

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

LOUISE ELEANOR JONES CARR

INTERVIEW 405

This is Marea Kafer Foster representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 400. I am interviewing Louise Eleanor Jones Carr, number 405. We are in Mrs. Carr's home, 508 Metcalf Street.

Today is Tuesday the 3rd of March, 1992. Now, Eleanor, if you'll be so kind as to give me your full NAME, your birth date, and your mother and father's names.

Mrs. Carr: I'm Eleanor Jones Carr. I was named for my grandmother, Louise Eleanor, but I've never used that name. My mother was Mary Parker who married my father, Kenneth Raynor Jones, Jr. I was born November 7, 1909, so I'm 82.

MF: Well, you've had a birthday recently?

Mrs. Carr: In November.

MF: So, a belated happy birthday to you. Now, tell me, where were you born?

Mrs. Carr: I was born next door to where I'm living at present in the supposedly fourth oldest house in New Bern. It's a lovely house that has been restored in recent years.

MF: Is that the one that they call The Tisdale house?

Mrs. Carr: Yes, and sometimes it was called the Jones house, because it had been in our family for seventy-two years.

MF: Who lived in the house?

Mr. Carr: My grandfather Jones bought it when my father was seven years old and his little sister was five years old. They grew up there.

My grandfather married twice. He married Mary Simmons, a relation of Senator Simmons. There are quite a few Simmons living in

Pollocksville at this time. Granddaddy and Mary Simmons had two sons; John Amos Jones and Robert DuVal Jones.

MF: Now Eleanor, Robert DuVal Jones was a doctor, wasn't he?

Mrs. Carr: My uncle, Dr. Robert DuVal Jones. There were three daughters. The oldest was Leah DuVal Jones. There was Sophie Jones Hollister and Fannie Jones Nixon.

MF: Now, that's the sister I don't think I'd ever heard of.

Mrs. Carr: That's the mother of Mary Roberts, Mrs. George Roberts. They lived across the street and their daughter Lillian lives there now, Lillian Johnson. When Mary Simmons' children were young, her cousin Louise Eleanor Mitchell, from Demopolis, Alabama, came to see her and stayed with her while she attended Woman's College at Greensboro. The children loved their Aunt Lou, and when Mary Simmons died, their daddy married Louise Eleanor. There was never any difference between the half sisters and half brothers. They had my daddy, Raynor, and Mary Jones, and they were so loved by everybody.

All the children called Aunt Leah, Sister Leah. She was the oldest sister and she was a school teacher. She taught right there in the house; although they were next door to the Academy. She taught in the big dining room. I have a picture of my father leaning up against the window in the classroom. Uncle Johnny Jones was my favorite uncle, I just was real fond of him. He had a lovely wife, Aunt Julia, from Pollocksville. She was Julia Bryan from Pollocksville. They had a son, John Haywood Jones, and a son Kenneth Raynor Jones II. My father was Kenneth Raynor Jones, Jr., but my cousin was Kenneth Raynor Jones

II. He has a son, Kenneth Raynor Jones III. Uncle Johnny's daughter, Leah Jones, was the youngest and she was just a year younger than I.

Mary Louise Jones married John Guion, an attorney, and they had one child, Julia Caroline Guion. There was Julia Bryan who married Jerry Zolicoffer and she had one daughter, Julia, who is Mrs. Kenneth Royal.

These were just Uncle Johnny's children. Uncle Robert DuVal Jones was a doctor, and he looked so handsome in his white uniform. He was on a ship during the war.

MF: Was he in the Navy?

Mrs. Carr: Yeah, he must have been a Navy doctor. He had two children; Robert DuVal Jones, who was also a doctor, he never married and he's deceased; and had one daughter, Elsie, who married a Dr. Simpson. Elsie is deceased but her family still lives in Greenwood, South Carolina. Every time I look at the seed catalog, I think about them. It's in Greenwood, South Carolina. Aunt Sophie Hollister married Jack Tull Hollister. She had a son, Jack, Jr., who married Virginia Pearson and they had one daughter, "Ginny"; a daughter Sophie, who married Curtis Bagg. They had one son, Jack Bagg, Jr. who married Margaret. Her youngest daughter was Janet who married Charles Bradshaw. In later years she had an apartment over here at my Aunt Mary Jones, when she was first married. Aunt Fannie had Mary Nixon who married George Roberts, and she had Robert Nixon, and Kenneth Nixon.

Kenneth died young. Robert married and had twin boys. But I don't know so many of my relatives because they are away from here. I saw them when they were young. Mary Roberts had two daughters; Frances

who never married, and Lillian Johnson who married a Johnson. They had three sons; Skip, George, and Bobby. Then she married Dick Johnson (Ret. Col. William Johnson).

MF: That is so nice, and they're in the family home which is on the corner of Metcalf and New Street. I remember that Mr. George Roberts was the superintendent of the Sunday School when I was young.

Mrs. Carr: He was mayor also.

MF: And mayor, he sure was.

Mrs. Carr: Sister Leah, married Charles Stevens from near Wilmington - Southport. They had one son, John DuVal. John wanted to go to Annapolis, but he was color blind, and he went to West Point. He married the daughter of an officer, Frances, I've forgotten her last name, and they had two daughters.

MF: You've got a nice large family.

Mrs. Carr: Yes, but they are all so scattered.

MF: Now, your father was Kenneth Raynor Jones and your mother, tell me her name again.

Mrs. Carr: Mary Parker. I won't tell her middle name because she didn't like it. She was called "Miss May." Now, that's just telling about the Jones family on the corner next door, but I haven't even gotten to my mother's family.

MF: I know it. I was more interested in the Jones because they were in your grandparent's house when you were born.

Mrs. Carr: No, not when I was born. I never knew my grandfather Jones, he died before I was born. But I dearly loved my grandmother

Lou. Aunt Sophie and Uncle Jack Hollster came to spend a weekend with her and, I think, stayed six years. That's what I've always been told.

When they moved, they took her with them down to East Front Street where Virginia Hollister lives now, Jack's widow. We had the east side of the house and we just stayed there. Mother had had one little girl (Rachel Donnell) who was almost two, who died, and then she had me that same year. They always say, if you fall off a horse, get back on it; if you lose a child, have another one. So, I was born the same year she died. That was the beginning of the rental property over there. Because, the whole west side was empty and it was rented by the Newell's. I have pictures of them when they were over there. Lillian was a little older than I. I recall in one of my pictures in my picture album, I was crying, so they put my Black Dinah in my place that mother had made for me - a doll.

MF: So, you had some happy memories of that house then?

Mrs. Carr: Well, I don't understand people who can remember so much when they're young. I don't remember a lot of things when I was really young. Now, I remember incidents about people and I could tell you all about that, people passing on the street in the neighborhood.

MF: When did your father build this house that we are in now?

Mrs. Carr: When I was around five years old. This is older than seventy-five years. It was built before I started to school. (picture) This is academy square and the Academy was right next door. My mother and father went there as children. I went there, and when I married,

my daughter went there.

MF: I went there too.

Mrs. Carr: I can tell you the teachers who were over there, and I taught over there.

MF: I'm interested in your childhood right now. Who were your playmates?

Mrs. Carr: I wrote all this down, but it isn't in order. In fact, I didn't say a thing about Mary Jones, my daddy's only sister.

MF: Oh no, well, tell me about her.

Mrs. Carr: Mary Jones never married, but for twenty-five years she worked in San Francisco with the Red Cross. It was always funny to me that the day the Armistice was signed, 1918, she landed in Paris because she acted as a Red Cross nurse. I recall, she had a scarf-like covering on her head with the Red Cross and wore a Red Cross on her sleeve. I thought that was great. We always dressed up as Red Cross nurses when we were children because that's what interested us. I told you when she came back to New Bern, she lived over there the rest of her life, and so, that's why we owned that home for seventy-two years.

MF: Let's go into your childhood playmates.

Mrs. Carr: All right. My mother's oldest sister lived across the street in the dutch colonial house that Isabelle Taylor and Lige bought, and "Izzy" lives there now. It had been a black school.

MF: That house had been a black school?

Mrs. Carr: The dutch colonial. Lige and Isabelle completely

restored it because it was in bad condition. I went over there as a child. Julia Davis, later married Clifton McCotter, who had a furniture store here. She was a beautiful girl, and I was just three months older than she, so we were best friends and playmates. Then, we had a cousin, Edith, who lived around the corner. That was my Aunt Lizzie Allee's daughter, another sister of my mother, who married George Allee from the north. Edith would play with Julia's brother, Jeff Davis, because Jeff was the oldest, then Edith, then me, and then Julia. Annabelle, who was my Uncle Kinnie Parker, mother's only brother's child, lived up the street, and so we played with her some.

Mostly, I was with Julia. We just did childhood games; played hop scotch with a shell. Some of the streets were shells then, you know, made of oyster shells. I don't recall how long ago it was that they were paved. We would throw the shell on the marked pavement, or we'd make lines on the dirt in the yard and play there. One of my favorite things, I'd dig deep holes I said I was digging to China, and I'd sit in the hole in the back yard. That sounds funny today. The children today go to Europe, they have fur coats, they have their own automobile, their own horse, they belong to clubs, they go anywhere and do anything they want to, but we were at-home bodies, we stayed home. The neighborhood children and I would have plays in the back yard. We'd make a stage. I always liked to dress up like the devil, or a real debonair person, like Doug Fairbanks was as a pirate, you know, in his old movies. Well, since I mentioned movies, Mary Jones would take us to the Masonic Theater, and I saw all the old movie stars; Mary



Pickford, Charlie Chaplin, Tom Mix, and I loved them! And these were so interesting! I remember later that my Aunt Stella's husband, Lonny Davis, who was from Atlantic City, and he worked for the water and light department, and the man in charge was a Mr. McGowan, he lived in Ghent, and he for some reason could guess when something funny was going to take place and I did too, and he and I would start laughing before anybody else in the whole theater. Then, they'd catch on. It was right amusing and it was almost telepathy.

MF: Now, these were the silent movies.

Mrs. Carr: These were the silent movies, yeah. Now, Mary Boswell, who sang in the Episcopal choir fifty years, played the piano.

MF: Didn't she have red hair?

Mr. Carr: Yeah, she always had red hair. She played down at the old Kehoe, you know down at the old Athens it was, then the Kehoe, and now it's the Saax Bradbury Civic theater. I don't remember who played at the Masonic; maybe, she played at both places, but that was around the corner from my home. I attended school here on my block my whole school life. I didn't have a whole lot of playmates. Lou Angel and Nelson, who was called "Brother", lived across the street.

I know they hated blacks, and every time a boy would ride by on the bicycle, they'd take the burrs off the magnolia tree and throw at him.

Julia Davis and I loved to go to the fair and the circus, and we'd make a great big spinning wheel and we'd find all our cute little things in the house we'd collected and spread them out, and the boys would come over with their allowance outs and they'd turn the wheel and they'd

win. They got all of our good things, and then their mother was furious because they'd spent all of their allowance and she came and demanded the money back and they kept the presents too, so we lost the whole deal. That was so funny though! But that's the way it worked.

MF: You certainly did! (laughter) Well, that's how ya'll entertained yourselves. That is wonderful. Now, going to school, you can remember your teachers, I know.

Mrs. Carr: Miss Molly Heath! Miss Molly Heath practically taught New Bern, and we loved her! I was in the first grade and also my cousin Julia, Julia Davis, was in the first grade with me. Louise Roberts, who was Louise Jackson, and Dan Roberts, were in the first grade with me and they got married later. David Henry, oh! David Henry was a handsome boy. His mother was a beautiful woman. David and Thomas lived over a store downtown across from the present Bank of Arts, right next to the Episcopal churchyard, that parking area. Well, anyway, David, they had a "Tom-Thumb" wedding and my cousin, Julia Davis, was the bride. My aunt had pictures made by the photographer, and they were just lovely. So often I'd think about and want them. I want them now, but I don't know where they are, nobody does. David Henry was the groom, Julia the bride, and I was the mother or the aunt, I don't know which! I don't remember any- body else who was in it, but we looked so cute. I don't remember that taking place, that was so long ago. I can't remember a whole lot of things.

MF: But you're doing beautifully. You're remembering more than you thought you would. Who else were some of your teachers?

Mrs. Carr: The second grade, my Aunt Mary Jones, was my teacher. She was a teacher before she went with the Red Cross. I loved my Aunt Mary Jones, she was good to me, but there was one thing I held against her. She put me down from the high section to the low section because I could not learn to tell the time. She should of taught me, she was a teacher! She didn't do it! And she put me down, and so I got with an entirely different group of people. My school life is very checkered. I'd go from one real nice group to a group lesser known, but they were all nice, and I enjoyed my friends. I don't recall who was in that grade except Edward LeGallis who was my boyfriend for three or four years. I mean, I liked him! That's as far as it went, I just liked him. He had a sister, Lucy, who married an Episcopal minister and he has been to our church and spoken to us twice, at Christ Church. Lucy died. She was a real sweet girl. James Gaskins was one of my classmates. He lived on Metcalf Street. Eura was his brother. James Gaskins and Edward LeGallis both had long curls. Now, today you don't see that, but they did in the second grade. I just thought about this, I remember mother would give me a bottle of cough syrup made from onions and sugar, boiled onions and sugar. It's good, a good remedy today. I'd carry it in my hip pocket, I reckon, and the boys would get it and drink it! (laughter) It was so good. Louise Bell was my third grade teacher. We were still children. We stayed children longer then than they do today. Fourth grade, Irene Fleming, was a beautiful teacher. Those first three years I was in the primary building right next door, and I went through the back gate, we had

a high board fence, and I went through the back gate. The fourth grade I was in the academy building in Irene Fleming's room. I'm a little confused about the fifth, sixth, and seventh. I remember in the seventh grade I had an older teacher with white hair, and she was very nice, but I don't recall her name right now. I was sick, I had appendicitis and a broken arm so I missed school. I stopped studying, I thought why study. This sounds ridiculous now, but she even asked my cousin Julia why did Eleanor stop studying. Of course I failed my grade, I could of gone ahead, but I didn't know I could. Miss Mary Uzzell was my teacher in the seventh grade. See, I had to repeat and that's when I got with my three cousins; John Stevens, Leah Jones, and Janet Hollister. We four cousins were in one room with Lou Angel and Virginia Styron, and Virginia Weathersby, and Helen Jackson, who was Louise's sister; see, I lost a grade so they caught up with me, and Ben Lipman, and the fella who drove the Braddy's truck for years and years and years, Warren Ellis. In this neighborhood there was an old black woman who lived on the corner of Metcalf and Johnson, long voluminous skirts, and a big hat, and shawl probably, and she carried a basket of goodies on her arm, and she'd go around the neighborhood and sell it.

MF: You don't remember her name, do you?

Mrs. Carr: I never did know it. There was a black man who'd come to the back door to cut my hair. I'd sit on a high stool out on the back porch and he'd cut my hair. The ice wagon would go by, driven by Old Major! He'd chip the ice, they were blocks, and he'd cut the size the person wanted, and he'd let us children get little

chips and we'd ride on the step down to the corner. When he brought ice into the kitchen, we had a small wooden refrigerator that the top lifted up and had an extra shelf so you could get a piece out of the top and put it on the shelf and cut it the size you wanted. I remember we had a round grater that looked like half a coconut, you'd pull across that for shaved ice. That's a childhood memory. It had a pan of water underneath it, you know, you had to empty it or it would run all over the floor. Then old Martha Royal was one of the characters who would walk the street pulling a little wagon, like a child's toy wagon, with her home grown vegetables. I don't know the exact words, but she'd say, "Nice vegetables, string beans, cabbage, and turnips!" Each call would be something different - nice veg-e-tables! And everybody knew Martha Royal, and of course, others had their wagons drawn by a horse that would come by with any kind of vegetable that they had grown.

MF: So, you could get fresh vegetables every day.

Mrs. Carr: Uh huh, and peaches and things like that later. We were entertained by such small things. We were homebodies, we didn't go. All my life I've loved gardening. I started when I was a child because my daddy had made me a playhouse out of a piano box, an upright piano. It was cute. I wouldn't of been able to get in it today the door was so low, but my cousin Julia and I would go in there and play.

I made a little garden around it. I found a peach kernel in the yard that had come up and planted it in my garden. It developed flowers and peaches, and I'd count every one. Daddy said, "Don't point or they'll fall off." (laughter)

MF: He was teaching you not to point.

Mrs. Carr: So I never have pointed. All my life I've never pointed, "Who's that lady?" because it's rude. But that was why, I didn't want my blossoms to fall off!

MF: That's a wonderful lesson.

Mrs. Carr: We had great big thick bushes in the back yard. It was just a back yard, and we used to burn coal and the cinders were thrown out there. Today, I have a garden. I've been gardening forty-three years, and that's my favorite thing to do. But then, it was just a back yard. And huge figs! Lovely little yellow figs and then great big red ones that two would make a breakfast, you know, you'd peel it and cut it, and put a little sugar and cream on it, and it was so good!

MF: Eleanor, did ya'll heat your house with coal?

Mrs. Carr: We had a coal stove. We never have had central heating or air conditioning. Then, I went from that to oil, to gas. Over here on the corner, that's an interesting old house (Tisdale House).

In the basement is an open fireplace. I think perhaps my grandmother also had cooking down in there because there was a dining room down there, and the kitchen was in a separate building that was out in the yard. Later, when Mary Jones came home, she moved it up to the house and that was Lucy Cox's kitchen when she rented the west side. Then, it was done away with later.

MF: The house you're talking about right now is the one Lizzie Taylor lives in.

Mrs. Carr: No, my house where I was born, next door.

MF: I've been down in that basement and it does have a fireplace.  
That's a wonderful old home over there.

Mrs. Carr: It's a lovely house.

MF: Let's go through your college education.

Mr. Carr: Well, I haven't gotten to my family yet, my mother's family.

MF: Okay, tell me about your mother's family next.

Mrs. Carr: I mentioned my aunt, Mrs. Davis, on the corner, Mrs. Allee around on New Street, and then my grandfather bought a house farther down New Street and he lived there. Later, my Uncle Kinnie and his wife, Mamie, and their daughter, Annabelle, lived there. When this house (Tisdale House) became rental property, there were several families living there; Lester Harris came there, Billy Benners and his wife, Margaret Cannon and her husband, and it was her son, Peter, who bought it.

MF: Right. Peter Lowder.

Mrs. Carr: Peter Lowder bought it and restored it. When he was a little boy, they had an apartment there and there was a little boy who lived across the street. I gardened the side yard on Metcalf and all up and down the driveway, and one day they were out there while I was planting flowers and they were "helping" me, and the next day they pulled them up. I get after Peter today about that, and I'll say, "Yeah, Peter, you pulled up my flowers!" (laughter) My granddaddy Parker moved in here with his two single daughters; my Aunt Julia was

my favorite and my Aunt Emily who always paid more attention to my cousin Julia. My Aunt Julia was fifteen years older than I am. She was beautiful, she was the prettiest one in the family. She married Dr. Eugene Cox in the front living room there. I remember going to the wedding. She had a boyfriend that Emily was crazy about. Emily fell in love with Julia's boyfriend - she didn't pay him any attention, Bob Ryder, from Long Island. So, I remember Emily and Bob courting in the swing on the back porch, and she had long curls. I can see them just as good as if it was yesterday. She married him, and they had a daughter and a son. I've just discovered a new cousin recently down here near Havelock. He came to see me and brought his family and he is the grandson of my aunt that I never even knew about until he called. I come by gardening naturally. Grandfather Parker had a hot house on New Street. He loved flowers. He grew freesias, and had a lovely little red vine that attracted the sulphur butterflies.

My Aunt Stella Davis and her husband grew huge chrysanthemums. The mums like the football mums, and my father and mother did, too. They rented a little vacant lot next to granddaddy's house, and they would put netting on tobacco sticks to protect them from the frost, and they were really beautiful. The way you get a big blossom, the stalk comes up three, four, or five feet high, and you pinch all the buds but the central one, and it makes a tremendous blossom. I would sell pansies in the neighborhood. I saved all my money when people gave me money.

I saved my birthday money, and Christmas money. I guess mother and daddy sold chrysanthemums, and daddy would grow a few vegetables, I've



forgotten where, but I would sell those too. I saved all my money until I had \$500. Mother had started a bank account for me from my little sister's who died. I thought that was wonderful when I was in high school to have \$500 in the bank. All three banks failed, and we lost in all three! We lost everything!

MF: Eleanor, how did the Depression affect your family?

Mrs. Carr: Well, mother and daddy, and everybody were given stamps, and they would let me have the sugar. They were always mighty good to me, I was the only child. Little things like, when mother would make ice-cream, daddy would freeze it in the basement, he'd save the dasher with a lot of ice-cream on it for me. Mother would let me just pick off the ham, which I love. I like to do that today, or the turkey, or whatever, I just simply like to do that. But the Depression, well, we just got through it like everybody else. Mother worked for over twenty-five years for an attorney, Emmitt Whitehurst, and she sent me to college. He was a good friend. When she died, he took care of my estate for me. I taught that year away from home.

While I was up teaching in Hickory in 1947, my last year away from home, he took care of everything for me, and then I came back home to live. You were asking about some teachers, in high school, Mr. Vance Swift was my Science teacher. I never would have passed if I hadn't had Katie Bell Smith for a partner. Katie Bell and her sisters, and mother and aunt lived down the street in that cute little house next to the corner of Metcalf and Broad. Mr. King taught me in the eighth grade. He was red headed, and tall, and nice looking. There

was a Miss Enochs and a Miss Octavia Jeter, and Blanche Rowe taught me English. When I graduated, Robert Stallings was president of the class, and other members of the class were Elizabeth Crowley, Corrine Pate, and Dudley Suter. You see, I'd gotten away from my group because I lost a grade. I told you I repeated my seventh year. In the eighth, unfortunately, I was with my cousins who I wanted to be with, but I went blind for three months in my left eye from strain, and no one knew what caused it. When I was fourteen, my mother took me to Philadelphia to see Dr. Diswinetts, and he said it wasn't diseased so it wouldn't have to be operated on. We talked to a psychic in Wannamaker's store. It was beautiful. It was at Christmas time, and all the stores were decorated, and the organ was playing, and this person said, "You'll be healed in seven. I don't know whether it will be seven hours, seven days, seven weeks, seven months, seven years."

But in three months, my sight came back. My friends the catholics across the street, the Shipps, offered up a Novena, and I surely think that had something to do with the restoration. Faith is a wonderful thing, and if you didn't have faith, life wouldn't mean much.

MF: You're right about that.

Mrs. Carr: I don't talk about religion much but I love my church, and I go regularly to Sunday school and church, and I love people, Marea. Sometimes people say, well, when poor Virginia Warrington, died she'd been on dialysis and they said, "Virginia what do you want to be remembered by?" and I believe she said, "By my flower arrangements." She had huge camellia bushes and she'd give

arrangements to people. I want to be remembered for loving people, because I do.

MF: Well, you will, and you'll be remembered for your beautiful paintings. You do gorgeous water colors, Eleanor!

Mrs. Carr: I don't spend enough time on painting. To be a good artist, you have to paint every day, and I go months at a time without doing it. But it's nice to have something you like to do. After painting twenty years, I'm still going to a class. I'm going to someone that teaches differently. It's interesting.

MF: Eleanor, when were your mother and daddy married?

Mrs. Carr: Oh, I want to tell you about that! I don't know, but they were the very first couple to be married in the Centenary Methodist Church. There was a little church on New Street that had gone down to such an extent it was eventually destroyed and it was on the property where my Aunt Julia Jones live. Her daughter, Leah Jones, who married Libby Ward had David and Johnny, my cousins. This little church had stained glass windows. I used to pick up the stained glass. Aunt Julia had a flower garden there. Daddy would tend her sweet peas and other flowers and grew asparagus for her. I've always thought that was interesting. You see, the little church was right across from the Academy, and my parents were the first married in Centenary Methodist. My mother was in charge of the Cradle roll. I don't have a birth certificate, so when I have to prove I've been born, I go down to the Methodist church and they write a note that I was baptized there as a baby.

In the little church were stored old buggies later used in parades commemorating special occasions. Kenneth once represented President George Washington.

MF: Well, I know, because in those days when you were born and my parents were born, they did not issue birth certificates.

Mrs. Carr: No. Ohh! We haven't even gotten to your parents or anything about Broad Street. Down on the corner of Broad and Metcalf was an old house, unfortunately torn down because before the historical society and the historic foundation told people not to destroy, they did away with quite a few things they should have preserved. Mrs. Henderson lived in this tall house that you went up a flight of steps.

King Henderson was in high school with me, who lived with them, her nephew. Down in the basement, Miss Carrie Arrendall had a shop, and you could go there for sewing. There was a little sunken garden. You stepped down and there was this fish pond in there. And big magnolia trees in the yard on the street. Broad street was paved in brick.

The side streets were shells, I just read that this week. People today think about Broad street and wish that we could restore it. They widened the street, and then you couldn't park cars, and there were no trees. It's so nice the way they recently planted them down on Middle street and Pollock street.

MF: I think so too.

Mrs. Carr: But down on Broad street is interesting, Marea. Across from the present telephone office was a liquor store, and opposite across the street was Mr. Royal's Ice Cream Parlor. Mr. Royal lived

on the next block to me and he had a big family, and I knew all the girls; Adelaide, Margaret, Evelyn Royal. Well, I loved to go to his ice cream parlor. It was next to the present fire station. Then, going back to the side of the liquor store, your grandmother and granddaddy had Kafer's Bakery. First, they had it on Middle street, but it burned, and so then they went around there to Broad. Shorty, your father, I knew, and his sister.

MF: He had two sisters; Gertie and Sallie.

Mrs. Carr: I knew both of those girls. Gertie was the oldest, and Sallie was younger than I. Miss Sadie was a friend to me. I told you, I always remembered her because she gave me a basket of candy in the shape of fruit - strawberries I believe. What'd we call that?

MF: Marzipan.

Mrs. Carr: Marzipan. And you didn't know about that?

MF: No, I didn't, not until you told me.

Mrs. Carr: I knew your grandfather too, and I was real fond of Miss Katie, Miss Sadie's sister, Annie Kinsey's mother. Of course, we were gardening pals, and she lived on Johnson Street where the library is now.

MF: My grandmother Sadie lived on Johnson, in the Rains' house. Aunt Katie never lived on Johnson street. Katie lived on Change street and Short street.

Mrs. Carr: Yeah, not Miss Katie, Miss Sadie had the garden.

MF: That's right, a beautiful garden.

Mrs. Carr: Miss Katie and Annie Kinsey lived there on corner

of Change and Craven. I knew that. She was a nurse, I think. But I used to go to visit Miss Sadie.

MF: She had a beautiful back yard.

Mrs. Carr: Yes, and we loved flowers.

MF: She did too. She loved to garden. I'm so glad you remembered that, cause I do.

Mrs. Carr: On Broad street was a little Mr. Francis. I say little because he was just a short man. Mr. Francis, had a pretty little daughter. I told you about the regular stalls or boards put out front for the vegetables, right out on the sidewalk. It was right below that brick building that Gene Buck later had for an antique shop in recent years. Gene has died in the meantime, but he did have an antique shop there for a while, he and his friend. Upstairs, was an old black woman who had been a retainer of Colonel Bryan. She had beautiful antique furniture that she had been given by Colonel Bryan. You see, in the past, when a person wanted new furniture they probably gave the old to the servants. My mother and my aunt were so interested in antiques, and it really upset them when Mr. Ben Jones had first chance and bought all of the furniture for his wife, Nettie. She just got ahead of them on that deal. Across from there, Dr. Rhem had an office. He had a polly parrot, and every time I'd go by like everybody else, he would say, "Polly want a cracker?" Dr. Rhem gave me my shots.

It was right next to the Clark building. His office was in a house, but he lived across from old St. Luke's Hospital down the other direction, West. Dr. Simmons Patterson, Joe Pat and Simmons' father

and my Uncle Robert DuVal Jones started St. Luke's Hospital.

MF: That's right, they did.

Mrs. Carr: I went there for my appendicitis.

MF: Who operated on you?

Mrs. Carr: Dr. Robert Jones. When he ripped off the dressing, he was a wonderful man, but I think he may have been impatient, and he ripped it off and it made it raw and he dropped alcohol on it! I said, "Uncle Robert, that hurts worse than any of the operation or anything else!" That was just an incident, but you think of things like that.

MF: I know, but when we do pull that adhesive off quickly, it does hurt!

Mrs. Carr: Yes, it caught my skin with it that time. But Dr. Robert Jones was well respected and loved. He could cuss and get by with it, you know, and everybody knew that. His first wife was Katie, and they had the two children. Mother and I would go see Aunt Katie when she was ill her last days. Later, he married his head nurse, Elvira, and she just adored Dr. Jones. I used to go to see her. She painted, and I was so in hopes I'd inherit her art supplies - not her paintings but what she used - her brushes and paints.

MF: Did you?

Mrs. Carr: No. Her daughter and her grandchild, as far as I know, lives around Greenwood, South Carolina. Down on the next block of Broad Street of course everybody will tell you about Mr. Blades beautiful home which was made into a hotel later.

I used to go there when Jack and I were first married to eat in the dining room. It was so nice. It's too bad it was destroyed. Of course, our new First Citizens Bank is lovely, but it's too bad the house was destroyed. Another old house was the Stewart house, Miss Jane and Miss Sarah's house across from the city hall. It was Victorian. It would of cost a peck to paint it was so ornate. I went there when it was open to the public, and I was collecting bottles then, so that is what I was looking for in the attic.

MF: Eleanor, tell me about your marriage. Who did you marry?

Mrs. Carr: Well, I attended Salem College first, and I was so homesick I came home and wouldn't go back after Christmas. So then, I went to Greenville to ECTC, East Carolina Teachers College. It's now East Carolina University, and it's grown extensively and has a large personnel of boys. I knew every boy by his name. I didn't date in high school or college. I was a "late bloomer", but I knew the boys by name then because there were so few of them. I taught nineteen years in all. After I'd taught thirteen, I got married. I came home to live when mother died. I was teaching in Hickory, I told you that.

My cousin said she knew a nice young man who sanded floors, and I wanted to get my hardwood floors done because it had been some time since they'd been polished. So, I called him and made an appointment.

Then, I called back and I said, "Don't come, I've decided not to have them done. I'll just do it myself." He came anyway, and he was a real nice looking young man, so clean, and slender, and just a good looking fella. His name was Wilson Edmund Carr, and they called him



Jack. He was an adopted child, so that isn't really our name. We don't even know our name because he was adopted as a baby, and the adoptive parents were killed, and then an itinerate preacher adopted him, and I don't know what took place then, but they were stranded.

After we were married, Jack took our daughter, Dianne and me, North to the eastern shore of Maryland where he lived as a little boy, and worked in a factory there. You see, all his life, he worked because he didn't have a family. He said there were two old men who lived in that house where he was, and we went by. I was so in hopes I could see that old man but he was away from home at that time, and he's died since then. That was the only living person who would of known my husband when he was a little boy. So, we don't really know his name.

He was born in Texas, and he lived in every state in the union. He'd been everywhere but Florida. After we married, he went down there for five months and worked.

MF: When was he born?

Mrs. Carr: Well, he was five years younger than I am.

MF: When were ya'll married? Do you remember your wedding date?

Mrs. Carr: Let me see, my mother died in 1947 when I was thirty-seven, and I came home to live. I substituted in school over here at Central. Miss Ruth Berry was the principal, and I was going with Jack that year while he was painting the house and sanding the floor. Oh, I'd hired somebody to paint my house, I forgot, and he just sanded the floor. But anyway, what did you ask me?

MF: What year ya'll got married.

Mrs. Carr: Oh, well, that was 1948. Then, the next year I taught the full year, and I had a wonderful grade. Wonderful students; Janet Block, Connie Hobby, Needham Crowe, Mary Ann Allen, just the nicest girls and boys!

MF: I remember them.

Mrs. Carr: And I taught Billy Bynum either that year or the year before. See, I just substituted three months the year before the whole year, and I was pregnant during the year, so, I resigned because I didn't want to go to school that way. He just moved in with me here in my home. We were only married twenty years and he had a heart attack.

So, I've been a widow for about twenty-three years. I don't pay much attention to the actual time cause I don't even observe wedding anniversaries anymore because he isn't here and there's no need to think back on it. My daughter and granddaughter live with me. We had one child, Eleanor Dianne Carr, and she's known as Dianne. She had three unfortunate marriages, and she's living with me. She had one child by her first marriage with Bill Carrawon - Jennifer Rebecca.

We named her for a commercial that was so sweet, a baby commercial.

MF: So, she's Jennifer Rebecca Carrawon. That's nice.

Mrs. Carr: She's twenty-one, Dianne's forty-one, and I'm eighty-two. I was so fortunate. I was forty when my baby was born, and I was healthy and happy and had a great time! I enjoyed it, and she was a beautiful baby!

MF: Eleanor, you were living in New Bern when the "Great Fire" took place.

Mrs. Carr: I was twelve years old.

MF: Do you remember where it started?

Mrs. Carr: It was up in negro town, that's what we used to call it, across from the cemetery, Cedar Grove Cemetery which is around the corner from me at the corner of Johnson and George. I was twelve years old. You could see the flames and the smoke. Mother went up in that area to watch the fire. Everybody on this street moved out except us. My daddy was out of town. I was here walking back and forth on the street worried, you know, when mother finally got home!

My Uncle Johnny came and got us, it's right funny the things we saved, I told you about that! My daddy was out of town, so Uncle Johnny opened the locked drawer and got a pint of whiskey and a pistol, and I took my bicycle and my dolls, and mother took our silver, and that's all we took! We locked the house and walked out. Well, we had no damage except some window panes broken from the blast because to keep the fire from spreading, they dynamited houses across the street. Houses on my side of the street were made of pine wood and the sap just oozed out in great chunks. Across the street, they dynamited the Dixon's house. Mrs. Dixon lived over there with her two daughters and two son's. Only one of the daughters married and no children, so no descendants. That's how Mr. Franklin's home is still there, and the Shipp's home is still there.

MF: Which one is the Shipp home?

Mrs. Carr: The house directly across from me, which is in deplorable condition and needs renovation. They put a roof because

they were told that they would either have to destroy it or improve it. Down on the corner is where the old black woman lived. Then, there were two houses next to that and they were torn down later. A little store was built there, and I would call it just an inexpensive residence, but it's been improved so it's very attractive inside now.

Then, Jim Hurst bought where the Dixon's lived. They liked ours, so that house is very similar to ours, square type house with a pointed roof. And as I said, the Shipps lived in the next house, and the Angels, next. Mr. Angel was Mrs. Shipps' brother. Then, the Stiths, Laurence Stith's mother and father and Mary Stith lived in the next house, and they were related to the Roberts' who lived on the corner.

Mary used to climb on the buggy when mother would stroll me in the baby buggy. MF: Well, do you remember anything else about the fire?

Mr. Carr: Well, Louie, and Nelson, and I walked up there the next day and dead cats were everywhere. It was sad, you know, it was pitiful. They said, St. Peter's, right around the corner, we don't know, but we thought were getting ready for a black uprising, and ammunition was stored down there. It certainly sounded like it, all the popping. It would be like firecrackers going off. St. Cyprians, the other black church on the corner across the street at Johnson and Metcalf, was used as a hospital, and the soldiers came there and took care of the injured. I was just twelve, I was still a child, and I remember my first ride in a motorcycle side seat. One of the men just took me around the block, and that was something special, you know.

That's the only thing I can remember about it.

MF: Let me ask you again about the fire. Did the city or the church people or the community as a whole help the black community get re-established?

Mrs. Carr: See, I was so young. I don't have that in my mind.

MF: I don't know if you'd ever heard your mother talk about it.

Mrs. Carr: Only thing I know, this old hospital across from the cemetery, Stewart's Sanitarium, my Aunt Emily, my mother's youngest sister trained as a nurse there. Also, Elizabeth Chadwick, mother of Scott and Mildred, Kooch Chadwick's wife. They're not living now.

MF: You remember Stewart's Sanitarium?

Mrs. Carr: Yeah, I remember it.

MF: Is it where our Armory is or further down?

Mrs. Carr: No. It was in the middle of the block just before where the present building is where the old people go.

MF: The Senior Citizens Building.

Mrs. Carr: Yeah. See, I'm not an old people, I don't go out there!

MF: I know you're not cause you stay young. You stay active, and you paint, and you do all these interesting things. Anything else you'd like to tell me about World War II?

Mrs. Carr: Oh, World War I.

MF: Okay, let's start with World War I.

Mrs. Carr: Yeah, World War I, 1914-1918. See, I was nine years old when it was over. Six school teachers stayed at our house and

had the upstairs, and they slept here. They ate at my aunts, Mrs. Davis'. We had an upright piano here in the living room, and they would play the piano. They would play "Three Wonderful Letters From Home", "Tell Mother I'll Be There", all those sad songs. I'd sing with them. I wasn't but nine, but I've sung all my life. Later, one of them, Miss Mary Bookhart, I think was one of them, was my teacher in high school. I knew at the time, but I don't recall their names.

MF: Anything else you remember about World War I?

Mrs. Carr: I remember a lot of flag waving. When we were little children, the Parker children, my cousins; Jeff, Edith, Julia, Annabelle, and I dressed up in clown suits and Uncle Kinnie Parker rode us all around town in a parade. So, I guess that could of been it, it was at the right age.

MF: What about World War II, and rations, and blackouts?

Mrs. Carr: I was teaching then. I taught in very small communities. I don't recall a lot. I dated servicemen. In November 1941, that's when it was over, I was teaching at Wesley Chapel out from Monroe, and the first thing I heard was that "Strawberry" Conderman had been killed. My cousin, Julia Smallwood, Mary Roberts' sister's child, either he was her boyfriend or she had married him, I've forgotten really. That was sad. I went to the Post Office and I'd hear people talking about it. This was funny. I taught little children, I taught in the second grade at Wesley Chapel, and one day I went to school, this soldier came running across the grounds and fell down on his stomach and aimed his gun right where I was going. I was going

to the school, and they were training. Then, later they drove a tank right up under my window and the children just hung out of the window talking to the fellows in the tank.

MF: This was over at Wesley Chapel out from Mebane?

Mrs. Carr: No, Monroe. That was my closest to war memories. Then, when I was home, I'd go to the USO down at the old Dill home on the corner of Middle and Hancock and talk to the boys. We had a USO down on the Neuse river on East Front Street. I'd go down there also.

MF: Was that in Mrs. Patterson's home?

Mrs. Carr: No. It was just a building. I don't know what it had been, like a store down on the water. Mrs. Mary Marriner was one of the hostesses down there in the Dill house. Incidentally, as a child, I went to the Methodist church. I never did tell about my religion, did I? Let me tell that. As a child, mother was in charge of the cradle roll, and that's why I said I have to go back for my birth certificate, and I attended there and she never forced me to join church. She said, "When I wanted to do it I would," and so at sixteen I did. I sang in the choir at different times. Then, at college, I joined the Episcopal church and Bishop Darst confirmed me there. I came home in the summers and lived with mother. Mr. Charlie Williams started at the same time I did at Christ Church. We went to Camp Leach together, he gave me a ride down to Camp Leach. I was the oldest camper because I was a junior in college. After that, I went to eight camps, and I was either a counsellor or a nature teacher.

MF: He was a nice man.

Mrs. Carr: Yes. Mr. Sharp had a wonderful influence on my life since I've been home. I love him dearly, and we missed him so much when he retired. We like our present minister. He is an interim minister for one year. But, everybody loved Mr. Sharp. So, I enjoy my church activities.

MF: I want to go back to your college. You mentioned you went to Salem. And you went to Woman's College?

Mrs. Carr: Yes, I went to Salem. To take music, and I had History of Music, Theory and Sight Singing. I had too much to do. I had to practice three hours a day; two hours on the piano, and one on voice.

It didn't give me any time to be free and enjoy college life and get to know the girls. I didn't get to go uptown but two or three times.

Salem had cobble streets. It was a pretty old place, you know. Salem is so interesting, and I went to the old Mormon church right there in Salem sometimes, and to the Love Feast. When they make their coffee, they cook the milk right with the coffee. The cemetery is so interesting at Easter. Then after I came home, I just stayed home that year, and then I went to Greenville for four years.

MF: So, you did not go to Woman's College?

Mrs. Carr: I went to Greenville, East Carolina Teachers College. I was in the Glee Club and in the college choir, at both colleges. Oh! I want to tell you, Professor Bordelais, the French music teacher was my professor for Voice. He said I always looked so nice. Mother dressed me in middy blouses. We wore middy suits when I was little,



I had a cute middy suit, navy with the brass buttons. But I'd wear these long sleeve middy blouses, always clean and neat. Miss Mary Willis taught me piano. The Bourdalais lived right across from the school, so I could just run over there during my study hall I reckon.

I recall in high school, the high school was in the Moses Griffin building on Johnson, which was torn down, but that's where I graduated.

MF: And you had eleven grades?

Mrs. Carr: Eleven grades, eight months a year.

MF: Did Mrs. Carraway, Rose and Gertrude's mother, teach you music in school?

Mrs. Carr: Yes! I'm glad you mentioned that! In the second grade, in the closet, in Mary Jones' room, she would teach us in there. I don't know why, but we'd sit in the closet for music.

MF: It must of been a large closet.

Mrs. Carr: No, it was just a long narrow closet for the coats, you know, the racks. I don't know why, but I always think of that.

MF: She taught my Aunt Gertie piano in her home, and then Miss Rose mentioned that her mother taught music. So, I wondered if she had taught you. Do you happen to remember when they paved the streets in New Bern?

Mrs. Carr: No, I don't remember. I just remember its being brick.

Leah had a horse, and that 9th year that I was out of school, I would ride her horse. My cousin, Kenneth, Leah's brother, taught me to roller skate out in front of their house on Broad Street, and to ride a bicycle in the yard and how to ride a horse. Only, I never learned to sit

in the saddle properly, I could spank myself. I think I'm real brave to this day that I got on that horse and went out on that brick street and didn't know a thing about horses and would go up to Frogtown or Five Points or up that way. I remember he stumbled one time, but that was nice of my cousin to teach me those three things. My uncle encouraged Leah and me, we both bit our finger nails, he said, "I'll give five dollars to the first one that quits," and I won. Of course, she probably got five, too. That was a good thing for me to do because I've never bitten them since. I'll tell you, this will sound strange maybe, but, when I would come home in the summer time, after I quit biting my finger nails, I'd paint them fiery red, I was so proud of them and I had my picture made with them holding them up in the air like that. Mother would say, I'll wash the dishes, you play the piano. I'd sing at the top of my voice and you could hear me to Broad Street. She'd rather hear me sing and play than to wash the dishes. I never washed dishes til I got married, and I've been doing it about every day for forty-three years now. So, I made up for it.

MF: You made up for all that lost time. Well, Eleanor, did you ever take the trolley?

Mrs. Carr: Oh! Didn't I tell you about the trolley? The trolley was a street car, and it was on Pollock Street and it came down Metcalf from Pollock and turned the corner. There was a real good looking conductor that I had a crush on. Little children just do that all the time, I don't know about today, they have movie stars and all. But I'd sit on that step and talk to him, and I'd ride up to George

Street on them. He'd go on out to Riverside with the street car. There was a cute little one we'd call it like the "Toonerville Trolley", it really was an attractive little vehicle that should be in a museum somewhere, that went out to Ghent because we had fair grounds out at Ghent. I loved to go to the fair or the circus. The circus was out there. Then, another place we went was Glenburnie, out passed Riverside, out on the Oaks Road going into Glenburnie Road. It's called Glenburnie Road now. I went there as a child. There was a big building where the adults could dance.

MF: Like a pavilion?

Mrs. Carr: Uh huh. There was a little merry go round that we children would play on, and we'd pick wild strawberries and blackberries. I remember I got bee stung, and I was so embarrassed that my father was chewing tobacco, but he put a chunk of chewing tobacco on that bee sting and it removed the sting.

MF: It works! Daddy used to do that for my sister and me.

Mrs. Carr: Many a day and night I thank goodness they stopped chewing tobacco, and I never had snuff dipping. I'm so glad about that! But that was fun as a child to go out there. Oh! When I was a child they didn't have automobiles. Mother and daddy would rent, but didn't have to pay for a buggy and horse from my uncle. My granddaddy had run the livery stables on Broad Street, and then later my Uncle Johnny. I still have the horse blanket. So, we would go to ride, and we went as far as Pollocksville and on the road to Washington, almost to Vanceboro. A long distances. In fact, I was told that the

day before I was born, Mother went buggy riding with daddy! Later, my aunt bought a Star, a car called a Star. We had an old antique Ford, Henry Ford's first Ford, we had one of those. I guess my aunt had it. Then, a Star, and daddy would drive those. I don't remember our first car. I, myself, have had six since I've been home.

MF: You said, your daddy had a Star?

Mrs. Carr: A Star car.

MF: I've never heard of that.

Mrs. Carr: It was along about the time the Fords were popular, the old "Tin Lizzie" Fords.

MF: How many doors did it have, four, two doors?

Mrs. Carr: Four, I guess.

MF: Yeah, that's a car I haven't heard of.

Mrs. Carr: I think it was called a Star.

MF: Betty Wylie was telling me that after her sister was born, her daddy gave her mother an Essex.

Mrs. Carr: My uncle had a limousine. See, Uncle Johnny was a millionaire at one time. He was called the "Cotton King." I remember seeing like the ones you see from the airport or funeral homes today or the wealthy. For funerals, he would take us, and there was this little extra seat I would sit on, you know, between the front and the back seat. I'd sit on that little seat. That was a big event, and it would have a vase of flowers in there, you know how they usually do. Around when I was a child, I recall Mr. Bryan, who lived in the John Wright Stanly House across from the Centenary Methodist Church

before it was moved to build the Post Office. Then, that was moved to New Street and used as a city library, and then later the Palace bought it for part of the Palace complex, and it's on exhibit, and it's beautiful. Mr. Bryan would ride around town in his horse drawn buggy with tassels on the horses and tassels on the buggy. The black man in livery with the high hats sitting on the top. I remember that.

MF: Right. So, you remember the John Wright Stanly House on it's original location?

Mrs. Carr: Yeah, and the library was next door to the present Christian Science Church. It was safer in New Bern in those days, and I would walk even at night around to the library from here, my home, and in the day time I'd climb and walk on that fence. The fence around the John Wright Stanly House going to the library.

MF: That was the brick fence, wasn't it?

Mrs. Carr: A brick wall.

MF: Inside that wall, did you ever go inside the grounds of that? I wondered if they had out buildings?

Mrs. Carr: No. Oh! the old pictures showed little houses, cute little houses out front. What are they called?

MF: The gazebos. Were the gazebos out front when you were a child?

Mrs. Carr: I don't recall. I just see them in the photographs. Sometimes a photograph will throw you, you don't know whether you've seen it or not. I do recall a building back of the Stanley House. The servants no doubt stayed there. The library had upstairs rented

as apartments. I remember Mrs. Whit Jones, the former Julia Pugh.

Robert Pugh was the county superintendent, and they were my neighbors.

Robert, Murray, Charlie, Ed, Clara, and Julia, they lived two doors down from me and Julia and I played together. The boys had an acting bar, and Julia and I would swing on the acting bar. There was a low limb on a pecan tree, and we'd climb it. I was a tomboy, I enjoyed things like that. At night, it was safe to play out in the streets.

We'd play "Blind Man's Bluff", and somebody would be "it" and hide their face and count to ten, and we'd go hide in the bushes. The Roberts had hydrangea bushes around the house, and it was real scary feeling.

Then, when you thought they'd gone off looking for somebody, you'd run in and say, "Home free!" Also, we had the corner where there was a light, and we'd get on the four corners, I don't even know who the children were it was so long ago, but we'd play "kiddie corner", go from one corner to the other. There weren't any cars running around, no danger.

MF: That's right, and there were no stop lights in town either, were there? Do you remember when they put in the first stop light and where it was?

Mrs. Carr: I don't remember that.

MF: What about street lights?

Mrs. Carr: No, I don't remember anything like that. You see, I was such a homebody, I didn't really go out much.

MF: And there were no street lamps on this street or any other?

Mrs. Carr: Oh yeah, there was a light on the corner because we

played at night. On the corners there were lights.

MF: An electric light?

Mrs. Carr: Well, I don't know if they were electric or gas then. They used to have gas lights.

MF: Probably electric. You're the first person that I've talked to that has mentioned the streets, some of the residential area streets being covered with oyster shells, and I think that's very interesting.

Mrs. Carr: Well, now I don't actually remember the oyster shells, but I have read that. I know we don't have rocks, this is flat country.

I remember when I taught, once we took the children to Raleigh to the state fair and we got out to see a rock by the side of the road.

They had never seen a rock because it is so flat here. So, farmers don't have any problem in that way. So, we'd take an oyster shell to play hop scotch and threw an oyster shell.

MF: I know they used the augusta block bricks, large brick blocks for paving the streets.

Mrs. Carr: What kind of block. What is that?

MF: Well, I don't know if they are made in Augusta, Georgia or not, but it's a different type of a large brick block used for paving streets. It'll bear a lot of weight. But I'm not sure where they're made. We had brick works here in New Bern, do you remember that?

Mrs. Carr: Yeah, I remember that! At Easter, mother, daddy, and my Aunt Stella and Uncle Lonnie Davis, and cousin Julia would go out to the brick works and mother and daddy would hide the colored eggs. We found old fashion violets out there.

MF: Where were the brick works?

Mrs. Carr: It was somewhere near Ghent, but I can't remember right now. I don't know whether or not it was on the road to Cove City that way or out near Ghent. Maybe it was on the road to Cove City.

MF: There was one on the road to Cove City.

Mrs. Carr: Well, that was it.

MF: Eleanor, when you were growing up, on Sunday afternoons, did your family go for a buggy ride or car ride?

Mrs. Carr: Yeah. As I said, we'd hire a buggy and go and ride. My father was always good about taking us to ride, and then my husband. I didn't learn to drive until I was fifty-eight. My daddy and then my boyfriends and then my husband drove, and I was fifty-eight before I learned to drive a car. I've enjoyed it more than anything I've ever done.

MF: I admire you. You're independent, you can come and go as you please.

Mrs. Carr: I drove down to Morehead Saturday and took a friend. I'm afraid to drive with her, she's ninety-one and she crosses the line. And I say, "You come to my house and I'll drive." We went and we had a real good time. I've got so many things that I didn't tell you about. We had two suburbs; Ghent and Riverside. In Riverside, the Lathams, Fred was here this morning taking pictures, his daddy, Dr. Joe, was my mother's doctor. Marjorie is a darling, and I go to see her and Janet. Janet is an artist and a very talented and lovely



girl. She really got me started in selling cause she had a little shop upstairs in the Henderson House, and I took my art there. For all who are listening, I have art for sale today! (laughter) In the little chapel!

MF: You sell it over at Saints Creations?

Mrs. Carr: Yeah, the Historical Society.

MF: That's a lovely place.

Mrs. Carr: I didn't tell you about my performances. When I spoke of the Moses Griffin, and then I went blind? Professor Bordeleau had us to perform in the recital. I sang a lullaby, and unknown to my mother and father, I rocked the baby. I had on a long dress, and when I sang, my knees were shaking so bad and knocking together, but the long dress hid it. But I sang the "Hallelujah Chorus", seven pages long. I got off, and sang two extra pages, and I don't know how Professor Bordeleau ever caught up with me, but we ended at the same time. That was quite an experience. My cousin Julia and I took piano from Miss Willis and we played a duet. She got off and I kept right on going. Of course, we had the music to look at. I never could memorize it.

MF: Eleanor, then you will remember the "Yule Tide" reviews that Joe Gaskill McDaniel put on at the Masonic Theater. Don't you remember the "Yule Tide" reviews?

Mrs. Carr: Isn't that strange, I can barely remember the different things, the big events that took place. I remember, maybe the year after I graduated from high school, I graduated from high school in 1929, and somewhere around there we had a historical event take place

here in New Bern and we dressed in colonial costumes. I have a picture of Lila Smallwood and Virginia Stryon and me in costumes.

MF: That was the big pageant I think for that year. What about Confederate Memorial Day?

Mrs. Carr: Oh! I'm glad you mentioned that. My Aunt Mary Jones was Regent for the DAR or UDC. My Aunt Sophie Hollister recited the "Sword of Lee" in the Moses Griffin auditorium, and when the children saw her coming they'd say, "Here comes the Sword of Lee." It got to be a joke, but she was so sincere, and she did it every year, and everybody knew her, and she was a lovely woman, Aunt Sophie Hollister.

She was an outstanding lady in this community, and I really appreciate her to this day. My Aunt Mary Jones followed her. Miss Gertrude Carraway is UDC.

MF: Well, she's both but she's mainly DAR.

Mrs. Carr: Aunt Mary Jones was United Daughters of the Confederacy and see I was a child of the Confederacy. I would dress in my pretty white dress and carry a large armful of white roses. We had climbing white roses. My aunt, Mrs. Davis, had them all over that pretty little Dutch colonial house, Mrs. Shipp had them over her house, and they were around our porch. There's one out there now in front of the tree.

It's an old fashioned rose, been there fifty years. We'd walk up to the cemetery, cause it was just right around the corner from Moses Griffin, and place them at the base of the Confederate monument.

MF: Did you sing a song?

Mrs. Carr: Yes, we sang, but I don't recall what. Then later,

I would go sometimes. My aunt carried it on for years.

MF: That was May 10, I believe, Confederate Memorial Day.

Mrs. Carr: Yes, May 10. You see, the North celebrates the 30th, but we May 10. Now, it's changed to something else, I think.

MF: My Aunt Gertie told me a cute story, because she went to Temple University, and she got up there they were celebrating Memorial Day on May 30, and she didn't know what they were celebrating because she said, "where I come from we celebrate Memorial Day on May 10," but she soon learned. But I enjoyed that little story she told me.

Mrs. Carr: Well, now you know we have a President's Day in February. We don't have Lincoln and George Washington anymore.

MF: I know it and I think that's a shame.

Mrs. Carr: Well, anyway we won't go into that, holidays!

MF: No, we certainly won't get into any politics unless there's something about politics in New Bern that you'd like to tell me.

Mrs. Carr: I wrote down so many things to tell you about. I graduated in 1929, and I went to Long Island to visit with my aunt right after I graduated. That was the year that Byrd went to the North Pole and I saw him in a parade. I remember Lindbergh's flight, and I remember after that his wife wrote such lovely poetry books. I remember that darling child who was kidnapped, the pictures of him with his curly blonde hair. That was so sad. Oh! There used to be a black man, they called him "Crazy Bill", that preached on the street corners. There was another black man that would revolve. I don't know, poor thing, he had a nervous reaction, and he'd just turn all

around, just revolve on the street.

MF: And they preached?

Mrs. Carr: Crazy Bill preached. I went over to Kinston once, I was teaching school and I went over there instead of coming home, and I was real glad to see somebody from New Bern.

MF: Do you remember Mary Bloomberg?

Mrs. Carr: No, but I remember the Cutter Pamlico down on the Neuse river, on East Front Street. Now, I don't remember East Front Street unpaved like the old pictures you see, but the Pamlico Cutter was there, and I used to see the baptism of the blacks and they had on their white robes and the preacher would just dip them over backwards. That was real interesting. I'll tell you something else that was funny. It's not supposed to be funny but I mean interesting to me. I told you about walking to the library at night, instead of coming back down the way I went, up New Street from my home here, I came back by Broad Street and they'd have tents with the "holy rollers" on Broad Street, and I'd go under that flap and go in there and watch them and the women would roll on the ground in the sawdust. I just couldn't realize what was going on. They'd gotten the Holy Spirit and they were rolling!

MF: Were they revival meetings or something like that?

Mrs. Carr: Yeah.

MF: Eleanor, could you tell us about Chautauqua?

Mrs. Carr: Chautauqua was a tent that was placed on the school grounds. In the morning the children could go over and have a meeting,

and they always had some lovely person to lead it. We'd sing, and probably put on little plays. Then, in the afternoon and evenings, they'd have performances, and mother and daddy and I would all go.

It was just real nice because in that day and time there was very little entertainment.

MF: This Chautauqua took place in the summer time?

Mrs. Carr: Un huh, on the school grounds. A great big tent right across from the Masonic Temple, on the front yard of the Moses Griffin and the Bell building. Right in front of the Bell building. We probably had interesting people to come, but I don't recall any of them. We never had any tall buildings in New Bern. The Elk's Temple was five stories. I remember when we were children, Julia and I went up on the elevator. My mother worked there for Emmitt Whitehurst, our attorney, and Julia and I went up to the top floor to the Elk's Lodge and shot pool. (laughter) We were not invited, and we didn't know how to shoot pool, but we did it. Did anybody tell you about Union Point and the hurricane?

MF: No, tell me about that.

Mrs. Carr: Union Point was the trash dump, all the trash was collected and put there. Later it was bulldozed, and the Woman's Club building was erected, and it's a nice building with big fireplaces at either end. It's made of rock or something. It's solid. But the hurricane destroyed it. I was in the St. Cecelia Music Club department and we gave a piano, and it just floated. We had hoped to restore the building and use it instead of building a new Woman's Club but

they just didn't know whether it would be feasible, and so it has never been used.

MF: We used to have dances there when I was a teenager.

Mrs. Carr: Yeah, well, I went to those dances during the war and met the servicemen.

MF: They were very nice. It's a nice place to entertain.

Mrs. Carr: Sometimes we would go out of town when I was teaching, a bus would come pick us up and take us to other towns to dance with the servicemen. Oh, I was a Girl Scout, and then when my child came along, she was a Brownie and a Girl Scout, and I had charge of the cookies. I recall one time, my whole front porch was filled with boxes of cookies! The Fourth of July we always had sparklers and firecrackers and Roman candles when I was a child.

MF: Did New Bern have parades or special celebrations on the Fourth of July when you were younger?

Mrs. Carr: All I remember is dressing up in a clown suit and riding around with my cousins. So, that must of been the parade. To go swimming, we'd go across the bridge to Bridgeton to Shady Beach and go swimming.

MF: Where is Shady Beach?

Mrs. Carr: It was on the left of the bridge over there near where the present condominiums are.

MF: I'd never heard of that.

Mrs. Carr: Well, Florabelle Tolson and her husband; who owned Tolson's Furniture store, and Genevieve, their daughter, lived down

the next block from me. I have a picture of Genevieve. I was several years older, so I was several inches taller. Anyway, Florabelle took us over to Shady Beach, Genevieve and Elizabeth Jones, Mr. Ben Jones daughter, and me, to go swimming.

MF: What was your bathing suit like?

Mrs. Carr: One piece.

MF: The bathing suit that you wore when you were a young person was a one piece, and sleeveless. Did it have a skirt or legs?

Mrs. Carr: It may of just had a skirt that fit right on, but it fitted.

MF: What was it made of? Do you remember the material?

Mrs. Carr: Sort of wooly.

MF: I knew some of them were made of wool, but I didn't know if yours was the woolen suit or not.

Mrs. Carr: I didn't tell you about excursions in the summer. To go to the ocean, we went on a train to Morehead and took a boat to go over to the beach.

MF: I remember daddy telling me about taking a boat to get to the beach.

Mrs. Carr: Yes. No bridges. You'd go to Wilmington, we took the train and took a trolley out to the beach to the Lumina, which was a large building where people could dance.

MF: This was at Wrightsville Beach?

Mrs. Carr: Wrightsville Beach. Those were the two beaches we attended. It was so much fun. You know, children miss train rides,

they're nice! I always made up to the man who sold the goodies, the news butcher. He always gave me something to eat.

MF: You would take picnics?

Mrs. Carr: Un huh. It was great and mother and daddy would all go into the ocean. We'd all go swimming.

MF: Eleanor, do you remember when the Episcopal church would have picnics down at Atlantic Beach on Sundays?

Mrs. Carr: Yes. Mrs. West, who sang in the choir, and Mr. Williams, and Mrs. Nelson, Ben Nelson, and Rosa's mother; Rosa was in school then and I've never seen her since she left New Bern. There are a lot of people that leave and never come back. I mean, to your knowledge, you don't see them.

MF: Do you remember when the downtown businesses would close on Wednesday afternoons in the summer?

Mrs. Carr: No, I never went downtown much. Getting back to playing, what you do as a child, we used to play paper dolls. We'd cut out the person and clothes and dress them. We'd sit on the floor and play, my cousin and I. Then, in the backyard, we'd take a stick and make a house, every room, and you had to go in the doors, you didn't go through the walls. You went to the door and went in that room. That was just a simple childhood game but we liked it.

MF: It kept you busy and kept you amused. When you were ill as a child, did your mother give you home remedies or did she always call your Uncle Robert to come take care of you?

Mrs. Carr: During the flu epidemic, mother and daddy got the



flu, and so to keep me from getting it, they sent me over to my Aunt Stella's, and I got it anyway. I reckon I'd gotten the germ. My Granddaddy Parker died during the flue epidemic.

MF: A lot of people did.

Mrs. Carr: I had never swallowed a pill, and my aunt who was a nurse offered me twenty-five cents to swallow a pill. I guess I swallowed it, I don't remember it. Now, when I was in school, Mr. H. B. Smith was the superintendent, and Mr. John Shields was principal.

When I joined the Historical Society, Mr. Smith was the leader and then Johnny Taylor. I was a member that far back, and now I'm back.

It's a nice organization. Cohen Goldman, Ida and Harry Goldman, were in my room. Their parents had a junk shop down on Tryon Palace Drive which was South Front Street. There was a sewing room operation across from the train depot. The depot! I hope someone will restore the depot. I would love for it to be given to the city of New Bern for art, and for the artist to display their works, because it is going down so badly and so fast. In Washington, it's really lovely the way they have restored theirs and have shows and the people can come and see the art. I used to go on the train, and the year my father died, I was teaching in the Western part of the state and I had to travel all night to come on the train to get here.

MF: When you were travelling on the train in those days, did they have a dining car?

Mrs. Carr: No, I never ate on the train, and it was dirty! It wasn't very clean. I remember when I went to summer school at Boone,

I went on Tweetsie, and it was so dirty, I had on a white linen suit.

I went from Boone to Blowing Rock and I was really black then. But train travelling is nice.

MF: Eleanor, you mentioned that your Granddaddy Parker started the S. B. Parker Company.

Mrs. Carr: Yes. He was Simmons Baker Parker. I think he came from over near Grantham, and so he's buried in Goldsboro. He started the S. B. Parker Company here, and then his son Kinnie ran it for a while and, then his son, D. M. It's been sold now, but it still retains its name.

MF: Isn't there a building down on Craven Street that has set in the pavement at the doorway a brass or bronze plaque, S. B. Parker Company. It's now Mitchell's Hardware.

Mrs. Carr: Yes. That's the original shop. Have you ever heard about Dr. Sloan? Dr. Sloan had a beautiful estate out on the Trent river on the way to our Country Club. He suffered from rheumatism, and someone asked, "Dr. Sloan, why don't you try your liniment?" He'd say, "Not a damn bit of good."

MF: And he made a fortune from selling it, didn't he?

Mrs. Carr: I guess so. One summer, I visited my aunt in Winston-Salem, and her neighbor who was about my age. Her brother had white mice and they got loose, and they'd grown under the floor boards of the garage. They caught some for me, and when I came home on the train, I played with them in my lap. I was in my teens, but you see how young I was? I just played with them right there on the

train. To change the subject, Leah Ward lived in a lovely house on Broad Street. When Uncle Johnny bought it, it was just a square brick building, but he added a porch all the way around and huge columns and steps led up in tiers. We'd sit up there to see the circus parades.

I loved the calliope. I never like clowns. I don't know, I have a sense of humor, but I just don't like clowns and I don't like comedians. But I love the calliope and the color and the music and the excitement. I was a year older than Leah. She and Virginia Styron, who lived across the street and her mother had a room and boarding house, they were friends. I got with them in the seventh grade. I'm jumping the gun now, but we used to exchange Christmas gifts. There was one box of stationary that went around for six or seven years, and it came back to the original. It was right funny. It was colored stationary. It got to be a joke, you know. I got it and gave it, and I don't know whether I received it again or not. I might of told you about Tom Haywood's kicking machine. We used to stop by there on the way to Morehead and kick ourselves. It was so funny.

MF: I remember that. There was are many wonderful things that have happened in New Bern and such progress. Eleanor, with World War II and the Marine bases coming at Cherry Point and Camp LeJeune, New Bern has grown.

Mrs. Carr: It's tremendous. I can't take it in. I never go out of the house that I don't meet someone new. Having a very friendly disposition, I meet many, many newcomers at the Bank of the Arts, and at church, and I introduce them to the Woman's Club, and getting new

members up there. I thoroughly enjoy the people.

MF: It's nice. We're really growing into somewhat of a retirement community.

Mrs. Carr: I know. At one time, you could see every new house going up. Now, a whole area is developing, and when a person say there in a certain place, I say, where is that. I can't even locate the areas any more.

MF: I feel that way too, since we really are growing, lots of changes in New Bern.

Mrs. Carr: I new Mr. Waters that had the first horseless carriage in New Bern, and his daughter Margaret. I saw him driving it, you know. They lived on Broad Street.

MF: Down there practically across from the Broad Street Christian Church, isn't that where it was?

Mrs. Carr: I've forgotten. He was on the other side.

MF: He was on the other side of the street.

Mrs. Carr: Mrs. Lane taught school, Sarah Lane's mother, and Bill Lane lived over that way too, pass the Barker's.

MF: That's right. I remember seeing the Water's livery stable sign when I was young, coming down Broad Street.

Mrs. Carr: See, you're so much younger than I am you probably remember things that I don't. Being away at school eighteen years make a difference, in college and teaching. I joined the Woman's Club when I came home, and I was in three departments; the music, Saint Cecilia, which disbanded later, and the art study, and the Garden Club.

I've been in the Garden Club forty-three years. I also go to another Garden Club, Trent Woods, which I enjoy very much. You see the same people each month, but I like that. Oh! Something we hadn't hit on at all, I came home to live in 1948, and as I told you, substituted and sang in the choir, and then the next year I taught and I got married, and my husband joined the New Bern Little Theater. Some of the members were Gerald Colvin, and Emily Pollock Crawford, and Mary Lib Henderson, Janet Latham, and I guess Dottie Brinson who married Bob Maple, and Betty Aberley, and I think Paul Cox, and Inez Barbour Waters. Paul Cox and Jessie Trowbridge came to New Bern about the time I came home and were with the Home Extension Service, and I met them, and they came. I used to go to the old Teacherage. It was on Pollock Street, and Mr. Williams lived there, and Louise Anderson, and Jesse Trowbridge, Kate Johnson, and Tom McGee would stay there when he came to town on business, and that's where I met Janet and Dick Johnson. They stayed there and had it for a while, and then they moved in that little house on the railroad, Hancock Street.

MF: That's the John Hawk's House.

Mrs. Carr: John Hawk's House, which later Bob Stallings moved around the corner of Metcalf and New. I used to go there frequently to see them. I sang in the choir for forty-three years, I couldn't climb the steps any more to get up to the balcony. It was very difficult with arthritis. I was one of the original members of the present New Bern Civic Theater. I still attend the plays but I'm not a member.

Athene Bunn and Mark Bunn were in the beginning. Paul Cox, C. B.

Edwards, Peggy Edwards, Lu Hoff, and Dick Hoff, Billie Taylor, Ruth Waters, Bill Waters, Susan Norris, Russ Norris. They're the ones that come to my mind, but there are a lot of others. They put on wonderful plays. There's such a lot of talent in New Bern. It's really outstanding the talent; the artistic, and musical. Then the spinners weavers this week have had a beautiful show at the Bank of Arts. There is so much talent in New Bern. We have really enjoyed having our college here, I'll wind up with that. I used to go out to the Craven Community College and take art class from Frans Van Baes and others. We even formed our own little class and had models. One time the model didn't come, so I sat up there. They paid me ten dollars to sit up there, so that made my expenses. Now, I'm the oldest member in the Craven Community Chorus. I'm going out to the college now Tuesday nights. It's fun being with the younger people. Some of them are college kids and others just have different professions in New Bern.

MF: It's just absolutely amazing how you keep busy, you don't let any grass grow around your feet, and it keeps you young.

Mrs. Carr: And I love to garden, Marea. I think my bicycle riding, see a lot people get to know me out on the bicycle. I haven't done it lately, but now the weather's nice. Working in the yard is very tiring, but I love it, and I want to take you out there to see my garden.

MF: Good, I'll go see it before I leave. I want to thank you on behalf of Memories of New Bern for this absolutely wonderful interview. I have enjoyed every minute of it. You brought back a lot of memories for me, and especially when you talk about my

grandparents, and my parents, and I do appreciate that.

Mrs. Carr: Well, you're a lovely person to talk to, and somebody might of frightened me, but I felt so at ease with you because I'm not used to dictaphones. I think it's a grand thing that you're doing.

I think you girls are so nice and all of you people to take your time to do this. It is interesting as you say, but it will be a wonderful history of New Bern.

MF: It's just wonderful and you see what we will do is transcribe the tape and then use different portions of what you have said in our different sections for schools, for town life, for politics, and then you see this tape will be in the library for people to listen to, so again thank you for participating in our oral history division.

MF: (Mrs. Carr has read over her notes and wants to tell us about Fort Totten, the Fort that was used to defend New Bern in the War Between the States.)

Mrs. Carr: When I was young, my uncle, Johnny Jones, Leah's father, owned that land. It was a large pecan grove. It had just one house where a black man who worked for them for years lived. I don't recall his name now, but I remember him as a child. My father had a small vegetable garden between the forts, and my cousin, Julia, and I would go out there and while daddy was attending to his little garden, we would run on the forts and there were many black snakes.

They're nonpoisonous, but a snake is a snake to a woman. They'd be coiled ready to strike, and I'd just jump over them. I wasn't frightened of them. I reckon I knew they weren't poisonous, so I wasn't afraid.

It was real interesting, I was so sorry the forts were destroyed. They were bulldozed, and that is really the most historical thing we had here in New Bern. It's unfortunate but that's what happened to many historical markers for today.

MF: Eleanor, how far did the Fort extend, do you remember?

Mrs. Carr: It was not parallel to the highway, it was from one highway to the other. It went from Neuse Blvd. over to Trent Blvd., like that. What is that area called now?

MF: It's DeGraffenreid.

Mrs. Carr: DeGraffenreid Park. It was where the present fire station is and then next to that is a playground, where they have baseball games. In the pecan grove, my cousin and I would drive this old mule pulling a wagon, go up and down the rows of trees. We've never been around animals in our life, but we would do that. Daddy would tend the tobacco barn. There was a large field of tobacco. Much tobacco and cotton was grown around New Bern in my youth. He had somebody to tend it, but sometimes he had to help when the person wasn't there, and he'd spend the whole night. He could cook ears of corn, and we'd go out there and I think we'd have a picnic. They were cooked in the coals. Today they use oil, but then they used wood logs to fire it. I saw it hanging on the sticks, you know, and the barn, it was real interesting. Nobody lived out there, except the one black man had a house. It was near the Tisdale's florist.

MF: Yes. That was over on Broad Street. I played on that fort when I was young too. My mother would tell me not to play there because



of the snakes and we'd go right over there and play. You're right, it is a shame that it was bulldozed. A lot of history has been lost.

But I do thank you for that and for participating in our oral history project.

END OF INTERVIEW