

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

ROSE BROOKE CARRAWAY

INTERVIEW 403

This is Marea Kafer Foster representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 400. I am interviewing Rose Brooke Carraway, interview number 403. This interview is being conducted on Monday, 2 September 1991 in Miss Rose's home at 207 Broad Street in New Bern.

MAREA KAFER FOSTER: Now, Miss Rose, if you'll give me your full name and your birthdate and your parents' names please.

MISS CARRAWAY: Rose Brooke Carraway.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, Brooke.

MISS CARRAWAY: Rose Brooke Carraway with an "e" on it.

MAREA FOSTER: With an "e" and no "s."

MISS CARRAWAY: No "s."

MAREA FOSTER: Okay, I had that wrong. Okay.

MISS CARRAWAY: I was named for my mother's first cousin. It was my grandmother's maiden name.

MAREA FOSTER: And when were you born?

MISS CARRAWAY: February 14, 1899.

MAREA FOSTER: And were you born in this house?

MISS CARRAWAY: In 207 Broad where I'm now living. Same room in which I'm now living.

MAREA FOSTER: That is wonderful!

MISS CARRAWAY: Sleeping.

MAREA FOSTER: And your parents' name.

MISS CARRAWAY: John R. B. Carraway and Louise Elgie Carraway. Elgie was her maiden name.

MAREA FOSTER: That was her maiden name, okay. And did your

grandmother live with you?

MISS CARRAWAY: My mother's mother lived with them after her son died. She came to live with us, oh, when we were early. I don't know when she came -- about 1903 or 4.

MAREA FOSTER: And what was her name?

MISS CARRAWAY: Julia Brooke Elgie.

MAREA FOSTER: Julia Brooke Elgie. And was she from England?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, she was from England. My mother was born in England in fact, Exeter.

MAREA FOSTER: And when did she come to New Bern?

MISS CARRAWAY: They came to New Bern when -- my mother came to New Bern, oh, in, I don't know, about, say, 1890 or something like that. She read an advertisement in the paper wanting a music teacher, and she had just graduated in music from Peace College in Raleigh so she applied for this job and got it and so she came down and lived in New Bern then and met my father. He was a widower. His wife had died about four years before, and they were married in November of 1895.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh that's so interesting! Now tell me about your childhood in New Bern.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, I don't know, it's just like any other childhood. There were five children. My father had two children, Mary and Robert by his first wife, but of course they came to live with him after he married. This house in which we are living was built in 1891.

MAREA FOSTER: Do you know who built the house?

MISS CARRAWAY: Mr. Simpson the noted architect

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, Mr. Herbert?

MISS CARRAWAY: Herbert Simpson, yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: Herbert Simpson. Oh how interesting! And I think there's a house similar to this one.

MISS CARRAWAY: The Marks, the O. Marks house on Johnson Street is similar to this only their rooms are larger. But an interesting thing happened. When they had open house for the Marks house after it was finished, had a big party and my mother and father went. And in those days when you went to a party, why, the ladies after they arrived at the house, they would always go upstairs to primp a little bit more. And so my father was waiting for my mother down at the foot of the stairs and he said, thought then, "Well, I'm not going to have the stairway like this in my house!", they were building this house then, because he said you could see the ladies coming down the steps and you could see their ankles!

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I think that's wonderful! I love that!

MISS CARRAWAY: So he immediately saw Mr. Simpson and said that "I don't want a straight stairway! I want landings." Mr. Simpson said, "That'll cost more." He said, "I can't help it. I want landings. I don't want straight stairway."

MAREA FOSTER: I love that story.

MISS CARRAWAY: That is cute.

MAREA FOSTER: It is. It's so interesting.

MRS. CARRAWAY: And it is true, that stairway comes straight down this way, and ours comes to the front door. So it really was funny.

MAREA FOSTER: And will you give me the names of your sister and your brother?

MISS CARRAWAY: Mary is the oldest one. She married Floyd Perkins and died in the fifties I think. And then I have a brother Robert who died several years ago, forgotten just when. He was a newspaper man and lived in New York. But then eventually he had a summer home in Connecticut; very attractive, old, 350 year old house, but he and his wife are both now dead. They lived in Kent, Connecticut.

MAREA FOSTER: And your sister.

MISS CARRAWAY: Mary lived in Washington, D.C.

MAREA FOSTER: And Miss Gertrude.

MISS CARRAWAY: And Gertrude, yeah, I forgot her.

MAREA FOSTER: And you had another...

MISS CARRAWAY: And my brother Elgie.

MAREA FOSTER: Elgie.

MISS CARRAWAY: Elgie was in the Army. He died several years ago. He was a Brigadier General in the Army.

MAREA FOSTER: And a graduate of West Point.

MISS CARRAWAY: Graduate of West Point, yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: That's right.

MISS CARRAWAY: An interesting thing, he went to West Point when he really, he stood the examination for West Point when he hadn't graduated from high school, but they allowed him to take the

examination. And when he passed, he was too young to get in West Point so we had to pay so much a month for him at West Point until he was sixteen, or eighteen, eighteen I guess. So he was at West Point for about four months when he really wasn't...

MAREA FOSTER: Wasn't a cadet.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, but he was, then of course when he was on his birthday in August ... he was a full-fledged cadet.

MAREA FOSTER: I've never heard of anything like that. I think that's so interesting.

MISS CARRAWAY: I know. That's the first time everybody had of heard of it.

MAREA FOSTER: And he had to pay tuition so to speak.

MISS CARRAWAY: Stay in town for about, it was about four months.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, now, tell me who were your childhood playmates?

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh, well, of course in that day you just played with those on the street.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MISS CARRAWAY: But Lawton, of course, lived several houses up. She was, and then around the corner was Grace Stewart and then next to her was Dolly Hyman. They were the closest, but there were a lot of other children. Lot of children in that day and time.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I know. And tell me, did you have sidewalks then?

MISS CARRAWAY: No, I don't remember. I remember a ditch out

there but didn't have sidewalk. I remember we did put down pavement in front of this house when the other houses didn't have it.

MAREA FOSTER: Then you could skate on that pavement.

MISS CARRAWAY: That one little spot the length of the house, but the whole street didn't have it. Then eventually they had it.

MAREA FOSTER: So the streets were dirt.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, they were dirt.

MAREA FOSTER: And then of course there were horse and buggies.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, um huh. When the automobile came we were playing out in the yard, Lawton as I remember, Lawton and I, and Mr. Alfred Kafer came up, drove up in his automobile, and he wanted to take Miss Irene Radcliff to ride. Miss Irene was kind of elderly. She weighed about 300 pounds and she was quite a character and she had begged him to please take her to ride before she died. So he came around to take her to ride and in some way Lawton and I managed to get in the car too. So we took our first automobile ride.

MAREA FOSTER: With my grandfather.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, and Miss Irene. She yelled the whole way around, "Let me get out of here!" The car was unusual in that the seat, they opened the door was in the back.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh.

MISS CARRAWAY: And you could sit on each side.

MAREA FOSTER: Do you remember what make automobile that was?

MISS CARRAWAY: No, no, have no idea.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I love that story!

MISS CARRAWAY: That is. Maybe you can find out what kind of car he had.

MAREA FOSTER: With daddy not here, I just don't know.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, nobody would remember.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh but I love that story!

MISS CARRAWAY: They didn't have makes then. Not many had makes.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh. (laughter)

MISS CARRAWAY: That was interesting.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, now, did your family keep a horse and buggy?

MISS CARRAWAY: No.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay, so you walked wherever you needed to go.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, but we would hire a horse and buggy if we wanted to go anywhere. Every year we would get a horse and buggy, two-seated hack, and go over to Whitehurst's and eat all the grapes you wanted from their vines.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, Mr. Whitehurst over in Bridgeton?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, um huh. Same ones.

MAREA FOSTER: There was a bridge down across the Neuse to Bridgeton?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, guess it was.

MAREA FOSTER: Must have been if you'd go.

MISS CARRAWAY: We'd go, um huh. Of course, there was a ferry too, but this was a little after the ferry. Now I don't know when that first bridge was built.

MAREA FOSTER: Now you just said there was a ferry, across the

Neuse River?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, before the bridge.

MAREA FOSTER: Where did it go?

MISS CARRAWAY: Fowler's Ferry. Right where the Fuller's live now.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh! Well, on the New Bern side where did you get on?

MISS CARRAWAY: Down Broad Street I think.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh that's so interesting! I didn't know that.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah. Fowler's Ferry they used to call it.

MAREA FOSTER: But I remember Mr. Whitehurst's grapes.

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: I certainly do.

MISS CARRAWAY: They're still good.

MAREA FOSTER: They are. Now what kind of games did you play as a child?

MISS CARRAWAY: I don't know. I don't know.

MAREA FOSTER: But just anything that came to mind probably.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, we didn't really play too many games. I don't know. If you went to a party, you'd play. I don't know. I really don't know.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. Well, later on if it comes to you we can talk about it.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: And I know that you are a lifelong member of Christ

Episcopal Church.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: And you were christened there.

MISS CARRAWAY: Was I, yes. Lawton and I were christened together she said.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh that's interesting!

MISS CARRAWAY: I don't remember it, of course she did. We know the dates of course, and she said that we were together.

MAREA FOSTER: And then you went to Sunday School.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, um huh. We always went to Sunday School -- always went to church. I don't like people saying that, "I don't go to church now because I was made to go as a child!" Well, I was made to go as a child but I'm glad I was and I still enjoy it!

MAREA FOSTER: Do you remember any of your Sunday School teachers?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah. The only one I remember is Mrs. Isabelle Patterson taught for a while, but I don't remember anybody else.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. Now, tell me about school, where you went to school.

MISS CARRAWAY: Same old Academy. Went from the first year through, I was in the last nine year class. In other words, after I was there, then they added and there were ten grades.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, so there were just nine grades in school when you were in school?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, that's what I remember.

MAREA FOSTER: And do you remember any of your teachers?

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, we had several of them; Maude Hurley was one. She was the daughter of a Methodist minister. She sent me home one day. It seems that she was very prissy. (laughter) Maybe you can strike that out.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. (laughter)

MISS CARRAWAY: Anyway, Charlie Hollister was quite mischievous, and anyway, he threw over on my desk some chalk and he had made dice out of the chalk and he threw it over and of course Miss Maude saw it, so she sent us home. The first person I met before I left the school green was my mother, she taught up there, music, and so she said, "Why are you out?" and I said, "I had to go home that I was sent home by Miss Maude" and she said, "Well, you go straight home. Don't you go anywhere til I get there." So when I came home, my grandmother said, "You're sick!" I said, "No, I'm not sick, I was just sent home." "I know you're sick or you wouldn't have been sent home!", so she gave me a dose of castor oil. So by the time that mama came home I was sick.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) You certainly were.

MISS CARRAWAY: But I always thought of Maude Hurley and her dice. Charlie's always told that tale to a lot of people.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Oh that's interesting. It really is. Now any other childhood memories you'd like to tell me about?

MISS CARRAWAY: I don't remember. One teacher we had was named Miss Annie Chadwick and she taught fifth grade I think it was. Anyway, I was never as smart as my brothers and sisters, but, I was not a student,

and so she knew I wasn't; anyway, she would call on me to answer questions and so forth, but before she could get to me, she would say, "Mary", because she had taught Mary, and Mary of course wasn't there, and "Robert!" and look around, Robert wasn't there either. She had taught him, and Gertrude, she had taught us all. Then finally she got to me. She'd forget who was there at the time.

MAREA FOSTER: And that probably happens a lot with families.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, well, it would I think, yeah. Yeah, it would.

MAREA FOSTER: I like that. Now, Miss Rose, as a child you probably had the usual childhood illnesses.

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh I had everything. Robert said every time there was a knock on the door he knew I had another disease, because in that day all members of the household were quarantined. If you had measles, chicken pox, mumps, anything, they put a yellow sign on your front door and you couldn't go anywhere. So Robert and Mary and Gertrude couldn't go to school when I would get all these diseases. Gertrude said that Robert taught her while they were at home one time so she kept up with what she had to do.

MAREA FOSTER: And who were your doctors? Do you remember your doctors?

MISS CARRAWAY: I remember Frank Hughes, Dr. Frank Hughes. He made house calls and he was good. But one time, one morning, of course in a big family you have to wear your, all kind of hand-me-downs, so one day was a cold day, so my mother said I had to wear a heavier coat

that had belonged to Mary. Well, I thought the coat was ugly, ugly brown, ugliest brown I ever saw, and so they insisted I wear it and I cried so much that my nose began bleeding and they couldn't stop it, so they called Dr. Hughes to come to come around to see if he could stop it. So Dr. Hughes came around, he was a big fat fellow, and he just sat down at the sofa and began talking, told how many batter cakes his family had eaten for breakfast. (laughter) And the first thing you know my nose stopped bleeding.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Oh I love that. Were there any special medicines that you had to take, do you remember?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, they all always tasted awful. Some kind of fig syrup soup, fig syrup cough medicine - that was horrible. I've forgotten the name of it. Fig -- some figs and syrup. And of course my grandmother firmly believed in castor oil. She thought that was the best thing that you could take. It cured all of your ails. And it really did.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) I suppose it did.

MISS CARRAWAY: Dr. Patterson once said, "It really was good." Said it would heal your throat as well as stop your coughing or anything and said, it really was good but was rather harsh.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh yes.

MISS CARRAWAY: Robert says he was a little unhealthy when my mother married and his mother had died of consumption as they called it then, and he was very unhealthy, very thin. So when they married, why, of course, grandma took charge of him. Well, she wasn't living,

she would just visit then, wasn't living here then, and so she gave him a lot of castor oil. Robert said every day he had to take a dose. He looked like death, but he had the guts to say she saved his life. Says he would have been dead if she hadn't kept after him. She took him to New York for one summer to get him out of the heat here. So he gave her full credit for his being here.

MAREA FOSTER: I love that story. I certainly do. Did you ever have to go to the hospital?

MISS CARRAWAY: No. They didn't even have hospitals then as far as I know. No, everybody stayed home. In 1914 there was an epidemic of typhoid fever. I don't know how many cases they had. I got it of course and everything else. Of course they just took care of me. Mama did all the nursing of course. Did at one time have a nurse, but it seems that every time the nurse would come in with a cap on, my fever would go up. I was worried about their having to pay her so much.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Um huh.

MISS CARRAWAY: And, no, we didn't have it. So all summer long, why, I was sick all summer. You had to go so many days without having fever before they considered you well. So people were so nice about sending me things. Mrs. Marks called up one day and said, "I hear tomorrow is the tenth day." Said, "You tell Rose I'm gonna send her a tray of good things and I know she will enjoy them." But it happened that that day the fever went up and I couldn't eat all those good things. But the tray was wonderful. I remember she sent, see, what was the name of, called little pigeons, what you call little pigeons?

MAREA FOSTER: I don't know.

MISS CARRAWAY: Dove. Never hear of them now, dove I think it was.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MISS CARRAWAY: She sent a tray with a whole dinner.

MAREA FOSTER: How nice.

MISS CARRAWAY: Then the trouble then was that when the summer came, of course I wanted to do everything everybody else was doing.

Dolly Hyman was having a birthday, September 21st, and she was having a big party, so I wanted to go. I looked like a bean pole I guess.

Anyway, it was stylish then for you to wear, well, they called them "baby mines", why, I don't, but the dresses were very similar to French design with little puff sleeves and pink and blue ribbon run through, what do you call that stuff; anyway, it would be run through, bodice or something.

MAREA FOSTER: Right. Probably eyelet embroidery.

MISS CARRAWAY: So mama had one of those made for me, and of course I looked beautiful in it, except for my head. I didn't have any hair.

MAREA FOSTER: Your hair fell out?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah. So she and Mrs. Gertie Matthews decided that, Miss Gertie suggested that she make me a boudoir cap. So Miss Gertie, she had made the dress so she made the boudoir cap. It was pink with mouline on top of it, had a little frill. So you can imagine how beautiful I looked with this very feminine looking dress with little puff sleeves, high waist line, and that head.

MAREA FOSTER: I bet you looked lovely.

MISS CARRAWAY: Why didn't - the cap didn't stay on long! I got at the party, I think everybody pulled it off. Anyway, I'm sure I didn't look very pretty.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I know you did. But that didn't stop you from having a good time.

MISS CARRAWAY: No, I went to the party and had a good time.

MAREA FOSTER: And when you went to parties like that, did ya'll dance?

MISS CARRAWAY: No, not then. Later we did.

MAREA FOSTER: And you had a wind-up victrola?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, um huh. It seems the Stewart House was a very big house and they had so many rooms they didn't use them all. There was a room over to the side with a side entrance, had a port-co-chere, and so they let Grace have that room for our club room and the only thing in it was one of those old fashioned victrola's, you wind it up. We didn't go to the movies. We didn't have movies to go to, didn't have automobiles at that time, so you had to get your own pleasures.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh that sounds like fun.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: Now how old were you when you first learned how to drive?

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh, I don't know. The first trip I took, forgotten when it was - it was - I bought an automobile, I don't know why I bought

it but I did, let's see, in 192-, I have forgotten my dates. Elgie graduated from West Point in '26 I think. Doesn't make much difference.

He was down at Ft. Benning in Georgia. So we wanted to go down to see him so we bought an automobile. Everybody donated anything they could towards it. It was a four cylinder Dodge. So we decided I would take mama down to Georgia to see Elgie and Lawton Parker went with a friend of ours named Edna Gerkin. She had relatives in Augusta and so we took them down and mama and I went. We left early one morning at burst of dawn and took a lunch with us, and after going for quite a while, Lawton said I'm hungry. I said well I am too, so we ate lunch then realized it was just nine o'clock. We had already eaten the lunch.

So we took us about three days I think to go to Georgia then.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, now when you needed to spend the night along the way...

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh yeah. I have forgotten where we spent...

MAREA FOSTER: Did you stay in guest homes?

MISS CARRAWAY: No, no, I don't think so.

MAREA FOSTER: Or hotels?

MISS CARRAWAY: I don't know. I don't think guest homes were popular then. I'm not sure. I don't know where we stayed, but we stayed somewhere. The last night I think we stayed with Edna's friends.

Then we dropped them and Lawton went to visit in Atlanta and Edna in Augusta and we went on down to Ft. Benning. Now there was another funny story with that. Gertrude was beginning at that time to get interested in DAR. She'd never been interested in it that much. She

was never interested in clothes. She wore what she had to wear and didn't care if she had anything nice or not. Well, somehow I knew I was going to Georgia so I wanted something nice, so I bought, oh, the most beautiful gray coat lined in blue satin and a hat with gray feathers that had a cloche that came down here. Oh, it was elegant!

Don't know what dress I wore under it but I'm sure it was a nice dress.

So Gertrude was going to the DAR meeting in Washington for the first time so she asked if she could take my outfit, and I said, "Well, if you get it back to me in time", we were going to Georgia on I'll say Monday. I said, "If you get it back to me, yeah, but of course we'll be leaving Monday morning." She said, "Oh, I'll get it back to you."

So she took my outfit and instead of coming back on Saturday as she was supposed to come back, she wired and said, "Am spending the weekend to have tea with Mrs. Coolidge. Will send clothes. Will send clothes."

So when the clothes hadn't come Monday, so I had to leave without any clothes.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh!

MISS CARRAWAY: It was of the days that automobiles had suit-cases on the side. So we went on down without clothes. Told Papa the minute that suit case came to send it on down to me!, cause it was gonna take us two days to get there, so we thought it'd be there. So he said he would. So, sure enough, when we got there, there was the suitcase.

So I was thrilled to death to get my clothes. So I opened it and they weren't my clothes, it was all her dirty clothes.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh my gracious!! (laughter) I know you were angry

with her.

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh! I stayed down in Georgia there nearly a week with no clothes! Finally the day we were leaving the suit-case with the clothes came.

MAREA FOSTER: What a shame.

MISS CARRAWAY: She's never wore them since.

MAREA FOSTER: I can't say as I blame you. (laughter)

MISS CARRAWAY: But it was real funny.

MAREA FOSTER: But at least your clothes got to the White House, didn't they?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, yeah they did. Not on me though.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Not on you. Oh, I like that. Miss Rose, what can you tell me about World War I?

MISS CARRAWAY: I don't know. I really don't.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay, so it evidently didn't affect your family too much.

MISS CARRAWAY: No, no, not at all. I don't -- we didn't have anybody in it. Elgie wasn't old enough. I just -- I don't know. Of course everybody did what they could. We had a USO. Mrs. Isabelle Patterson was head of the entertaining the troops. We'd make that old parish house upstairs, we'd make waffles and they could come in and get waffles and coffee anytime.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, how interesting.

MISS CARRAWAY: And that's about all I remember.

MAREA FOSTER: That's about all you remember.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. Now, tell me, did you go off to college to prepare yourself for a job?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, yeah, uh huh. I went to what was called "The Normal", The University of Greensboro now. And I was going to go the four years and teach but I didn't. I decided I didn't want to teach so I took a business course just one year then I came back here in 1918, no, 1919, yeah. They didn't have many jobs then. There were three jobs as I remember that were available; one was working for Mr. O. W. Lane in one bank, and one was for somebody else in another bank, and another one was Mr. Tom Warren in a law office, and so I took that. So that's how I got into law. And I worked for him until he was made District Attorney and we moved in what is now the City Hall up there for about a year. Then they moved that office to, the District Attorney office, to Elizabeth City, but I didn't want to go there so I then went to work for Moore and Dunn.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, as a lawyer, as a secretary in the law office.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah. Then I worked there for, I don't know, 20 or 30 years, til they dissolved and then they all died. Then I went for Mr. Whitehurst and worked for him for about twenty some years and then David. They were all I worked for.

MAREA FOSTER: David Henderson.

MISS CARRAWAY: Um huh.

MAREA FOSTER: And what was Mr. Whitehurst's full name?

MISS CARRAWAY: Emmet.

MAREA FOSTER: Emmet.

MISS CARRAWAY: Emmet Whitehurst.

MAREA FOSTER: And where was his office located?

MISS CARRAWAY: It was in the Elks building. It was on the second floor of the Elks building.

MAREA FOSTER: Were there many lawyers in New Bern at that time, Miss Rose?

MISS CARRAWAY: Not as many as there are now, no. We used to, Mr. Dunn was president of the bar and would call a meeting and I think there were about sixteen maybe I'd call. But now, my lord, you'd have to call 30 or 40!

MAREA FOSTER: You certainly would.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: And which Mr. Dunn was that that you're talking about?

MISS CARRAWAY: Will Dunn.

MAREA FOSTER: Mr. Will Dunn.

MISS CARRAWAY: Frank Dunn's father.

MAREA FOSTER: I see. Okay. Oh, that's so interesting. Were there a lot of doctors in town at that time do you remember?

MISS CARRAWAY: I don't know. I don't even know. I don't think -- no. I didn't know any of them.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MISS CARRAWAY: After typhoid I didn't have, um, you know I seemed to be all right.

MAREA FOSTER: Right. Okay. Well, I wanted to ask you, as a young girl did you celebrate Confederate Memorial Day?

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh yeah!

MAREA FOSTER: Please tell me all about that.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, my grandmother was of course English, my mother was English, but they were more patriotic than most native born and they liked things like that, so they would make you go to the Children of The Confederacy. Mama, of course, couldn't join but she would help in any way. So every May 10th they would celebrate Confederate Memorial Day and the Children of The Confederacy and all of the daughters of The Confederacy would gather at the grave of all of the soldiers out there and have quite a program. We'd go with a little bunch of flowers in your hand. I used to hate it. Oh, I don't why, grandma would make us go! Just had to go!

MAREA FOSTER: On this occasion did you have to wear a white dress?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, we'd wear white dresses and carry the little bouquet of flowers.

MAREA FOSTER: And I know you had a song to sing too if I'm not mistaken, didn't you?

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh yeah. I forgotten now what it was. Mary Bradham wrote a couple years ago asked to please help her remember the words of that song, and somehow Elgie and I did get them together but I have forgotten now what were they. What was it? "Cover them over with beautiful flowers. Cover them gently those heroes of ours. Some kind of sleeping, the sleep of the brave." I have forgotten the last line.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I like that. And we're talking about the Confederate Memorial that's in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah. I never heard that song; anyway, I don't know who wrote it or what, but it had several verses. And Elgie, of course, was living then so we got enough to send to Mary, but I forgotten it now.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, I like what you've remembered to tell me.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, that was it. "Cover them gently, sweet heart of ours."

MAREA FOSTER: Were there any other special celebrations that you remember?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, the schools would every year, every year, the school that they had the last day of school, why, I don't know, but they would parade from the school all downtown and all around. You had to wear white.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh!

MISS CARRAWAY: That was a long walk too in that day.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, did you have a band or anything like that?

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh yeah, they're be a band I guess, I don't remember, but I just remember the walking and wearing white.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, that's interesting.

MISS CARRAWAY: I don't remember. Maybe somebody else would remember it, but I know we would.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, in New Bern was there always a big Fourth of July celebration?

MISS CARRAWAY: I don't remember that. I think you had your own. Robert would always have fireworks.

MAREA FOSTER: Um huh. And ya'll, what, would have picnics? Did you go on picnics at that time?

MISS CARRAWAY: No, not too much cause we had no way of getting out.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, that's true, except horse and buggy.

MISS CARRAWAY: Didn't have automobiles.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, you really didn't need one cause you were right downtown and you could walk wherever you wanted to go.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yes, yeah. We were lucky.

MAREA FOSTER: You certainly were.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, easy.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, I want to know about your trip to China.

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh yeah, that was something! Well, it was in 193-, it was in 1934. See, the only dates I know, Elgie married in '32, Joe born in '33, '34, yeah 1934. My brother Elgie was a Captain in the Army and he and his wife, when he married Mela Royal, went to China. Right after they were married he was stationed there and they lived there about five years. But they knew they were coming home the next year, so one day I got this wire saying, "Can you come over to visit us?", and I wrote back, "Yes!" I had to write, it was a cable. So anyway, it ended up that I went to China in 1935, '34, yeah, in '34, to join them. It seems Elgie wanted to go to Russia. They'd had a baby born while they were over there. He was about a year old.

He didn't want Mela to come home by herself, so I could take his place on the transport, but I had to pay my way over. So, how in the world I got money enough to get there I don't know but I did -- Building and Loan ten dollars a month. I think I paid for the rest of my life.

But anyway, I wrote the American Express, and there weren't many tourist places there, I wrote and said I wanted to go to China and I'd like to see the United States between here and California to please work me out an itinerary. They did -- it was wonderful. Everything worked out wonderfully well. I left here, I left Raleigh at midnight, Gertrude and Mama took me to Raleigh, left Raleigh at midnight and went out through Tennessee and all around. And then sometime during the night another train picked up the car in which we were in, I was in, and went to the Grand Canyon. Our regular train went on, but the one that I was in, the car, it was on purpose, we knew we were going, so it's one way I had of seeing the Grand Canyon. So we got to the Grand Canyon at sunrise and we stayed there all day and even saw the Grand Canyon in the sunset, which was wonderful. So then we got back on that car then went to Los Angeles and I stayed in Los Angeles about five days. All this now all by myself. They worked it out though.

They even had sight seeing trips for me in Los Angeles on the Gray Line. Everything worked out just perfect, couldn't have worked out better. Stayed there five days and would tour to the various places.

Then I left there and went to San Francisco where I was gonna catch the boat to go to China and stayed there five days and toured the same way. Staying at hotels all the time like that. And then finally it

was time to leave so the boat left, went to Honolulu. Took five days. Now it takes five hours probably. Took five days! And I stayed in Honolulu, everything worked fine.

MAREA FOSTER: Continue, you're in Honolulu.

MISS CARRAWAY: And the boat left for Japan. I was to meet Mela in Yokahama. She was coming from China to Japan and I was to meet her there. Well, that took twenty-eight days from Honolulu to Yokahama, twenty-eight days. I thought what in the world am I gonna do on these twenty-eight days. Well, it's just like being on a big hotel and you could do what you wanted to do. Didn't want to do, you didn't have to. So, we met Mela and that was fine. Then Mela and I toured Japan and that was a wonderful trip. Some friend of her's had lived in Japan, somebody in the Army, and they wrote out just everything we should do and everything we should see.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh how wonderful.

MISS CARRAWAY: And so we followed that to the letter, and we stayed there about two weeks touring Japan and never had a hitch, was nothing, nothing ever happened. It really was wonderful.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh that sounds wonderful.

MISS CARRAWAY: Then we left there after that visit and took five more days to get to China on a boat, but that wasn't as nice cause it was a Japanese boat, and as Mela says, it smelled bad. But poor thing, she was seasick always, so she didn't enjoy the trip cause she was always seasick. But then we finally arrived, and then of course for the next three months, why, we just would go back and forth to

Peking. We could ride. You could go anywhere you wanted to, no trouble at all. We'd go up and ride the train and sit in the tourist section cheap, save a little more money to buy things with Mela said. But by the time we left we couldn't do that. Times had changed.

MAREA FOSTER: Now where was Elgie stationed?

MISS CARRAWAY: At Tientsin.

MAREA FOSTER: Tientsin.

MISS CARRAWAY: T s i n -- I have forgotten how to spell it. T e i n t s i n - Teintsin. It's an international city. During the Boer War they made them, why, I don't know, divide the whole town into sections. The British had a compound, the Americans had a compound, and every foreign country had a little home, they call them compounds.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh!

MISS CARRAWAY: So that was good. We could go up to Peking. An American lady had married a Chinese and had an old Chinese compound in Peking, so we could stay with her very cheap and we could eat her meals. We weren't allowed to go to restaurants on account of the, see, they use human fertilizer.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh yes.

MISS CARRAWAY: Couldn't eat anything that was grown there.

MAREA FOSTER: Right, that you would have had in a restaurant.

MISS CARRAWAY: Couldn't drink the milk or anything like that.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MISS CARRAWAY: So it was wonderful. So one day I was up there, Mela wasn't with me at that time, I was with some other friend, and

the owner of the house came to me and said, "Would you like to go up to the Great Wall of China?" and I said, "Yeah, sure would!" She said, "Well, there's a car going tomorrow" and said, "If you don't mind" said, "there will be two men; one French and one Dutch and there will be room for you if you want to go." So I said, "I sure do." So this Frenchman and the Dutchman and I sat on the back seat, and then the driver of course was Chinese, and then there was a Chinese number one boy they always called him. He was the head one. He was Chinese of course too but he could speak English. Well, I couldn't speak French, couldn't speak Dutch, and they couldn't speak English, so we really had a good time. We'd all laugh at anything. We didn't know whether we were supposed to laugh or not. But it was wonderful. So that was one way I got to China's Great Wall. You went as far as you could by car, then you went by train, and then you walked the rest of the way. And it was so cold! See, I was there around January, February, and March and it was so cold my eyelashes were hard as a rocks sticking right hard out. They were just frozen. And you nose all up here was frozen. So when I got back to the train, it had a big pot-bellied stove, I dashed over to it and some Chinese pulled me back, "No, no, no" cause said if I had stayed there my eyelashes would have fallen off.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh!

MISS CARRAWAY: I had to thaw them gradually.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, how interesting!

MISS CARRAWAY: So, we got there.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, what a wonderful experience.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, it really was wonderful.

MAREA FOSTER: And then you were in China how long?

MISS CARRAWAY: We left in the following March. I went over in October and I came back in March.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh that's wonderful.

MISS CARRAWAY: It was a bad winter and it was very cold and the boats couldn't get up to where we usually would get on the boat so we had to, they had to make arrangements for a train to take us down to where it was warm enough, where there wasn't ice so boats could get in. So they said they were going to Shanghai but they changed their mind later and said they were going to a place called, I forgotten the name of the place, but you would see it real often. The Marines knew a lot about it. Anyway, they had to have a hundred people on that train and there were only ninety-nine adults. So they all had little compartments on the train like the English do, and so on mine it had "Miss Rose Carraway and son." Cause Mela and Elgie had their compartment so we put, so Joe made the hundredth so the boat could sail.

MAREA FOSTER: For that trip your nephew Joe was your son.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, my son.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I think that's interesting.

MISS CARRAWAY: I told that tale and Carrie Duffy would always sort of embarrass me and said, "You know, I believe Rose is putting something over on us there." I said, "Well, it's funny if you think

so." He was a year and a half old when I first saw him. He certainly wasn't mine.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Oh me. Well, when you came back to New Bern then after that wonderful trip to China, the Depression had hit town. Were you able to get another job?

MISS CARRAWAY: No, I had the same one. Meta Moore worked for me while I was gone.

MAREA FOSTER: Wasn't that nice!

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh that is wonderful! That's a good friend.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, she was glad to have a job I think. Her father worked there.

MISS That's right. Oh, I think that's great. Miss Rose, do you know anything about the politics of New Bern, I mean any political stories or anything like that you'd like to tell us?

MISS CARRAWAY: No. Not enough. Don't know enough. Of course I was always in it with lawyers but I wouldn't have anything to do with it.

MAREA FOSTER: Um huh.

MISS CARRAWAY: Of course I was interested in Hap Barden when he would run, but I would never go out and work for him.

MAREA FOSTER: Right. You just stayed out of politics.

MISS CARRAWAY: Just stayed out of it, yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: Um huh. And of course I do want to ask you this, with Miss Gertrude as the first administrator of Tryon Palace you were

familiar with the workings with acquiring the property.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yes. They were very kind and would always invite me out to supper at night and of course I'd hear them discuss some of the various things, but I had no part in making the policies.

MAREA FOSTER: But that was Miss Gertrude and Mr. and Mrs. Kellenberger.

MISS CARRAWAY: The Kellenberger and the Horne's.

MAREA FOSTER: And the Horne sisters.

MISS CARRAWAY: The Horne's.

MAREA FOSTER: Virginia and...

MISS CARRAWAY: Elizabeth.

MAREA FOSTER: And Elizabeth.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MISS CARRAWAY: Elizabeth, she was not a member of the commission but she would just go around with Virginia.

MAREA FOSTER: Um huh. But I know you were a guide at Tryon Palace because you taught me.

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh, well, yeah. I was working in the yard one Sunday and the phone rang, Gertrude called and said, "Please come up and help us. We are swamped with people." So I took a bath and dressed and went up and I just counted people. And then first thing you know they said, well, stand over at the entrance and kind of tell people where to go, so the next Sunday I did that. And then, I started to say something but I forgot what I was about to tell. Anyway, I didn't

know anything, really didn't know much. I didn't study. Wasn't any need in studying, I didn't think I'd be working. In fact they said all along that I couldn't work there. Anyway, what was it I was trying to say something, forgotten now what it was.

MAREA FOSTER: It'll come to you.

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh, so then the next Sunday she said, "One of the hostess didn't come and she's in the Guard Room. You go in the Guard Room and tell." About that time I'd studied a little bit so I knew a little bit something, didn't know much. And of course who should come through, Libby Ward with Car-Wee, Emily, and all of them, and somebody in the group asked where they'd get ice from. Well, I didn't know, but Libby proceeded to tell where ice came from.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Oh how nice. So that was your first experience.

MISS CARRAWAY: But Mr. Whitehurst was sick about that time, but the office had to be kept open. So he had a wonderful set of encyclopedias and so I began looking up things and that's how I wrote that little dictionary that gave, told what, you know there are so many little things that people would ask, had nothing to do with the Palace but they wanted to know.

MAREA FOSTER: They wanted to know.

MISS CARRAWAY: So that's how I got that. I began writing down everything I had.

MAREA FOSTER: I know about your dictionary because you very kindly let me make a copy of it, or you made the copy for me and I

certainly used it.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: It was very, very nice!

MISS CARRAWAY: They used to say they were gonna hand it out to them, and I think they should, but they never have.

MAREA FOSTER: No, they've got a different form of information, you know, the card system at this time rather than the inventories like we did have.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, we were just, I think most every hostess, old hostess, knew practically anything anybody would ask.

MAREA FOSTER: I think so. They had an intensive training period.

MISS CARRAWAY: Absolutely and they were interested in finding out.

MAREA FOSTER: And did a lot of studying on their own. But do you remember anything about that area where the houses were torn down or moved?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yes, I remember Miss Sadie Eaton living in one of the houses.

MAREA FOSTER: Was this on George Street or...

MISS CARRAWAY: On Eden.

MAREA FOSTER: On Eden Street.

MISS CARRAWAY: Across the street. See there was the Remaining Wing and then there were about three houses I think from the Wing to the corner and Miss Sadie lived in one of them, and who lived in the other, the Duffy's of course lived in the Wing, but I don't know.

They weren't very nice houses.

MAREA FOSTER: I understand what you're saying. George Street went right to the river for the bridge, for the old wooden bridge.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, in the middle, not from Eden Street.

MAREA FOSTER: No, but from George.

MISS CARRAWAY: George, yeah. And at the end of the bridge was a wonderful restaurant, if you could call it that, Watson's Fish House and you could go in there and get, you know, all the oysters you could eat for fifty cents.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh my gracious!

MISS CARRAWAY: And they had the best food. You could go over there and eat all the roast, you roast them, get them by the bushel and it was wonderful! Now, of course, they cost more than fifty cents.

MAREA FOSTER: They certainly do. Well, the only restaurant I remember there at the foot of the bridge was Hamilton's Cafe.

MISS CARRAWAY: That's the same thing. He bought out Watson's.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I see, it was the same one.

MISS CARRAWAY: First time I saw Mrs. Latham she was sitting up at the bar of the fish house drinking beer, and I was so surprised! Gertrude said that's Mrs. Latham. She didn't know her very well. She knew her but didn't know her very well -- "There's Mrs. Latham drinking beer!"

MAREA FOSTER: It must have been a hot summer day and she needed a nice cool drink.

MISS CARRAWAY: She was there with her brother. I have forgotten

his name.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I find that very interesting. Now, when the Palace was built and they tore down the wooden bridge and of course moved the location and built the new bridge, was there a big controversy over where to place the bridge?

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh my lord yes. No, just controversy over the Palace. Charles Abernathy got them all, I don't know, I don't think you ought to go into that cause it's not my business.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. All right. Well, we won't go into that.

MISS CARRAWAY: Of course there was a great to-do. Charles went on, I'll say this much, Charles went on television and he represented all the people that lived on Eden and, on Eden and on George Street, and he said they all were against it and gave reasons why they shouldn't have it. And all I remember is that Gertrude listened to it and then about ten o'clock when he was through talking she says I'm going out to that radio station and I'm gonna answer him. So we rode out and she answered him. But it was bad. I don't blame them. They didn't want it, but all of them, the houses were not good.

MAREA FOSTER: I remember that area, you're right.

MISS CARRAWAY: One of them for instance, set out and fussed oh so terrible much about giving up his house. The nice thing about it was that Mr. Kellenberger and Hugh Mills found houses for them, they didn't have to go looking, they found them.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh how nice and thoughtful.

MISS CARRAWAY: And so it kept them from having that

responsibility.

MAREA FOSTER: Right.

MISS CARRAWAY: So James Mitchell was one of them that fussed the most. But after it was over with he came to see Gertrude one time up there. He said, "I just want to tell you I was just a fool." Said, "I'm the luckiest thing that ever was. I have got a nice house all on one floor. I got a furnace I didn't have before. Got all the hot water I want, didn't have it before." So he was glad. I think most of them were. Miss Lula Broadstreet was another one. She and Sarah Mann moved up on New Street in a nice new house, and it's bound to be better than those old houses that were cold, bound to be cold.

MAREA FOSTER: And they were about to fall down.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, they were!

MAREA FOSTER: Cause I remember them as a child. I really do.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: But that's part of New Bern history and it makes it very interesting.

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh yeah, that's right. I don't know. Martha Mills could tell you all about the Palace.

MAREA FOSTER: She could and we'll get to her. Now let me ask you about World War II, the black-outs and rationing.

MISS CARRAWAY: I don't remember a thing about it, I honestly don't. I guess you just put out things. I don't know.

MAREA FOSTER: Did you have black-out curtains at your windows

do you remember?

MISS CARRAWAY: No, no.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. So that really didn't affect you.

MISS CARRAWAY: Not that I remember.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, let me ask you now about your social activities. After you worked, were you in a bridge club?

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh yeah, you played bridge, and we played Michigan. We'd always do something Saturday nights. We didn't do it too much during the week cause most everybody worked, the school teachers, but we had a wonderful crowd with the men and the couples and they were always very kind in asking Catherine Richardson and me to join them. They were couples but we were the only ones that were not couples, so we were very fortunate in that.

MAREA FOSTER: Now for dances.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, I didn't go to any dances.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MISS CARRAWAY: We didn't have many dances. We did years ago. You used to have dances up in Stanley Hall.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh yes.

MISS CARRAWAY: But I never went. I never could dance.

MAREA FOSTER: You entered Stanley Hall on Craven Street, isn't that right?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, um huh, yeah. Well, you still do, but they've turned it into offices. Frank Dunn owns it.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MISS CARRAWAY: And he turns it into offices. Used to be all one big room thing.

MAREA FOSTER: Was the USO up there at one time?

MISS CARRAWAY: No, the USO that I remember, as I said, was the Episcopal Church upstairs where they served waffles.

MAREA FOSTER: Yes.

MISS CARRAWAY: But I don't know where the office of the USO was or if they had one or not.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MISS CARRAWAY: There probably was one.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, since you live so close to the water, you're not even a block from the Neuse River, I know you can tell me something about the hurricanes that have hit New Bern.

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh yeah. The worst one; well, the first one I ever saw was in 1913. It was the summer that I had typhoid. I'd gotten well and Lawton Parker was here visiting her grandmother who lived over on New Street. So I went to have supper with her one night and the hurricane came and I couldn't go home that night. So, of course, we didn't mind that. But the next day Lawton had to bring me home in a rowboat because there was no way of getting, the water was still there.

MAREA FOSTER: For heavens sakes.

MISS CARRAWAY: But that was the first one. And then they had one twenty years to the dot, every twenty years. And finally in 1955, that was the worst one. I think we had had one or two. It was in

September of 1955. Aggie Barden was getting married and I was having a cocktail party for them. The wedding was on a Saturday and I was having the cocktail party on Wednesday. The hurricane appeared on the Sunday before the Wednesday. But I'm a great one on getting everything, doing everything you can ahead of time, so I had gotten all of the liquor, I had gotten all everything that I could and the house was clean and I thought we were set for the party. Well, then, the hurricane came and the water came for the first time in the house.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh my!

MISS CARRAWAY: It had never been in the house before. It would be around it and we'd move our cars, but this time it came in the house about eight inches.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh my!

MISS CARRAWAY: So, I was here alone. Gertrude was living in Washington. The tenants all left. And so as it began coming in I would take a chair and put it on the dining room table or something.

Anyway, I first started mopping it up, then I thought well, that 's silly, no need of mopping it up. So I went upstairs, looked in the attic to get a bathing suit, not a good bathing suit. I didn't get my as I said my Dune's Club bathing suit, I got another old one so that I could stay down and move things. So the Civil Defense would knock on the window or the door and I'd say everything was all right.

Finally one of them, I think Ben Hurst came and he came in and I gave him a drink. When he left, after that, I had a lot of visitors. They would come in and were wanting a drink, which I was glad to give them.

One of them, or two of the, tied their rowboat to the banisters of the porch and then a big wave came and took the bannister and their boat off.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh my!

MISS CARRAWAY: They didn't have any boat after that. I don't know if they ever found it or not. But the next morning this house was just awful. Globbs of mud, oh it was terrible looking! Agnes and Aggie came down to see how I had fared. Agnes said that she could cry. She looked at these Chinese rugs in there with this mud all over it. It had come up through the vents of the furnace anyway in that I don't know how it got in, but it sure did. So we had a time. Of course the next day was a beautiful day - sunshining. So we had to pull the rugs out, let them dry in the sun and then had to send them to Richmond to be cleaned.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, were you still able to have the party?

MISS CARRAWAY: Nooo! Because the floor poched out, they swell you know when they get wet.

MAREA FOSTER: Yes.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, the floors were that way. So you couldn't have a cocktail party with uneven floors.

MAREA FOSTER: You certainly couldn't.

MISS CARRAWAY: No sir.

MAREA FOSTER: And how long did it take for the floors to go back to normal?

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh, we had to get new ones.

MAREA FOSTER: All new floors put in.

MISS CARRAWAY: All new ones.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, what about the hurricane of 1933 that washed the bridge away?

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, it came but not in the house.

MAREA FOSTER: Not in the house.

MISS CARRAWAY: It's always come around but never come in the house before. We've always moved our cars, but I didn't move it just recently for Hugo. I don't know why, but I didn't.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, we felt safe with that one.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, I don't know. What we do we just take it up to one of the parking lots a little higher.

MAREA FOSTER: Um huh.

MISS CARRAWAY: But I don't know. I guess I've just gotten used to them now. (laughter) But one time Gertrude said, "Oh, we ought to take the car up." It was a new one I think. "We ought to take the car up" and I said, "No, they'll think we're silly old maids and I'm not gonna take it up there." So we didn't take it up and the next morning I looked out, we had one little garage then and my car was in that one little garage and there was this big walnut tree here, this pecan tree here, flattened right in the middle, the little car sitting right in the middle. Didn't touch the car.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, how 'bout that!

MISS CARRAWAY: Didn't touch the car.

MAREA FOSTER: Weren't you lucky?

MISS CARRAWAY: Sure I was lucky. (laughter) Especially after telling Gertrude I'm not gonna take it up there.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, it would have been terrible if it had flattened your car wouldn't it? (laughter)

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, it would have been terrible. Mercy me.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh me. Well, Miss Rose, let me ask you what you remember about integration when we had integration in New Bern.

MISS CARRAWAY: I don't know anything about integration.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MISS CARRAWAY: Some very, very good friends I have are black. I don't know of anybody we have had, I guess we've had three servants. We've always had a servant. We had, in the old days of course we had two or three of them nursing. You had to with five children. And then after that, we would have Sadie and Annie. Annie would get pregnant and Sadie would come and work, then Sadie would get pregnant and Annie would come and work. And that went on for a long time. Then after that we had Mattie, and she decided to get married, so she had a big church wedding, so we all went to the church wedding. Then we had Gertrude. She died after about ten or thirteen years and then Hester came.

MAREA FOSTER: Hester.

MISS CARRAWAY: And she was here for about twenty-five years.

MAREA FOSTER: I remember Hester.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah. And now Bertha's been here about two years. So we've always had a servant and they are always very good friends.

We've gotten along with them. In fact Bertha called and asked to come. Not many people do that.

MAREA FOSTER: They certainly wouldn't. Well, I think that's just wonderful.

MISS CARRAWAY: I wouldn't want to go out with them but they're all right in their place if they behave like humans, like they ought to. They don't behave like humans. But I'm all for them in their place. And if they act like white people, then that's all right, let them be.

MAREA FOSTER: So as far as you know, everything went along fine.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah!

MAREA FOSTER: As far as you are concerned.

MISS CARRAWAY: I had no trouble so far as I know.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. Now is there anything else that you would like to tell me about New Bern as we covered so many topics on growing up, churches, religion?

MISS CARRAWAY: No. We used to have the negro baptisms. I don't know if you ought to put that in though.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, yes, uh huh. We're very interested in that. Yes mam.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, every Easter, oh, they'd have a big baptism down at the corner down at the end of Broad Street. At the same time they'd always have Sunday School, so we'd always have to leave the baptism to go to Sunday School and it would always make us mad. But anyway, cause it was a lot of fun down here, cause we would more or

less make fun of them. But those who were baptized would be all dressed in white and the minister would be in white and he would lead them out into the water and then dump them and then they would scream and yell and speak the unknown tongue and it really was unusual.

MAREA FOSTER: And very interesting.

MISS CARRAWAY: But they stopped having it so I don't know where they get baptized now.

MAREA FOSTER: Maybe, like in the First Baptist Church, you know, like they do there maybe.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, well, may be.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, what about when the circus, do you remember the circuses coming to New Bern?

MISS CARRAWAY: No. I vaguely remember as a child one on this street at the middle of the street.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh. And then do you remember anything about the gypsies coming to New Bern?

MISS CARRAWAY: No.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MISS CARRAWAY: I've always heard of gypsies but I have never known too much about them.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. Well, let me ask you about the big fire in New Bern that destroyed...

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh yes, that was bad.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay, if you'll tell me what you know about that I'd appreciate it.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, of course we were along way from where the fire was, but we went out, I went out. I don't know where Gertrude was. Gertrude's never here on big occasions.

MAREA FOSTER: She misses them all. (laughter)

MISS CARRAWAY: Anyway, of course most everybody had gone to the ball game in Raleigh.

MAREA FOSTER: Um huh.

MISS CARRAWAY: They were playing a championship game I think and a special train went up and so they went, but I never cared about football, so I didn't go. So I walked up to the fire to see what was happening. Of course people were just moving everything out of their houses they could. (Interruption. Conversation picks up here.) ...
A lady threw the chamber pot out the window and carried her hat down!

MAREA FOSTER: (Interruption) Okay. All right I'll take that...

MISS CARRAWAY: Somebody did that. I don't who did that, I didn't see it.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MISS CARRAWAY: So it began to looking so bad and it began skipping. It would go on every house that had on a wooden roof. It would skip here and there, so that was bad so I came home. I said it looked kind of bad, better get ready. Get rid of these things. So I had a big trunk upstairs, it was empty. So somehow, I don't know how I did it but I brought it down and put all the silver in it, and then of course after the fire had to take it all out and take it

back up. (laughter)

MAREA FOSTER: Now where did the fire start?

MISS CARRAWAY: It started out across from the cemetery.

MAREA FOSTER: Across from Cedar Grove?

MISS CARRAWAY: Cedar Grove, yes. That's the reason there are no trees on George Street side. It started across over where the ball park is.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay, where Kafer Park is.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MISS CARRAWAY: And just where I don't know, but it was all there especially. All negro houses.

MAREA FOSTER: But just very, very bad.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah. Gertrude, Gertrude had some funny experiences. She began helping the Red Cross, so she was here. The answers that some of the negroes would give were funny. I have forgotten what they were.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, all these things make up the history of New Bern, so this is just wonderful.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: It really is.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, everybody hasn't had the luck in traveling like I have.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, you've had a wonderful life. You really have.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, yeah. I went to New York for the first time in 1913.

MAREA FOSTER: You went by train?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah. Robert lived there then. He thought after having typhoid that I needed a change so I went up. We had a lot of relatives living around there you know, so I just spent the summer going, being in New York with them and then went up to Troy, New York and Albany, New York and the person for whom I was named took me up in the Adirondack's for a month's vacation. So it was really wonderful traveling around.

MAREA FOSTER: You've always liked to travel.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, always.

MAREA FOSTER: I know you have. Now is there anything else you would like to tell me about New Bern?

MISS CARRAWAY: I don't know.

MAREA FOSTER: What about the soda shops? Did you ever go downtown for ice cream soda or sundae?

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh yeah, go there. That's how I got typhoid they said. I don't know.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, which soda shop, do you remember?

MISS CARRAWAY: Gaskin's. We all would go there and just sit around every afternoon. And mama said I was looking a little peaked so she told me to get a milkshake and so said that's how I got it.

I don't know if that was it or not. But, oh, there were dozens of people had it. John Parker's first wife died with it - Lucy Guion,

she died. Charlie Hollister had it, and, oh, there were dozens of cases. So I don't know where it came from.

MAREA FOSTER: Well, was Gaskin's Drug Store named Gaskin's at that time? I know where you're talking about on the corner of Middle Street and Pollock.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, yeah. In the Elks building.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay. And it was Gaskin's at that time?

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah. But then after that, Bradham built this big store on the corner where the restaurant is now.

MAREA FOSTER: Where Williams Cafe, then Randy's. (now the Chelsea)

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah. And so then everybody hung around there.

MAREA FOSTER: Now, which drug store was that?

MISS CARRAWAY: That was Bradham's.

MAREA FOSTER: Bradham's. Okay. Well, I thought his drug store was on the corner.

MISS CARRAWAY: Well, it was, the original one, but then he opened this big one. This was a big one and everybody would go and just hang around.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I see. So the original Bradham's Drug Store was on the corner of Pollock and Middle, but then he opened one on the corner of Middle and Broad Street.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah, a more modern one.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MISS CARRAWAY: I remember the first job I had when I came back

from college, as I said, was with Mr. Warren, was getting \$10.00 a week. So then after a couple of weeks he raised me to \$12.50.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh boy!

MISS CARRAWAY: So I thought I was a millionaire. So we had a group of six that went together, they called them the Downtown Group.

There was Dolly Hyman and Grace Stewart, Elizabeth Ashford who lived up here, me that lived here. And the other night I tried to think who one of them was and I couldn't think who the sixth one was. Agnes was in it although she lived up there.

MAREA FOSTER: You're talking about Agnes Foy Barden now.

MISS CARRAWAY: Uh huh.

MAREA FOSTER: Uh huh.

MISS CARRAWAY: But there was one I can't think. There were six.

MAREA FOSTER: It wasn't Mrs. Parker?

MISS CARRAWAY: Oh no, no. She wasn't living in New Bern then.

MAREA FOSTER: Okay.

MISS CARRAWAY: So, I said that I would treat them with my raise. So I called for three banana splits with six spoons. (laughter) So we all ate banana splits.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Oh, I think that's priceless. Well, Miss Rose, we're just about of tape and I do want to thank you so much for this wonderful interview!

MISS CARRAWAY: You're welcome. I hope you can use it.

MAREA FOSTER: Oh, I can use every bit of it, or Joe Pat can use every bit of it.

MISS CARRAWAY: Yeah.

MAREA FOSTER: This has been the nicest afternoon, and on behalf of the Memories of New Bern I do thank you very much.

MISS CARRAWAY: I've been meaning to call the preservation and tell them I have two card tables they can have, but somehow I haven't done it yet.

MAREA FOSTER: (laughter) Well, maybe I can pass the word on to Betty Wiley.

END OF INTERVIEW