

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

MILDRED LOUISE "BOODY" HAWK

INTERVIEW 1046

This is Dr. Joseph Patterson representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 1000. I am interviewing Miss Boody Hawk (Miss M.L. Hawk) in her apartment at the Berne Retirement Village, 2701 Amhurst Drive in New Bern. The number of the interview is 1046. The date is February 22, 1993.

JOSEPH PATTERSON: Boody, I want to tell you that it's nice to be out here talking to you. I haven't seen you for such a long time. And Fred's glad to be here and while he's copying these pictures we'll go ahead and talk and then he can join in with us. Let me ask you first of all about your mother and father's names. What are their names?

BOODY HAWK: My mother's name was Dotter. She was a Dotter from up in Pennsylvania.

DR. PATTERSON: How do you spell that?

BOODY HAWK: D-O-T-T-E-R.

DR. PATTERSON: What was her first name?

BOODY HAWK: Katherine Jane.

DR. PATTERSON: Katherine Jane Dotter. And your father?

BOODY HAWK: Katherine Jane Dotter. You asked me about my father?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

BOODY HAWK: He was from Allentown, Pennsylvania.

DR. PATTERSON: And his name?

BOODY HAWK: Joseph Edward Hawk. My father came down south to get in the lumber business and that is what he did. When he lost his life he was going over the mill and it was a windy day and he had a

second mill over at James City. Then he was in business with Mr. Aberly and my uncle, Freeman Hawk from Allentown, Pennsylvania. And they got in the lumber business and stayed in it as long as my father was living. He had a very successful business but all of a sudden he went by this big wheel in the mill. It's when they had those long overcoats and grabbed his overcoat and slung it up to the ceiling and killed him instantly. And that's the story of my dear father.

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, let me just play this back and make sure it's alright. Boody, when your dad had this lumber mill, you say it was in James City?

BOODY HAWK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: What was it called?

BOODY HAWK: I don't remember the name of it. I was just four years old when my father was killed. My mother and father had five children.

DR. PATTERSON: Now tell me your name, your full name.

BOODY HAWK: My full name is Mildred Louise "Boody" Hawk.

DR. PATTERSON: B-O-O-D-Y?

BOODY HAWK: Right.

DR. PATTERSON: How did you get that name?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, that's a deep, dark secret. Anyway, here goes. Mrs. Isaac Cohen formerly of King Street was a dear friend of my mother and me. She loved me. She didn't have any little girls. She just had one son who was Frederick J. Cohen.

DR. PATTERSON: Frederick J. what?

BOODY HAWK: Who later became the judge over in Nuremberg at the trials.

DR. PATTERSON: What's his name?

BOODY HAWK: Frederick J. Cohen. He lived in Raleigh at the time of his death which was a couple of years ago. But lovely people and getting back to how I got this nickname, the nurse had me out for the afternoon and when I arrived back home with her my mother asked me who did you see and were you a nice girl. And I said yeah. I said I saw a sitter Cohen. And what did she say - she said hi Boody. From there on I'm Boody. (Laughter) She said let's call her Boody.

DR. PATTERSON: Just right out of the air?

BOODY HAWK: Absolutely, just absolutely just fell in my lap.
(Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: And it's been with you ever since. Boody, when were you born and where were you born?

BOODY HAWK: I was born at what they called in those days 19 Graves Street. I was born there.

DR. PATTERSON: In New Bern?

BOODY HAWK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: I don't know where Graves Street was.

BOODY HAWK: Well it was on the corner of King and Craven. They changed the names there. I was born, Dr. Primrose brought me in the world as he did many, many children. But this, let's see now, where were we?

DR. PATTERSON: We were talking about the date of your birth.

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah. The date of my birth was October 7 and I don't know what, anyway...

DR. PATTERSON: What year was that? You're how old?

BOODY HAWK: I'm eighty-eight.

DR. PATTERSON: So that would be 1905?

BOODY HAWK: 1904.

DR. PATTERSON: Okay, 1904, all right. And Boody, you had several sisters and brothers. What were their names?

BOODY HAWK: Yes. My oldest sister was Mrs. Raymond Eagle.

DR. PATTERSON: What was her name?

BOODY HAWK: Bessie Hawk Eagle. How do you like that one?

(Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: How do you spell that middle name?

BOODY HAWK: H-A-W-K. But the German way, H-A-U-C-K. But we always adopted that H-A-W-K.

DR. PATTERSON: And Bessie's...

BOODY HAWK: Bessie's the oldest.

DR. PATTERSON: She had a middle name did you say?

BOODY HAWK: Bessie Harriet. Bessie Harriet Hawk.

DR. PATTERSON: And the next one?

BOODY HAWK: And the next one was Bertha. Let's see, she married Harold Wadsworth. Bertha Elizabeth Wadsworth. Now Helen and Helen just passed away last year. I lost Bessie in the meantime and then lost Helen.

DR. PATTERSON: Who did Helen marry?

BOODY HAWK: Helen married Thomas Eaton, Thomas Eaton of Winston-Salem. His father was originally one of the owners of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. And Helen was married to him over twenty years. In fact they lived out there in the Crump house on Rhem Avenue all those years until our mother became ill and we had to break up housekeeping and go out there and stay with her for eight years.

DR. PATTERSON: And you had a brother, Robert?

BOODY HAWK: Yep. We had another tragedy in our dear brother. Robert was a good boy. He didn't like to do very hard work. He was a salesman. He was with the Mack truck people out of Charlotte. And he married Ella Gaylord from Washington and they had one child. This child is now married to Lewis Purvis Godwin of Williamston, North Carolina. And later on in life his father was the, I don't know how to express that, he was in Black Mountain and serving as the head of the hospital for well...

DR. PATTERSON: Was it the Veterans Hospital?

BOODY HAWK: Veterans, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: That was at Oteen.

BOODY HAWK: Oteen, yes.

DR. PATTERSON: His daughter's name is Jane.

BOODY HAWK: Jane, Jane Gaylord.

DR. PATTERSON: And they have two children.

BOODY HAWK: Three. They have three living. They lost a little boy.

DR. PATTERSON: You were going to tell me about Robert's accident

too.

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yes. Well my brother loved children and he and Jennings Flowers were dear friends and in some way they invited my brother down to spend the weekend at Minnesott Beach. That was a place to go in those days. And so Robert accepted and had a grand time until he dove off this pier, not a regular diving outfit. But anyway, the little girl asked him, said Bob, just one more time. Dive for me one more time.

DR. PATTERSON: This was his daughter asking him?

BOODY HAWK: No, that was Jennings Flowers' Sue...

DR. PATTERSON: Sue.

BOODY HAWK: Sue, un-huh, yeah. And so he accommodated her but when he jumped out of the water he said something cracked in my back.

Said I don't know what's happened but said it feels like it's coming apart. And that was all he had to say. And then we were notified that Robert was bodily injured and that he wasn't going to live. And oh well, we had to go through such an ordeal there in those days.

DR. PATTERSON: He had fractured his neck, hadn't he?

BOODY HAWK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: He must have hit the bottom.

BOODY HAWK: He did. The tide had gone out and he just didn't figure on that at all.

DR. PATTERSON: Well that's a terrible accident, Boody. Now, you grew up in the house at the corner of Craven and King Street then.

BOODY HAWK: Until I was sixteen.

DR. PATTERSON: That's where all of you lived.

BOODY HAWK: All of us lived there.

DR. PATTERSON: So you are very familiar with that neighborhood.

BOODY HAWK: Oh yeah, I loved King Street and Craven.

DR. PATTERSON: And you also wandered down on East Front Street I guess.

BOODY HAWK: Oh yeah. The candy man was down there.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah, in the little store.

BOODY HAWK: Oh my Lord, yes. Well that was old man Gaskins. Had a peg leg and I used to love to tell the story about that leg.

DR. PATTERSON: Excuse me Boody. This is in the little store that's now called the Salter Taylor-Bell Store.

BOODY HAWK: Right.

DR. PATTERSON: Alright. Mr. Gaskins had it then.

BOODY HAWK: Un-huh. I just lived around there because I loved to eat candy and I would go out there to help Mr. Gaskins and then I'd help myself when I'd go by that box or tub that had candy in it.

It was chocolate on the outside and pink on the inside. The Lord only knows what it was I was eating but it was good. (Laughter) The old man let me go back of the counter but he wouldn't let anybody else in that neighborhood. But he let me. He trusted me and I would wait on customers. I loved to sell and that was my career as selling irregardless of what it was, just so I could sell it and get some money for it. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, Mr. Gaskins had a peg leg?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: And had he had that store a long time?

BOODY HAWK: Yes he'd had it as long as I can remember.

DR. PATTERSON: What was the building like?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, the building was just like all buildings. I can't think of the name now but anyway it was old but it was comfortable. And the old man loved it but he didn't live at the place. He lived down the street.

DR. PATTERSON: On East Front Street?

BOODY HAWK: On East Front Street in the house that the Case family used to live in. They lived there and that was where he lived.

DR. PATTERSON: Now which family is this, Case?

BOODY HAWK: Case, un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: I don't know which house that is.

BOODY HAWK: Well it's no house there now. It's another house been built there. A Barbour built a house there. I knew him. But I can't recall now.

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, did Mr. Gaskins have mules in his back yard?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah. He had a nice garden out there.

DR. PATTERSON: And he kept mules back there?

BOODY HAWK: No. You're confused with Robinson's Stables next to Gaskins Store, to your abode. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Robinson's Stables was where Charlotte Duffy used to live right on that corner of Johnson and East Front.

BOODY HAWK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: What was that like?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, you mean the store?

DR. PATTERSON: The stables.

BOODY HAWK: The stables, oh they were grand because I loved horses and I used to wait for the horses to be driven from the Atlantic Coastline Railroad up the street just a block. And then they'd house them in the stable on East Front Street and a Mr. Robinson from Vanceboro owned that place.

DR. PATTERSON: What did the horses do? Were they used at the station?

BOODY HAWK: He sold them, mules and horses. He'd get them from various places, somewhere in Kentucky you know and various places and get the old mules in there and he'd sell them.

DR. PATTERSON: I was standing in front of the store about a year ago and a man name Gaskins, an older man who knew me, came up and I think he said his uncle used to have that store. I guess it's the Mr. Gaskins you're talking about and he told me that there were mules in the back yard and that people would come by boat from up and down the river and tie up at the piers in the back and come in and rent a mule and a wagon for the day and do their shopping and come back and load their boats and go away. Do you remember anything about that?

BOODY HAWK: No, too farfetched for me. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, when you were living in that house at the corner of King and Craven Street, who lived in the neighborhood along

there?

BOODY HAWK: The Hollowell family lived there across the street. The Zell family lived across the street. And the Bryan family; he was chief of police. Oh, everybody loved him.. And the Hollisters of course.

DR. PATTERSON: In the big house.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah, in the big house. And Helen is still living. She's the last one.

DR. PATTERSON: Helen Swan?

BOODY HAWK: Yes. She's out in a nursing home. Getting back to the old man, he was a nice old fellow. Always kept his hat on.

DR. PATTERSON: Mr. Gaskins?

BOODY HAWK: He didn't take that hat off for anybody. He was so kind and good to everybody.

DR. PATTERSON: Did he run a grocery store?

BOODY HAWK: It was a little grocery store, yes. He'd sell flour and canned goods, not many because they were not canning stuff like they are now.

DR. PATTERSON: Was there another little store in the neighborhood, grocery store?

BOODY HAWK: I didn't know it.

DR. PATTERSON: Up the street from there on the next block?

BOODY HAWK: I don't remember any.

DR. PATTERSON: I'd heard long ago there might have been.

BOODY HAWK: No.

DR. PATTERSON: You knew folks on King Street too pretty well.

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Who were some of those folks?

BOODY HAWK: Well, the Charlie Gaskins'. Charlie was a playmate of mine and a good friend and his mother was a lovely person and we were very fond of her, the whole family. And Jane's boarding house was down on the corner.

DR. PATTERSON: Which corner, Boody?

BOODY HAWK: On the corner of East Front and King.

DR. PATTERSON: Facing East Front?

BOODY HAWK: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: Is that where Noah Roe used to live?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. Ya'll bought that I think. That was originally sold.

DR. PATTERSON: But it was a boarding house before Noah had it then?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. It was. Mrs. Jones ran it and she had a lot of people eating there all the time.

DR. PATTERSON: And staying there. They rented rooms?

BOODY HAWK: Oh yes, they stayed right there. Roe put that third floor on there though for more room during the past wars and they made a lot of money out there.

DR. PATTERSON: Any other people on King Street that you remember?

BOODY HAWK: Oh the Guion family, Ellen Guion, Walker Guion.

The father, Lord have mercy, I don't remember what he did. I think he was connected with the post office. Now getting to the nitty gritty, Mr. Bob Hancock lived in the house that we were occupying and Matilda was raised over there, Matilda Turner. She's a patient out here. And well, it was just so many.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember the Foscues on East Front Street?

BOODY HAWK: Oh yeah. I loved the Foscues. Those girls were sweet and kind. I think one of them is still living.

DR. PATTERSON: Clara.

BOODY HAWK: Clara, yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Clara owns the little store.

BOODY HAWK: Oh she does?

DR. PATTERSON: She owns the house on the corner, she owns the little store, she owns the house she's in and she owns the house next to that.

BOODY HAWK: Well bless her heart. Well her daddy was with the post office department. He carried the mail in the rural districts.

She had a lovely mother. I used to go with her when anybody would die in the neighborhood and sit, sit in. They used to do that you know. That's was the proper thing.

DR. PATTERSON: What, you would just go and stay for hours, would you?

BOODY HAWK: Oh yes. We would go and stay maybe an hour, two hours and then go home or either we would stay all night if necessary, if the family wanted you to sit up all night and they felt that way.

It was just according to their whims.

DR. PATTERSON: How did friends decide who was going to sit?

BOODY HAWK: How did they decide?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

BOODY HAWK: Just ask.

DR. PATTERSON: The family would ask you? Is that right?

BOODY HAWK: They'd ask the family who they wanted to stay for the wake.

DR. PATTERSON: Now where did you go to school, Boody?

BOODY HAWK: Salem College.

DR. PATTERSON: But before that when you were younger.

BOODY HAWK: Oh, New Bern High School.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you walk to school?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah, just around the corner.

DR. PATTERSON: You went through the first grade right on through high school?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah, Miss Molly Heath was my teacher.

DR. PATTERSON: Can you remember Miss Molly?

BOODY HAWK: That I do.

DR. PATTERSON: Tell me about Miss Molly.

BOODY HAWK: Miss Molly was an angel in disguise. She was a wonderful person and good to children and knew how to win them over.

She let you have something, for instance it was a pencil and it was an odd pencil and you want to get your hands on it or you wanted to use it. You could beg her and in a little while she would give in

and you felt like well I'm the biggest thing in this school building now. I got that pencil from Miss Molly. (Laughter) She was a charm and I enjoyed every minute.

DR. PATTERSON: So many people say that.

BOODY HAWK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: And I remember Miss Molly also. Who were some other teachers you remember?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, Miss Leslie, Miss Caldwell.

DR. PATTERSON: Were they lower grade teachers?

BOODY HAWK: They were fifth, sixth and seventh and so on. And let me see, of course I was interested in the athletic part of the school. They didn't do enough I didn't think. They were lazy and these other towns were getting ahead of us. I decided that we'd have to have a pep meeting and get together on what we were going to do about our athletic department. And so they got me to run for cheerleader and I was the first cheerleader New Bern High School ever had. And I could holler. (Laughter) Go out there to Ghent, I could holler from Ghent to James City and you could hear me. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, in those days, what size class did you have? About how many students would be in a class?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, in a classroom? I would say around thirty-five or forty.

DR. PATTERSON: That many?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah, they were big classes.

DR. PATTERSON: Right from the first grade on up?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: And do you remember how little girls and older girls dressed at school in those days?

BOODY HAWK: Oh yes. At one stage there we wore middy blouses. There's a picture in that annual over there that shows our outfits that we were wearing. Middy blouses, oh they were the thing. And have a tie just like they had on in the navy you know, dark blue tie. Oh, we thought we were it when we got a hold of something like that because that was dressing up. Then of course at Easter time we would try to out dress each other. (Laughter) But in those days we had people that would come by the house and make clothes for you. Her name was Aunt Matt. She was high yellow and she was a lovely person. She would come. Mrs. Cohen would get her to come to the house and make clothes for Helen and for me because our mother had her hands and her heart full at the time my daddy was killed. And she insisted upon looking out for us. And when I even went off to school Sister Cohen - I called her sister because her own sisters called her Sister - and they were just marvelous to me and to Helen.

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, was Mr. Cohen a businessman in town?

BOODY HAWK: Mr. Cohen ran the meat market.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was that?

BOODY HAWK: It was on Broad Street. You know where the alley, they've done away with it now, on Broad Street across from the fire station. It was a store right in there and Ike Cohen was there for years and sold good meat.

DR. PATTERSON: Getting back to school again, who were some of your good buddies during your school years?

BOODY HAWK: Well, Charlie Gaskins, I want to get him in there because I had a pony and he helped me scrub him. Ike and his sister gave me a pony in my days and gave me the buggy, red wheels. Oh, I was so happy. And a little basket thing of seats which you could ride backwards or forward and then maybe the pony would go ten or fifteen or twenty steps and balk, stand still. That meant to get out. Boody, get out and run the pony up the street. Grab it, jerk it once in awhile.

Come on Charlie, come on. Named the little pony Charlie for my friend Charlie down on the corner, the one you say that was so successful.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did you keep that pony?

BOODY HAWK: In the back yard of the Cohen home on King Street. I fed him and watered him and bathed him and it was my pony.

DR. PATTERSON: Did many of the young people have ponies and horses then?

BOODY HAWK: Didn't have much in those days. I remember a picture we had of the Hollister sisters, girls we played with. And we had a wheel, was a frame of a buggy and we played on that thing for two or three years and had fun with it. I don't know what ever happened to that picture. But that was a fun thing for us.

DR. PATTERSON: Who were some other good buddies at school?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, well let's see. At school we had Claude Allen. He's passed away now. He was the head of the schools out at Pollocksville.

DR. PATTERSON: Claude Allen?

BOODY HAWK: That's where Claude was. He was a good friend of mine. And Mary Bradham was a playmate.

DR. PATTERSON: That's Caleb Bradham's daughter?

BOODY HAWK: Caleb Bradham's sister.

DR. PATTERSON: Sister?

BOODY HAWK: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: Which Caleb? Which Caleb, Sr. or Jr.?

BOODY HAWK: Jr. But Sr. too, I was well aware of him because Mary and Caleb and I were tombstone buddies and we had a grand time together. We'd go over to the Pepsi Cola across the street and get anything we wanted. If we wanted a half a dozen or a dozen drinks it was all right. Mr. Bradham told us that we could do it.

DR. PATTERSON: Would you go to his house and get them or to the store?

BOODY HAWK: No, go to the factory right across the street from school.

DR. PATTERSON: Sure.

BOODY HAWK: Now what's her name's boy, well anyway, they have a Pepsi Cola account in Kinston and they have it in New Bern. What are their names?

DR. PATTERSON: I know as well as you do but I can't say it right now.

BOODY HAWK: Well I can't to save my life. But anyway we can't go into that.

DR. PATTERSON: Since we're talking about Pepsi Cola, let me ask you about Mr. Bradham's father. What sort of a fellow was he?

BOODY HAWK: He was a great teaser. He'd say oh you don't have this and you don't have that. Said but you've got to get out and work for it. You've got to get out and work for it. And on one binge we got on, the last day of school Mary and Annie Ship and three or four of us, Fred Ship was in the crowd too, and we went down to Broad Creek to get some lilies. We heard the lilies were in bloom and we wanted to get some, last day of school. Well we went down there and when we were ready to come out of that creek, hell had broken loose and the waves were swamping us. So we just couldn't get out of that creek.

DR. PATTERSON: You went down by boat?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. We borrowed the boat and the man we borrowed the boat from said he felt like something was happening. So he came out and got us. Well when we got back to the bridge where we got out of that boat here was Mr. Bradham, Mrs. Bradham and a handful of people down there wanting to know how we liked the water lilies. (Laughter)

Mr. Bradham said come on here children. Ya'll come here with me. Said you come right on. Said now look a here, I want you all to go home and tell your people what's happened and said then, but I'm not going to tell anybody to do something for Boody because the devil is taking care of her. (Laughter) They are words of old man Bradham. He was a teaser. He was a great teaser.

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, he lived in the house at the corner of Johnson and East Front Street, that big house that sits...

BOODY HAWK: Not Johnson, King Street and Craven.

DR. PATTERSON: No, Mr. Bradham.

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah. Their home is there now.

DR. PATTERSON: The Stiths are in now.

BOODY HAWK: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you visit there very much?

BOODY HAWK: Did I visit?

DR. PATTERSON: Did you visit the Bradham's home very much?

BOODY HAWK: Oh yeah. I used to stay around their house. Used to eat there when they had a dummy for the cook.

DR. PATTERSON: That was a fine home I imagine.

BOODY HAWK: Oh lovely, beautiful. Had two floor to ceiling mirrors, gorgeous. One at either end of that house.

DR. PATTERSON: Was Mrs. Bradham a nice lady?

BOODY HAWK: That she was. She really put pep in the Woman's Club here. She planted or had planted through the Woman's Club that shrubbery going out to the country club. She was always wanted to improve things. She was a wonderful person.

DR. PATTERSON: What was George Bradham like?

BOODY HAWK: George was always giggling but he was attractive and a good boy. And I'm so sorry he's so ill now. Somebody, one of Jane's children sent me a clipping from the Charlotte paper and it had a picture of George in there. I would have never known him. The last time I saw George was when Caleb had his fling. You know Caleb?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

BOODY HAWK: And I just couldn't get over him being so decrepit.

DR. PATTERSON: George was interviewed for this program by my brother Simmons' daughter in Charlotte and we have his tape too. He told a good story and it was really nice to hear from him. I've written him a letter. You knew Caleb pretty well, young Caleb.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. He was my sweetheart for a long time.

DR. PATTERSON: And Caleb later married Haydee Morris.

BOODY HAWK: Haydee Morris, yes. (Laughter) It was a whole lot of trouble in that family. I don't know whether I ought to say this or not. But anyway, (Interruption) Yes, well they were lovely people and Haydee used to come around home. She married Caleb.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes, let me just put this back on tape now. You were saying that Haydee married Caleb.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. And Caleb was very proud of Haydee and my mother was always good and kind to Haydee and Caleb because she felt sorry for them as everybody else did. But it was just one of those wild times and they'll try anything once. And poor Caleb, he'd bring Haydee around home because he didn't have many friends. He was always so English that nothing went well with Caleb. He was too far ahead of things with his walking cane and derby hat and so on. He wanted to be an Englishman so bad. I told him I said you're crazy as hell.

(Laughter) I said you're nobody but a twenty-five cent joke in New Bern. I'd tell him anything.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you go in Mr. Bradham's pharmacy very often when it was downtown?

BOODY HAWK: No. I went in the drugstore down where they had the food served, the ice cream and so forth where they built that pretty drugstore on the corner.

DR. PATTERSON: Corner of Middle...

BOODY HAWK: Well, you're referring I imagine to Middle and Pollock.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah.

BOODY HAWK: That was where the drugstore was.

DR. PATTERSON: That was a fine place.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, let's carry on to Salem. You said you went to Salem after you finished high school here?

BOODY HAWK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: And spent how many years there?

BOODY HAWK: I was only there to take a business course. That was all my mother could afford. I was there and very happy because Mary was there and several good friends were there. I liked it at Salem, enjoyed it.

DR. PATTERSON: You came back to New Bern after that?

BOODY HAWK: Oh yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Is that when your business career began?

BOODY HAWK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Maybe the best thing to do Boody, is for me to ask you to tell me about your business career, how it developed and how it went.

BOODY HAWK: All right, I can start with the store, your home. I'm not wording it as I would like to.

DR. PATTERSON: The little store?

BOODY HAWK: The little store. God bless it! (Laughter) Some good times and wonderful, wonderful memories. But anyway, that was my beginning of selling idea, to do something I was proud of you know. I liked to do that and do this and so forth. Anyway, that was a beginning of my whole career was that blessed store. And then later on in life I decided I wanted to do something different. And Al Patterson called me up one day...

DR. PATTERSON: Is this Albert Patterson?

BOODY HAWK: Albert, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: My grandfather?

BOODY HAWK: Albert that married Kit Leffert's mother. Albert.

DR. PATTERSON: My uncle, my uncle Albert.

BOODY HAWK: Your uncle Albert. He was the finest friend in the world. But anyway, he said let's get Boody down here to sell for us. Said I believe she can sell.

DR. PATTERSON: What business was he in?

BOODY HAWK: They were in the mill supply business but they had taken and started at that point taking on other lines that were not regular with an outfit or store. That was it. It was Majestic radio...

DR. PATTERSON: Excuse me, Boody. They were located on South Front Street?

BOODY HAWK: South Front Street, un-huh. Well the building is

still there.

DR. PATTERSON: I think it's gone now. It was just taken down.

BOODY HAWK: It was, yeah it was - well the garage...

DR. PATTERSON: It was almost at the corner of Hancock Street and South Front Street.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. Well anyway, I started out selling those Majestic radios. And that put a bug in my head that I ought to go ahead and get in business or do something for myself. Making money for them here and keeping the payroll going. (Laughter) And so that was it. And then I used to substitute for some of the girls that would go on vacation. And I worked for Emmett Whitehurst. God bless him.

And he was a dear friend of mine. And I'm proud to say that I sponsored him in AA and he never took another drink after that. And I believe in AA. I have so many friends in AA. I used to go out and make talks and I enjoyed it.

DR. PATTERSON: How long have you been in AA, Boody?

BOODY HAWK: Over forty years.

DR. PATTERSON: Is it fair to ask you what made you make that decision?

BOODY HAWK: Well I had made so many decisions and they fell through that I was hell bent on getting one that was going to stick and I had been in AA long enough to know what it could do for me. And if I accepted it as I wanted to and should well then we'd win the ballgame. And so that's the way it went. And when, let's see...

DR. PATTERSON: You were working for Emmett Whitehurst.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah, working for Emmett. Well anyway, the mill supply company was getting shaky and I knew that they were not going to last long and I had my eye on a little store (Laughter), another little store on Middle Street. It was, it used to be a drugstore. Let's see now, the Henrys.

DR. PATTERSON: Dave and Tom Henry.

BOODY HAWK: Dave and Tom, but their grandfather was a pharmacist or something here and he had a drugstore there on Middle Street.

DR. PATTERSON: Was this next to their house on Middle Street? Was this on the east side of Middle Street toward the river?

BOODY HAWK: It was just a little store in the side of the wall. It was just nothing, just like a lot of those stores are so very much.

DR. PATTERSON: And so you started business there?

BOODY HAWK: Yep. I started business. I had two hundred and six...

DR. PATTERSON: Just started a business of your own with \$238.00 and you were trying to borrow some money.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. I thought it was about time to get a little capital in there, you know, get big like you know and pay those bills as they come in. (Laughter) But I started out on Middle Street. I stayed over there for about four or five years cramped to death.

Finally these people that were running a pawn shop across the street were going to move and I found it out and found out who owned the building and I went over there to rent it and get say-so. So I made up my mind I was going to bust a gut (Laughter) to get to the top of the ladder

anyway. But that was in 1939. I started winning prizes for salesmanship and achievement and so forth. And from then on I went, didn't have any trouble, got along fine.

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, this place you were in is the same store you were in when you quit businesses.

BOODY HAWK: That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: That's between Broad Street and Pollock Street on the west side of Middle Street and it's where the flea market is now.

BOODY HAWK: Well, I don't know about that flea market. I've never been in it. But I know that a lot of people have been in and out, in and out.

DR. PATTERSON: What all did you sell, Boody?

BOODY HAWK: Well I had the Kelvinator account exclusively. I had the Philco radio account exclusively. I had the RCA exclusively. My name is still on top of that building. I don't know why they don't take it down but I always look to see if it's there to have that old feeling. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Did you have a lot of help?

BOODY HAWK: Oh I had, I tried to do the good thing. I always thought about good sides of these things and I would hire the high school children and give them a little of the feeling of owning something or doing something making money. In those days they worked and they spent their money for cigarettes unless they stole the cigarettes from me if you'd have a carton out.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you have to fill out any insurance forms or government forms on these folks working for you?

BOODY HAWK: Oh yeah, I'd report them.

DR. PATTERSON: And you were in there from 1939 until...

BOODY HAWK: Until I sold out to Wynne, Wynne Hughes was Mary Hughes' boy.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember what year that was?

BOODY HAWK: I think, anyway, let's see, my mind goes through it was when I quit drinking. It was 1955. (Laughter) It goes to that. That's my keynote.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember better since 1955?

BOODY HAWK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Well you had your business much longer than that.

BOODY HAWK: Oh yes, un-huh. My business was, the store and the name stayed right in that store even when I sold it.

DR. PATTERSON: What all happened to you after you sold the store?

BOODY HAWK: Well, after I sold the store I worked for other people but not for a long time. I mean I didn't go in...

DR. PATTERSON: You finally retired.

BOODY HAWK: Yes. I read an ad (Laughter) about Berne Retirement Village. You ought to get in.

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, when you were in business downtown in the late 1930's and 1940's and 1950's what was downtown like?

BOODY HAWK: It was a busy place. It was, well of course, we had that Coplon store which we thought was the finest thing in the

world and it was in it's day, the Coplon business.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. That was an apparel store.

BOODY HAWK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Men and women?

BOODY HAWK: Yep.

DR. PATTERSON: That was in the next block of Middle Street.

BOODY HAWK: That was in...

DR. PATTERSON: Past Pollock Street.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. Midway the block. And I thought of some name of something just then. It skipped my mind. Was the Eaton family.

I could not think of their names because when I was up at Appalachian Hall which I went up there on several occasions to try to stop drinking and I went to several places. Took all my money. (Laughter) But I owed it as the old fellow says down east.

DR. PATTERSON: Does the Eaton family fit into that story?

BOODY HAWK: No. Un-uh. That was Sam Eaton's family and part of the family lived up in Asheville and I would see them when I was up there.

DR. PATTERSON: Is that, they're related to the Thomas Eaton. Is that right?

BOODY HAWK: No, there's no relationship. It's another set.

DR. PATTERSON: I see. In your block of business, what other stores were along there then?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, well I always heard that if you get near Kress' you'd be doing something because everybody went to Kress' in those

days to buy things. And I was right near the bank. I was right there at Kress' almost and I had a lot of good traffic all the time.

DR. PATTERSON: You say that downtown was very busy then.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: There were no malls here.

BOODY HAWK: No, no malls.

DR. PATTERSON: Were weekdays busy shopping days or was it just Saturdays?

BOODY HAWK: No, sometimes Mondays were bigger days than Saturdays. You never knew. It was just the way the people's minds were running or if they really wanted something. But you just can't predict.

DR. PATTERSON: Williams Cafe was on the corner.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah, Jimmy Baches was there. I think he's passed on.

DR. PATTERSON: How about Kafer Bakery?

BOODY HAWK: Oh it was there.

DR. PATTERSON: On which side of you?

BOODY HAWK: Over on the right side of me but they were practically out of business when I went in business because Sadie Kafer, I used to go over there and talk with her a lot. And Alfred was a good friend of Eagle's and Emmett's and Emmett, of course, he and Eagle would get together at the Elk's Club and go play billiards and have a few drinks and that was it.

DR. PATTERSON: On the Elk's Temple corner, what was the store

or the shop at the bottom of the Elk's Club? Was it Gaskins Soda Shop?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah, that was it, Floyd Gaskins.

DR. PATTERSON: He'd been there for some time, had he?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah. Floyd from the time he was born practically. He used to work for Pinnix Drugstore. He was a pharmacist and he came out and everybody thought the world of him. But he was taken sick like a lot of us now and gone.

DR. PATTERSON: What was catty-cornered across from the Elk's Temple where Mr. Bradham used to have his pharmacy?

BOODY HAWK: What was over there?

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah. Was that Shaw's Soda Shop or Jenkins?

BOODY HAWK: It wasn't Shaw's. Let's see, it was a hat shop. Mrs. Sidney Shaw had a hat shop further down Middle Street.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember Mr. John J. Tolson's store?

BOODY HAWK: Oh my dear Lord yeah. His wife used to come up to our house and say she was so lonesome after something happened to Jack, John. And this girl now is reading a book that Jack is going to have published.

DR. PATTERSON: It's published.

BOODY HAWK: Is it published?

DR. PATTERSON: Smitty has a copy of it and it's very successful and a very fine book. Mr. Tolson's store was an electric store.

BOODY HAWK: That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: And it was on Pollock Street?

BOODY HAWK: On Pollock Street next to the bank.

DR. PATTERSON: Not many people seem to remember that store but I remember it.

BOODY HAWK: Well I don't see why.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah.

BOODY HAWK: They had electricity and they sure did have breakdowns. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, when you were young, really young and growing up were the streets in New Bern paved with asphalt or were they brick?

BOODY HAWK: (Laughter) Honey, they were dirt. We played in the mud.

DR. PATTERSON: Craven Street was a dirt street?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. I remember when it was paved. And Eagle had part of it to do. In those days as far back like that Eagle would do anything to make money. Lord knows, I can remember just like yesterday my brother was a water boy for the help putting down Augusta brick. That's what was put down. Came from Augusta, Georgia. That was an event getting that stuff out on streets, putting sand down there, going through the motions.

DR. PATTERSON: Now this was paving Craven Street with brick?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. It's Augusta block underneath that stuff.

DR. PATTERSON: What about King Street? Was that also a dirt street?

BOODY HAWK: It was an oyster shell street.

DR. PATTERSON: How about East Front Street?

BOODY HAWK: East Front Street was the same way.

DR. PATTERSON: Oyster shells?

BOODY HAWK: Yessir. Didn't care about tires or nothing. You just drove over it until you squashed it yourself. They didn't have steam rollers then. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Where did the oyster shells come from?

BOODY HAWK: Came from all over town. People were eating oysters until they found out about hepatitis. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: So you remember New Bern as just being with dirt streets then primarily?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah. My mother lived to be ninety-seven years old. Bessie lived to be, Mrs. Eagle, ninety-eight.

DR. PATTERSON: You have talked a lot about Eagle and I of course remember Mr. Eagle. Tell me more about Mr. Eagle. He married Bessie. What sort of career did he have in New Bern?

BOODY HAWK: He was a wonderful person, very thoughtful of everyone, always kind and good to my mother. He always teased her a lot. Called her Mrs. Ikey. (Laughter) But Eagle was a wonderful person. He was good to all of us. He had a bicycle. I used to love to ride that thing. I'd put my - go in the frame you know, get in there and roll that thing. (Laughter) But that was good fun in those days.

DR. PATTERSON: Eagle, Mr. Eagle, became postmaster.

BOODY HAWK: He was postmaster for twenty-six years. And had a little trouble with some of these people that never take a drink

but they do drink and they tried to say that he was drinking on the job. But anyway, that's a scandal I don't want that.

DR. PATTERSON: What other things did he do besides being postmaster? What businesses did he have?

BOODY HAWK: Well he went to State College and graduated up there. Then he came to New Bern and he, let's see, he surveyed. He was a surveyor and engineer. And that's what he did. He rode a bicycle to Cove City one day. (Laughter) I can remember that. It's unbelievable but I swear it's the truth. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: How did he ever get the postmaster's job?

BOODY HAWK: Through Hap Barden.

DR. PATTERSON: He just asked Mr. Barden for it?

BOODY HAWK: Well, I don't know. It was just wished on him. He didn't go ask for it. He wasn't doing any politicking.

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, in those younger days you mentioned riding a bicycle to Cove City, how did people get around?

BOODY HAWK: They had a horse and buggy. My mother used to take the payroll for my daddy down to Croatan. That's where my daddy had another mill down there. And she'd take the payroll weekends with the horse and buggy. That horse was named Bill and she could drive it. But you couldn't do that today. My mother went every week with a horse and buggy to Croatan because my daddy was buying logs and getting timber rights. He was progressive.

DR. PATTERSON: That must have taken all day for that trip.

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: In New Bern itself was transportation mostly by horse and buggy then at that time?

BOODY HAWK: Yes indeed. Very few automobiles. Ike Cohen had a car, had a Buick. I'll never forget it. Had brass lights on the side. That was beautiful. And my first cigarette I smoked in their garage, a Sovereign cigarette. Do you remember those?

DR. PATTERSON: Sovereign, no I don't. I remember Piedmonts.

BOODY HAWK: Piedmont. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Where did people keep their horses?

BOODY HAWK: Where did they do what?

DR. PATTERSON: You said a lot of people had horses and buggies. Where did they keep their horses?

BOODY HAWK: Well, a lot of them was around, you know, liveries. And Mr. Jones, J.A. Jones, was a big horse dealer and he would rent the horses out. But now the people like Robinson had a stable that all they did was sell horses and mules but you didn't get them but just so often. Now Mr. Newbury owned that business at the last on East Front, the horse business. He had a racehorse that was the prettiest thing. Her name was Hallie Chimes. I thought that was charming. They would offer me and she almost got me in the back of the neck one day with that middy blouse. Got a hold of the collar of that and about choked me to death. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, was there much bootlegging going on?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, my Lord, yeah. Dad call her. Dear old daddy. (Laughter) We used to sing.

DR. PATTERSON: I'm sorry I missed that. What did you say?

BOODY HAWK: (Singing) Daddy, dear old daddy, daddy call her.

DR. PATTERSON: Daddy?

BOODY HAWK: (Singing) Daddy, oh Sweet Daddy... That's all I know.

DR. PATTERSON: What's that got to do with bootlegging?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, well, that's the way you got your whiskey.

DR. PATTERSON: At Sweet Daddy's?

BOODY HAWK: Yessir. He was the king bee.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was he located?

BOODY HAWK: He was located in a Cadillac or (Laughter). In a Cadillac, I don't know the other name because it was so few cars in those days. But if it was a new name and a new car he had it. We didn't have anything.

DR. PATTERSON: And you'd buy the moonshine from him in his car?

BOODY HAWK: Or, go up to the house and get it.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did he live?

BOODY HAWK: Lived up on Myrtle Avenue. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: I don't know where that is.

BOODY HAWK: I know that. Most people don't know. So many people say where is that, Boody? I said oh Lord have mercy, you know you know where that is.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it downtown or Ghent or Riverside?

BOODY HAWK: No it was out in colored town. It was out in the black area.

DR. PATTERSON: This was a black man?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Oh, okay.

BOODY HAWK: But very likeable. Everybody liked him.

DR. PATTERSON: Folks would go out there and just buy moonshine from him?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah, un-huh, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Good moonshine?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. Didn't give you hangovers like the stuff did later on in life. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Where did he get it? Did he make it?

BOODY HAWK: He made it or had somebody to make it. One time Eagle went out to get some and he was down at Croatan and the little boy came out to wait on him and he said son, where's your daddy. He said he's gone in the woods. Said well what's he doing. Said I was supposed to meet him here. He said I know but he's in there proofing the liquor down. Proofing it down. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Were there other moonshine outfits?

BOODY HAWK: Yes, un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: Wasn't hard to get it?

BOODY HAWK: Naw, un-uh. Was free. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, you were in New Bern during the Depression.

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Was that a bad time.

BOODY HAWK: Well, we had a lot of friends that would give us

sugar and necessities that we had to have. We had the war going on and those boys that were in the service would help us.

DR. PATTERSON: The World War II?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: You were not in business during the Depression. You were working for...

BOODY HAWK: Yes I was during the Korean War.

DR. PATTERSON: During the Korean War?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: How about during the early 1930's when the Depression came along, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932? Were you in business then?

BOODY HAWK: I went in business in 1939.

DR. PATTERSON: Okay. You were in New Bern during World War II and you were here during World War I.

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember that time?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah I do.

DR. PATTERSON: What was New Bern like during World War I?

BOODY HAWK: Well, it was drab. We had so many friends that were getting hurt and we just were lost. We just didn't know which way to turn or what to do. There's not much I can say about that.

DR. PATTERSON: There was a bad flu epidemic about that time.

BOODY HAWK: I was in it. Lord knows, people didn't want to get around you. Some of the doctors wouldn't come and it was just horrible.

Now I had that flu and the only person that would come near me was a boy named Victor. I'll never forget him. He was a Christian Scientist and he was grand to me. He would come and take my temperature and bring me something cool to drink. But during that time I had that influenza they called it and I was seeing horses, animals, oh I had such a high fever.

DR. PATTERSON: I guess you're pretty lucky, Boody, to have pulled through.

BOODY HAWK: Oh, my Lord yeah. I've been some right bad routes with illness but I've snapped back.

DR. PATTERSON: Were there a lot of people sick in New Bern with the flu then?

BOODY HAWK: Dying all around us. On King Street the Gaskins boys' daddy died. Ruby Bryan's folks died. And just all around the whole neighborhood.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you lose any good friends?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, World War II came along and you were in business then.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Did the military bases, Cherry Point particularly, have an affect on your business?

BOODY HAWK: Absolutely made it. Well, the town was just like this with soldiers. And you asked me, well back up here a minute, about what Eagle did. That was when he went in the post office and

he had to go to Lejune. They were building that and Cherry Point at the same time. And he was postmaster but called on to do just almost impossible things. But he did it. He was on the go all the time.

DR. PATTERSON: He was postmaster for both marine bases then?

BOODY HAWK: Yes. They just opened that one at Cherry Point.

DR. PATTERSON: But your business really prospered as a result of all of this?

BOODY HAWK: Yes. Yeah, they'd get payday and get wild.

DR. PATTERSON: This was true of the whole town? Did the whole town have an economic boost?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yes. The town was wide awake and you had people that would get out and fight and do the best they could for you and it was a joy to be in business. But now, oh they think it's so hard.

DR. PATTERSON: Someone mentioned to me and I haven't been able to find anyone who remembers it. There used to be airplane spotters in the cupola at the post office. Is that true?

BOODY HAWK: Used to be what?

DR. PATTERSON: People stationed in the cupola at the top of the post office to spot airplanes.

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah. Yeah, that's right. That's right. I thought you were going to ask me about flying. I was a bug. I was crazy about airplanes and I rode with a lot of people. There was a German pilot that came in here and was taking up people barn storming, he called it. And he took me up and did every kind of stunt in the world and I didn't get sick.

DR. PATTERSON: This was?

BOODY HAWK: It was after the war.

DR. PATTERSON: During World War II were there blackouts in New Bern?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: You'd blackout every night?

BOODY HAWK: No.

DR. PATTERSON: What were people afraid of? Air bombings, or?

BOODY HAWK: Afraid of Cherry Point being bombed.

DR. PATTERSON: Were the rivers patrolled?

BOODY HAWK: Yes, indeed. The boy I mentioned that came to me when I was so ill - Lord knows, they guarded the bridges. They had a bunch of nice boys in here. A lot of people married some of them. I can't recall their names now. We had a lot of weddings.

DR. PATTERSON: What hospitals do you remember in New Bern? Of course there was St. Luke's.

BOODY HAWK: I remember the Stewart Sanitarium. I just do remember it. It was out on George Street. The reason I remember that is because my daddy was buried right across the street from there as our lot is on that side of Cedar Grove right by that last gate. And I remember, I just do remember, what that hospital looked like. Old iron beds and so on.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it a wooden building or a brick building?

BOODY HAWK: It was partially brick.

DR. PATTERSON: It burned, didn't it?

BOODY HAWK: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember the New Bern General Hospital?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, I lived right in it.

DR. PATTERSON: You lived in it?

BOODY HAWK: We lived in it.

DR. PATTERSON: It was close by. It was right close to you.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah, within, as they say, spitting distance. But anyway, let's see, I don't remember...Miss Lizzie's house, home, which is being done over now, anyway, her home was converted into a hospital. I had my adenoids taken out in there. (Laughter) I well remember. All of my crowd had gone to Goldsboro to the fair and left me there with mama on my birthday and I was miserable because I wanted to go to the fair. I loved fairs. Well, that soon ended.

DR. PATTERSON: You had your adenoids taken out at New Bern General?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Who was your doctor then?

BOODY HAWK: Harvey Wadsworth.

DR. PATTERSON: He did the adenoidectomy?

BOODY HAWK: And somebody else. I've forgotten who it was now.

DR. PATTERSON: How about the Caton Hospital?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah, the one down the street they tore down on Queen Street. That was a brick building. They tore it down. That was crazy. I don't remember it being so shaky to have to do it.

DR. PATTERSON: What do you remember about hurricanes in New Bern?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, boy, I've been in them.

DR. PATTERSON: Can you go back to 1933?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: What do you remember about that storm?

BOODY HAWK: That the wind blew like hell and turned everything over. The tide came up to the back step that far from coming in our kitchen, our home. We had to take all the rugs out and oh, it was awful.

DR. PATTERSON: So King Street was pretty much under water then?

BOODY HAWK: Under water and trees everywhere you looked. Criss-crossed, just, oh it blew down things so. It blew a boat up there at our front door.

DR. PATTERSON: Is that right?

BOODY HAWK: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: How about the hurricanes in the 1950's?

BOODY HAWK: In the 1950's?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. The three hurricanes?

BOODY HAWK: I was down at Hatteras for two with Helen. Helen wasn't scared of the devil. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: You used to go to Hatteras a lot, didn't you?

BOODY HAWK: Yep.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you have a place there?

BOODY HAWK: Helen's husband went there. He was a great sportsman. He loved, he started that Blue Marlin, all of that down at Hatteras. But he was a nervous person and he went down to Hatteras and he wanted

to improve it because it had possibilities and he decided he wanted to put in a light plant, a water plant first I believe it was. But anyway, that's what his life was, doing for other people. He was a good one. He was a good boy.

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, do you remember the big fire in New Bern?

BOODY HAWK: I certainly do.

DR. PATTERSON: 1922.

BOODY HAWK: Yes, I was off at school and somebody called me over at Wellfare's Drugstore. That's the dark ages. Said did you know that New Bern's on fire. I said what! Said New Bern's on fire. I said no! And I got on the phone and called my mother and she told me it was around the corner but that they were not going to move things out of the house just yet. And around the corner from that house, the Dill family lived there, I can see that house right now. It was painted green and brown. And that house stayed there for years and the Dill family, Marcus and a crowd of them, burnt.

DR. PATTERSON: That house burned, didn't it?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah, it burned. So many did.

DR. PATTERSON: You were not in town though when all that was happening?

BOODY HAWK: No. I wasn't.

DR. PATTERSON: When you were coming along and growing up and having fun in town, did you all go sailing very much?

BOODY HAWK: No, I never did fall for sailing. I liked fast things.

DR. PATTERSON: Like what?

BOODY HAWK: Like well, I had a Johnson motor and that would () all the time. (Laughter) I liked that.

DR. PATTERSON: You had an outboard motorboat then?

BOODY HAWK: Oh yeah, I had that. And Libby Ward was my buddy. Libby down there with Mrs. Smallwood. The Smallwood family lived in that house. Well, I don't know who lives there now.

DR. PATTERSON: A doctor lives there now.

BOODY HAWK: Well anyway, that was where Libby - whenever we were broke we'd go in that back yard and look in the grass and we'd find a nickel or a dime or a quarter. There were children had thrown out there. They'd give them money to play with and if we were broke we'd go over there and say we're going to find us some money today. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Where did you keep your boat?

BOODY HAWK: Didn't have anything but a rowboat.

DR. PATTERSON: And a motor on it?

BOODY HAWK: Un-huh, motor on it.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you keep it down on the Neuse River close to you?

BOODY HAWK: Kept it right down there back of the house so I wouldn't have to go very far.

DR. PATTERSON: Did Mr. Blades have a lumber yard behind the little store then?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Was that Vernon Blades lumber yard?

BOODY HAWK: It was Mr. J.V. Blades' Lumber Company. Yeah, that mill, the Buntings ran that for him. They had it over in Bridgeton too.

DR. PATTERSON: On the New Bern side of the river, was it a big plant, a big mill back there?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah, big mill. They'd take logs in up a ramp and they'd take them and sling them around and put chains on them and put them different places in the mill yard and work them over.

DR. PATTERSON: A lot of piers there, wharves?

BOODY HAWK: No, not many. No it was just theirs.

DR. PATTERSON: You say you didn't do much sailing. I bet you did some dancing.

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah. I loved to dance.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did you folks dance?

BOODY HAWK: Well, we went over to Wyatt's Beach they called it.

DR. PATTERSON: Where is that, Boody?

BOODY HAWK: It was over in Bridgeton. The Wyatt family was a prominent family over that way and they had a lot of grape vines and things like that and we'd go over there. But our dancing would be at night and believe it or not I won a prize one night dancing and I was dancing with the boy that I was going with and almost married him. It was Blackwell Waters. You don't remember him do you?

DR. PATTERSON: Un-huh.

BOODY HAWK: Well anyway, he was a good boy. Then we danced up there at Stanley Hall, upstairs over where you have to go up those

steps on Craven Street. Lo and behold we used to have a good time. We'd have nothing but a drum and Hootie Green playing the piano. And Hootie Green was absolutely the best piano player in the south. He was a good one. And we had the best dances. Then we got so we got so big, you know, that we had the Myer Davis Sound here. Big stuff. From then on we went to Morehead and all around.

DR. PATTERSON: Let me asked you about Myer Davis. When he came to New Bern, where did he play?

BOODY HAWK: Played up there at Stanley Hall.

DR. PATTERSON: Did he really?

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. They had officers, I mean they are still in existence with that name ().

DR. PATTERSON: Boody, tell me about dancing at Morehead.

BOODY HAWK: Dancing at Morehead? Well we had beautiful dances in those days. We'd waltz and not only that we'd do whatever was in vogue. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Would you dance at the Atlantic Hotel?

BOODY HAWK: Yes, my Lord. Used to stay there. Used to go down for weekends and later on in life. I went down there for eight summers, down to Atlantic Beach. Not Atlantic Beach, Morehead. I liked it in Morehead. I'd rather be on the sound side.

DR. PATTERSON: But the dances at the Atlantic Hotel as I remember them were big dances and people came from all around.

BOODY HAWK: Yes from everywhere. It was the nicest dance floor. And Lord, Myer Davis was there and Ben Bernie was there. I smoked

a cigarette along with him.

DR. PATTERSON: With Ben Bernie? (Laughter)

BOODY HAWK: Yeah. He's dead now.

DR. PATTERSON: Cab Calloway was there too.

BOODY HAWK: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember that dance.

BOODY HAWK: Yessir, a white tailed thing! (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: What was it like getting from New Bern to Morehead?
Was it hard?

BOODY HAWK: No. Well, we started out on Methodist picnics.
That's where we started on a train. Then we grew up, you know, and
we got in that dancing vein. And that's the way it went.

DR. PATTERSON: When you'd go to the dances, you'd drive down
by car?

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah. It would take hours because you didn't
rush. Sandy ruts or either have to open the gate for the cows or some
kind of law they had. What did they call it? I can't think now.
Where they had the gates. You can't remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: No. Boody, do you have other things that you
think we should talk about? I've been making you talk for a long time
here and you must be getting a little weary.

BOODY HAWK: My throat is dry. That's the trouble. That stymies
me every now and then. I've had that bronchitis trouble.

DR. PATTERSON: Are there any other things that...

BOODY HAWK: I used to be hipped on these airplanes coming in.

Wasn't it Roscoe Turner - Roscoe Turner, I flew with him. I've flown with several flyers and would do stunts with them.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you ever pilot a plane yourself?

BOODY HAWK: No. I never wanted to do that. All I wanted to do was get in there and do the falling leaf (Laughter).

DR. PATTERSON: Well Boody, it's been really fun coming out and talking to you.

BOODY HAWK: Well, I'm sorry I flubbed many, many times but I couldn't help it.

DR. PATTERSON: I don't think you did at all. I think this has been a good interview, a fine interview and you've told me things that nobody else has mentioned.

BOODY HAWK: Well it's funny to me how people can forget so easily. But daggone they can.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, you were remembering way back there.

BOODY HAWK: Oh, yeah. I can remember.

DR. PATTERSON: So I'm going to go ahead, Boody, and cut this thing off and give you a chance to rest your voice a little bit. But I want to thank you for letting us come out and talk to you and copy your pictures.

BOODY HAWK: Well I am delighted. I hope I have helped you and that boy sitting over there with his little () boy and all The people of our good old New Bern. I love it.

DR. PATTERSON: Okay, I'll cut it off.

END OF INTERVIEW

