

MEMORIES OF NEW BERN

FLORIE GIBBS DILL
(MRS. REDMOND DILL)

INTERVIEW 1039

This is Dr. Joseph Patterson representing the Memories of New Bern committee. My number is 1000. I am interviewing Florie Gibbs Dill (Mrs. Redmond Dill) at her home at 4513 Tenella Road in New Bern. The number of the interview is 1039. The date is February 3, 1993.

JOSEPH PATTERSON: Florie, the tape is running and I want to tell you that I'm happy to be here talking to you. Fred Latham is happy to be here and seeing all these old pictures which he's copying. It's nice of you to let us come and talk to you about your memories but it's just fun for me to come and talk to you.

FLORIE DILL: Thank you. It's good to have you.

DR. PATTERSON: Your place is so beautiful. The Trent River out there is just wonderful. I grew up, my children grew up on it so it's like home to me. Let's start by my just asking you a couple of questions. When and where were you born?

MRS. DILL: I was born in 1908 in Oriental. We lived on the Neuse River. The river is five miles wide in front of the house. My father was a lawyer.

DR. PATTERSON: What's his name, Florie?

MRS. DILL: His name was Henry Len Gibbs. He was a lawyer and later he was fish commissioner for North Carolina and had an office in Morehead. When we lived in Oriental he had a law office in the courthouse in Bayboro. I lived in Oriental with my mother and father and there were three little children of us.

DR. PATTERSON: What were their names?

MRS. DILL: Margaret, I was next, Florie, and Len was the brother,

the younger brother. We left, my mother died in 1917.

DR. PATTERSON: In Oriental?

MRS. DILL: In Oriental.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, let me interrupt you and just ask you about your mother. Where did she come from?

MRS. DILL: She came, this is interesting, she came, this is her picture right up in front, she came from Ocracoke. That's another story I won't go into today. But my father taught school when he was very young in Ocracoke and met my mother, taught my mother in school. They were married when they were very young.

DR. PATTERSON: Were they married on Ocracoke Island?

MRS. DILL: Yes. In later years when we were living in Oriental they had a cottage in Ocracoke. At that time my grandmother was living and we would go to Ocracoke in the summertime.

DR. PATTERSON: What was it like then?

MRS. DILL: Not like it is now. It's a shame. It was such a pretty place. A little fishing village you might say. Just beautiful with wind blown trees.

DR. PATTERSON: Cars? Did it have cars?

MRS. DILL: No, not then, not at that time. I don't ever remember seeing cars.

DR. PATTERSON: How did you get there in those days, Florie?

MRS. DILL: My father had access to the state boats on account of he was fish commissioner. They had three good sized boats, one nice yacht, really pretty. The state owned the boats. And we would

go to Ocracoke on one of the boats. And I remember that at about this time the, this was a small boat but it was the newest one that before my father died I remember and he could name the boats. So he named that one the Margaret G for my sister. It always worried me because there wasn't a Florie G. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, let me ask you where your name came from. I don't know that I've ever heard this name before, F-L-O-R-I-E.

MRS. DILL: Well that, I don't know if you want it on the tape. I had a little brother in Oriental who died when he was six years old. His name was Edward and he had a little playmate, her name was Florence. They called her Florie. And he died. He had diphtheria when I had just been born and they named me Florie Edward. So that was it for the...

DR. PATTERSON: Not Florence but Florie?

MRS. DILL: But Florie. I'm sorry it wasn't Florence. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: That's a pretty name, Florie. I've always liked that. Let me ask you if you will tell me something about the Gibbs family. I know they came from Hyde County and I know this because they're my ancestors too and we're kin but would you tell me about the Gibbs family in Hyde County?

MRS. DILL: I have a genealogy of the Gibbs family and I should have that now because I haven't looked at it recently and I don't know -I know that my grandfather was a farmer. The land that he owned had been given to the Gibbs by the king of England as a grant. I know that. And as far as I know, I haven't seen my cousin the last year

or so, it's still in the Gibbs family. Now it's a small, nothing pretentious, I don't mean that, to leave that impression. But we would go there too the summers.

DR. PATTERSON: So your father came from Hyde County, he was born in Hyde County?

MRS. DILL: Right.

DR. PATTERSON: Did he have brothers and sisters?

MRS. DILL: Oh yes. They had a big family. I have it on my...Don't think you probably want to go into all of that.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, some of them are in Morehead.

MRS. DILL: Joe, my brother, see now I had, I gave you the names of the three of us who were in Oriental at the time my mother and father died. I had an older sister, Nina, whom we went to live with and then I had a brother, Sylvester, who lived in Morehead. He and Mr. Chalk started the business Chalk & Gibbs in Morehead. He was mayor of Morehead at one time. He went to the legislature several times. Also I failed to say my father went to the legislature several times too.

DR. PATTERSON: Now your brother had one child I know and that's H.S. Gibbs.

MRS. DILL: H.S. He had two, H.S. and a boy named Greg who lives in Dayton, Ohio. Greg is the one who was very successful financially in the family, that family.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, your father and mother both died in Oriental. Is that correct?

MRS. DILL: My father was in New Bern when he died. He died a

year, we still owned the house when he died and we would go on the trips to Ocracoke. We would go to Oriental and spend the night or stay a day or so in the house and then leave from there.

DR. PATTERSON: But you had moved to New Bern?

MRS. DILL: But not before he died. My mother died in 1917. My father died in 1919. I think it was March. And we moved to New Bern in May of 1919. We lived that summer in the Claypoole house which is not standing now on the corner of Broad and Craven Street because our house wasn't available for a couple of months, the house Mr. Jacobs bought on New Street. Then we moved to New Street say in about September, 1919.

DR. PATTERSON: The Claypoole house at the corner of Broad and Craven, which corner was that, Florie? The southeast corner?

MRS. DILL: Across from the courthouse. It was a pretty old house.

DR. PATTERSON: Where the Willis Funeral Home later was?

MRS. DILL: No. It's a filling station there now. You know where Dr. Primrose lives?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. DILL: Okay, Dr. Primrose's house is caddy-cornered from that, not on the corner.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you move in with Nina and Harry Jacobs then in the Claypoole house?

MRS. DILL: Yes. That house was furnished. The Gardners and Mr. Husk who was our minister had lived at that house. I don't know why they were not there and the house was furnished. And we lived

there just until we could get in the house on New Street.

DR. PATTERSON: That was quite a contingent of people coming and joining the Jacobs family.

MRS. DILL: It really was. I'll say three. Just think about it.

DR. PATTERSON: Did Harry Jacobs build this house on New Street?

MRS. DILL: No, he did not. I think maybe Miss Emma Dunn owned that house originally. Recently when the houses were opened for the tour, homes tour, they opened that house and I think they said that Miss Emma Dunn had built the house.

DR. PATTERSON: Just to identify that, that the house directly across from the Judge Nunn house and you're standing on East Front Street looking up New Street it's the second house on the left.

MRS. DILL: That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: Now Florie, how old were you when you moved there?

MRS. DILL: I was ten. I was ten years old, almost eleven.

DR. PATTERSON: And you grew up there then?

MRS. DILL: I grew up there. I lived there all those years and I loved New Street. When I say New Street I'm talking about the block from East Front to Craven.

DR. PATTERSON: Tell me about that. I was going to ask you if you would identify the houses and the people and talk about that area.

MRS. DILL: We knew everybody on the street and there were people of course in all walks of life on the street. We started at East Front with Senator Simmons, Senator and Mrs. Simmons, and across was Mr.

and Mrs. E.K. Bishop. Then next to them was Dr. Patterson, my cousin Isabelle and their two boys. Next door was Judge Nunn and Elizabeth and Eleanor and we played together. Elizabeth was, they were both a little younger than me but we really had good times together. Then the Pearsalls lived next to us in back of Senator Simmons' house, Colonel Pearsall. And on the street were two colored families. As a matter of fact one family lived next on the other side of our house.

DR. PATTERSON: Right next to you?

MRS. DILL: Right next to us. Her name was Lucy. She had white hair and she had a son, Harvey. As I remember the house had a high fence around it. You could hardly see the house from the street.

DR. PATTERSON: Didn't the house sit right on the sidewalk and the fence take off from each end of the house?

MRS. DILL: I think so.

DR. PATTERSON: That's the way Lib Nunn - Lib Nunn doesn't remember the fence but she remembers the house being on the sidewalk and I think I do to. But there was a fence going back around it.

MRS. DILL: There was a fence and I thought the fence even went in front of it. I could be wrong. But I know we rarely ever saw Lucy. Harvey worked for Dr. Ashford in later years and that house didn't stay there too long. I don't know when it was torn down.

DR. PATTERSON: From your house could you look into the yard?

MRS. DILL: Of Lucy?

DR. PATTERSON: Un-huh.

MRS. DILL: We could from our upstairs.

DR. PATTERSON: What went on in that yard? I often wondered.

MRS. DILL: I don't know. I always saw Lucy maybe knitting or sewing in a chair in the yard but other than that I don't remember anything.

DR. PATTERSON: Did she keep chickens or animals in the yard?

MRS. DILL: I don't remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: But this was an old shack sort of place wasn't it?

MRS. DILL: Yeah, that's right.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, that's fine.

MRS. DILL: And then across the street were the Footes. Mrs. Foote was a caterer in New Bern and we all loved her. She had wonderful food. Then further up the street...

DR. PATTERSON: Would you stop a minute and just talk about the Footes a little bit more? How about the rest of the family?

MRS. DILL: Well her husband, Mr. Harry Foote, he was interested in shows and musical shows as I remember. I don't remember him a lot but he was traveling a lot. He was back and forth. And they had, as I remember, three children; Harry and Dolly and Sonny. Then further up the street were the Baxters. And then next to the Baxters was Miss Hatchie Harrison who was a Christian Scientist, connected with the Christian Science Church. Across from her lived the other colored family, Honey Barrington. I don't remember how many...

DR. PATTERSON: I believe it was Barron.

MRS. DILL: Was it Barron?

DR. PATTERSON: Honey Barron Williams I think.

MRS. DILL: Really? I...

DR. PATTERSON: Something like that.

MRS. DILL: I know she had several children. I can remember every day hearing her call for Clarabell. And we could hear her call Clarabell from one end of the street to the other. And then further up on the other side of the street were the Ferebees. We all loved the Ferebees. There was a Ferebee to go with any age almost. I think there were eleven children as I remember. Emmett was my age. Hamlin was in my wedding. I remember that. We were very friendly with all of them, loved all of them. And then of course I can't remember each, the houses, the Casons lived a little further up.

DR. PATTERSON: That's Mrs. James Cason.

MRS. DILL: That's right. And across the street Mr. Whitehurst, I've forgotten he was brother to Mr. Henry Whitehurst and Emmett Whitehurst. I can't remember his name. His wife I remember well, Miss Liza Branch she was. Everybody liked her a lot. And that was New Street. And of course we would go up the street, walk up the street from there and go to the library often. The library was on Middle Street and we all loved Mrs. Fannie Howerton. She was there for years. And I would like to say that when we walked up Middle Street in those days we would know practically everybody we met and we would speak to them, black and white, which is so unusual now.

Also another thing I remember about those days, if we were sick the doctor would come to our house.

DR. PATTERSON: That's an era passed, isn't it? Florie, can I take you back down New Street just a little ways and ask you a couple of questions?

MRS. DILL: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Judge Nunn is a very remembered person in New Bern because of his historical knowledge. Do you remember Judge Nunn?

MRS. DILL: Yeah, I remember him.

DR. PATTERSON: What sort of memories do you have of Judge Nunn?

MRS. DILL: I always liked him. I never felt that I knew him real well. I knew Mrs. Nunn better and that's about it.

DR. PATTERSON: Now you spoke of Senator Simmons and Mrs. Simmons. Now Senator Simmons' wife, Belle, was Belle Gibbs from Hyde County. Now what is the relationship between you and Belle Simmons?

MRS. DILL: Belle Gibbs Simmons was my father's sister and they were very close. As a matter of fact, I always remember going to see her upstairs in the bedroom and she always through the years had my father's picture right next to her bed. She had, by the way talking about Aunt Belle, she had as I remember the first electric car that was in New Bern. Now her daughter, Cousin Isabelle Patterson, had an electric car but it was after Aunt Belle's I think.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, Aunt Belle to you is Grandma Simmons to me.

MRS. DILL: That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: You remember her in the upstairs bedroom. Was she ill much of the time?

MRS. DILL: She was ill a lot. Yes she was. Now I remember her downstairs and all over the house too. I thought a lot of her and I thought a lot of Uncle Clen. He was...

DR. PATTERSON: When you say Uncle Clen, that's Senator Simmons, my grandfather and he was named Mclendel and people called him Clen. So he was your Uncle Clen.

MRS. DILL: That's right.

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

MRS. DILL: He was sweet and nice always and had something nice to say every time you'd see him. I really, really thought a lot of him. He was quiet, to me, in those days. Of course he was older then. Actually my father in his early law days had been in business with Senator Simmons in New Bern. I have stationery, Simmons and Gibbs stationery that they had. That was just before Senator Simmons I think went to Washington as senator.

DR. PATTERSON: He was a very prominent man in New Bern.

MRS. DILL: Very prominent.

DR. PATTERSON: And nation wide.

MRS. DILL: And nation wide. I remember in the first world war, he was head of the finance committee and very prominent.

DR. PATTERSON: He was not a large man.

MRS. DILL: No.

DR. PATTERSON: Would you say five feet six or five feet eight?

MRS. DILL: Maybe five eight but not a tall man. He and Aunt Belle were about the same height as I remember.

DR. PATTERSON: Crossing the street to the Bishop house, what do you remember about Mr. and Mrs. E.K. Bishop?

MRS. DILL: I knew Mr. Bishop to say hi, Mr. Bishop but that was it. He was not real friendly with all of the children I might say. His wife I loved, Miss Annie. Miss Annie Bishop was a sweet, lovely person and made a lot of all of us, all the children. Her niece, Annie Ste Dunn, was my best friend and lived around the corner. So we saw a lot of her, of Miss Annie.

DR. PATTERSON: As you turn the corner from New Street, East Front Street to go past the Bishop house who all lived along there?

MRS. DILL: Next to Mr. Bishop Dr. and Mrs. Jones lived.

DR. PATTERSON: R.D.V. Jones.

MRS. DILL: R.D.V. Jones. And next to Dr. and Mrs. Jones Mr. Guion Dunn and Mrs. Emma Dunn, his wife and of course they had children you know.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember all of those children?

MRS. DILL: Yes. Harriett was the oldest. She married Gorden Battle. Then Johnny Dunn who is my brother-in-law.

DR. PATTERSON: Married Margaret.

MRS. DILL: Married Margaret, my sister Margaret. Then Annie Ste who was named for Mrs. Bishop, Annie Stevenson, the one who was my age. And then Emma Dunn, McCotter she is now. And then Mark, Mark Stevenson.

DR. PATTERSON: Emma Bay.

MRS. DILL: Bay, right.

DR. PATTERSON: And Mark married Genevieve Tolson.

MRS. DILL: That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: Who lived across the street from them?

MRS. DILL: The Moores, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Moore and they had a daughter who was near my age and we were friends, Meta.

DR. PATTERSON: M-E-T-A.

MRS. DILL: Un-huh, Meta.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember who lived across the street from Meta and who lived next door to her?

MRS. DILL: Next door, the Hollisters, Mr. Jack Hollister and his wife. They had a daughter near my age, Janet.

DR. PATTERSON: You all were good friends?

MRS. DILL: Good friends. We had so many good friends right around.

DR. PATTERSON: What about across the street from the Hollisters and the Moores? Did the Hartsfields live over there?

MRS. DILL: Oh, that was before, where Frank and Betsy Dunn live now.

DR. PATTERSON: Mr. Alec...

MRS. DILL: Justice.

DR. PATTERSON: Justice.

MRS. DILL: The Justices lived there. And at that time the house standing next to it where Caroline and Ashford lives now was not there.

DR. PATTERSON: That was way on the west end of Pollock Street.

MRS. DILL: That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: So there was nothing out beyond that point in the way of residential buildings.

MRS. DILL: No. The Cutter was there, out in the water there, the Pamlico Cutter. Of course the Hartsfield house was next to the Justice house.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, do you remember Short Street very well?

MRS. DILL: I remember it right well, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: What are your memories of Short Street?

MRS. DILL: I remember Mr. and Mrs. Hurtt lived on Short Street.

DR. PATTERSON: H-U-R-T-T.

MRS. DILL: Right.

DR. PATTERSON: They had some children.

MRS. DILL: They had children.

DR. PATTERSON: Billy.

MRS. DILL: Margaret I think was one. And I can't remember the other names.

DR. PATTERSON: Was there a colored family living along there too?

MRS. DILL: Yes. Mrs. Ola Ferebee lived at one end of Short Street next to Honey Barron's and then a colored family lived on the other side of her and I don't know that name.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember Ola Ferebee's house as being a one story house.

MRS. DILL: That's right. She was a music teacher.

DR. PATTERSON: And then beyond this colored family next to her

I think the Hurttts lived and the Hollowells and the Andersons.

MRS. DILL: I can't remember. I didn't know the names.

DR. PATTERSON: I knew them better because I lived right across from them. As you go up New Street and cross Craven Street do you remember houses and people along that block?

MRS. DILL: Mrs. Ben Moore lived on the corner. I don't know how early she lived there. I don't remember.

DR. PATTERSON: Was she the wife of the veterinarian?

MRS. DILL: No. You don't remember. She and her daughter, Mary Belo, who married and lived in Winston. And she had a daughter my age, Elizabeth and a son, Ben who was in the Navy. He had a real high rank I've forgotten. And Miss Mattie Moore, we called her Miss Mattie.

DR. PATTERSON: The house you're talking about I think is on the southeast corner where Billy, young Bill Hand lives.

MRS. DILL: Right. That's the house she lived in.

DR. PATTERSON: Who lived across on the other corner?

MRS. DILL: The Gaston house?

DR. PATTERSON: No, no. On Craven Street across New Street.

MRS. DILL: I can't remember who lived there. Seems to me that maybe some of the Whitehursts lived there in real early days but I can't remember.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember the little house where Mrs. Joe McDaniel lives now right next to the Foote house.

MRS. DILL: Oh, yeah I remember that house. Mr. Bishop owned it and some man lived there.

DR. PATTERSON: Mr. Ulrick.

MRS. DILL: Mr. Ulrick, right.

DR. PATTERSON: That house used to be right on the ground.

MRS. DILL: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: It's been raised since the hurricane.

MRS. DILL: It doesn't look like a safe place.

DR. PATTERSON: As you go up New Street past Craven Street there's the Gaston house on the corner. Who lived in that house?

MRS. DILL: My mother and father lived in that house when they were in New Bern and he was in business here. They lived in that house. I don't know the length of time they were here. I don't know that. That was before I was born.

DR. PATTERSON: There were houses next to that house going up New Street too.

MRS. DILL: Yes. The Wards lived on that. Libby Ward, Emily Ward, Cara Louise Ward lived on that street. And I can't remember further up much about it.

DR. PATTERSON: There was a Methodist parsonage there. Across the street my grandparents lived.

MRS. DILL: Yes, un-huh. I remember your grandmother. Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: Well Florie, you grew up in this neighborhood and you went to school up at School Greens. How were those days? Were they fun times?

MRS. DILL: Fun times and yes. The first year I was in New Bern, I don't know if I brought in Miss Janet Hollister, did I tell you that

before?

DR. PATTERSON: I'd like to have you tell us about Miss Janet Hollister.

MRS. DILL: Well Miss Janet Hollister is really someone that you would like to remember. She was a school teacher for many years. She lived in the big Hollister house on Broad Street where Helen Swan lived later, her grandneice.

DR. PATTERSON: That's caddy-cornered across from St. Luke's Hospital?

MRS. DILL: Right. And Miss Janet was very strict. When we first came to New Bern I remember that my sister went, we came from a small school in a little country town and Mr. Smith who was superintendent wanted to put me back in the fifth grade and my sister said just let her try it. And he said alright. But he put me in the room with, Miss Janet's room. That was supposed to be the hardest room. She was so strict. I was crazy about her. I had somewhere here the report card that I had from that year and I made all E's. I took it out last, found it about a month ago, to show to my grandson. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Now all E's is equivalent to all A's.

MRS. DILL: That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: So you did very well then didn't you?

MRS. DILL: Yeah. I loved her. I don't know, I can't remember, I can remember the ones in my room you would know like Emily Pollock and Annie Ste Dunn and Rodie Duffy and George Bradham and that group. Annie Kinsey was in my room.

DR. PATTERSON: Incidentally, my niece in Charlotte interviewed George Bradham and the tape came back the other day and I've just listened to it and he talked about growing up in New Bern and about Pepsi Cola.

MRS. DILL: Good, good.

DR. PATTERSON: He was younger than Caleb, wasn't he?

MRS. DILL: Yes, he was my age. We were always in the same room in school, all through high school. I liked George. He was nice and he was smart too.

DR. PATTERSON: I think he did very well in some business. He made a lot of money.

MRS. DILL: An advertising business, wasn't it? Because Harry Jacobs I think worked for him a short while.

DR. PATTERSON: Well he gave almost a million dollars to the university at Chapel Hill just this past year. So that was good. Well Florie, what other teachers do you remember?

MRS. DILL: Miss Mary Uzelle in the seventh grade was my teacher. And then in high school I can't remember all of them right now.

DR. PATTERSON: What did you all dress like when you went to school in those days?

MRS. DILL: We wore things like skirts and midi blouses or something like that you know. I can't remember exactly what the boys wore because Miss Janet would send them home for their ties you know, the cravats. The boys in her room if they came to school with no tie, Redmond was in her room at one point and she would send the boys back

home to get their cravats.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, before we leave the New Street area, you lived with your sister, Nina and her husband, Harry Jacobs.

MRS. DILL: That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: Was Nina much older than you?

MRS. DILL: Seventeen years older.

DR. PATTERSON: So she was really a mother to you in many ways.

MRS. DILL: She was, she certainly was.

DR. PATTERSON: Tell me about Harry Jacobs.

MRS. DILL: He was good as gold to us and we thought a lot of him. He was a good man and he was a very religious man. He was Baptist. We all in my family were Episcopalians and went to Christ Church here. But he was a strong Baptist and he stayed in his church. He liked that.

DR. PATTERSON: He was very active in business in town wasn't he?

MRS. DILL: Yes.

DR. PATTERSON: What all did he do?

MRS. DILL: He had this shoe store that he was crazy about, New Bern Shoe Store and it did well at first when we first came to New Bern. It was on Middle Street. I remember Mr. Ed Pugh worked for him. And then the Depression came and he lost the business. He was sick. I've forgotten just his trouble about that time. Then later he opened the soda shop on the corner of Pollock and Middle.

DR. PATTERSON: That's where Mr. Bradham had his pharmacy.

MRS. DILL: That's right. I remember the pharmacy there.

DR. PATTERSON: It was called Jacobs Soda Shop, was it?

MRS. DILL: Yeah, Jacobs Soda Shop.

DR. PATTERSON: Did he have that for awhile?

MRS. DILL: He had that for awhile. I can't remember just how long.

DR. PATTERSON: Was he ever mayor of New Bern?

MRS. DILL: No he wasn't. I always said he should have been.

DR. PATTERSON: He was head of the Chamber of Commerce wasn't he?

MRS. DILL: He was head of the Chamber of Commerce and he spent more time working for the city of New Bern.

DR. PATTERSON: Nina and Harry had three children.

MRS. DILL: That's right. They lost one child. When we went to live with them in Roper the first winter they had a little boy who died. He was three years old. He had diphtheria and died. And he's buried in Oriental where my parents are buried. But Mr. Jacobs was a nice man, good man.

DR. PATTERSON: Their children were named Olier.

MRS. DILL: Right, she was named for my mother. Olier Farrow. And then Virginia. And then Harry, the youngest.

DR. PATTERSON: Harry has been a very successful man in his advertising field.

MRS. DILL: Yes he has.

DR. PATTERSON: Nationally famous.

MRS. DILL: He has nationally and he's really done well. Last summer he went to Australia and Hawaii and China, sent by the Wall Street Journal.

DR. PATTERSON: Very talented person. I remember them all as young people. Now when you finished high school, where did you go?

MRS. DILL: I went to school in Greensboro, North Carolina, it was NCCW then - North Carolina College for Women. And I only stayed one year. I took a business course and then came back to New Bern and worked for Mr. Walker Hodges.

DR. PATTERSON: Will you tell us something about the time of Mr. Hodges and about Mr. Hodges?

MRS. DILL: It was a good time. He was in the dredging business and at times he was just very successful and then we had bad times.

During one of the bad times, a lot of my friends would go to New York to work for a year or so about that time and I did that. I went up to New York and worked for a couple of years. I won't go into that today but it was good. And then he got back on his feet and I came back to New Bern and worked for him again. I remember I was working for him the day the banks closed in New Bern. I can remember looking out of the Dunn - we were in the Dunn building on the third floor - and I can remember people going and standing in front of the bank you know about that time. It was a bad time, I'll tell you.

DR. PATTERSON: You were with him for a number of years.

MRS. DILL: Yes, un-huh. About twelve years I think. Now another thing in 1922 was the New Bern fire.

DR. PATTERSON: Yes, but before we get to that can I just ask you a little bit more about other people you worked for?

MRS. DILL: Mr. Hodges and then I left, oh yeah, during the war I worked down at Cherry Point. Had a grand job as receptionist for the, when they were building the base, T.A. Loving contractors. And Nello Teer was there too at that time. That was good. I met so many people, so many nice people.

DR. PATTERSON: You were the receptionist for?

MRS. DILL: For T.A. Loving, the contractors.

DR. PATTERSON: What was it like down there in those early days?

MRS. DILL: People were coming and going, busy as it could be, building the base you know. Oh, so many people I could think of now who were down there at the same time. Mildred Kellum was there. That's where I met her.

DR. PATTERSON: Yeah, her husband was one of the Marine pilots.

MRS. DILL: Right, un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, you also worked for Mr. Seifert.

MRS. DILL: And then, yeah, when I left there I worked for, first I worked for Mr. Pugh, Bob Pugh. He was superintendent of schools. Had an office in the courthouse and I worked for him for about two years. Was crazy about the job. Was a state job. And about that time Mr. Seifert was head of the board of education and he would come to the office often. And he, Frances Roberts had been working for him, for the Scottish Rite. She started working for Hap Barden in Washington and Mr. Seifert offered me the job for the Scottish Rite

with a big raise in pay for those days. (Laughter) And so I went to Scottish Rite and I stayed there for twenty-eight years.

DR. PATTERSON: Where was this location? Where did you work?

MRS. DILL: For Scottish Rite?

DR. PATTERSON: Un-huh.

MRS. DILL: The building, the same building where they are now, on the corner of Hancock and Johnson.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember you as being in the Nelson home on East Front Street of the corner of Broad and East Front Street.

MRS. DILL: I was there just a little bit for Mr. Seifert. He was recorder of Sudan Temple and secretary of Scottish Rite at the same time and he would get me to go down there and do some work you know and then I'd go back and forth.

DR. PATTERSON: For those who don't know where this was, it was at the corner of East Front and Broad Street, the northwest corner next to the Shrine Temple. It's a parking lot now. What was that building like?

MRS. DILL: A beautiful, beautiful home. Mrs. Nelson. And when I was little and we were living on New Street and running around do you remember it? Do you remember Mrs. Nelson? She had a fence all around the yard and it was a pretty house. Such a shame that they had to tear that down.

DR. PATTERSON: Is that the same fence that's there now, that iron fence?

MRS. DILL: No.

DR. PATTERSON: That's a different fence. But that house was a beautiful victorian house as I recall and had a U-shaped driveway in the front and you could drive in and out.

MRS. DILL: Right.

DR. PATTERSON: Trees were everywhere.

MRS. DILL: Trees, yeah. And then the Bryan's house was there, the old Bryan house. Do you remember that?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. DILL: And then of course the Claypoole house. Elizabeth Bryan lived next to Uncle Clen. I remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: The Bryan-Broadfoot house. That was the big house with the long porch.

MRS. DILL: That was the big house.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, somewhere along the way you and Redmond got married. You and Redmond Dill got married.

MRS. DILL: Yeah, but you didn't ask me about the fire. That came first.

DR. PATTERSON: I'm going to come back to that. I'm not going to forget the fire.

MRS. DILL: Okay. Yeah, we were married in 1940 in the Episcopal Church here.

DR. PATTERSON: Now Redmond, was he Redmond Green-Dill?

MRS. DILL: He was Green Redmond...

DR. PATTERSON: Green Redmond Dill.

MRS. DILL: And everybody says why didn't they say Redmond Green

and he always said that. But his grandfather's business was Green-Redmond.

DR. PATTERSON: Would you tell me something about the Dill-Green families?

MRS. DILL: Mr. Tom Green was his grandfather. He owned the house on the corner of Hancock and Pollock Street, the Edward Stanley house. And he had one child, Redmond's mother whose name was Clara. And she married Mr. Dill and they lived there and the children were born there. And Redmond had two sisters and two brothers.

DR. PATTERSON: What were their names?

MRS. DILL: Harriett was the oldest one, called Hattie.

DR. PATTERSON: She's remembered by many people as a teacher.

MRS. DILL: Hattie, and she taught school. And then Sarah - then Redmond was next and then Sarah who, Sarah was very pretty, very pretty and very popular. She went to Duke to school. I never knew why because Redmond loved Carolina so. And then Lonnie Dill who lives now in West Point, Virginia. He's the one who wrote the book Governor Tryon and His Palace. And then Tom Dill, the youngest one lives in Rocky Mount. He's a lawyer. And I keep in close touch with him.

DR. PATTERSON: Lonnie Dill, Alonzo Thomas Dill, was a little older than my group. Was a good friend of my brother's. I'd just like to note that he was a great success at Carolina. Was editor of the Tarheel and president of Phi Beta Kappa and was just a brilliant, brilliant person.

MRS. DILL: He was.

DR. PATTERSON: How did you and Redmond meet? Did you just grow up together?

MRS. DILL: Well we grew up together. He was older. He played football. He was the athlete of the family. And he played basketball and so forth.

DR. PATTERSON: And golf.

MRS. DILL: And golf. He was a good golfer. He played football at Carolina and did well there as I remember. Then he later on, when he came to New Bern, he was working for Mr. Hodges too for awhile.

I don't know we sort of grew up together in a way. He was older and you know.

DR. PATTERSON: Just a natural turn of events.

MRS. DILL: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: For the record I'd like to just say Mr. Thomas Green who owns the house that the family grew up in was the son of Captain Thomas Green who was the captain of the schooner Cassandra which sailed from New Bern in 1852 headed for the West Indies and never returned. There were five children left including Mr. Tom Green and one of my ancestors helped raise them after that. But they lived at that time in that Green house on East Front Street near, it was really on...

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, you were just correcting me in saying that the Green house used to be on East Front Street facing the river. When was it turned?

MRS. DILL: I don't know. I really don't know, I'm sorry. But

it was turned. It's always been on Broad Street as I remember it.

DR. PATTERSON: Where did you and Redmond live originally?

MRS. DILL: We lived, when we were first married we lived in his house on Pollock Street a short while. Then we moved to Wilmington for awhile. He started working for contractors in Wilmington. Then he had a better offer and we came back to New Bern and, we had an apartment at Dr. Gibbs' house, Rosa Gibbs.

DR. PATTERSON: On Johnson Street?

MRS. DILL: On Johnson Street we had an apartment and we lived there for ten years. We had one child, Redmond, Jr. and he was five years old when we built the house, this house on Trent River. We moved out here in 1951. Redmond wanted to come out here and I didn't. Mr. Dill said oh, it's so far out and my sister, Nina, said it's five miles out! You don't want to go way out there. And Redmond was crazy to come so I said okay. And gee, I'm so glad. We loved it out here. We had a little dock, you know, and had a little outboard motorboat, Redmond did. And it's just been just grand out here.

DR. PATTERSON: Were there many people living out here when you all built?

MRS. DILL: No. Actually, my next door neighbor was here. Marie and Ronnie Bassinger built their house about a year before we did and then on the other side Jimmy Bryan built his just several months before we did. There were no houses across the street. Now we, and the Angels lived in the house next to Jimmy Bryan's where Margaret Patterson is now.

DR. PATTERSON: That's Nelson Angel.

MRS. DILL: Right and that brings up another thing. We were here in 1955 in Ione, the hurricane. The water did not come in our house but we went upstairs, we had an attic, Red and I and looked out and it looked like the river, you could see no land as far as the road. Nothing but water. The river went in Lizzie Angel's house about two feet. Also went in Jimmy Bryan's house. He raised his house later. And they all came over here to spend the night with the little children. I don't know where we slept but anyway. (Laughter) Now the water was in our basement, ruined our heating system. I remember that. But that was really a storm to be remembered.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, when did Redmond die?

MRS. DILL: He died in 1982.

DR. PATTERSON: So you've been living out here by yourself all this time?

MRS. DILL: By myself, yeah. And I'm lucky that I have good neighbors.

DR. PATTERSON: You have a wonderful neighborhood out here.

MRS. DILL: Robertha is such a good friend and Sheila Darden and Eleanor Breitweiser. It's just good.

DR. PATTERSON: Old time friends.

MRS. DILL: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Well while we are talking about hurricanes this is a good time to go back to the fire. Now this is one of the big disasters in New Bern. What do you remember about the fire of 1922?

MRS. DILL: The fire of 1922, how old was I then? Anyway, I went to Raleigh on a special train. We were playing football in Raleigh that day. New Bern High School was playing for the state championship.

We were all so excited about going. And I remember I was with Annie Ste and Bay Dunn. When we got to Raleigh we happened to meet Mr. and Mrs. Mark Stevenson who carried us all to lunch. I think it was the Yarborough Hotel. But anyway, then during the game that afternoon someone told us all that New Bern was on fire. Oh it sounded terrible.

But they were trying to keep it from the football team. They didn't want them to know it. They were afraid it would upset the game. Redmond Dill was the star of the game. I remember that. (Laughter) I remember coming back on the train that night and when we got near New Bern so much smoke all around. It was bad. And when we got home on New Street the whole downstairs in our house was filled with furniture that came from the Boswells house on Metcalf Street. They had thought their house was going to catch on fire and had moved right many things out.

DR. PATTERSON: Did anything happen to the properties on New Street?

MRS. DILL: No, not that I remember.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you see the fire burning or was it over pretty much?

MRS. DILL: It was over. Maybe we saw little fires as the train came in and we saw a lot of smoke. Oh we didn't talk about Ham-Ramsey but that's nothing except I just remember.

DR. PATTERSON: I think that's something that you should speak

to if you will because nobody has spoken to us about that. This was a big revival in New Bern. About what year was that?

MRS. DILL: I would say in about 1920 or 1922.

DR. PATTERSON: What was it called?

MRS. DILL: We called it, as I remember it was Ham-Ramsey. They were two men, Ham and Ramsey. Ham-Ramsey - and they were evangelists and they had a big tent on East Front Street where the, on the other side of the bridge now, you know the vacant place where the motel...

DR. PATTERSON: Where the Holiday Inn...?

MRS. DILL: Where the Holiday Inn was. As I remember, that's where the tent was. And of course, we would get real excited and we would go down and listen to all of it you know. Oh, I can remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember that you were very interested in what they said?

MRS. DILL: Oh, yeah! We would listen you know. They'd ask everybody to go up. I don't ever remember that we went up (Laughter) but we probably almost did.

DR. PATTERSON: Did this go on for several nights?

MRS. DILL: Yes, several nights. I don't know how long. But they had big crowds. And another thing, did we talk about the baptisms?

DR. PATTERSON: We will. Let me just put in a story that Lib Nunn told me about that revival since it didn't get on her tape. I forgot to ask her. She said that one thing she remembers most about that revival was that birds would get in the tent from outside and

everybody pointed up to the ceiling and would point to the birds and nobody would listen to the evangelists. (Laughter) That's the thing Lib remembers.

MRS. DILL: I don't remember that. That's good.

DR. PATTERSON: Well, what about baptisms? What do you remember?

MRS. DILL: Well, in the summertime real often on Sunday afternoon I think usually the colored people would have baptisms in the river on East Front Street and we would see colored people going down in front of our house on New Street to get down there and most of them would be wearing white. That impressed me so. And then we would, all of us would run down and in the background see what was going on. Of course they would shout and they were being baptized you know. It impressed us though.

DR. PATTERSON: They would go right out into the river?

MRS. DILL: Yeah, they were right out in the river.

DR. PATTERSON: Did a lot of people come to watch that?

MRS. DILL: Right many, yeah. The colored people did. Loads of colored people down there.

DR. PATTERSON: As I recall, they would come down the street singing and waving their arms.

MRS. DILL: You're right. You're right, Joe Pat, that's good. I remember when President Truman came to New Bern. I remember that my child was about two or three years old I think and I remember I wanted him to see the president. We went down to the Baptist church across the street and saw him go in. That impressed me.

DR. PATTERSON: That's the Baptist church on Middle Street.

MRS. DILL: Right.

DR. PATTERSON: And you saw him, you actually saw him?

MRS. DILL: Yeah, we saw him there. Saw President Kennedy twice. They're the only presidents I've ever seen. Now let's see, how about the dedication of the airport.

DR. PATTERSON: I was going to ask you about that. That was a very important time for New Bern. The airport was being dedicated in 1931?

MRS. DILL: 1931.

DR. PATTERSON: Why don't you tell what you remember about that?

MRS. DILL: Well I remember that we were all planning to go or, I was planning to go to the dedication the next day. It was supposed to be dedicated in honor of Senator Simmons. The night before there was a dance at the Elk's Club and Lieutenant Nott was at the dance that night. And I don't remember how many planes were here, government planes for the event but I would say two or three. They were all big pilots were in the Elk's Club for the dance. I remember meeting Lieutenant Nott. He was very nice looking and we all liked him. Of course we just saw him that night. And I remember the intermission that night. There was a party at the Hawk's and we all went to the Hawk's. Lieutenant Nott went to that party and that's when we saw right much of him. I remember Mrs. Hawk was crazy about Lieutenant Nott. He was just real friendly and nice. And then the next day of course I went to the dedication. I remember where I was standing over

at the airport when the plane crashed right outside. And it was bad.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you know that was Lieutenant Nott's plane?

MRS. DILL: We heard. I don't know if I did at the time or whether it was shortly after when we heard that. But it really was so bad.

Then Senator Simmons asked that the airport be named, that they add Lieutenant Nott's name to his.

DR. PATTERSON: Simmons-Nott Airport.

MRS. DILL: Right. I remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, those pilots had dinner at our house. I don't know what night it was because I was just a little boy. But I remember my mother and father had a steak dinner for them and they were late coming in that night but they finally all got around to the house. And a couple of years ago or three years ago when the airport name was changed and the plaque was finally decided upon commemorating the Simmons-Nott affair I got in touch with the Nott family by mail to tell them all about this new dedication ceremony and I heard from them. I had a very brisk correspondence with them. They told me in the process of this that Lieutenant's death caused a breakdown in the family, that the father had not wanted him to become a pilot and one of his close relatives had urged him to do so. Then when the young man was killed it separated the two completely and they never spoke again for the rest of their lives.

MRS. DILL: Oh no, how terrible!

DR. PATTERSON: But there's a big portrait of Lieutenant Nott hanging in one of the houses, family houses now.

MRS. DILL: That's interesting. I hadn't ever heard that. Seems to me I remember that your mother and daddy had them for supper.

DR. PATTERSON: What other memories do you have, Florie?

MRS. DILL: I told about the hurricane out here. That's the only thing out here I could think of.

DR. PATTERSON: Let me ask you a few things then that we might talk about. When you grew up in the neighborhood you lived in, it was a remarkable neighborhood with, as you say, all sorts of different people living there. There were blacks and there were whites and there were lawyers and there were senators and there were judges and there were poor people and there was a mixture. How did everybody get along?

MRS. DILL: Oh, we just got along fine. I can remember walking down the block going to school and we would come back for lunch every day, back and forth and Mrs. Cason would always be on the porch in the swing. She would talk with everybody and you know, ask you questions and then you'd see the different ones up the street now. We were crazy about Mrs. Baxter. She was a sweet person. I don't remember a lot about Mr. Baxter but I remember her.

DR. PATTERSON: Were there any problems, Florie, living so close to the black people or the black people living so close to you? Were there any racial difficulties then?

MRS. DILL: None, none. We were friendly. We would say hi, Honey when we went by and she'd speak to us. And that was it, you know. No, we all, we liked them and never any problems.

DR. PATTERSON: Is that the way you remember race relations in

those days generally?

MRS. DILL: Oh, yes. We all were crazy about them. Actually, almost like members of the family. I remember when we lived in Oriental, I remember the help we had and how fond we were of all of them. We had a cook named Florence and she was just grand, I remember.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, how do you remember downtown New Bern in the early days?

MRS. DILL: I remember of course that we knew everyone on the street practically. And we knew every store and everybody. And that was about it.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it a busy place?

MRS. DILL: Yeah, yeah, un-huh and that's where you saw people you knew on Middle Street. Now you walk on Middle Street and you don't see anybody you know hardly and don't see many people.

DR. PATTERSON: Right. What are some of the stores you remember?

MRS. DILL: Coplon's. I remember Coplon's.

DR. PATTERSON: On Middle Street?

MRS. DILL: On Middle Street. That was at one time the biggest dry goods store here.

DR. PATTERSON: Was that a nice store?

MRS. DILL: A big store and a nice store, yes. And of course Duffy's Drugstore was always there on the corner of South Front and Middle. I remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: Bryan Duffy?

MRS. DILL: Bryan Duffy. And let's see now, what other stores,

of course Mr. Jacobs' shoe store was on Middle Street right near Coplon's. And then later on in later years we had the Vogue, a ladies's shop.

DR. PATTERSON: That was Mr. Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. Parsons. Was that a nice place too?

MRS. DILL: Yeah, that was a nice place. And let's see, of course Kress was always there.

DR. PATTERSON: What was the building across from the Elk's Temple on that corner where McClellan's is now?

MRS. DILL: You know...

DR. PATTERSON: Was there a hardware store there?

MRS. DILL: There was a hardware store there, yes. Good for you, yeah. And of course the Wards had the offices a little bit further up.

DR. PATTERSON: In a wooden building.

MRS. DILL: In a wooden building. Now the first job I had was in that little wooden building. I didn't tell you about that. I don't know how I got the job but Mr. J.S. Miller was a real estate man here and he was selling the De Graffenreid Park lots. I worked upstairs.

I wasn't very good at that time. It was the first job that I'd had. That's where I met Mr. Hodges. Mr. Hodges came to New Bern from Greensboro and went to Mr. J.S. Miller to buy a lot in De Graffenreid.

And that's when I met him. And I remember he was so good to me later.

I remember that he gave me a letter and I took it in shorthand. After he left I had a terrible time reading it but anyway he told me he'd

be back to sign it the next week or something. So I had time to get it all ready by the time he came and it was in good shape. And I remember the salesman selling the De Graffenreid Park lots were there. One boy from Greenville. I can't remember his name. Real nice man. And they helped me with it so then when Mr. Hodges came back the letter was in good shape. He was very friendly with the people down at Mill Supply Company where Mrs. Leila Styron worked. Mrs. Leila was a good friend of his and he got in touch with Mrs. Leila one time, he couldn't get in touch with me, to see if I would work for him. And I always thought, oh me, I just did get that letter done. (Laughter) But anyway, that was, of course the Kehoe Theater was across the street.

DR. PATTERSON: Was it called the Kehoe in those days or the Athens?

MRS. DILL: Well, I've forgotten just when it was changed. I remember both.

DR. PATTERSON: You mentioned earlier the Bradhams and the Bradham Pharmacy. Do you remember that pharmacy?

MRS. DILL: I remember it. I remember going in there but I don't remember anything much except that. To me it was always dark and it was not a big place.

DR. PATTERSON: Right on the corner across from the Elk's Temple.

MRS. DILL: Yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember Mr. Bradham?

MRS. DILL: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: What was he like?

MRS. DILL: I never knew Mr. Bradham. I remember him. I remember seeing him and that's about it. I remember his wife. She was very attractive.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember her first name? Was it Charity?

MRS. DILL: Chatty Bradham - did they call her Chatty? I can't remember. She was a Barrington before she was married and there was a relationship with my family with the Barringtons from way back in Hyde County.

DR. PATTERSON: And there were the two boys Caleb, Jr. and George and one daughter.

MRS. DILL: George and Mary. Mary who married Pruden, Dorsey Pruden in Edenton.

DR. PATTERSON: Is she still alive?

MRS. DILL: No, she died many years ago. She was very pretty, very pretty. I remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: She was married in the house on Johnson Street?

MRS. DILL: I've forgotten.

DR. PATTERSON: I believe that's what George Bradham said. Caleb grew up in New Bern and stayed here didn't he?

MRS. DILL: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: And George moved to Charlotte.

MRS. DILL: That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, do you remember much about the beginnings of the library in New Bern? You spoke of Miss Fannie Howerton. She was a librarian when the library was on Middle Street next to the

Christian Science Church. What happened about the library after that?

MRS. DILL: I can't remember what happened just right after that. I can't remember. But we all liked Miss Fannie and she was a librarian for a long time. She was very helpful I remember when we would go in there as children telling us what to get and what to read, you know.

DR. PATTERSON: What you couldn't read.

MRS. DILL: Yes, what we couldn't read. You're right. (Laughter) You're right.

DR. PATTERSON: When you grew up did you go out on the river very much in boats?

MRS. DILL: No.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember much river traffic in those days?

MRS. DILL: No I don't. I probably got out on the river mostly then, not when I was growing up. I don't remember getting out on the river much when I was growing up.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you swim in that river, the Neuse?

MRS. DILL: No.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you swim?

MRS. DILL: Yeah out at the country club.

DR. PATTERSON: But not in the Neuse?

MRS. DILL: Not in the Neuse, uh-uh. And at that time in Trent River there were so many snakes. I remember getting out on the raft by the country club. This was really when the club was, you know, small, getting on the raft one day, swimming out to the raft and being afraid to go back because the snakes were between the raft and the

dock.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember seeing you out on that raft one time in those days.

MRS. DILL: Do you really? I loved it.

DR. PATTERSON: What was the country club like during that time?

MRS. DILL: We loved it. Of course we knew everybody and Redmond was crazy about it. He was a good golfer. He was the champ for awhile out there. I don't know, I've been trying to think because the club has been checking lately on your membership, exactly how long I'd been a member. I know we were members from 1940 on I know. But I think maybe in about 1935 when I came back from New York because I know that I was out there a lot. And I played golf too some. I never was any good but I played.

DR. PATTERSON: What was the clubhouse like?

MRS. DILL: It was just a big wooden building with a big ball room, a nice fireplace. Mr. Miner was the club pro. Mr. and Mrs. Miller, an elderly couple, lived out there and sort of managed the club itself. Sometimes when I'm over there now I look and see all the cars and everything, the parking space, and I think about Mr. Miller. He had a cow. (Laughter) Just about out where everybody is so busy. You see, it was different in those days.

DR. PATTERSON: I remember Mr. Miller sitting in a locker room beside a pot bellied stove rocking, spending a lot of time there. You'd have to go to him with your problems and get permission...

MRS. DILL: That's right. Oh, we were crazy about him. Oh, we

just liked Mr. Miller so much.

DR. PATTERSON: When you were playing golf there were just nine holes out there.

MRS. DILL: Nine holes, that's right.

DR. PATTERSON: The sand greens?

MRS. DILL: Sand greens, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember the tennis courts?

MRS. DILL: Yeah, I sure do. I never played tennis but I remember the tennis courts. They were, of course, near the clubhouse at that time. I told you about, and talking about those days, say in the 1930's, we had a little group, we were all real friendly and we would go out on Saturday nights. Maybe once a month we'd have a big party out there, a dance or party. It was good because we knew everybody and it was just loads of fun. Did I tell about the, should I tell about the dress-up ball?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. DILL: Okay. We would have different kind of balls or dances out there. One time we had a fancy dress ball. We dressed any way we wanted to. Redmond and I dressed as 1890's bride and groom and I wore a wedding dress that belonged to Mrs. Jarvis. I always wondered how I got in it because we were different sizes but I did. And we got the prize that night. We were real proud. (Laughter) The club was, I don't know, now you go over and I still love it. I think it has more atmosphere than any place around.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, you mentioned looking out the window of

the Dunn building the day the banks closed in the Depression. Was this a bad time for New Bern?

MRS. DILL: Yes it was, yes it was. And so many people lost money and it was bad.

DR. PATTERSON: Could folks pay their bills?

MRS. DILL: I think it was rough.

DR. PATTERSON: And Harry Jacobs lost his business. Were there other people who lost businesses then?

MRS. DILL: I don't remember a lot.

DR. PATTERSON: Probably a lot.

MRS. DILL: Probably so.

DR. PATTERSON: Can you think back to some of the lawyers you used to know in New Bern? Who were some of the lawyers in those days?

MRS. DILL: Well, Mr. Henry Whitehurst had an office in the Dunn building. He was a lawyer. He had a brother, Mr. Emmett Whitehurst who had an office in the Elk's building. And, oh me, let's see. Mr. Warren, Mr. Tom Warren, Betsy's father.

DR. PATTERSON: Mr. Ward.

MRS. DILL: Mr. Ward. I can't think.

DR. PATTERSON: There just weren't too many lawyers in those days I suppose, not like today.

MRS. DILL: No.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember the rivershore the way it used to be?

MRS. DILL: I think I do. People would go down and fish. I remember

that. Do you remember?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes. I remember it had a shellrock break water and there were no walkways there. The grass just went right down to the break water.

MRS. DILL: No, no walkways.

DR. PATTERSON: Lib Duffy told me that New Street used to be paved with oyster shells.

MRS. DILL: I can't remember.

DR. PATTERSON: I didn't remember that either but she said that when she walked to school boys would throw oyster shells at her from the street.

MRS. DILL: I don't remember that. One thing I remember about New Street though, of course we had the ice wagon that came by daily and also the people selling vegetables. I remember one colored woman, Martha. We all called her Martha. And she had a little cart and a horse cart and she would come down. You could hear her calling the vegetables from one end of the street to the other. I remember that.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember Lindberg's flight across the ocean?

MRS. DILL: Yeah. I don't know where I was when I heard - I was probably working in the Dunn building then. Was that in 1930, what was that?

DR. PATTERSON: 1927?

MRS. DILL: Yeah, you're right. That's right. Yeah, I was working in the Dunn building.

DR. PATTERSON: Were there reports given periodically through town in some way?

MRS. DILL: I can't remember.

DR. PATTERSON: When I grew up we used to go to the movies a lot. We used to see silent pictures. Do you remember those?

MRS. DILL: Yes I do. I certainly do. We loved the movies. We would go to the Masonic and go to the Kehoe or the Athens, whatever, you know.

DR. PATTERSON: And then the talkies came along.

MRS. DILL: Yeah, and then the talkies. The first talkie I heard, ever saw, I remember going to Raleigh. Libby Ward was going, this was before any of us were married, was going to Raleigh on business. He was practicing then. And Margaret Henderson, he carried Margaret Henderson and myself up to see Al Jolson. That was the first talkie that I remember. He went to his meeting and we went to the show. That's the first talkie picture I ever saw.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you all have a radio when you were on New Street?

MRS. DILL: No. I don't remember, Joe Pat.

DR. PATTERSON: Not many people did as I recall as far back as I can remember. What did folks do at night time in those days when you didn't have TV and you didn't have a radio.

MRS. DILL: I wonder what we did. I don't know what we did. I think about it every now and then. And what, I don't know what people did. As they got older as I am now with no TV, you know? Well I think

people sort of got together and visited and you know.

DR. PATTERSON: In those days in the neighborhood you've described people sat on the porches and shouted and talked across the street to one another. Next door and across the street and we would talk to your folks on your front porch across the street and next door to the Nunns.

MRS. DILL: That's right. I remember one night your mother, cousin Isabelle, and Cousin Joe were going to a dance and they asked me to babysit their little boys. I remember that one time, Simmons and Joe Pat and you all ran all over that house that night. (Laughter) I remember that. But anyway that was fun.

DR. PATTERSON: Now the house that Johnny and Margaret Dunn live in next to the house you grew up in is built where the colored folks had their house, where Harvey lived.

MRS. DILL: Where Lucy's house was. Right.

DR. PATTERSON: Did Johnny build that house there or who built that house?

MRS. DILL: His house? The house they live in?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. DILL: He built that house. He did.

DR. PATTERSON: He bought the lot?

MRS. DILL: Bought the lot and built the house there. That's right.

DR. PATTERSON: That was in the 1950's or 1940's? It had to be pretty far back.

MRS. DILL: It was, let's see, it was pretty far back because when Red and I were married I was staying around there for awhile and that was 1940 and the house was there. So they built it in the 1930's.

DR. PATTERSON: I'm sure that when you grew up there were a lot of dances. Where did folks dance in those days?

MRS. DILL: We had warehouse dances I remember. I don't remember going to a lot of warehouse dances but that's where they had it.

DR. PATTERSON: You danced at the country club?

MRS. DILL: Yeah. That's where we went mostly to dance.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you ever dance?

MRS. DILL: Of course I was younger when they were going to the warehouses.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you ever dance at Stanley Hall?

MRS. DILL: I don't remember going to a dance at Stanley Hall but I know that they did have dances there. I remember that when they had ballgames there. I remember when Redmond played basketball up there.

DR. PATTERSON: At Stanley Hall?

MRS. DILL: Un-huh.

DR. PATTERSON: Did you play basketball?

MRS. DILL: No.

DR. PATTERSON: Do you remember, Florie, were you in New Bern during World War I?

MRS. DILL: No. I was here right at the end of World War I. World War I was 1917. That's when I moved from Oriental to Roper.

Then when we moved to New Bern the war was over.

DR. PATTERSON: You weren't here during the flu epidemic then?

MRS. DILL: No.

DR. PATTERSON: So you don't know anything about that?

MRS. DILL: That's when Nina's little boy died, in the flu epidemic in Roper.

DR. PATTERSON: I didn't know that. During World War II what was New Bern like?

MRS. DILL: I don't know. I'm trying to think.

DR. PATTERSON: Were there a lot of new people here?

MRS. DILL: Yeah. I'm not much good at telling you about that. Yeah there were new people here. Of course that's when I was down at the base, you know, working down there. Yeah we met a lot of new people of course.

DR. PATTERSON: There were a number of young people in New Bern killed in that war. Do you recall?

MRS. DILL: The Whitehurst boy.

DR. PATTERSON: Young Henry Whitehurst.

MRS. DILL: Yes, un-huh. And...

DR. PATTERSON: Bucky Meadows.

MRS. DILL: Bucky Meadows, yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Donald Patterson.

MRS. DILL: Right.

DR. PATTERSON: John Pat's brother.

MRS. DILL: Right.

DR. PATTERSON: Robert Conderman on Wake Island on Pearl Harbor Day.

MRS. DILL: Yes he was. See I'd forgotten... That's good.

DR. PATTERSON: Of course there were a lot of others. There was one boy killed during the war named Furnifold McClendle Simmons.

MRS. DILL: Oh really?

DR. PATTERSON: And his name is on the plaque at the, that stone at the courthouse.

MRS. DILL: I declare.

DR. PATTERSON: And I don't know anything about him.

MRS. DILL: That's interesting. I would like to know.

DR. PATTERSON: But somehow it's connected with the family in some way. Do you remember the trolley cars? Did you ride on them?

MRS. DILL: Yes. Went all the way out to Ghent on the trolley cars. I don't remember going out there but about once or twice but I remember going. And yeah, I remember the trolley cars.

DR. PATTERSON: You remember Chatauqua?

MRS. DILL: Yeah, I surely do. We loved Chatauqua.

DR. PATTERSON: Where would you go to Chatauqua?

MRS. DILL: The last time I can remember going they put the tent on the school green across from the Masonic Temple over there in front of the building.

DR. PATTERSON: I'm so glad to hear you say that because I seem to be the only one who remembers that.

MRS. DILL: Do you remember that?

DR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MRS. DILL: Well I remember that and I remember, it seems to me when we graduated from high school that tent was there and we were over there in that tent I think. Gee, I wish, I don't know anybody I can ask about that. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: What all went on in the Chataugua programs?

MRS. DILL: Well, all sorts of acts and music and so forth.

DR. PATTERSON: Plays.

MRS. DILL: Plays, yeah. I remember a lot.

DR. PATTERSON: Let me ask you Florie about what you remember about medicine and the practice of medicine and doctors and dentists and all in those days.

MRS. DILL: Of course Dr. Patterson was our doctor and he lived across the street and if anything was wrong he would come right over in a hurry you know and was good as gold to us. My goodness. Actually he was my father's doctor when my father died in 1919, that far back.

And of course Dr. Jones I remember. And Dr. Pollock. Now Dr. Pollock, I thought a lot of Dr. Pollock. His daughter, Emily, was my best friend.

And I lived up there with them when Nina and Mr. Jacobs, when I left Nina and Mr. Jacobs. I won't go into that now. Nina and Mr. Jacobs moved to Morehead for a short while and I went up to the Pollocks and I knew Dr. Pollock well and liked him very much. He had an office in his house.

DR. PATTERSON: Dr. Latham?

MRS. DILL: Dr. Latham, I remember Dr. Latham. His office was

on Pollock Street, yeah. And let's see. I never knew Dr. Latham well but I knew him when I saw him and I would speak, you know, and knew where the office was and everything. And I'm trying to think of the other doctors here.

DR. PATTERSON: Did your father die in St. Luke's Hospital?

MRS. DILL: Yes he did. He had appendicitis and got along fine and then died very suddenly shortly, I mean maybe a day or so afterwards. He had a heart attack and died very suddenly.

DR. PATTERSON: That hospital had only been open a few years at that time.

MRS. DILL: At that time, yeah.

DR. PATTERSON: Doctors, I think you indicated earlier, would come to your house to take care of you then.

MRS. DILL: Yes, yes.

DR. PATTERSON: Did they charge a lot of money for their services?

MRS. DILL: Well now, Dr. Patterson did not charge me. (Laughter) I remember that. I'll tell you really I remember that. He was, of course, I was related to his wife. She was my first cousin. And we just thought a lot of him but he never charged me a penny. I remember when I had appendicitis, I think I told you about, that he came over to the house. I was about seventeen. He came over to the house and he examined me and he said she's got appendicitis. So he said get her to the hospital right away and he started out of the room and I said Cousin Joe, I can't go to the hospital. I don't have any money to go to the hospital. He says it won't cost you a penny. (Laughter)

But I thought that was real cute really.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, you've been an Episcopalian all of your life and this is a fine church in New Bern. Would you like to talk about, I'd like for you to talk about the Episcopal Church and then what you think the churches in general have meant to this town of ours. Have they been positive, big influences? Tell me about the Episcopal Church.

MRS. DILL: Well I was always Episcopalian. My father was a strong Episcopalian. My mother had been a Methodist but she became an Episcopalian because he was the strongest she said of the two. At that time in Oriental we did not have a minister. We had a little chapel and maybe once a month or once every two or three months the minister from New Bern would come and hold a service. He would always stay at our house. I remember Mr. Husks well. Then when we moved to New Bern Dr. McKinnon was the minister. I remember when I was confirmed at the church here Mrs. Carol Jones, Mrs. John Haywood Jones, was my teacher and she made Annie Ste Dunn and me go to Dr. McKinnon and say the catechism. And I bet they don't do that anymore. (Laughter) I'll never forget it. We were so afraid because he was real strict you know. Anyway, we were confirmed so we got through it. But the church here, I love the church here. I love it. It's pretty and we've had right many different ministers. Have a new one now. I like him. I was there this morning. We had a service this morning.

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, during World War II I understand, I was gone so I don't know, I understand that there was a social club at

the church.

MRS. DILL: At the church. There was. I can't tell you a lot about it. I'm sorry. But I know that there was and of course your mother had Victory House.

DR. PATTERSON: That's in her father's house on East Front Street.

MRS. DILL: On East Front Street. And that was so popular. It was a wonderful thing that she did. It really was.

DR. PATTERSON: But the churches in general have meant a lot to New Bern, do you think?

MRS. DILL: Oh, yes. Yes, I think. Of course our church is the oldest one. Redmond's people were Methodist. Mr. Green, all the Greens were Methodist and he was brought up in the Methodist Church. He became Episcopalian after we were married and he loved our church. Of course the Baptists have always been prominent in New Bern too. And the Presbyterians. Don't let me leave the Presbyterians out. Mrs. Pollock would never forgive me. (Laughter)

DR. PATTERSON: Florie, we'll cut this off now but it's been a wonderful interview. It really has. You're a great storyteller and your memories have been tremendous and I do thank you for the program and myself. I have enjoyed it personally a lot.

MRS. DILL: I've enjoyed it.

DR. PATTERSON: So I'll cut this off now.

END OF INTERVIEW