

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

CALLAGHAN JOSEPH PATRICK "CALLIE" NEWMAN

INTERVIEW 902

This is Dorothy Richardson representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 900. I am interviewing Mr. Callie Newman. This interview is being conducted on March 3, 1992. We are at Mr. Newman's home at 3140 Country Club Road. Interview No. 902.

Dorothy Richardson: Callie, give us your full name.

Mr. Newman: Callaghan Joseph Patrick Newman. I was born April 14, 1916. I was born in Fairview Hospital. I've been in all the hospitals in New Bern except for Kafer Hospital. When I was baby, I was born in Fairview.

DR: Where was Fairview Hospital?

Mr. Newman: On Queen Street there where the Salvation Army is. It was owned by Dr. Caton. Then when I broke my arm, I went to New Bern General Hospital owned by Dr. R. N. Duffy.

DR: Where was that?

Mr. Newman: It's just up the street on Craven Street. It's being restored right now. It's between King Street and Queen Street on the right hand side. Right there where that big Hughes house burned down. It was right there and the nurses home was across the street. That's an apartment house now, a great big house across the street across from where Kitty and Van Buskirk live. When I had appendicitis, I was at Dr. Jones and Dr. Patterson's hospital. I think it's called St. Luke's. I don't know if it changed names or not when the

Sisters took over. I think my bill was \$92. The bed was \$5 a day.

DR: What year was that, Callie?

Mr. Newman: I got out of school in '34, so approximately '37 or '38. Then I've been in Craven County Hospital for a few things like pneumonia or diabetes or things like that. I was raised in Ghent. I nearly cried the day they tore down Ghent school cause I was in the first grade the first year in 1922, the year they started Ghent school. It's just a memory to me.

DR: Who was principal then?

Mr. Newman: Miss Eleanor Marshall, and that was the only principal job on earth she ever had. Might of had one downtown.

DR: Who were your teachers? Do you remember, Callie?

Mr. Newman: Miss Lockman was one of my teachers who married Blackwell Waters. Miss Eleanor Marshall was one of them. A lady named Mrs. Dortch from Georgia, I remember she was a beautiful red headed lady, she taught the fourth grade. I don't remember the first, second, and third grade teachers. I do remember getting spanked for drinking the poor children's milk.

DR: Callie, were they given milk?

Mr. Newman: Oh yes. In 1922 the poor children were given milk.

DR: Do you know how that was financed?

Mr. Newman: I don't know. But it was chocolate milk, and I just wanted some chocolate milk. I think most of the children came from long wharf, and they gave them some for lunch; cause I had to walk home for lunch, even when I was in high school.

DR: Callie, who were your parents and your brothers and sisters?

Mr. Newman: My mother came from Jersey City, New Jersey. That's where my Irish came from. She was a Colligan. My daddy came from Phillipsburg, New Jersey. My brother and I were raised in New Bern. I lost my brother with a heart attack January 21, 1981.

DR: He was a priest.

Mr. Newman: Yeah, a priest for forty years. He built more Catholic buildings than anybody else at that time as a priest in North Carolina.

DR: So often grandparents lived with you or aunts or uncles, did any live with you?

Mr. Newman: No, nobody ever lived with us. I spent a lot of my time in the McCarthy house. He ran a big store here. After I got old enough, I went to work for him January 1, 1935.

DR: Was he kin to you, Callie?

Mr. Newman: My grandfather on my mother's side and his

mother were first cousins. They were Colligan's.

DR: What kind of store did Mr. McCarthy run?

Mr. Newman: He ran a general merchandise store. You could buy anything in there you wanted. It was something like a time merchant. Back in those days, time merchants handled a man until he sold his tobacco or his cotton.

DR: And then he would pay.

Mr. Newman: Yes. People like Senator Simmons would send his help in there. Any big farmer out there would send his help in and they would carry the account for a year, so he wouldn't starve. They'd pay up in about November and start again about February when they started planting again.

DR: Callie, what about that fountain?

Mr. Newman: The first thing they talk about is streets paving. My cousin, Callie McCarthy, was mayor in New Bern and he wanted to pave the streets in New Bern. It was paved with augusta block. So, they wanted to start downtown and work toward his store. But he talked them into starting out in front of his store on Queen and Pollock Streets right at the railroad track and laid the first brick right there. They went downtown right on by your house. The reason he did that was if he gave out of money, he knew they'd find money somewhere to finish paving down to the post office or, I think it was down there at East Front Street, or I know as far as the post office. A lot of people don't remember the post

office, but I do. It was a great thing to walk down there with my cousin, Tom McCarthy. At night we'd walk all the way down Pollock Street to the post office. At that time it was on the corner of Pollock and Craven where the City Hall is now.

DR: Now, that was something I had forgotten, that the post office was there.

Mr. Newman: Anyway, the street was paved. The Board of Aldermen wanted to give him some honor because he worked so hard getting it and wanted to put a fountain in his front yard. He said, "No, no, you're not putting nothing in my yard." So, they decided to put the fountain out in the middle of the street. If you look good enough you can see where Queen and Pollock Streets meet a circle right out there now where it still goes down. So, the fountain was filled with water. A lot of people would come up and come in the store and buy five cent box of oysterettes and take their children out to the fountain and let the kids throw them at the fish and fish would come up and dive for the oysterettes.

DR: I did that.

Mr. Newman: So, the fountain was there until, my cousin died in 1944 and traffic was getting heavy in New Bern at that time, so, Mayor Henderson had the fountain taken up and moved to the cemetery. The fountain is in the cemetery.

DR: Cedar Grove?

Mr. Newman: Yes. Of course, I don't know if any of the fish are still in there or not. At Christmas time the fountain was very pretty. The city would light it all up, and it was much prettier when we had a real cold night and every thing would freeze over and big long icicles coming down.

DR: I remember walking to school and seeing that. Callie, do you remember some of your classmates?

Mr. Newman: In grammar school there was Eddie Stallings, Elmer Lansche, and a couple of kids that lived next door to me, they went back north, Prunear. He taught violin lessons and had some kind of job at the Episcopal church.

DR: Ernest took from him.

Mr. Newman: We had two famous people out there too. Dr. Glen Sawyer who is one of the head heart doctors in North Carolina. He's up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. And Jack Tolson lived down the street on the second block and he retired as a Lieutenant General in the Army. He was in the Invasion of Normandy. He was with the first paratroopers from the United States that invaded Normandy.

DR: A lustrous career.

Mr. Newman: Then we had some older than I was; Dick Godfoy, Earl Bartling, and Charles Seifert. Goose Lancaster was a little bit younger. Biggie Lancaster was a little bit older. William Beard was a little bit older. He was a retired Colonel. He went to West Point too. The people right

next door that I mentioned a minute ago, a Mr. Docker built those two houses. He used to run a saw mill over in James City right at the foot of the wooden bridge on the right hand side. For some reason, I guess the Depression got him and he went back to Maine. Him and the Pruneair's both went back to Maine. Dr. Bender bought that house. Underneath the house, you had to know the house, Mrs. Bender had lost a leg to diabetes, and she kept kindergarten children. In the back, the other house, O.C. Crump bought it and he lived there for years and years. He had two daughters. The Zaytouns lived back behind me too. D.B. Johnson, a man has put everything on Union Point, said, "I'm gonna put some more on Union Point." He ran a veneer plant right there on Union Point. We used to go down and get our baseball bats. Somehow he'd make baseball bats at this veneer plant.

DR: I don't remember that. I'm sure it was there.

Mr. Newman: I'll tell you later bought it. It was Dot Thomason's uncle. Dot Thomason's mama's brother bought it. A feller named M.K. Horner worked for him.

DR: I remember Horner.

Mr. Newman: He also ran this veneer plant here on East Front Street. They also had one right outside of Fayetteville in Verona, North Carolina. There's two Verona's. The Verona on 17 South, but this is close to Fayetteville. The reason I remember Mr. Horner so well, if I could catch him on Friday

afternoon, he would bring me home from Fort Bragg and if I catch him in New Bern, he'd take me back to Fort Bragg on Sunday afternoon.

DR: Callie, do you remember anything about the Depression?

Mr. Newman: Yes, I remember the Depression. A loaf of bread was five cents, compound lard was five cents, sugar was two cents a pound, kerosene was about eight cents a gallon. I remember that the Depression was so bad that Mrs. (John D.) Whitford and Charlotte Rhone ran the welfare department and they would make out like a little slip and they'd give a slip to these poor people. They would bring it to the McCarthy store; and they would get five cents worth of pinto beans, five cents worth of lima beans, and I'd add it up and I'm gonna say forty-five cents. They'd turn around to my cousin, Mr. McCarthy, and say, "Mr. McCarthy, can I leave this forty-five cents here til Monday?" Cause they had no where to store nothing. They had no ice boxes or things like that. So, we'd run that account til Monday or Tuesday, they'd come in and get some more compound lard or green beans or pinto beans. Actually, there was no fresh vegetables then.

DR: Callie, what kind of jobs were not available for those people? How were they laid off?

Mr. Newman: Jobs were mostly at Slater Lumber Company, Aberly Lumber Company, it wasn't Aberly, it was Pine Lumber

Company, and Roper Lumber Company. Whatever it was they worked from sun up to sun down. They only got six to seven dollars a week.

DR: Were the jobs cut during the Depression?

Mr. Newman: I don't know what they did before the Depression. Our class was in the middle of the Depression, the Class of '34. I mean it was hard! Anyway, they didn't have no air conditioning, didn't have no heater. They all had back houses. They paid about a dollar or two a week in rent.

DR: Callie, were you able to go away to school after the Depression?

Mr. Newman: I was away at school four months during the Depression. Daddy couldn't stand it no longer. I went to Belmont Abbey four months. It was a Catholic Benediction School twelve miles outside of Charlotte in the town of Belmont, North Carolina.

DR: So many of the young people could not go away then because of the Depression.

Mr. Newman: As I say, all of us had to walk home or run or jog home to lunch. We had a hour. Very few people had money to go downtown to a place to get anything to eat. We all jogged or ran or whatever we could do.

DR: What kind of things, Callie, do you remember, that ya'll did as teenagers for fun?

Mr. Newman: Well, on Sunday we'd fight the black people.

DR: At Fort Totten.

Mr. Newman: At Fort Totten. We'd be on one side of Fort Totten. Fred, you ever see Fort Totten? Do you remember it?

Fred Latham: Yeah, sure do.

Mr. Newman: People got started too late trying to save things, like Fort Totten. It was just a fort, people would say.

Fred Latham: Rode your bicycle up and down there.

Mr. Newman: Yeah.

DR: What other kinds of things did you do, Callie?

Mr. Newman: We played like most kids; baseball, football, and things like that on Saturday and Sunday. Then as we got older in high school, we started going down to Davis Drug Store and hang out on that corner or go to Gaskins Drug Store and hang out on that corner and watch the people walk by. If you had transportation and wanted a date on Saturday night, you went down to Woolworth and Kress and Charles Store and the girls got off at nine o'clock and you took her out on a date or something like that.

DR: How much would you spend, Callie?

Mr. Newman: On a Friday or Saturday night, I'm going back close to the forties now, if you had a date you would go down to Woman's Club and pay Mrs. Foote fifty cent to get in.

Then when it was over, go by the Central Cafe and get two hamburgers and two coke colas for twenty cent. So, all the

money was gone by that time. You only had about a dollar. (laughter) But we got by. People gave each other a lift. They'd see me walking downtown, they'd just pick me up and take me down or bring me home.

DR: How many miles was it, Callie, from your home on down to Middle Street?

Mr. Newman: I don't know from my home, but from where IGA, where you were this morning (the IGA store on Trent Blvd.) was Harker's filling station) to the courthouse, was two miles.

DR: When you walked from Central school, New Bern High School, for lunch everyday, you got an appetite.

Mr. Newman: We were very fortunate to have a maid and she knew about what time we were going to hit that front step and what she had for us, was on the table.

DR: Callie, how is the kind of food that we had back then to eat different than now?

Mr. Newman: We had eggs and we had meat. The only thing that I can see that is different is really the cost.

DR: Callie, your church has meant a lot to you in your life. Did you go to the parochial schools?

Mr. Newman: No, I was always one year ahead of them. St. Paul's started off with four grades and I was in the fifth grade. The next year they made it five grades, and I was in the sixth grade. The next year it was seventh grade, and I

was in high school then. Back in those days they had eleven years of school and the high school started in the eighth grade. As I say, I went to Ghent school my first six years. I went to the Bell building in my seventh grade. One of my teachers is still living, Margaret Carter Willis. She was just, back then, her first year out.

DR: Wasn't she beautiful?

Mr. Newman: Yes, she was beautiful!

DR: Smile!

Mr. Newman: She lived on Rhem Avenue. Her daddy worked for the railroad, but he lived on Rhem Avenue.

DR: She was beautiful. My husband thinks so.

Mr. Newman: Then, I got in high school and I had Miss Ola Andrews in mathematics. I had Ida Boston in English, in history, I had Miss Lanta Winslow. Our most famous teacher was Baldy Whitehurst. (laughter) We played more jokes on that poor man. I'll never forget a friend of mine one day said, Mr. Whitehurst said, "Mr. Gaskins (he called everybody Mr.), how about running up the window shades?" Jimmy Gaskins said, "What you think, I'm a monkey?" Those girls, they weren't no angels either. They liked to have their fun too! They were a lovely bunch of girls, but they would take his milk and pour it in his straw hat.

DR: I heard that. And these were young ladies.

Mr. Newman: We were about junior or senior in high

school.

DR: He was a smart man though, wasn't he?

Mr. Newman: Oh yeah, he sent many a person to West Point or to Annapolis. If they're from out of town, they'd get a room in New Bern and study geometry and mathematics all summer long.

DR: Callie, in New Bern High School back then, they didn't have the pure sciences that some of them needed, did they?

Mr. Newman: Yeah. Some of these students would come from out of town to get tutored for Annapolis or for West Point.

DR: About your church, Callie, you've seen that grow.

Mr. Newman: Oh yeah. It, St Paul's, started in 1820 and it was finished in 1841. It started changing in 1941 when the troops landed out at Glenburnie Park. They had troops out there and they used to bring them into town in trucks. They'd fill up the whole church. We had a wonderful man, Monsignor Irwin. He got out there one Sunday, his poor parishioners had to go up in the balcony. Monsignor said, "Boys, my parishioners are old. Do you mind when you come in, go to the balcony and let my parishioners sit down stairs?" They are the same troops that they would switch with down at Fort Macon and they were down there walking mules or something from Fort Macon up to Salter Path on the sound side and they'd come down

the ocean side. I was just reading this morning's paper. I can remember it. They are having a big celebration down in Morehead in May of the men who were on that sub that did so much damage to us, they're having a reunion in Morehead City in May. A fifty year anniversary.

DR: Your church as I remember was a small place.

Mr. Newman: Oh yeah. It would seat about ninety people. I mean ninety people was tight.

DR: How old is that church, the building? It's beautiful.

Mr. Newman: It was started 1820 and it was finished in 1841. The steeple wasn't on it then. The steeple was put on a few years later. The next time you ride by our new church, you'll see a cross out there in the ground. When we built this new church, in respect to the old church, it went up. When the man put the steeple on it, he built right around this cross. So, Tommy Karam and a few of them figured out how to get that cross out of there. I know they took it out in pieces. It's out there in our church yard right now.

DR: Is it erected?

Mr. Newman: Oh yeah.

DR: And they built around it?

Mr. Newman: Yes. I've seen the church grow from about 40 families to 1,400 families.

DR: In the Catholic parish?

Mr. Newman: Yes.

DR: Callie, were you ever aware of any prejudice against Catholics in New Bern?

Mr. Newman: Not real prejudice.

DR: I remember when Al Smith ran for president and my daddy took me to the Sun Journal to see the returns.

Mr. Newman: My daddy was put in jail for holding polls. There was an article in there I think about the ballot box. He never served any time in there however. All of them, C.D. Cherry was in there.

DR: That was during that election?

Mr. Newman: Yeah. Down at the 4th Ward.

DR: My daddy was with the 4th Ward. Callie, you mentioned some folks that I can remember, Crazy Bill.

Mr. Newman: Crazy Bill wasn't as crazy as you thought he was. He was a black man. He liked to steal chickens. A full moon affected him a lot. He'd really go crazy around a full moon. In the fall, in November, he would let the police catch him stealing chickens. They'd send him out to the county jail where the hospital is now and he would stay out til about March or April and stay warm the whole winter, and they'd let him go. He always like to run after children cause they were always teasing him.

DR: Did he try to sell the chickens?

Mr. Newman: Oh yeah, he tried to sell the chickens to

get some money. He wasn't a drinking man. He was just mentally unbalanced, and it was worse at full moons.

DR: What about the lady that dressed up on all the parade days?

Mr. Newman: Her name was Mary Jones Bloomberg. She'd get right there where the band is. When the band started up, she started dancing and she followed that band all around. Anywhere and everywhere, Mary was right there following that band at all parades. I don't know where she'd get her make-up from, but she was really a sight.

DR: I remember her. The rouge especially.

Mr. Newman: Her brother, Callie, was affected too. He would get out on the Trent River bridge or down in front of First Baptist Church when the moon was full and he'd preach all day long. You'd come across the Trent River bridge, and he'd be out in the middle of the bridge preaching or sometimes he'd be down at the Baptist Church looking up at the steeple preaching.

DR: But they sort of had a place in the community so to speak. Can you think of anymore, Callie?

Mr. Newman: There was a man that lived on Moonshine Alley.

DR: Where was that?

Mr. Newman: Moonshine Alley, you've been by it many a day. It's where Princess Street is now. Moonshine Alley

connected Pollock Street with Queen Street. Dr. Fisher, I think it was, had an office right there on the corner of it. Later on in life, Steve Fowler had his office there. This fellow "Prince George", I don't know how he made his living but he's always dressed up in white clothes and a white hat and walking up and down the street, mostly in the black section.

DR: Was he a white man?

Mr. Newman: No, he was a black man.

DR: We've had our share of interesting people.

Mr. Newman: Getting back to Ghent, the Ghent Casino and Ghent Park. There's a lot of people that don't know that's where New Bern High School played football and baseball for many years. When New Bern played for the state championship, that's where they practiced football. The football players and the baseball players when the practice was over, they'd come out and hook a ride on the back of the street cars to get back downtown to change their clothes.

DR: Do you remember any of those players back then?

Mr. Newman: There was Fred Shipp, Nicky Simpson, the Ferebee boys, Dave and "Stud" Henry, Mule Shirley. Mule Shirley played baseball. He came from Snow Hill. We had a semi-pro team here. Mule Shirley left the Ghent Park and went right straight to the Washington Senators for the World Series. He laid down a bunt that won the championship for the

Washington Senators to win World Series.

DR: Callie, was it called Coastal Plains?

Mr. Newman: Not back in those days. Coastal Plains was downtown.

DR: The baseball team that we had that played on Saturdays.

Mr. Newman: At Kafer Park?

DR: The Ferebee boys played on that.

Mr. Newman: They started it. There was about eight Ferebee boys. (Showing picture of where they laid the first brick that went downtown. He can remember a building before it was torn down)

New Bern High School played basketball in many a different place in my day of high school, or ahead of me. The teams ahead of me played in a tobacco warehouse on George Street and National Avenue.

DR: They played on the corner.

Mr. Newman: Yeah. They'd shoot over the rafters. After I got into high school, we played at Ghent Casino for a couple of years. My senior year in high school, we played basketball at Stanley Hall.

DR: Callie, how did people get out to the Ghent Casino, the trolley?

Mr. Newman: Yeah, on a trolley car. You know where I lived?

DR: Yeah.

Mr. Newman: Well, you come up Spencer Avenue and right before you got to circus thing, they had a switch out there and you took that switch. Later on in life, Mr. Barbour built a house for his daughter there. Teddy Shapou lived there later on. But you'd take that switch there and it'd go right on through that lot and come right on over to Park Avenue and it would stop right before it got to the railroad track.

DR: How much would it cost to ride the trolley?

Mr. Newman: Five cents.

DR: And you could ride all over New Bern.

Mr. Newman: From New Bern to Riverside. You could get a transfer. If you didn't want to go all the way to the depot, you could get off at Nettie Pinnix's house and sit on the wall there and they come along and use the transfer to pick you up.

The football team and the baseball team must have used Kafer Park. Mr. Kafer, mostly the city of New Bern, WPA, must have built Kafer Park around 1930. In my four years in high school we played football and baseball at Kafer Park. It might have started in '28 or '29, I don't recall.

Fred Latham: It had a wooden fence then.

Mr. Newman: Oh yes, it had a wooden fence. They had mostly amateur boys.

DR: But they played Kinston.

Mr. Newman: Yeah, they had college boys. But New Bern

had mostly local talent. When they first started, the best I can remember, was Kinston, Greenville, New Bern, Williamston, and Snow Hill. Then a little bit later on, I think Williamston dropped out and Ayden come in there. Right after the war, they had big crowds out there and had young boys playing ball. Don't take me wrong, but Skinner got ahold of the team, the fire department gave up, they had run the team. They started having black boys and the fans quit coming.

DR: So, it wasn't as successful then.

Mr. Newman: That was around 1950.

DR: Callie, you've been here except for the war years, what do you see as the greatest changes in New Bern?

Mr. Newman: I'd say bringing industry into New Bern has been about one of the biggest changes. When I was coming along, you depended on Roper Lumber Company, Pine Lumber Company, and Slater Lumber Company for people who weren't doctors or nurses or school teachers. That's where they could get jobs. In 1940, New Bern starting picking up. Take the Hancock girls. Both of them were very smart. Rachel and Ellen were very smart ladies. They worked down there for McCotter's or Whitehurst.

DR: Lawyers.

Mr. Newman: They were good, but their top salary was \$16 a week, and I think it was a six day week! In 1940, Camp Davis started. Annie (Shipp) Shields and Theresa Shipp would

get up at four o'clock in the morning to go to Camp Davis to get good money. In early 1941, the trip wasn't too bad, and they transferred up to Camp LeJeune. They got the same salaries, government salary. In August of '41, Cherry Point got started. I know the two Hancock girls went to Cherry Point. Rachel was private secretary to the head General. She stayed there for years and years and years.

DR: Some of the girls that I graduated with were smart girls and held good positions at Cherry Point.

Mr. Newman: So, that made people in New Bern starting to go to work in Woolworth. Woolworth was on the corner of Federal Alley and Middle Street. They weren't getting better than six dollars a week, and their salaries went up.

DR: I remember Helen Ruth at the telephone company. They made ten dollars a week, and she was so proud of that. They thought that was good money.

Mr. Newman: I will say it I hate to see it, but I will say I wish the city of New Bern would go out there and condemn that property next to National Cemetery and make that National Cemetery bigger. We're going to lose a lot of money. You'd be surprised how many people are coming here to be buried. Some of them get a motel room and some of them eat and some of them buy gas. If you close it down, they won't be coming there.

DR: Callie, I thought I read where the land was too low

and they couldn't use it.

Mr. Newman: That's just somebody's silly excuse. That's just like these environmentalist makes a lot of headaches for the people who are in the business. If it's too low, why isn't it too low for baseball or softball? What I call land too low is water sitting on it all the time. You can go by there after a rain and it's clear.

DR: That part is, but the road that leads up to it, Jack Smith's creek is not. If you go down, it's not. No, I agree. I liked to see that.

Mr. Newman: Well, condemn the property behind it. You and I remember when they wanted to start Trent Court, they come in there and said, "We want all this, this, this, and this." This is the first phase.

DR: My husband's people had to move from Long Wharf.

Mr. Newman: I think Trent Court is in three phases. Craven Terrace is in about three phases. They started about 1939.

DR: They paid them what they thought...

Mr. Newman: Well, it's just who you know has got the best money. Of course, it's done a wonderful thing. Mr. Gaskins closed all of the white people out. I guess Trent Court is now one percent white people.

DR: It used to be predominantly white.

Mr. Newman: And Craven Terrace was black.

DR: Well, we've seen changes there. Do you feel some of them were positive though?

Mr. Newman: There are only two or three changes I'd like to see. When I was a boy, Kafer's Bakery had a loaf of bread that come out at four o'clock in the afternoon.

DR: Oh, it smelled so good!

Mr. Newman: They'd bring it up to the store and it would be so hot. I had a little box on a bicycle and I'd deliver it up in Ghent, and the bread would be still hot when I got to their houses.

DR: Isn't that something!

Mr. Newman: I don't know when St. Luke's Hospital was open. Mama told me I was born in Fairview. I remember going in the New Bern General Hospital to get my brother's arm taped. I wouldn't go in the front door, so I went around to the side. All right, the great fire in 1922.

DR: Do you remember it, Callie? You were too young.

Mr. Newman: I didn't see it. I was six years old. I went over on Rhem Avenue. That was a paved street. I watched the fire trucks come in from Kinston, North Carolina.

Fred Latham: Do you remember the smoke?

Mr. Newman: I could see the smoke. Cohen and Goldman had a sewing room. I reckon it started in 1931. The Nassef people; John Nassef, Charles Nassef, and Farris Nassef came here from Massachusetts or somewhere. They had a sewing room

up there about 1921 or '22, and they made overalls. Then they had a little hardship and they lost their business. That's when Cohen and Goldman opened.

DR: Callie, do you remember the Orringer Pickle Company?

Mr. Newman: Oh yes. They lived next door to me.

DR: They made the best pickles! They had vats out on National Avenue.

Mr. Newman: Go to the end of Pasteur Street. That's where the warehouse was. At one time, it was an old tobacco warehouse. We're at the depot right now, Pinnix Drug Store, that's Pasteur Street. Go right up Pasteur Street and you run right into it and you turn left. He had his vats over there behind where Ronald Ipock had his Red and White store. The vats was the main thing of making the pickle, and the right amount of salt put into the cucumber.

DR: Do you remember the stories they used to tell about those vats?

Mr. Newman: No.

DR: I loved the sour pickles. They tell me there were rats swimming around in the vats. (laughter) But they were good pickles!

Mr. Newman: There was a story of a man who ran a coal business. He liked the lady friends a little bit and liked his nip a little bit. He was coming from Bridgeton one night. The draw was open but he didn't pay any attention to that and

he went right on through and went right on overboard. It just happened while the draw was opened, they were bringing a load of logs up to Roper Lumber Company and that car landed right down on those logs. They had to take the car all the way up to Roper Lumber Company to get the car off the logs.

DR: And no one was hurt?

Mr. Newman: Nope.

DR: Did the wife ever find out about the other lady?

Mr. Newman: I don't think she even ever paid any attention.

DR: (laughter) That is a beautiful story, Callie. That will make the book.

Mr. Newman: Now, I'll tell you about my famous story. Babe Ruth came to town. He was hunting down here at Camp Bryan. There was all of us little kids. This was about 1928, before I got to school. I was always small, so I was right up there on the front row there waiting. Babe got off the train in the back car, the pullman car.

DR: At the depot?

Mr. Newman: Yeah. We was down in front of the school house. I was standing down front there and ole Babe Ruth walked right up to me and said, "Hello, Callie." I shook his hand. In a couple of days, I found out how he did that. A very good friend of mine, Father Francis Gallagher, was standing right behind him. He went down to Havelock on the

train and he saw me standing there and he went up to the Babe and Babe come up and shook my hand. So, that's one of my big thrills in life.

DR: How old were you, Callie?

Mr. Newman: Nine or ten.

DR: Ohhhhhh! Think what that meant to a typical American boy to have Babe Ruth call him by name and shake hands!

Mr. Newman: This is a true story about Leon Cohen. You never paid his price. You'd go in there and on a pistol or firecrackers or whatever he had to sell, he might say start off at a dollar and just about the time you say, "No, I don't want it", and about the time you got to the door, Leon say, "Come back here! Come back here! Come back here!" So, you'd go back and you'd argue a little bit more. You would have in your mind what you were going to pay for it before you went in there. So, you start heading back out again and the time you got to the door, he'd call back. Finally, you give him fifty cent for whatever you want that he asked for a dollar for.

DR: He sold firecrackers too, didn't he?

Mr. Newman: He sold everything; pistols, firecrackers, anything.

DR: Did he have a family, Callie?

Mr. Newman: No, he didn't have a family, but he made a lot of money. When he made s sale, he would ride to the post

office and get him a stamp. He made ten cents, he could buy a ten cent stamp. When he died, he didn't die in New Bern, but they say up there in Philadelphia that he had a lot of money.

He owned the store where Singer Sewing Machine Company is now. That's the store he owned. He lived off of saltine crackers and cheese and water. That's what he would eat.

DR: He was a tiny little man as I remember.

Mr. Newman: I saw somewhere in my notes, John Wright Stanly House on New Street. This house was never a rooming house.

DR: I think somebody lived over there.

Mr. Newman: The people you talked to this morning lived there. They've been there many a time. Gladys and Kirby Jones lived upstairs over the library. Another man you might know, his name was Page. He was with the railroad company. I think he'd solicit traffic for them. He lived up there. I think there were four little apartments up there, but it was never a rooming house.

DR: I loved the smell of that library.

Mr. Newman: Used to be that all streets in New Bern were oyster shells. I know very well Spencer Avenue was.

DR: And Pollock Street was.

Mr. Newman: The Abernathy Ballot Box Affair was true.

DR: Tell me about that.

Mr. Newman: People of Gonzalez may have accused people

holding the poles of stuffing the ballot box, but they couldn't find no truth to it. Every lawyer in New Bern came to help my daddy, C.D. Cherry and a couple more people. It took about four people to run the poles. There's nothing true to it. Billy Arthur was a great man.

DR: He really was.

Mr. Newman: He left Charlotte, but he came to New Bern to work for Mr. Nathan Gooding who ran The New Bern Tribune. It's true gypsies come to New Bern. You had to watch them. They could steal quicker than you could look at them. It says here that the Catholic school was started in 1929.

DR: Change that.

Mr. Newman: Now the one up in your neighborhood must have been started about 1927.

DR: I was just old enough to go over there to the library. I think it's interesting, you said Father Julien received his funds to run that school.

Mr. Newman: From people from Jersey City and Pittsburgh. Anywhere there was a big Catholic population, they would have what they call "card parties", and they would send him the money. Like today, the Salvation Army down there taking in clothes, they would send clothes in here and he'd give them out to people that needed some.

DR: He was a fine man. He's like the northerners who came down and started schools for the blacks.

Mr. Newman: I don't know who said this, but the comic book might have, but Strawberry died in the invasion on Wake Island in 1941. He was a good friend of mine.

Fred Latham: Strawberry Conderman. He was running to his aircraft on Wake Island and was strafed. It was actually almost the day right after Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Newman: The city of New Bern sold it's diesel electric plant to Starky, Florida. When New Bern switched over to Carolina Power and Light, Starky, Florida bought this plant. All right, the "Big Apple". When I got out of the Army on February 13, 1946, that following Monday morning Roderick Davenport was going to jail. He operated in 1944 or '45 when there was a lot of loose money around. Just like Jimmy Whitcomb who was tight, but he loved money. Roderick was sick. You knew where Roderick lived, right down below your house going to town.

DR: Yes.

Mr. Newman: Jimmy went up there and said, "Roderick, I hear you're going broke." Roderick said, "You scared of your money? Pull those baskets out from under the bed there." Jimmy Whitcomb pulled those baskets out and those things were stacked up with money. Roderick said, "Jimmy, how much do you think I owe you? Go on and take your money!" Jimmy got his money and went out the door, and he came back in, put his money back in the basket, and Roderick closed up the next day!

DR: Anything else now?

Mr. Newman: In my day there was a city clerk named Frank Patterson. He lived next door to where you lived down there. He wore clothes that, summer or winter, he'd have his tails on and have a flower in his pocket and had his high hat on. That's the way he dressed all the time going in to work at city hall.

DR: A gentleman.

Mr. Newman: He was a gentleman.

DR: I remember Calab Bradham as being debonair.

Mr. Newman: Yeah, he dressed all up, but Frank had quite a few years age on him.

DR: Back then they were gentlemanly gentlemen.

Mr. Newman: My friend, George Holland, always dressed to the "T" with a flower, but he wore modern clothes because he was a clothing salesman.

DR: He was smart. He invested. I liked George. Callie, can you think of anything else?

Mr. Newman: There was a black woman named Martha who came from James City and she carried her vegetables on top of her head. When she got to Ghent school, she'd start hollering, "Fresh beans! Fresh corn!" I lived five and a half blocks up the street, and we could hear her way up there, so we could get ready for her.

Fred Latham: Nice collard greens!

Mr. Newman: She put the stuff right on her head and walk right along. Another thing, I guess everybody has enjoyed the ice man. Our ice man's name was Clinton. When he went inside of your house to carry the ice, the little boys would jump on the back of the wagon and try to get all the pieces.

DR: Callie, do you remember when the horse drug the wagon?

Mr. Newman: Fire wagon?

DR: No, the ice wagon.

Mr. Newman: Oh yes! Sure, sure, sure. That's all they had.

DR: I remember that down Pollock Street.

Mr. Newman: I think it came to Ghent Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; or Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. He didn't come every day. You couldn't buy but so much cause your box would hold about a fifty cent piece. I mean, that was a BIG piece of ice. Some people bought fifteen cent pieces. You'd put a sign in the window.

DR: What size you wanted. The ice house was up where it still is, isn't it?

Mr. Newman: It's still there.

DR: The same one.

Mr. Newman: Yeah. There was a German family named Godenauer. They would bring your milk by and put it on your door step real early in the morning. It was bottled milk. You

had to put out clean bottles and they'd bring their milk in with bottles.

DR: Where are they, Callie?

Mr. Newman: They're out there on Larry Moore's farm out there what we call Streets Ferry Road on the right hand side. You turn the road down there and go to Weyerhauser and there's a big farm on the right hand side.

DR: I remember when the milk was delivered and the cream would be thick on top of the bottles.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Godenauer, I think, was the principal of the school, but he went blind and he couldn't teach anymore, so he went into the milk business.

DR: Callie, there's got to be some more stories.

Fred Latham: You remember you were six years old when that fire truck came by in 1922?

DR: Yeah. From Kinston, North Carolina. At that time, there was no Trent Road. Rhem Avenue was the paved road. The truck came from Kinston to Pollocksville to New Bern.

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