

Narrator: Margaret Settle Spivey

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Assistant Interviewer/Indexer: Lindsey Hayes

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Equipment: Sony ICD-ST25 Digital Voice Recorder (SP setting); 2 RadioShack lapel condenser microphones (70-16,000 Hz frequency response)

I interviewed Mrs. Spivey in the front parlor of her home at 141 Nelson in Williamsburg, Virginia. There was some background noise, including a heater, open windows, a TV two rooms away, and a chiming clock. This interview is a follow-up on an oral history recorded two years earlier, so the typical biographic introduction is mostly absent. We spent over an hour talking about life in Williamsburg as a young woman, venues for dancing and alcohol consumption, moonshine practices, and race relations. Our discussion also features information on Eastern State Mental Hospital, changes in Williamsburg—post-restoration—, and the involvement of WWII servicemen in the community.

--Andrew Jungclaus, 20 April 2009

Andrew Jungclaus: So, this is Andrew Jungclaus. It's April 13. We're here with Margaret Spivey at her home in Williamsburg. We have Lindsey Hayes indexing. And Mrs. Spivey, if I could get you to just say your name, how you'd like it to appear on the recording.

Margaret Spivey: Margaret Spivey.

AJ: Margaret Spivey. Okay. So—

MS: Known as Taz.

AJ: Is Taz your nickname? Uh, so, since we're following up on information that we already have from you, I thought maybe we could start by talking about, if you can remember, maybe what you did for fun as a young woman in Williamsburg.

MS: You going to laugh...

AJ: Okay, I'm ready to laugh.

MS: Well, you want—what age you want to start at?

AJ: Um, let's say, maybe, early teens?

MS: Early teens?

AJ: Yeah sure.

MS: We didn't have very much to go on at school. We didn't have, once in a while we'd have a dance. Didn't have a skating rink, didn't have anything like that, so when the war started, Williamsburg became lively and we had thousands of servicemen and thousands of girls chasing them. And Camp Peary, Fort Eustis, Lee Hall, down the naval base, and down in Norfolk, and up in Richmond. Lively town and drug store stayed full. We had two drug stores. We had the Rexol and we had the College Pharmacy. And we had, I think, four restaurants. So everything was always real lively and real full. We had movies every single day of the year, every single day. And you had to wait on line from one end of the block to the other. From almost to the Collge all the way around the back of the A&P. Duke of Gloucester Street, around the block on South Henry Street, that's where the back of the A&P is, it's a furniture store now. All the way back there, people stood in line, all the way back to the fire house. And I've got a picture of the fire house I want to show you.

AJ: Oh yeah.

MS: Yeah. The old firehouse we used to have then. So that's what we did. And we went fishing. We went dancing at the Eastern State Hospital, used to have a lot of dances on Wednesday night for the patients, but all the kids in Williamsburg used to go over there and go dancing. And all the kids used Eastern State Hospital just like the kids here now go down to Busch Gardens. We'd go over and ride the cattle, ride the cows and play with the, what do you call them, the calves. And tempt the bull, get in the bull pen and throw rocks at him and tempt him. And dive, you'd have to literally dive back out the big hole that he had to stick his head through to drink water at the trough. Swing from one barn to the other, from one hay loft all the way across to the other. And I guess they must have had 70 cows or 80 cows in the big dairy barn. You'd go in and talk to the patients while they milked them. We had a good time over at Eastern State. Like I said it was Busch Gardens to us. And, I don't know, we did all kinds of stuff like that over there.

AJ: Were you allowed in the same—were you in the same dances that the patients had on Wednesdays?

MS: What?

AJ: Did you attend the same dances as the patients?

MS: Yes. The patients that weren't violent or anything. The ones that they had—violent—they kept on the wards on lock-up, because a lot of people, I think, if I can remember back. I remember then acting, a lot of them, I think a lot of them were bipolar. And at that time they didn't know nothing about bipolar because these people would have ups and downs. And one month, or one part of the year, you'd see them and they'd be in the hospital, hollering out the windows, or screaming out the windows, next time you'd meet them out in the grounds. So it was something that came and went with them, you know. But they didn't have a lot of medication for that kind of stuff. And they had—my daddy when he came here in 1904, he said they that that's the place he slept. He slept on that ward with them patients. Because at that time the employees slept in some of the buildings that Eastern State had. Maybe, he didn't sleep right

on the ward where they had the rows of patients, he slept in a little room but he still slept in the same building. And I've got a picture of that building, with some of the patients in it.

AJ: Right, if I remember correctly your father made—he made mattresses and stuff?

MS: He caned the chairs and he did mattresses. He was blind, and he came them out of blind school. As soon as he got out of school at Roanoke he came right here. And he worked there, I think it was 1904, but about probably 1956 or something like that. So he worked a good long while. And I think I told you before he never had a vacation. The only time I ever remember my daddy being off is when my grandma had died. I was 18 months old. And I remember being on the train then. And then he got food poisoning from eating clam chowder over there. Because all the help could eat at the dining room. All the attendants and the help, eating in the dining room. And if you worked there, your kids could eat there too, they could go there and eat. Just like we went into the Brown Building. They build that I think in '36 or '29 or something like that. And I had a ruptured appendix and I was in there for 3 months in the old Brown Building—which is the Law School now on South Henry Street—they tore all that down. They took good care of you in there. Good nurses that was training. And what the nurses did, the patients, a lot of the patients took better care of you than the nurses because most of the patients were older and they had taken care of the families and things and raised families—because nobody wanted them. They didn't have nowhere to go. There wasn't a darn thing wrong with them. They weren't on lock. They just stayed on the ward, on the grounds there. And out on the porch. Most of them I'd say in their 60s or 70s, so they didn't want to walk nowhere. But I know that one helped me. She stayed with me a whole lot at night. Because my sister quit school and they stayed with me. Because I had a ruptured appendix on me and had blood poisoning. And you know back then, you just had to suffer. You didn't have all the antibiotics, I guess you were lucky to be living then, make it through there. And then we went over to another place, over to there. See up Eastern State took up a lot of our time, not just mine, and the Rogerses and the Douglasses and the whatever, you know, down there. But kids came from all over Williamsburg, to get away from their families and they could go down there. Because we, like I said, you had about five or six barns. I don't know how many, they had a great big huge, huge pig pen. Great big huge apple orchard behind the pig pen, which is now, almost down on the parkway, all that, we roamed through that all the time. That was just fair ground back in there. And then back in there, where the Lodge is, we had friends that lived on that back street over there, back—you know the Lodge is here, then you have that street that goes back there like that. Well all that then was all woods. And it was beautiful. And Paper Mills Creek run all the way up there, all the way up town, and it was pretty good and wide, and you had to walk across a pretty good little foot bridge, and we'd go down there and fish and get the crawdads, aggravate each other with them. The ladies, one of the ladies next door, she'd cook them. And then we'd get us some birds out the hayloft, and she'd cook them for us. We did pretty damn good. Steal the eggs out the chickens nest...

AJ: Now, was alcohol ever a part of your social life as a young woman?

MS: Of our life? Or of the peoples lives around us?

AJ: Well, either one.

MS: Well it wasn't too much of our lives because none of use drank. My momma didn't drink. My daddy didn't drink. My brother, he did whenever he could. But that was very hard to do around momma. I think they could smell that before you opened the bottle. They didn't have to see it, they knew. But, no, we had our neighbors that really drank. Drank heavy. And then when my sister got married, I was ten, and I used to go, I would go stay with her three or four weeks every summer. Because I said she'd have her babies every summer. And I'd go up there and stay with her. Then while she was feeding the babes, or taking care of the babes at night, I'd go with her husband. We'd go down to the moonshiners. Now that wasn't in Williamsburg. That was in Croaker. And we'd ride, and that was all woods. I mean that was woods. All the rivers you rode, there wasn't a damn thing but corn fields and a dirt road. All the way from Croaker all the way down to the plantations.

AJ: You said Croaker?

MS: Uh-huh. And we'd go back in there, to all the houses back in there. Well I didn't stay out of moonshine, because all they had was that and red-top beer.

AJ: Red-tap beer?

MS: Red-top beer's a little can, about like that, about that big, looked like a little kind of red top on it. Looked like a little spray can now, but it was good. It was good. Now we drank that when we could sneak it and drink it. But we never fooled with the moonshine, or nothing like that.

AJ: Oh no?

MS: No, us kids didn't, no, no. We'd been so high—they would have known we was drinking, so you sneak stuff like all kids do. Like I said, my momma and daddy, they could smell anything a mile away, so things that we couldn't do, even though they couldn't see, we couldn't.

AJ: So were these places out in Croaker, were they like road-houses?

MS: Well a lot of them were private homes. And you make your, you made your back then, I'm telling you, everything back then was woods. Deep, virgin woods, I mean they had just never been cut and maybe a hundred years if it ever been cut, back in there. Just as far back as the black people made their homes back, the rest of it had been there a hundred years, let's say. And then they'd go back and they'd build their stills. And you had several moonshiners down on old 60 and they used to have a place called Blacks Crossing, on the train tracks down there?

AJ: Black's Crossing?

MS: Uh-huh. It's still down there but it's closed off because too many wrecks happened and people run it from over on the part, that lived over in that area, on the other side, this side of the railroad track. And over to your left, you'd have them, and then on the right was where all the blacks or niggers, whatever you want to call them, they had their houses where they lived. And

there wasn't too many of the *bar* bars that I can remember. I never went to any of them until I was like I said 17 or 18. You know, we started going in them. But they colored people had Francis Street right down where Confusion Corner is—all that belonged to Blacks. All that land where Colonial Williamsburg is now, because they come and took it, well they might as well have took it, they gave them shit for it, you know?

AJ: Yeah

MS: They run them off. Run them out. And they had with them a couple big stores in there I remember. Because he'd tell my momma, I'm taking Margaret up-town. Cause she said: Well you're not going about drinking, you aint' going about drinking. Well I'm taking Margaret, I'm not going to drink, so Margaret drank Coca-colas and ate candy bars while he drank beers and then I lied for him when he got home. So I visited quite a few then, and I saw the big, at that time, this was like old last frontier. It's like my son said, mamma, you all got the last of the old frontier. Really got the tail end of it. They still had the long buildings with the porches that you'd walk up on. The brass that you'd put your feet on at the counter. The old round tables, the pickle barrel, the egg barrel, or the great big huge pickle barrel that you'd fall in, you'd drown. That's what they sent bodies back and forth across the ocean, you know, in brine.

AJ: So that was on Francis Street?

MS: Mm-hmm. Right straight across Confusion Corner.

AJ: Did you say that was more like a bar?

MS: That was what you would call a bar. Yeah, and then, then a little later down the road they got in the third, 20s and 30s, I mean in the 40s when we really started getting around in middle 40s when I started getting around they had a place called Mike Pete's.

AJ: Mike Pete's?

MS: Uh-huh. That was on York Street. And they had a place called the Genuine Restaurant. That was right in the same area, right where the bike shop is now on York Street, or was. I guess the bike shop's still there. And the, as you went around the bend, coming back into Williamsburg on York Street, before you'd get into Francis, when you made your right to go over the bridge, they had a real lively bar there. It was called Bloody, Bloody Bucket. What did we call it? We called it the Bloody Bucket, we called it, they called it Carriage Inn at the time that I was running around. They come up on the Bloody Bucket. The man that owned the, he owned down Fort Eustis, he owned the bar down there right across from the gate. I can't remember the name right now. He owned that, plus he owned the one in town. So he wanted to change the name, give it a little better name, because the soldiers and the sailors and the marines, and all they did was knock the windows out and fuss and fight all the time. At one time it was called Paradise Inn. Paradise Bar.

AJ: Paradise Inn?

MS: Uh-huh. It had three or four different names. And they never turned the lights up. It was always real dark in there, everybody said you wouldn't see the roaches and the bugs you was eating. Food was good then. Don't get me wrong. Food was delicious. But everything was red velvet or red, some kind of a leather like stuff on the seat. And red velvet kind of window—you were just back in there kind of closed in. You could get a bottle of wine, or something, and just hid back in there and drink it. Nobody happened to walk by would know who in the hell you were because you were, couldn't make out who you were.

AJ: Now, you're saying that this was the time you were running around. Is this the 40s?

MS: Uh-huh. This is about 40—at that time was about '45. That's when I went to work over at the College. At the Wigwam.

AJ: Right. And so how old were you then? About?

MS: I was about 17. 16 or 17 because I quit school when I was 16. And I went to work at the Lodge, first there, because I knew if I quit school I'd have to go work. There weren't no, you not going to do that. So I went over to the Lodge and I got a job, and I worked over there about a week, in the Lodge, the old Lodge. And they had, what did they call, oh god I forget what they called it. Something about the Horse Shoe, because you're things that you sit around were shaped like horseshoes. The bar went this way. Then the people sit around these horseshoe-shaped things and the waitress walked in from behind the bar and this horseshoe and served you like that. And I think we made, if you made a nickel tip you was doing good. And we got paid about, I think it was about a nickel or something an hour, like that. You didn't make nothing. And Rockefeller, my girlfriend was working the desk, her name was Betty, Betty Bowrey, she was working at the desk in the Lodge, and I was just, the Lodge that you went into, this was like the Golden Horseshoe, and the Lodge was right was where that door is. That big long—they probably changed all that—and Rockefeller. He'd come over there every morning and get his newspaper, and he'd tip her a nickel. Yeah, big deal, you know. Mr. Rockefeller. And he'd tip her, and we knew all the people. We knew all the big shots in town. You knew, what was his name, the judge Armistead, you knew him. And so many of them has died that I can't even remember their names anymore. And the mayor. Knew the mayor when he was a dentist. Stryker. When he was a dentist they called him Polly. In the older days, when he was younger, they called him Polly. He was real popular man. He had money. His home is still up there on Scotland Street. And it looks like they've done something to it. I don't know whether they're going to make a bed and breakfast, or some kind of offices.

AJ: Yeah, I live on Scotland Street right now.

MS: Yeah, that pretty one, right across the road with the brick things, the white columns and all? Yeah, that's been in that family, for Jesus Christ, I've been here like I said for 81 years, and it was here when I was a kids, so it's always been there.

AJ: Okay, so these bars that you're talking about on Francis Street and the other ones, now were they owned by Black people?

MS: You didn't have too many—when I came along, Colonial Williamsburg, when I got big enough to start, when I can remember, just remember, I can just remember going up the Duke of Gloucester Street when they had the island down the middle of the road. I can remember, as a kid, because I remember going in the old pastry shop. And the old pastry shop wasn't where it is now. Well, it isn't there now. But it was over, come down South Henry Street, go up North Henry Street, right here on the corner of Duke of Gloucester Street, and the pastry shop is right here, and right over there was Casey's. And I can remember stuff like that. And we had to go down town, then my daddy'd go uptown to get something at the drug store, and they didn't have it at Rexol, so he'd want me to take him all the way down near the Palace, I mean all the way down near the capital. At one time there was a Rexol drug store down there. But I was just real little so I don't remember too much about that. But by the time I got into school, and you know, and school started getting around to walking—Rockeller had bought, he had bought everything, and run the niggers out, run 'em out. I'll say run 'em out. And they felt that way, like they was being run out, too. They were giving them very little for all of their land. Very little. And made them feel big. I remember one waiter I used to work with—am I breaking that?

AJ: No, it's fine.

MS: One waiter I used to work with, when they gave him his vacation, he was so damned mad, had a little white thing in his little six-dollar, six or seven-dollar a week money, it says, whatever his name was now, "You go home, and you have a good rest. You take care of yourself so when you come back you will be well-rested and do a good job for us." That just pissed us off. I mean, we were young. They didn't think a damned thing about him. Not rest, to have a good time, that you come and do a good job for us. And that's the way it is. So when you work all day you have fifteen bosses that settle all them Indians, all the chiefs and no Indians! So that was that. Then you's talking about the moonshiners, we have one sheriff here, and he was after the forties, he was in the fifties and in the sixties, and he got a good pay-off every Friday. He got a good pay-off, up next to, what's the name of that place up there. Stockade Theater was up there on Richmond Road.

AJ: What theatre?

MS: Stockade. Open-air theatre. Stockade was up there. And I'm trying to think—Johnny—I can't think of his last name, owned a restaurant up there and Leonard—Bea and Leonard Legum.

AJ: Bea and Leonard Legum.

MS: They owned, I guess you'd call it like a little Mom and Pop store. I forget what the name of it was right now. Stockade. Probably the Stockade something, I don't know. But anyway he would go stand beside there, that's where everybody went to get their beer when they got paid on Fridays. The white, the blacks, it didn't make any difference who you was. You all went up there to get your beer. And Leonard was a big heavy man. And he'd stand and scratch—I'll never forget it—stand and scratch his belly under his little white shirt that he had on. And what made me notice it is my husband wanted some lunchmeat for the next day, after he had paid for him beers—I'll tear it to pieces (about microphone)—as long as he had his beer he, things left over, then you were about eating the next day. And he wanted some lunchmeat to take to work

and I went to the counter, and Leonard, he got it. Because Bea owned the store beside of him. She was his wife. Everything she made was her money, everything he made was his money.

AJ: Two separate stores?

MS: Two separate little stores. She owned one for clothing and she was—like that—and his was groceries and beer. And the beer was ice cold. Anyhow, I asked him for the meat and he went over to the counter, leaning on the counter like this—rubbing his belly, scratching his belly, up under his shirt, then he would reach right in that and pick up—he was going to—and I noticed, don't want that, don't want that. Finally I said, I don't want any of it. I'll get a can of corned beef or something. I remember that just as good as anything. Because I wasn't that damned (indistinguishable), I want some of this that and the other. I said well go over there, he's scratching his belly now, do you want it after he's been scratching his belly, or do you want to eat something out of the can? And he was like—damn, we'll eat it out the can!

AJ: So the deputy got pay-offs there? The police chief, he got pay offs?

MS: He was taking money for not picking up the moonshiners, not fining them every month or two. Because they got a pretty good little time up in Richmond. When they would get caught, if they got caught at their stills, they would destroy their stills. And they would take them in and I had one friend, a colored lady, her husband—well she owned a place, out there were War Hill is.

AJ: War Hill?

MS: War Hill, up at Lightfoot, you know where they built our new school up in there? James—what is it? What's that school back in there? Longhill Road?

Lindsey Hayes: James Blair?

MS: Is it James Blair?

AJ: Berkeley?

MS: Yeah I can't remember, but. Out there where they had all the—place for the kids to play ball and stuff. Anyhow, all that used to be called Pudding Bottom. And I never could figure out what in the hell we called it Pudding Bottom for? Well, they said even the niggers didn't like to be called niggers, especially by the poor white trash. So you called it Pudding. You called it Pudding Bottom, so in other words Pudding meant nigger. And at that time—they probably got wise later—but at that time they didn't have no idea. And that woman's husband, I don't know how her husband went to jail, he made several trips up there to Richmond.

AJ: Do you remember their name?

MS: I remember her name right off, I can't remember his right off.

AJ: What was hers?

MS: Her name was Lillian. And she was a black and Indian. She came from Charles City. She was beautiful. She was beautiful. But I can't remember her husband. It might have been Fred, I don't remember.

AJ: You don't remember their last name?

MS: Not right this minute, it'll pop up though. Because they, of course, I haven't talked about Lillian in ten years. But she was gorgeous. Beautiful, beautiful woman. But when he, when he died, and I don't know that she sold all the land now, but all the Pudding Bottom belonged to her and him. And I know that she must be a rich, rich, rich, rich, rich right now.

AJ: Yeah.

MS: Yeah. She sold all that land. Well she's got some age on her, because I'm 81. Lillian's probably 85. Now, so, she's got some age on there. And she's got grown sons and all, but they never was in the moonshine. Only the daddy was in the moonshine. And he sold to the black and he sold to the white all alike, nobody was different. To him, everybody's dollar was green. You know?

AJ: Would you say that a lot of the moonshining was done by Blacks?

MS: I'd say the majority was by Blacks, but there was a hell of a lot done by whites, oh yes. Yes. Because you'd hear the names, but you know when you're kids you hear this stuff, you're not supposed to hear, but you really can't stand around listening. Back then, you didn't sit in here—if kids had in here now, they'd all be sitting right here listening. They'd be asking you dozens of questions, or speaking up. Back then you went in the other room. But you better do something where they know they can hear what you're doing. You better not get quiet. Because the minute you got quiet, something was going on. And they'd be back there on your ass in a minute. Yeah, a lot of people, even the patients at Eastern State made moonshine.

AJ: The patients did?

MS: Yeah. They made that in the fields, out in the field. Theirs was more like a liquor you would make in a still, or a crock. They would take and put their fruit down in there, and if they could a hold of any liquor, if they could get a hold of any liquor, to put in their fruit, then they would have your wine, beer, and your liquor. But see, just like people in jail make wine out of raisins or potatoes, you know. So they might have been crazy, but they weren't that crazy. You had a lot of smart people at Eastern State Hospital.

AJ: So, was that, was that something that they served at the hospital, or was this just something that the prisoners—that the inmates were doing?

MS: Oh no! You weren't supposed to have no liquor at no hospital! Hell no! No! No! No!

AJ: So this was just, for their own fun?

MS: This is something that you'd do back when you can find a place and hide and do it!

AJ: Okay.

MS: You know, yeah. Because one man that used to, in Eastern State on the grounds, back when they had all the buildings there, and they had, down in the bottom, the Brown Building, where the law building is now. By that law building, you come down a great big hill, and you came around, and you came by the, oh where they kept all the buildings warm. They put the coal in the...I forget what they called it. Anyhow, over here on this hill over here, this man had what they called the chicken house. See, the state was filled, what you want to call it. When my daddy came there, they took care of their own self. They grew their own vegetables, they had their own beef, their own pigs, their own everything. Well at that time, I must have been 7, 8, maybe 10, 11 years old, and they still had chickens. So this one patient, he took care of chickens back there. And he made him a little, out of sweet potato wine. Because you could do that. You know, you can use any kind of fruit. You can even make stuff out of bread. You can, take bread and potatoes and make vodka and all, so. And them patients had a lot of sense. And they would experiment with things. And what he did over there, we liked the way, us kids, we liked over there. We used to have a lot of terrapins.

AJ: Terrapins?

MS: Terrapins. You know, little hard-shelled terrapins? Like a big turtle? We had the terrapins. Whole lots of them, they'd get a lot of fruit, stuff growing in the ground, and they liked that kind of stuff. A lot of strawberry patches, and loads and loads of wild strawberries and wild blackberries. Just everywhere with fields full of them. Great big huge blueberries like that. Just as sweet as sugar. And the patients would go pick them, and they'd pick the milk cans, five gallons. They'd go down in there in a day's time, they'd come back with two milk cans full. They might sell you at that time, for a quarter or fifty cents. If somebody had fifty cents, or seventy-five cents to give him, he was rich.

AJ: Yeah.

MS: And they would give them the whole five gallon that they'd have been there and picked all day long. And then they'd leave after breakfast and they'd go up there. And they probably lived on blackberries for lunch. And then they went on back there and ate their dinner and went on to the ward.

AJ: So they had a lot of freedom?

MS: The ones that weren't, that they didn't consider dangerous, yeah. They had the yard patients that stayed in the yard, but they had a lot of them that would go down from Eastern State down to College Creek. You know where that is, down past the cemetery. They would go down there and fish. We would go down there and fish right along with them. Because they always had worms and we didn't have to dig them up. You know, they're kind of hard to find. We'd go down there and—They were just good to all. The patients that were free to roam, and go out,

and go in the yards, was just good to the kids and a lot of them tried to tell you something to keep you from getting hurt. A lot of them tried to warn you, don't do this, or don't do that, or don't do the other. And the oldest couple, several of the men tried to warn us girls, don't go over there where they are. The men over there. Don't you all go over where they are. You stay here. Don't you go over there. They'd bother you. Evidently they'd try to fool with you. So my momma and daddy, they said, they didn't want girls, they didn't want the kids playing down there anyhow, but you do go anyhow. And my daddy said the same thing. We have to be really careful with all these patients, because they could go off like that. You know, they can just lose it, right like that. I was at a picnic one time over at Eastern State they were giving for their patients. Fourth of July. A real pretty girl, and I was looking at her, because she was a pretty girl, she was just beautiful. And she come walking over towards me, I guess she realized I was looking at her, I don't know, I thought she was coming over to say hey. Next thing I know my ass was sitting on the ground, pop! I was shaking my head, and a couple of the attendants was laughing. We used to know all the attendants. And they was laughing. One of them asked me, you hurt, Margaret? I said, yeah, hurt! Dog gone right I'm hurt. She said don't pay no attention to her. She says she won't touch you again. I'm sure! She said, she's not going to touch you again. She only does stuff like that once in a while and she only does it once. She hears voices. And whatever he voice tells her to do, she does it. (Indistinguishable) And she married a doctor later. This girl did. During WWII we had a lot of conscientious objectors that worked at Eastern State. They worked as attendants and some of them helped as doctors, because a lot of them were doctors in training, but they were not going into service. And a lot of them worked on the wards with the patients. And then a lot of them got in with therapy, liked the patients. They started bowling, well they had the dancing, but they started bowling. They opened the canteen for the patients to go in, all the ones that could get around, was free. Just like a trustee in a jail, you might as well say it, like trustee in a jail. And we'd go in there, and they had to take them out on trips, day trips, they started all kinds of good stuff for them patients there. They might not have done nothing in the war, but they sure helped them people there for the rest of the time it stayed there. And anyhow, this girl, after the war was over, all these doctors and things were gone. Just as soon as the war was over Williamsburg was just dead. I mean, you could go up there and it was like everybody died. It was the most lonesome place in the world. Because you'd have saw about two or three thousand people up there every day, it's all you saw. Like the tourists, when tourists is in town. Just like that. It was like it completely died. Completely died and of course you didn't have twenty cars go through town at that time anyhow.

AJ: That was soldiers coming in on leave?

MS: The service, well the service men would come in on leave, but they came in on busses. They didn't have private vehicles. And a couple of—one of the boys I went with had a motorcycle. And one of the other marines, he had a car. But they didn't keep them too long. I don't remember if he wrecked it or whether he tore it up, what he did, but the motorcycle, me and him tore that up. I tore my ankle off with that. Anyhow, I know that, what that felt like. But, no, they didn't have a lot, but we had a lot of buses coming through, and we had a lot of service, what do you call them, military buses, bringing these servicemen in by the bus load. And they'd view all the old buildings. See, they used to didn't charge them nothing. They didn't charging anybody in Williamsburg nothing. And we been in up in every belfry, down the basements, and every hole there is in Williamsburg, even the tunnels under the college, and all

that stuff, you know. We went under the tunnels, some of them didn't even know the tunnels was under there. A lot of stuff down under there. They found Civil War rifles under there. Yeah, way back there. That was a long time ago. But, no, when the second war ended, everybody danced and hugged and kissed and danced and jumped up and down hooray, and the buses came right in town. Right, soon as they heard it. Soon as they got the word the war was over. Me and my momma was in a show—I took her to the movies. And we was in a show, and the people come out of the town, and I took her home and I was going, course one of the boys I was going with—he had came in town. Course I was going out somewhere after I took momma back home. But anyhow, took her home. Time I got back there, we had a date. Then the bus didn't come in from Cheatham, boy if you ain't staying, we're leaving. I say two weeks, maybe two weeks later, all of them cleared out. Every one of them. All of them. Young men that any of us kids knowed, or their mommas knowed, cause several mommas went to chaperone their daughters, and they wound up, momma needed a chaperone worse than the daughter. Three of them I know left the states, and their husbands had to go pick them up when their fellas left them and put them down. Some of them went so far, and left them. They had to call daddy to come get them. And they were real big names in town, too, I'll tell you.

AJ: Such as?

MS: Ah-uh! Ah-uh! They got people living. They still got families here. No. I Wouldn't dare do that to nobody. I'll tell you one thing, the rich people, I wouldn't call them all rich, because so many of us didn't have nothing. We were called white trash. And I know that a lot of people down there ain't going to like me saying it, but that's what the people on my street was called, what was it called, what did they call that, god damn. Eastern State Road, they called it that. Asylum Road was what the Eastern State, College Corner, from up here Francis Street, down through the creek, was called Asylum Road. They called it Lovers Lane. My daddy said when he came here that each side of the road, because there weren't nothing, just dirt road, wagons, you didn't have cars. Most everything was horse and buggy. And daddy said on both sides of the road was wild roses. And he said it was the sweetest smell that you ever smelled. And he wasn't even, somebody that was leading him. And he would ask so and so, because daddy was real nosy. Anything he wanted to know, or thought he heard or smelled, he'd ask what is it. So he asked a lot of questions. My daddy was a very smart man. He asked a lot of questions and he didn't care whether you was the president or the doctor. You know, he'd ask you. And all that down there was like that. Just absolutely beautiful. But, you had a couple families down there that had money. I think they had more land than they had money. Somehow or another they got land and they sold it. But they were a little high on the hog. They thought they were hot stuff, you know, and the rest of the people just lower, a little lower, a little lower. If you didn't have nothing, well you were just poor white trash. Then the niggers up the road, now that's what they called them, niggers, up the road, all the way from the back gate at Eastern State where you turn now to go in, where the cemetery is inside, where the jail used to be.

AJ: Okay

MS: On South Henry Street. Where the telephone building is. There's a telephone building right there. And then across the road was Eastern State. You'd go in the back gate, they called it. From there all the way down to where the Black Lodge, the lodge down on South Henry

street called Waiter's Lodge. Back in there, it's still there, a cinder block place, brick place. All that was black. Everything was nigger. All the whites had to walk through the niggers to get home. But they wouldn't holler at you, they were the nicest people, everybody, all of us got along fine. They was niggers and we was white crackers, and jolly pops, you know and once in a while you'd get to fighting. You'd call them this, you'd call them that. Momma would say, I'd say well, Ms. So and So's son, called me a whatever. She'd say don't you dare call so and so Ms. or Mrs. Don't you dare call a black woman or a black man Mr. or Mrs. I said well why? You know you teach me to be polite to people. Because you put yourself on the same level as them. Well I didn't know what she meant. They was my friends, you know. Their mommas was Mr. or Mrs., so that was that. But my momma was raised in Lynchburg and her granddaddy had so many slaves he said he didn't even know the names of them. And she was just taught that you didn't do this and you didn't do that. You didn't trust them, because one that she had help take care of her children when she first got married, and momma had never took care of little children. And somebody came to help her a couple times a week, stole her jewellery that daddy had gave her when he married her. Her wedding ring and her little gold necklace and all. So after that they were worse. That was about the worst word she used, but she never trusted one after that. So she was always very very prejudiced. Very prejudiced.

AJ: Was that typical for Williamsburg, or was your attitude typical?

MS: Oh no, no, no, no. The ones that was a little snobbish, we had a lot of them and we still got them right in town. A lot of the people my age are gone, but their children and things are here, and a lot of their grandparents yes. I'd never been that way. I wouldn't marry one, I guess that's cause I was raised that way. If I fell in love with one, you don't know what you'd do. You really don't know, you know, you've never been in that position. So you really don't know. If you fell in love with them, I guess you'd marry them same as anybody else. But we had—what used to really piss me off—and it made me mad, it made me mad. It made me mad up in the 50s and 60s. They'd go in and buy something, stand in line and any white man or girl or woman who wanted to come on up, get right in front of him, he might be the next man in line and you'd have four or five of the town men walk right up and get god damned right in front of him. So finally when they got to where they could get what they got they couldn't stand in the drug store and eat their sandwich or their ice cream. If it was snowing or raining or hailing or firing bullets, you get your black ass out there and eat. You're not going to eat in here. And that used to just really piss me off. You know, they're spending their money in here. They're in here, they're making you rich. And I couldn't see it. I'm not that way. I could not see it. You know, you's hungry, you can come in my table and sit down eat. I don't give a damn. As long as he treats me with respect, I'm going to treat him with respect. (Indistinguishable) But anyhow, you got Goodman, you got, you know a lot of whites, you got the white man's is good, and this low down dogs, the same as you got blacks low down. So can't come too fair...

AJ: Now, were there many Indians, or Native Americans in Williamsburg?

MS: Not too many, not too many, no. Most of the Indians that we ever heard of was over in Charles City and they had mixed with the Blacks so much.

AJ: Okay.

MS: But they're—I've got some stuff in there made by the Chickahominy Indians. That they made back when I was a kid, a little beads and little bowls and stuff. Now they stayed to their self, but they started marrying out of the clan, and they started pulling stuff in, so this lady I was telling you about, that's what she was, Indian and Black. Then I got a real good friend named Robert, Robert Cruise. Robert's about fifty years old, I guess.

AJ: Robert Cruise?

MS: Robert Cruise. Yeah, he's an alcoholic from the word go, but at one time-- He was a very, very, very, very, very rich man in Williamsburg. He had lots, lots, lots, lots, lots money. He, his mother worked with this man for thirty years. And this man had several black children, and so Robert is a really smart man, but anyhow his mother and his sister—his mother and his aunts all had thirteen or fourteen different kids and they were all black and Indian. And the most beautiful skin you ever saw on anybody. Most beautiful skin. Poor Robert, he drank himself to where it made himself, he's got seizures. And he used to come up here and do a lot of work for me, because you could trust him. Robert wouldn't touch—you could lay a million dollars on the floor and he wouldn't even look at it. Didn't mean nothing to him, because he could work where he could get money. All he had to do was hold his hand like that and daddy'd give it to him, makes no difference whether he was black or not.

AJ: Now, was there the same level of prejudice, towards—towards Indians?

MS: Ah-hah, mm-hmm.

AJ: Same?

MS: I think up around Charles City somewhere they had a school, a native school for the Indians. Up at—I believe it was in Charles City, but I know we, I had a girlfriend, she's still living and she lives in Richmond. And we've been friends, let's say 75 years we've been friends. And across the road from her, she lived on Delk's Road. Out there where what's his name lives—Bruce Hornsby?

AJ: Oh?

MS: That's Delk's Road.

AJ: Delk's Road.

MS: Uh-huh. That went from the back of the Lodge all the way out, all the way out by the woods out there. They had, by the College Creek all the way out the James River. And—she had a neighbor that lived out there, and somehow or another, I don't know how she ever got with him, he was about one of the blackest, ugliest men you ever saw. So anyhow, this white lady, I guess she had a little girl, and she couldn't go to any school in Williamsburg, Richmond, Newport News, Norfolk, anywhere. Not even Washington. They had to send her to New York for her to start school. And I was about the—I'd say, I had to be a good 11, 12 years old then.

AJ: And that was because she was mixed?

MS: That's right! That's right. It was amazing that they didn't tar and feather him. And we had the Klan, I remember them. I saw them one time. They come down South Henry Street, they took a black guy down the road, they tied him, I don't know what they did to him, but they took him down the road.

AJ: Do you know what it was for?

MS: Probably, probably not feeding the kids or some shit like that. They never hurt anybody around here that I ever heard of, anything vicious. But they'd take you down the road, beat your ass, scare you to death, throw you in the grave down the cemetery. Well, the college kids did that all the time, though. Every year when they had, what do you call that, hazing or whatever. Yeah, they'd go down and make sure you find an empty grave. Cause we'd go down there and hide behind the things, because we knew they was going to go down there. And we'd hide and watch them. We lived in the cemetery. You lived right beside of it.

AJ: Would they take townspeople, or are you talking about, would they take black people to do this?

MS: The hazing? No, this is the college kids when they first go into fraternities.

AJ: Oh, okay.

MS: Yeah, no, no, no, no. The college kids couldn't go off of the Duke of Gloucester Street. And when one of them went with a serviceman, she had to have special permission from the house mother. And I guess from the parents or something. By the time you got a date, he was probably gone. You know, he's somewhere.

AJ: In your socializing with college students at all, was alcohol ever involved?

MS: Not too much. They was private. They had private stuff, the boys. Yeah, cause when I was working at the Wigwam, I was 16, 17, I had a girlfriend that, she, we might as well say she got gang-raped by them. But she didn't have sense to know—back then nobody didn't know nothing about getting gang-raped. She just let everybody know that she'd had sex with everybody on the football team! Yeah, they had "parties" in the Wigwam. And that was Brown Hall, right there on the street, you know. That's when they had the good football team, though. We used to win a lot of games. Yeah, if Barbara would remember that now, she'd say Oh my god, I was gang-raped! That poor girl.

AJ: Was that—did that have to do with fraternities ever? Were they a big player in terms of socializing? College fraternities?

MS: Yeah, yeah, a lot of them. But they'd just get their beer and take it up on the, up to their rooms or whatever and drink. You know the house mother, she didn't usually go upstairs.

Because they had—for men—for a long time, I think. But then when I was working over there, I don't think they had house mothers for the boys.

AJ: Now I heard a lot of stories about parties at Lake Matoaka.

MS: Oh yeah, I remember going down there too, oh yeah. My brother, he worked at CC Camp when Roosevelt started the CC. What do they call that? Some kind of—to give the men work. And then work in town. And, yeah they worked down and they helped build that. And we at school, if somebody's school was to give something, maybe a hot dog cookout or something, they had a great big large, long large, it was probably as long as that bedroom on the other side, all the way out here, wide as this room, with the table in the middle and a fireplace at each end, and they'd cook hotdogs and stuff. And the college used that and Jamestown Road, weren't a thing in the world up there where all the girls' buildings, and that stuff now. That was all woods. And they had chicken houses back there. The college had chicken houses back there. It was all woods, and we'd walk the path to go over where the Dell, gizmo is, where the bridge is, the Dell Bridge, all the way through. They probably haven't even got all that walk anymore. All the way back there to Matoaka Lake.

AJ: I don't think so.

MS: It's beautiful, a trail, just a pretty trail. We had us and our boyfriends back there. There was a lot of snakes back in there. And we'd go, they took the sailors down, yeah we went and watched them too. They had the houses down there where they'd tie the boats up. Then they had a gizmo that stood up like this, and they'd put big ropes. It was so the sailors could learn to go up and down these ropes. Like they were going off the side of a ship, down into a lifeboat. It started that stuff down there. That stuff didn't last too long, because they didn't have that much room down there for that. But the, the college boys and girls knew everybody. Yeah they used to go down, and they ice skated on that pond. It got cold back then. You used to get snow up to here when you'd go to school.

AJ: Right, I remember you talking about that.

MS: And they ice skated on that pond out there, they fished, they even went across the James River, York River, back in 13 I think it was, they drove cars across there. It was cold! It ain't never got that cold since. And Mr. Woodbridge. Yeah he taught over there. He was a law professor, like a hundred years. And he would take a lot of kids, black and white, didn't make no difference to him. And he bought a lot of old bicycles. And he took my son, and I don't know, I think most of them was boys that he would take. And he would take them and they'd go bicycle riding and he'd ride all over. You could ride all over everywhere because there was very little traffic to get hurt with. And then he bought a great big old bunch of ice skates, and you couldn't go very far on the lake. You'd go a pretty good way. And he'd take them over there ice skating, then he'd take them to his house on Jamestown Road and give them a drink. Probably, I don't know what it was, probably a lemonade back then. Some kind of cookie or something and tell them to get their ass up there and go on home. He was good like that. He was a nice man.

AJ: Do you remember any of the—you were talking about the stills earlier. Do you remember any of the names of the people who—any specific names of people who owned them?

MS: Owned what?

AJ: The stills.

MS: No, no! Cause most of the time you'd never know who owned it. There was very few times you would ever hear who owned it. There were people who worked—but no.

AJ: So what was the protocol? Someone, someone owned it that nobody knew of, and then somebody else...

MS: No, you'd have half a dozen people that worked the still with, say, John Jones, you know. They would work it with him and they would help him strain it off, and they'd help him carry the liquor out. But as far, as he'd put the money up and the still and stuff. But you didn't talk to him cause he's the man with the money.

AJ: Okay.

MS: See that's who they wanted to catch. They wanted to catch him at the still. And when they did that, they just took a sledgehammer and things and they just tore that stuff to pieces. But seeing, then a lot of them didn't have like the copper stuff. They would take automobile, what do you call them, water tanks, in the front.

AJ: Right.

MS: See, I can't even think. And put it in there, and see that would make a lot of people as sick as a dog. You know and a lot of people did get sick drinking that. I can remember people getting sick off of moonshine a lot. But I can also remember a lot of people getting awful happy off of moonshine.

AJ: And so then they would sell this to their friends? Or to people that they knew?

MS: If you had to sell it, you had to sell it to people you know was going to keep their mouth shut.

AJ: Right.

MS: Then the big wigs, they would buy it from them.

AJ: They would buy it from...

MS: They would buy it from the whoever, would get in good with say, certain lawyers and certain—I don't know of any doctor that ever drink, they used to know a lot of the higher ups in the law and all. They would get it. But all that was hush hush. And if it was ever brought out in

the open, of course it wasn't anything to it. It was not a bit of truth to it, you know. No way. Cause this Lillian, she used to go with one of the biggest in Williamsburg and her husband sold him the liquor.

AJ: Oh yeah?

MS: Uh-huh. Then one of the taxi cab drivers here, how'd he do that? We had a real—had a man in Williamsburg. He was from a very rich family. And it was him and the brother. And they were very rich. And he was a very bad alcoholic. He'd stay drunk about six months out the year, and then winter come, get himself put in jail, stay in there all winter, and when spring come, he'd get out and go to work. Paint, he was a painter, a house painter, painted beautiful. Then he'd start saving his money, then he'd, when his time, 6, 8, 3 or 4 months is his time to go to jail, he'd start to really drinking, and he'd get sloppy, nasty, ugly drunk. Then he'd start finding some of these girls around town, or women I guess you'd call them grown women. And they would ride. And this one guy to drive the cab, he was the cab driver. Man, he knowed it all. Who's with who and who went where. And that put this cab driver in good business. Nice cab, nice cab.

AJ: Do you remember his name?

MS: Oh yeah, but I can't—he's got grand children, great grandchildren living, no way. You don't do that.

AJ: Okay.

MS: I wouldn't dare do nothing like that. They can all guess, well I wonder if that was my daddy. And some of them know it was their daddy. But, you know, and a lot of, oh I was going to tell you a minute ago. About a lot of the people that owned their own homes, and had good nice homes, or something, they rented out rooms to servicemen, specially the ones that could bring their girl, not their girl, their wife. Maybe one kid or something, and they'd come rent from them. And they'd rent them. And they would sleep on the floor on a mattress. To rent these rooms out. And a lot of them got good deal of money doing that four years, or five years, whatever the war lasted. You know? Every night, even though it was a little bit of money, it was a lot of money then. So they made damn good.

AJ: Yeah. Well I had one other question. I was learning a lot about the general stores in Williamsburg, out at Five Forks?

MS: I didn't know anybody that went out to Five Forks.

AJ: You didn't?

MS: No, all I knew is one girl that lived in, they lived in the school after they sent them here to Williamsburg, to Matthew Whaley. After they took them from Five Forks to go there, because of some people that moved in the school as a house. And it's still there, but they kind of

remodelled it some and made a business out of it up there. And I didn't know anybody that went out to Fort Magruder.

AJ: Okay.

MS: I did not know them until they came into town. I knew one girl that I run out there one time with them. And I rode the bus and went out there and I hadn't asked permission to go, so of course I had to go turn around and somebody had to come and get me and take me back to my school. Back, you know, because I wasn't supposed to be there. And it wasn't long before they all was in here and they made the reservoir and Camp Peary. Camp Peary was sprung up like that. Camp Peary sprung up over night.

AJ: So the only people who went out there were the people who already lived out there.

MS: Yeah, the only people that, what was left out there on the land that still—there was very few people that still lived on the land once Peary got in there, very few. Just like down in Cheatham. Nobody that lived out there, and I don't think—well people live out on the water. They do now. But back then they didn't. But once things came along, started to happening, then officers and all had houses, you know, built on the land and like that. Camp Peary—we used to go down there and have an awful good time out there. We used to go down and sailors had, not parties, they put on shows, demonstrating different types of marching and stuff. And Fort Eustis, they would bring up colored, I guess you'd call it platoon. And the Williamsburg, and back behind the A&P store, and all where it is now. Back in the open land, back in the—they'd bring them men in and they'd do a wup, wup, wup, wup. Their rifles, and all this kind of stuff, and they called it the Jody Walk. I'll never forget that. I had never seen, you know, everybody keeping good time, like this. And all of them making this, and all of them stomping their feet. Everybody loved it. We found them when they was coming, everybody going to be up-town. And they put on a show probably an hour, hour and a half, and it was good. But then they run them all back down the road, you know. Just like talking about—and they had actresses, and you've read it in the newspaper. And read it in the books, where you had black actresses come here and do things at the Lodge. They couldn't come in the front door, but they could go in the back door, they could sit in the kitchen and eat with the help back there. That was Lena Horne. She did that.

AJ: Lena Horne?

MS: Yeah. And she didn't mind telling you. Shirley Temple came here when she was about 9 to 10 years old and this one guy was driving a cab and he got up and down here at the airport, Norfolk I guess it was, I don't know. And he asked the parents if he could take a picture, you know, of her? And they said yeah. So the last time, this was back in '80 something, she came back to Williamsburg and he found out she was here. So he called them up and whoever that he could talk to and told them that he had this picture of her when she was a little girl, and he is an old man now, you know. He thought that she might like to have it. And she was just as thrilled, and just as nice to him. He said she was just as nice and polite to him, as sweet as anybody ever was. You'd never know that she was a high-ranking, you know, diplomat for the United States, plus a movie star.

AJ: Yeah.

MS: She said she really, really appreciate that picture. So we had a lot of Hollywood stars to come to town. And coming down restaurants, sit right there and eat. They didn't come in hiding out. They just come in and you would know who they were. But nobody was just thrilled over them like they are, well back in the 40s and 50s, but back you know, when I was a kid, they'd come to town. You didn't pay much attention to it. And now when they come to town they come often and you don't even know it. You don't even know it. We had them come in one time, I forget what her name is. She was a comic. I can't think of her name right this minute. And she came in a restaurant where I was working. Ate the biggest plate of spaghettis and meatballs you ever saw in your life. And you'd know who she was, but really, is that her? Cause she wasn't made up, but you could see it. We asked. Yeah. She been in town three or four days. So, just like all of them. So now, what have you got down good? What is this here? The twenty-fourth... Is that?

AJ: Oh, these are just notes that I had from something.

MS: I thought they's was dates.

AJ: Oh, no.

MS: So you've got all that stuff that I gave you? That you still got that from the last couple of years ago?

AJ: No, this is a class notebook, but um—

MS: No, I don't mean in this book.

AJ: Yeah, I probably have it somewhere else.

MS: Oh, oh, oh. Is this your little...book?

AJ: This is my notebook—this is my little notebook, yep. Well I know that we don't want to talk about any specific names, but could we, maybe if you remember any rumors or stories or anything like that surrounding illegal liquor or moonshine or anything like that in town, that we could talk about, without using specific names?

MS: Well, I mean it was all illegal. You know, all of it was illegal. You're not supposed to sell it, you're not supposed to have it in your house, you're not supposed to make it. So I mean, the people that had the money, the people that wanted liquor in their house and wanted moonshine liquor, course, they made it back when all the liquor in the 20s, when they had, didn't have liquor and stuff. I guess that's when they really—well they making it ever since they came to America cause that's what kept them alive, you know. The alcohol and that. But no, I don't remember anybody having any great big raid in anybody's house in anything. They used to have a couple wild parties every once in a while in that big brick house that was on Scotland Street, but that

was mostly up the prostitutes and things that lived there during WWII, and every once in a while Ham Smith and them would have to go over and lock up a few of them girls and run away a few servicemen.

AJ: Ham Smith?

MS: Yeah, Hamrick. He was a policeman.

AJ: Okay, is he still around?

MS: Uh, and old Chief Kelley. I could tell you something on him but I wouldn't want it to go down.

AJ: Chief Kelley?

MS: Yeah, no, don't, I said I wouldn't want that put down cause I said he's got—no.

AJ: Well we can always write in this and have it taken out. We can—

MS: What do you mean, have it—

AJ: Well, we write down a little note in the Deed of Gift that we have here and then that would—it would take it from the public record.

MS: Oh.

AJ: And it would just be between the three of us.

MS: Well what good is it to you, then? It's just that you know something?

AJ: Just curiosity, but we don't have to talk about it.

MS: Yeah, well I don't want to-- Like I said, they still have people in town and there are families that live in town. But I'm just thinking about the law, and how common that they can be. And you know the things that they do and did. This man, he had done a lot of little bad things too, but this is just the fun stuff that wasn't hurting anybody. He was just running the prostitutes out of town. They were run out of town before the servicemen did. Before they said that the train station and the bus thing in there was so damn full that you didn't have to put nobody on there. All of them was leaving town. They're going back I guess to the big cities or wherever they came from in the countries.

AJ: So there were a lot of prostitutes?

MS: Oh yeah, we had quite a few, quite a few. But a lot of them worked in the drug stores and places and they worked in the grocery stores, and I don't think any of them was just, what you call like, they weren't like followers or something, camp followers. I guess you did call it that, but you know in the old days they just slept out and lived right with the men. But back then they

had a house and they worked and everything. They just went out at night, did their job or whatever they did and that was it.

AJ: So was that house like a brothel, or saloon, or did they just sleep there?

MS: No, they just went up there and partied, and had sex, and partied, and a little of drink, and sex, this that and the other, and the servicemen to go on, and go on about their business. You known, this was just place where they could go, you know. It wasn't owned but it WASN'T owned. You'd know about it but you DON'T know about it. You hear about it, but is it true, you know? Just like momma and dad going along being a chaperone, you know. Now momma wouldn't do nothing like that. Momma took care of her daughter. Well, most of the time the daughter was coming home and momma was going out!

AJ: Is that house still standing?

MS: No, it's been torn down.

AJ: Yeah.

MS: And uh, but the service boys, the servicemen from what I can remember, and when I got old enough to really pay attention and notice, a lot of they college girls, yeah they had dates with them, but everything was so particular back then. College girls, they couldn't go in town, the store. They had to have their little green raincoat all the way down. They'd go out on the field, they'd play ball, hockey. Anything that they was going to play. But once they left that field, they had to put that thing back on. You didn't walk around town in your shorts or anything. They all dressed in loafers, penny loafers and whatever, with the white sock, and beautiful plaid skirts, most of them was plaid. And just a nice big bulky sweater. They were dressed beautiful. Our college girls dressed beautiful here. And Casey's store was the main place that people shopped. You know that was the time a high prices. But it was the main place that all the students shopped. And that place called Frasier and Graves where the men, the boys if they wanted to go in and buy nice stuff. No, but they all dressed up, not like now. Not like ten years ago. You know, when they really were hippies.

AJ: Yeah.

MS: No way would you see one walking down the street. And like I said they didn't go off the Duke of Gloucester Street either. I don't even know when they come over the school. I guess when they came to school like, what do you call them, they come in as teachers and help during the day. I guess they must have been a little older. And they could lead the college students. What do you call them? Student teachers, something, come in to work with the class. I remember a lot of that going on at Matthew Whaley. Yeah. But everybody had a good time at Matthew Whaley, too. I got some pictures that I want to show you, too. I got Matthew Whaley, I got the old firehouse, the old drug stores, what do you call it street, Duke of Gloucester Street and all that. Yeah.

AJ: Well, Lindsey, do you have any specific questions?

LH: Um, no, I think it's all very very interesting and I wouldn't mind looking at pictures.

MS: I'd like to put something in this thing if it's going to be about Williamsburg about my momma and my daddy. Yeah, cause like I said they came in, they were blind you know. And back in that day if you were blind you usually wound up in a back room or in a institution somewhere because if you were deaf or you were blind or something, you weren't considered—you didn't have nothing, no brains. You couldn't do anything in other words. And half the time, I don't think they give people chance back then anyhow. But anyhow he came here to work and that's the point that I'm trying to get over to people. They were citizens that the Blacks and the white and the people that had money and the people that didn't have money, all respected them, all thought highly of them, and still speak highly of them.

AJ: Right, your parents were really well respected.

MS: Yeah. And we're always, like I said, he worked all those years and I can remember when he worked and made fifteen dollars a week. And he had to raise six kids.

AJ: Wow.

MS: And he would do work for Colonial Williamsburg later on, not back when I was little but later on when I got bigger. He caned chairs, or special pieces that Colonial Williamsburg had. He'd charge like couple bucks. Three or four, five dollars for those, and momma, she said, she called him Beedy, she said, Beedy, go ahead and charge 8 or 9 or whatever. And he wouldn't do it. He said I've got children to raise, he said, and if I go off they'll take the work from me and they won't give me work. He would do a fifteen dollar job for five dollars so he could, just like the people now, have to live on, cutting back, just so that he could feed his children. Because that was a lot of, 5, 6 kids is a lot of kids to raise. Yeah and like I said she did all the cooking, all the sewing, all the house cleaning, and all that stuff.

AJ: That's a lot.

MS: Yeah, and she did it all, yeah. And didn't know, when they died, didn't own nobody nothing. They owned their little piece of land, they owned their little house they lived in. This that and the other, like I said my daddy knew the judges. He knew Judge Armistead, the old Judge Armistead, that big old man way back there. And I can't—he knew Sheriff Trice. Sheriff Trice, he was a sheriff at one time back when I was real little like this. And we was out there in the yard, South Henry Street, right on the street playing. And we heard this car coming down the road, it must have been going at least 20 MPH, you know. But it looked like it was going fast. And it was a black car, here come this police car. And they was chasing this man down the road, well he had nowhere to go but the creek. So he chased him down to the creek and out behind you saw the cop car come back and you saw the person in there with him. I don't know who went and got his car, we never found out who was the cops was chasing. But that's the only police chase I ever saw in Williamsburg. Other, well the police didn't chase the Ku Klux Klan when they came down. When they came down marching and making a lot of noise, and with their hoods on, carrying the torches. At one time up on Duke of Gloucester Street, at the college,

with all the beautiful flowers on the corner, right there. There used to be a brick, great big round, one of them big round brick seats that you sit on like that. Just round, and it has this brick thing behind it, comes up like a big, big, what do we call it, big couch-like thing. But it was made out of brick with a hole in the middle and the flag went up in the middle of it. They had the Confederate Flag, it flowed there for years. World War II, after it they took it down and you ain't going to have it cause of segregation. No way, no way, they took it down. And the College of William and Mary used to have some of the prettiest balls every year. They would have the Confederate one and the boys would dress like Confederate soldiers.

AJ: I heard about the Kappa, was it Kappa Alpha?

MS: Something like that. I don't remember, but that was so beautiful, and those girls would go out with the big dresses and everybody in town would make sure they'd go uptown to watch that parade and that kind of stuff. They cut all that out. And I've got a letter around here, somewhere, where they wanted to have something at the college, but they had something in Richmond. They were going to have something in Richmond at the Confederate White House. And everybody—this has been in the last fifteen years—and everybody that was coming, going to be in it, the men were going to wear the uniform, the women were going to wear the dresses. And my son wrote and asked them some question, and I forget what it was. And they wrote him back the nicest letter about how everybody that put down by the way that they treated this kind of stuff. All you have to do is mention Confederacy. You mention Confederacy man, that's it. Nobody wants to hear about it. So, I could find out, that's a nice letter that they wrote him though, right from the governor. He liked that, yeah. He liked that.

AJ: Well, do you think we should get into your pictures?

MS: Let me see.

AJ: Should we keep the—

MS: Oh gosh! Are you in a hurry darling?

AJ: Oh no, we were just—conferring... I think we're going to turn the recording off.

MS: Yeah, you don't want to talk about the pictures, I reckon.

-END-