

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

MARGARET WEAVER GIBBS DUNN  
(MRS. JOHN G. DUNN, JR.)

INTERVIEW 1041

This is Dr. Joseph Patterson representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 1000. I am interviewing Margaret Gibbs Dunn (Mrs. John G. Dunn, Jr.) at my home at 604 East Front Street in New Bern. The number of the interview is 1041. The date is February 9, 1993. This will be a short interview. Mr. Dunn is ill and Mrs. Dunn cannot be away from him for too long a time.

JOSEPH PATTERSON: Margaret, the tape is on now and we shouldn't even notice this machine out here. We'll just talk. What I would like to do at first is just to ask you for your full name.

MARGARET DUNN: Maiden name or what?

DR. PATTERSON: Un-huh.

MRS. DUNN: My maiden name was Margaret Weaver Gibbs.

DR. PATTERSON: And now it's?

MRS. DUNN: Margaret Gibbs Dunn.

DR. PATTERSON: Margaret Gibbs Dunn and where were you born, Margaret?

MRS. DUNN: I was born in Oriental.

DR. PATTERSON: What is your birthdate?

MRS. DUNN: January 12, 1906.

DR. PATTERSON: Now since you are pressed for time and have to get back to your home because of Johnny's situation, I think that we won't go into all of the Gibbs' story and I'll just refer people who are listening to this tape to Florie Dill's interview because we did cover that there. As I recall, you and Florie and your brother, Len moved in with your older sister, Nina Jacobs and her husband, Harry

and you lived on New Street.

MRS. DUNN: Right.

DR. PATTERSON: How old were you when you finally reached New Street?

MRS. DUNN: I would say thirteen years old.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember much about New Street?

MRS. DUNN: Well at the moment, I know who lived in all the houses and we were very friendly and neighborly with everybody.

DR. PATTERSON: How about describing the neighborhood as you recall it.

MRS. DUNN: The people who lived on the street?

DR. PATTERSON: Un-huh.

MRS. DUNN: Alright. Of course, on the corner that's East Front Street, the Simmons, Senator Simmons and his wife lived there. Across from them on East Front Street were (Telephone Interruption).

DR. PATTERSON: You were describing the neighborhood.

MRS. DUNN: Mr. and Mrs. E.K. Bishop lived in the house on the corner of East Front and New. On New Street back of the Bishop house lived the Dr. Joseph Pattersons. And on the same side of the street next to the Pattersons lived Judge and Mrs. Nunn, Mrs. R.N. Nunn. And next to that house lived the Foote family. Mrs. Foote, Mrs. Katie Foote, was a caterer and did a lot of wonderful cooking. Across from Mrs. Foote that was where the, at that time, that must have been the couple...

DR. PATTERSON: Lucy and Harvey?

MRS. DUNN: Lucy and Harvey were across from there.

DR. PATTERSON: This is the black family.

MRS. DUNN: The black family, un-huh, a very nice, quiet family. And next to them was the house that my brother-in-law purchased, New Street, un-huh, Harry Jacobs and we lived with them. Next to that, several people lived in the house next to that. Mrs. Pearsall, you know Carolyn, Mrs. Pearsall lived in that house back of the Simmons house. And who else lived there?

DR. PATTERSON: The Attmores lived there.

MRS. DUNN: The Attmores, George Attmore and his wife lived. They were very lovely, nice people. I remember when Johnny and I were married they gave a party for us.

DR. PATTERSON: And did the Fagans live there too?

MRS. DUNN: The Fagans lived there too later on. They certainly did.

DR. PATTERSON: Frank Fagan.

MRS. DUNN: Absolutely,.

DR. PATTERSON: Looking back at the house that Harvey and Lucy, the black family, lived in do you recall whether their cabin or shack faced right on the sidewalk or was there a fence in front of it?

MRS. DUNN: There was if I remember sort of a high wooden fence on one side I know and maybe it had been all the way across. I can't remember about that but I know there was - they had some protection you might say from the public.

DR. PATTERSON: There was one time you told me that you went in

their yard.

MRS. DUNN: Yes. It was a very cold, it was very cold weather and all the pipes had frozen. I remember taking a bucket and going in their yard and using their pump to get some water.

DR. PATTERSON: You're the only person I've talked to that managed to get in their yard. Do you remember that yard very well?

MRS. DUNN: Well I don't know. I don't remember anything special about it. But as far as I know they were very nice and of course I'm sure I wouldn't have gone for the water unless they had given me permission to do so.

DR. PATTERSON: Now the site of that place is where the house you and Johnny live in now was built.

MRS. DUNN: Yes, right.

DR. PATTERSON: You bought the property?

MRS. DUNN: Yes, we bought the property from them.

DR. PATTERSON: Margaret, you went to school up at Central School while you were living on New Street then.

MRS. DUNN: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: What grade did you start up there? You had been going to school before coming to New Bern.

MRS. DUNN: I believe at that time the eighth grade was supposed to be the beginning of high school, wasn't it?

DR. PATTERSON: I think so.

MRS. DUNN: Because there were just eleven grades weren't there?

DR. PATTERSON: Un-huh.

MRS. DUNN: Eight, nine, ten, eleven. I started in the eighth grade but when I went, the first day I went to school they put me back a grade which was natural. I came from a small place. I went home that afternoon very mad and upset and threw my books on the chair and said I've studied all of these books and I don't want to study them again. (Laughter) So my sister, Nina, went with me the next day and talked to the teachers and they said that I could start in the eighth grade and if I got along alright that would be alright. So that's the way it was.

DR. PATTERSON: Nina was not only your sister, she was pretty much a mother to all of you wasn't she?

MRS. DUNN: Yes, yes. She was about, oh I would say, a good fifteen years older than I and so she had her hands full.

DR. PATTERSON: Margaret, who was the principal at the school and the superintendent at the school then?

MRS. DUNN: Mr. H.B. Smith.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember him very well. He was there a long time.

MRS. DUNN: I was so afraid of that man and I don't know why because he's never said hello and I've never said hello to him. (Laughter)

But seeing him walk across the campus or across the school would frighten me to death. And for what reason, I don't know. He was just calm and quiet and tall and very serious looking but a very good superintendent.

DR. PATTERSON: Who was the principal then? Mr. Shields?

MRS. DUNN: You know it seems to me there were several and I know it may have been later on before I graduated from high school but Mr. William Harris was one. Did you ever know him?

DR. PATTERSON: I didn't know him, no.

MRS. DUNN: Mr. William Harris was one. Oh my goodness, I just don't know. Well, I have an annual that might - I looked for my annual and couldn't find it.

DR. PATTERSON: Who were some of your particularly good friends then?

MRS. DUNN: My close friends were a grade below me mainly because I lived near them when I moved to New Bern. Around the corner was my very dear, dear friend, Sarah Elizabeth Cutler.

DR. PATTERSON: On Craven Street?

MRS. DUNN: On Craven Street. And one of the first of my friends to come to see me was Margaret Armstrong. She lived on East Front Street, right across the street back of Bay's. Her father was a grocer, had a grocery store, Hugh Armstrong. And she passed away about three years ago and she lived in Statesville. Well there were several others.

A good friend also at that time, as I say all of these were a grade below me just because I lived near them and they came to see me and they were my special friends, another one was Agnes Blandford who lived on Johnson Street. Quite a few others.

DR. PATTERSON: Margaret, you graduated from high school here and then what did you do?

MRS. DUNN: I went to Woman's College in Greensboro and took a

business course which meant that I was there only one year.

DR. PATTERSON: Made some good friends.

MRS. DUNN: Made some good friends, wonderful friends.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you come back to New Bern after that?

MRS. DUNN: Came back to New Bern. I don't know how it happened but there was an opening for someone in my situation at that time at Eastern Bank and Trust Company on Middle Street. So I began work at Eastern Bank and Trust Company.

DR. PATTERSON: Now that was located in what is the Bank of the Arts now.

MRS. DUNN: Right, un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: What was your job there?

MRS. DUNN: Just little, I was an odds and ends in the back. I was not a teller. (Telephone interruption)

DR. PATTERSON: We were talking about your job at the bank.

MRS. DUNN: Eastern Bank and Trust Company.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember other people who were working there at that time?

MRS. DUNN: I remember one and I can't think of her name now. Her last name was Lewis but I can't think of her first name.

DR. PATTERSON: Margaret, was that a large bank?

MRS. DUNN: I thought it was a good sized bank. Mr. T.A. Green was president.

DR. PATTERSON: That's Lonnie Dill's grandfather.

MRS. DUNN: That's right, yes indeed. Mr. T.A. Green was



president. Mr. O.W. Lane was, well I want to say the head man in the bank as far as that goes. He had married Maude Munger. You know the Mungers who lived on Middle and Johnson.

DR. PATTERSON: Was this a home owned bank?

MRS. DUNN: I don't know. I really don't know.

DR. PATTERSON: We have some information about the bank situation in New Bern but not as much as we need. Can you think back and remember other banks that were in town at that time?

MRS. DUNN: Well, I'm sure National Bank was here.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember where that was located?

MRS. DUNN: Yes. It was located well, right where NCNB is right now on Pollock Street. Because I know the Griffins lived, had an apartment or something upstairs over the bank.

DR. PATTERSON: Above the bank.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, above the bank.

DR. PATTERSON: Morris Plan Bank.

MRS. DUNN: Morris Plan Bank there, yeah, at that time. But other than that I can't remember.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was the Morris Plan located then?

MRS. DUNN: It was located on Craven Street right next door to Owen G. Dunn Company. Small, you know...

DR. PATTERSON: That would be toward the river from Owen G. Dunn Company.

MRS. DUNN: Well, further down that way rather than up this way. Right.

DR. PATTERSON: How long did you stay at the Eastern?

MRS. DUNN: Eastern Bank and Trust Company.

DR. PATTERSON: How long did you stay there?

MRS. DUNN: You know I don't think I stayed too long. I think when I left there Mr. Lane had left and gone into, what should I say, he and Mr. William Blades went into the real estate business more or less at Morehead Bluffs and he had taken an office, they had taken the offices in the Elks Building. Mr. Lane asked me if I would be interested in being his secretary which I accepted and I became his secretary for quite a while.

DR. PATTERSON: You were living with Nina and Harry all this time?

MRS. DUNN: Yes I was still living with them.

DR. PATTERSON: After you left Mr. Lane, what was your next position?

MRS. DUNN: If I can remember, let me see...

DR. PATTERSON: Did you work for the National Bank?

MRS. DUNN: I worked at the National Bank and I can't remember whether or not I worked first with New Bern Building and Loan, you know, the New Bern Morris Plan Company, New Bern Building and Loan. I think I worked at the National - no, if I could think of the dates. I wish I had thought about dates because I can't remember now. I know I was at the Morris Plan Bank back in 1926 when Mr. John Dunn passed away.

DR. PATTERSON: Margaret, let me interrupt you here and ask if you would tell me a little bit about the Morris Plan Bank. It had

a dual function, didn't it?

MRS. DUNN: I guess so. I really don't know enough about that myself, I really don't. Of course what I did mostly was stand and take money from people who had borrowed money you know and that was a Morris Plan Bank situation. And the New Bern Building and Loan, I wish I knew more about that. Johnny could have told me more about that.

DR. PATTERSON: You were working there when Mr. Dunn, that's your husband's grandfather, was the head of it? Is that correct?

MRS. DUNN: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you call him Mr. Guion Dunn?

MRS. DUNN: No, he was just plain John Dunn, no middle name.

DR. PATTERSON: And he headed that institution?

MRS. DUNN: Right, that institution. Now whether or not, see I could have asked Johnny all of this, whether or not it was headed right then as New Bern Building and Loan I can't remember. But the New Bern Morris Plan Bank certainly entered into it.

DR. PATTERSON: Did Mr. Dunn die while the business was located next to Owen Dunn's?

MRS. DUNN: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: And you were there?

MRS. DUNN: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Can you describe that incident?

MRS. DUNN: Well, there was no moaning and groaning. He just put his head down on the table and if I remember, did not raise his

head again. As far as I know it was a heart attack.

DR. PATTERSON: He died right there?

MRS. DUNN: He died right there. And Johnny had left to go notify Owen Dunn next door and to call the doctor. Dr. Harvey Wadsworth came and other people. Mrs. John Dunn came in too.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, your husband, Johnny, was working at the bank at that time.

MRS. DUNN: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Were you married then?

MRS. DUNN: No, no. We were married in 1928. This was 1926.

DR. PATTERSON: Johnny's father is called Mr. Guion Dunn, is that correct?

MRS. DUNN: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: He had a separate business, did he not?

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, he had a clothing store and then when Mr. John Dunn passed away he came to the bank to work. I can't remember, I wish I had asked Johnny, whether it was called New Bern Building and Loan. It's bound to have been New Bern Morris Plan Bank at one time and that's probably when it was.

DR. PATTERSON: That's the way I remember it.

MRS. DUNN: Sure. But he came and that's when I left because I was not needed at that time there.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was Mr. Dunn's clothing store located? I really don't remember that.

MRS. DUNN: I don't remember much about it but I think it was

on Pollock Street around about, somewhere in the neighborhood of where Bryant-McLeod is now on Pollock Street.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it a men's clothing store?

MRS. DUNN: Men's clothing I think. I'm not sure about that.

DR. PATTERSON: After Mr. Dunn joined the bank and you left, where did you go, what did you do?

MRS. DUNN: That is what I can't remember whether or not that's when I went - I think that's when I went to the National Bank. I'm not sure. And what I did at the National Bank mostly was walk the streets and collect money or something, you know, for the bank, just did something like that.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you know Mr. William Caroon?

MRS. DUNN: Yes, Bill Caroon, surely did.

DR. PATTERSON: You called him Bill Caroon?

MRS. DUNN: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Was he in charge of that bank?

MRS. DUNN: That I do not remember. I certainly don't. I did, I believe Catherine Richardson was working there at the time. Several people you know that meant a lot to me later because we took a trip to New York and had a great time.

DR. PATTERSON: One reason I asked about Mr. Caroon, his son Billy was my best friend and I became a very close member of their family group and I knew Mr. and Mrs. Caroon and the two sisters. I remember one time, I think this is interesting for the story, I went out with Mrs. Caroon and her youngest daughter whose name was Sugar, called

her Sugar. She was a little girl sitting in the front seat and the Caroons had a touring car which was open front and back and a canvas top to it that can be pulled over. So it was sort of a wide open car.

Billy and I were in the back seat. One of the jobs Mrs. Caroon had was to drive out on the Morehead Road to turn on the lights to the sign that advertised the bank. She would have to turn them on at nighttime and I guess turn them off in the morning. Well we were riding out there and we went around a curve turning to the left and the front door on the passenger's side opened and this little girl, Sugar, headed right straight out of the car and Mrs. Caroon grabbed her and pulled her back in just in time.

MRS. DUNN: Oh, Lord.

DR. PATTERSON: But I remember the Caroons. Well you were married then pretty soon after that.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah in 1928.

DR. PATTERSON: You married in the Episcopal Church?

MRS. DUNN: Un-huh, yeah, October, 1928.

DR. PATTERSON: Who was the pastor there then?

MRS. DUNN: I've got it written down and the other day I thought, my Lord, I've forgotten that man's name. (Laughter) That's awful. But I have it all written down and I've forgotten who it was right at that time. I am ashamed to say that I've forgotten.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it a big wedding?

MRS. DUNN: Yes. If I remember right, no invitations were sent in town. They didn't do that. Friends of the couple were invited.

We did send invitations out of town because I think I still have one. But the church was full.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you have a reception?

MRS. DUNN: What we did, just family and out of town friends went to New Street and went to the house and had a buffet supper. Just out of town friends and family really. Those around, you know, right around and I have in my book those who were there and had signed their name. It was really nice.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you all go out of town then for a trip?

MRS. DUNN: Un-huh. We got in the car (Laughter) and we were very lucky we didn't have any accident because Jip Lucas and Larry Moore followed us and I thought they were going to run us off the road.

We spent the first night in Wilson and kept going. Anyway, we went to New York. And I remember so well, Elizabeth Roberts Cannon was there working and Ed Cannon and some New Bern people that we knew and we all got together on Sunday afternoon and had a nice little get together.

DR. PATTERSON: When you came back where did you all live?

MRS. DUNN: We had an apartment in a house that's now gone on East Front Street. Those Rivertown Apartments are there now. Mrs. Rawls...

DR. PATTERSON: Iris Rawls' mother.

MRS. DUNN: Yes. Had a nice apartment upstairs and stayed there for about two and a half years before we moved. It was very nice.

DR. PATTERSON: Margaret, in those days there were houses all

along that side of the street. Do you remember who was on either side of the Rawls?

MRS. DUNN: I know who was on the corner side and then the Rawls house was next, Mrs. Kate Duffy, the Duffys.

DR. PATTERSON: And she had a boy named Charles.

MRS. DUNN: Charles Duffy. Let me see, was that Charles Duffy's...? Wasn't it Bryan Duffy?

DR. PATTERSON: Bryan Duffy's house was next to the Senator's house.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah I know but that's when he was married. I was thinking that his mother was Mrs. Kate Duffy.

DR. PATTERSON: I'm not sure. Anyhow, the Duffys lived on the corner. I can't remember who was on the other side of the Rawls' house.

MRS. DUNN: Who was on that other side? Now, I don't know whether they were on the other side or two doors from there, Dr. Daniels, Ralph Daniels was it, had a home. That was a brick home and there may have been a house between that house and the Rawls' house. I can't remember who it was.

DR. PATTERSON: And across the street, the Dawsons lived across the street, J.B. Dawson.

MRS. DUNN: J.B. Dawson. Dr. Harvey Civils lived around there somewhere.

DR. PATTERSON: I think his house was next to the Dawson's house going north and it was sort of a cap cod type home as I remember, a one story building and next to that was a vacant lot. When did you



all buy the lot from Lucy and Harvey and build your house? Was it right after that?

MRS. DUNN: No. We left the Rawls' apartment and went on Spencer Avenue and rented a house from Mrs. John Duffy, Bradley Duffy and we were living there when our first child was born.

DR. PATTERSON: Margaret?

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, Margaret was born. We stayed there a very short while really. I'm going to say about two years. Because Johnny had an opportunity to buy this little house on Park Avenue. Do you know where Park Avenue is? (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Oh, yes.

MRS. DUNN: And we bought this little house on Park Avenue. The people who lived next door to us, he was sort of the head of one of the banks. I can't remember his name. I shouldn't have said anything.

DR. PATTERSON: Was that area pretty well populated then?

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, un-huh, it was very nice. It really was.

DR. PATTERSON: This is the early thirties we're talking about.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah it surely is.

DR. PATTERSON: There were a lot of houses out there.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, un-huh. And we lived there for two or three, several years. Then we moved into a house on Broad Street across from where the Raymond Maxwells were living. Of course, that was house was moved there and you know where that is.

DR. PATTERSON: That started out as the Clyde Eby house and then the Maxwell house.

MRS. DUNN: Yes, Clyde Eby house and then the Maxwell house. That's where our second daughter was born, Mary Windley.

DR. PATTERSON: You were across the street from that you say?

MRS. DUNN: Yes, un-huh. Right. We lived there just for a couple of years or so and then moved to New Street in the house that Mrs. Parker lives in now next to where we are. We lived there for about five years I think and bought the lot next to us you see, and built the house while we were living there.

DR. PATTERSON: I had forgotten the sequence of that. When you lived on Broad Street, how do you remember Broad Street in those days? What was it like?

MRS. DUNN: Well, it was just so entirely different because there were private homes and well, the traffic then wasn't as it is now, of course.

DR. PATTERSON: The bridge wasn't there.

MRS. DUNN: No. I just didn't think anything about that.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it a quiet street?

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, I thought it was a quiet street.

DR. PATTERSON: Not too much traffic.

MRS. DUNN: Un-uh.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it paved with brick?

MRS. DUNN: I can't remember about that. I really can't.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, let me ask you that same question about New Street. Do you remember New Street being paved with oyster shells?

MRS. DUNN: You know, I'm afraid I don't.

DR. PATTERSON: I don't either, Margaret. Someone was telling me that, Lib Nunn was telling me that she remembers it being paved with oyster shells but I don't.

MRS. DUNN: No, I really don't. Now living where we lived then, I mean in Lawton Parker's house, of course all the noise from Short Street you could hear. Having a big time at night and so forth and so on. It was that kind of street, you know. (Laughter) Not that it bothered - we didn't have any problem. And let's see who lived right on the corner there and she gave music lessons, Ola Ferebee.

It was Miss Ola Ferebee. But other than that most of Short Street was in another way. And Mrs. Larry Moore used to say it was Short in more ways than one. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Margaret, there were a number of black families living in that area.

MRS. DUNN: Yes there were. Oh, yes. Oh I remember during that flood, the storm, which one was that? Was it 1932?

DR. PATTERSON: I think it was in the fifties.

MRS. DUNN: In the fifties? 1955, I don't know whether it was 1955. No it wasn't 1955 because we were living where we are now in 1955. I can't remember.

DR. PATTERSON: 1933?

MRS. DUNN: It might have been 1955 because they were still living there then, the black family. And one little boy fell and was drowned, from his house fell into the water and was drowned. I remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: When that happened wasn't B.G. Hines living?

MRS. DUNN: Yes, B.G. Hines was living, yes sir.

DR. PATTERSON: In the Lawton Parker house.

MRS. DUNN: Yes, he came over and tried so hard to help us raise our piano and get things that would keep the water from ruining it because it came in our house.

DR. PATTERSON: When that child drowned, didn't young Stevie Hines dive off his porch and go over there to try to help out?

MRS. DUNN: I think so. I really do. I remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, that was a bad storm and you all got very wet then.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, it came in about thirteen inches on our first floor. Ruined all the rugs. That's the reason every time I go across the rug in the hall and one of the rooms, creak, creak, creak. It's because the water went through all that floor you know.

DR. PATTERSON: Who were some other black families there? The Williams family lived on the corner of Short Street and New, Honey Baron.

MRS. DUNN: Well, let's see.

DR. PATTERSON: Where the child drowned.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, Honey Baron lived there, right. And I think the Williams, they were part of her family.

DR. PATTERSON: On the other side of Miss Ola Ferebee, was there another black family?

MRS. DUNN: I can't remember.

DR. PATTERSON: Someone told me that there were four black

families living in that area and I just remember the two.

MRS. DUNN: That's all I remember.

DR. PATTERSON: But as I recall and I'd like to know what you think about this, there was no problem about whites and blacks living together.

MRS. DUNN: No, un-uh. You just accepted it and took it for granted I think.

DR. PATTERSON: I don't remember any resentment or any hard feelings about it.

MRS. DUNN: I don't either.

DR. PATTERSON: Margaret, when you moved back to New Street you had two children.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah. Mary Windley was born on Broad Street, yeah while we lived on Broad Street.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was young Johnny born?

MRS. DUNN: Let me see now, oh, where we are now. We had built the house and we were in it. Let's see Margaret is the oldest, Mary Windley comes next then there's a difference of about ten years in Mary Windley's age and Johnny's age, you see.

DR. PATTERSON: When you all were living in this house when Mary Windley was a young child was it a friendly neighborhood?

MRS. DUNN: As far as I know it was friendly.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you recall people sitting on their porches?

MRS. DUNN: I guess so. Of course we didn't have that kind of a house. I mean we didn't have the kind of porch we'd sit on. I can't

remember but I think they did.

DR. PATTERSON: When you were growing up down on New Street what was the river shore like? What was East Front Street like?

MRS. DUNN: The only thing I remember, I don't know, is that we would always have a nurse or, you know, somebody to take the children out. Well then you could have from someone from eight o'clock in the morning until six o'clock at night. That was their business. And we had good help and in the afternoon both of those girls, Margaret and Mary Windley, would be dressed one in pink and one in blue and we'd ride right down to the river shore and spend the whole afternoon with other children, you know, who had nurses down there. But I can't remember, of course there wasn't the traffic then that there is now. But they would spend the whole afternoon down there with the others and have a good time.

DR. PATTERSON: They weren't going in the water dressed like that.

MRS. DUNN: No, no, no. They did not go in the water.

DR. PATTERSON: Did people in those days have a lot of household help, domestic help?

MRS. DUNN: I think so. I think they had plenty of help. I really do.

DR. PATTERSON: Most folks on New Street have cooks?

MRS. DUNN: I expect so, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: And maids?

MRS. DUNN: Well, I don't know how much help they had but I think everybody had help.

DR. PATTERSON: When you grew up down there did you go swimming in the river?

MRS. DUNN: Un-uh.

DR. PATTERSON: Anywhere?

MRS. DUNN: I can't remember that I did.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you go sailing.

MRS. DUNN: That I don't remember either.

DR. PATTERSON: How about dancing? Do you remember dances as you grew up?

MRS. DUNN: I know we went to some but I can't place any.

DR. PATTERSON: You and Johnny have been great lovers of the country club I think as years have gone by.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: The old clubhouse as I remember it was a nice place.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: How do you remember that place out there then?

MRS. DUNN: Now that, I can't remember that either. I sure can't.

DR. PATTERSON: A big building with a great big ballroom in the center and wide porches all around it.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, right, yes.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember that when I was a child and you were there then because we were all young people together, did black people use to come down the street for baptism?

MRS. DUNN: Oh, yeah I remember. And it was mostly, so many times

I think it was Easter Sunday morning and if you walked down to the river you could see them all in the water having their service, baptismal service. I remember that. Singing and...

DR. PATTERSON: That was at the corner, almost to the foot of Broad Street wasn't it?

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, that's right. I remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: That was quite an event.

MRS. DUNN: It was, it surely was. It was an event.

DR. PATTERSON: And the black ladies used to come down the street selling...

MRS. DUNN: Oh, Lord was it Martha? Was that her name, Martha? Selling vegetables, yelling to the top of her voice. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Your niece, Olier Farrow remembers Martha. She wrote to me about that.

MRS. DUNN: Really? My land!

DR. PATTERSON: But Martha wasn't the only one. As I recall, there were a lot of folks that came down.

MRS. DUNN: There were others too. She would yell.

DR. PATTERSON: What was she selling?

MRS. DUNN: Several kinds of vegetables. I don't know.

DR. PATTERSON: You and my mother were first cousins. That makes us first cousins once removed.

MRS. DUNN: (Laughter) Second cousins.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, I think I'm second cousin with your children.



MRS. DUNN: Oh really? I didn't know that. I thought you were my second cousin.

DR. PATTERSON: I think we are first cousins once removed but I'm not sure of that. Senator Simmons' wife, my grandmother, was your...

MRS. DUNN: Aunt. My father's sister.

DR. PATTERSON: You called her Aunt?

MRS. DUNN: Aunt Belle. She was wonderful to us. My mother was sick for so long and when she passed away I remember Aunt Belle came to Oriental and stayed with us at the house during the funeral and so forth. She was mighty good.

DR. PATTERSON: What sort of a lady was she? What sort of a person?

MRS. DUNN: Well, that I don't remember except that I just remember how good she was to us and what she meant to us. And she had just been to see my father at St. Luke's Hospital and she'd just gotten back home when she was called and said he was gone. He had had an operation and developed pneumonia and couldn't get rid of the pneumonia, you know, and passed away. But it was mighty wonderful to have her.

DR. PATTERSON: Did my father operate on him, do you know?

MRS. DUNN: Now I don't know about that. Not that I know of. I don't know.

DR. PATTERSON: What do you remember about Senator Simmons, Margaret?

MRS. DUNN: I know very little about Uncle Clen because we were

younger, you know, then and he was to me a very quiet type of person, you know. Of course he wasn't very tall you know. I always thought a lot of him. He was a very nice, sweet person as far as I know. I think when Aunt Belle died didn't he go out to Cousin Ella's?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. DUNN: I remember seeing him out there.

DR. PATTERSON: In Green Acres. Margaret, do you remember Dr. Jones?

MRS. DUNN: Oh, yeah, do I remember him.

DR. PATTERSON: Tell me about Dr. Jones.

MRS. DUNN: Well, he was just a fine person. I thought he was very, very likable. He lived right around the corner from us.

DR. PATTERSON: Right next to the Bishops?

MRS. DUNN: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: His house is gone now.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, his house is gone and I remember Mrs. Jones. Of course she was his second wife.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes, Elvira.

MRS. DUNN: And Elsie. Elsie and my husband were great friends. I think just had a great time together when they were younger, riding bikes and just having a fun time.

DR. PATTERSON: Now in those days Johnny and his family lived in the house next to the Jones' at the corner of New and Short Street.

MRS. DUNN: Yes, right.

DR. PATTERSON: Is that where the Sr. Mr. Dunn lived too, Johnny's

grandfather?

MRS. DUNN: I don't think so. I know of course where he lived and Aunt Emma his second wife. That house was torn down and parts of it went one way and parts another. That was on the corner of Broad and Metcalf. Let's see, across from that is a house that, who lives there now, the Smiths? An interesting looking house on Broad Street.

DR. PATTERSON: At the corner of Metcalf and Broad?

MRS. DUNN: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: That's where Billy Smith lives now?

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: That was the Wadsworth house wasn't it?

MRS. DUNN: Yeah I believe it was. It has a lot of little carvings and things.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. DUNN: That's the same one. Now Aunt Emma's house has been torn down as I say and just bits of it are here and there and everywhere I think. And Mr. John Dunn lived there you see. But I think it was, it seems to me it was her house in the beginning but I'm not sure about that.

DR. PATTERSON: Where is that in relation to the house Dr. Wadsworth lived in?

MRS. DUNN: Oh, Dr. Wadsworth, Harvey Wadsworth, across the street. Across the street. Not the corner house but the one next to it...low slung house. Yeah, that's where Dr. Wadsworth lived.

DR. PATTERSON: The house you're talking about was across the

street from there?

MRS. DUNN: Across the street, yeah. That interesting looking house on the corner across the street. That's where Smith...

DR. PATTERSON: Billy Smith lives now.

MRS. DUNN: Alright, my aunt and her husband built that house. Ulysses S. Mace and Ella, she was Ella Gibbs, Ella Mace. The Maces built that house.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember, before we leave East Front Street and Johnny's old home, Dr. Jones had a son named Robert.

MRS. DUNN: He sure did.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember him?

MRS. DUNN: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: He became quite a fine surgeon in Norfolk. Was he a good friend of you all?

MRS. DUNN: No I don't remember him as that. But I know I have seen him. I saw him a number of times and I knew who he was. I knew Elsie more than I did Robert because she and Johnny were good friends in high school.

DR. PATTERSON: What ever became of Elsie Jones?

MRS. DUNN: Elsie, well she married and she lived in South Carolina. I don't know whether it was Greenville, I don't know. But she died. I remember many years ago Elsie died.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember Elsie. Do you remember the fire of 1922?

MRS. DUNN: I remember only that I went to Raleigh to a football

game.

DR. PATTERSON: On the train?

MRS. DUNN: On the train. And coming back that night the only thing I remember is seeing the smoke along the way when we got close to New Bern, coming into to New Bern seeing the smoke.

DR. PATTERSON: We were talking about the fire of 1922 and you were at the Yarborough Hotel in Raleigh.

MRS. DUNN: Yeah, I'd gone to a game, high school football game. It just seems as though I remember being at the Yarborough Hotel at that particular time after the fire. I mean after we heard about it before we came back to New Bern.

DR. PATTERSON: Was there any damage on New Street when you got home?

MRS. DUNN: No, I don't think so. I don't remember anything about the damage right now. I really don't.

DR. PATTERSON: Margaret, when you were working in New Bern as a young woman after going to Women's College and coming home you were right in the midst of the Depression weren't you? Wasn't that about that time?

MRS. DUNN: I expect so. I can't remember.

DR. PATTERSON: You don't remember whether that was a bad time?

MRS. DUNN: No I don't.

DR. PATTERSON: The banks closing?

MRS. DUNN: I don't remember. I have a letter that my father had written, no that might have been when we were still at Oriental.

That's too far back. He was trying to get money for a friend of his, Mr. L.F. McCabe, down at Oriental and he came up here and evidently that particular day the bank was closed. Mr. Carraway, he had gotten in trouble. Rose Carraway's father. Did you know that?

DR. PATTERSON: No.

MRS. DUNN: Papa had come up to borrow some money, get some money for Mr. McCabe and Mr. Roberts was president of the bank. Now Mr. Roberts' daddy was Lil Roberts Johnson's grandfather. I think that's right. George Roberts. And this letter started off saying Dear Mr. Roberts, sorry to hear about Johnny.

DR. PATTERSON: When World War I came along you were in New Bern?

MRS. DUNN: Oh, Lord. What's the date?

DR. PATTERSON: 1917.

MRS. DUNN: No.

DR. PATTERSON: No you hadn't moved to New Bern.

MRS. DUNN: No, it was about 1920 when we moved.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember anything about the flu epidemic of 1918?

MRS. DUNN: I certainly remember. I don't know anything specific right now but I remember the flu epidemic.

DR. PATTERSON: How about World War II? You were in New Bern then. Was New Bern a very busy place during that time?

MRS. DUNN: What's the date about that?

DR. PATTERSON: Well, that would be 1941-1946.

MRS. DUNN: Oh, I would think so. I just don't remember anything

too much about it.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember Victory House?

MRS. DUNN: Oh yeah do I remember, your mother, yes sir. I surely do. There were two gentlemen, two men in the service who became real friendly with us and they used to - I wish I could remember their names.

They would come over to see us so often in their uniforms, you know, in the afternoon when they would be at Victory House you see and they'd come down to see us.

DR. PATTERSON: Did a lot of service men come to Victory House?

MRS. DUNN: I don't know how many came but I remember so well it was very popular.

DR. PATTERSON: I think Nina must have gone over there and helped out some.

MRS. DUNN: Really? She might have.

DR. PATTERSON: This was Senator Simmons' old home on the corner of New and East Front Street. It was opened up during the war as a place for the service men.

MRS. DUNN: It was wonderful. It really was. And it was so nice because you could walk by or ride, well walk by more than anything else, and it would be busy. You'd see so many people and it was so nice.

DR. PATTERSON: What other doctors do you remember in the early days besides Dr. Jones and Dr. Wadsworth and my father?

MRS. DUNN: I don't remember any. (Laughter) They're the three that I would certainly remember.

DR. PATTERSON: They're the ones you knew.

MRS. DUNN: Absolutely.

DR. PATTERSON: Margaret, do you have any other memories of New Bern you'd like to speak to?

MRS. DUNN: I don't believe so right now. I really don't. Of course afterwards you think about all those things that you wish you had remembered.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, I think that it's fine that with the difficulties you're going through now you took enough time to talk to us. I appreciate this for the program and for myself.

MRS. DUNN: You're nice to do it. You really are.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, it's been fun talking to you and you've told us some things that other people haven't told us so it's going to help us.

MRS. DUNN: If I find any pictures that I think you would be interested in - I knew that I would not have time to look for anything. Today it's just my life and I can't help it.

DR. PATTERSON: Sure. Well, I'll turn this off now and thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW