$115 as I recall. We found we were going through it too rapidly. We got one of these little ring notebooks that you get at the dime store with the rings about the size of your little finger with the brown cover. We've still got it somewhere at home. We put down every nickel that we spent. If we bought a drink, if we went to the movies, if we did anything, we put it in there, and we found that that was a good way to keep from spending more than you had. I couldn't get along on the GI Bill. Our savings, as I recall, lasted during the time we were out there at that apartment. They opened up Victory Village the following spring and we moved over there into one of the barracks. As you will recall, they had a number of different style buildings over there. They had some single story on a concrete slab. They had some UK's they called them, which were single family. They were built so they could just put them together.

Dr. Patterson: I remember them. Alice and I lived in them later, some years later.

Mr. Ward: We were in the upstairs of one of the barracks. We



had a living room, kitchen, and two bedrooms and a bath in an area about the size of this office. It was a little larger but not a whole lot. A bed, that's one that had belonged to my grandparents, an old sleigh bed took up practically all of the bedroom. I had room over in one corner to put my desk at which I studied. This was an oak table really, and I had to cut off the overhang on one side of it so I could get it in that corner. At that time we were able to get along on about \$135 a month and that was GI Bill plus about \$25 from home. My parents were very kind to us. When we first moved in the apartment out there we had a kerosene cook stove, a kerosene stove for heating, and an ice box. My mother bought us a GE refrigerator and that was a great thing. We thoroughly enjoyed it. That was a busy time. When I first got to law school, having been out of school for some time, I resented having to do the studying that soon became apparent that I needed to do. I had gained ten pounds while I was overseas. I weighed 145 when I was married, I gained ten pounds while I was overseas, I lost ten pounds the first set of exams I took seriously. I took very little time off during the time I was in law school. I was there from June of '46 until August of '48. I graduated August of '48, after taking the bar as a matter of fact. I was taking one last course at the time I took the bar the first week in August.

Dr. Patterson: Did you come back to New Bern then?

Mr. Ward: Yeah. I had an opportunity to stay up there at the Institute of Government. The director of the institute, Albert Coats, stopped me one day that summer and asked me to stay there and teach

some at law school, teach some over at the institute.

Dr. Patterson: That's quite a compliment.

Mr. Ward: I thanked him and told him I had always wanted to come back to New Bern, my father was a lawyer here in New Bern, he had substantially retired, but I had always wanted to come back to New Bern. I had graduated first in my class. In that group, there were twenty-nine of us that went straight through and finished that summer.

But I did come back to New Bern and it was tough for a long time.

Dr. Patterson: Did you join your father then?

Mr. Ward: Yeah. As I said, Dad had quit. He did what he wanted to do. If somebody wanted to find him, they'd have to go around to the house. He hadn't had a secretary in several years. As a matter of fact, during that last year I was in law school, I spent a number of weekends down here just cleaning up that little old office that we had.

Dr. Patterson: Where was that Al?

Mr. Ward: On the site of this office. 409 Pollock Street. I have some photographs of it, so Fred can copy it. Let me go back a little now.

Dr. Patterson: This is a good time to talk about your grandfather and how the Wards came to New Bern.

Mr. Ward: My grandfather moved his family to New Bern in the mid nineties. I think it was 1895. He came to New Bern at the request of your grandfather, Senator F. M. Simmons, and joined Senator Simmons and his firm. They had a firm that was supposed to have been one of

the strongest in North Carolina; Simmons, Pou, and Ward. Pou Bailey's grandfather was in the firm, Jim Pou. They had an office here in New Bern and they had an office in Smithfield and they had an office in Raleigh. I was told, of course I don't know it for a fact. I have seen some of the stationary, so I know that that firm existed. My grandfather came here, and I have found some things that indicate to me that a large part of their practice dealt with timber. Timber was an enormous industry in eastern North Carolina back in those days and in the early part of the twentieth century. I found in my grandfather's safe, which is downstairs, it's one that stands 4 or 5 feet tall and several feet wide, and I have one just like it that my father gave me; but in my grandfather's safe which my father used, there were a large number of inventories of timber on various farms, plantations, so on. Millions and millions and millions of board feet. A lot of the timber surveys were done by Charlie and Chris Barker's grandfather who was from Trenton. His name will come to me in a minute, but his name was Barker. The Barkers came from over in Jones County. Charlie's grandfather did a lot of the timber surveying for my grandfather.

Dr. Patterson: Just as an aside, it's interesting that my father was responsible for Dr. Barker coming to New Bern during the flu epidemic of 1918. Excuse me for interrupting you, I just wanted to put that in.

Mr. Ward: I didn't know that. I don't know how long my grandfather and your grandfather practiced law together. Of course at that time, your grandfather, I'm not sure exactly when he was elected to the United

States Senate...

Dr. Patterson: 1901 I think.

Mr. Ward: So that would have been five or six years after my grandfather came to New Bern. They were very close. I know my father finished law school at Wake Forest between his junior and senior years, and that was in 1915. At that time you could go to law school while you were going to undergraduate school. There was not the distinction there is now. Dad wanted to stay here and practice law and my grandfather told him no, he had to go back and finish his education.

So he went back and he finished in 1916 and then came back here. As I recall, the Elk's Temple was completed about 1908. My grandfather occupied the fourth floor on the corner. That would be the southeast corner which overlooked the two rivers. Dad was there with him after he came back and they stayed there until they bought this property here at 409 Pollock Street which is across the street between the McLellan's building and the Baptist Church educational building. In 1922 there was a small two-story frame building here which I have been told was used for a law office for a hundred years. In John Green's book, Photographs of New Bern, he has a photograph of the office and he said that he understood that it was built probably in the 1880's.

I was told that it was built as a millinery shop. It had a bay window in the front. When I was a child, the offices occupied the two downstairs offices of the main building and there were three additional offices that had been built on the back. During World War II, my mother had converted the back two. There were three but my mother had converted

the back two offices into an apartment which was rented during World War II to some of the service families who were here and needed places to stay. The office, which was immediately behind the two-story structure, the floor had just about gone out of that. A lot of the things, books and files that had been in the three offices which were behind the two-story structure, had been put in the second office downstairs, the back office downstairs. I tried to get all that stuff out. I had to rearrange it, get some of it out, throw some it away, put some of it in storage, and converted that back office into two offices so that we would have a reception room in the front and two offices in the back. Before that, Dad had had his office in the front. It was kind of everybody's office.

Dr. Patterson: Was your dad practicing alone at that time?

Mr. Ward: He was. My grandfather died in April of 1940 during his 81st year. He had been 80 on Christmas day 1939 and he died in, I think it was April 14, 1940. He worked in the office until nine o'clock the night before he died. That had kind of taken the heart out of dad. He also had lost the hearing in one of his ears. He was a skipper of a sub chaser during World War I, and he got out of the Navy with a disability after the war was over. He could hardly hear out of one of his ears. At one time dad had most of the criminal practice, when he was a younger lawyer. Criminal practice kind of went from one person to another. He told me that he was having difficulty hearing in court. He didn't tell me this, but he and my grandfather had been very close, and I think when my grandfather died

it kind of took some of the spirit out of him. He had some rental property and he just did what he wanted to do. He became more active for a while to help me and then we kind of separated. I always provided him with an office here. My brother Kennedy had gone off to school the day I got back from Chapel Hill. Ken went to Wake Forest and then went to law school at Wake Forest. He and I have been in and out of partnership two or three times over the years. We find we get along better when we're not, too many chiefs. He was the closest thing to a red-headed son my mother had. My mother had dark auburn hair and Ken had a red head's temperament. So we get along better when we don't practice together. Dr. Patterson: So you practiced alone then basically when you came back.

Mr. Ward: I practiced alone. Ken joined me in 1956. Christmas of 1956, Hap Barden called me and wanted to know if I would come to Washington and serve as his general counsel. At that time he was chairman of the Labor and Education Committee and his general counsel had resigned to go to the White House as counsel to the President, President Eisenhower. I considered it for about 24 hours. He said it was just for a period of one year. I think he did that because he and Agnes, his wife, and my mother and father were very close friends.

I think he put a time limit on it thinking that that would keep him from being embarrassed if it should not work out. I didn't go. We had just completed a house out on the river right across from your house, as you had just a couple of months earlier, in Trent Shores.

I considered it. Our youngest child had just been born. Martha had

been born the first of December. I considered it overnight. Muggins wept a bucket full of tears and I declined the honor. I didn't realize then, as I should have, that he was really looking for someone to take his place. He was looking forward to his retirement. David Henderson served as his general counsel and did succeed Hap when he retired from Congress. Muggins has asked me occasionally over the years if I've ever regretted that. I have not.

Dr. Patterson: Al, before you built this new building you're in now, when you came back to the frame building, do you remember in past years what house was next to this? Dr. Latham had his office in the house that was next to this.

Mr. Ward: That's correct. Dr. Joe Latham, Fred's father, was in the house next to this.

Dr. Patterson: And downstairs was occupied and the building owned by Charles Styron's aunt.

Mr. Ward: Miss Nina Basnight occupied an apartment to the rear of the main structure. She was in there for many years. She was an old maid, music teacher. There was an office in the downstairs part of the building which was occupied by a Justice of the Peace named Scott. I don't recall his first name, but he had a single office which was right next to our office. The steps were on the other side and went upstairs. The Nina Basnight apartment may have been on the downstairs part of the west part of the office. I remember that was cut back in and then there was steps going upstairs. Joe Latham had died at that time I believe and Ernest Richardson had come back, Ernest

Richardson, Jr. Ernest was a general practitioner but he became a specialist as far as OB GYN is concerned. He had his office there for many years.

Dr. Patterson: Did Miss Nina take up tickets at the Athens Theater across the street?

Mr. Ward: I don't remember that.

Dr. Patterson: That was earlier years. When did you all take that building down and build this new building?

Mr. Ward: Dad conveyed this property to me and my two brothers, William and Kennedy, in 1963. We tried to get someone to move the two-story structure which we thought dated from the earlier 1800's.

At that time, no one was interested. It was before the foundation group became so active. Unfortunately, we lost a lot of historic structures, including this one. We started tearing this building down the first of July of 1963. My father, at that time, owned the brick house located at 210 Hancock which is still there, and in which we lived the first year I was back in New Bern incidentally. We moved the offices around there. Ken had called Hap Barden after he found out the offer that Hap had made me and asked him to let him come to Washington. Now he did not have the experience to be the general counsel but he went up there as his acting general counsel and then as an associate after he selected David Henderson. Ken was there for a little over two years and then came back, so he was back here practicing law.

We were not practicing together. We were sharing offices and sharing expenses, but practicing separately. At that time we had taken in



the second floor. To drop back a minute, during the time Dad and my grandfather were here in the office, they had rented the second floor for a long time to a woman who had a beauty parlor there. There were some wooden steps on the outside on the east side of the office that her customers came up and the stairs on the inside of the office were closed. Some time during this period after Ken came back, we opened the stairs, tore the stairs off the side and began using the two upstairs room. At that time, for the first time, (laughter) I don't know whether I ought to say this or not, but for many years we didn't even have a bathroom downstairs. We used the restroom on the second floor of the Elk's Temple. Well, when we took in the upstairs, that gave us the bathroom that was in the back upstairs, so things became a lot more convenient. We spent about eighteen months around on 210 Hancock Street. We designed this building as you see it because William wanted to put a store downstairs. He had been in the retail business for years. He was a manager for Sherwin Williams. William stayed in the Navy, or he went back in the Navy. He was commissioned as an officer in the Navy, as was I, when he was nineteen I think. I was twenty. He went back in the Navy. He went to school at Chapel Hill for one semester and decided that he wasn't quite ready to go back to school, so he went back in the Navy and he was in the Navy when he met Betsy White Fountain, his wife. He was in the Navy when they were married. Then he went back to school and graduated at Carolina. But he had operated an appliance store in Rocky Mount. Not his own, but for someone else. Then he came to New Bern and he was manager of the Sherwin Williams

store here. I was told at some point that he was the only manager they ever had that made money for them. He opened his own store in the ground floor area of 210 Hancock Street while we were building this office and he had paint, wallpaper, and gifts. John Valentine was our architect for this building. John is an architect down on the coast. He's quite a character. He is not in private practice now, if he's still living. When I last heard from him, he was with the Department of Insurance and he was helping them in their code enforcement program. I had him involved in a law suit down in Onslow County that I had about a house that was poorly built in 1976 and I have not talked to him in a long time. John came up with a number of different designs, some wild and some not, and we finally selected what you have seen here. We didn't want it to appear to be offices over a store; although that, in fact, was what it is, and that's why we elected to go with a modern design that we have. At some point early on, William decided that he wanted to sell out and so Kennedy and I bought his interest in it and he bought the place behind the Stanly home. There's a building back behind the Stanly house which is at the corner of Hancock and Pollock on the northwest corner. He operated his business out of that for years as the Ward House. It's rented to Jane Sugg now. She has a little antique shop there. Kennedy and I went back into partnership when we moved into this building. No, we went back in the last of 1964. Roy Short came here and was associated with us for a short period of time. His wife made him go back to Gastonia. They had two little girls under two years old and

she wanted to go back to Gastonia where she had some grandparent help.

But we were in partnership for a short time and then we were out.

Then when young Sam Whitehurst came back here to practice law, we went back into partnership and stayed in partnership until 1975. In the meantime, my son, who is named for me, Alfred Decatur Ward, Jr.

Incidentally, I was the III. My father had a brother who was named Alfred Decatur Ward who was a Jr. He was the one who was called Decatur.

Just as a matter of personal interest, I happen to be named for my grandfather because I had had a brother who was born before I was, who died just before I was born. He was named William, Jr. So when I came along, I was named for my grandfather and then my parent's third child was again named William, Jr. Kennedy Wooten Ward, my younger brother, was named for some of my mother's family. Her grandmother was a Kennedy. Her mother was a Kennedy. Wooten was her father's name, so hence his name. Dec in the meantime, Dec was the nickname I had had for the Decatur, Dec, and we tagged my first son with that name, he finished Wake Forest law school in 1974 and came back and practiced with Ken and me until 1975, and then he and I have practiced together since. We now have five lawyers in here.

Dr. Patterson: And you moved upstairs and Kennedy stayed downstairs?

Mr. Ward: Well, after we bought William out, the downstairs was empty for a while. Then we rented it to Will Chadwick and the USO.

Mr. Will Chadwick rented it for the USO which was then a very minimal operation. Just one person in there, I believe. Then we had a real

estate man from Morehead come to see us, Bill Chalk. He wanted to lease it for a client whose name he didn't want to disclose. Turned out to be Wachovia. Wachovia did not then have a branch in New Bern.

They had one in Vanceboro. We leased it to Wachovia and they spent a lot of money in there fixing it up, fixing up the interior. They put a vault in there which is still there. Then they built down on the corner of Middle and Tryon Palace Drive where they are now and moved out. Ken and I agreed that he would move downstairs and that I would stay upstairs. He did not have as large an operation as I did and there was more square footage upstairs. So we adjusted the expenses accordingly and that's the way we have practiced since then.

Dr. Patterson: Al, when you came back to New Bern, I know you lived in Green Park for a while.

Mr. Ward: When I first came back here, we lived on the first floor of the house that my father owned, 210 Hancock Street. He let me stay there rent free. During the next spring, I had an opportunity to buy a house at 827 Clark Avenue. It belonged to a friend of my mother.

Dr. Patterson; That's in Green Park.

Mr. Ward: That's in Green Park. A little three bedroom house. This was one of the houses that was built toward the end of World War II. I think they were built out there in 1945. They were built by a man named Wilson from Raleigh. He built a number of houses, so called tract houses.

Dr. Patterson: You know, I lived not too far from you on

Christopher Avenue.

Mr. Ward: I know you did. That was my first recollection of seeing you, because you are a little older than I am and we did not have an opportunity to meet when we were growing up. I was delighted to have the opportunity to buy that house, but I didn't have the money with which to buy that house, so my father permitted me to rent the first floor of his house and use the rent from that apartment to make the payments on 827 Clark Avenue. That was back in days, there was one month I think the gross income, Dad and I were in partnership at that time, our gross income was less than a hundred dollars for a month, and that didn't leave a whole lot to buy groceries. There was a little neighborhood grocery store, as you recall, around on Chattawka Lane.

Bill Pierce operated it. Bill Pierce was later recreation director for the city. He had that store. I think he was the one that had the store. E. J. Carawon had it at a later time. But I think it was Bill that let me run a charge account there. I would have fared very poorly if I had not had that charge account where I could get groceries.

I have got a little brown book that I found in one of the drawers years ago and I resurrected it back in the spring when they asked me to address the bar association. It was a book in which I put down our receipts and our expenditures, and it would amaze you; \$5 here, \$10 here, and so on. There were some very lean months back in those times. When I came back to New Bern, I found that the bar association, which I'll get into a little later, there were less than twenty active lawyers in New Bern when I came back here. There were more who were

here, like Congressman Barden. Of course he wasn't practicing. But they had a minimum fee schedule which consisted of maybe half a dozen items. I tried to find a copy of that before I talked to the members of the bar. I couldn't find it. I did find an early one that I talked the bar into adopting. The first one though, it seems to me it was two dollars and a half to draw a chattel mortgage, five dollars for a deed of trust, five dollars for a deed, and that kind of thing.

Dr. Patterson: The good old days.

Mr. Ward: Good old days. I convinced the bar, within a year to adopt a large minimum fee schedule. Of course they're illegal now. The Supreme Court said you can't do it. The bar association, was afraid that if we adopted that, we'd all go out of business, people wouldn't pay that. I've got one of them over here. The member fee schedule which I finally talked the Craven County Bar Associating into adopting...

Dr. Patterson: This was about what year?

Mr. Ward: This was probably 1950. I can pin point it because Ray Summerell had come back to New Bern to practice and Ray finished a couple years after I did, as did Ed Hancock. It may be of interest to read some of these; court appearances, "each appearance in the courts of the Justice of the Peace, at least \$10; each appearance in the County Municipal Recorder's Courts, at least \$25; Superior Court, \$50; Federal Court, \$75; divorce actions, uncontested divorce, \$100; trying each contested divorce action, \$150; services involving examination of title, each certificate of title, at least \$25; each continuation

certificate exclusive of preparation of papers, at least \$15; for handling loans and purchases including preparation of deeds of trust, certified title and closing loan, at least \$25; deeds, \$10; bills of sale, each, at least \$10, chattel mortgages, each \$5; mortgages and deeds of trust, each \$10; preparing deeds of separation, each \$25; partnership agreements, at least \$25; leases, at least \$10; simple will, \$15; preparing all other wills, at least \$25; and commercial collection rates and other services." Now the lawyers who were listed, and I'll comment on whether they were practicing or not: Charles L. Abernethy; Graham A. Barden. Mr. Barden was a congressman and had been since he was elected with FDR; John Beaman was active. Rodolph Duffy was a distant cousin of mine and he was not active. He never did actively practice. He served as a solicitor in the county recorder's court at one time. Mark Dunn, he was not practicing. He was with the Internal Revenue Service and then later he became house counsel for New Bern Savings and Loan which was operated by his family. His brother Johnny Dunn was the chief executive officer of that. William Dunn was active as I recall. He was one of the older lawyers. Luther Eubank operated one of the fertilizer places out on 70. He did not practice law. He helped found First Federal Savings and Loan and worked for that later after he left the fertilizer company, or he may have done both. Henry Grady was practicing here. Jack Grantham, L. T. Grantham, was practicing. He had his office over Bynum's Drug Store. Rodman Guion was in the practice, W. B. R. Guion. His office was in the little building where the D.A. has his office next to the

site of the jail, now the site of the addition to the courthouse that's being constructed. Ed Hancock had just come back. Ed's older than I am by about four years, but he finished law school I think a couple of years after I did. Billy Lansche William J. Lansche, Jr.; Wilson Lee, who was older than my father; D. C. McCotter, Jr. whose son DeWitt McCotter is one of the senior partners of Poyner & Spruill, which is one of the largest law firms in the state now. Judge Rom Nunn was really not in the practice. He had become quite old. I think he still did a few things. He may have been county attorney at that time. Raphael O'Hara, R. O'Hara, was a black lawyer. His father had been the congressman from here back around the turn of the century. His office was around on Craven Street about where the insurance offices are. They were about on the alley, on Federal Alley, the intersection of Federal Alley. No, just off of that because that's where the restaurant is now. It was a tire recapping place. Norris Reed; George Riddle; Laurence Stith; Ray Summerell had come back here after I did. A. D. Ward; and D. L. Ward, David and Johnny's father; William Ward, my father; Henry Whitehurst and Emmett Whitehurst, or H. P. Whitehurst and R. E. Whitehurst who were brothers and didn't get along too well; and W. T. Woodley who was not really engaged in practice. When I came back here, there were about nineteen active lawyers. There are now, in the county, 130 something. (laughter)

Dr. Patterson: Who was George Riddle?

Mr. Ward: George came here after the war or at the end of the war. I'm not sure where he came from, but he was associated with Emmett



Whitehurst. They had offices on the first floor of the Elk's Temple in the corner. Not first floor, second floor. The first floor was occupied by Gaskin's Soda Shop. But George was a young lawyer. He practiced here for some years with Emmett, and then he practiced by himself. He developed a drinking problem and he was later disbarred for embezzlement from an estate. The last time I heard from him he was driving a taxi in Charlotte or Winston-Salem. He lived not far from where you did out there in Green Park.

Dr. Patterson: Al, can we go back to Green Park and just let me ask you what Green Park was like as you remember it?

Mr. Ward: Green Park was a collection of relatively small houses that had been built by the person I mentioned earlier. I think his name was Herman Wilson and I believe he had someone associated with him whose name I can't recall. They were built and sold-they were built, and it seems to me I paid about \$7,000 for the house that I bought. Most of the mortgage payments were in the range of \$50 to \$60. Some of the houses had had additions to them. The one I occupied had not. It had three small bedrooms, had a small dining room, small kitchen, small living room, little porch off to the south side. The lots were relatively small. I don't recall the exact width, but 50, 60 feet wide. A lot of people of my generation bought homes out there and lived there until they could afford to do something else. Frankly, I was concerned that my house there wouldn't stand up long enough for me to sell it after I started building my house out on the river. There were some areas of rot because the lumber that was used was not

properly cured. The house is still standing, and the last time I saw it advertised, it was advertised at something like \$30,000!

Dr. Patterson: Al, I'm suggesting at this point that we stop here. We've had a very fine talk. When I come back, we'll talk about Trent Shores and the Trent Shores area and about your being city attorney and the things that have happened to you since you've been in New Bern. So let's cut this off now until then.

END OF INTERVIEW