

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

CHARLES EDWARD HANCOCK, JR.

INTERVIEW 1042

This is Dr. Joseph Patterson representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 1000. I am interviewing Ed Hancock (C. E. Hancock, Jr.) at his office at 5 Trent Landing in New Bern. The number of the interview is 1042. The date is February 10, 1993.

DR. PATTERSON: Ed, I just want to tell you that I'm very happy to be here in your office talking to you and I'm looking forward to hearing what you have to say about your memories of this fine town we're in. Let me start by asking you your full name.

MR. HANCOCK: I'm Charles Edward Hancock, Jr.

DR. PATTERSON: Where were you born?

MR. HANCOCK: I was born in New Bern.

DR. PATTERSON: And when was that?

MR. HANCOCK: On June 22, 1920.

DR. PATTERSON: Were you born at home?

MR. HANCOCK: I was born in New Bern General Hospital.

DR. PATTERSON: Who was your physician?

MR. HANCOCK: Dr. Primrose was my mother's physician.

DR. PATTERSON: You don't remember the hospital from that moment, but do you remember the General Hospital later on?

MR. HANCOCK: I do indeed. I lived there later on. I lived there from 1937 until 1949.

DR. PATTERSON: As a patient in the hospital?

MR. HANCOCK: No, no. (laughter) As a place of residence. It was divided into apartments and my parents had an apartment there.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember it as a hospital?

MR. HANCOCK: No.

DR. PATTERSON: When did it go out of the hospital business?

MR. HANCOCK: I don't know when it went out of the hospital business. I would expect it was in the early, or fairly early twenties when your dad started St. Luke's.

DR. PATTERSON: That would have been in the mid-teens. That was 1914.

MR. HANCOCK: Was it?

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah. So that may be true.

MR. HANCOCK: It wasn't that early that it went out of business because I was born there in 1920.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. So you just went to another hospital instead of St. Luke's. (laughter)

MR. HANCOCK: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Tell me about your parents.

MR. HANCOCK: Well, my dad was a locomotive engineer.

DR. PATTERSON: In New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: Out of New Bern, yes. He normally had a run, passenger run, from Beaufort to Goldsboro, and because of that, it became more convenient for us to move to Beaufort when I was five years old after my kindergarten experience with Mrs. Gibbs. We lived in New Bern until I finished Mrs. Gibbs kindergarten and then we moved down to Beaufort where I went to St. Paul's kindergarten. That way, daddy would be home frequently. Well, he would be home, he would work ten days and then he would have a day off, and then he'd be in Goldsboro

for ten days and then he'd have ten days off. So that was an ideal situation for a man who liked to hunt and fish like daddy did. He had plenty of time to do both. And I would say that that was his primary pleasure in life, except for his family, was hunting and fishing. He was a turkey hunter, a bird hunter, and he killed a lot of deer in his time too. He also fished and had good luck at that. Mother was from Maryland, Eastern Shore, Maryland.

DR. PATTERSON: What was her name?

MR. HANCOCK: Her name was Olive Beauchamp. She was from Chestertown, Maryland, which is a delightful little town where I've been on a number of occasions. She came down here to visit Hal Lane who was married to Sheriff Dick Lane and she met daddy and they married. Also, Duddy Dill came down here, and that's Marcus and John's dad. And of course I must not forget Billy and Hal, they were two other sons. Hal was killed in the war.

DR. PATTERSON: Did Mr. Dill come down from Maryland also?

MR. HANCOCK: No, no, no. Mr. Dill was a local New Bernian. Mother was just so enchanted with Beaufort that to move down there was just wonderful for her. They lived down there, mother and daddy lived down there immediately after they were married and then they moved back in, we all moved back in 1925. We were there until 1937, '38.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did you live in New Bern those first five years?

MR. HANCOCK: Number 4 Pollock Street which is where the old,

what's the name of the hotel, the Holiday Inn was located. Right down at the foot of Pollock Street.

DR. PATTERSON: There were houses all along there from East Front Street to the river, in that area.

MR. HANCOCK: That's correct.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember anything about the people who lived in that section?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, nearest the river, the house nearest the river was Mr. Pittman. He had a son named Elliott Pittman who has died a very old man fairly recently, and he also had other children whom I don't remember by name. Next to that, next to his house was our house, and then, is this the kind of thing you want me to talk about?

DR. PATTERSON: Sure.

MR. HANCOCK: The next house was Jessie Davis.

DR. PATTERSON: Excuse me. Which side of the street are you on, the north or the south?

MR. HANCOCK: Northside. We're on the northside. Jessie Davis was the District Solicitor and a character in his own right if I remember correctly. And he had a son named Jessie who is a patient at the hospital in Raleigh and has been for many years. He's still living. His wife, Mrs. Davis, was named Blanche I believe, and she was Register of Deeds of Carteret County for a number of years after she moved down there. Next to that was Lee Taylor's house on the corner.

DR. PATTERSON: That faced East Front Street, didn't it?

MR. HANCOCK: That did face East Front Street.

DR. PATTERSON: How about across the street on the southside?

MR. HANCOCK: Across the street on the southside, the old black on the corner, starting at the same corner, was the old Blackbeard house, if you know what I'm referring to. That was then in apartments and there were a number of apartments there, Dick Lane having one of those apartments. I don't remember anyone else. Next to that was, if I'm not mistaken at that time, I believe Kitty Bryan lived there, but I'm not sure of that. Anyway, the Bryan's lived in the general neighborhood and I was friends with Jimmy and Billy King. They were my buddies. The other people I remember on that side was a man named Homan. Kid Homan, is that right?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. HANCOCK: Kid Homan lived across there. And then in the final house toward the river I think, well, I don't remember.

DR. PATTERSON: Now you mentioned Dick Payne?

MR. HANCOCK: Dick Lane.

DR. PATTERSON: Dick Lane. Do you remember any people named Payne?

MR. HANCOCK: No, no.

DR. PATTERSON: P a y n e that lived down there.

MR. HANCOCK: I do not.

DR. PATTERSON: You don't remember a girl named Louise Payne or her brother named Dick Payne?

MR. HANCOCK: No, but I do remember somebody named Kenneth Wagoner who was my age and his father was the manager of the Dollar Store which later became Charles. But Dick Payne I don't remember.

DR. PATTERSON: I think they probably moved there later then, because they were more or less contemporaries of mine. I'm a little older than you are.

MR. HANCOCK: Yeah. This was from 1920 to 1925 that I'm talking about.

DR. PATTERSON: Ed, do you remember what the riverfront looked like along there at that time?

MR. HANCOCK: I do. I remember something of it. At the foot of the street was the government dock which is still right there, the old place where the government dock was. And the Neuse, the Cutter Neuse was tied up at the foot of that street. There was, let's see, Captain, I don't remember the man's name who took care of the Neuse. I'm sorry. I don't remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh.

MR. HANCOCK: There was one experience we had when we were there. Both sister and I had to take the hydrophobia treatment, Pasteur treatment, because I was scratched by a cat and she was bitten by a cat. My mother, being a very cautious person and loving her children dearly, said, "Now, we've got to find that cat." They located the cat and she went and got daddy's shotgun and took it down to Capt'n Sam, who was a man who took care of the Neuse down there, and he went and shot the cat. They then sent the cat, the dead cat to Raleigh and it was determined to have hydrophobia. When they brought the cat back, not only were we interested in it, but, oh, twenty-five people around the area had been bitten or scratched and had never bothered

to have anything looked into. But all of those people, including my sister and I, had to have the Pasteur treatment, which was quite an experience in that day and time.

DR. PATTERSON: Describe the treatment.

MR. HANCOCK: Well, as I recall it, it was a series of twenty-one shots which we took once a day. Every morning Dr. Wadsworth would come by and shoot me in the hip and sister the same way I'm sure, and then the next day he'd come by and shoot me in the other hip, and it took twenty-one days. We had no ill effects whatever, but it was a bad experience of course. It illustrates, of course, the way doctors operated in those days. He was glad to come by the house every morning to give us a shot. We didn't have to go to his office, he came to us.

DR. PATTERSON: I had thought that in those days these injections were made in the abdominal muscles.

MR. HANCOCK: No, they were made in the hip.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh.

MR. HANCOCK: They were made in the hip at that time.

DR. PATTERSON: Were they very painful?

MR. HANCOCK: It hurt! The shot hurt, yes indeed.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah. Um huh. Ed, do you remember what was behind your house where the Holiday Inn is, or was?

MR. HANCOCK: I do not remember that. I remember that Mr. Dawson who was the editor of Sun Journal had a house fronting on East Front Street and I assume his backyard was there, but I don't have any

recollection of what was immediately behind the house.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you all play in the area along the riverfront at the end of Pollock Street?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes we did. Yes we did. And daddy, who was, as I told you, a hunter, had live decoys and he would turn his live decoys out in the morning and they would go to the river, and then in the afternoon he would call them and they would come in military procession with and an old drake leading back and into the yard. And he wasn't the only one who had live decoys in those days.

DR. PATTERSON: Did he shoot duck out on the river then?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh my yes! Even as I have in my time. Yes sir! Now not in front of town. Not downtown. But on the far side of the river we had great luck hunting ducks.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah. But not right down there where you live.

MR. HANCOCK: No, we didn't do that.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you have a boat down there?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes, he had a boat, certainly.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it a rowboat or...

MR. HANCOCK: No, he had what he called a gas boat, which the engine was in the cabin. It's just a small, little gas boat to hunt in.

DR. PATTERSON: Did a lot of people keep boats along the riverfront there?

MR. HANCOCK: Joe, I'm sure they did. I don't have any specific recollection of any but that one, but I remember that one very well.

DR. PATTERSON: At that tender age I guess that that street, the end of that street was pretty much your world.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes, indeed it was.

DR. PATTERSON: But then you went all the way across town, several blocks, to go to Rosa Gibbs' kindergarten.

MR. HANCOCK: Well, that's not quite across town. It's down on... you know where it is on King Street? No, I beg your pardon.

DR. PATTERSON: Johnson Street.

MR. HANCOCK: Johnson Street.

DR. PATTERSON: I was joking.

MR. HANCOCK: Oh yeah, naturally. All three or four blocks, right?

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes. New world!

DR. PATTERSON: What was Mrs. Gibbs' kindergarten like?

MR. HANCOCK: Mrs. Gibbs' kindergarten was a very pleasant place where I remember Billy Hand; I remember Grayson Waldrop; I remember Marion Terwilliger; I remember a number of persons whom you know. Most of them are a little bit older than I, but probably your contemporaries, aren't they, Billy?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. Billy's a little younger than I am. And you went there for a couple of years?

MR. HANCOCK: I went there about a year I think. I went there til I was five, five and a half, something like that. I don't think more than a year.

DR. PATTERSON: Was Mrs. Gibbs the only teacher there?

MR. HANCOCK: I don't remember a teacher other than Mrs. Gibbs, but there may well have been an assistant. I don't remember that, Joe. Now Mrs. Gibbs was my friend for her lifetime. She never forgot me and I never forgot her. (laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Were her children there, Norfleet and Jane?

MR. HANCOCK: Norfleet and Jane were there, yes. I remember Norfleet better than Jane, but they were both there, right.

DR. PATTERSON: What was Mrs. Gibbs like?

MR. HANCOCK: Mrs. Gibbs was a very fine, motherly person. I really don't know. A quiet, unassuming lady. I don't know how else to describe her except that everybody enjoyed her and liked her.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember Dr. Gibbs?

MR. HANCOCK: No, I do not remember Dr. Gibbs. I think he may have been dead at the time, although I'm not sure. When did Dr. Gibbs die?

DR. PATTERSON: I'm not sure.

MR. HANCOCK: I don't know.

DR. PATTERSON: I think it was later than that, but I'm not sure. Jane has been interviewed but I did not interview her. Ed, during these five years, your dad, as a locomotive engineer, was coming and going then.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes he was.

DR. PATTERSON: Would he be gone ten days then from you to go and stay in Goldsboro?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, I assume so but I don't have an independent

recollection of that like I do when we were at Beaufort, but that was his usual course of action.

DR. PATTERSON: Did he take you on this locomotive with him every now and then?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh my yes! I loved to ride on the locomotive. He took me on a number of occasions. And he also took me to Goldsboro with me riding in the passenger coach and then I'd stay up there with him a night or so. I expect it was later though. I don't believe I did that when I was that age. That was a little later.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you have other childhood memories of New Bern before you get down to Beaufort?

MR. HANCOCK: I have discussed the fire with so many people for so many times I think I remember the fire but I'm not sure of that because I was too young.

DR. PATTERSON: You were two years old.

MR. HANCOCK: That's right. I'm afraid that's just repetition of the discussion which I really don't remember. But I have ideas about it, hearing about the dynamiting and so forth.

DR. PATTERSON: What things do you remember about it?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, I say again, this is I'm afraid not reliable because it's probably what I have discussed and mentioned over the years, but I remember a great deal of smoke down in our area at lower...

DR. PATTERSON: Pollock Street.

MR. HANCOCK: Pollock Street. I remember talking to people on the street about it, conversations. I don't know. They didn't make

too much sense to me at the time. That's about all I remember.

DR. PATTERSON: When you moved to Beaufort, well, how long did you live in Beaufort before coming back?

MR. HANCOCK: I lived in Beaufort from kindergarten, when I was five, until I graduated from high school at sixteen.

DR. PATTERSON: During those years, did you come to New Bern very much?

MR. HANCOCK: Frequently, yes. We came to New Bern fairly regularly.

DR. PATTERSON: To shop in the big city.

MR. HANCOCK: To shop in the big city and to visit with my aunt, Mrs. Lee.

DR. PATTERSON: What was the transportation like getting from Beaufort to New Bern in those days?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, for a locomotive engineer's family it was very convenient. We just went down to the depot and stepped on the train. Of course we stopped at Morehead and then Wildwood and then we went on up to Newport and Havelock and Riverdale and Croatan and Thurman and then Bridgeton, I mean James City and New Bern. Some of those were flag stops but several of them were regular stops with depots. Newport for example, well, you always stopped at Newport, and when you got to Newport there was always a vendor there with something to sell. In the summer it was figs. They had beautiful figs in Newport. In the fall it was sausage and hams and things like that. That Newport sausage is something I still remember. It was

delicious! Of course on the train you had a news butcher. He came through and sold magazines and so forth. In a little while later he came through selling fruit. The old porter, Shaw, or one of the others, would come through and call out each station as you got there. It was a very interesting trip.

DR. PATTERSON: Did the train stop at Beaufort? Did it go beyond Beaufort?

MR. HANCOCK: That was the terminus.

DR. PATTERSON: All right. When it came back towards New Bern and headed for Goldsboro...

MR. HANCOCK: It went to Goldsboro.

DR. PATTERSON: Is that the dead end there?

MR. HANCOCK: That's the end there too. Now you had a pullman on the train there and the pullman was later put in a siding at Goldsboro and it was picked up by Atlantic Coastline and it was dropped off in Washington. My dad had glaucoma and he went frequently to see the doctor in Washington, Dr. Wilmar to start with and later Dr. Morrison.

DR. PATTERSON: That's Dr. Wilmar of the Wilmar Eye Clinic train.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes. He treated my grandmother, and interestingly enough, not too long ago I found a prescription from Dr. Wilmar and I happened to mention it to Dr. Alan Davidson and he said he would like to see it. I was glad to give it to him, and he prescribed pilocarpine for her which is exactly the same medicine that I'm taking now and I was taking at that time for glaucoma. Now I get other

medications; but pilocarpine, which he was prescribing in the early 1920's, is still being prescribed today.

DR. PATTERSON: So you can use that old prescription anytime.

MR. HANCOCK: Well, I doubt that. (laughter) Of course at that time the druggist mixed it in the back of the store. Now you get a 130 pct. carpine which is a medication which is prepackaged by the Alcon or one of the others.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. Do you remember the pullman car in New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh my, yes! Certainly.

DR. PATTERSON: When did that start? You mentioned the one in Goldsboro.

MR. HANCOCK: Well, we'd get the pullman here or maybe in Beaufort. I believe it was here. No, it wasn't here, it was in Beaufort. We got on a pullman there.

DR. PATTERSON: There was a pullman stationed in Beaufort.

MR. HANCOCK: No, I don't know about that now. But when we would go to Washington, we would get on the pullman and it would take us to Goldsboro.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did you get on the pullman?

MR. HANCOCK: I'm not sure whether it was New Bern or Beaufort. I don't remember that. But we got on a pullman and had our berths and so forth, the state room or whatever compartment we had, and we waked up the next morning and we were in Washington, and didn't have to get off in any hurry. They set the car there, they sat, they left

the car there until we were ready to get up and we'd go on to do whatever we needed.

DR. PATTERSON: So the pullman car was always picked up by the Atlantic Coastline in Goldsboro.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember my grandfather used to be on that pullman from New Bern to Washington, and I often went up there on that too sometimes with him sometimes too see him.

MR. HANCOCK: You asked me if it was convenient. It was most convenient! I'm sure it's as good as you can get now.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. What was the New Bern station like?

MR. HANCOCK: The New Bern station of course was segregated. There was a white waiting room and a colored waiting room of similar size. In between the two there was a ticket office where Miss Lula Pugh sold tickets to both waiting rooms. She sold all the tickets, and on occasion at a busy time she had someone in there assisting her.

The station of course was very busy because everybody traveled by train. When you went to the depot you found at least a couple of policemen there taking care of things, you found a restaurant where Mrs. Mac, Mrs. MacDonald and Mr. MacDonald, but primarily Mrs. Mac as I recall it, served the foods. Of course the sandwich that a little boy always got was an egg sandwich. We enjoyed that thoroughly. You may, I'm sure you do know Jessie Coats who is Mrs. Mac's daughter.

I believe, I'm sure she is. Of course the express office was the only other thing in the station building. When you went out to the

train the car inspector was always there and he went by and checked all the junction boxes which was very interesting to the youngster.

We went in and just waited for the train to be picked up and to go on to, well, it was actually already connected.

DR. PATTERSON: You mention the segregated waiting rooms. What were the segregated facilities like for the train itself?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, you had a colored car and a white car as I recall. They were not integrated, I'm sure of that, but I don't have any great recollection of that. It was no big deal in those days.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember any blacks riding the pullman?

MR. HANCOCK: I don't remember any, but I wouldn't be a'tall surprised if they were there. I don't remember any.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. Ed, did you ever take any automobile trips from Beaufort to New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes. (laughter) Yes, we took automobile trips. We would leave Beaufort and we'd always drive to the old inland waterway, the canal. Not the present inland waterway but the old one which was dug by slaves way back before the Civil War. There's a church there and we would always drive that far and move over into the churchyard and have a picnic lunch and then we'd drive on to New Bern.

It was quite an interesting trip and we enjoyed it. The road was paved from New Bern, ... no, the road was paved coming from Beaufort to North River and the rest of it was dirt, was dirt road until you got to Havelock. Oh yes, I'm on the wrong road there. It was paved

as far as the present inland waterway and then it was dirt from there to Havelock and then we got a paved road again in Havelock.

DR. PATTERSON: To New Bern.

MR. HANCOCK: To New Bern.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you go through Morehead on the way?

MR. HANCOCK: No, no. Got to take a ferry to Morehead. Had to take a ferry to Morehead until 1928; after that, we went through Morehead.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. But before that, when you went to the old inland waterway, I don't remember this old inland waterway, where was it located?

MR. HANCOCK: It's still right there. It's three miles or so west of the present inland waterway. It's a much narrower canal than the present one and you will see the steel bridge right there if you ever go to Beaufort that way.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah. After the bridge was built in 1928 and you drove to New Bern through Morehead, were the roads paved then all the way to New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: All the way.

DR. PATTERSON: How wide was the highways?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, I guess just judging from the present highways I think they were eighteen feet. They may have been twenty, no wider than that.

DR. PATTERSON: Two cars could pass comfortably?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh yes, yes. Not the nine foot roads. They were

eighteen foot roads about.

DR. PATTERSON: How long did it take to go from Beaufort to New Bern by car when the bridge was built?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, I guess people always said it takes an hour to go to New Bern, but I think it might have taken even a little more than that.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah.

MR. HANCOCK: But you usually drove 45 or 50 miles an hour. That's about as fast as you ever drove.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. Did you go across the sound to the ocean beaches much when you lived in Beaufort?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes, you had to take a boat across there until they built the Atlantic Beach bridge, about 1930 I would say. Our Sunday School picnics for example, we went down and got a boat and went across the sound to the old beach building there. What is the club there now, so many New Bernians are members of?

DR. PATTERSON: What's called The Circle there now?

MR. HANCOCK: No, no, no, no. It's before that.

DR. PATTERSON: The Casino?

MR. HANCOCK: No, way before the Casino.

DR. PATTERSON: Wasn't for that. Well, you went across the fort didn't you?

MR. HANCOCK: No, it's between the fort and the...oh, many New Bernians now go there regularly. It's a very popular club.

DR. PATTERSON: Dune's Club.

MR. HANCOCK: Dune's Club, of course! Yes, that's where we went. But the Dune's Club was not a club at that time, it was a commercial beach. And the ideal place to sit was under the pavilion because it was delightfully cool under there and lots of people went under there to just relax.

DR. PATTERSON: Were there bathing houses there?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: And there were also bathing houses farther down the beach too where the center...

MR. HANCOCK: Atlantic Beach.

DR. PATTERSON: Atlantic Beach.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes, that's right, there were also bathing houses there.

DR. PATTERSON: Would you walk across the sand dunes to get to the beach where the boat dockings?

MR. HANCOCK: To get to the beach you had a long walk. I well remember it because of the splinters that it offered, and of course the boys were barefooted and it wasn't unusual to get a vicious splinter.

DR. PATTERSON: What I remember about that is going across in a boat at the Fort Macon area and walking across Fort Macon which was under sand at that time with just a few buttresses visible and walking over to the ocean. I don't remember the Dune's Club pavilion, I mean the pavilion at that site.

MR. HANCOCK: At that site. Well, it was always there. I also

remember the Fort Macon from my Beaufort days. I don't remember it quite like you do though, and that's not unusual to have variations.

DR. PATTERSON: How do you remember it?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, the fort was always very much like it is now except it had grown up in trees and weeds and so forth. It was just almost overrun. All the old fortifications were very much visible at that time. We would take a skiff from Beaufort and catch a ride with the Coast Guard picket boat. We'd tie on to his stern and he'd pull us over there. And we'd go at such a time that when we got ready to come back that tide would be an incoming tide, so we came home to Beaufort very easily. When we got there of course the Coast Guard were delightful. They were fine people as far as we were concerned.

They took us in and fed us lunch and talked and told us all these tall tales that they could tell so well, and that was a great trip to the Coast Guard station. But then we went over to the fort, even as my grandchildren do now, and enjoyed it thoroughly. But I don't remember it being covered with sand.

DR. PATTERSON: I may be wrong about that, but that's my image of it. Did you even know about the settlement at Salter Path in those days?

MR. HANCOCK: No, I didn't ever get to Salter Path. You had to go there by boat.

DR. PATTERSON: There was no road.

MR. HANCOCK: No road a'tall, and I didn't ever get to Salter Path at that time.

DR. PATTERSON: You came back to New Bern when you were sixteen years?

MR. HANCOCK: Sixteen when I graduated from high school and came back to New Bern, then I went to The Citadel.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did you all live when you moved back to New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: That's when we moved to the Lee Apartments. New Bern General Hospital built it there, which incidentally is being very nicely refurbished now.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah. Were there several apartments there when you moved in?

MR. HANCOCK: Four, four apartments.

DR. PATTERSON: Two up and two down?

MR. HANCOCK: Two up and two down.

DR. PATTERSON: Who were some other people who lived there then?

MR. HANCOCK: Ben and Anna Gillikin, Roy Fagan and Mrs. Fagan, and Mrs. Parker who was Dick Parker's mother, if you remember Dick.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. HANCOCK: And she had three sons; Dick's the one who comes to mind. I can't put my foot, name the others, though I should remember them very well.

DR. PATTERSON: Who else lived in that neighborhood?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, of course next door was the Hughes' Apartments. Mrs. Hughes and John Haywood Jones and Mrs. Boylan and Mrs. Barnes of Maola Milk and Ice Cream, Mrs. Barnes, that was after Mr. Barnes

died as I recall. And on the other side, Will Holland lived on the corner. Of course you remember Mr. Holland.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes, yes.

MR. HANCOCK: And next to him is...

DR. PATTERSON: Daughtery?

MR. HANCOCK: Daughtery, right. Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: This was...

MR. HANCOCK: This was '37, no, 38, '39, until I moved away from there in '50. Most of that time I was away at school of course or in the Army.

DR. PATTERSON: Ray Daughtery's parents, Raymond and Bill and Cliff Daughtery.

MR. HANCOCK: Yeah, that's right.

DR. PATTERSON: And Virginia.

MR. HANCOCK: Virginia, right, they lived there.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. Now when you moved back to New Bern your father was still in the locomotive engineering business.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes sir.

DR. PATTERSON: And he kept that up.

MR. HANCOCK: Well, at that time the reason we moved back was because he got tired of the long runs and he got a switch engine in New Bern. He just worked around New Bern. There was adequate business in New Bern at that time to provide a locomotive for Maxwell's, for the Stevenson's brickyard, for all these other businesses around town and he operated the switch engine.

DR. PATTERSON: Now does that mean that this engine went to all of these businesses?

MR. HANCOCK: Absolutely, yes sir.

DR. PATTERSON: So there were railroad tracks then down to the Trent River waterfront area.

MR. HANCOCK: All around the Trent River waterfront area to the veneer plant which was on Neuse River.

DR. PATTERSON: That's where the Minette Duffy Park is now, right next to Union Point.

MR. HANCOCK: That's correct. That's correct.

DR. PATTERSON: So the locomotive went there and came back to the Meadows' Shipyard area.

MR. HANCOCK: All the way through.

DR. PATTERSON: And all the way along the waterfront.

MR. HANCOCK: Right. Yes sir.

DR. PATTERSON: Was side tracks down to the...

MR. HANCOCK: Well, that was the side track. It served them all.

DR. PATTERSON: Uh huh. And it came back up to the train station.

MR. HANCOCK: It came back up to Hancock Street to the main line and then it went either way. But the freight depot, as distinguished from the passenger depot, was in that general area. It was right there at the corner of, you know where it was, the corner of Hancock and South Front, not to say Tryon Palace Drive.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah. I have heard people say, Ed, that there was a side track that went down Queen Street all the way to Neuse River

and there was a turn-stile there, is that correct, where the engines would be turned around?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes indeed, a turntable.

DR. PATTERSON: Turntable.

MR. HANCOCK: That's right. But that was not the A&NC Railroad. The A&NC had a turntable right outside the roundhouse.

DR. PATTERSON: Which was where?

MR. HANCOCK: The roundhouse was just west of the passenger station, the Union Depot. And it had, oh, as I recall, had either five or six spots for locomotives. You would put the locomotive on the turntable and then by hand push it around to turn it the other way you'd go in the other direction or to go in the roundhouse. You would get it lined up with the particular house that you wanted to work on it, the boiler shop or whatever it was.

DR. PATTERSON: The turntable down on the Neuse River was for what railroad?

MR. HANCOCK: That was the Coastline. That's the one from Wilmington to New Bern.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. And from then, where? Would it stop in New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: No. There was Neuse River bridge, which is still there, would take it. There was an Oriental branch which took it to Oriental, and that was primarily, or to a large extent, used for potatoes. They had hundred car trains of potatoes coming out of Pamlico County in potato season. And it also went to Marsden and from there

to Norfolk across the Albemarle Sound.

DR. PATTERSON: So when the train, when the Coastline train crossed the railroad bridge across the Neuse River, it could either go to Oriental...

MR. HANCOCK: That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: Or to Norfolk.

MR. HANCOCK: Right.

DR. PATTERSON: And when the potatoes were picked up in Oriental, in the Pamlico County area, where would they go?

MR. HANCOCK: They would go to market in New York and everywhere.

DR. PATTERSON: They would be switched to another line in Norfolk, is that right?

MR. HANCOCK: No. They would come to New Bern. Or they could go either way of course, but I think normally they would come to New Bern and be switched over to the, I don't know about that, Joe, I better not say that.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah, all right.

MR. HANCOCK: I was speculating there.

DR. PATTERSON: Was the New Bern train station a pretty busy place in those days?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh my yes, it was busy! The Pinnix Drug Store was full all the time, the little restaurant, Mrs. Mac's place was full. The trains came in I would guess at ten o'clock in the morning and at four o'clock in the afternoon, that's just approximately, and they passed here. The Beaufort to Goldsboro train came in and the Goldsboro

to Beaufort train came in and they both stopped here. That was where the track was two line track and they both stopped here and passed.

DR. PATTERSON: Ernest Richardson tells the story of his father selling watermelons to passengers on the train.

MR. HANCOCK: I'm not surprised.

DR. PATTERSON: Particularly during troop transport. Ed, I was gonna ask you about the Terminal Hotel.

MR. HANCOCK: Oh yes.

DR. PATTERSON: That building is gone now and just recently was demolished, but in those days was it pretty much of a going concern?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, it had a restaurant. I don't think it was ever a fine hotel, but it was certainly a frequently used hotel, yes.

DR. PATTERSON: You stayed in the apartment, the site of the New Bern General Hospital for how many years?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, mother and daddy lived there for twelve years or so. During much of that time I was in school or in the Army, but that was home for that many years.

DR. PATTERSON: When you came back and started living there you had finished high school, is that right?

MR. HANCOCK: I had just finished high school, correct.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you stay in New Bern for any length of time before you went to The Citadel?

MR. HANCOCK: For the summer. For the summer. At the end of the summer I went to The Citadel.

DR. PATTERSON: Was that a happy time down there at The Citadel?

MR. HANCOCK: Well...it's a fine school but it's a tough school and they don't have any foolishness down there. I am very pleased that I went there, but happy time at The Citadel...I think you'd say yes.

DR. PATTERSON: I think a lot of people were impressed by the article in Sports Illustrated about The Citadel. I don't know if you saw that but it was a tough article.

MR. HANCOCK: Yeah. I don't think it was an accurate article.

DR. PATTERSON: Anyhow, after The Citadel, you came back to New Bern did you?

MR. HANCOCK: Uh huh. I worked at Branch Bank for three years.

DR. PATTERSON: Now this would have been about what year?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh, let's, see, '38, '39, I came back here first of '40 and I worked here until February of '42.

DR. PATTERSON: In the Branch Bank.

MR. HANCOCK: At Branch Bank. Well, part of that time at Branch Bank and part at First Citizens. I moved from Branch to First Citizens.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was the Branch Bank located?

MR. HANCOCK: On Pollock Street right where...

DR. PATTERSON: The National Bank is now?

MR. HANCOCK: No, no. Down toward Middle Streetu. Right next to the Central Cafe at that time. The Central Cafe is now, both buildings are now Branch, now the former location of the Branch Bank, and I believe, who's there now, Tom Harris isn't he?...

DR. PATTERSON: A lawyer's group.

MR. HANCOCK: Yeah, I think so.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. That's where Beasley-Kelso located.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes, they have left there I think.

DR. PATTERSON: And that was where, what was the bank that moved out of there before that?

MR. HANCOCK: Eastern Bank, was it not?

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. Okay, when you were at the Branch Bank, who was in charge of that bank?

MR. HANCOCK: Mr. Fagan, Frank Fagan.

DR. PATTERSON: F a g i...?

MR. HANCOCK: F a g a n.

DR. PATTERSON: g a n.

MR. HANCOCK: Um huh.

DR. PATTERSON: He has a son who's an Episcopal minister.

MR. HANCOCK: He is and he's coming here in the very near future.

DR. PATTERSON: I have heard that. I know that makes lots of people happy. What was your job at the bank?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, I was a runner to start with. I was eighteen at the time and I was a runner, and then I became a teller, which is a job I enjoyed very much. After I'd been there a year or so I went over to First Citizens. I was making fifty dollars a month at Branch Bank as a teller and First Citizens offered me eighty-five dollars a month, so I was quick to jump at that. (laughter) And that was the usual rate of pay for a young bank teller at that time.

DR. PATTERSON: Who ran the First Citizens?

MR. HANCOCK: Mr. Dick Forester when I was there. Dick Forester was the Chief Executive Officer there.

DR. PATTERSON: Did Will Ferebee succeed him?

MR. HANCOCK: No. Bill never was the top man, or maybe he was. Maybe he was. But Bill was very active in the bank and just the finest kind of man. He knew just how to keep things going to keep everybody happy.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. And you stayed there for...

MR. HANCOCK: I stayed there until I went in service in February of '42, which must have been a couple of years.

DR. PATTERSON: Now tell me about your Army service. Where all did you go and what sort of outfits were you in?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, based on my banking experience I went into the finance department. Not finance you understand, finance. (laughter) I went to finance school at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana and from there we went to Savannah Air Base and MacDill Air Field and then we went overseas. Had quite a trip overseas. We went to, couldn't go through the Mediterranean at the time you remember, so we went from New York to Rio to Capetown to Aiden to Suez and then we located on Great Bitter Lake at a little place called Fayid and we stayed in Fayid for a number of months and then we started moving across the desert behind the Eighth Army. We were servicing B-24's and B-25's at the time.

DR. PATTERSON: Now you were in the Air Corps.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes, Air Corps is right.

DR. PATTERSON: This is the Army Air Corps.

MR. HANCOCK: Army Air Corps. We went all the way across North Africa until we got to Tunis. From Tunis we went to Sicily and got there just in time to get a battle star, which is the extent of my battle experience, or that part of it. We were there until Sicily was cleared out. We got there two days, B plus two, and we stayed until Sicily was cleared out. After we left Foggia, where we had some interesting experiences and formal air raids and so forth, we went to Corsica. We were in Corsica until the invasion of southern France.

Part of our outfit went in with the invasion as infantry men. The rest of us stayed behind and we were in Corsica until the end of the war in Europe or near the end of the war in Europe, during which time we had an opportunity to visit Naples and Rome and a lot of scenic spots in Italy which I thoroughly enjoyed and which I have returned on several occasions. Then after we went to Corsica, we could go through the Mediterranean then because that they cleared out and we went by Gibraltar and over to Boston. When we got to Boston, we came home, by George! We were home for thirty days, RRR, and then we went to...

DR. PATTERSON: That's rest and recreation.

MR. HANCOCK: Yeah. And then we went to, well, we went directly to Seattle and from Seattle we shipped out to Okinawa by way of Hawaii and Eniwetok and Eulithi and saw lots of signs that there had been a war on.

DR. PATTERSON: Incidentally, I took the same trip.

MR. HANCOCK: Did you now, from Seattle?

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh.

MR. HANCOCK: Good. What ship were you on?

DR. PATTERSON: I was on the Florence Nightingale from Hawaii to Okinawa, but I don't remember the other.

MR. HANCOCK: When we got to Okinawa...

DR. PATTERSON: You remember what days, what month you got to Okinawa?

MR. HANCOCK: Got there in April, but I don't remember the day.

DR. PATTERSON: "L" Day for Okinawa was April 1st.

MR. HANCOCK: Well, we were a month approximately almost beyond that. We were just in time to get another battle star. When we got there, we went ashore and there was a Washing Machine Charlie came over, you remember him, and he dropped flares and everything just to let us know we were back in the war. We saw the anti-aircraft that the Americans used and we decided immediately it wasn't anything like as good as the British anti-aircraft! We'd been watching them fire for a number of years and they couldn't touch the "Limeys", they really couldn't, with all due respects.

DR. PATTERSON: Where were you stationed on Okinawa?

MR. HANCOCK: I was at Maclinada which is a few miles north of Naha and a few miles south of Kadina.

DR. PATTERSON: You weren't far from the Shurry line then.

MR. HANCOCK: That's right, we weren't. Shurry Castle wasn't too far from us. As a matter of fact, we went by the castle one day and all of a sudden shots started coming from it and of course everybody

stopped and started shooting back. It was great sport, but I didn't have a chance to shoot because, I didn't shoot, because they had enough people there without me that had better weapons than I had. But that was some weeks after Shurry Castle had been passed up as our land then, but by George those Japs were still in there and they didn't hesitate to come out of that thing and start shooting from the castle!

DR. PATTERSON: We were in the same neighborhood and our field hospital was close by there. Well, anyhow, you stayed through the Okinawa campaign.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes, stayed til the campaign was over. And the worst experience I had was VJ Day when you remember everybody started shooting up in the air and then all that stuff started coming back down, and I expect you picked up some of the casualties.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, I saw the dead. There were quite a few American servicemen killed that day.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: And they brought them all to one building and put them in this building, a one-story brick building as I remember it. One of my commanding officers, I was a Captain in the medical corps then, took me there and showed me these soldiers, still in uniform, side by side, killed by our own fire that day.

MR. HANCOCK: Tragic.

DR. PATTERSON: Very sad.

MR. HANCOCK: Tragic thing. And if anybody would stop to think, when you fire up into the air it's coming back down and it comes back

down it will certainly kill you.

DR. PATTERSON: One of my friends who was with an Army anti-aircraft unit on the island, my old outfit before I transferred, was out on a Navy ship that day, and the flack falling down was so bad that nobody would ride on deck in Butner Bay.

MR. HANCOCK: Sure. Yes. Well, of course Butner Bay is on the other side of the island from where we were, but we could hear it falling all around us and it was not a pleasant experience.

DR. PATTERSON: Which side of the island were you on then?

MR. HANCOCK: The Naha side.

DR. PATTERSON: That's on the East China Sea.

MR. HANCOCK: That's right. Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: And Butner Bay was on the other side?

MR. HANCOCK: Is that not true?

DR. PATTERSON: I thought it was on the same side.

MR. HANCOCK: I may be mistaken. I may be mistaken. But we were on the side opposite Butner Bay. I thought that was on the East China Sea but I may be mistaken. I don't remember that much.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember the name of the beach where you all landed? Was it Orange Beach?

MR. HANCOCK: I do not remember.

DR. PATTERSON: What happened to you after Okinawa?

MR. HANCOCK: After Okinawa, we came home and the war was over and that was the end of a great experience in my life. Then I went to law school at Wake Forest and from hence, from there, we came here

and started practicing law. Met my bride in the meanwhile.

DR. PATTERSON: I was gonna ask you about when did you get married.

MR. HANCOCK: We got married, I met Grace at Wake Forest of course, and we got married in 1949.

DR. PATTERSON: What was she doing at Wake Forest?

MR. HANCOCK: She was a student.

DR. PATTERSON: Was she from New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: No, she's from Clearwater.

DR. PATTERSON: From where?

MR. HANCOCK: Clearwater, Florida.

DR. PATTERSON: Okay. What was her maiden name?

MR. HANCOCK: McElveen. Very nearly McElwain, and some people call it Mc Elveen, but M c E l v e e n - McElveen.

DR. PATTERSON: So she was a student - not in law school?

MR. HANCOCK: No, no, no.

DR. PATTERSON: Undergraduate school?

MR. HANCOCK: Undergraduate school.

DR. PATTERSON: And you all met there and got married in '49.

MR. HANCOCK: Right.

DR. PATTERSON: What year did you come back to New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: Came back to New Bern in '50 when I graduated from law school.

DR. PATTERSON: Our careers are so similar. It's really fascinating.

MR. HANCOCK: Oh really?

DR. PATTERSON: I went to medical school after that and got through in 1950 and started to practice near Clearwater, Florida in Sarasota.

MR. HANCOCK: Yeah, how 'bout that.

DR. PATTERSON: How 'bout that. Well, when you came back to New Bern, what opportunities were open to you?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, my practicing law of course was my own thing. I did serve as Solicitor in the City Court for several years and then I became judge. When Al Ward decided he didn't want to do that anymore, why, Iran and was in the City Court as judge for a number of years, until 1968 as a matter of fact. But that was something that you could practice civil law and still serve there as the judge in the criminal court, so that worked very nicely.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did you all live?

MR. HANCOCK: We lived on Chattawka Lane during that time.

DR. PATTERSON: In Green Park?

MR. HANCOCK: Green Park, right.

DR. PATTERSON: So did we.

MR. HANCOCK: Did you now?

DR. PATTERSON: When we came back to New Bern. Were you practicing alone, Ed?

MR. HANCOCK: No, I was with Mr. Lee, Wilson Lee.

DR. PATTERSON: How did that association develop?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh it was delightful!

DR. PATTERSON: How did it start?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh, well, he of course married Mrs. Lee who is my

aunt and that's how that started, the family relationship.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you enter that partnership immediately when you came back to New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: He was a much older man than you.

MR. HANCOCK: Oh my, yes, yes.

DR. PATTERSON: He had a thriving practice then?

MR. HANCOCK: He had a good practice, yes indeed.

DR. PATTERSON: Where as his office?

MR. HANCOCK: In the Elks building.

DR. PATTERSON: And that's where you joined him. Just the two of you?

MR. HANCOCK: Just the two of us. Then sometime later "Mokey" Lassiter came in with us. Mokey, M o k e y, Moses Lassiter came in with us. Anybody who's named Moses has gotta be called something and so he's "Mokey." And then John King came in and we recently moved here, to Tryon Palace Drive; been here about ten years almost now, we moved around here.

DR. PATTERSON: Into this office which is on the old South Front Street, now Tryon Palace Drive, almost at the corner of Craven Street.

MR. HANCOCK: That's correct.

DR. PATTERSON: And behind you is the Sheraton Hotel and the Trent River.

MR. HANCOCK: That's exactly right.

DR. PATTERSON: Ed, before we get into your law practice anymore,

let me ask you to look at this site where you're located now and try to remember what used to be here.

MR. HANCOCK: I don't have much to do there. That photograph illustrates it all. Our office is right here near the corner of Tryon Palace Drive and, I'm trying to look and talk too...

DR. PATTERSON: And Craven Street.

MR. HANCOCK: And Craven Street. Right here was Henderson's Cigar and Candy Company and gas company. Stallings had a gas company. What was the name of that, do you remember? Mitchell's Hardware was next door here, and of course on the corner of Middle Street was the Governor Tryon Hotel. At that time it was Governor Tryon. (Looking at map) I'm turned around somehow.

DR. PATTERSON: I think that's all right. The hotel wasn't quite on the corner.

MR. HANCOCK: The hotel is right here. Yeah, here we are. No.

DR. PATTERSON: So where we're situated now used to be Mitchell's Hardware and...

MR. HANCOCK: Henderson's Cigar and Candy and...

DR. PATTERSON: The Gaston Hotel was along here.

MR. HANCOCK: The Gaston Hotel was over to the west.

DR. PATTERSON: Ed, that picture that you have is a wonderful picture of the waterfront in the fifties, and we're gonna make a copy of that if you'll let us.

MR. HANCOCK: All right. Sure.

DR. PATTERSON: When you came back to New Bern as a young lawyer

in 1950, what was the legal profession like in New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: We had a fine bar at that time. Mr. Rodman Guion was an excellent lawyer. Emmett Whitehurst was a fine lawyer. I enjoyed practicing with and against both of them. Henry Whitehurst, Jack Grantham, John Beaman, all of those were practicing here then. Henry Grady, Judge Nunn, let me not forget Judge Nunn who was a wonderful gentleman and a very learned lawyer and a very fine historian. When we went to bar meetings we'd ask Judge to tell us about some of his acquaintances and so forth and one night he told us about Madam Moore.

He told a great tale about Madam Moore, which must have taken twenty minutes, and Jim Sugg as I recall, said, "Judge, do you remember her?!" (laughter) Judge said, "Hells bells, man, that was before the Revolution!" He was entertaining and we all enjoyed him very much.

Another I mentioned, John Beaman, John Beaman was frequently looked upon as a great criminal lawyer but that is not what he was. He was a great lawyer. John was first in all fields of the law and he practiced them all well. Sometime right after the war a number of us came back from service; Al Ward came, Ray Dunn came a little later, Ray Summerell came, I came. We'd all been in service and started practicing, and we were accepted by those gentlemen who were so learned at the law and it was just a great experience.

DR. PATTERSON: Mr. William Ward was practicing then.

MR. HANCOCK: Mr. William Ward was practicing too, yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you have much trouble getting started?

MR. HANCOCK: No, no. I had the advantage of Mr. Lee giving me

plenty of work, all I could handle. I didn't ever find out how to make any money but I found out how to do a lot of work.

DR. PATTERSON: You and Mr. Lee remained associates until his death.

MR. HANCOCK: We did.

DR. PATTERSON: When did he die?

MR. HANCOCK: I don't recall. I would guess it was somewhere 1965 maybe. I don't know. I'd rather check that.

DR. PATTERSON: During those years of practice, and since then, are there any particular things that happened that stick in your memory involving law practice?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, my practice in law has been very pleasant. I've enjoyed every minute of it. I've made lots of friends, and he had lots of friends. Many of his old clients are still coming to this office, and I hope that many of mine will come here after I'm gone. Both of us just enjoyed our friends in the practice and it's been a wonderful experience.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you and Grace remain at your home on Chattawka Lane for a long time?

MR. HANCOCK: We remained there several years and then we moved over to Trent Boulevard in DeGraffenreid and we stayed there until after Mr. Lee, well, about the time Mr. Lee died, and we restored the house down on Middle Street where we now live.

DR. PATTERSON: Tell me about that house. That's quite an interesting, historic house. You have lots of memories about the way

it was in the area it was in. Can you just start as far back as you know about that house in that area there?

MR. HANCOCK: All right. I know that when Mrs. Lee's first husband, Dave Congdon, died, she added some rooms in the back from where she could divide the house into two apartments.

DR. PATTERSON: Now where was the house located?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, the house has been located where it is now since 1894. Prior to that time it was located at the northwest corner of New and Middle Street.

DR. PATTERSON: It faced New Street.

MR. HANCOCK: It faced New Street.

DR. PATTERSON: Right on the corner.

MR. HANCOCK: Right. Now, Mr. William Ward, among others, has told me that at that time he recalls it to be much higher off the ground than it is now. But recently we've gotten pictures that were taken by the U S Army Signal Corps during the occupation of New Bern during the Civil War and the house is exactly like it is now; except for one thing, the shutters were not on the house at that time, and I believe that is because they had deteriorated to such an extent that they just took them off because the house was very old at that time during the Civil War years.

DR. PATTERSON: Ed, would you speak to the ownership of the property in that area?

MR. HANCOCK: (Interruption) The house where I lived was bought from your grandfather, Senator F. M. Simmons, in 1894.

DR. PATTERSON: The house or the property?

MR. HANCOCK: The property. He had already moved the house from the corner. The house with the lot was bought from him. Senator Simmons owned all of lot number, I recall it to be 214 but I'm not sure which lot that was, of the city of New Bern, which is 107 feet wide on New Street by 214 feet 6 inches deep on Middle Street. That's a standard size of a lot in the old part of the city. Grandmother and granddaddy got that house and lot. The Jewish congregation, and that's the way it's described in the deed, bought the lot next door on which they built the present synagogue, and the Presbyterian Church bought the remaining 114 feet from the synagogue lot to the corner of New Street.

On the other side of our house, the northside, Dr. Pollock has owned that house ever since the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, and I don't know anything about the title to that piece of property.

DR. PATTERSON: Now the property line came in between where your house is now and Dr. Pollock's house.

MR. HANCOCK: That is exactly right, yes sir.

DR. PATTERSON: And when your family bought this house, my grandfather had already moved it from the corner facing New Street to this present location.

MR. HANCOCK: Correct. That is right.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you know who was living in the house at that time when you all bought it or was it vacant?

MR. HANCOCK: I think the next preceding owner was named Kehoe and I think that that family was the family of Tom Kehoe who owned

the Kehoe Theater and operated it for many years.

DR. PATTERSON: That's the Athens Theater.

MR. HANCOCK: That's the Athens Theater, yes, um huh. I don't remember the other people in the title. But the original owner of the lot, the entire lot, was, hmmm, another name you will know when I say it, well, I'm sorry. Cut it off just a minute. The original owner of the house, the one to whom it was granted by the Commissioners of the Crown was Francis Stringer. It was granted to him with the idea, with the stated provision that he should own it if he should build at least an eighteen foot building on it within the next ensuing year, and if he didn't do that the Crown could purchase it back for one peppercorn. The Crown never did purchase it back of course and he left it to his heirs, among them one person named Elizabeth Stringer. I believe that was his daughter. Interestingly enough, when we recently remodeled the house, we took all of the plaster out and under the plaster on the back of the weather boarding some child had written Betsy, and of course we would like to assume that Betsy was one in the same as Elizabeth Stringer, but that's pure assumption and it's too easy when you're looking into history to assume things that you don't know. So we don't know when the house was built. I don't think anyone does. We feel that it was built somewhere in the late 1700's.

DR. PATTERSON: Just as a side matter, the Stringer family became the Duffy family.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes, that's right. And Francis Stringer Duffy who is presently a resident of the city of New Bern and he was

one of them.

DR. PATTERSON: They lived on the corner of Craven and East Front Street on the southeast corner next to Ben Hurst house, is that not right?

MR. HANCOCK: Southwest corner.

DR. PATTERSON: Southwest corner, yes.

MR. HANCOCK: That is correct.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. And this is the first time I've ever known that Stringer wasn't just a nickname, because we used to call Francis Duffy - "Stringer".

MR. HANCOCK: That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: And I didn't know that.

MR. HANCOCK: That was one of his forebearer's, Francis Stringer.

DR. PATTERSON: This is also the first time I've known that my grandfather owned that property.

MR. HANCOCK: Um huh. He did.

DR. PATTERSON: What's been the story of the house since then? You bought it. It came to you how?

MR. HANCOCK: It came to me, my grandfather and grandmother bought it as I said in 1894. They left three children surviving them; my father, my aunt, Mrs. Lee, and my aunt, Henrietta Marshall who lived in Texas for many years. Mrs. Lee wanted the house as a place to live and she purchased Aunt Henrietta's one-third interest. But daddy said he didn't want to sell his, that he would just give her a life estate and she could live there as long as she wished or as long as she lived

and then it would be his house, that she would forgo her right in the remaining third. So that's how it came to our family. I bought my sister's half when she and I inherited it from daddy.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, Mr. Wilson Lee and his wife lived there then...

MR. HANCOCK: Continuously until she died, and he continued to live there as our tenant until he died. I don't remember the date of his death, maybe somewhere in the late 1960's to early 1970's and we've lived there since.

DR. PATTERSON: And that's about what date?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, we moved there somewhere around 1980, I believe, but my wife would call me down on that and say you don't know what you're talking about, and I don't. I don't know when we moved there. (laughter) We moved here on Good Friday 1981.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. And it's been a wonderful place to live I would think.

MR. HANCOCK: We've enjoyed it thoroughly.

DR. PATTERSON: Right downtown in New Bern.

MR. HANCOCK: Walk to work, walk to the post office, walk to church, yes indeed, it's a fine place to live!

DR. PATTERSON: You've been viewing downtown New Bern for a long time, Ed, and living downtown like this you have been looking at it very closely for a number of years. What changes have you notice in downtown New Bern over this time?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, of course there have been many changes. One

thing is the absence of a busy community on Saturday nights. Saturday used to be the busiest day of the week in New Bern when I was working at the bank for example, and Saturday night the town was full of people from all over the county. That has all changed. People sometimes go to the mall on Saturday, but Saturday is not the day it used to be. The other thing, of course the buildings, many have burned and been removed; some of them old buildings, some of them almost new buildings, but the situation has just changed. We mentioned The Green Door earlier. The Green Door of course was a restaurant which Mrs. Harlow Waldrop operated at the corner of Middle and Broad Street and it was a very fine place to eat, very good food. But that old building, which was very attractive, has gone. In it's place, the First Citizens Bank as trustee or executor of the estate of Albert Bangert, built a store which was occupied for many years as Penney's, and then it's gone. There's a vacant lot there now. The next few lots there where Everhart's butcher shop was and a number of interesting old buildings have all been removed. I don't believe there's but one building there in that block now. Of course Christ Church hasn't changed. It's very nearly what it was before, except for the rectory on Craven Street which has been razed, and that's now our parking lot. As you go on down the next block, the biggest gap that I see is the Coplon building.

Coplon Department Store was in the middle of the block between Broad, I mean Pollock and South Front, Tryon Palace Drive thank you, and that is gone. There are one or two other buildings gone, but that's the main thing I see. That's now a park. What do they call that park?

DR. PATTERSON: Bern Bear Park.

MR. HANCOCK: Bern Bear Park, yes. As you go on down, the biggest gap is the one right here in this area where the Governor Tryon Hotel was, formerly the Gaston Hotel. That building had an A&P store, it had a bakery, it had a whiskey store, it had the Postal Telegraph.

There were a number of things in there. May be wrong about the whiskey store. But the Postal Telegraph was one of the buildings that was there, and that building of course burned. I don't recall the date of it, but it was many years ago, maybe twenty years ago. Then from there on, the Redevelopment Commission has purchased all the buildings from Neuse River to the railroad, the Atlantic North Carolina Railroad.

Everything south of South Front Street has been taken by the Redevelopment Commission except for one or two rather inconsequential buildings. Now the other side of the street you have much of the same thing, but the biggest differences there is near the end of Middle Street and at the junction of South Front. There are several buildings that were removed from there. Of course on the other side of the street, Lucas & Lewis, the Lewis building burned long before the Redevelopment Commission took it over.

DR. PATTERSON: What used to be at the site of the Wheat Securities building?

MR. HANCOCK: Hum.

DR. PATTERSON: McSorley's, was McSorley's in there?

MR. HANCOCK: McSorley's was right in that area but I didn't think it was on the corner, was it?

DR. PATTERSON: Well, a postman, Lefty Kennel who had that route, says it was. Other people says it was up the street. So I don't know.

MR. HANCOCK: I really thought it was up the street. If you look at this picture, there are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5 or 6 little store buildings there in that particular area, but I don't recall just what they were.

McSorley's was in that area, but I believe that McSorley's was a little further up Middle Street.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you think, Ed, that downtown New Bern is coming to life again?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, it hasn't yet. I certainly hope it will. I think it would be a wonderful thing, but I'm afraid that in the foreseeable future that the trend toward the mall is a nationwide trend which is going to continue.

DR. PATTERSON: Ed, you have been through a number of trying times in New Bern. You mentioned the Governor Tryon Hotel, the fire. Do you remember that fire?

MR. HANCOCK: Very well, yes indeed!

DR. PATTERSON: What are your memories of that?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, I remember the fire alarm in the middle of the night and I went on back to sleep and the next morning I thought the whole thing would be resolved, but I went down and there was very much of a fire still going on. We went down, my oldest son and I went down and took pictures of the fire with all the hoses on the street and the much water being put into the old building even then, which was the next morning. I don't know why it took so long to control

it, but there was a lot of building there.

DR. PATTERSON: Was most of the block destroyed?

MR. HANCOCK: The block was destroyed to Mitchell's Hardware. Mitchell's Hardware was not seriously damaged and it stayed there after the fire. But everything else to the corner of Middle Street was destroyed.

DR. PATTERSON: Was there any information available as to the cause of that fire?

MR. HANCOCK: I don't remember. I don't know anything about that.

DR. PATTERSON: I don't recall anybody was killed or badly injured in that fire.

MR. HANCOCK: I know there were a number of residents who lived there on a permanent basis, and I like you, don't have any recollection of anyone being seriously injured. I think we'd both know about it if there had been.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. I understand Mrs. Kellenberger was staying there that night.

MR. HANCOCK: I had no idea.

DR. PATTERSON: She lost some things, but that's about all I know about that.

MR. HANCOCK: I didn't know that.

DR. PATTERSON: You told about your few memories of the fire of 1922, and you of course were only two years old then. You remember any other big fires in downtown New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: I remember that the Hotel New Bernian coffee shop

burned on a number of occasion. I remember that Howard's Clothing Store burned. I guess those are the primary ones that I remember.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was Louis Howard's store at that time?

MR. HANCOCK: Louis Howard's store was adjacent to the building where Singers is now located on Middle Street. It was just very close to the intersection of Middle and Tryon Palace Drive.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it where the vacant lots are now?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes, I believe it's where the vacant lots are now.

DR. PATTERSON: Did Sam Lipman have a store there too?

MR. HANCOCK: Sam Lipman had a store there, which may have taken in all those vacant lots, and it was a very well known clothing store and very successful for many years.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember The Vogue?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes indeed I remember The Vogue.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was that located?

MR. HANCOCK: The Vogue was at the corner of Middle Street and Church Alley where the antique shop is now. Now, do you have a different recollection of that?

DR. PATTERSON: No, that's the way I remember it. That was a ladies apparel shop, wasn't it?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes, yes, for ladies, and it was right there. I remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: And that Carlton Parsons ran it, is that correct?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes he did. Right.

DR. PATTERSON: Speaking of tough times in New Bern again, you

lived through some hurricanes in this old town.

MR. HANCOCK: I have. Connie, Diane, and Ione are very prominent in my recollections.

DR. PATTERSON: Good old friends.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes. During the '32 or 33 hurricane I was in Beaufort. I don't remember that. I remember the results of it, but I don't remember that. Connie, Diane, and Ione came at a time when I lived in Green Park, and you may have also. I well remember taking my boat and outboard engine and going up and down the street and taking a number of elderly people out of their houses during the eye of the hurricane when it was calm. I also remember rescuing a cat that was hanging off a screen wire down at the end of the street. I saw the water come up, up, up into my driveway into my car and up to the floor of my house. It was within an inch of coming into the house. I really think that is an accurate measurement. It was very close to coming in the house! And some people did have it come into their house out in that area.

DR. PATTERSON: Now was this rain water or river water?

MR. HANCOCK: It was both, but it was river water primarily and it was blown up the canal which goes all the way around that edge of New Bern. I remember seeing manhole covers blown off of the manholes by the pressure of the water. It was quite a storm.

DR. PATTERSON: Was there much damage downtown?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, I'm sure there must have been but I don't remember it. I can't remember the damage downtown. I'm sure that

there must have been, and maybe I'm familiar with it but it sort of escaped me now.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah. We had moved to Center Avenue by that time and we were building out on the Trent River, so I didn't see that particular water. My mother's house was damaged very badly down on East Front Street.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Ed, as an old New Bern person, and as a legal person, you must have some memories about the way civil rights developed in New Bern and the things happened or didn't happen. I'm thinking of the sixties and I'm thinking of school integration and I'm thinking of Martin Luther King's death, and things like that. How did New Bern weather the storm?

MR. HANCOCK: I think very well. Of course when I went on the bench, in probably '56 or something like that, the courtrooms were all segregated and we didn't have any trouble getting past that. It was not near as serious a thing as we had expected it to be. We just didn't say anything and everybody integrated very nicely. I don't think we ever had any serious incidents in New Bern. I think that the races have handled the thing very admirably. Now I don't mean that there weren't inequities or that there weren't any problems, but I think we handled them here much better than they were handled in many other places. Maybe it just escaped my memory but I don't recall any very serious incidents. I remember when school integration came, I had children in school and there were some misgivings when all that

happened but I think we weathered that nicely.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember marches in New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: I don't. I remember on Labor Day there was always, the blacks always marched, but I don't think there was anything of any consequence.

DR. PATTERSON: Your children, were they in high school at that time when integration occurred?

MR. HANCOCK: Not at the outset. They finally went through high school with integration and had very many black friends. I'm proud of my children the way they handled it.

DR. PATTERSON: So there's been no problem in your memories...

MR. HANCOCK: Not in my memory, no. There may have been some that you could call to my recollection, but I don't believe there was any serious problem in New Bern.

DR. PATTERSON: Getting away from just the New Bern area now and looking at Beaufort and the way things were in those days when you were that age, what were the relations like between whites and blacks way back there?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, of course we always had black servants, that is to say a cook or a maid, and not anymore than that, and the relationship was wonderful. I know that I had a mammy, a black mammy, who took care of me like a mother. I know that my father and his sisters had a black mammy. Aunt Lanie was their mammy and she took care of them as long as she could and then they took care of her.

DR. PATTERSON: How do you spell her name?

MR. HANCOCK: Lanie. L a n i e. Aunt Lanie. When the fire threatened her house, which was I believe on Princess Street, the biggest thing that had to be done was take care of Aunt Lanie, and they brought her down to our house and kept her there until the situation became safe again. My mother had a servant named Hettie Anne. And Hettie Anne, the day after mother died, showed up at our house out on Chattawka Lane. Grace, my wife, said, "Hettie, what are you doing here?" Said, "Miss Olive told me to come here if something happened to her." And we kept Hettie for twenty years until she died. So we loved Hettie to death and the children did too. As a matter of fact, Hettie's grammar was not so good and my son George had to have remedial speech training after he got in school to get him out of Hettie's way of talking, but he got out of it all right. (laughter) My relationships with the people that I've known, including my clients, have been just great. I mean I have clients that come to me that I would do anything for and they'd do anything for me, I think. I really don't feel that I've had any clients that looked upon me as anyone but a friend.

DR. PATTERSON: In the early days when you were with Mr. Lee, you had segregated waiting rooms?

MR. HANCOCK: No, no, we never did have that.

DR. PATTERSON: Did that cause any problems?

MR. HANCOCK: No, certainly not.

DR. PATTERSON: Sometimes there just isn't enough room to have segregated places.

MR. HANCOCK: That's right. We didn't need a segregated waiting

room because our practice was integrated. He had many black clients and white clients and I have always had the same. I'm pleased that we were able to handle it that way.

DR. PATTERSON: But even way back there in the fifties, there was no problem with that?

MR. HANCOCK: None, no sir.

DR. PATTERSON: Over the years, Ed, what have been some of the main economic supports of the New Bern area? What sort of industries or businesses have kept this town going?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, of course, as you are well aware the lumber mills after the Civil War were the main source of income I guess. They also had the turpentine industries, and that's just history, not anything I remember. But the mills, Mrs. Lee's first husband, Dave Congdon, came down here from New York to operate a mill out in the general area of Rowland Lumber Company and Pine Lumber Company. He had a mill out there. And it was he who built the New Bern General Hospital. He died after he had blood poisoning from an injury he had suffered at the mill. Something that you could have prevented this day and time of course. After that, of course, the agriculture, agriculture and more recently manufacturing. I'm sure that's not of any great interest. But those are the things that I remember primarily.

DR. PATTERSON: Was cotton a more important crop than tobacco?

MR. HANCOCK: I'm sure it must have been, but that was not in my time or my knowledge.

DR. PATTERSON: What would you say are the main supports now?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, I think manufacturing is probably the main support now, certainly one of them. We have some great manufacturing plants, and of course we still have tobacco. Many of my clients would argue with me that tobacco is not the main source of income and it may well be. I am pleased to see cotton coming back and apparently very strongly. The cotton gins are now available for the use of the cotton farmers. So it's the same old thing it's always been. Agriculture is the backbone of this community. We have some fishing still, but not a great deal.

DR. PATTERSON: Fishing is not what it used to be.

MR. HANCOCK: No, it's not.

DR. PATTERSON: What about Cherry Point?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh, it's been a mainstay, absolutely! We could not have gotten along very well without Cherry Point, no question about that.

DR. PATTERSON: And right from the beginning that's been very important.

MR. HANCOCK: Since just before the war, right.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you recall many of the older physicians in town?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, I don't recall Dr. Primrose, but I...

DR. PATTERSON: You know he was important to you.

MR. HANCOCK: I know he was very important, right. And there was Dr. Gibbs; Dr. Pollock; your father, Dr. Patterson; Dr. Jones. I remember some of those or know of all the rest of them. And Dr.

Duffy, yes, I remember those physicians.

DR. PATTERSON: How does the practice of medicine differ today from the way it was then from the standpoint of the actual practice as well as patient relationships? We were talking, Ed, about doctors then and doctors now and the practice of medicine.

MR. HANCOCK: Well, of course I think doctors then were fine and I think that doctors now are fine. I think one of the things is all the modern equipment that they have that they didn't have at that time by which they can diagnose different illnesses and problems and treat them before they become irreparable. I feel like talking to you that I'm talking to somebody who knows all the answers to this question and I am certainly not competent to speak to that question as well as you and many other people would be.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, I'm wondering, Ed, what differences you see between the relationship between doctors and patients then compared to now.

MR. HANCOCK: Well, my relationship with my doctors now is certainly very good. I enjoy talking to my doctors. I don't think it's a great deal different. It may have been more personable in the old days but I have been very thankful to have the doctors that I have.

I've had several surgeries which would not have been possible a few years ago. If I'd had the heart problem that I had six or seven years ago I expect I would have been dead by now. I think the financial side of the thing is something which ought to be discussed and I don't know how to discuss that because I've been very fortunate and most

of my problems were taken care of by insurance. But I wonder if there isn't some way to stop the great high cost of medication by doctors.

DR. PATTERSON: A lot of people would like to know how to do that.
(laughter)

MR. HANCOCK: That's right. I certainly don't want them to cut back on their attention to me, and therefore, I'm willing to pay the tab.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you have health or medical care insurance when you were beginning practice here?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes, we had that from the start.

DR. PATTERSON: You brought up an interesting point. So many people talk about how great the personal relationships were between doctor and patient in our early days and how it's not quite that level now, but you brought out the point that you're living now because of the way things are.

MR. HANCOCK: Absolutely, yes.

DR. PATTERSON: So you have to balance things, one against the other.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Let me shift to law profession again. When you came back to New Bern, were there any women lawyers?

MR. HANCOCK: There were no women lawyers. There were no women lawyers until I would say the late seventies. I don't recall one.

DR. PATTERSON: Were law schools just not taking women?

MR. HANCOCK: I think that women were just not as interested

in law as they have become more recently. We had one woman in my law class. She left after the first year. I don't know why, because Marcelle Middleway could certainly have graduated with the rest of us. But it was very hard. Some of the discussions were almost male oriented when you got to the criminal side and I'm afraid that was hard on her. I don't know why the women didn't come in there. In some places they did, but we haven't had them here until fairly recently. And now we have lots of them!

DR. PATTERSON: Why do you think they're coming into the profession now?

MR. HANCOCK: Well, to begin with, they are smarter than men I believe, or certainly as smart. Women always make good grades in school. The law schools now are only taking people who make the very top grades, which may or may not be the right way to go but that's the way it is, and therefore, more women have been eligible for entry into law schools and maybe that's one reason for it.

DR. PATTERSON: There are a number of them in New Bern now?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh yes.

DR. PATTERSON: So you're in contact with them frequently?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Is it a good working relationship?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh yes, we get along fine with the ladies. They're smart.

DR. PATTERSON: How many lawyers would you guess are in town now?

MR. HANCOCK: I wouldn't have any idea. I'd say 125, but I really

don't know.

DR. PATTERSON: About the same number of doctors.

MR. HANCOCK: Are there that many doctors?

DR. PATTERSON: I think so. I don't know them.

MR. HANCOCK: Neither do I.

DR. PATTERSON: Let me shift to another area, Ed. How much has the church meant to you in your life in New Bern?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh, the church has meant a great deal to me in my life in New Bern.

DR. PATTERSON: Episcopal Church.

MR. HANCOCK: Yes, indeed. I have been fortunate in having good rectors. Mr. Williams was fine. Ed Sharp was great, and since him we've had Bob Dannals come in and I think he's going to take the place of the other two. Mr. Williams was here for twenty-eight years, Ed Sharp was here for twenty-eight years, so that takes a big bite of my life you know. I was senior warden twice under Mr. Williams and twice under Ed Sharp. I've been on the vestry and held all the vestry offices. I've enjoyed my relationship with the church very much. And Grace, of course, has been far more active than I in the diocesan church and in the national church, but I haven't done anything much outside of New Bern. But I have enjoyed my relationship with Christ Church.

DR. PATTERSON: Christ Church has really flourished over the years hasn't it?

MR. HANCOCK: Oh, well, it certainly has, yes.

DR. PATTERSON: And there are a lot of new members now.

MR. HANCOCK: Wonderful new members. We see just so many new people coming in that are taking hold and, we don't like them to tell us how to do it but at the same time they're getting in there and doing the job that has to be done.

DR. PATTERSON: Have churches in general meant a lot to this town?

MR. HANCOCK: I certainly think so. I know that the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church, they're growing like wildfire. Gene McSorley tells me they had over, it seems to me he said 1,700 people attend church last week there. Now that's the figure that comes to mind and I believe that's what he said.

DR. PATTERSON: That's the Catholic Church?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes indeed. They have church two or three services on Saturday, three or four on Sunday. They now have an assistant rector in addition to Father Jones, and I think they're as busy as can be, and I think all the churches are doing well. Of course the Baptists always flourish. They're like sparrows. I think the whole community is church oriented.

DR. PATTERSON: I think if any person could observe the activity of church in New Bern it would be you and Grace living where you do.

MR. HANCOCK: We certainly do.

DR. PATTERSON: With the Presbyterians around, the Catholics were there, the Jewish Synagogue, the Methodists.

MR. HANCOCK: We're surrounded.

DR. PATTERSON: You live on a busy corner on Sundays.

MR. HANCOCK: We do. Well, the Jews go on other days. They were there last night for example. But we certainly see the church activity.

DR. PATTERSON: Um huh. Through the years, though, the fiber of this town has been supported by the churches.

MR. HANCOCK: I don't think there's any question about that.

DR. PATTERSON: They've been very important you think to the town. One final thing I'd like for you to comment on. New Bern has changed so much, particularly with the influx of so many people from other places. This change has really prompted this program that we're involved in, and before I forget to say this, let me put this on tape that you have been a very integral part of this Memories of New Bern Program. You've been our legal advisor right from the start, one of the original group, and we number you among the very important people.

MR. HANCOCK: I appreciate that, but I recognize how little I've done too.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, you have helped us with many affairs along the way and have supported us whenever we needed support, and we're gonna call on you in the future too. But I just want that on tape.

Do you think that this influx of people has been a positive influence on the town? Are you happy with the way the town is going?

MR. HANCOCK: I am very happy despite the attitude of some of my friends. I think it's wonderful. I think that it has meant a great deal to our economy. I think our social life has improved, our church life. These people that are coming in here, most of them are just great people. I am delighted with them and they support New Bern in

every way that they can. I had a lady in here the other day, not the other day, some time back, whose mother had just died and she said, "You know, I don't understand people. One of my friends came by and said 'Oh, I'm so sorry your mother got sick when she was here. You've had to go up to that hospital and I know the terrible experience'."

She said, "Now wait just a minute! It wasn't a terrible experience, it was a wonderful experience. My mother got better care there than she could possibly have gotten on Long Island where she came from.

It was a delightful experience, if anything of that nature could have been good, and I want you to know that you're talking to the wrong person when you criticize our hospital!" People generally support New Bern. Did you go to the concert night before last out at the high school, the Glenn Miller concert? Everything I heard was that very few of the people there were locals. We didn't support it! But, the people who have moved here did and they support everything that we try to do here and we're very fortunate to have such a nice group of people move in here.

DR. PATTERSON: Are you happy with the direction New Bern is taking?

MR. HANCOCK: Tell me what direction that is, Joe.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, the downtown picture, the historic development, the communities around town, and of course influx of people.

MR. HANCOCK: The influx of people is fine as far as I'm concerned! The downtown I hope will come back but I don't know whether it will

or not. I'll just have to say I hope so. I don't know that I'm satisfied with what's happened, but I don't think that that's anybody's fault. I think that it's something you just have to work out.

DR. PATTERSON: Ed, do you have anything that we haven't addressed that you would like to speak to before we turn this machine off?

MR. HANCOCK: Joe, nothing occurs to me, no. I think something that you haven't, as far as I know from your list there, you haven't had anything to say about the Jewish community which has been very outstanding here for many years or the Jewish cemetery or synagogue. I wonder if that's something that needs to be addressed in your program, or maybe you have addressed it.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, we haven't and I would like to talk to you a little bit about that in a moment.

MR. HANCOCK: Well, all right.

DR. PATTERSON: Or do you have something that you would like to say about that? You can help us here by speaking to that.

MR. HANCOCK: I really don't know anything about it, but I know that they've had some fine people in New Bern who were Jewish people and they're outstanding in the community and I wondered if you had gotten into that. But I don't know enough about it to discuss it.

DR. PATTERSON: And there are no other things in your memories that you would like to speak to?

MR. HANCOCK: Nothing that occurs to me, Joe.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, I want to thank you, Ed, for doing this.

It's been a great interview and I thank you for the Memories Program and I thank you for myself. I've enjoyed it very much being here talking to you.

MR. HANCOCK: Thank you. I've enjoyed having you.

END OF INTERVIEW