

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

ELBERT LIPMAN

INTERVIEW 1047

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: This is Dr. Joseph Patterson representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is one thousand (1000).

I am interviewing Elbert, E,l,b,e,r,t Lipman, L,i,p,m,a,n at his office, the Lipman Realty Company at 219 Hancock Street in New Bern.

The number of the interview is 1047. The date is March 4, 1993.

And, Elbert, the tape is on now and I want to tell you that Fred and I are happy to be here talking to you. We

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, as I say, I don't know what I can tell you that you don't already now, but I'll do the best I can. Maybe we'll wrench things out of my memory that I don't recall.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Let me start by asking you your full name and your date of birth.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, my name is Elbert Leslie Lipman.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: How do you spell your middle name?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Leslie, L,e,s,l,i,e. And my date of birth was November 24, 1919.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Who were your parents and what were their names and where they from?

ELBERT LIPMAN: My father was Joe Lipman. He was originally from Lithuania. He came to the United States as an immigrant. Of course, he became naturalized. My mother was named Celia Passman Lipman. Her family was originally from Baltimore. Of course, I got the marriage, not marriage certificate, but naturalization papers and all.

They got married, I believe in 1911. If I'm not mistaken, I think that's the date.

Incidentally, speaking of their marriage, of course, under the category of personal things. I've got a picture here that is quite unique. Whether it's possible that you can utilize it in any way or not, if you have an interest in doing it even.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Let me, I'm going to turn this off while we look at the picture. Elbert this a picture of your mother and father's wedding scene. Would you describe that picture and say who all's in there.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, there's a wedding party there, and, of course, my mother and father are in the center of the photograph. Many of the people, I don't know who they are, on the left of the picture, the man with the hat on is Reverend M. Goldman who lived in New Bern, and, of course, he was the father of Raymond Goldman. In the background there's Harry Lipman who was a life time resident of New Bern. He's directly between my mother and father and next to Mr. Goldman was an uncle of mine, Sol Lipman who lived in New Bern at one time and for many years lived in Chapel Hill.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And I'll just add the comment that I knew him in Chapel Hill when I was a student there, and he fixed clothing for people and made alternations and was a very famous man in the city.

ELBERT LIPMAN: He was quite well known. That's true. I don't know who the man is with the top hat. He could have been the rabbi. I don't know who performed the ceremony.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And then this is your mother?

ELBERT LIPMAN: That's my mother. This was her sister.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Well, great. Well, that's a wonderful picture for us to copy. This is another picture of Mr. Lipman and he's going to comment on that.

ELBERT LIPMAN: This is a picture that was taken in November of 1981 at a dog show in Norfolk, Virginia. I was prevailed upon to show a dog. An experience I'd never done before in professional competition and this picture was taken by a newspaper photographer. I wasn't even aware of it at the time. I must confess I was a lamb being led to the slaughter though in competition with these professional handlers. I didn't win anything.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Well, that's an interesting picture and Fred will make a copy of that too. Elbert, let me ask you about brothers and sisters.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I have one sister. Her name is Helen Shirley Lipman. Her name now is Mrs. Kenneth Margolis.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: M,a,r,g,o,l,i,s.

ELBERT LIPMAN: That's right, and she lives in New Bern on Rhem Avenue.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Kenneth died just about a year ago.

ELBERT LIPMAN: He died in August of '92. I believe it was.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And where did he come from?

ELBERT LIPMAN: He was my brother-in-law. He and my sister were married in New York City. They lived there for several years and then they moved down here. Ken was working in the business. The furniture business that we have was originally just Joe Lipman as an individual

and then it became a partnership. Joe Lipman and Son it became, myself being the son, and, of course, Ken eventually came in as a partner in the business.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Who did you marry, Elbert?

ELBERT LIPMAN: My wife was named Harriet Klein, k,l,e,i,n. She was from Eastern Maryland, on the eastern shore of Maryland. She was living in Baltimore at the time. Of course, we were married in Baltimore.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: You have children?

ELBERT LIPMAN: We have two children. Have a son and a daughter.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: What are their names?

ELBERT LIPMAN: My son is Joseph Lipman. He lives in Richmond, Virginia. My daughter is Beverly Greenfield. She lives in Raleigh.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Your son has not been associated with you in business.

ELBERT LIPMAN: No, he never has. The retail business is such that it became so chaotic those years of changes, lengthy hours, staying open on Sundays and everything of the kind that I frankly did not encourage him to participate in the thing and he had no interest in it.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: When you were a very young child and growing up in New Bern, where did ya'll live?

ELBERT LIPMAN: We lived on Metcalf Street in the house that is now a part of Tryon Palace grounds. It was in the first block of Metcalf Street.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And how long did you live there, until the palace was built?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, until the palace was built, I had moved out. My mother still lived there, and, of course, the Tryon Palace Commission took over that property by condemnation and so, of course, at that time she was compelled to move out.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Was that a difficult time?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, she wasn't happy about the arrangement. My sister and I had to literally go in and physically move her from the property. I mean there was nothing irrational about it, but it was just a matter of not wanting to pull up roots, so to speak. Of course, afterwards she never acquired another home. She moved in the Governor, what was it, Governor Tryon Hotel, I believe it, not Governor Tryon Palace, the hotel. She was living in there. In fact, she was living there at the time of the fire that took place.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Did the Tryon Palace people make any effort to help your mother get relocated?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I don't recall it frankly. I don't think so. I mean we were not in financial need or anything of the kind so it wasn't a matter of being destitute or anything like that.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Did your father have brothers?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, he had, Sol Lipman was his brother.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Not Sam?

ELBERT LIPMAN: No, Sam Lipman was his uncle. Sam Lipman was an uncle.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Well, you were in this Metcalf Street residence until, about what age, Elbert?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I guess until I was about twenty five. I suppose. Something like that. Of course, when I got married, we, moved out of course. My wife and I had an apartment on East Front Street down where the remnants of the Holiday Inn are located. Dr. Civils had some apartments down there. I think he moved the building over across Pollock Street.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Which building on Pollock Street is that. Is it the foot of Pollock Street?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Right at the very foot, facing the water.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: That brick building?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Big brick building. He moved the thing over across the street from where it was.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: That was on East Front Street?

ELBERT LIPMAN: It was on East Front Street, right where the Holiday Inn is now sitting.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: That was close to the Dawson's house, wasn't it?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I don't remember that particular

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Didn't Dr. Civils have his own home right there too. A small wooden structure.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Somewhere very close to that I believe. We had a rather unusual experience while we were living there. The building, the apartment, we lived on the first floor, and the building is very

close to the water. There was a hurricane came up at one time. I don't remember which one it was, and on the possibility the area might be flooded, we moved out of the building. Fortunately, before doing so, we lived on the first floor, we put everything we could up on blocks to elevate it as far as possible. The first floor was about maybe three feet off the ground, the elevation of the structure. Water came into the building, about six inches, but normally the spot where we had parked our car, I wasn't aware of it, there was an underground fuel tank there, and the tank was empty, and as a result of the rising water, that tank popped up out of the ground just like a cork. It would have wrecked our car if the car had been there at the time.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Came up right through the street was it?

ELBERT LIPMAN: No, through the ground, next to the building. It was about a two thousand gallon tank and it served all of the apartments.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: You know, I don't remember that big brick building of Dr. Civils being there.

ELBERT LIPMAN: It's the same building that's down there now on the other side of Pollock Street, on the south side.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Yes. Was that right on East Front Street?

ELBERT LIPMAN: No, it was on the waterfront.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: No, then, when you lived in it, it was on

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, it was facing the water, just about the same position it is now, but, of course, in the block closer to the

bridge. Directly where Holiday Inn has been.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: I see. Alright.

ELBERT LIPMAN: It was in much better condition then than it is now too.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: When you, when your mother was forced to leave her Metcalf Street home, all the people along there had the same problems.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Everybody had the same problem.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Did that cause much of an uproar?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I don't recall anything. Of course, our primary concern was mother's emotional distress. If you want to call it that. I mean, as far as being uprooted.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: While this topic is still fresh in our minds, let me ask you about the fire at the Hotel Governor Tryon, what experience does your mother have there. Was that, did she lose everything, or was she.

ELBERT LIPMAN: She lost everything she had including her false teeth at the time. She was awakened in the middle of the night by some sort of alarm. I don't know what it was, how they notified the people, and we received a call that the hotel was on fire, and, of course, she was living there as a permanent resident. We had to come down and get her. She was in her night clothes, and she didn't save anything whatsoever. As I say, even her false teeth. She lost them in the fire.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Was she on the second floor?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I believe so.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And you found her and took her out. Is that right?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, she had been brought down. She was already out of the building.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: She was already out of the building.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Out of the building. Yes.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: My mother was there under the same circumstances and lost everything except her nightgown, and the fireman carried her down the ladder.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Oh, is that right. I didn't know that. There were only two stories there as I remember. It was a large rambling structure, covered half a block almost, and there was a parking area in the back of it and all.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: When you got there, I guess the fire was in full swing.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Yes, it was.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: It was a pretty large fire, I imagine.

ELBERT LIPMAN: () Well, of course, the hotel was completely destroyed ultimately. I don't remember how much of it was due to fire or the demolition afterward.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: As I recall, nobody was really injured in that fire.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I don't remember anything like that, but as I say, she was in her night clothes, and she came out, even without her

false teeth. Charlie Barker (Dr. Charles Barker) had to make an emergency set of teeth for her on short notice.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Well I'm sure he did a good job too.

ELBERT LIPMAN: He was a good dentist.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Elbert, you went to school, New Bern schools.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I attended the New Bern's school up at Hancock and New Street junction there, which, of course, that was the elementary school, the primary school, and, of course, the high school as well there.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: You went all the way through high school.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Went all the way through high school there.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Where did you go after that?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I went to Carolina, the University of North Carolina, but I only stayed there for one year, and then I came back and went to work with my father. His health had gotten bad at the time.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: This must have been somewhere around 1936, was it.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I went to Carolina in 1940.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: In 1940.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Forty. Yes.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Stayed there one year and came back and worked with your father?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Worked with my father.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And that's, you've worked with him until the business closed. Is that right?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, no. There was a interval during which I was military service.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Alright. How long were you back in New Bern before you had to go into service?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, I was on the verge of being drafted and I was classified 1A, and so rather than waiting to be drafted for which I had quite a distaste, I decided to volunteer and I joined the Army Air Corps. I took flight training as a navigator. I didn't think I could qualify as a pilot because I wore glasses at the time. I figured as a navigator I was more likely to successfully complete the program without being eliminated. So I applied for navigation training.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And were you in the Air Force then?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Yes, I was, that was in 1943.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: What all happened to you in service?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, of course, I took, the usual basic training. I mean as an aviation cadet, it was the officer training program, and we took basic training in Monroe, Louisiana. We were reassigned to Coral Gables, Florida. Pan American Airways had a contract, a flight training school, navigation training at Coral Gables. We flew out of the South American terminal there called Dinner Key. I think Dinner Key is still there, but it's some sort of convention center or something of the kind. We flew in sea planes for navigation training. After we graduated, I was assigned for overseas duty, and I was stationed,

well, I went to the Mediterranean first. We were based in Sicily.

We were flying in transport planes hauling cargo and paratroopers in the Air Transport Command. We were stationed in Sicily, and we flew into Italy and, southern Italy. That was before Rome was taken by the Allies, and then we were reassigned to England. And, of course, we didn't know about it, but in anticipation of the invasion of France on D-Day. I had the dubious honor of participating in that activity.

We were dropping paratroopers in France on the Cherbourg Peninsula, and at the time, they only took a certain number of the plane crews.

So I think they had so many planes and only a certain number were allocated. We didn't know it at the time, but they were anticipating fifty percent casualties and were holding half of the squadron in reserve for whatever might happen. And I had the luck, if you want to call it that, of being, by the chance of the draws, chosen in the first fifty percent to go in, dropping paratroopers on the Cherbourg Peninsula. That was prior to D-Day itself. The night before, and, of course, we got in and out without being scratched at all. We had the element of surprise on our side. The next day the reserve group went in hauling supplies, and, of course, they had no element of surprise to protect them, so they caught hell on that occasion.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: What happened after that?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, after that we were based in England, and we were routinely hauling equipment and supplies into France as the front advanced. Hauling out and evacuating wounded as it became necessary, bringing them back to rear area hospitals. We did not have

all the elaborate and sophisticated instrument landing systems that they have now. The only thing they had for instrument landing, if you want to call it that, were fifty-five gallon oil drums spaced at intervals along the runway on each side with fuel oil in them. In an emergency, they would ignite that oil. That was the only assistance you had for a landing in difficult conditions. Of course, in England, the weather was notorious anyway as far as fog and reduced visibility.

We only had one occasion to use that emergency system, and they would not have given us permission to use even then, only as a last resort.

It happened that we were evacuating a plane full of wounded soldiers at the time. So under those circumstances, we had the priority to implement that emergency system that they had. Otherwise, they would have said hope for the best and make a forced landing somewhere.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Did you stay in England for the remainder of the war?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I was injured. I broke my arm there. Not in combat but in an accident. So they sent me back home for hospitalization and treatment, and then I was reassigned to Fort Bragg with the intention of being reassigned to the Pacific. And about that time, that's when the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan and, of course, everything was terminated at that point.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: If you had come, maybe I would have seen you.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Is that right?

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And Fred too. Fred and I were out in that

area.

ELBERT LIPMAN: In another week, I would have been in Japan.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Elbert, then after you got out of service, you came back to New Bern.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I came back here.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And joined your father again in the business. Wonder if you would tell me about your dad's business. What it was like when you joined, or before you joined him and how it evolved, and what happened to it. That's got it. You can keep right on talking.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Ok. Well anyway, I've got several pictures here that you may or may not find of interest. This was before, I don't know how far back it goes. This is a picture, this is the one that I had enhanced or reproduced. That's a business picture of this business many years before I became associated with him. This was somewhere on Middle Street. I'm not even sure where.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And is this your father in the picture.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Yes, it is.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: So it was a furniture business.

ELBERT LIPMAN: A furniture business, yes.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Well, let me give this to Fred. I know he's going to want to copy that one.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Also, there are several old documents here. When we moved out of the building on Middle Street, we closed our furniture business in 19, I forget what it was now, but the year even, about

seven years ago, but in the process of moving out, we found some old documents and so forth. Here's a purchase document () or something from 1916. We found them down on the floor behind some desks, or cabinets, or something. These right here.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: These are invoices?

ELBERT LIPMAN: No, those were sales records.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Four yards of oil cloth.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Oil Cloth. It looks like.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And one yard of oil cloth was three dollars.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Four folding chairs at eighty five cents a piece, and one oil cloth fifty cents, and the grand total, looks like, five dollars and ninety cents and with a fifty cents payment on it.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And they paid fifty cents on that one? Yeah. This is 1916 also.

ELBERT LIPMAN: 1916. That's right, both of them are '16. Art Square. That was a term that was used for a rug, floor covering.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: That was six fifty.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Six fifty.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And this is

ELBERT LIPMAN: I'm not sure what that item is there.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: What's the next one, four

ELBERT LIPMAN: Let's see. That was one couch of some kind, eight dollars.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: One couch, eight dollars. Four yards of oil cloth, a dollar and forty cents.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Fifteen ninety and they paid two dollars, and kept up the payment on it. Because he used to extend credit to people, and, of course,

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Can I just pass these over to Fred.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, certainly. Sure. There's something here. I never have found about these, but you have run across the names before. I didn't see many of your records. When we were moving some old storage cabinets upstairs in our place, we came across these things here. I've never heard the name before, E. W. Smallwood. That's not Edward Fleet Smallwood. That's E. W. Smallwood.

It says under Hotel Chattawka. Now I don't know where the Hotel Chattawka was. I know about the other was the Albert Hotel and it became New Bernian Hotel.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Yes. E. W. Smallwood General Hardware Store, sash, doors, blinds, lime and cement.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I don't know where these came from but they were in the storage area. Then I found this tag also. Again, I've never heard of this one. Rose and Kehoe.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: This is probably, I don't know, I was going to say Tom Kehoe, the only Kehoe I know.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I have no idea.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Fred, I'm going to put those here.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I don't know what, if anything, you have an interest in, anything of the kind.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: What is that you just

ELBERT LIPMAN: This was, well, this is the same picture there. This was a receipt where someone made a payment on an account.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: We don't know the year.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, it should be in the upper right corner there, nineteen

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: 1917.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Seventeen or twenty seven. I'm not sure which it is.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Twenty seven. Ok.

ELBERT LIPMAN: This was the same picture as the other one there. This, for whatever it's worth, I don't know if there's anything earth shaking in it. After being on this location on Middle Street for many years, we remodeled the building and had a grand re-opening sale and I saved a couple of newspapers from 1955. We had an ad in there, of course, about the grand opening. Well, I mean for whatever's it's worth as far as news items that be of interest to someone.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: The advertisement is in here somewhere.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Yeah, it's in there. Yeah. It's a full page ad

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: A full page advertisement, alright. I'll put that right there.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I doubt if there are many copies of a 1955 Sun Journal laying around any place. I think that was all I had as far as the category of the business was concerned.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Elbert, when your dad opened his business

it was on Middle Street. Now where was it located, which side of Middle Street.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I'm not sure. Through the years, he moved from several locations. Originally, as I have been told, he was down at the first block of Middle Street. Down below Tryon Palace Drive or South Front Street as it was known then, and, of course, that's the area where all of the stores, Brinson's Hardware. No, it wasn't Brinson's Hardware. I forget who it was.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Mitchell's Hardware

ELBERT LIPMAN: Mitchell's Hardware was on South Front of Tryon Palace. This was another one there, and, of course, the Coca Cola Bottling Company was down there and Maxwell Wholesale Grocery, and Mack Lupton and all of those too.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And he called it Joe Lipman

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, it was just Joe Lipman. He operated it as an individual.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Where did he move from there?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, he moved uptown, so to speak into the next block somewhere in the area about where New Bern Loan and Jewelers is. So, I don't know exactly where it was. Of course, the numbers change

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Now that's on the west side,

ELBERT LIPMAN: On the west side, yes.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Almost next to the Wheat Securities Building, except for that vacant lot right there.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Somewhere in that area, yeah, somewhere in that area.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: So he had a store there,

ELBERT LIPMAN: That's right and then he moved up again somewhere, again I think where the Fashion Center is now, or the Hill's as it is. I think he was there and then of course, ultimately, he moved into the location that we were in at the end which was 84 Middle or 223 under the new postal numeration.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And all during these years, it was a furniture store.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Yeah, it was furniture, just general

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And when you joined it became Joe Lipman and Son.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I had a lesser partnership. It was not fifty-fifty. I think he had two thirds ownership, and I had one third ownership.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And then Ken Margolis joined you later.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Ken, yes. And, of course, when my father died in 1953 it became a partnership between just the two of us, Kenneth Margolis and myself.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Elbert, when did you close your store?

ELBERT LIPMAN: It's been about seven years. We were figuring on the thing.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Why did you close?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, as I say it got to the point where, well,

to begin with, basically, I didn't enjoy it any more, working, with no sense of accomplishment or achievement. It became drudgery to a certain point. Whether that was a passage of time or not, I don't know. And with the changing business economy, the trend was to, staying open longer hours, and even, possibly, staying open on Sundays. And, we didn't particularly want to follow that practice. We would have been forced to do it ultimately, of course, with the building of Twin Rivers Mall, that was a detriment and a liability to the downtown economy in spite of anything the people might say to the contrary.

I guess the final blow was when Belk moved out, as far as declining traffic downtown. My son was not interested in the business, and, Kenneth Margolis has two sons, one of whom is a doctor. The other one is an attorney and they were not interested in the business. So rather than waiting for the business to close up by attrition or something happening to either of us and being forced to close it, we decided to liquidate it.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Who took over that space on Middle Street?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I beg your pardon?

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Who took over your store there?

ELBERT LIPMAN: The place is The Ballantyne Framing Shop.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: They moved in when you moved out, is that correct?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Yes. Well, the building was owned by George Scott, Sr. We didn't own the building. We tried to buy it at one time, but he didn't want to sell it.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Elbert, over the years, who were the primary customers in your store?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, most of our customers were working people. Town people and country people, and, there was a sizeable percentage of black customers too. I don't know what the ratio was. We extended credit. Of course, my father did and we followed the practice. We did our own financing which was sometimes more profitable than the selling in itself. We did not use bank interest rates, revolving credit, and things that are a common practice now. People who paid us made payments faithfully and regularly.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Was this without interest?

ELBERT LIPMAN: There was no interest on it.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: These are no interest financing.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Of course, people made regular payments on the thing. Well, towards the last, we of course, started adding finance charge like everyone else did. But we had people who came in on a regular basis and made payments, and we also had collectors going out on regular routes and which they would collect payments from people. And it generated quite a sizeable income for us. I think some where in the documents, you probably remember T. Foy Simmons.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Yes.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well he worked for us for many years. A very pompous, straight laced individual, and he would go out collecting. And we had accounts down in Carteret County area, down below Havelock and such. There were a lot of black people. And most people are very

honest, and he would come in. People could not make payments on occasion. He'd bring in chickens or eggs, and on several occasions he brought in some of the notorious "white lightning."

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And you accepted that alright?

ELBERT LIPMAN: We accepted it. My father used to, he discovered that if you put peaches or apples in it, it became more palatable. So he would sip it that way.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Did this come from the Harlowe district?

ELBERT LIPMAN: From the Harlowe district where they were notorious for as far as their manufacture of, what was it, moonshine, I believe they called it.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Was there a lot of that going on down in Harlowe?

ELBERT LIPMAN: There was quite a bit of it. I mean, it was an open secret. Everybody knew about it. It was a way of life for them, it was illegal, of course, but the people did it nevertheless as a livelihood. I mean they were not bootleggers or rum runners or anything of the kind. They did it as a making livelihood. There was a market for it, and they provided the product. I don't know how sanitary it was, or anything of the kind, but I think the thing that ended it was when the government put restrictions on limiting the amount of sugar that could be sold. Maxwell Company on the end of Middle Street, was one of the major suppliers of sugar. People would buy several hundred pounds at a time, and it certainly was not for household use when you buy two hundred pounds of sugar. They were using it to manufacture

liquor, but then the government came along with some restrictions and all of these sales had to be licensed. So I think that put an end to the great portion of it.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Getting back to your customers and your business. What was the busiest day of the week for you all.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, actually it, like for most everyone in you might say a semi-rural community used to be Saturday. I mean, of course, the people worked. We had a lot of, as I say, laboring customers and farm customers, and they worked during the week, and they were, many of them were off on Saturdays or they take off Saturday and that became one of our busiest days. But, of course, through the years that changed and tapered off and leveled down. I mean, the other days, there was no particular day that was decidedly busier than the other. Possibly, and for awhile, there Mondays became a busy day and then it more or less leveled out.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Generally, in those times, downtown was pretty busy.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Especially on Saturdays. I mean you came to town. Some of them came for business. Some of them came for recreation, so to speak, and to get off the farm and to see people and to talk to people and such as that.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Did the matter of race determine any particular attitude towards your customers?

ELBERT LIPMAN: We never had any problems in that respect at all. My father was highly respected. I don't think he ever turned anybody

down as far as credit was concerned. When we closed the business, we had people come in who said, expressed the sentiment, how sorry they were to see the business closed. It was an institution for them.

Said they had traded with us. Their children had traded with us, and even their grandchildren were customers of ours.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Elbert, you, it sounds as if you had a very happy relationship with your customers whether they were black or white, whether they lived in town or out of town.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, my father always said that he'd rather have a certain number of, we always dealt in lower priced merchandise rather than something more sophisticated or expensive. Our customers could not afford it. He said he would rather have a thousand working customers than a hundred people who bought more expensive merchandise, because they were the most critical and most demanding as far as satisfying their wishes and needs.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Wonder if you'd tell me about Same Lipman's place of business. Sam Lipman was your father's

ELBERT LIPMAN: My father's uncle.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Alright, and where did he locate?

ELBERT LIPMAN: He was located on Middle Street, of course, the building has been torn down, just below Fuller Music Company, in that empty lot there. The building was there. When people, my father, as I say came from Lithuania. Matter of fact, I've got his immigration papers here. I looked for them. I wasn't sure I had it or not. Whenever an individual came to this country, they always had to have a sponsor

to show that they would not be destitute or be, become a ward of the state, so to speak, as far as income was concerned. So Sam Lipman sponsored my father to come to this country and he assumed financial responsibility for him. And, of course, not that he ever had to support him or anything of the kind, but I mean, somebody had to assure the Immigration Service that these people would not be destitute or become a ward of the state or anything of that kind. So Sam Lipman did sponsor him. Sam Lipman before I even knew him, started out, I think he was a peddler selling off of a, with a horse and cart in the area somewhere around Trenton, North Carolina. That was before I even knew of him, because he eventually moved to New Bern and he opened this clothing store here, the department store, and, of course, it was staffed by, he had a large family and it was staffed by the various members of his family as well as other employees that they had. And, of course, they again dealt with the same type of customers I suppose we had as far as working people, and farm trade, and such as that. And, again, I never heard anybody say anything unkind about Sam Lipman or my father as far as their dealings with the public, as far as taking advantage of them or anything of the kind.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: That clothing, department store of his had been there a long time then.

ELBERT LIPMAN: That's right. Even before my father's furniture business, because he was established in business when my father came over here.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Before we forget this point, let me ask

how your great uncle and your father ever came to this area from Lithuania.

ELBERT LIPMAN: To tell you the truth, I'm not sure. Well, my father came here because Sam Lipman was here. Now why Sam Lipman came here, I don't know. Whether he felt it was an opportunity for him.

Of course, many, well, most of these people when they immigrated, came to the larger cities whether it be New York, or Baltimore, or such as that. And, of course, I don't why or how he ended up down here in North Carolina, but he did. Of course, since he sponsored my father, that would be the destination that my father would have come to.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Were there other people in town who came here from Lithuania?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I don't really know. I mean, as far as their families.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Elbert, about Sam Lipman's store. Now when did that close?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, I'm not sure as far as the date was concerned. Of course, the various members of the family who were participating, and there was Adolph Lipman who still lives in New Bern.

You may see him walking along the streets from time to time. He's the only, well, he and Benjamin are the only one left living.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Were they sons of Sam?

ELBERT LIPMAN: They were sons. Yeah, of Sam Lipman. There was Harry Lipman, of course, who managed the business. He died some years

ago, and, of course, they finally when all of them died out, of course, Harry, I think sold the business. I don't know whether he had health problems or not.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: What year did he sell?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I really don't know. I'd say it was sometime in the 1950's. I'm just guessing. I really have no way of knowing.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And then those buildings became something else.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, they were used for several different things. They were used for, I think it was some discount store over there. Something comparable to McLellan's or McRory's. Something like that was in there, and then the structure, the front wall, they discovered, it was an old building, of course, and the front wall was separating from the body and the roof beside. They tried bolting it together to keep it from collapsing. Finally they gave up on it and that's when the building was ultimately demolished, but they had literally bolted the front of the building to the walls to keep it from separating.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: The buildings were demolished several years ago.

ELBERT LIPMAN: That's right. One of the real estate agents here in New Bern bought the property for investment purposes and he had hoped to salvage the building and he was unable to do it, because he had to, ultimately, tear it down. It may have been condemned by the city. I'm not sure.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: In the days that you were, well, let me

backtrack a minute. The two remaining members of the Sam Lipman family then were Benjamin who is in a Veterans Administration home, I think.

ELBERT LIPMAN: The last I heard he was

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And Adolph who lives in the New Bern

ELBERT LIPMAN: New Bern Towers

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Towers.

ELBERT LIPMAN: That's right.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And he's seen around town quite a bit.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Benjamin was the youngest one. I don't know how old he was. Adolph, he made the comment to me sometime ago, I think he's in his early eighties. So I guess Benjamin would be in his seventies I suppose.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And they're the only ones left.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Only ones left of the whole family. Except for a few nieces and nephews and such as that.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Elbert, when you all were in business in your store downtown, how do you remember the block of Middle Street that you all inhabited.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, there was a wide diversity of business, and they were all, I would say, they were successful because they remained in business for many years there. I mean, starting, as I recall it, down on the corner there used to be a Duffy's Drug Store which you may remember, I forget which, what his first name was.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: That was Brian Duffy.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Brian Duffy. That's who it was. Brian Duffy.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: That's on the northeast corner.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Northeast, that's where, used to be Central News. Now that's Captain Ratty's. I know there was a Duffy's Drug Store, and then of course there was Howard's Clothiers.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Louis Howard.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Louis Howard. Well, that was his father. It was, Howard's Clothiers. And then, of course, there was the famous Leon Cohen there. You know, he had a place right there where, about where Singer Sewing Machine is now.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Do you remember much about Leon Cohen and his store.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Nothing really, except I remember what he looked liked and I remembered he had everything under the sun there including fire crackers that everybody used to buy there at the Fourth of July and such as that.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: This was a small store.

ELBERT LIPMAN: A very small place, yes. It was notions, novelties, and such as that. He was quite an eccentric individual.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: He's well remember by people of our time.

ELBERT LIPMAN: But I had forgotten all about him until I saw his name in this folder, and then, of course, it was Sam Lipman's there. And, of course, as I remember it, there was a, let's see, what was it there, there's a Fuller Music Company. I think they were there, I forget, their father was rather a big fellow. I've forgotten his

name now. And, of course, it was J. S. Jones was still there. That was the furniture store there. That goes back a long time. Then there was a clothing store, Suskin's.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: This is Albert Suskin's father.

ELBERT LIPMAN: That's right.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: What was his name? Do you remember?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I think his name was Max Suskin.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: This was a men's and ladies' clothing store?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I think it was just men's clothing, but again all of the family is dead in that group. All of them.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Do you know what happened to Albert Suskin. If you don't, I'll tell you.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, I know he was a professor at the University of North Carolina. He taught Latin, and I don't know anything further than that. I know he did die, but I didn't know what happened to him.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Well, he was a professor at Chapel Hill and became chairman of the Department of Romantic Languages, and became a very highly thought of person in the university administration.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I didn't know that. He was a very nice individual. He was the nicest one in the whole family, in fact. The only one who wasn't eccentric.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: I remember him very well. He and James Dawson were extremely close friends. The son of J. B. Dawson who ran the Sun Journal.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Short fellow, had reddish-blond curly hair.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Yes, yes. He was a real success story.

ELBERT LIPMAN: He was a nice person.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Then going on up the street, what was next.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, let's see. After Suskin's, there used to be a Boyd Furniture Store there, b,o,y.d. I can't remember his first name. He lives somewhere down on, in your neighborhood I believe.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Guy Boyd.

ELBERT LIPMAN: No, it wasn't Guy.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: No, it wasn't Guy.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Not Guy Boyd. Guy Boyd was in the produce business.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Yes.

ELBERT LIPMAN: There was some mention of a someone, W, P. Boyd in this bulletin of yours, but I don't think that was the same one. And, of course, from there on, I'm just trying to remember what was along there as far as

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: The hotel?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, the hotel was there, of course. What was it? The New Bernian Hotel.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: That was a going concern then wasn't it.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Yes, it was a going concern. Yes, people were there. Of course, had a restaurant downstairs. And going up, of course, I can't recall all those things. Well, of course, there was Coplon Smith where Bear park is now. Coplon Smith Department Store.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Who was Mr. Coplon?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, there were several brothers there. I didn't know most of them, but it was, Abe Coplon. Well, he was the one who lived in New Bern. There were several other brothers who lived in other places. I think they lived in Winston-Salem if I'm not mistaken, and I really don't know too much about the family. They have two children still living. There's a Dorothy Coplon and then there was a Buddy Coplon. I think Buddy lives in Raleigh. Dorothy lives in Charlotte.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Abe ran this business though.

ELBERT LIPMAN: He ran the business here, yes.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And that was a department store?

ELBERT LIPMAN: That was a department store. A quite successful department store for many years. And, of course, they had this fire some years ago when it burned up. In fact, when they had the fire, we got a phone call in the middle of the night that all of downtown New Bern was on fire. We came rushing down there. Didn't know what was happening. Well, it was on the other side of the street we knew, but the way the wind was blowing from the north east and sparks and flame and everything, we went to the back door and took all of our records out of the business there in case the building itself did catch fire and burn. Fortunately, it didn't spread across the street, but there was a distinct possibility of it. But we came down there about two o'clock in the morning to remove all of our records, accounts receivable.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: So the store burned up then.

ELBERT LIPMAN: His store. Coplon's store.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: About what year was that. I don't remember that fire.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I really don't remember. It's been quite a long time ago.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: What was above them?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, my memory is beginning to run out at that point. I can go back to the other side of the street and remember a couple of places. Down on the other side on the, let's see, that would have been on the southwest corner, I guess you'd say, on south.

Let's see what it would be. Corner directly across from Duffy's Drug Store is where it was. There was a famous McSorley's.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Right on the corner?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I'm not sure whether it was on the corner or next to it.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: This is a point of disagreement among people we've talked to.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I think it was next to the corner. I think it was next to the corner. He had an old fashioned marble top counter there, and had the wrought iron chairs. You could go in there and his famous concoction was a lemon phosphate drink. I'm not quite sure what was in the lemon phosphate drink, but he did have that. And, of course, you could get ice cream there. And then there was a couple

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Which McSorley was this?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I'm not sure. I don't know which one it was. I just knew him as Mr. McSorley.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Yes. You remember what was on the corner next to his place.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I can't remember what was on the corner, but I'm positive this was next to the corner, not on the corner itself. If it was

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Yes. Alright. Then as you come up the street from there

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, coming up, then, of course, there was a, let's see, Louis Zaytoun had a sandwich shop in there I believe.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Who did?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Louis Zaytoun.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Louis Zaytoun.

ELBERT LIPMAN: That's right. I think they called it Louis Sandwich Shop. I don't remember all of the structures in there. Of course, it got

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Was the Army-Navy store there at that time?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I think there was an Army-Navy store.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Mr. Charlie Ellis ran that store.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I think you're right there. That's where Hubert Cayton came in with them eventually and I think he married, I don't know whether he married her daughter, his daughter or not. Cayton came into it, but the Army-Navy store, I'd forgotten that one. And then there was, of course, the one that the, New Bern Loan and Jewelers.

Well, I think it was Elden's at that time. Louis Elden.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: That was Lou Elden, e,l,d,e,n.

ELBERT LIPMAN: And then there was another, Marty, his brother. There were two of them together, m,a,r,t,y.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Did they run that place together?

ELBERT LIPMAN: They ran it together. Marty died, and then, of course, Louis continued to run it until he died.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: You remember Louis' wife's name.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Right on the tip of my tongue. Ethel.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Ethel.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Ethel.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: She's still alive isn't she.

ELBERT LIPMAN: No, she died about a year ago.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Ok. I remember the Eldens very well, very well.

ELBERT LIPMAN: She moved up to Raleigh. I believe she had some family there and she was there, and I believe she had a stroke, if I'm not mistaken, then she died about a year ago.

TAPE ONE -- SIDE B

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Ok, Elbert, we were talking about Lou Elden's place and then coming up from there.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I can't remember what was in there, that point there. Of course, Harry Vatz had The Fashion Center there for many

years. I don't know when he opened it.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: That was The Fashion Center?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Fashion Center. That was Harry Vatz's.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Right. This is on the west side.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Yes. That's exactly where Hill's is located now.

And, of course, I don't know how long they've been there, but I presume the Scott Gas Company was there at that time too. Scott Gas Company, and then, of course, we were next door to it. Joe Lipman and Son, and then, of course, I can't remember. Now actually the building where we were is now Ballantyne's. It's Ballantyne's Framing Shop now. Prior to that, my father was in the location right next door to it where this little art shop is now, and the building was not large enough and he negotiated a lease with Scott to move into the building that we were in since it was next door and an adjoining building, we got permission. We cut holes in the wall, the brick walls upstairs, to move things directly through from one floor to the other without having to take it down, bring it in, take it up again. And, of course, that was in that building there. And, of course, there was, I'm not sure what was where Jones Potts is located now. Then, of course, there was, right next to it, of course, was the O Mark's Building. Of course, there was a Montgomery Ward was there for many years, and that building was owned by a Coplon from, it was Coplon Investment Company.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Was that Abe Coplon?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Yes. Well, I don't know who else are members of the group, but there was Montgomery Ward, and then Belk, of course,

right next to the alley. And, of course, from there, the next place, of course, is the Baptist church. And the last one going up in the corner, it used to be, I believe it was D. L. Latta Hardware Company. That was Latta, l,a,t,t,a.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Catherine Latta's father.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Catherine Latta's father.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Yes, uh huh. Elbert, important to the story of New Bern, is the story of the Jewish people in this town. There have been so many fine outstanding Jewish people here. As I tried to put a list together, let me just read out the names that came to my mind and you can add to them if I

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, some of the initial names are in these old legal documents. Some of the people that preceded me even.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Well, we'll just put it on the tape. Would you like to name some of the Jewish people you remember from those days and I'll add

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, my list doesn't go back as far as these documents. I mean, mine go back, there was the Jacob's family, and the Bray family.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Now, which Jacobs is this.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, there was a Max Jacobs, M. Jacobs, and, of course, there was the Bray family. There were several different people who were members of it, and, of course, the Howards.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Louis Howard and his family.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Louis Howard and his family. Well, there was

Louis Howard. Well, there were two brothers, Louis Howard and Ellis Howard. I forget the father's name, what it was. In fact, they've, the Howards, this house next door was their family home for many years. The house right over here that someone is remodeling.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: That was the family home.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Howard family home.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And that, Louis lived there for awhile.

ELBERT LIPMAN: He lived there for awhile until he got married, and, of course, moved out at that time. His wife was named Minora Howard. But, of course, there was a Howard family. There was a Suskins, and, of course, there was the Coplon's. The Coplon family. And, of course, more recently, the Elden's, and there was Ken Zacks who was there a number of years. He had a ladies clothing store.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: They had The Fashion Center that we were talking about.

ELBERT LIPMAN: No, The Fashion Center was Vatz.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: I'm sorry. I thought you were talking about Vatz.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, the Vatz, of course, that was The Fashion Center. Zacks' clothing store was called The Parisian. Ken Zacks'.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: I'm sorry. I was just not picking that name up.

ELBERT LIPMAN: That's alright.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Sure, I remember, I remember the Zacks very well.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Ken Zacks. His wife was Lucille Zacks.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Where was their place of business located?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, that was right next to this Bear Plaza. I think the building is empty now. There've been several dress shops in there over a period of time in that big place. It's right next to Benner's photography shop.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Right. You have others you can speak to.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, of course, getting to the more recent era, of course, I mean, there would be, just trying to think who they might be. I lost my train of thought on the thing there.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Well, it's the Goldman family, of course.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Oh, the Goldman, of course. That's true.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And Mr. Goldman had a junk yard.

ELBERT LIPMAN: That's right. Well, he had a junk yard down here right where they are proposing to build a bank now, directly across from this Print Shop of New Bern. That whole area was nothing but a junk pile there with an old ramshackled building sitting in there. That was his office.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Now where, tell me again where that is located.

ELBERT LIPMAN: That was on Tryon Palace Drive or South Front Street. Well, almost directly across from the Wachovia Bank. Just a short distance down. Right next to Security Finance. That whole area that's been cleared off in there. Of course, well, not all of it, because there used to be a Morton Motor Company there, J. W. Morton.

He sold Hudsons and Studebakers, I believe it was.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Goldman moved his junk yard

ELBERT LIPMAN: Out, on the highway. I don't know whether he did it. I think Raymond did it, his son.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And the Marks family.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I never knew any of them. I knew the name, but I never knew any of them.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Do you know anything at all about Mr. O. Marks.

ELBERT LIPMAN: No I do not.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Do you remember Harriet Marks, and Belle Hyman.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I remember the names, but there again I don't recall the people. I was just a child when they were here. I mean, the whole population of New Bern has gone through a cycle, I think the Jewish population.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: How about Murry Fitterman.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, Murry Fitterman, of course, was here. He ran the Jewel Box.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Where was that located

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, that was where this Tom's Coin and Antique place. Right next to that alley-way there. The Jewel Box, he ran that for many years.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: And do you recall about when that closed?

ELBERT LIPMAN: No, I do not. As I say, it's been some years

ago.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: People speak of the Cohen-Goldman Factory across from the railroad depot, that big brick building.

ELBERT LIPMAN: I know the building, yes.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Do you know anything about that?

ELBERT LIPMAN: No, I really don't. I know of its former existence, but I don't really know anything about it.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: You don't know which Cohen that was.

ELBERT LIPMAN: No. I might mention something else as far as the business community. I don't know how many people participated in it, but I know my father did. There's mention in your summary there about the Barbour Boat Works. At the time of World War II, they got a contract to build wooden mine sweepers, I believe it was. And they did not have any financial backing. I know they couldn't give the government any guarantees as far as their ability to fulfill the contract, and a number of people, including my father, and I don't know, other members of the community, and, of course, the banks, I suppose, too, guaranteed this performance bond for Barbour Boat Works so they could start operations. So that's where it really started.

There was ...I forget what his name was.. Mr. Barbour, and, of course, Rembert Rivenbark came in. I think that was his son-in-law, I believe.

Of course, he ultimately took over the Barbour Boat Works. But when the thing first started, he could not give initial guarantees or economic guarantees, as far as the fulfilling the contracts to build these mine sweepers. So a number of business people guaranteed this

performance bond for them so they could get started. Of course, they were successful, and, of course, they never lost any money on it or anything of the kind. DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: That's a story we had not heard. Is there any pattern to the Jewish, the Jewish people coming to New Bern? What drew them here or did they come from a certain area?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, I really don't know. They were from all different places of course. I don't know if there was any pattern to it. Of course, a lot of them, I guess, well, I guess, I'm just assuming that many of the people came from Europe, came from small communities, small towns. They felt more comfortable in a small community than they would in a big city. They were lost in the big cities, I suppose, and, of course, I think that the relationship between the Christians and the Jewish people were much more cordial and harmonious in the small communities too. I mean, for example, I say that and keep my fingers crossed, I have never encountered any hostility, anything of the kind in all my years of living here in New Bern. I mean some people in the heat of the moment, may say, may make an unkind statement or something at the time, but it's not anything sustained or organized, these incidents that you read and hear about in the past.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Do most of the Jewish people feel the same way about New Bern?

ELBERT LIPMAN: I think so. They felt comfortable here. Well, they were a part of the community. As I've said on more than one

occasion, I have Jewish background, but as far as I'm concerned, I'm an American. I don't owe any allegiance to Israel or anything of the kind, although I have sympathy for the country, of course.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: The only bigotry I remember along these lines, was when I was a boy. We used to taunt Leon Cohen.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, he was rather an eccentric individual. I mean, he, you might say he provoked this thing. I think it was done more, not out of animosity, but just to taunt him or ridicule him or something like that.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Is the Jewish population growing in New Bern or is it dying out?

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, it went through cycles. When I was growing up, there were a number of small children including myself. We had a Sunday school. As we grew up, some of us had children. Some didn't.

Some stayed here in New Bern. Some moved away. And the congregation tended to dwindle or diminish in size, and many of them moved away from, (the children as they grew up) moved away. Such as, my children moved away or my brother-in-law's children. And at one time we were seriously worried whether or not we could sustain the temple and the congregation as an on-going viable organization, but in the last several years, there have been a number of retirees who moved in to the area which of course has provided population, so to speak, as far as maintaining the membership. But, of course, regrettably, they are all older people and there are very few younger people in the congregation providing an on-going membership for it.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: On the other hand, I guess more older people of Jewish faith keep coming in.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, there have been some coming in. There's not a constant stream or flow. They come for various reasons. For example, the president of the temple is named Jacob Stern. He lives down in Oriental somewhere. He moved here primarily because he was interested in boats and the waters that were available to him for that reason. Other people, the same way, for their own personal reasons.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Another active member you have is Maury Specter.

ELBERT LIPMAN: That's right. Of course, he was the president at one time. I'm not quite sure.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: He was a what?

ELBERT LIPMAN: He was a president of the temple at one time too, but, of course, I don't know what his reason was for moving here, you know, but people come for their own personal reasons, of course. I'd say the congregation at the moment is about thirty families, I believe.

Approximately thirty families. It has been as low as twelve or fifteen. We share the services of the Rabbi with the temple in Kinston which has a much larger congregation there. He comes down twice a month to conduct services here. Traditionally, it should be done on a Friday night which is the Sabbath as far as the Jewish religion.

His primary commitment is to Kinston for Friday nights. So they had to compromise to get him on a different night or not at all. So he comes down on every other Tuesday night and conducts services here.

For many years, of course, the high holidays in the Jewish religion was Rosh Hashana which is the New Year and Yom Kipper which is the day of atonement. In the fall of the year there is an interval of about ten days apart. For many years when we had an active congregation here, we would make arrangements with the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio. They had the student Rabbis there who needed practical training, of course, and they would come down and stay in New Bern for the ten day period. We would provide them transportation, and lodging, and food for that period of time. And, of course, they would stay and conduct services during that traditional period of the ten days between, of the two high holy days, but when the congregation began to diminish in size, it became a rather sizeable financial burden to provide those funds. Just as airline fares have gone up so much in the last few years, along with other expenses. So several years ago, they decided to dispense with that arrangement. So now from the traditional high holy day services, the people go to Kinston to attend services there on those particular days.*

* In 1993 traditional holiday services were conducted in New Bern by members of the congregation.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: Elbert, you have shown me documents that indicate you are very interested in the history of the temple, the synagogue. What would you like to speak to about the story of the synagogue.

ELBERT LIPMAN: Well, I don't really know too much about it. I mean, as far as going back, as I say, these two documents here.

One of them is this old deed which in the eighteen sixties this group of individuals, members of the Jewish faith, acquired the cemetery plot there. Now I don't have any records at all as far as the payment for those plots or anything of the kind.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON: But, if we can stick with the synagogue itself.

EL: I know. Well, it's all together. The synagogue owns the cemetery.

JP: I see.

EL: They own the cemetery. So I mean, it's all one in the same in that respect. But, the synagogue, as from what I say, from what I understand that for many years the people, I don't know who they were or how many they were, they met in some store location to conduct services once a week. Of course, traditionally the term Rabbi, it's not like a minister or a preacher, the term, not that I'm an authority on it. I think technically the word Rabbi means teacher. So, of course, anybody could conduct services if they have the academic knowledge to do it. So I understand that they had services here, and then, of course, they finally decided to build the temple. And, of course, you saw the deed and you know, I didn't even know that your family were the previous owners of the land, of course. Now the building, I think there's a cornerstone there dated 1907. So evidently that's when the building was completed, and it bears the name of Temple Chester B'nai Sholem. Now, I don't know who the family was, but some person gave a sizeable amount to the construction of the temple, whatever

it was, I don't know the monetary amount, on the condition that the name Chester be incorporated in the name of the temple. Chester was the name of his son, I believe.

JP: How do you spell Chester?

EL: Yeah, Chester, c,h,e,s,t,e,r, and B'nai Sholem, of course are the Jewish words as far as the name of it, how it came about, but that's the way the word Chester is incorporated into the name. This person gave money on the condition of his son's name, I don't know whether he was possibly deceased, being incorporated into the name of the temple. I don't even know the family name.

JP: And the temple has stood in its present location. The first and only synagogue in New Bern.

EL: That's right. And, of course, some years ago when Louis Howard was president he instituted a major renovation program which was done and the temple was rededicated at that time. Of course, we like to feel and think there's a beautiful place as far as a place of worship. Although there are many other that, of course, I think it's much more attractive than the one in Kinston for example.

JP: That is certainly an interesting corner, New and Middle Streets with all the churches there. Yeah, it's a great spot in New Bern.

EL: I don't know how it happened to be there. Of course, I don't know whether the Presbyterian church, how far back that goes, or the Methodist church, and of course the Catholic church was there at one time too.

JP: The Presbyterian church is about eighteen hundred.

EL: So that would be old. I don't know how old the Methodist church would be.

JP: Elbert, how long has the Jewish cemetery been in existence?

EL: Well, this deed was of the 1860's. So apparently, I don't know how it came about, the land was bought, and of course, it adjoins the National Cemetery. And, of course, they're using the common wall between the two cemeteries as a boundary. And, of course, the Jewish community built the front wall and one side wall on the side there to contain the area there. So it goes back to the 1860's.

JP: You told me a story about part of the land being used for a garden and this posed some problem.

EL: Yes. Well that's when we. Right. Well, it was used as a garden, and, of course, we decided that since it was not being utilized, we had to maintain it to keep trespassers and keep debris out and everything of the kind. We were going to put up a chain link fence around it. We could not find out, could not find a deed to determine the boundaries or perimeters of a particular plot, and we finally discovered in this old deed that I showed to you, and, of course, at the time after the survey was made, we found that a number of people on the adjoining properties, on the south side, had buildings and fences and what have you, intruding upon the temple's property. Of course, by the right of eminent domain, if you occupy something for a certain length of time, I think you can legally hold on to it. You don't have to surrender it, but we notified all these people, and all voluntarily

with no problem or dispute moved their fences or moved their buildings.

Maybe a couple of feet or something like that, but all of them moved their buildings and moved their fences so that we could put up a fence there and establish boundaries.

JP: All during, much during this time, you didn't know where the deed was.

EL: We didn't know where it was at all. We couldn't find it. Norris Reed gave up on it. He couldn't find it, and he located the thing. I don't remember where it was or anything. He stumbled upon it accidentally.

JP: This is a hand written document.

EL: That's a hand written document.

JP: And you have it and you're preserving it. Is the Jewish Cemetery pretty well filled now?

EL: No, we have a great deal of unused land. We hope we won't need it, but, of course, I guess ultimately we will. We had a situation happen that you may or may not know about. We have quite a sizeable area in the back that we've never used. And, of course, we didn't know whether we ever would use it. When the congregation diminished, it looked like we'd never have any use for it. This is the area that we fenced in where the gardens had been, and the National Cemetery as you know is completely filled up. There are no more grave sites available at all. I've taken it upon myself as a personal mission to try to preserve the Jewish Cemetery here in New Bern, because the new comers have no families here and no ties to it, and they have very

little commitment to the cemetery regrettably. I guess that's human nature. Some of them may ultimately be buried here. They may be buried wherever place they came from. But anyway, we had this land that we didn't think we'd ever use. We offered to give it to the National Cemetery free of charge in exchange for an agreement that they provide perpetual care for the old portion, the original portion of the front area of the cemetery. No strings attached. They have a maintenance crew out there all the time working on a permanent basis. The people are there. The equipment is there. All they had to do was come through the gate and come into the area to take care of it, and so, in case there was no one else here to do so. We offered to give them the land and they wouldn't do it. Would not sign an agreement. There was enough land there for about two hundred grave sites. We offered to give it to them.

JP: Why did they refuse?

EL: They said they could not enter into an agreement of that nature at all. Harold Orringer contacted Congressman Walter Jones about it. In fact, I've got letters about how they said it could not be done, and I think the cemeteries come under the Veterans Administration, if I'm not mistaken. They changed the directors or superintendents about ever two or three years and every time they got a new superintendent, we started over again with them. We finally, in disgust, said that we'd just forget about it, and, but we offered to give them the land in return for an agreement, and they would provide perpetual care for the Jewish Cemetery in case there was no one here

to take care of it so it would not be abandoned or anything of the kind. They said they could not enter into an agreement of that kind.

Then we contacted the city about some type of perpetual care, and they said they couldn't do it, because of the fact that it's religious oriented cemetery. I mean, it's not open to the general public. It's only for members of the Jewish faith or their families. We then offered to sell the land to them. In other words, we were trying to set up a self sustaining fund so that the interest could be used for maintenance. And, then, of course, we would not have to touch the principal. Well, we had to find some organization, legal organization that would be willing to handle the thing for us. And I contacted several of the banks and they didn't want to do it because, I guess it wasn't enough money involved in it for them as far as a trust fund was concerned. And then the bottom line was that they didn't want to buy it and we offered to give it to them, but of course, they wouldn't take it with those strings attached to it. They said they had no provision to buy the land and then turn it over to the local veterans organizations. They were all talk and no money, so to speak. They wanted us to give it to them which was out of the question, but we saw those articles in the paper. In fact, I've got some of the clippings that there was some admiral down at Pine Knoll Shores or where ever it is between, down below Croatan somewhere, some retired admiral from the Coast Guard. I don't remember his name. He wrote a very indignant outraged letter to the newspaper about the matter, and the fact that they did not, could not provide burial facilities for veterans in this

area. And I called him up and told him what transpired and he wanted me to send him photo copies of everything I had. I said this is ridiculous as far as making photo copies. I never did pursue it any further there, and, of course, in the meantime, I think they built another cemetery over at Jacksonville.

JP: So nothing has come of that?

EL: Nothing, but we offered to give them enough land for two hundred grave sites.

JP: Yes. So at the moment there is no organization, then, to look out for this cemetery.

EL: Only me as an individual or, hopefully, some other member of the congregation if something happens to me. I mean, we have funds.

I've been earmarking funds for that purpose. So it isn't a matter of finances. It's a matter of somebody to administer it, and take care of it.

JP: Going back for a moment to the Jewish families in town. We really just forgot the Orringer family. What is the story of the Orringer family in New Bern.

EL: Well, the only story I know is that they had a pickle plant, because they are originally from, I think, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, if I'm not mistaken. Of course, it was Leo Orringer. There was Harold Orringer. No, their father was Joe Orringer. Then there was Leo Orringer and Harold Orringer, and, of course, they had this pickle plant on, let's see, it was at the end of Pasture Street up there next to the railroad. And, of course, for many years it was a big successful

business and for whatever, they were buying cucumbers, and, of course, processing them and pickling them. Whether they ran into problems with all the pickle companies down in the Mount Olive area or not, I don't know whether that put them out of business or not. But, of course, I mean, the pickle plant closed down many years ago.

JP: Harold was really running that then the later years of its existence.

EL: I believe so.

JP: Has he continued in business.

EL: No, Harold is retired now. He was semi-retired, of course, for awhile he worked at the hospital, and, I think in the administrative program. I don't know just what category it was, but he's completely retired now.

JP: Another well known name in New Bern's stories, is Louis Howard. Louis was involved in a number of enterprises.

EL: Well Louis was involved in many things. He was, perhaps, the driving force in restoring and renovating the temple. I guess he took as much as a personal interest in the temple as I take in the cemetery. It became an obsession with him the same as the cemetery has become a obsession with me. And, of course, he was always like a mother hen taking care of everything. And, of course, it got to the point it was always easier to do something yourself rather than try to find someone to do it. So, when something needed doing, he just went ahead and did it. Sometimes he would consult people. Sometimes he didn't. But, of course, he always did it with the best

interest of the temple at heart.

JP: What business was he engaged in in New Bern?

EL: Well, he was associated with his father in the clothing business there for many years on Middle Street. And, of course

JP: Where was the store?

EL: The store was right next to Duffy's Drug Store. The second door up from the corner.

JP: The Howards.

EL: The Howards, yes. Howard's Clothing. And then, of course, he went into the real estate business for many years.

JP: He eventually owned the Hotel Governor Tryon at the time it was destroyed.

EL: In the fire, yes. He owned a lot of other properties too. I don't know the extent of them or anything of the kind.

JP: Are any of his family members still here?

EL: No, no one here. He has a, I know a daughter, a step-daughter. I don't know where they live. His wife, Minora Howard, lives in Florida.

JP: Do you recall any other Jewish families that we haven't spoken to?

EL: Well, I'm sure I've overlooked some of 'em, but I really don't know who they are without going through the list here.

JP: I wanted to ask you what effect the depression had your family business.

EL: Well, I'm sure it had an adverse effect. I know, I'm sure

my father extended credit, and, of course, he never pressured anybody.

They paid him. If they couldn't pay him, well, of course, one thing that determined our decision to close the business is related to that.

In the old days, so to speak, if a person owed you money, if they couldn't pay you, they wouldn't lie to you. They wouldn't dodge you or anything of the kind. And, of course, payments in those days might be fifty cents or a dollar a week, something like that. If they couldn't pay you, they'd come and tell you about it. And, of course, as soon as they could, they would pay. Regrettably, Murry Fitterman once made the same comment. Said the younger generation has come along and has no compunction whatsoever about not paying their bills or taking care of their financial obligations. I mean, if they got in a bind, the first thing they'd do is file for chapter 11 bankruptcy as a way of getting out of paying you. But, I mean, it got to the point, of course, and I'm sure that this had an adverse effect as far as diminished income.

I was too young though, at that time, to really be aware of the economic impact of the thing, but I'm sure it did have an adverse affect on the business. And most people paid. I guess 90% of what we sold, financed it ourselves. We didn't use the banks or credit companies for that and, of course, that was an incentive for people to trade with us, people who were on limited incomes. And, when we closed the business, we had a sizeable amount still owing us on the books as outstanding accounts. Well, we restricted the further extension of credit for perhaps a year prior to closing the business. We had a target date, but when we closed it up, we didn't lose over a couple

of hundred dollars on accounts receivable that people owed us. I mean, everybody paid us. Whether that's a compliment to them or a compliment to us, I don't know which.

JP: I wish I could say the same for my surgical practice when I closed it in 1961.

EL: You know something happened. You probably talked, one of your things you had mentioned in there about recollections of doctors and physicians and hospitals. There are two things I remember going back a long time ago when my children were small, you probably don't remember one of 'em, but my boy was riding a bicycle one time. You had an office on the corner of Metcalf and Broad Streets, did you not, that building there. And he was riding a bicycle and he fell off the bicycle and bit his tongue and I took him to you. Of course, I don't remember where it happened. I mean, it was a pretty gory looking sight, and you didn't have a nurse at the office at the time. So I was drafted to assist you while you were sewing up his tongue, and, of course, I began to get sick. I had to leave. I couldn't stay there at the time, but I asked you afterwards how many stitches did you put in his tongue and you said, "I don't know. There was so many I lost count of them."

JP: I hope the outcome was a good one.

EL: Well, it's, everything that, he had no ill effects from. The only other incident I remember. They were talking about the hospitals, about the Kafer Hospital and what the sequence was when it was on the corner there of George and Broad Streets. I don't know

whether they still do it or not, but it was very fashionable to remove children's tonsils. The first time they got a sore throat, they'd take their tonsils out. And I don't remember who the doctor was at the time, but they'd wait until they had three or four children and all, take them all at one time like an assembly line to remove the tonsils. My boy was quite small at the time. There were about four children there. So I promised him I wouldn't leave him. I'd stay with him. I put a blanket on the floor under his bed, the hospital bed, just to be there with him in case he woke up or anything of the kind, and it was an awful night sleeping on a tile floor.

JP: I'll bet. Elbert, you weren't here during World War II of course. I'm talking to your father, was that a successful business time for your business then with the Marine base close by?.

EL: I honestly don't know. I mean, the business

JP: He didn't talk to you about that?

EL: No, he never said, I mean the business survived and I don't know whether it prospered or not, but it was still a viable operation when I came back. Of course, I don't know to what extent he profited on it, if he would have said it. I don't think, know that it wasn't, cause at that time, I guess most personnel, I mean, it was not like now when they have married personnel living here on more or less permanent basis. Everyone was transient then. They were training for overseas duty or something of the kind.

JP: So they weren't buying a lot of stuff.

EL: I don't imagine, so I'm just assuming as much.

JP: I can understand that.

EL: When a man is, he comes to Cherry Point to train for overseas service or something like that, of course. Maybe maintenance or base personnel might have their families with them. I don't know what the extent of it was.

JP: When you remember Middle Street where your business was located and the early years, was that street paved with asphalt or was it brick.

EL: I believe it was brick, but I'm not positive. I think it was brick.

JP: Did the trolley come by there?

EL: No. That was before my time again. I remember the existence of the tracks, but I don't never remember having seen the trollies.

JP: The tracks were on Middle Street

EL: On Middle Street, and I think they went up Pollock Street and on out that way, and out toward Park Avenue.

JP: But it came down Middle Street

EL: I think it made a turn. It went down to Craven Street. I'm not sure. I think that's right. I don't really recall, but I think that's right.

JP: Do you remember much traffic on the river, business traffic on the river, boats. You were down close to the pier.

EL: All I remember as far as traffic were the fishing boats that used to come in to the foot of Middle Street there. There was a seafood market there, and then, of course, I think it was Lupton's. Then there

was a restaurant there. I think a seafood restaurant there out over the water on the south side of Middle Street. Of course, on the other side was Maxwell Company. But I remember the fishing boats used to come in there, but that's the only thing I remember. There'd be a number of them on a, at a given time there.

JP: They would deliver fish to fish markets? Is that correct?

EL: Deliver fish. I suppose so.

JP: As a young person growing up in New Bern, getting back to your childhood and getting away from business, what are your memories about growing up in New Bern. What did you do for fun and what sort of things did you do?

EL: Well, I haven't really thought about it. I mean, you weren't obsessed with fun, so to speak, as the way they are now with entertainment. Of course, there was no television or anything like that. I remember the first television set we got. My father had one in the living room and he'd sit there huddled over it trying to get Norfolk I believe. That was the closest station on it, and if you get some vaguely visible signal you got all excited about the thing.

And of course, you had the phonographs as far as music and such as that. And of course, there were the movies. When you could go to the movies for ten cents and twenty five cents and such as that.

JP: You're talking about the Athens and the Masonic.

EL: The Athens and the Kehoe I think it became and the Masonic, of course, and there was one down on, I think about where Branch's is now called the Colonial Theater, I believe.

JP: And it cost ten cents to go then?

EL: Anywhere from ten cents to a quarter depending upon the time frame that you are referring to.

JP: What was the favorite afternoon, Saturdays?

EL: Probably Saturdays. You go on Saturday and stay all day.

JP: Did you do any swimming in the rivers?

EL: Very little of it, I mean, of course it wasn't as bad then I guess as it is now. I remember that at the end of Johnson Street there's Dr. Hands Club, of course, you mentioned in one of your bulletins, there, I remember they used to swim down there, but very few times. And, of course, down, I'm not sure exactly where it is now. I guess about more less where this new Sheraton extension is going up. There were a lot of old warehouses and factories then. There was this Albert Crabtree who had the Boys Club there, and of course, he was an eccentric individual but everybody loved him. And, of course, every, and a lot of them used to swim in the river off of that dock there where he had his machine shop.

JP: Did you swim there?

EL: I probably went in there a couple of times.

JP: Did you go to Morehead?

EL: Yes, we used to go to Morehead. I mean, there was a day excursion. I remember that. We used, well, we never went on the trains, of course. That was when they had the highway, and of course, it was a major trip to drive down and you'd drive down to Morehead down to the street where all the markets are now, and then they had these boats

that would shuttle customers, people across, passengers to the beach there. Then you'd, I think, I don't know what they charged for it.

It was about twenty minute boat trip, and you'd get over to the other side, and they had these duck walks and board walks. So you'd get off the boats and then you'd walk maybe a quarter of a mile with these board pathways across the dunes across to the beach area itself.

JP: Were there dressing rooms over there?

EL: They had dressing rooms, yes.

JP: What was the road like between New Bern and Morehead?

EL: I really don't remember. It was a two lane highway is all I could say, and of course, a typical road. It was a couple of hours trip to get from New Bern to Morehead. It was an all day excursion to go to the beach. You'd go in the morning and probably take picnic baskets with you. And of course, they'd get in the boat and ferry across the sound there to the outer banks. It was a right good shuttle going back and forth on it.

JP: I'd like to ask you, did your crowd do much dancing when you grew up, were there dances you went to?

EL: Well, there was some of them. I didn't, wasn't much of a dancer. That was not one of my social accomplishments.

JP: You have looked over this list of topics that I showed you, are there other things in there you'd like to speak to.

EL: I don't know. As I say, I made a few check marks. Whether there's anything that's, I could possibly elaborate on or not. Just, well, now there's one thing here I could possibly mention. You've

got down 1933, about this, the bridge being destroyed, going across there, where it washed away. The water came up underneath it and picked it up and floated it down the river. I think they found segments of it two or three miles down river. I mentioned about we having accounts of people made payments. We also had these collection routes. We had a number of customers in Bridgeton at the time. There were mills over there and different people working there. And of course, these people, you had to go after them. They'd pay you without any problem, but you had to go to collect from them. We had a collection route that went over to Bridgeton, and we had a man working for us. You may or may not of known him. Reverend Roy Miller. That was Roy Miller's father, the dentist. He worked for us for many years. So we had these accounts and he decided when the bridge was out, and we didn't know how long it was going to out, these people couldn't get to town and we couldn't get to them. So he made a collection trip in a rowboat going across the river there.

JP: Now was this in '33?

EL: In '33, and of course, I went along with him. I was just a child. I went along for the experience of going in a boat there across the river.

JP: You should have gotten up with Billy Hand. He was running an outboard motor boat, ferry, across there.

EL: But, as I say, when the bridge was out, of course, I went with him and he took a boat to go across the river there to collect from his accounts. When he got through, we can back to town with it.

Of course, I mentioned about Barbour Boat Works about these main sweepers and all. One name I'd completely forgotten until I saw it in here was Robert Conderman. I knew him. He went to school with me. He was a marine.

JP: Would you like to talk about

EL: Well, I don't really know much about him other than the fact that he was in school with me. I think he had the notorious reputation.

He was the first one in our class who had the nerve to smoke cigarettes in public. It was quite a scandalous thing at the time. And of course, he was a Marine Corp pilot and I think he was killed in Mid-Way, I believe it was.

JP: He was killed on Wake Island on Pearl Harbor Day.

EL: That's right. Wake Island, that's right.

JP: Strawberry was his name.

EL: I'd forgotten all about that. Of course, Teddy Shapou, I knew him too. I don't really know anything about his activities or anything of the kind.

JP: There's another list too of, I didn't know whether this would bring things to mind.

EL: Now there's one thing here you mentioned about this do you remember business, about the Old Dominion Steamship Company. I'd forgotten all about that. I think it's the same one. When my mother's parents lived in Baltimore, that was a major job to get to Baltimore then as far as driving and nothing of the kind to visit. She used to go every summer for a couple of weeks at the time. So we used to

drive up to Norfolk and they had this overnight steamer. You'd put the car on the steamer and it was an overnight trip from Norfolk to Baltimore. You'd leave about six in the evening. Get in about six the next morning. And of course, it was a very leisurely and luxurious travel experience. Had the car on there and they had the restaurants, and I don't remember they had for entertainment. Of course, we were just children at the time, and we used to come back the same way and it eliminated a lot of tedious driving in the days before the interstates. I think when they finally did away with those steamers and they built the bridge, we went on the, one of the last ones, no, that was going across Chesapeake Bay I believe that Kiptopeake Beach, but we decided to take the last boat trip before they opened the bridge there. I figured we'd never have another experience like that again.

I don't see anything in there. Look like you've covered everything conceivable that I could think of. Many things that I'd forgotten about even. The old businesses on Middle Street, there was one thing you mentioned, got down here about ice wagons and ice boxes. Before they had electric water, electric refrigerators and water coolers, when we'd, one of the old locations on Middle Street. We always had an old fashioned water cooler there. You had to put ice in it. So every morning, the ice wagon used to come around to leave a fifteen cent piece of ice out in front of the door there. Of course, you'd bring it in and put, wash it off, and put it in the water jug, the water cooler that you used, but if you got busy and forgot about it, when you went out to get it, the ice was melted, of course. You'd

get about a foot square piece of ice, I think for fifteen cents. Something like that.

You had in here also, about as far as war time. I had one unique experience if you want to call it that. Before I went in service, while I was waiting, after I registered for the draft, I stayed around for about a year before they reclassified me as 1A. So in an act of patriotism, if you want to call it that, I joined the volunteer fire department, and, as part of the Civil Defense Program. And of course, I don't remember what we did or anything of the kind, but they were practicing, we never had occasion to be put to work in a serious manner, but we went on top of the old Eleanor Marshall School one time. That was before they tore it down there at the corner of First Street. Got on top of the building. Something happened to the ladder and nobody could get down again. We were stranded there for a couple of hours.

Well, as I say, the volunteer fire. Let me see, if you want to watch this microphone, I don't know whether I've got anything in here.

JP: Well, Elbert, we're, the tape is just about out, and so I think this is a good time to stop. And let me tell you, this has been a very good interview and you have told us

EL: Well, I'm happy because I figured I was wasting your time and mine both on the thing.

JP: Well, you haven't wasted mine. I hope that we haven't wasted yours.

EL: I could have been doing something constructive like looking at tax returns.

JP: Well, it's a good thing you got away from that, but I want to thank you for letting us come.

EL: It's been a pleasure to have you.

JP: It's been a pleasure to be here and Fred and I have both enjoyed this a lot. So I'm going to cut this off now.

JP: ...talking about the people who are supporting the cemetery now and in remark that just the folks who have family there seem to be concerned.

EL: Many of them are from other parts, they've moved away and have not lived here for many years.

JP: Ed Wallnau's family, w,a,l,l,n,a,u,

EL: There's a Wallnau family that supported. There's some of the Orringer family who live up near Raleigh. There's a woman named Mrs. Irving Cohen. Now this is not the Leon Cohen family. It's somebody else who lives in Denver, Colorado. She's written me several letters and notes and she sends money on a regular basis. She's ninety some years old. She lived in New Bern at one time. I don't know just where.

There's a man here who sends money from Ottawa, University of Ottawa. His parents are buried here. They're from Jacksonville, named Scott, but I mean, there are people from a great area. There's someone here named Tesseler, from Chicago. That's part of the Block family. Incidentally one of them, ones I could not remember who had a business there on Middle Street. Someone in that area where Benner's is. There was a Block there. M. Block. He lived out on Spencer Avenue. Marcus Block.

JP: Marcus Block.

EL: There was a Tesseler. But these are people from other parts, who don't live here and have not lived here for many years, but who are sending money to help support the cemetery.

JP: Thanks, Elbert.

END OF INTERVIEW