

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

HUBERT E. JONES

INTERVIEW 1025

This is Dr. Joseph Patterson representing the Memories of New Bern Committee. My number is 1000. I am interviewing Hubert E. Jones at his residence at 813 Clark Avenue in New Bern. The number of the interview is 1025. The date December 14, 1992.

DR. PATTERSON: So, now, Hubert, the tape is running and I want to thank you for letting me come here and talk to you like this and spending the afternoon with me doing this. The Memories program thanks you. Let's start out by my just asking you to tell me your full name, where you were born, when you were born, where you grew up, about your childhood, where you went to school, and then we'll go on from there.

MR. JONES: My name is Hubert E. Jones.

DR. PATTERSON: What does the E stand for?

MR. JONES: I've never known. I asked my family about it and they said we're gonna call you Hubert E, and so it's always been that way.

DR. PATTERSON: All right.

MR. JONES: And where I was born, over in the James City area and my father was a night watchman.

DR. PATTERSON: What year was that?

MR. JONES: 1911. My father was a night watchman over there and he had his home right there. He lived there.

DR. PATTERSON: What was he a night watchman for?

MR. JONES: In a sawmill. I don't know the name of it now. It's been too many years ago. But I know where it was. When you go across the James City bridge into James City, it was right on your left.

DR. PATTERSON: That's the old bridge?

MR. JONES: No, the bridge that's there right now. Well, anyway, that's where it was, right down on the waterfront, right around the point there. The old log pounds are still out there. If you're ever out there in the boats, you can see where they used to bring them in there. As far as at my birth, that's it.

DR. PATTERSON: Were you born at home?

MR. JONES: I don't know about that. I was there, but I don't know what went on. (laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: And you grew up in James City?

MR. JONES: No, I grew up in New Bern. My father moved to New Bern and for years he worked for Craven Foundry. He worked for Gaskell Foundry. He was a pattern maker, a machinist. You name it. Back then when somebody grew up in a plant, they learned to do everything.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did you live in those years?

MR. JONES: Well, let's see. We moved around quite a bit. I know at one time I lived in Woodrow. That was at my very young age. Then later on we moved into a house here that no longer exists, but is just about the distance of a half a block from where Riverside Hardware is now. Right across the street from us, the first man to move out there was a fellow, Frank Sutton I believe his name was. Frank Sutton works to the Rowland Lumber Company. I spent a lot of time, me and other boys, playing out there at Rowland Lumber Company's yard.

DR. PATTERSON: You went to school out at Riverside?

MR. JONES: Well, no. They didn't have Riverside School then. We went to school at Central.

DR. PATTERSON: How did you get downtown to Central?

MR. JONES: Had to walk. We didn't have a bus to come pick us up. It was two miles from where we lived down there. We walked down there in the morning and we walked back in the afternoon.

DR. PATTERSON: When you were a first grader you did that?

MR. JONES: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Six years old?

MR. JONES: I was six years old.

DR. PATTERSON: And it was safe to do that then I guess.

MR. JONES: Oh yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you go through all of your schooling downtown?

MR. JONES: Yeah, all of it. I went through all of it there. They came out, well, they call it the high school building. They built that while I was going to school down there.

DR. PATTERSON: Who were some of your teachers?

MR. JONES: I can't tell you about it. I think the only I can remember I think would be Miss Molly Heath. Does that name ring a bell with you?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. Yes. First grade.

MR. JONES: She was a lovely woman. She loved all of us.

DR. PATTERSON: You remember her pretty well?

MR. JONES: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: What was she like?

MR. JONES: What was she like?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. JONES: Well, all I know is that as little boy we thought she was something special.

DR. PATTERSON: So did all of her students.

MR. JONES: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Who were some of your friends during those days Hubert?

MR. JONES: Well, the one that I remember mostly was Joe McDaniel. He was the first one that I remember because he stayed my friend right up until the time he died. I never will forget the first day we went up in that building. We kept walking up steps and up steps and up steps, and Joe says, "My goodness! Aren't we gonna ever get to the top of this place!" (laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: How far did you go? Did you go through high school and graduate?

MR. JONES: No, I didn't do that. But I said at that time that I had good reasons for not doing it, cause I got a job at Norfolk and Southern as office boy with good chance of going right on up and being promoted right along. Then the Depression hit and I was the second one to get laid off. Herlot Winfield was the first one.

DR. PATTERSON: So you were with the Norfolk and Southern then for some years after you quit school, is that correct?

MR. JONES: Oh no. That's when I quit school to go to work with Norfolk and Southern.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes, and you stayed with them for a few years.

MR. JONES: Three or four years.

DR. PATTERSON: What did you do after that?

MR. JONES: Well, Jimmy Harker, I don't know if you knew him or not, but he had a grocery store. I'd say it was IGA now. He had a nice brick home right next door and he lived there. He was cashier. He gave me a job at his service station and I worked there for about four or five years for him. I left there and went to work for an oil fertilizer company right next to the old railroad bridge going to Bridgeton. Then I went back to Jimmy's. Then I went on a vacation and he got along so good without me, he said he didn't need me when I come back. So I went to work for Kid Homan in the newspaper. We had a weekly newspaper.

DR. PATTERSON: What was the name of that paper?

MR. JONES: Times. No, that wasn't the Times.

DR. PATTERSON: So you don't remember the name of Kid Homan's paper. Then you stayed with the newspaper for a while?

MR. JONES: I stayed over there for two or three years feeding an old cylinder press that you had to feed each sheet of paper separately.

DR. PATTERSON: Now where was this located?

MR. JONES: Right across the street from the old hotel that was on Middle Street.

DR. PATTERSON: That's the old Hotel Albert, the New Bernian Hotel?

MR. JONES: Yeah, New Bernian Hotel it was, and they changed the

name several times.

DR. PATTERSON: So, Kid Homan's newspaper was right across the street from that.

MR. JONES: Yeah. There was a dry cleaning place right next to us and that was Mr. Ritchy. He has a daughter that's still living.

DR. PATTERSON: He has two daughters; Mildred and Dorothy.

MR. JONES: Well, I worked there and then I went to work at The Tribune. You know the story of The Tribune, how that started?

DR. PATTERSON: Now where was that located?

MR. JONES: That was over on Craven Street. See, originally, the New Bern Sun Journal had two papers, afternoon paper and a morning paper. When they did away with the morning paper, Nathan Gooding and Mariner Hardison, and some other guy that was in there, they went in, the three of them, they went in and started this morning paper of their own.

DR. PATTERSON: What did they call that?

MR. JONES: That was The Tribune.

DR. PATTERSON: If we can just go back a minute Hubert to Kid Homan. Now, Kid Homan is a name I remember from the past, but I don't really know who he was.

MR. JONES: Well, Kid Homan, nobody in New Bern knew him either. He'd take his family on a sailboat. He'd go from up and down the coast and he'd go in a place there and he'd get a job and work for a while, then he'd move on down and he moved into New Bern and he came down and that's where he went to work at the Sun Journal.

DR. PATTERSON: He started this other newspaper about what year?

MR. JONES: Oh no, he worked at the Sun Journal and he left the Sun Journal and then started the weekly newspaper.

DR. PATTERSON: Oh, I see.

MR. JONES: He went in business for himself.

DR. PATTERSON: So, he came down here and worked for the Sun Journal then.

MR. JONES: Worked at the Sun Journal.

DR. PATTERSON: Was he an athlete of some renown?

MR. JONES: No, he was just a man that loved the water. I don't know how many years he'd been going up and down the coast. He lived on his boat.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you work for the Sun Journal before you worked for Kid Homan?

MR. JONES: No, I worked for Kid Homan first.

DR. PATTERSON: He had started a weekly newspaper?

MR. JONES: Well, that was before he started it.

DR. PATTERSON: What was he doing?

MR. JONES: Let's back up just a minute. I went to work for Kid Homan and he was running The Times, or whatever paper he started, whatever name it was. Then I left there and went to the Sun Journal.

DR. PATTERSON: About what year was that?

MR. JONES: Let's see. It had to be along about '31 or '32.

DR. PATTERSON: All right. How long did you work for Mr. Homan?

MR. JONES: Oh, three or four years.

DR. PATTERSON: What was your job then?

MR. JONES: I was a pressman. We called it a cylinder press. You put 500 sheets of paper on top of a slide board and you slip them one at a time, and then you'd turn it over and print the other side.

DR. PATTERSON: And this was a weekly newspaper?

MR. JONES: That was a weekly newspaper.

DR. PATTERSON: Then you left there and went to work for the Sun Journal.

MR. JONES: Went to the Sun Journal.

DR. PATTERSON: Who was the editor then? Was it Mr. Dawson?

MR. JONES: No, Mr. Dawson had just sold it. The News and Observer ran an article in their paper about that the buyer was a Mr. Erwin Miller. From Missouri I believe is where he was from. Mr. Diggs was too. The News and Observer said that they beat the sheriff to the door by one day. You see, the place was bankrupt when Dawson had it, and they bought it. The price they told me after I got in there and they got to talking, they said they paid \$20,000 for that business. They didn't own the building, but they owned the newspaper.

DR. PATTERSON: That was located on Pollock Street?

MR. JONES: That was on Pollock Street right next to Branch...

DR. PATTERSON: Branch Bank?

MR. JONES: No, not Branch Bank.

DR. PATTERSON: Branch's store.

MR. JONES: Store, yeah, office supplies.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, this was in the later thirties that Mr. Miller

bought the Sun Journal?

MR. JONES: Yeah, because they'd been running it there for a while before I left The Tribune to go to the Sun Journal.

DR. PATTERSON: Hubert, how about telling me about Mr. Miller coming down here and buying this paper, the Sun Journal, and setting it up again.

MR. JONES: The best information I have on it, which was general talk, a Mr. Miller, who I think was from Missouri, and Mr. Diggs worked for Miller there in Missouri as his editor. Mr. Miller came down and bought the paper, Diggs was the manager for him, or he was the editor, and then he had a business manager come with him. The paper had three stockholders; Mr. Miller, Mr. Diggs, and the business manager. The business manager, he changed them. Things went kind of rough there for a while and he changed over two or three business managers. Then a fellow, Eure, I think his name was Claude Eure, a nice guy, he came in and took over. He was very progressive and he made a lot of changes in favor of the paper and got 'em going and finally brought in a new press. Then he did away with what we call that hot type, cause we usually had to melt lead to make our type with, and went to off set, which is photography. The press that they had was so new that they were using before off set came out, it was almost like a brand new press, and yet the off set put it so far behind until he paid Raymond Goldman to come out there and take the thing up and take it apart. (laughter) He wouldn't even pay him the junk figure for it. Then they moved over to the place there now. It's just as modern as you

can get. Even though I don't work there anymore after forty-five years, I'm in and out there all the time.

DR. PATTERSON: Now Mr. Diggs sold the paper about what year?

MR. JONES: 1960?

DR. PATTERSON: What happened, Hubert, about Mr. Diggs? Did he stay with the paper a long time or what?

MR. JONES: Mr. Diggs, he stayed with that paper right on and on. He got pretty sick and he was confined at home. But he loved that paper so good that he had the guys bring him down in a wheelchair.

They put him a wheelchair. We had a printer down there, actually he was Circulation Manager, Murphy Pope was his name. He was short, husky, and he'd take Mr. Diggs up in his arms and carry him upstairs and put him in his wheelchair. Mr. Diggs worked in that office all day long or til he felt like it, and he'd haul him back home. When it got time to talking about changing over to off set, they had to have a new building, cause they had to put a whole new plant. They didn't just move over. Charlie Midyette at that time was business manager. He wanted to put the paper out there where the old Dr. Pepper building was. It was a form of drink business that had gone bankrupt or done moved out and changed around to something. Charlie Midyette wanted to put the new building out there. Mr. Diggs loved that newspaper so much he said, "No. We want to put it right downtown where I can walk back to it." He says, "One of these days I'm gonna walk again." And he really believed it. He wanted it so he could walk to work. Well, he finally got so bad off he died on the job, at his desk.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, didn't Mrs. Diggs take over after that?

MR. JONES: Well, she only was in, but she took no part in operating it as a manager or anything. She took over the part there. Freedom Press out of California bought it, the business. I know of three papers right here in North Carolina they own. I think there's more, but that's the only three I know.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you know about what year Mrs. Diggs sold the paper to Freedom Press?

MR. JONES: Well, let's see. I was still working there.

DR. PATTERSON: You think that the paper was sold to Freedom Press somewhere in the seventies. Is that correct?

MR. JONES: Yes, it was in the seventies.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, going back a little bit Hubert, you worked for the Sun Journal for forty-five years or thereabouts.

MR. JONES: Yeah, I worked for them.

DR. PATTERSON: What was your job with the Sun Journal?

MR. JONES: Back there then I started off in the make-up department, which you probably don't know what the make-up department was. We were in the mechanical end of it where they have the linotype machines and then all the type comes out. Somebody's got to put it together and I was one of them that did that. Later on, I got to be a mark up man, which that is the guy when somebody brings in an ad or some copy and they give it to the advertising man and then he'd turn give it to me and then I'd have to figure out what size type to set the type in to go in a given space and rearrange it. When they

actually come to the make up, that's when we'd get all this stuff together. We had to put spaces in it between each line. The modern press you just typed off and take a pair of scissors and cut it out and paste it on the paper and that's it, but back there then you had to take every line. Every line that you saw in the paper was individual and it was put in what we call a chase, they locked up and then they'd pressure roll it and make a mat of it and pour the lead on that.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you set the type with hand?

MR. JONES: No, I didn't set. Only I set hand set type. That's when we'd have boxes with different size types in it and all set out and you'd go over to set hand line. That was usually for big type. Small type is set on a linotype machine.

DR. PATTERSON: How long was Charlie Midyette with the Sun Journal?

MR. JONES: I don't know. I really don't know, but he was a right good little while there. He was one of the nicest fellows that ever been.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember Mr. Dawson very well?

MR. JONES: Oh yes. As a small boy I lived right across the street from him.

DR. PATTERSON: Tell me what you remember about Mr. Dawson.

MR. JONES: Well, Mr. Dawson, we were pretty good friends, you know, cause I was just a kid. I knew him back working, and then I used to carry papers for him. I didn't carry papers, but I'd take an armful and take them out to the railroad station every afternoon about time the passengers train was coming through, and we'd sell

papers. We'd get on the train. We loved getting on the train, us boys, get on it and going down there hollering, "Get your paper! Get your paper!"

DR. PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Dawson was a fairly rotund fellow. He was kind of stocky.

MR. JONES: Yeah. Mr. Dawson was, he was kind of stocky, and his wife was little on the hefty side too. They loved to fish.

DR. PATTERSON: Did they fish out behind their house on East Front Street?

MR. JONES: Interruption.

DR. PATTERSON: You really meant to say that Mr. Diggs is the one who loved to fish.

MR. JONES: Yeah, Mr. Diggs one that loved to fish.

DR. PATTERSON: And his wife.

MR. JONES: Mr. Dawson, though, he was just a good friend. He was always carrying on a bunch of mess with me. Years after that we moved out on National Avenue. I say we, my father and mother owned a cow. That was the country then out there on National Avenue. By time we got ready to sell that cow, Mr. Dawson, I'd put on a little weight too, I was a little on the fat side, and Mr. Dawson he laughed when I went in to tell him I wanted to run an ad in the paper, and he says, "Well, that must be mighty good rich milk that cow's been giving." I said, "Why do you say that Mr. Dawson", he said, "Well, I look how fat you are." (laughter) So when he ran the ad in the paper, he ran a little notation on about it that said, "If you need a good

cow, you better buy that one cause I've seen the evidence from it."
(laughter) But he was a jokester. He was a nice, likeable fellow.

DR. PATTERSON: When he had the paper, he had a column, which I think was on the front page, called JBD, Jay Bee Dee, and that was his weekly or daily column with news of the town.

MR. JONES: I don't remember any of the things that he would have in it then cause I was still quite a young fellow then. But he was a nice guy.

DR. PATTERSON: Hubert, tell me more about The Tribune. When did that start and who was it that started it and ran it? The Tribune you think started somewhere in the thirties.

MR. JONES: Somewhere around the thirties, give a year or two.

DR. PATTERSON: Who were the people who started that?

MR. JONES: Mariner Hardison, and he's still living; Nathan Gooding, he was suppose to be the business manager and editor too; and then another guy, I can't remember his name cause he used to go and come. He worked for this paper a while and then he'd work for another paper a while and then he'd come back there. The three of them ran until they went bankrupt.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was this office located?

MR. JONES: That was on Craven Street right down I'd say about two or three buildings from where what we call Stanly Hall.

DR. PATTERSON: On the same side of the Stanly Hall?

MR. JONES: Yeah. Gussman had a place there next to them.

DR. PATTERSON: It's still there.

MR. JONES: Yeah, Gussman's place is still there.

DR. PATTERSON: Now was The Tribune a daily paper?

MR. JONES: No, The Tribune was a weekly paper. No, wait a minute.

DR. PATTERSON: So it was a daily paper?

MR. JONES: Yeah, I feel like it was. I worked there for a while until I went over to the Sun Journal.

DR. PATTERSON: About how many years were you with them?

MR. JONES: I was with them three or four years or something like that.

DR. PATTERSON: How long, Hubert, did The Tribune continue in operation? About how long? Five years? Ten years?

MR. JONES: Something like that, but I'll tell you, if you'd really have it accurate, I'm sure Mariner Hardison would be happy to talk to you about it and he could correct you in these things that I've been trying to remember after all these times.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember The Tribune. I just can't remember the details of the years. Mr. Gooding had worked for the Sun Journal, is that correct, and he left the Sun Journal to start this paper?

MR. JONES: Yeah. Mr. Gooding, he lived on in years. He worked at the morning New Bernian. That's what the other paper was. It was the evening Sun Journal and then the morning New Bernian. That was in the same plant. The boys that worked in the daytime, they'd go home and the New Bernian boys they'd come in and take right over.

DR. PATTERSON: Did the same people own both the New Bernian and

the Sun Journal?

MR. JONES: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: So Mr. Gooding worked for the New Bernian then.

MR. JONES: Yeah, he worked for New Bernian.

DR. PATTERSON: The morning paper.

MR. JONES: And so did Mariner Hardison.

DR. PATTERSON: But that stopped being published after a while, the New Bernian.

MR. JONES: Yeah, they closed it. They never did replace it. They just closed it out. And then The Tribune, these guys, see they were out of a job, so they said, we'll just start a paper of our own.

DR. PATTERSON: What did Nathan Gooding do after The Tribune folded?

MR. JONES: He went into as a jeweler. He was quite an artist on that thing, doing art work. What do you call it? Engraver, that's what he was. That's what he was. He had him an office up there in the Elk's Temple building. I think he did pretty good. I know he did beautiful work.

DR. PATTERSON: Umhuh. Well, let's backtrack quite a ways and get back to your younger job in the railroad. You worked at the railroad for a while, the Norfolk and Southern. What was the railroad like in those days? What was the depot like in New Bern? Was it a busy time?

MR. JONES: Yes it was. I like to think about that every once in a while about back there then in the railroad days they had a

passengers train twice a day from Beaufort to Goldsboro. In the summer time when the churches started having picnics on weekends, they would bring special cars in there; like, we would call them baggage coach.

They weren't for sitting, they were just for baggage. If they had one of them left for the picnickers, the church crowd, all the boys wanted to be in there too because all the goodies they had in there to eat and all the lemonade they were making. They'd haul us down to Beaufort. They had old Model T Fords. I think it would cost us twenty-five cent a person and that included on that ride on that truck, or on that car, over to a dock. We'd get on the dock and then they'd carry us over to the Outer Banks.

DR. PATTERSON: By boat.

MR. JONES: By boat. Didn't have a bridge then. We'd stay over there until a certain time. We'd know when to go. It didn't make any difference which boat you went on to start or which one you come back on, you paid your money to one place. I think they must have divided the money between drivers because the same one wouldn't bring you back. That twenty-five cent took care of you going over there and coming back.

DR. PATTERSON: Now you'd walk across the sand dunes and the sand to the ocean and go swimming. Is that correct?

MR. JONES: Yeah. You see, the boats themselves couldn't get right up on the beach. They'd have a little dock out there and then you'd go on the shore and you'd walk through the marsh you might say. On high tide, sometime you'd get your feet wet.

DR. PATTERSON: But your goal was the ocean.

MR. JONES: Yeah, you wanted to go to the other side to the ocean.
Go on across there.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember doing that from the old Atlantic Hotel.

MR. JONES: Yeah, I remember the old Atlantic Hotel. I believe that hotel building is still there. I mean, still there in Beaufort.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, the Atlantic Hotel burned down.

MR. JONES: Oh, okay.

DR. PATTERSON: The depot area was a pretty busy place then in those days.

MR. JONES: You talking about right here in New Bern?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. JONES: Yes. Quite a lot of business went on there. It's funny. You see, we didn't have a whole lot of excitement and the people would go down to the railroad station when the train come by and just look at people coming through.

DR. PATTERSON: What trains were these? You said from Goldsboro to Morehead.

MR. JONES: From Goldsboro to Beaufort. That was the end of it. That was back and forth. Now, it was still owned by Norfolk and Southern, but they had the lease on it. I think there's been several over a period of years.

DR. PATTERSON: Were there other trains coming in from Wilmington and from other places?

MR. JONES: Yeah. They met here then. The old Atlantic, I believe

that's the Atlantic Coastline they call that, they'd come in down Queen Street and they would meet there. I mean, they'd come down and change over. If you had a train coming in from Wilmington down Queen Street, the tracks been taken up now years ago, they'd use the Norfolk and Southern depot.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did the engines turn around?

MR. JONES: They had what they called a turn or table key. Now the ones coming in from Norfolk, if you can visualize how coming across the Bridgeton bridge, they would go up like this. They would take across the Bridgeton bridge and they'd go in this direction out to what they call the coal shoot, and then they would back up. They would back up on this Y and back into the railroad station and then they were headed out when they started back see, take a circle. I could draw you a diagram of it. That turntable they had in there, right there in the yard where they repaired work, that was a big business then. The car barn they had there repairing those flat cars and big box cars and re-wheeling them. They'd go into the round house. That's what they called that. They went in there and they run it out on the track and then it sit in the round house. The train would be on the track on rollers and they gonna just then turn it around like a merry go round and it'd come back on out to another.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was that round house located?

MR. JONES: Right there behind where the passenger station is now.

DR. PATTERSON: Wasn't there another round house down toward the

Neuse River down at the end of Queen Street?

MR. JONES: No. Down at the end of Queen Street, that would have been dead end cause that would be right on the water itself, cause that just went only a block there.

DR. PATTERSON: Hubert, you told me earlier that you remember something about steamboats, or boats on the river, river traffic. Would you speak to that?

MR. JONES: What is this now?

DR. PATTERSON: You told me about the "S. J. Phillips."

MR. JONES: Oh yeah. "S. J. Phillips" it was.

DR. PATTERSON: That was a steamboat?

MR. JONES: That was a steamboat. That was a stern-wheeler. In the summer time he would carry all these churches out on a picnic down to Slocum Creek. And to this day, that corner where you go down the Neuse River going into the mouth of Slocum Creek, I can't see that it's changed one bit. He could run the boat right up to the dock, right up side of the bank, put the gang plank down and walk off the boat right on the shore.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did that boat dock in New Bern?

MR. JONES: I don't know just where it really did dock. It stayed around the foot of Hancock Street for a long time, I mean going and coming, cause he did so much work there going up and down. He did so much work there going up and down. They'd go all the way to Seven Springs carrying fertilizer and picking up cotton and stuff like that.

DR. PATTERSON: On the Neuse River?

MR. JONES: Yeah, on the Neuse River.

DR. PATTERSON: All the way to Seven Springs?

MR. JONES: Sure did.

DR. PATTERSON: With that stern-wheeler?

MR. JONES: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: I didn't know the river was that broad up there.

MR. JONES: See, back there then that was the main transportation.

That's why they had these boats. I had an uncle who was bridge keeper, bridge tender, for the railroad bridge, the Norfolk and Southern Railroad bridge that went across Neuse River just below Kinston on the New Bern side. I used to love to go up there and stay with him.

I was just a little boy. I'd go up there and stay with him. As soon as they start toot'n the horns, you know, when you're coming in, you could see people, old farmers coming from miles around running cause they wanted to see that boat and wave at the people when they went by, and they'd wave back at them. They'd go way on up above Goldsboro, on way up there, in that area. I don't know just where, but I do know they went up to Seven Spring.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember any ferries in use in New Bern, ferries across the Neuse or Trent River?

MR. JONES: No I don't. I remember when they had the ferries out there where Weyerhauser is now. I used to cross on that occasionally.

DR. PATTERSON: Streets Ferry?

MR. JONES: Yeah, Streets Ferry. We'd go across that just for

to say we went across the river on a ferry.

DR. PATTERSON: Now when we were talking about this steamboat, this must have been about 1917 or the late nineteen teens. When you were a boy.

MR. JONES: Maybe toward the twenties. They stayed a pretty long time there. They were still running those ferry boats, not ferry boats but those freight boats, bringing merchandise into New Bern and taking it out of New Bern. They did it right on up until they started running trucks through here. I think I mentioned to you once before about a Mr. Tolson. He was a brother to the Tolson that run the Tolson Furniture Store. He had a brother that ran a ferry boat from Swansboro to New Bern twice a week. He'd bring merchandise there to be shipped off or he always had a load to take back with merchandise back down there to Swansboro. There was another boat that stayed in the river.

I know where it stayed. I don't the name of it. I used to go ride on it because I knew the guy that was the captain on there. If you go down Hancock Street against the water, you look right straight you'll see a fertilizer plant was over there. In fact, it was on the left hand side going towards Morehead where the railroad bridge. He had a big old boat there. He did most of his work though for the fertilizer company.

DR. PATTERSON: What do you remember about the old bridges across the Neuse River and the Trent River?

MR. JONES: The ones that I kind of remember was them old wooden bridges that was all rattle trap and they finally made a new bridge

and hadn't finished it, and that's the one that got washed away.

DR. PATTERSON: This is the Neuse River bridge your talking about.

MR. JONES: Yeah, the Neuse River bridge.

DR. PATTERSON: Are you saying that there was an old bridge across the Neuse River that was a rattle trap and they had to build a new one and then the hurricane washed the new one away?

MR. JONES: Well, it washed the first one away before my time. That was in not the '33 one that washed out the one at Johnson Street. I don't know where the old one was, but there was a hurricane back there then that completely washed it away. Then they built this other bridge and it got just old beat up bridge, or whatever it was, it was new bridge at one time, but it was just planks running crossways that go like running across a wash board.

DR. PATTERSON: Now is this the one that was washed away in the hurricane of '33?

MR. JONES: No, this was the beginning of it. Then they started replacing it. So then they started running the planks lengthwise, which everybody loved that because it wouldn't rattle trap all the way. They really hadn't got that completely finished when this '33 came along.

DR. PATTERSON: Was the new bridge that was being built in '33 not in use when the hurricane came or had it started being used?

MR. JONES: Well, no.

DR. PATTERSON: The bridge that was rattle trap was before your time.

MR. JONES: No. I remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was that located?

MR. JONES: That was at the same place. It just moved over, and they built a new bridge. I could be wrong on that. It's been so long ago. They could have maybe just made it a piece at the time rebuild it. I think that's what they did. It's still at the same place.

DR. PATTERSON: Then the hurricane washed this bridge away.

MR. JONES: And they replaced it right back there in Johnson Street. But when they replaced it, I think that's when they ran the boards lengthwise.

DR. PATTERSON: And it was a better bridge.

MR. JONES: Yeah, it was a better bridge.

DR. PATTERSON: Was that a pretty good bridge?

MR. JONES: Yeah, it was a good bridge. But with modern traffic, it just wasn't enough. It was getting a lot more use than the other one did because there was more traffic across it.

DR. PATTERSON: When the traffic across that bridge came into New Bern, did it go up Johnson Street or did it go up to Queen Street? What was the pattern?

MR. JONES: I believe it went right on up Johnson Street until it met Queen Street and then run on out there.

DR. PATTERSON: In those days I know there was a filling station at the corner of East Front Street and Johnson Street that Ham Ferebee used to run, but you told me a while ago about another filling station closer to the river.

MR. JONES: That was between the river and East Front Street.

DR. PATTERSON: On the opposite from Ham Ferebee's.

MR. JONES: Yeah, across the street from it. He was on the right hand side going towards Bridgeton.

DR. PATTERSON: Right. Who ran that filling station?

MR. JONES: Nathan Harvey and Marshall Harvey.

DR. PATTERSON: Now they've moved across the river.

MR. JONES: They've moved across the river now. Marshall is still living, but Nathan has died.

DR. PATTERSON: What do you remember about air traffic in New Bern, about airplanes and air traffic and the airport?

MR. JONES: Well, we didn't have much of it until War II started. They used to have guys with little planes would come around here. I don't even know now where they landed, but there would be a plane come around. They were all small planes then. But after the war started, we didn't have anything but a runway out there. You couldn't really call it an airport.

DR. PATTERSON: The airport as such was dedicated in 1933 was it, the Simmons-Nott Airport?

MR. JONES: Yeah, the Simmons-Nott.

DR. PATTERSON: You were out there the day that it was dedicated and you saw the crash when Lt. Nott crashed. What do you remember about that?

MR. JONES: Well, I remember seeing them there where they were diving and looping. They were diving down towards the ground and

looping up making a complete circle. This one plane kept getting closer and closer til he didn't pull out of the circle. What I thought was that he was fixing to give us a special thrill, gonna come down closer to the ground than anybody else did. Well, he came down and he hit right head on. I saw him try to get out of the plane.

DR. PATTERSON: What did he do?

MR. JONES: Well, he never got out of it. He hit the ground before he got out of it. Now the reason I say that and I got that verified today, I was talking to my friend Leon Scott and he said looking at it and he said that's exactly what he saw. You see, it was an open cockpit. When the guys got in there, he had a cut-out place he could put his hand on, hold a rod across there to get in and out of the plane.

When he came down he was about the heights of a power line with the highway off the ground. I said, "Well, my gosh, that man ain't gonna make it." I saw him get out and stand up in his cockpit with his hand on that thing and he had his hand on that handle when the plane hit the ground. It looked like it was going right on down in a hole, but what it was, the front end of the plane was collapsing and it was backing up into the motor and it was just going on down. Oh, he made an indention, but not the indention like it looked like from a distance.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, it was a sad time when that accident happened. I remember that day too. Let me ask you about World War II and what New Bern was like during those war years.

MR. JONES: About all I can say is it was really hard times going on about this time that war got started. What I remember about the

war itself, that it first started coming down here and setting up and bringing a few soldiers in here and it set up a place out here at Glenburnie and called it...

DR. PATTERSON: Camp Battle was it?

MR. JONES: Yeah, Camp Battle, which later on was a German war prison place out there. Some of these soldiers were draftees and I think some of them was regular soldiers already. But it was down here.

They would guard the railroad bridges and the highway bridges. The Coast Guard was taking care of the water on the river. If we went out there in a boat, we supposed to have a pass, identification on us that we were local, and everybody did. They'd go out and they check you once in a while. In fact, they were out there right regular. If they see you, they wave at you. Most of us went to them, but sometime we'd just wait and let him come to us.

DR. PATTERSON: You commented to me that Dr. Joe Latham didn't particularly like that arrangement.

MR. JONES: (laughter) Well, yeah, but I didn't know whether I ought to say that. It was kind of funny. Later, I got to be such good friends with Dr. Latham. Well, we'd been knowing each other for a long time and he messed around on the river. He had a nice little fast boat and I did too, and we played around a whole lot together.

He told me one day he was getting sick and tired of the Coast Guard coming out there checking him. He said he come out there yesterday and I was a long ways from him. And when they started waving there to him, he said "I went over there and I told them off." He said,

"Now you've seen my boat long enough, enough times, you know my boat! You don't need to come over and check me!" He says, "I told them, I ain't coming to see you anymore." I said, "Well, Doc, you looking at things the wrong way because if spies come down here and wants to do some damage, he's not gonna bring a boat with him. He gonna swipe a boat." I said, "And he might swipe your boat." I said, "In that case, if it turned out the man did swipe your boat and the Coast Guard never tries to stop him, you'd be the first one to start raising the devil about why didn't they check it?! Why didn't they check who had that boat!" He said, "You know, I never looked at it that way again." He said, "You're right."

DR. PATTERSON: The idea was to protect the bridges from anybody that might blow the bridges up.

MR. JONES: Yeah, so they couldn't blow the bridge up. Well, it would ruin their traffic where they were trying to build Cherry Point down there. Of course that wasn't built then, but that's where they were gonna build it. If they had of blown of the railroad bridge or the highway bridge, there was still a track from somewhere. I don't know where that one that went down to Wilmington, tied into Wilmington track, they could have gone down there and come back but it would of been way out of their way.

DR. PATTERSON: So they were very careful about protecting these bridges in New Bern during that time.

MR. JONES: Yeah, they checked you. They check you going and coming.

DR. PATTERSON: Were there a lot of military people in town in New Bern during the war?

MR. JONES: Well, we thought there was, but I don't guess there was as many then as there is now. But it seemed like we were loaded with them. It was just sailors and soldiers. There was just Army and Navy to start with. Then the Marine Corps came in with Camp LeJeune and Cherry Point and it grew from there.

DR. PATTERSON: The United States Navy was in New Bern also?

MR. JONES: Well, see, they had the Coast Guard Cutter here, and they had sailors that would come down. I don't know whether the sailors was part of the Marine outfit or the Army outfit, but there was sailors around here. There wasn't as many of them as there was the others.

DR. PATTERSON: Somebody told me that the British Royal Navy had a unit based in New Bern. Do you remember that?

MR. JONES: I don't know about that, but Barbour Boat Works, the boats they built were for the British. Those mine sweepers, and then they had one that was a regular machine shop on it with everything you needed to repair something. That's what Barbour built. I think all of them went to the British. I know there was a British officer.

I worked down there for a while. I quit the Sun Journal for about a year and worked down at Barbour shipyard. I loved my job down there too. The British, they had what you call a nucleus crew. Before they ever start that boat, start building that ship, before they ever started framing it up, they had the crew that was gonna run that boat, from the British, and they were out there every day and watched them build

it from the time they built until they say here it is boys, take it.

You see, they knew the boat and went out on a shakedown cruise on it and then they took off in it.

DR. PATTERSON: Was the German prisoner of war camp a very large camp?

MR. JONES: Well, it couldn't have been so very large because the place out there is not that large. I went out there several times with some of my friends that was in the service that was out there. I really don't remember just how that was.

DR. PATTERSON: The German prisoners were kept out there. They weren't allowed to get out of the camp?

MR. JONES: No, but I tell you one thing they did for them. They were mighty good to them. They let these local girls go out there about once a month and dance with them to keep them happy. They say some of them boys didn't want to go home. (laughter) They worked out on farms too. They got to be trustees or something. They worked on some of these farms and they got a little bit of money out of it.

DR. PATTERSON: What was South Front Street like when you came along?

MR. JONES: It was a run down place down there where they call Long Wharf. That was then, I guess might been you would call it the slums today. But that doesn't mean there wasn't nice people living down there. I had some mighty nice friends down there. They were just low income, working people. But then down there from where the

bridge was, the original highway bridge, all the way down to Union Point, that was just one business right after another. Saw mills in there and lumber mills back in there. There was a lot of factory buildings down there. This was a freight town here then. Of course, they didn't have trucks and roads around. They had one was a sugar place down there. They didn't have anything but sugar. They would have merchandise would come in and it was like a warehouse. They'd go into that warehouse and be shipped north.

DR. PATTERSON: By train.

MR. JONES: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: So there'd be boats down there all the time at these various piers.

MR. JONES: Yeah, you'd see boats down there all the time. There's a piece of one of them down there at Union Point right now that was burned. You know about that one?

DR. PATTERSON: No.

MR. JONES: There was Edgar Elliott boy got drowned on it at that time. They had a fire down there on Union Point at one of those places. They don't know what happened cause he was by himself. He started back down there back on the dock. Of course, they were all wearing all that fireman's gear with heavy boots on and raincoats and all that stuff. Whatever made him fall overboard, he didn't have a chance.

DR. PATTERSON: I think Tim Conner mentioned that to me. Tim is the curator at the Fireman's Museum.

MR. JONES: He used to live right across the street from me. I think his name was Elliott. He was a heck of a big guy. Heck of a big guy, and a heck of a good guy too. Well liked by everybody.

DR. PATTERSON: Has downtown New Bern changed much from the way it used to be? What was it like then?

MR. JONES: Well, outside the street cars, I guess the business arrangements. Of course, they're nicer buildings now. I mean, they're more modern and everything like that, but it's about the same way of business.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember the Hotel New Bernian?

MR. JONES: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: That's on Middle Street.

MR. JONES: On Middle Street.

DR. PATTERSON: What was that hotel like?

MR. JONES: It was just a regular hotel. They had a tower. I don't know what the purpose of the tower was, but it was up on the top of the building. We had volunteer crews and we went up there twenty-four hours a day.

DR. PATTERSON: During the war?

MR. JONES: Before the war. Well, while in the war and while it was getting ready, while the war was going on. We'd go stand and watch and we could hear a plane. We could hear it, couldn't see it, we could hear it. I forgot what the number, we call a number. Pick up the telephone off the hook and just give one number and they touched it, hooked us right up right then with somebody. I don't know who

was receiving us. We'd tell them we hear a plane north of us or south of us and whether the sound is getting closer or not. Then they had their spotters that would keep tabs on that plane. Sometime they came by us, but they were legitimate.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember when the New Bernian closed down?

MR. JONES: No I don't. I really don't know. I just know when it did, and I know it was right after that that The Tribune started up in its place.

DR. PATTERSON: I mean the Hotel New Bernian.

MR. JONES: Oh. I thought you were talking about the New Bernian paper. I'm sorry. No. They went right on a long time and then they remodeled the hotel and got a nice clean place there again. Somebody painted it all up and a lot work done. I was surprised, really, when it closed up. Then they had a little store down there was called The Smoke Shop. Then the guy went in the jewelry store later on and ran that for a long time, and it's still running there.

DR. PATTERSON: That's that little narrow building.

MR. JONES: Yeah, that little narrow place there. It was a Smoke Shop they called it at one time, a tobacco shop.

DR. PATTERSON: My grandfather and great-grandfather built that hotel.

MR. JONES: They did?

DR. PATTERSON: It used to be called the Hotel Albert after Albert Patterson. A lot of things have happened since then. Hubert, let me ask you about something I know you remember, about disasters in

New Bern. Tell me what you remember about hurricanes in New Bern.

MR. JONES: Well, I remember two or three of them, but I don't remember too much about them. The onliest time, they never bothered me much, but that one in '33, I come very close to, I say getting myself killed. I had my father's car and I'd parked it back that of that old Tribune building where the trucks drive up to the building to kind of protect it. I started over to a cousin of mine that lived over on Change Street to check on her because her husband was my first cousin.

He was a railroad engineer and he was out of town and I knew she'd be worried. I started by to see her, to check on her, and I was hugging the wall of the Stanly building, is that was they call it? Later on it was a club up there for the service men. Well, I was hugging that wall and all of a sudden I heard this roar and rant'n and I didn't know what it was. It came down and it was big hunk of roofing that blew off. It come down and it come so close to me that it ripped my hip pocket, tore my hip pocket. My cousin was right ahead of me. I was wearing boots and he wasn't, so he was walking faster than I was and he was halfway across the steps in the City Hall building.

When that thing ripped my hip pocket, I didn't look around to see what it was, I took off and I passed him before he got across the street. (laughter) He wanted to know what in the world happened to you! Here's when I stopped and turned around and there's a great big hunk of roofing laying there in my pocket that was ripped where that thing had just snagged it.

DR. PATTERSON: Was there much damage in New Bern from the '33

hurricane?

MR. JONES: Yeah there was. Well, I'll just say about the typical amount. I don't believe there was as much damage as there was in '55. But it did take that bridge away and all the waterfront fared bad and high water.

DR. PATTERSON: What was it like in '55?

MR. JONES: Well, in '55 I was living here in this house then.

DR. PATTERSON: On Clark Avenue.

MR. JONES: On Clark Avenue. The water had backed up because it had rain so much the water didn't have anywhere to go because the high tides had come in. The rain could just go so far. It built up from the end of my street down there from Green Park Terrace up to my house. My house on my side of the street was the last one to get water under it. I do know this. I had just put a central heat under there and I went down, I was gonna cut all the wires loose and get things out. I went out and I put all the electrical stuff on top of it. It kept getting higher and higher, and finally I said, "Golly, this isn't gonna cover that wire. I'm gonna just go on down there and cut the wire and let the electrician come in." I didn't want the idea of a hot wire being under there in that water. I started crawling down under there, this might sound crazy and I can laugh about it now, but I had to crawl, there was a crawl space down there, and I had a flashlight with me and I was crawling on my hands and knees under the house and the thought come to me, what am I gonna do if I come face to face with a moccasin under here, and I said to heck with it! Heck

with the furnace, I'm going back out, and I backed right out. The water did come in my furnace but it didn't get deep enough to do any damage.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, this was water came up from the Neuse River, is that right?

MR. JONES: Well, most of it was from rain. You see, it washed out this ditch bank and washed the highway into right up here. Did you know about that?

DR. PATTERSON: So it wasn't river water, it was rain water.

MR. JONES: Well, the river water had gotten exceptionally high and so the rain water, was so much of it, it couldn't go out. Right up here was a ditch up in there and the water going through there had completely washed this highway out in here. That was a right good span it knocked out.

DR. PATTERSON: Hubert, do you remember anything about the flu epidemic of 1918? You would have been about seven years old then.

MR. JONES: I remember a little bit about it because I had a cousin of mine, she was a first cousin, and she lived with us and worked as a secretary in one of those office buildings over in the Elk's buildings. We lived on Hancock Street. That's when we lived across the street from Dawson. I was just a kid like you said. You had the time right on that thing. She got married and they moved out someplace and I think it was about thirty days later the husband fell victim to that flu and died. They'd been married about thirty days.

DR. PATTERSON: What a shame.

MR. JONES: I do know they was killed right and left. Everybody was scared to death. I know how my parents were afraid. My daddy, he was working every day. He come home sick one time and was feeling bad and we were so scared he had the flu, but he got over it, whatever it was he had. But it was bad!

DR. PATTERSON: A lot of people died in New Bern?

MR. JONES: I assume they did. But I know it definitely hit us hard.

DR. PATTERSON: What do you remember about the big fire of 1922?

Mr. Jones? I remember right much about it. At that time we were living on National Avenue right there where Riverside Hardware is now, maybe about a quarter or half a block away from it. It was all big tobacco farm back in there. All the way back to the railroad track.

The fire started burning and kept getting bigger and bigger. Of course to start with, before that the Rowland Lumber Company had a big fire out there. They had all the city fire equipment out there. All the trucks was out there fighting that fire. A lot of the boys off the Coast Guard Cutter was out here lending a hand. I remember this lady was boiling water to wash the clothes, that's the way they used to wash them then, and some of the sparks set fire to something and they just kept spreading and spreading and kept right on going. Then you see, they had to go get the trucks from the fire department to get in there which delayed them. Then they started bringing in fire trucks from Washington and Kinston and all places. They were bringing them in on a train on flat cars, load them up on flat cars and bring them

in here instead of driving them in here. That's how antique we were back there then. They set up a tent city right over next to us. My mother, every time anybody come in that we knew them, she'd make room for them. We had twenty-one head. People were sleeping on the floors and under the beds and everything else that you could fit them in. (laughter) I think they only made about a dollar, two dollars a day salary then, a man regular. My father, the best he could, and mama, was trying to feed them. The Red Cross found out about us. Somebody told them, and the Red Cross came out there with a bunch of food.

DR. PATTERSON: Were these friends of yours, these people who were staying with you?

MR. JONES: No. No. Just friends.

DR. PATTERSON: Black people, white people?

MR. JONES: They were all white people that stayed with us. But we had blacks and whites all around out there in tent city. Of course, the ones out there in tent city, the Red Cross was taking care of them anyway. But the ones over there in our house, they didn't know nothing about us until somebody finally told them.

DR. PATTERSON: Their houses had been burned had they?

MR. JONES: Yeah, they were burned. One place there, at one time it was a hospital. Do you remember this?

DR. PATTERSON: The Stewart Sanitarium.

MR. JONES: It's a great big brick building right down there about the foot of where the hospital is now, right across the street from it. Everybody that moved out they figured, well, this place is safe,

so everybody in that area moved their furniture inside that brick building and it burned and they lost everything in it.

DR. PATTERSON: Now tell me again where this was located.

MR. JONES: The building I'm talking about that burned?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. JONES: The best I can tell you, I don't think there's been any new streets made in there, right down at the end of the Cedar Grove Cemetery going out towards Woodrow, right across the railroad there, that was George Street, I' mean, not across the river, across the street, this thing set back away from...

DR. PATTERSON: I think it was called Stewart Sanitarium.

MR. JONES: Well, at one time I understand it was a doctor's place and then people was living there when it was burned.

DR. PATTERSON: And that's where they put their furniture?

MR. JONES: Yeah, they put their furniture in there and that building burned. It burned everything in there. What finally started it, so they say, and I think it did, I mean, what finally stopped it, the fire was going faster than the fire department could take care of it and they started dynamiting houses so it couldn't hop one to the other. Cause I know there was a lot of dynamite went off.

DR. PATTERSON: How could your family sleep twenty-some people in your house?

MR. JONES: (laughter) Like I said, they were on the floor every room of the house. Some of them were kids you know.

DR. PATTERSON: How long did this go on?

MR. JONES: Oh, for a couple of weeks.

DR. PATTERSON: Then the folks moved out to tent city did they?

MR. JONES: Well, they moved out and then they started finding other places.

DR. PATTERSON: What do you remember, Hubert, about the Depression in New Bern? Was it a bad time?

MR. JONES: I worked seven days a week for five dollars for Jimmy Harker. I call that a kind of bad time. That took care of Sunday's too. Seven days a week at that filling station.

DR. PATTERSON: Did New Bern suffer a lot from that?

MR. JONES: The banks went broke.

DR. PATTERSON: The banks all closed in New Bern did they?

MR. JONES: Yeah. National Bank, everybody said that's one bank that won't close. They thought that cause they had National, they thought the government was taking care of it, but I think they all closed. I know that I had at that time, even at that five dollars a week I was making, I had about \$65 in the bank. Jimmy Harker called me one morning. They were calling all during the day. He said, "Hubert, don't take anymore checks off of bank so and so. They just closed the door." Maybe thirty minutes later he'd call me again and another one. I don't know all the names of the banks we had around here then.

I said, "Well, I'm glad I got mine in National Bank. They said that won't go bankrupt, and they got my \$65." Then later on they tried to re-open the bank and wanted everybody to come by and sign a paper to leave the money in there just like it was and they'd try to get

by. If they got by, they'd get back on their feet again and then they were gonna pay off in full amount. Some lady came by first to see me and she got so ugly, I was gonna sign it, and she got so ugly about that thing I said, "No, I ain't gonna sign the damn thing." She went on back. She was mad. Then later on a fellow, he was a friend of mine, been for years, he worked in tobacco for a long, long time, he came out and he talked to me and he said, "Hubert, let's go into this thing. I understand you had a little trouble with the lady out here."

He convinced me and told me that if I just go ahead and sign it, that everything would be all right. Now see, but here's what happened, the people that did not sign that receipt, when they opened that bank, they went down there and got their money out. All of it. Well, they closed up. They couldn't manage to stay open and they closed back up, and out of that \$65 I think I got \$15 of it back.

That was the case everywhere.

DR. PATTERSON: People had hard times in New Bern during that time.

MR. JONES: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: What do you remember, Hubert, about doctors and hospitals in your early days in New Bern?

MR. JONES: Well, I know we didn't have but just a few. I knew them all at one time. I believe there was Dr. Jones.

DR. PATTERSON: What doctors do you remember?

MR. JONES: I don't know. You just named them and I remembered all of them.

DR. PATTERSON: Dr. Wadsworth.

MR. JONES: Yeah, Dr. Wadsworth. He was our family doctor.

DR. PATTERSON: Dr. Pollock.

MR. JONES: Yeah, Dr. Pollock. I remember him.

DR. PATTERSON: Dr. Gibbs.

MR. JONES: Yeah, Dr. Gibbs. And then there's a doctor that lived out there on Broad Street going out.

DR. PATTERSON: Was that Dr. Wadsworth?

MR. JONES: Well, he did too, but this guy, this doctor I'm thinking about now, he was a nice fellow. He was a friend of mine too. His son is still living now. He was in the service.

DR. PATTERSON: Dr. Barker?

MR. JONES: Yeah, Dr. Barker. I knew him.

DR. PATTERSON: Dr. Patterson, Dr. Jones, Dr. Latham. What hospitals do you remember?

MR. JONES: Well, then, they had St. Luke's Hospital. Then they opened up a little hospital up there somewhere in the black section of town that was for blacks.

DR. PATTERSON: Good Shepherd.

MR. JONES: Yeah, The Good Shepherd. I remember the lady that, if you can call her name I'd remember it, she went up there and managed it for them.

DR. PATTERSON: Dr. Lula Disosway.

MR. JONES: Yeah. She was a doll. She really worked on that thing. Those blacks there, they loved her too. They were going up

in St. Luke's Hospital then, but not like they had one of their own when they built that, Good Shepherd.

DR. PATTERSON: When The Good Shepherd was built, I think all the black patients went out there, and then the new hospital came along.

Well, this is maybe one of our last questions. You have worked all your life and you worked at many things and you've had an interesting time. As you look back in New Bern when you were a boy, a young man, what did you do for fun?

MR. JONES: You know that's funny just thinking about what they did then as kids. We'd get in like an old automobile tire, because they were bigger then than they are now, in diameter. We'd get in and have races. We'd get scrunched in one of them wheels and had somebody roll you down the street and have race with them. Or we'd take an old barrel hook with a nail on it and go down there and race with it pushing a barrel hook. We'd tie automobile tires up in the air on a rope and use them for swings. We were a lot happier then I think than what they are now with all this stuff they've got.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you go swimming?

MR. JONES: Oh yeah. I used to get a whipping every time I'd come home almost. Mama said, "You've been in that river again, haven't you!" "No mam! No mam!" "Yes you have." I couldn't understand how she could always tell I'd been swimming until later on it dawned on me I was sun burned every time I'd come back here. (laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Where would you swim?

MR. JONES: We called it the sand hole down on Avenue A. You'd

go right on down to the waterfront. They used to build boats back there just before the war started. They had a big hole out there that would drop off deep, maybe about the diameter of this house, and we'd go around there swimming. When we got to where we could swim all the way across that hole, we thought we were big stuff. We thought we were big stuff. Then they had the old Pokamo dock down there which was a fertilizer plant. I never was man enough to dive off of that high tower they had down there, they had a real high tower, but some of the older ones did. We'd go down there and that's where I used to go swimming.

DR. PATTERSON: Was that on the river?

MR. JONES: Yeah, that was on Neuse River. It was right down there at the foot of Avenue A.

DR. PATTERSON: So this pit that you swam in wasn't river. This was just sort of a lake type thing?

MR. JONES: Oh no, it's Neuse River itself. But this hole I was talking about was built there so they could launch those boats. When they built the ways up there and they build a boat and then they'd push them over. They call it a sandbar. They had dredged it out.

DR. PATTERSON: Now, what boat building place was there? I don't remember that.

MR. JONES: Do you remember they built concrete ships down there one time?

DR. PATTERSON: No.

MR. JONES: Well, that was right directly behind the ice plant

that's over on what they called Griffin Street, what used to be. Just went down there and there was a foundry down there. That's the first I knew my father was working as, I believe, it was Gaskin's Foundry, he worked down there in the foundry part. Right over to the left they had a shipyard and they built concrete ships down there. I often remember the first one they ever launched down there. They had this thing way up on the ways and the day that got ready, they knocked all of the props out from under but one, that's the master one. When that prop is out, when that's gone, the boat goes off. Everybody was too scared to knock that prop out. They was scared of it and I don't blame them. I would have been too. They went over there to where my dad was working and asked him would he go over there and knock the prop out. He said yeah, he'd go over there. He went over there and he knocked the prop out and that thing started sliding. It got out of control and everybody was going different directions. Some going overboard. The boat just came all to pieces. There was nothing but just hunks of concrete went into the river. Mr. Dawson, wanted to run the story in the paper. Now this is true. He was gonna run a story about the launching of that concrete boat. Well, they were gonna launch it. He was gonna go to press before they launched the boat.

So he wrote a story on the front page about the beautiful launching of the boat, and they didn't launch it. (laughter) It ain't nothing but trash. But then after that, they gone and built some more and it worked out all right. They used them for freight boats. There was nothing there but the hull. I don't know how the thing even floated

look like it was so heavy, but it was hollow. No cabin on it or nothing.

Just a hunk of concrete out there. Then there was a steel something, steel product. They made steel. Didn't make steel, but they worked steel. They'd go down there with some kind of rivet gun or punch gun that would punch holes in the steel. Little ole things just about big around as that. We as kids would go down there and get all those pellets they punched out and use them in our slingshots. That's what we had our fun with then was slingshots. Homemade slingshots. Steel products, that was there a long time. Then my dad left there and he went with the Craven Foundry with Walter Brinson. He stayed there until he went to LaGrange. He worked with Hardy Newsome up there.

That's where he built those, I don't know if I told you about that or not, but where he designed and built a motor. I raced it for six years. I got pictures of it.

DR. PATTERSON: A boat?

MR. JONES: Well, he made the boat and he made the motor too. He made all the parts to the motor. He made his own crankshaft. It had a six inch diameter shaft.

DR. PATTERSON: You raced it on the rivers here?

MR. JONES: Right out here. The furthest I went was up around Ahoskie at some place up the river above Ahoskie and race it.

DR. PATTERSON: Hubert, we've covered a lot of things.

MR. JONES: We sure have.

DR. PATTERSON: It's been fine. I just want to ask you before we close this out, are there any other things about your memories of

New Bern that I haven't brought up that you'd like to talk about? You wanted to say something about Union Point and how it was built up.

MR. JONES: I know when that was just a dump down there. All the old buildings down there, they finally tore them down. The whole section is pretty now where before it was dumps. Down at Union Point itself, I remember when that was first there they put log pilings all the way around that corner. There was water in there behind it. Then later on, years later, they started throwing the city dump in there and everything. There was old automobile chassis and automobile frames and truck frames. All over the place around there then was these lumber mills, and all the machinery, the boilers and everything, they play out and they go down and fill it in. They finally filled it in.

DR. PATTERSON: They put garbage in there?

MR. JONES: Yeah. They kept a fire burning down there seven days a week around the clock burning up the trash. So that's why I said I can't be so mad at the people cause they trying to do something about this garbage, cause they got a problem. But I know when down there they used that for a garbage dump. I mean, pure old raw garbage. They burned what they could. They just burn it there. Well then, they finally filled it up. They had no more space there. Now we have a beautiful park down there. All right, they moved over there at Lawson Creek. There was a Jack's Island out there. Well, they still call it Jack's Island, but the only reason they still call it an island is because they got a ditch cut through it. But that was off from

the mainland there. They went out there and started filling that in and filling it in and filling it in, all that swamp down there. They got another nice place but they're running out of space for garbage again. If they go on, they're gonna fill the place up, and they got to do something. But I notice the waterfront now. I love both of them. Union Point, I spent a lot of time down there and I had some mighty good times down there. Did you ever hear of Albert Crabtree, call him Crabby?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. JONES: He run a boys club down there. I would like to see somebody in this day that could do it, put something in honor of that man, cause that man did more for the young boys around this town then.

He had a club down there and he took them all in there. He worked with those boys right on up until he died. He had a little machine shop down there about where Union Point is now. He lived in that place.

Anything the boys, whatever he did for the them, whatever they needed done, he did for them.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you belong to Crabby's?

MR. JONES: I didn't, but I was down there as much as I was as being one. I was always there because I got involved in it when I got into boating. He was one heck of a fine fellow. He's never been recognized. I hear a lot of the boys that remember him say that same thing.

DR. PATTERSON: There are a lot of boys still in New Bern who remember him and I'm one of them. I belonged to his club and my cousin

Ecky Meadows and Johnny Mitchell. Some of us still around. Is there anything else that you would like to talk about?

MR. JONES: No, I don't know of anything. Seem like we've talked about everything we can think of. I think the town has improved from the original days.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you like the way New Bern is changing?

MR. JONES: Well, there's one thing about it, I don't know where I am anymore. People ask do you know where such and such a street is, and I say no, I never heard of it. (laughter) Well, this was the country right out here when we moved here.

DR. PATTERSON: There weren't many houses.

MR. JONES: There was a farm out here. We were right on a farm. Right over there next door was a prison camp. There was a big pond back there. I don't know whether it was manmade or what, but there was a big pond back there loaded with snakes.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, Hubert, I want to thank you for letting me come out here. I really mean that. It's been great to talk to you and get to see you again. I used to see you at the Sun Journal through the years. I knew your wife when she was ill and helped take care of her. I remember that. I remember Mr. Dawson. You brought back a lot of memories to me and I thank you and this Memories program thanks you very much for letting us come out.

(Mr. Jones wants to make it clear that some of the pictures that we are copying that will be in his file were given to him by Eloise Worthington and he wants her to have credit for them.) You had something

else we want to add to this. You were telling me about a teacher's college that was located out on...

MR. JONES: Towards Morehead on the other side of James City. There is a name to the place now, but right off hand I don't know what it is. (Neuse Forest Summer School for teachers.)

DR. PATTERSON: It's a rest home now?

MR. JONES: At one time when the teacher's used it, they had a wooden building with a lot of rooms in it where the teachers stayed in the rooms and they had the school. I don't know nothing about the school. I didn't go to that. They had a diving board. They didn't have a dock to it, but had a diving tower out in the water. You either had to swim out to it or somebody had a boat would take them out there to it. It wasn't very far from shore. I was down there and I noticed all of them were ladies out there. Some fellow had his boat and he made a passenger boat out of it and he made part of his living taking those teachers backwards and forth to New Bern to their school. It's just around the corner from Fort Point, which sometime they call it Green Spring.

DR. PATTERSON: He would pick these teacher students up and bring them back and forth to New Bern. Is that right?

MR. JONES: Yeah. He was just giving them transportation. I don't know how much he charged them or anything like that.

DR. PATTERSON: This was in the thirties.

MR. JONES: Along about that, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: When there wasn't much transportation available.

MR. JONES: Then when they did away with the school, then they set up a rest home in that wooden building where the school was been. Then they had a fire over there and it burned, and they moved up near the highway. Before, they were right down close to the water itself.

DR. PATTERSON: There was very little way for these students to get to this school other than by river transportation in those days.

MR. JONES: Yeah, cause I don't think they had too much automobile traffic.

DR. PATTERSON: That's a good story and I'm glad we got that on here.

END OF INTERVIEW