

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

ALFRED D. WARD

INTERVIEW 1024.2

This is Dr. Joseph Patterson representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 1000. I am interviewing Mr. A. D. Ward at his office at 409 Pollock Street in New Bern. The number of this interview is 1024.2. The date is 12/16/92. This is a continuation of an interview begun 12/10/92, numbered 1024.

Dr. Patterson: Well, Al, it's good to be back here again continuing our conversation of last week. I think that we ought to get right at the meat of this interview now. Let's talk about your association with the City of New Bern in a formal way, as City Attorney, your relationships to city government. You've been city Attorney now for how many years?

Mr. Ward: Over thirty-five years.

Dr. Patterson: Over thirty-five years. That's remarkable. Well, let me just turn this over to you and you develop this theme about how all this happened.

Mr. Ward: Okay, I'll be happy to. Give me some direction from time to time if there's something that you would like for me to cover that I am not covering. Let me make one comment first Joe. It's rather ironic that when I was in law school I booked Municipal Corporations, the course. That means that I got the highest grade in that class.

I've got a volume of American Juris- prudence over there dealing with municipal corporations. Frankly, I'd never been particularly interested in city government and found the course rather boring. But after we came back here in 1948, I joined the Junior Chamber of Commerce. In early 1949 I believe Billy Hand, Dr. William Hand, Jr.,

who is now the elder Billy Hand, wrote me a letter which I came across the other day in looking for some material in connection with this, in which he said that I had been nominated to be appointed to the Planning Board for the city. As I recall, the Board of Aldermen had requested that various civic organizations nominate individuals to serve on the Planning Board, which they wanted to prepare and propose a zoning ordinance for the city. I agreed to serve and did serve.

Scrappy Bell and Georgia Dowdy, Will Dowdy's wife, and Nathan Gooding and I served. I'm not sure whether Norris Reed participated or not.

At that time Norris and Scrappy were rather close and he may have, but I don't believe so. Anyway, we procured copies of zoning ordinances that had been adopted by cities across the state, put together one, and then as required by the law, held a public hearing. You would have thought that we were proposing that everybody burn his house down and let us do something with the property. Emmett Whitehurst, who was then one of the older lawyers here in town, with his brother Henry, he came up there on behalf of some of his real estate clients and they gave us hell. In the final analysis, we watered the proposed ordinance down, but then the group who were opposed to it did the same thing to the Board of Aldermen when they had the public hearing on it. The Board declined to adopt any ordinance. The first ordinance was adopted some years later and that one was one that had been prepared by the League of Municipalities in Raleigh and it was a tiger compared to the pussy cat that we had proposed. So that it probably worked out just as well that ours was not adopted and the later one was. In 1953,

well, back up a moment. By that time we had a city recorder's court as well as a county recorder's court. City recorder's court met on Monday, all day practically and part of a day Thursday. I think I addressed that to some extent the last time we talked. I became interested in running for judge of the city recorder's court. Laurence Stith was at that time the judge. He had become the judge when it was first formed. I talked to Laurence. Although Laurence was twenty years older than I, we were reasonably close. I talked to him and he said, well, he wanted to serve one more term, and so I said that's fine, I'll back off. He called me a short time later, within weeks, and said that Mr. Arthur Dail, who was not a lawyer, he was then a county commissioner, had announced that he was gonna run for the judgeship. He resided in Riverside as I recall. He was a rather large man, a heavy man. My recollection is that his background was with the railroad, and I think it was in law enforcement with the railroad.

Laurence indicated that he did not care to run. He had run for office at least one time before and had been rather disenchanted by what had occurred. He was not a gladhandler. He was not your typical politician and he just didn't want to get into another race. So he did not run and I did. I enjoyed it. It was a very short campaign and I was elected.

I served two terms as judge of the court, four years. I was not interested in serving longer than that. As a matter of fact, it was in 1955 that I started building our home out on Trent River in Trent Shores, as you did. You had started in the spring. I started on July 4th. I knew that I would not be able to be re-elected to that position,

and that was what I wanted to do. I did not care to stay in that job. Many of the lawyers who served for years and years as judges of recorder's courts became known only as that. They were somewhat hacks. They were not your better lawyers, I'll put it that way. It just so happened that in the spring of 1957 the new mayor and members of the board were, almost without exception, either clients of mine or friends of mine.

Dr. Patterson: Do you remember who they were?

Mr. Ward: Yes I do. Bob Stallings was elected mayor. Dale Millns was on the board. I made a list the other day so I wouldn't leave any of them out. Skeeter Richardson, Ernest Richardson's brother, now, he was a friend of mine, but not a client. Walker Hodges, C.W. Hodges, Jr., was both. James Oscar Simpkins, Jimmy Simpkins, was both.

So I was appointed City Attorney when they met and organized in July; an aside, Laurence was a little peeved with me because I replaced him as City Attorney. When I went in as City Attorney I didn't have any idea it would last as long as it has. I have enjoyed it. Not all of it. Some of it's been very difficult. There were some boards with which I have served that I thoroughly enjoyed and there were some that I have not. At that time Captain Eddie Belangia was the Chief of Police. The captain I think came from his having been captain of detectives. I wouldn't swear to that. Eddie Russell was then the city clerk. Johnny Rhodes was the tax collector. Craig Barnhardt was the city manager. A lot of changes since then. Let me go back just a minute to something of which I was reminded by Capt. Eddie. During the time

that I was serving as city judge, Ed Hancock was the solicitor. We were in the clerk's office on the second floor, on the southwest corner of the second floor, when we became engaged in a conversation with Preston Robinson who was then on the police force. Later he served as judge of the county recorder's court. I think Ed Russell had then been succeeded as clerk of the court by Elbert Mallard who served as long as the court existed and then later became tax collector. Preston was telling us about the lack of equipment that the police had, the fact that they really had to provide their own guns. In some instances, as I recall, Sam Clark who had bought the drug store down there in what became known as the Clark building on the corner of Middle and Broad Streets, the northwest corner, I know Preston said he had provided the officers with handcuffs, that the department had no handcuffs.

I think he said that Sam had provided the officers with pistols. There were no issued pistols. There were other things that he told us that kind of incensed Ed and me. We went across the hall and talked to Capt. Eddie and suggested to him that we would be happy to go before the board and request that the board provide additional funds to the police department so that they could be properly equipped. At that time, as you may recall, we had a little bit of a mickey mouse police department. We had one little short fellow whose name escapes me and there was a great big one that went around with him, so they looked kind of like Mutt and Jeff. Capt. Eddie was horrified at the suggestion that we ask the board to provide anything. He wanted to keep it just exactly like it was. I never have figured that one out, but he did.

Anyway, going back to service as city attorney. That group remained in office for a period of four years. It was during that period that a bill was introduced by Sam Whitehurst to incorporate Trent Woods.

This was right after the rather liberal annexation statutes were adopted by the North Carolina General Assembly. All of a sudden we found out one day that a bill had been introduced in the general assembly to incorporate the area out around and beyond the Trent Pines Club, which was rapidly becoming the bedroom community of the city. A little investigation, and this is one of the more controversial things that occurred, and really in a sense tragic, did some investigating and found that the group who was pushing the incorporation consisted of Congressman Barden; a man named Honeycutt who had a meat packing plant here; Ronnie Bassinger I think was involved, to what degree I don't know; a friend and client of mine, Bob Monte. They had gotten together at a cocktail party held at Ronnie Bassinger's house and started talking about the possibility of the city's annexing that area under these new annexation statutes. Got themselves all worked up. I am told that Hap Barden called Sam Whitehurst, or he called Ray Summerell who was then his local administrative assistant, and arranged to have this bill introduced. I also heard that at that time, and I know this for a fact, Sam Whitehurst had hoped to succeed the Congressman when he retired.

Dr. Patterson: In Washington.

Mr. Ward: In Washington. So Sam was ready and willing to introduce the bill and didn't even call for a referendum. Although in connection

with the incorporation of Havelock earlier, he had insisted that there be a referendum, and there was, and litigation after that. That's another story. So we found that they claimed to have gone to every household in the area proposed to be incorporated. I believe Simmons was president of the Country Club at that time, and Simmons called me and I represented the Club in getting them out of the area, so that the area which was incorporated was a horseshoe around the Country Club. We requested a hearing before the local government committee in the general assembly. Ralph Morris and I went up. I think the mayor probably did too. Ralph was the mayor's brother-in-law. He married Bob's sister, Elsie. Ralph lived right in the heart of this area on Country Club Road at the corner of Camellia Road. It was then I believe called East Camellia. They've changed the names now since the post office has gotten into that part of it. Although they claimed to have been to every house in the area, Ralph, of course, knew that they hadn't been to his house and knew they would not have been to his house with his relationship with the mayor. Anyway, we went up there and the committee made short work of us. As is the case with local bills, if your legislators want them passed, they'll pass them, and it won't make any difference if we are there in opposition to it.

The bill that had been introduced provided that they had no ability to tax at all. One of the members of the committee, a friend of mine who later ran for governor, his name escapes me right now (Pat Taylor), suggested to them that they ought to have the ability to levy at least a one cent tax, that that would make them eligible for Powell Bill

funds. They nearly had a heart attack when that was suggested. Ray Summerell was there representing the proposed incorporation and he had a fit, no, they didn't want the power to tax. The bill named George Scott as mayor and named some of the others, whose names I've mentioned, as members of the first board of commissioners. The bill was passed.

The area was incorporated. They stated at that time that they proposed to provide fire protection, and they proposed to provide police protection, and so on. They never provided the first service until some years later the general assembly passed a statewide act that would have killed all municipalities which were not active. They then became active because of that and they have since provided some services.

One matter of interest. I was walking down the side of McLellan's one day, McLellan's is of course next to my office, and Sue Taylor was walking, I'm not sure who else was there, but Sue asked me what was this about Deadwoods having been incorporated. I called it that for many years.

Dr. Patterson: Talking about Trent Woods.

Mr. Ward: Yes. She referred to it as Deadwoods and she was not trying to be cute. I say that was somewhat tragic for this reason, lot of the people who reside there and have resided there over the years, would have helped administer the city of New Bern had they been residents of the city. They were a pool of talent from which the city would have drawn in terms of appointments. Many of them are likely to have run for office and served as mayors, members of the board, and so on. So to that extent, it really has been tragic that they

were not residents of the city rather than residents of this almost non-existent municipality, Trent Woods.

Dr. Patterson: Now the borders were enlarged weren't they, to include Trent Shores?

Mr. Ward: This is something that occurred recently.

Dr. Patterson: Yes. Okay.

Mr. Ward: A couple of years ago the city was talking about some additional annexation, a lot of it. Annexation that should have taken place years ago. At that time the town of Trent Woods was talking about annexation as well. During a recent general assembly, the legislature adopted a statute which would permit municipalities which adjoined each other, or were close to each other, to agree on a line to which each would ultimately annex. There were several meetings between the boards of the City of New Bern and the Town of Trent Woods in which they finally agreed on a line which would be the ultimate boundary of each. Since then, Trent Woods has had a bill introduced and passed which extended their limits to that line. New Bern has gone through involuntary annexation by which the city has annexed up to that line. That line puts Pembroke, or most of Pembroke, in the city. It puts most of Fox Hollow, or all of Fox Hollow, in Trent Woods.

It goes down the Country Club Road. Puts the area off of Farrior Circle, the addition of Trent Shores, in the city. You turn going down Country Club Road, you get to the intersection of the Country Club Road and Trent Shores Drive. The line there is along the northwest side of Trent Shores Drive on down to the point where it skips around

the house that Bill McDonald built, and the house occupied by Les and B. J. Ipock. They elected to stay in Trent Woods, so the city agreed to let them do it. Trent Woods agreed to take them in. It then goes on down around the line of Trent Shores Drive, around the house built by Bill Willis, now occupied and owned by John Aylwood, and out to the Trent River, so that that essentially is the line between New Bern and Trent Woods now. Of course it goes on out across the boonies and around creeks and so on til it gets out to River Road.

Dr. Patterson: Al, are there other issues that seemed of considerable importance to you during these years of being city attorney?

Mr. Ward: Yes, there have been many. We've had some very controversial things. We've had a number of other things which have been extremely important from the standpoint of the orderly growth of the city and the surrounding area. When I became city attorney, we didn't have any sewage treatment plant. As you know, for many, many years the city sewage had been emptied directly into the Neuse and Trent rivers. In spite of that, we all swam in the rivers. All survived too. A poke at EPA. Back in the early sixties we went ahead, I say we, the city went ahead with a bond issue which enabled them to put the sewage treatment plant out at Glenburnie Park, the area which back in the twenties used to be the fairgrounds. This is bordering Neuse River. All of this is now in the city. It came in in the involuntary annexation to which I just referred. But the sewage treatment plant was put in. During a period shortly after that as

a measure of cooperation between the county and the state, as I recall, the aquifer was located out and around Cove City, from which the city has drawn its water for many years, replacing the shallow wells that used to be out just west of the city near the Berne Restaurant, and in the B.O Jones farm which was across the street from Bern Restaurant which is now Colony Estates. The water for the city now comes from deep wells out in the vicinity of Cove City. The water is brought in through a thirty inch line that comes substantially down the railroad right of way until it reaches the area, probably the industrial area where we've got several industrial sites now. It comes on in to the water plant which is there on Neuse Blvd. just east of Glenburnie Road, and there's storage there. There's storage out off of Racetrack Road. There's additional overhead storage on Queen Street in downtown New Bern.

Dr. Patterson: When you were dealing with this issue of the waste treatment plant, was the public pretty receptive to this idea?

Mr. Ward: The public was. As I recall there was not a lot of controversy about that. Although, as you know, many of the adults of our generation and those who are a little older were very reluctant, by virtue of their experience in the Depression, to borrow money. But the city, contrary to those who said that the city had to annex the area which became Trent Woods or go bankrupt, the city has been in good financial condition ever since I have known anything about it. Financially it is very secure.

Dr. Patterson: Let me raise a controversial issue with you.

This is the widening of Broad Street. Now I think this happened about the time you became city attorney, when Bob Stallings was mayor. Is that correct?

Mr. Ward: Yes, that is correct.

Dr. Patterson: What were the feelings then? What were the issues? What was the street like? Why was it done and what was done?

Mr. Ward: As you know the Neuse River bridge emptied into Broad Street. The city was told by various DOT, then state highway commission surveys, that Broad Street would not be able to continue to carry the traffic that it was then carrying. I don't recall in great detail, but I do know that it was very controversial. I do remember that. Of course Broad Street was tree lined. It was a beautiful small town street. The right of way was 80 feet. The actual travel surface was two lanes as I recall plus parking, so it was relatively narrow. It really became a matter of, was that street going to be widened or were we going to have a by-pass constructed? There were other options considered, some of which by passed the city. The business people of New Bern generally felt, and this was reflected by the board, the board felt much the same way, that either we widen Broad Street so as to accommodate the heavy traffic, because this included primarily Highway 17, 70 came into it, but they felt that they had to do it in order to keep the traffic in New Bern in order to keep the business area from drying up. Of course now, the theory is entirely different. I don't mean just here but everywhere. Everybody wants to by-pass. Construct the by-pass and get it out of the downtown areas so it won't

congest the small streets. It really was a shame that it was done, but at that time I was in favor of it as were most people.

Dr. Patterson: Well, it was a product of its time like so many things. Was there great opposition to this among the people of New Bern?

Mr. Ward: There was some opposition. I wouldn't say there was great opposition. There was some. We had, I don't think this was a product of the opposition, but we found after the surveys had been made that we had many pieces of structures located within the right of way. By virtue of that we had to get some steps moved, some porches moved, and so on, so as to provide an unimpeded right of way for the state to put in the street.

Dr. Patterson: Al, during your term of office, did the issue of chlorination of the city water supply come up or had that already been accomplished?

Mr. Ward: Don't recall that chlorination was ever an issue. I couldn't tell you when they started doing it. They were probably doing it at the time, well, before I became city attorney. The use of fluoride, however, created quite a scramble. I couldn't tell you when this was done, but at the time it was done, Nathan Gooding and his wife, they were Christian Scientists, they were violently opposed to it. This I think was the attitude of Christian Scientists across country. It was medicating the water as far as they were concerned, poisoning the water. I think it's interesting that recently there have been some studies that reflected that it had been overdone and

created some problems in some areas. That's the only thing I recall about that. I know that we have used chlorine all along. Going back though for a moment to the water system out at Cove City. That water was as near perfect as any you could get. In fact it may have been a little bit too soft. I recall a story that I heard Ed Welch tell.

Ed was city manager during that period. He had a chemical salesman come in see him, want to provide various chemicals to be put in the new water, and Ed told him they didn't need them. The fellow didn't believe it, so Ed gave him a sample of the water and he went off and had it tested and came back and said, "You're right, you don't."

Dr. Patterson: Great. Was renaming city streets an issue that was important?

Mr. Ward: No. There have been very few streets renamed during the time I've served with the board. Very few. Short Chapman was renamed Crawford Street and that was prompted by concerns that the fire department would get poor instruction, or would go to a fire on regular Chapman Street when it was on Short Chapman Street, and the streets were not connected. There was construction in the middle, and I can't tell you how that happened, but in fact, that's the case.

Crawford was the name selected, as I recall, because there had been a black alderman named Crawford many years ago. We had had Jack Crawford on the board at that time or shortly after, but it was not named for him.

Dr. Patterson: The street that of course interests me since I lived in this area is Short Street was renamed Linden Street. Do you

recall any details about that?

Mr. Ward: I do. I don't recall any controversy about it. No, I do recall there was some controversy, but there was no large controversy. The largest street that's been renamed that I recall is South Front Street was changed to Tryon Palace Drive. There was not a lot of controversy about it. I think in that type of thing you always have somebody who wants to leave it just like it is and they don't care whether there's a good reason to change it or not. And of course that was done because of the Palace itself.

Dr. Patterson: Sure. I can understand that. What do you recall about the development of the airport and the role the city played in that, the ups and downs of the airport?

Mr. Ward: The airport was owned by the city and the county. At the time I became city attorney, there was an almost complete turnover. I think Skeeter Richardson was the only hold over from the previous board. Mack Lupton had served as mayor for two terms which is the limit under the city charter. Bob Stallings, as I said earlier, succeeded him. It came to my attention, and I'm not sure who called it to my attention, soon after I was sworn in as city attorney, that the previous board had attempted to make Mack Lupton a life time member of the Simmons-Nott Airport Committee. Captain Mack as I've known him, as I knew him all my life, all his life, was very much interested in the airport. It was a pet project of his. He wanted to see it go. The airport at that time had excellent service. This was in the days before jets on a local basis. The airport had grown. It was

an item of some expense. My recollection is that in 1957 the city had already taken over the actual operation of the airport. The county had in effect withdrawn. It may have continued to have a person on the airport committee, but the city had agreed to fund the airport.

The county, in consequence of that, had agreed that the city could actually run it. We had a very small terminal over there. It was a little operation, although we had good air service. I was told at one point that National Airlines said they had more passengers coming out of New Bern than anywhere else between New York and Miami. We had regular service by National. Piedmont was coming in here. Either then it was or it did when it was formed, and I think it was then active.

At some point that situation changed or there were some adjustments between the city and the county. As I recall, the city owned the building on Broad Street, or acquired it at one time on Broad Street, west of the telephone company building. I think the city conveyed that property to the county in settling some differences between them as far as money was concerned, as far as investment in the airport.

Several years ago the county indicated, no before that, there was a Simmons-Nott Airport Authority formed so that they could actually manage the airport without direct day to day intervention from the city and the county. It was established by act of the legislature.

Then after that, a new board came in and wanted to have the city relieved of any financial responsibility for the airport. They did not think that it really served any city purpose. The county had indicated its willingness to take it over all together. As a result

of that, the city did in fact, with legislative permission, convey its interest in the airport to the county, subject to a reverter should it ever stop being an airport, stopped being operated as an airport.

But it has been the subject of some controversy from time to time.

Of course the airport was named for your grandfather and for a Marine aviator as I recall.

Dr. Patterson: Lieutenant Nott.

Mr. Ward: Who was killed over there at the time the airport was dedicated. As you know, they've now changed it. They've gone to Craven Regional Airport or something of that sort trying to give it more stature. I started to say more than it had, but more stature, I'll put it that way.

Dr. Patterson: I took an active interest in getting a plaque put up commemorating the Simmons-Nott name and that was successful, so it hasn't been lost entirely.

Mr. Ward: That's fine. Let me go back to the airport just a moment before we leave that. The airport was doing extremely well.

Piedmont proposed to bring, to inaugurate jet service. It had been announced that it would be inaugurated at a particular point, I am told. I don't know this for a fact. I never did represent the airport committee. Billy Lansche was representing the airport committee when I became city attorney. I figured I had enough to do to represent the city as well as my other clients, and I declined the honor when it was offered to me. When Billy Lansche died, Ray Dunn took over as counsel for the airport committee. I was told that the airport

committee required that Piedmont give them some guarantee with respect to the runways. In other words, guarantee that they would be maintained on the theory that the use of heavy jets would tear them up. And that because of that, Piedmont elected not to come in with jet aircraft, instead instituted jets at the Kinston airport. Kinston, during a long period of time became the regional airport while the city airport, or Simmons-Nott Airport, remained Simmons-Nott and just that. That was a severe blow to the growth of our airport here in New Bern.

Dr. Patterson: Well, let me ask you about something else. Was it during your term of office that the city manager form of government was adopted?

Mr. Ward: No, that was in place when I came in. It had been adopted within just a few years before that. I started to say it could have been approved in the spring of '57, but I think it was approved probably two years before that. (First City Manager was Claude E. Helms, appointed July 1, 1947. He submitted his resignation on July 8, 1948 to go to the city of Morganton, North Carolina. Craig L. Barnhardt was appointed City Manager on August 14, 1948)

Dr. Patterson: What about the electric generating plant?

Mr. Ward: Let me address one other thing before you go to that. It was in the election in the spring of 1957 that at the request of the Junior Chamber of Commerce there was submitted a proposal to change the method of voting in city elections. Before that, each candidate for office had run from a ward and was elected by a ward. The citywide elections were limited to the mayor and to the judge of city recorder's

court. The Jaycees came in and suggested to the board, and I was not privy to this in terms of being there but I went back into it through the minutes later in connection with some of my dealings with the Voting Rights Section of the Civil Rights Department of the Department of Justice in Washington, because it was suggested that this was racially motivated. It was not. The Jaycees had picked up on the fact that the aldermen each wanted to represent his own ward, his constituents, wanted to get what he could for his ward as opposed to having the interest of the entire city at heart. This was put in at that time and for many years the candidates for alderman had to reside in the ward from which they were running, but they were elected by a citywide vote. This accomplished what the Junior Chamber of Commerce had sought.

Several years ago, before the major annexation which involved the mall area, the Justice Department required the city to go to voting as it had been prior to the spring of 1957. That was really motivated by the Justice Department. We went to the type voting which we have now, the elections which we have now, in which the aldermen must reside in the ward from which he's running and he is elected in the ward by the electoral vote in the ward in which he resides. This has been true now for some years. All of a sudden we have some of the same problems that the Jaycees were trying to discourage in 1957. In each of the summaries that accompany the agenda for each meeting, summary is prepared by the city manager, each item is identified by ward; Mr. Parham's ward, Mr. Raynor's ward and so on, and unfortunately more and more, they think that way. I'm not saying to you, of course, that

they're not interested in the entire city but each is more inclined to think of his ward and his constituents as compared to the way it had been for many years, unfortunately.

Dr. Patterson: So you're saying perhaps that the overall interest in the city has changed to interest in local wards.

Mr. Ward: It just takes up more time of the individual alderman than it should. For example, just recently I was speaking to an alderman from a residential area which is not in the downtown ward. We were talking about a particular problem and he thought it was a good idea, then he said, "No, that's not my ward. I'll have to talk to the alderman from this ward to see what he thinks about it."

Dr. Patterson: Al, let me ask you about something else. When the library was built on Johnson Street, I don't remember the date of that, was that during your tenure?

Mr. Ward: Oh yeah.

Dr. Patterson: Do you have any memories about the circumstances surrounding that? Was that a project that was approved by the public? Was there any difficulty about it?

Mr. Ward: Joe, I don't recall any opposition at all. As you'll recall, there was a filling station on the corner. I don't think it had been operated in years. The area in which that was built had degenerated somewhat. There were some houses of historical significance on that block as there were across the street from it, across the street from it in every direction. But it was not one of the better areas of down. This was before we had acquired the interest

in historic buildings that has been the case now for some years. It was looked on, as I recall, by everybody as an improvement. It was built with assistance from the government. The city and the county acquired the property, and it was the city and county library as it is now. Now the big dispute came when they started to enlarge it. It really hit the fan then.

Dr. Patterson: What were the problems?

Mr. Ward: The renovation of the library was to enlarge it substantially. The proposal was to add to the western side of the building, add some parking northwest of the building, as it is in fact now. There were some people who lived downtown who were opposed to it. They felt that it would create additional traffic, more traffic than was necessary. All of that area around Johnson Street had undergone a substantial improvement and renovation. Houses back in the Depression looked like they were about to fall down. The old "too poor to paint, too proud to whitewash," structure had been renovated. It had become a very nice neighborhood. A good address, so to speak. The house on the southeastern corner of Johnson and Middle Street was being renovated, the old Mengel home. The house across Middle Street from the library had been renovated, the old Victorian Blades home. Some improvements were being made to houses located on the south side of Johnson Street. Dr. Bell's son, who's also a doctor, had moved there. He had come back to New Bern and he located there. This was on the side where the Presbyterian manse is.

Dr. Patterson: It's the old Mark house and that's where Lem Blades

and his wife lived. Then a lawyer bought it and has moved out and it's for sale now. Then, Bill Bell's son lived next to that.

Mr. Ward: All right. Billy Bell, for some reason, was violently opposed to the improvements that were proposed for the library. That had come about by virtue of a very significant fund raising program that was conducted by a private corporation, non-profit corporation, which was set up for that purpose. They brought in a fund raiser who had some minor success and there were a lot of local people who spent a lot of time on it. Our mutual friend, Dale Millns, spent a lot of time on it. I think Bob Stallings did. David Ward and some members of his firm did. His wife did. We had some question as to whether it was zoned appropriately for that, not zoned appropriately, but whether it should be approved by the Historic District Commission.

As a result, there were several hearings conducted, maybe two hearings conducted in the main court room of the county courthouse, and it was standing room only. It became very unpleasant there two or three times.

I was asked to participate in an effort to maintain order and give the commission some advice and counsel as to what they should do under certain circumstances. So I became involved in it. Billy Bell had some very critical things to say of me, as did one or two others. But it was approved. The opposition centered to some degree on the fact that there was a residence of some historic significance which would have to be moved.

Dr. Patterson: That's the Raines house.

Mr. Ward: The Raines house which has been moved around across

the street from where you and Alice reside. Of course the house was in very bad shape, and to me and many others it made no difference whether it remained there as the opposition contended it should or whether it be moved as was done and has been done with many historic homes in New Bern when it became necessary to move them in order to save them. As I said, there was a lot of opposition to it. Billy Bell even threatened to go to court after he raised the question as to whether he had received appropriate notice of another hearing before the Historic District Commission at a later date. He elected not to do so. The addition has been built and the property acquired so that we now have, what's to me, a very a nice library. It serves the community extremely well. It's a far cry from the situation that existed 30, 35 years ago when we had a ladies' association maintaining a small library in the John Wright Stanly home on New Street across from the Presbyterian Church, and a so called negro library up on West Street. Neither was funded adequately and it was a shame that we had that situation. Of course it was a product of the segregation that has existed forever until the past few years.

Dr. Patterson: Al, over the years, what has been the relationship between the city of New Bern and the Tryon Palace Complex and effort?

Mr. Ward: The city has cooperated in every respect that it could so far as I know Joe. The reconstruction of Tryon Palace, or the efforts which led to it, started during the time that I was judge of the city recorder's court. The mayor served on the Tryon Palace commission, each mayor has by virtue of the law establishing the commission, I

think. Mack Lupton served on it. Mack Lupton and I enjoyed a good relationship. Mack is old enough to have been my father, but he invited me to attend a number of the meetings of the Tryon Palace commission, during the time I was judge of the recorder's court. But I'm not aware of any problem that's ever existed. As you know, there were some people who felt that the money should have been spent to do this and do that and do the other. "Why spend it to reconstruct an old building? It's not putting food in anybody's mouth", this is the type thing they said.

Of course it's been a tremendous asset to the city, bringing a number of people in here. If you like, I'll address the restoration. As you know, when you and I were growing up, the only thing that was left was the west wing of the Palace which was really the stable. It had been converted to apartments. As a matter of fact, the first secretary I ever had after I'd been practicing law for almost a year, lived in one of those apartments there. I paid her \$22.50 a week. She was a Marine's wife. There was a tremendous effort locally led by some people who really have not received the credit that they should have.

Richard Duffy's wife, Minette Duffy, was an early spokesman in favor of restoration of the Palace. It came about when Mrs. Kellenberger's mother left a substantial sum of money of her private estate to be used to acquire property and assist in the restoration, or reconstruction really, of the main building and the east wing which was the kitchen. It required that George Street be closed. George Street had run directly through the main Palace building. Houses had been constructed on both sides of it. Of course, the Palace burned

in the late 18th century. George Street was run through the Palace proper and construction existed on both sides of it until they acquired the property to restore the Palace. This was in the fifties and went on into the sixties as I recall. I don't recall the date on which it opened. That was one of the main highways in the city, George Street was. There was a bridge that crossed the Trent River from the foot of George Street over to James City, or the area this side of James City. In order to do that it became necessary that another Trent River bridge be built, which was done. Trent River bridge, which is at the mouth of the Trent River, was constructed to replace the one that went from George Street to the south side of Trent River.

Dr. Patterson: What year was that completed?

Mr. Ward: I don't recall. It's been there a long time, and now they're saying that really they need to get rid of that bridge because it may be dangerous. That's involved also in the EPA rules on lead paint, and of course that was painted with lead base paint. But the city in every instance has, as far as I know, has cooperated with the Palace commission. Most of the time the chairman of the commission has been someone who, well, for example, Bob Stallings, Robert L. Stallings, Jr., was chairman of the commission for years. He had served for four years as mayor. The rapport between the commission and the board of aldermen has always been good. Of course Mrs. Kellenberger has died and she's established a trust fund (the Kellenberger Foundation) from which this program received one or more grants.

Dr. Patterson: Right. There has always been a cordial

relationship between the city government and Tryon Palace.?

Mr. Ward: As far as I know. I'm not aware of anything to the contrary.

Dr. Patterson: Has the city invested much money into this restoration, or has it been done with Kellenberger-Latham funds?

Mr. Ward: It's been done with Latham-Kellenberger funds and some state funding. I'm not aware of anything that the city has invested in it, because actually the state has taken over the streets that run around the Palace. The state maintains Pollock Street on the north side of the complex. I think it still maintains George Street which leaves the complex headed northwardly. It has taken over Eden Street, Metcalf Street, and as you know, it built a loop out from South Front Street, now Tryon Palace Drive, on the water side of the Palace complex.

So there's been a lot of state money invested in that as well as private funds from Maude Moore Latham and her daughter Mrs. Kellenberger.

Dr. Patterson: Did you know that Mrs. Latham lived next to Paul and Nettie Cox's house on Pollock Street and that's where Mrs. Kellenberger grew up as a little girl.

Mr. Ward: I thought they lived where The Teacherage was, next to my grandfather's home.

Dr. Patterson: Well, it's in that same block.

Mr. Ward: It was in that area.

Dr. Patterson: It was actually right next to the Pinnix house.

Mr. Ward: Now I did not know that. I knew it was in that area because I have heard my Aunt Mary, Dad's sister, tell many a tale,

which I can't repeat. (laughter) Each time she would say, "Now, you can't tell anybody I told you this but...so and so and so." She could tell some nice tales.

Dr. Patterson: Did she know Mrs. Latham?

Mr. Ward: I'm sure she did.

Dr. Patterson: Yes. I think they must have been friends. Al, let me ask you about the change in city government officials. I guess that's the way to put it. When members of the black community began to be elected officials, when did all that start and what has it meant?

Mr. Ward: It started, Joe, when Leander Morgan, who is now mayor, ran for alderman and was elected. A man had announced for alderman. He was white. He had had a kind of checkered career.

Dr. Patterson: Who is this?

Mr. Ward: I don't recall his name. He had a business down on the corner of Eden and South Front Street. As I say, his reputation was not the best. Lee filed against him and had a large cross-over vote and was elected.

Dr. Patterson: What year was that?

Mr. Ward: I have not yet located it on my list that I have here.

Dr. Patterson: Was Mr. Morgan then the first black elected city official?

Mr. Ward: He was the first black elected city official in many years. Probably since reconstruction. He did extremely well. He was elected mayor. He was re-elected mayor. There have been some other blacks who ran for office who were not qualified and have not

been elected. We've been, of course, going back and forth with the Voting Rights Section, or the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice, since the mid sixties. Really, it started in the late sixties, early seventies, as a consequence of the Voting Rights Act. At a particular point the Supreme Court decided that annexation was something that triggered the Voting Rights Act and had to be approved by the Justice Department. I kept getting comments from people there, staff people and the assistant attorney general in charge of it, about our being polarized here in New Bern. I insisted that that was not the case. I told them that if a qualified black ran, he would be elected, and of course Lee proved the point. He served two terms as mayor, then he ran for alderman from his ward, and he was living in a predominantly white ward. He beat himself. He was not re-elected, but I'll tell you why. He lives on the east side of Simmons Street, not on Simmons Street but in a very nice residential neighborhood a few hundred feet from Simmons Street. Some of the people in Forest Hills learned that one of the developers was getting ready to build a home on Simmons Street or near Simmons Street in Forest Hills in which retarded adults would be housed. A part of the concept that came in some 25, 30 years ago. Instead of putting them in an institution, they put them in a home atmosphere. All of a sudden my phone started ringing off. The mayor was being called. And this was shortly before the election. I told them there was nothing anyone could do because a state statute had been passed that said you could not zone such a home out. The mayor told them the same thing and told

them that he wouldn't vote to have them move even if there were not such a statute. As a result of that, there was a write in campaign.

Somebody else was running, but there was a write in campaign as well and he was defeated. Of course he was re-elected mayor, now three years ago. He's been serving for a little over three years.

Dr. Patterson: At the present time on the board of aldermen, the blacks include Robert Raynor, Barbara Lee, Julius Parham, and then the mayor of course is black, Mr. Morgan.

Mr. Ward: We have a black majority. Since the legislation that was adopted or passed by the general assembly at our request some years ago, the mayor has been voting. We now have in effect a seven member board including the mayor. We do have a black majority and they have done a commendable job.

Dr. Patterson: As you look back, can you recall the names of other blacks who have served in city government during your years as attorney?

Mr. Ward: I think Lee is the only one. In other words, for many, many years it was as I have heard some blacks say, "Lily white." Lee was the first black elected to the board. Of course those who have now been elected, those who are now serving, are serving as a result of cross over voting. That's a term used by the Justice Department signifying the fact that they were elected with votes of blacks and whites. As a part of satisfying the Voting Rights Section of the Justice Department years ago, well, let me go back just a little. Back in the early seventies when the Supreme Court first held that annexation

was a device which triggered the Voting Rights Act, something which had the possibility of affecting rights of black voters, we submitted routinely annexations that occurred. The Pine Crest annexation, that was the major subdivision in that one, triggered lots of problems.

I ended up having to go to Washington to a conference with staff and the assistant attorney general in charge of the Civil Rights Section of the Justice Department and finally convinced them just before the election that there was no significant impairment of black voting by virtue of the annexation that occurred. I did it by using percentages.

The percentage of the voting population that would vote and then applying that percentage to the number of blacks who in fact were in the particular ward and applying also the number of blacks who were in the area which had been annexed. They finally conceded that we were only talking about a handful of votes, less than five probably.

But I was told by the attorney general at that time, the assistant attorney general, that if the city wished to continue annexing, continue to grow, that it was going to have to make some changes in its election process; that it was going to have to change the city wide voting to ward voting. And of course this is what ultimately we had to do to satisfy them.

Dr. Patterson: Al, it would be interesting to people who are going to be looking at all this in the future if you could just go over some of the names of people you worked with in city government during these years.

Mr. Ward: Well, I commented earlier on the mayor and members

of the board at the time I was first appointed to city attorney. That was in July of 1957. In 1959, everyone was re-elected. As I recall, Capt. Eddie Belangia retired. Jim Pearsall, a retired Colonel in the Marine Corps was appointed Chief of Police. Craig Barnhardt retired as city manager. Cliff Pace, a lawyer who had been on Albert Coates' staff at The Institute of Government, came down as city manager. Johnny Rhodes was still the tax collector. Ed Hancock had taken my place as judge of the city recorder's court. Joe Eubank served as solicitor.

In 1963, Mack Lupton was re-elected mayor. As I commented a while ago, the charter says the mayor can serve only two consecutive terms.

So he could serve two terms, stay out, and be re-elected. Capt. Mack and I had had a little rough period in there by virtue of the situation with the Simmons-Nott Airport committee, which was not my fault, but I could understand how he felt. He had been appointed for life and it fell my lot as city attorney to change that and he didn't like it.

He and I had been extremely close since I was a little boy and I didn't like that situation. I was delighted when he was re-elected and when we again became friends. He was my friend and I think I was his friend until he died. He was a character incidentally. I ought to talk about him later. Capt. Mack was re-elected mayor. The aldermen were Ben Hurst, Graham Bizzell, Pete Chagaris, Tom I. Davis, and R. B. Bratcher.

Ed Welch had become the city manager after Cliff Pace committed suicide. That was real tragic. Several of those gentlemen ran for board of aldermen for two purposes. They wanted to get rid of Jim Pearsall the Chief of Police. Jim had come in here and had kind of

stirred up the police department. The brother of one of those who was elected to the board of alderman was serving on the police department and they had gotten cross-legged, so they were gonna get rid of Jim and they were gonna get rid of me. Well, they got rid of Jim but they didn't get rid of me. Several of them did become close friends of mine. Pete Chagaris, of course, has served at other times over the years and we've always gotten along. After we got over that particular thing, we've always gotten along very well. In 1965, Ben was re-elected alderman. Paul Cox, Charlie Kimbrell, Tom Davis, and Durwood Hancock. I think Paul was appointed to take the place of someone who moved out of town. It may have been George Ballard. I didn't name all of the aldermen that began serving in 1963. I think George Ballard was one of them and he left and Paul was appointed to take his place. Paul may have been appointed earlier. In 1965, Ben, Paul Cox; Charlie Kimbrell; Tommy Davis; Durwood Hancock, and Mack Lupton was re-elected mayor. I don't recall any changes in the appointive offices that year. Incidentally, after Jim Pearsall was replaced as Chief of Police, we had a succession of people serving who did the best they could but they were not as qualified as they should have been. In 1967, Ethridge Ricks was elected mayor. Ethridge had served earlier as an alderman. I believe he served when Mack Lupton was serving as mayor before I became city attorney. Ethridge was with the Atlantic & East Carolina Railroad for many years until he retired. Tommy Davis, Pete Chagaris, Graham Bizzell, Ben Hurst, and Augustine Piner, Jr. were elected aldermen. Incidentally, Ben Hurst was a native New

Bernian. His family owned a lot of land around here and in Onslow County. Ben was a person that you could call a character. He left here and went with the big companies. It was a big battery company.

The name escapes me. He went to conventions at which they had displays.

He was the advance man, set up everything, and so on. He got tired of it and decided he was coming back to New Bern. He quit a well paying job and came back to New Bern and went to work for civil service down at the base. He was an oxygen expert in connection with aircraft down there and served down at the base until he became disabled and had to retire. He served on the board for many years. In many instances he served as a spokesman for the board when people would come up complaining during periods when the mayor was perhaps not as, I won't say capable, but not as articulate as might have been the case. Ben was a strong alderman and quite a character.

Dr. Patterson: I'm glad to hear that. Ben and I were good friends.

We grew up together. I didn't know him as an alderman, I just knew him as a friend.

Mr. Ward: I first met Ben when he was a counsellor down at Camp Kiro when I was six, seven years old, down on this side of Neuse River.

Ben and Tommy came out to my house one night when I had heard rumors that some members of the board were hell bent to get rid of me as city attorney. We sat down and talked for a couple of hours. This was after 1967, because my wife and I had vacationed down in Jamaica in August of 1967 and I had brought back with me an imperial quart of scotch. Not for me. I don't like scotch, but I have some friends

who do. I offered them a drink that night. Tommy had a drink but he was not drinking scotch. Ben sat there over a period of two or three hours and emptied that imperial quart of scotch and walked out under his own steam. In 1969, Ben Hurst, Graham Bizzell, Pete Chagaris, Tommy Davis, and Augustine Piner were elected aldermen. Macon Toler was appointed Chief of Police. Macon was a good fellow but he really was not qualified to be appointed chief. That was an appointment out of the department. During those years, the position of Chief of Police was a constant source of problems. It was a political appointment, an appointment by the board, and it created problems for years and years. Finally, by amendment to the charter, the appointment was given to the city manager and that helped, but not completely because the city manager is very careful to seek the approval of the board of aldermen in connection with such appointments. In 1971, Cecil King was elected mayor. Jack Crawford, Tommy Davis, Tim Montgomery, Lee Morgan and Graham Bizzell were elected aldermen. You asked me earlier when Lee was first elected to office. It was in 1971. John Worsham was appointed acting Chief of Police. John was a retired FBI agent who married John Beaman's sister and he lived here in New Bern for years. He was a special agent for the FBI and did reasonably well. Elbert Mallard was still the tax collector. J. C. Outlaw had been appointed city manager and was re-appointed. Eddie Russell was the clerk and treasurer. If you have not considered it, you may want to consider interviewing Eddie.

Dr. Patterson: He has been interviewed.

Mr. Ward: Good. In 1963, Charlie Kimbrell was elected mayor. The elected aldermen were Ben Hurst, Tim Montgomery, Tommy Davis, Gray Ingram, and Ella Bengel. Now, Ella was the second woman elected. Kathleen Orrigner, after serving two terms as alderman, elected to run for mayor and she was defeated. In 1975, Charlie Kimbrell was re-elected mayor. Tommy Davis, Tim Montgomery, Ben Hurst, Ella Bengel, and Gray Ingram were elected as aldermen. Gray Ingram resigned by virtue of leaving the area and Ed Armstrong was appointed by the board to replace him. Ed is an insurance adjuster for State Farm. He's also a Methodist minister and has an active ministry with several small churches. Made a good alderman. Gray Ingram, to our surprise, committed suicide shortly after that. As I recall, with an automobile in an enclosed garage. In December 1977, there was a change in the election laws, so that no longer were city elections held in the spring with the newly elected officers qualifying and taking office at the first meeting in July. It was changed so that the elections were held in odd years in the fall and the officers were qualified and took office the first meeting in December. Lee was sworn in as mayor. Paul Cox, Charles Kimbrell, Tommy Davis, Ed Armstrong, and Jim Ross were sworn in as aldermen. Jim was the manager of the local Singer sewing machine operation down on Middle Street just before you get to South Front Street, Tryon Palace Drive. There was no change in the appointive offices. In 1979, Sid Bartholomew, Ella Bengel, Russ Conner, Paul Cox, and Blondie Weatherington were elected aldermen. Lee was re-elected mayor. The appointive offices remained the same. Two years

later, Boyd Myers came on the board for the first time with Pete Chagaris coming back on. Lee Morgan, not being able to run for mayor again, was elected alderman. Sid Bartholomew and Augustine Piner were elected aldermen. Tony Hooper who had become city manager in March of 1981, was reappointed. J. C. Outlaw was let go, and it was really a rather unfortunate situation. This was a product of that particular board which was almost totally without humor. That was a two year period that was probably the most difficult of my adult life. That combination of aldermen made it bad. It was not something that Lee as mayor was responsible for. I started to say, in December of 1981, Boyd Myers, Pete Chagaris, Lee Morgan, Sid Bartholomew, and Augustine Piner were elected aldermen. I did say that. Bertie Joyner had been appointed tax collector. The other appointive offices remained the same. This was the year that we had the Pine Crest annexation fight. Don McDowell filed suit in U. S. District Court on behalf of himself and some others.

I managed to get that dismissed. But at the same time Don had filed a protest with the state board of elections that he had not been permitted to run for mayor. He was not permitted to run for mayor because he was not a resident during the period of time that the filing took place. But the state board of elections required another election in which he went head to head with Paul Cox, and Paul was elected.

He was not sworn in until March 2, 1982 because of those events. December 1983, Paul was again sworn in as mayor. The aldermen were Boyd Myers, Pete Chagaris, Tommy Davis, Ella Bengel, and Don McDowell.

Don had been elected. Let me say one thing about Tommy Davis. Tommy

served with distinction for a number of years. Tommy and Ben were very close. They were like Mutt and Jeff. Tommy was a little short fat fellow and of course Ben was rather tall, over six feet. During the time that Tommy served, he was extremely conservative. He would look at everything that came in with the jaundiced eye. He had his interests. He was interested in the fire department of which he had been a volunteer fireman for many years. But during budget sessions, he'd look at every line and he'd try to cut it everywhere it could be cut and he was a rather substantial force in keeping the tax rate down. As I recall, in one year it was reduced by five, ten cents, and he was the one that made the motion. As I commented earlier, most of these people were people who were products of the Depression and they were quite interested in keeping expenses down, which created problems for me from time to time. For example, when Tommy and Ben were first elected, the question was coming up before they took office, the question was coming up as to whether I would be reappointed. I had not been paid a lot of money, but Tommy came to see me and wanted to know if I would agreed to be paid a flat amount every month. I told him that I would. As I recall, it was \$500 a month which would pay full \$6,000 a year. This was probably in 1963, because I remember it was while we were building this structure. We were around the corner at 210 Hancock Street. I agreed to do that, to handle everything in town for that, except litigation. I was to be paid extra for litigation and I was to be paid extra for out of town trips. That arrangement damn near broke me, because it was during that period of time that

the city and the county got together and agreed to extend water and sewer lines out to Stanley Tools which was to be constructed out on the then edge of town, and it remained out of town for many years.

It was not in town. Laurence was representing the county, Laurence Stith. We came up with a proposal to finance that by having a private non-profit corporation actually do the extension. The financing available to cities and counties at that time was much more limited than it is now with the changes that have taken place in the general statutes. Section 160A-20 of the General Statutes now permits the city to do many things that for years it could not even consider doing.

But it worked out so that we had to procure easements for the water and sewer lines that were run out to Stanley Tools. Since the actual construction or installation of the water and sewer were being done by a private corporation, condemnation was not available, so that we had to talk people into letting us have the easements. I ended up spending an inordinate amount of time for which I was paid absolutely nothing since I had agreed to this arrangement with Tommy and the members of the board. Tommy was the one that talked to me about it.

That changed the next budget year. I told him-it was either then or with the next group that came into office-it may have been '65, I told him that I could not stand any more of that, that I was going to have to be paid for my time by the hour. And I have been so paid ever since. It has created problems from time to time, as I suggested to you while we were off the tape a while ago. It has created serious problems at times, but we managed to work them out with some concessions

on my part as well as concessions on the part of the board, so that I'm paid on an hourly basis now and have been ever since about 1964 or 1965. Going back to the boards, I may have addressed '83. I'm not sure. Paul Cox was mayor, Boyd Myers, Pete, Tommy, Ella, and Don McDowell were elected. Annette West was sworn in as city clerk. Eddie Russell retired. Incidentally, Eddie Russell was an extremely capable clerk. He served the city very well, very capably, for many, many years and I was sorry when he retired. Annette West, however, had worked in his office for years and Annette moved right in and did extremely well. She has now retired and Vicki Johnson took her place back in December of '89. Annette has come in from time to time as necessary to assist in that office. Bertie Joyner remained tax collector. In 1981, the offices of clerk and treasurer were split up. That was one that Eddie had held for many years. A separate treasurer, or finance officer, was appointed then. He was only here for a short time, then he left. Kai David Nelson became the finance officer, or was the finance officer in December of 1983. Tony Hooper remained city manager. Tony, incidentally, did a good job. Tony came from Chapel Hill. His area of expertise was finance. He did a good job administratively and handled things very well until he left to go to a city in northern Virginia, Fredericksburg I believe. In 1985, Ella Bengel was elected mayor. The aldermen were Guy Boyd, Jr., Mack L. Freeze, Durwood Hancock, Bill Ballenger, and Don McDowell. Guy Boyd, as you know, is a long time New Bernian, was. He's now deceased. His father and mother operated a vegetable stand down on South Front

Street across from Barbour Boat Works, which is now Tryon Palace Seafood I believe. Guy did reasonably well as an alderman. Unfortunately, he became ill and died of cancer, as did his wife during the same period of time. Mack Freeze's background was Broadcasting. He had been with one or more of the television stations in this area. He made a good alderman. He had a good head on his shoulder. He was defeated by Pat McClanahan at the last election. Durwood Hancock came back on the board after having been off for many years. Interesting thing about Durwood. Durwood lived out in Riverside. His wife was one of my father's last secretaries. I came across a letter that dad wrote me when I was a page in the legislature in 1935 in looking for some of this material that I have. Ruby Hancock was his secretary at that time. Durwood had been before the board on a number of occasions, as of course many citizens do. He had been critical of the board at times. When he first served, I think it may have been the first night he was seated inside the rail of the city hall. He told me as we were leaving, it may not have been the first night but it was soon after he became a member of the board, he told me, "Al, it sure does look different from in here." A lot of people have found that to be the case. Bill Ballenger's background. Bill was a local boy. He is a little younger than I am. I knew him in high school but not well. He's retired civil service at Cherry Point. Don McDowell is a computer expert who works at Robert Bosch, the successor of Stanley Tools. Rob Raynor was sworn in as a alderman on March 11, 1986. There was a contested election. There was another election held and Robert at

that time was elected. That was why the delay. Don McDowell was not sworn in until January for that term. That was another contest. In 1987, Ella was re-elected mayor. Guy Boyd, Rob Raynor, Max Freeze, Don McDowell, Barbara Lee, and Bill Ballenger were elected aldermen.

Rob and Barbara are of course black. In 1989, Lee was again elected mayor. This time for four year term, which was a change that had been made by the board that served '87-'89. The aldermen elected were Julius Parham who was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Guy Boyd just before he was to have been sworn in as an elected member of the board.

Guy had died of cancer. Rob Raynor, Bill Ballenger, Pat McClanahan, and Barbara Lee and Don McDowell were also serving. Julius was a native of New Bern. When I first met him or shortly after I first met him, he talked about having come by here at this office when it was being constructed in 1963 and 1964. I think it was his grandfather who was one of the masons who worked on this building. Bill Hartman was appointed city manager to take Tony Hooper's place when he left several years ago to go to Fredericksburg I believe. And as I said earlier, Vicki Johnson was appointed city clerk to succeed Annette West. These same people are serving today. It's been quite interesting over the years. Many times I have had fellow members of the bar after having been up there for some reason at a meeting call me the next day and say, "How on earth do you stand it?!" I've enjoyed it.

Dr. Patterson: Well, Al, you just said that this has been fun and I'm glad to hear that. This is a good time to stop. I think we have both talked enough and so let's resume this at one final sitting.

Mr. Ward: Okay. Sounds good.

END OF INTERVIEW