

**Transcription of Conversation between Dr. Catherine Oglesby
And Carolyn Reynolds Parker, taken March 19-20, 2012 [pp. 1-115 seated
interview; pp. 116-130 includes walking tour of home in Greensboro]**

By: Jake Graffeo

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Carolyn Reynolds Parker: **(Begins mid-sentence)** ... big land owner, and that was the one that my children's grandfather, great great grandfather. And he always gave a Silver Dollar to the slave who did the best work, and she said, "When freedom came, her father had saved all his Silver Dollars, he got more than anybody."

Catherine Oglesby: Whoa! How many did he have?

CRP: She didn't tell.

CO: ! I did, interview a woman whose, um...great ...or maybe it was her uncle, because she was 100, she is 100, well, she lives here. I interviewed her here, and she tells stories of him talking about helping the plantation owner who owned him build troughs that they fed slave children in. And there's no way she could have known that...

CRP: Do what with children?

CO: Yeah, they fed slave children in a trough, they built a trough. They didn't ...

CRP: Well, a lot of people put them in, white children, in dresser drawers.

CO: Yeah, right, when they were babies. But there's no way she could have known that other than, you know, oral, passing down...

CRP: Certainly.

CO: ... so that was interesting.

CRP: Yeah, those little things that...just come about.

CO: And nobody..., you know, you don't think about that until you get prompted with a question about your past, and then it becomes.... you, what is your mailing address? It's not this house, right?

CRP: No, it's 1470...Dogwood Drive...but it's still Greensboro, Georgia, although it's at Reynolds Plantation, you don't even have to put Reynolds Plantation on it.

CO: Ok. What's the Zip?

CRP: 1470 Dogwood Drive.

CO: Got that, and the Zip Code?

CRP: 30642. It's just the Greensboro Zip.

CO: Ok, and I have your phone number. Ok, now, I'll ask you these. It's very straight-forward biographical stuff, and you've already told me... Carolyn ...

CRP: Reid, R-E-I-D...

CO: Ok.

CRP: Baugh, B-A-U-G-H, Reynolds...Parker. You probably haven't run into many Baughs? There are quite a few in Milledgeville; they were all doctors.

CO: And then, ok, I've got your current residence. Do you do e-mail? You don't do email?

CRP: No, my daughter does all that.

CO: Ok, now, the date and place of birth?

CRP: Right here in Greensboro, Georgia, right on East Street at the other end. It...gosh, I don't even remember that they had an address when I was born. The house is still there if you'd like to see it. I think I have a picture in there. It's a Victorian home.

CO: Yeah, I would like to see it. And the date?

CRP: November the 28th, 1923. It was the day before Thanksgiving, and my mother was...an educated woman, and she wrote such sweet things in my baby book. She said that it snowed the day before I was born, I mean the day I was born, which was Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving, so she wrote, "What a wonderful Thanksgiving gift I was." Ha ha.

CO: How many siblings were there?

CRP: None. I'm an only child.

CO: , you're an only child.

CRP: And my first husband was an only child. Everybody thought we would not have a good time together but we did. They thought we would be spoiled.

CO: And you have 4 children?

CRP: Yes.

CO: I'll ask you their names in a minute. But tell me your father's and mother's names, places of birth and death, and their chief occupation.

CRP: You want to start with my father?

CO: Yes.

CRP: William Harold B-A-U-G-H...

CO: Ok.

CRP: And he was...Agent Operator of the Georgia Railroad.

CO: Georgia Railroad?

CRP: Uh-huh. It comes through Greensboro. This is one of the first places, you know it went from Atlanta to Augusta, and that was a big thing in Greensboro. If you got, like Pinfield, a wonderful old town, it was left off the railroad, so Mercer moved from Greene County to Macon.

CO: Hmm. And where and when was he born?

CRP: He was born in Greene County, and I can't right off hand tell you; I've got all that, I think I've got at least one thing from the DAR that's got everything on it.

CO: Ok. So you don't know the year?

CRP: I'm not trying to remember things like that. My mother's name was Mary Katherine, with a "K", Monfort, M-O-N-F-O-R-T. She was born in that house that I was born in, on East Street, and she, at one time, taught school. She graduated from State Normal School, which became part of the university later.

CO: Ok. And that is her grandfather, the picture right there, who fought in the Civil War? Right here on the end, it covers a book about....William Monfort?

CRP: No...yeah, William Monfort.

CO: Yeah, that's what written on the back.

CRP: Yes.

CO: Ok, so that was her father?

CRP: No, no...

CO: Her grandfather?

CRP: Her father was...Clarence Eugene Monfort

CO: Ok.

CRP: This man's son.

CO: Alright.

CRP: And he was a banker. They lived in Greene County, but he moved to Randolph County. But my granddaughter lived in Greene County. He married Carrie Reid, and that's my name, Carolyn Reid, I'm named for her, and here's a picture, you know, as a girl of my grandmother.

CO: .

CRP: She was a regular "Scarlett O'Hara." She had so many boyfriends.

CO: Hmm. You don't know her dates?

CRP: I don't try to remember that. I know it's on that DAR thing. God, I couldn't remember, I just have to keep up with my children.

CO: Ok. Now do you want to put that back?

CRP: Well, I was just trying to think if there's anything else. That's my great grandmother, uh, I think that's the one.

CO: That's a man.

CRP: Uh huh. That's Felix Calloway Reid and that's, uh, her name, she was a "Lightfoot", and she married him. Gosh I can't even think of her first name right now, it'll come to me though, but she was a "Lightfoot." That was a very distinguished family. There's a Lightfoot house Williamsburg, Virginia...Somebody asked me if it was Indian, and I said, "No, it's English."

CO: Now, what do you consider, how do you identify you ethnic background?

CRP: Of course I'm Scots, English, with some French. I guess it's Caucasian, but you know....

CO: Right.

CRP: The Monforts were a French family, and there is a Monfort chateau, not owned by the same family, but they still make wine and I order it for all my Christians and my children.

CO: So, that brings us to religion. What, how, how do you identify...a Christian, ok, but....

CRP: I'm an Episcopalian, I'm Protestant. That's what you're talking about, I assume.

CO: Well, most people don't have an issue with that, because when I say "religion," they automatically think "Baptist", "Methodist." You're the, only the second Episcopalian, I'm Episcopalian myself, but I've only interviewed 2, so for many people, when you say "religion," you just mean "Methodist", "Baptist", or "Presbyterian."

CRP: Instead of Protestant or Catholic or Muslim or whatever.

CO: Right, right. So, um....but someone who is Episcopalian would have a slightly...broader view.

CRP: Liberal.

CO: And occupation? You have, you have obviously been...

CRP: I was a mother, I was wife, a mother, and I taught school briefly. In fact, I went back and helped out a friend of mine after I was married for a year. She was having a baby and asked me if I would come do a year for her, which I was happy to do.

CO: Ok. Now, spouse, and I'll, take your husband Reynolds, this is his home?

CRP: Right, and our home after we married, but he was...he was born while this house was being built.

CO: Hmm. Ok, and his name?

CRP: James...Madison...Reynolds, III.

CO: Ok. And he, and you all were married when?

CRP: September 23, 1945.

CO: OK. And he...um...

CRP: He went to Georgia, went to Riverside and then Georgia Tech. He was, uh, he owned a small chain of movie theaters, and he was a timber...what would you say, farmer, he raised timber, and uh.....I guess that's what he did.

CO: Ok, and he died when?

CRP: In...oh shoot, give me a minute....1979. In June.

CO: Alright. And then, you were a widow for 7 years?

CRP: Uh-huh.

CO: And so, in '85, you married....

CRP: No, I gave you the wrong number of years I was a widow because I married...in '87, 1987.

CO: Ok. And you married...

CRP: Dr. Lee Parker, uh-huh. And he had been a doctor here ever since he got out of the Navy in World War 2. He was a great hero, landed on D-Day, a doctor. He's got...awards from here to there.

CO: ok...

CRP: He was a country doctor.

CO: Country doctor...?

CRP: Yeah, didn't even have a hospital when he came, he had delivered babies at home. But I wasn't married to him in those years. I knew him, he was "our" doctor, he delivered my fourth child.

CO: Whoa, that's a story.

CRP: The four of us, his wife and my husband, we loved boats, and we went around on boats all the time.

3rd Speaker: I found it, but I couldn't find.. [GARBBLED, 49:02]

CRP: We don't need it, but ...

CO: [GARBBLED STATEMENT, 49:00-48:58]

CRP: No it doesn't. Annie Kate, it doesn't hurt, does it? I said, "Nothing up here hurts."

3rd: No, but she asked me for one, though.

CRP: Oh, well ok! They on the back porch just 'cause somebody gave them to me. (pause) I used to hate coasters. I can remember even when my family entertained. Sometimes ice in the glass would stick to them, you know and ugh! [UNCERTAIN OF ENTIRE STATEMENT, 48:52-48:30]

CO: The fork ones, yeah.

CRP: And it would drop.

CO: Right, right. And along with it, the water that had pooled. Now, your children and where they are and if you can remember their years of birth, you don't have to remember the dates.

CRP: Oh, yeah. Well, uh, my oldest child is Frances. She's named for a grandmother Reynolds. Frances Jackson, that was her grandmother's maiden name. Frances Jackson Reynolds, and she was born January 6, 1949.

CO: Ok.

CRP: My son, James Madison Reynolds, IV, was born January 10 two years later, '51.

CO: James Madison Reynolds...?

CRP: He'd be the 4th, his father was the 3rd.

CO: Ok...ok.

CRP: And Marguerite, that's the daughter who just came in, Marguerite Reynolds.

CO: Ok.

CRP: Marguerite Elizabeth Reynolds, she was named for two aunts and that was a dilemma, because most everybody called her "Sister." Be tactful. And she was born 22 months after Jamie was.

CO: So...

CRP: I think that was, uh...I just wrote it down, it's in that...

CO: October of '53?

CRP: It was, October.

CO: Ok. And then the last one?

CRP: Harold, H-A-R-O-L-D, Reid, R-E-I-D. He was named for my father and for my middle name and those people in my family.

CO: Ok.

CRP: Harold Reid Reynolds. And I'll have to look up when he was born, I think it was '55. He was born, he was further apart.

CO: Ok. Alright, and how many grandchildren and great-grandchildren?

CRP: Well, I'll have to count them off. I know I've got 8 great grandchildren. My grandchildren, uh, Frances has 3, do you want names or wait and add them up? Frances has 3, Jamie has 1, Harold has 2.

CO: Marguerite doesn't have any?

CRP: Nuh-uh.

CO: Ok. So that's 6 grandchildren.

CRP: Yeah. I think I got them all, 4, 5, 6, there's only 7. 3 are Frances's...no, it's just 6. I don't know who I thought was the other one. OK. My great grandchildren, you just have to add them up for me.

CO: Ok.

CRP: Uh...one of Frances's children has 4, another one has 2, and the other one has 2.

CO: That's 8.

CRP: Uh-huh.

CO: Does James Madison's have...?

CRP: He has only a son.

CO: And did he have children?

CRP: His son is not married.

CO: Oh, ok.

CRP: ... fairly young.

CO: And then...Harold?

CRP: Harold has 2 children, and they're young.

CO: And they don't have children?

CRP: Oh, no, they're younger, they are 12 and 10 or 13 or 11.

CO: Ok, so, you've got 8 grandchildren, 6 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

CRP: Yeah.

CO: Alright. Ok, this is ready. Alright. Now, I'll just start in a very traditional place to start for life reviews, and that is asking you what is the very first thing you can remember?

CRP: Well, I remember, I was very young. I was sitting in, what I guess was a stroller then, and it was canvas, and I remember the smell on the canvas. I've always had a good association with it. I camp, a lot, with canvas cots. I was very young, I have no idea how old I was.

CO: Hmm. The smell of canvas is the vivid memory.

CRP: Excellent.

CRP: And I like it.

CO: You like canvas?

CRP: I like the smell of it. It represents outdoors, camping, a lot of things.

CO: So you liked camping?

CRP: Well, not at that age, but all my life I've camped and been kind of a "Tomboy." I love the river.

CO: Ok. Can you describe yourself as a child?

CRP: Sure. Uh...I was interested in a lot of things, I had a lot of friends, I was, in many ways, indulged. I loved to play tennis, I loved to swim. I like games, we had a croquet set. My uncles were at one times coaches and then went into something else. In fact, one of them became very outstanding. At any rate, they built a tennis court, and then one of them was living in Lawrenceville, and he had a daughter my age, and he had a

tennis court. And my other uncle was a seeded player in Charlotte, I mean, I grew up playing tennis. And we didn't even have a swimming pool in Greensboro, and I swam in the Oconee River, camped, and then finally, during the CCC camp era, they built a lovely complex in Crawfordville, Georgia, where the Vice-President of the Confederacy's home was, Alexander Stephens. His house was beautiful, and it's Alexander Stephen's home. They didn't have a swimming pool, but they had a lake, had a diving board, and we went down there to swim. I taught myself to dive by going up one step at a time. We swam in ponds that were probably were not very good to swim in, but I learned to swim in the river.

CO: So then, did you, uh, did you find pools, like Olympic-sized pools, ever to swim in?

CRP: No. I went to camp, I started to go to Camp Michael, which is an Episcopal camp in Toccoa, Geogia, when I was probably about 11 or 12, and we swam in a lake up there.

CO: Didn't have a swimming pool?

CRP: Not then. They do later, but you know.

CO: Right.

CRP: This was 11 years after '23, the first camp.

CO: Right. That's '34.

CRP: Yeah.

CO: Ok.

CRP: And the only swimming pool I ever went in during that era, and I was older, was the one in Athens. It was the Legion Pool, it wasn't the university pool. The American Legion had a pool, and ohh, it smelled so strong of chlorine I couldn't stand it.

CO: So UGA didn't have a pool you could swim in?

CRP: Yeah, but I couldn't swim in it, that was for the students. I was...young.

CO: Oh.

CRP: They were very strict back then.

CO: Ok.

CRP: I thought you meant, growing up did I have access to a pool, no.

CO: No, ok. But you still loved to swim, and so you found a way to satisfy that?

CRP: Oh, yeah. I swam in Lake Oconee every day after it was dammed up. By myself, I had a dog that used to swim with me.

CO: Dog? Did you, have dogs been a big part of your life?

CRP: Not when I was young. I just had 1 dog. But my husband was a, loved to hunt, and he had all kinds of dogs. And my sons. But, this dog, it was company for me. I never gave [UNKNOWN WORD, 40:07], but I thought, "Boy, I can reach over and touch Rex if I do."

CO: His name's Rex? What was he?

CRP: Irish Setter.

CO: Hmm. So was he sort of a care-taker for you? No?

CRP: Nobody's ever been a care-taker for me. Been independent all my life.

CO: That's an omen of things to come, I'll bet. Will you describe your parents, your father and mother?

CRP: Well, my mother was not well, and my father worked very hard, because he always had a job with the Georgia Railroad which, he had a salary, and during the Depression it was very nice to have a salary, you know, it wasn't much. But he had an insurance agency too, he had enough ambition, he was "Metropolitan, Life, and Something Else," you know. And then when I went to college, he actually had 3 jobs. He was a fine accountant and was working for the railroad in Lithonia, if you don't know anything about the Georgia Railroad and Unions and what happened during the war, they called it a "Pull System," and if you had seniority, you could "pull" somebody who had a better job than you did. So, I stayed in Greensboro all the time because, and he would come home on the weekend. But, he lived all the way between Atlanta and Augusta, that was the Georgia Railroad, he lived in Lithonia, he lived in [UNCERTAIN OF WORD, 38:30], lived in Augusta. That was, I don't know whether they still do that or not, but he spent most of his years in Greensboro, in Madison. But, I mean, and then, as I was going to say, when I was in college, he was accountant for Davidson Quarry. You know, Stone Mountain, that type of...alright. They had a big quarry in Lithonia, and he was an accountant for them.

CO: And did he...um...

CRP: He kept working for the railroad.

CO: Ok. but you said, and the way you first characterized him, was you recalled he worked hard? Ok.

CRP: Yes.

CO: And your mother was ill, did you say?

CRP: Yes.

CO: What...

CRP: Well, she had a nervous stroke, and nervous problem. Ah, but my life was very secure because I had this wonderful grandmother, her mother. Not only that, but she had wonderful family. She had 2 brothers, 1 of them didn't have any children, and he and his wife were wonderful to me. They lived in Washington, D.C., and I used to go and see them because my father had railroad passes, he could order me anywhere in the United States. So he give, he would take me to Brookwood Station, which is just a little outside of Atlanta, and all the trains stopped there. So, he didn't put my through all that, he took me to Brookwood, and he would give the porter a dollar and say, "Look after my little girl." And I was 11, 12 years old, and they looked after you. You just didn't have to worry about things, I remember.

CO: You rode all the way to Washington, D.C.

CRP: Yeah.

CO: ...with the porter looking after you?

CRP: Well, I had a birth, and I ate in the dining room. I never had a second-class life. Maybe I didn't have much money, but I never had a second-class life. And my uncle was working for the Associated Press, and he did the "White House" part with Merriam Smith who was a famous White House correspondent. And, uh, he gave me a lot of polish. And then, after that, he was moved as "Juror in Chief of the North and South Carolina Associated Press: [UNCERTAIN OF TITLE, 36:10-36:07]", which was a nice position. And, uh, he was stationed in Charlotte, North Carolina. His office was at the *Charlotte Observer*, and when I started going up there, they were members of the Myers Park Country Club, and they lived in the Myers Park District. That's when I started going to the swimming pool.

CO: Hmm. At like 11 or 12?

CRP: No, I was older than that. By the time that came around, I think I was 15.

CO: Hmm. How did it feel to be in a swimming pool?

CRP: Well, I had been in that one in Athens, it wasn't my first. I had been in one in Madison, they got a small one up there. I was...I adjusted.

CO: I'm sure.

CRP: I acted like, psst. And then my other uncle, my mother's other brother, was the, and he and his wife were both just like the others, sweet as they could be. And they had a daughter, only one daughter, 9 months older than I was, and I stayed with them 2 weeks, and she stayed with us 2 weeks, and everybody wanted the first two weeks, so we said we got kind of tired of each other the second two weeks.

CO: Ok. Um...

CRP: But while I was at Georgia, that aunt-in-law who treated me like I was her own, came over every Thursday to take us out to lunch. And my cousin wouldn't go half the time because she had more ambition than I did. She graduated Valedictorian at the University of Georgia, and my aunt would say, although it wasn't her own, "Caroline is more like I am," she went to Bryn Mawr "than you are, Margaret. You ought to get out of that library!" But boy, her daddy was so proud of her.

CO: What did she do, did she use her...?

CRP: I didn't think she did, but I guess she did. She married during the war. In fact, when she graduated, she was Mrs. Holt, and, uh, she taught Spanish over at Georgia for a while, while W.G. came back and finished school. And then she went to Lawrenceville...and...taught a little while. And she had a job with various projects and everything up there. And my uncle had "Monfort Drug Store" right across from the court house downtown. Last time I been up there, 'course it's been sold several times, but still will say "Monfort Drugs." She would go up there and help him sometimes, and some man was sitting there at the counter, and they served simple lunch, he said, "What are you doing with that Phi Beta Kappa...? You're not supposed to wear that key." She just gave him a look and when on. But they named an Elementary School for her after she died, I went up for that.

CO: Now, he was, he said that for her because she was a woman and he thought she didn't deserve a Phi Beta Kappa key?

CRP: He thought anybody working behind a counter at a lunch room at ????. Drug Store hardly probably even went to college, much less was Phi Beta Kappa.

CO: So she didn't react to it, she just gave him a look?

CRP: Oh, I'm sure she didn't die. She probably gave him one of those withering looks her mother could give.

CO: Ok. So, do you want to say anything else (doorbell rings) about your mother to describe her?

CRP: Well, uh...

CO: Where did she go to school? Did you say?

CRP: ...the Normal School at University of Georgia.

CO: Ok.

CRP: That's where she got her degree. It was 2- and 4-year school. When she first came out, she taught, and then she got married, and then she didn't teach.

CO: Could you say what influence each of them had on you? Your parents, each parent had on you in shaping you.

CRP: I say my grandmother did.

CO: Your grandmother? How, in what way?

CRP: Her wonderful character, her...wonderful everything. To me, she was just... And she adored me. I'll say one thing, my daddy never thought I did anything wrong. He spent the last 6 years up here with me and my children and my husband who loved him, and he never thought they did anything wrong. He was just... And you know, you lived up to his expectations.

(person talking in background, not understood, possible "3rd Person")

CRP: I don't know what she's talking about. But, I had a happy childhood. I could have been upset but I wasn't.

CO: So your mother's nervousness didn't bother you, didn't rub off on you?

CRP: No, that's what I'm saying.

CO: Yeah. where do you think that independence streak came from? Just the fact that you were so nurtured by your father and your grandmother?

CRP: Well, I don't know, but I know a lot of people in my father's family were very independent. Now, my grandmother, the one that I say raised me, she was independent. She was left as a widow with 5 children when she was young.

(phone rings)

CRP: Oh, that's my...you know, I don't answer my...is that yours? I don't ever answer mine. I tell people I don't want to call, I don't want to listen to them. Maybe it'll quit before I get to it. **(answers phone: Hello? Hello?)** I don't give that number to many people. Well, going back, I was blessed, I've got a picture of her when she was much older, I was blessed with my family, they were so good to me, and they were good people.

CO: So both sets of grandparents...

CRP: No, not both sets. My father's father was dead, I never knew him. But his mother was was an aristocrat. Her father was a doctor and, uh, lived in Reid County. He had a practice at Parks's Mill and in Madison, he used to catch the train at Madison, I never saw him. And, uh, I ate Sunday Dinner with her. That was my routine. My first cousins, I only had 3, that one on my mother's side and two on my father's side, they always ate with her too, so we were very close. Oh! She was a wonderful cook. Now, my grandmother always had help in the kitchen, but she supervised some things. I remember she made bread for a week every Saturday, she would make a loaf for every day. And we had the most wonderful...breakfasts on Sunday because she wouldn't make her maid come back and interfere with her maid's church. So, we would have fried chicken and biscuit and gravy and apple pie...uh! I don't know, I guess when you're young, food tastes good. And it was all cooked for breakfast on a wood stove in the kitchen. I wrote a little piece about my grandmother's kitchen one time, because my aunt, she never married, that one. After my grandmother had passed on, she restored the kitchen just like it was when she was a girl, you know, and she used to entertain her friends back there, it was just a lot of fun. She never was a cook, my grandmother was, but still.

CO: This was your daddy's mother?

CRP: No, I'm still talking... I'm doing all my talking about my grandmother Monfort.

CO: Ok.

CRP: Carrie Reid Monfort. My name's Carolyn Reid, for her. My other was Julia Bathey Baugh [UNSURE ABOUT SPELLING OF MIDDLE NAME, 28:19].

CO: Ok, alright.

CRP: And she was...very reserved lady. My grandmother was very social. She was president of the UDC, she did all kinds of things, she was a Baptist. She did all kind of things at the church.

CO: Now, where does all of your Civil War Memorabilia, who collected that?

CRP: Well, my, my late husband was a real Civil War buff, and we traveled all over Virginia and everywhere else too. Battlefields. But my grandmother was president of the UDC...I mean, I was brought up with the Civil War like I thought it happened yesterday. My grandmother's a true daughter, that was her father, Elijah Calloway Reid [UNCERTAIN OF SPELLING, 27:29], who was a soldier in the Civil War, walked back from Virginia, and she said his health never was very good. Sally, his wife [UNCERTAIN OF WORD, 27:15]. My grandmother had a sister, Katherine, who died with Tuberculosis, which happened back then, and she had two brothers, Felix and Thomas Reid.

CO: Where did your 3 huge almost life-sized pictures of Lee and Jefferson Davis and Stonewall Jackson right there...

CRP: Oh, I'm related to Forrest, you know, his grandmother was a Baugh, they say. I've read 2 books by Forrest, 1 [UNCERTAIN OF SPEAKER'S STATEMENT, 26:42-26:37], but anyway, he was from Tennessee and he one of the great, uh, cavalymen, right up there with Stuart. Uh, my husband, Stanley, was related to Stonewall Jackson. And I have, uh, Robert E. Lee is in my family, not direct, but a brother's side, somebody looked it up for me. My husband bought those pictures because he admired them so. He didn't even know that I was related to Forrest.

CO: As in Nathan Bedford?

CRP: Yes. Oh, he's well known that. They've got an equestrian statue of him at Memphis that is something. And there is Forrest Avenue in Atlanta, of course, they are trying to change all those things.

CO: Yeah, yeah. . Has someone done a genealogy, I'm sure they have, of your...

CRP: Not everything, not everything. I have some genealogy that...well, "Sister" has done some, but I have some other people in my family who have done some very nice things.

CO: "Sister", as in Marguerite?

CRP: Marguerite Elizabeth, named for 2 aunts on 2 different sides. She's really, her first name is Marguerite, and that's really her name, but I have a good friend who was a character and she loved my aunt Elizabeth, she always called her Elizabeth.

CO: Called your daughter Elizabeth?

CRP: Ha ha, she was taking sides.

CO: But the family called her "Sister," so...

CRP: Yeah, because her brothers called her "Sister."

CO: I'll get to that in a minute. Ah...and you did, you said your extended family was close, you had 3 cousins, did you say? Did ya'll get together?

CRP: I said every Sunday, and they were older than I was. 1 of them was 4 years older and the other was 6. And they lived down here in that little white brick, it's a pretty little white brick house on the corner, and my aunt, **Jessie Lee**, who was named for Jefferson and Lee. My aunt, who was my father's only sister, and she was married to a pharmacist, **Fred Hunter, Sr.** And she was educated at a finishing school, took art, did those things. And he died with that Pneumonia epidemic when his son was in the 4th grade. And his daughter was 6. And she had never worked. She took over his drug store, **Hunter's** Drug Store, still got the sign on it, still in the ground, and my father helped her with her books. I mean, he did a lot of extra things, and she had a brother who was a pharmacist, and he let her use his, uh, license, and he went over and helped her all he could, but he owned a drug store too, across the street.

CO: So she filled prescription? Was she able to do that?

CRP: Able to do what?

CO: Able to fill prescription?

CRP: Oh, no. She did not. She hired. No, she would have gone to, gosh knows how many, take chemistry and everything in the world. No, she couldn't leave her children. She stayed with them. They had a nice enough house, but after she took over and made her own money, she built that white brick house. Her daughter went to

Wesleyan, and had 2 degrees, 1 in chemistry and 1 in music. It took her 5 years. And Fred went to the University of Georgia, and he became a pharmacist. About that time, World War 2, he had to serve in the army for 4 years before he could come back. And she worked until, just about the day she died. They tried to get her out, but, she wanted to keep her eye on everything. And she wore high-heels every day. Just tiny. She was shorter than I am and thin. And she used to have a big car, and she looked under the steering wheel, you know.

CO: That's why she wanted high-heels.

CRP: Ha ha, well, she just thought that's what a lady ought to do. She wore beautiful dark, navy blue and black suits.

CO: How long did she live? She's still living?

CRP: No. Think of my age. She's a generation ahead of me.

CO: Hmm. I'm just wondering what effect those high-heels, all those years, had on her.

CRP: No, I don't think she had any idea. She was tough. I mean, to be able to ...

CO: Right, right. At that time, to take over and...

CRP: She used to be so hard up, and my daddy didn't have any money to give her, but she would just agonize over who to pay, when to pay, you know, I mean. Lotta people didn't pay her.

CO: Yeah, yeah.

CRP: But she made a big success out of it, and now her grandson is about to retire from up there.

CO: . So it's been in the family all that time?

CRP: Uh-huh.

CO: Hmm. one thing I'm interested in is mother/daughter relationships. That's what I was doing before I started this project...

CRP: Well, I'm not going to talk about my mother.

CO: You're not going to talk any more about your mother?

CRP: Nuh-huh.

CO: Ok.

CRP: Except to just say she was beautiful, and I was told all my life I would never be as sweet or as pretty. And I said, "Well, I can't do anything about being pretty, and I'm not trying to be sweet." That settled that. That was lovely, wasn't it? People told me that constantly.

CO: Yeah, yeah.

CRP: Oh, she's just supposed to be a saint.

CO: But, well, can you talk about her relationship with her mother? Did they get along?

CRP: Yeah.

CO: Yeah? Ok...

CRP: So far as I know. I didn't know her as a child, I don't know what all... She had one sister and two brothers, but I do know that her brother's petted her. And it was kind of bad, I thought, my Aunt Elizabeth was...I don't know. They didn't seem to love her and respect her as much, and she's the one who stayed home and looked after her mother.

CO: Your mother? Or your Aunt Elizabeth?

CRP: My Aunt Elizabeth looked after my grandmother. My mother looked after herself. She didn't look after anybody else. What I'm saying is, they...they gave their love to my mother instead of their sister who was doing so much.

CO: Hmm. Ok.

CRP: I named, uh, my daughter, Marguerite Elizabeth, for her.

CO: Yeah.

CRP: And then Frances named her daughter Elizabeth. I mean, she taught school all those years. She had a great influence on a lot of children. I came from a family that were educators, they had land way back. I'm directly, I'm a direct descent of Jeremiah Sanford that Chancellor Sanford, University of Georgia is named for. I'm talking about Sanford Stadium I'm a direct descent of Jeremiah Sanford.

CO: Hmm.

CRP: On his obelisk, in the cemetery, it says, "A friend of Washington," cause he fought in the Revolution. And...it's not unusual to live in Greene County and be descended, directly descended, from a Revolutionary soldier, because the Indians were coming across the river and raiding and killing people. Greensboro was burned twice, early, so they wanted a strong militia to protect the citizens and they gave every Revolutionary soldier who would come down here and participate in the militia...I think it was 200 acres of land plus, a widow could get a certain amount and then people who could afford it could buy that land from them. So, there is an early community in Greene County that is named "Liberty." It's named for the Liberty Boys, and all that, I had Monforts who lived there, they're buried at that cemetery. And my daughter married a "Strickland," the Stricklands, Gentrys, they are families that go back to the Revolution, and still living down there in Liberty community, a lovely old church, the first church, it was Methodist. The first church was under [UNCERTAIN OF STATEMENT, 17:57], so that is the cradle of Methodism and those Revolutionary soldiers, so you're not bragging, you're not bragging, not saying anything unusual to say, "I'm descended from Revolutionary soldiers." Oh, oh old families were. That's how they got the land. My people live in Virginia. In fact, I had some at Jamestown. They had grown tobacco, and that land wasn't any good. And they would keep looking for land.

CO: Was your family Episcopalian?

CRP: No, my father was.

CO: Your father was. So you're a "Cradle Episcopalian?"

CRP: No, I don't call myself a "Cradle," because my grandmother took me to Baptist church. By the time I started going to Camp Michael, you know, I had my own interest. And when I was in college, you know. I tell you what really set me into it. They didn't want me to go to Georgia, I was so young, and they said, "If you go to Tift College 1 year girls school, you can go to Georgia." Well, Tift College was Baptist. You had to go to church about 4 times a day, and I wasn't brought up...being so strict. I mean, my grandmother played cards, I went to dances, we just, you know, had a glass of wine. We just weren't that kind of people.

CO: Ok. Um...what is the most significant thing that happened to you up to the age of 12? Do you know something that happened as a child that was...?

CRP: Well I don't remember a specific thing. (pause) I caught, I had a, although I'm healthy, I had a next door neighbor who was 5 years older than I was, and she just adored holding a baby. So, as a very young child, I was 6 weeks old I had Whooping Cough, I had...Measles, I had, I remember when I used to have Scarlet Fever, and I asked the doctor was I going to die, and they gave me a shot in the stomach. I remember having all those illnesses, but it didn't bleed over into my life. But, I do remember that.

CO: It sounds like you didn't really have any struggles as a child. You were pretty indulged and...

CRP: Yes I was, very. For instance, this aunt who didn't have any children who was in her 90s when she died and had this gorgeous home on Jupiter Island down at Palm Beach, uh, used to buy me the most beautiful evening dress. Oh, I mean, she sent me these gorgeous evening dresses. I remember she bought me a white, uh, long, it was wool, coat, military-style, because I used to go to Annapolis to dances, I did the East Coast, I loved them, Citadel, all the way up.

CO: Now, ok, how did you get to the Citadel and Annapolis?

CRP: Well, I had a pass on the train. I could not have afforded it.

CO: You just showed up there for a dance?

CRP: Oh, no. I had a ball date. He invited me up for the "Ring Dance," for June Week...

CO: When you were in college?

CRP: Yeah. I was in college. Oh yeah.

CO: That sounds like fun.

CRP: It was fun. But, uh, I was saying, I couldn't have done those things without a pass, and I had friends, my family had friends in Washington, D.C., and they would meet me there and I would get on a bus on the "Toonerville Trolleys" as they called it and go up to Annapolis. I love that chapel up there. It was Episcopal too, the chapel.

CO: Hmm, right.

CRP: I know that one of my mother's friend's husband took the day off from work to take me a whole day tour of the National Cathedral when it first opened.

CO: That must have been...

CRP: No, wait, he took me to the National Gallery, and then I was taken to the National Cathedral before it was finished, for we went in the basement. I've been going to the National Cathedral for years. Went the last time I was in Washington.

CO: Yeah. It was damaged in the, uh...

CRP: Earthquake.

CO: Yeah.

CRP: Oh yeah. I get the *Cathedral Age*, the magazine, and I am an active member. I don't give them what I did at one time, but, you know, I've always contributed to it. It's always been a big thing in my life. But, oh, the National Gallery. I loved art and I've been fortunate to go all over Europe...

CO: Have you ever painted yourself?

CRP: No.

CO: No.

CRP: I have one picture my mother painted that I still have. She painted when she was about 15.

CO: Did you, you talked about childhood and you talked about being a teenager, do you remember what it was like to transition from childhood to adolescence?

CRP: No, I just went right straight through. I was dating when I was 13 and 14, going to the University of Georgia. I was in Duluth at the Military Ball when I was 15.

CO: So, 13 and 14, your parents allowed you to date?

CRP: My grandmother, my daddy was off working. Yeah, I dated this boy who was 4 years older than I was who was, he wasn't killed at Bataan and Corregidor, he was taken into a prison camp.

CO: Oooh.

CRP: But anyway...

CO: Did he come back?

CRP: Oh, he's the one that died.

CO: Oh.

CRP: Not many people came back from Bataan and Corregidor.

CO: I know, yeah.

CRP: Uh, my family trusted him with good reason. And his sisters and I are still close friends. Uh, he graduated from Georgia the same June I graduated from Greensboro High School.

CO: , hmm.

CRP: But, he had me over there to the Military Ball, a big deal, and she was so glad for me to go 'cause I had this darling teacher who was teaching Elizabeth, I think, Ted Acree whose father was a minister, Methodist minister in Athens. And Ted would take me home with her on the weekend. And she was dating a boy in ...Law school while I was dating Jack. Jack told me one time, he said, "Carolyn, don't you dare tell any of my friends how old you are." I was 15, ha ha.

CO: But you looked older? Did you look older than 15?

CRP: Well, I can't say, I mean, how can I say how old I looked?

CO: Well, because, people told you you looked older than you were.

CRP: I never had anybody even comment on it.

CO: Hmm.

CRP: I knew how to behave, and I probably had more poise than a lot of girls, because the influence of my uncle and aunt in Washington, Charlotte.

CO: Yeah. Um...so, did becoming a teenager change anything about your relationship with your mother? Did you have, what we call...

CRP: Well, my mother wasn't even living at home at that time. It didn't change my relationship with anybody. I didn't have any big issues at all, I started menstruating when I was 12, I just grew up real fast.

CO: So your mother wasn't living at home?

CRP: No, not then.

CO: Ok. you didn't have any brothers. Do you recall, did your family have a strong religious beliefs or...?

CRP: Yes. My father's family didn't have that strong...but I mean, I know we had an uncle who was a dentist, very successful. He was sort of an atheist. I would say they were agnostic, a little less. Now, not my grandmother. She was a staunch Methodist. And my aunt. But they were not...well, I had a little family history, the Bethea family in South Carolina, and they, the Betheas left their religion up to their wives.

CO: Well...in the South, that wasn't quite as common as it was outside the South. But, um...Episcopalians are slightly different in every regard. So, do you remember reaching a point where you questioned your family's values or your family's beliefs?

CRP: No.

CO: No.

CRP: No, I didn't. I accepted. I mean, I just knew they were different, and that was fine, suited me. Now, not everybody in my father's family, my Aunt Jessie Lee, was just as big Methodist. That's why Marguerite went to Wesleyan. I mean, you know, they had all of that. But my father's brother was not really religious.

CO: When you said "they were agnostic," who were you talking about?

CRP: My great uncles, 2 of them, who were Betheas.

CO: Ok. Did you ever...

CRP: There were highly educated, and they asked questions about everything.

CO: Yeah. But you don't recall having, asking those questions yourself at any point?

CRP: No.

CO: No, ok. When you were growing up, did you have, did you think about what you wanted to do when you got grown, or did you just simply...?

CRP: I knew I was going to get educated. Everybody in my family put a high...priority on education, and I knew I'd let them down if I did not have a college education. So I knew I was going to be educated. And, uh...some of them were quite intellectual, and we had good discussions all my life. This was before television, I mean, you know.

CO: So, it sounds like the family was conscious of the world outside of the household.

CRP: Absolutely. Oh! They had some real debates on politics. My grandmother, most people were Democrats, you know. My grandmother wouldn't vote for Al Smith because she said, "He's a wet." She didn't want somebody who was going to push the end of Prohibition or anything like that. She was also a member of the WCTU. But she was the only one that felt particularly one way or the other.

CO: Hmm, alright. But did you have, you didn't have particular ambitions, like you wanted to...whatever--- be, --- there wasn't a whole lot of options open...

CRP: Well, I would have liked to have gone into drama, but I mean, that was just...the war came around, everything happened. And that was one reason I joined the Red Cross, they wanted me to be in ... to get up [UNCERTAIN OF STATEMENT, 6:42], I was approached by Calloway Mills in LaGrange before I finished, asked me if I would come over there and help them with plays and do all that. I said, "I'm getting my degree, I'm not about to leave Georgia." I had planned to go to Northwestern University and do graduate work, but, as I said, the war came along and I started...I only took...two summers of my Masters in Shakespeare.

CO: Now, if you'd gone to Northwestern and gotten your Graduate degree, you would have gotten it in English, is that...?

CRP: In Drama. In Speech, they had a wonderful department.

CO: Did you want to act or did you want to teach?

CRP: Oh, I wanted to act. Ha ha, I mean, that was...my daddy said one time, "If you don't stop reading Edna St. Vincent Millay you gonna be in Greenwich Village."

CO: Did you ever want to be in Greenwich Village?

CRP: Well, I wanted the freedom. I wanted to meet people who had different views and ... but I'm telling you, the war changed everything. I'm telling you that just...

CO: Now, I want you to tell me that, that's what I want to...I want to hear how it changed things for you. But you definitely sound like a woman of the '20s, that independent spirit, and you sound like you came of age early.

CRP: I did. Well, I would just say physically, for instance. I came of age early.

CO: Yeah. But even in the, you sound like even the 30s, you lived the spirit of the 20s even into the 30s, it sounds like. That spirit.

CRP: It don't really know where exactly that begins, but it was interested in politics, and my Aunt Elizabeth, oh my goodness, she would cut out all the members of Roosevelt's cabinets, you know, and Dorothy, not Dorothy, anyway, Mrs. Perkins had a cabinet post, you know, I heard about what women did all time and...we were very knowledgeable about politics.

CO: So, this was the grandmother?

CRP: No, my aunt. My maiden aunt, Elizabeth . . .

CO: Elizabeth was interested in Roosevelt's, the women who surrounded him. What about Eleanor Roosevelt? Did she talk about her?

CRP: Yeah.

CO: What did she say, do you remember?

CRP: Well, they didn't agree completely with Eleanor because of her view of the South, but they respected her.

CO: Ok. And what did they think about FDR?

CRP: He was a God to my grandmother, and people down here. And then, I went home with one of my school friends and she apologized, he spit the whole Sunday Dinner, cussing FDR. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a socialist, terrible person, and some of the things were true, but I never heard them. All my grandmother said was that he saved the South, he brought . . . , we already had electric lights in Greensboro...but well, I know she borrowed money to put a new roof on her house and all that kind of thing. I mean, things were tight.

CO: Yeah, yeah. So she saw him, she saw what he did...with the New Deal as a good thing? Ok, did they have a similar sort of regard for his....orchestration of the war? Was he...?

CRP: Well, actually...I don't think my family thought anything except what everybody in my family fought in every war, and they just thought, "This is your country. Do your duty." I had an uncle, great uncle, my grandmother's brother, who was wounded on San Juan Hill and he had the bullet still up under his skin for crying out loud. I mean, and then, before that, the Civil War, they thought, World War 1, they thought if the

bugle blew, you were supposed to go. You, this is your country, going back to the Revolution, you fight for it, and you believe in the people. I mean, that was just...Now, my uncle who was in North Carolina, the newspaper man, he voted for Willkie. I mean, he, he was turned off by Roosevelt fairly early, particularly that Supreme Court thing and all, so I heard all that. But, my grandmother, I guess there's an expression, never use it, the term with her but: "Yellow-dog Democrat" down here, they, this section were Democrats.

CO: Yeah, ok. I'm almost finished with this section on your family. Of course, we'll come back, but...have you, do you still have friends that you had as a child?

CRP: The ones that are living. Ha ha, yeah.

CO: So you sustained those friendships throughout your life?

CRP: Oh yeah. And my children, and one of them, my friend that was like a sister to me, lived across the street, her daughter just died last year, she was 68. It really affected me terribly, because, uh, her mother died several years ago, and Marilyn always kept coming to see me and would come take me out to lunch. She lives in Covington...and, uh, her father, I mean, her...her husband was a Delta pilot, and he is so nice, and on her mother's, the nearest Sunday to her mother's anniversary of her death, she would always ask me to go to church with her, 'cause her mother went to Methodist Church, and I would go, and then she would meet some friends from Eatonton and we would always eat at Great ?????? which was halfway between, and for every occasion that I had her I asked Marilyn, like when Laura Bush visited me, you know, something really nice, she never failed to come. She was just like a member of my family, and oh I miss her so.

CO: This was the daughter of ...

CRP: Uh-hmm. I said, "That's really sad when you lose a daughter." I have a friend who lives across the street here in the red brick house..."

---End of Conversation with Carolyn Reynolds Parker, part 1---

---Interview and Transcription resume, part 2---

CRP: (resumes mid-sentence) gates, whose family was like a second family to me, and she was the youngest child, and I used to...her mother was very sick for a long time and I used to stay up there and look after her even when I was teaching school, you know, she was younger. And she's had a stroke, my goodness it's so sad, she's just

right across the street. I love her. And we had...all those memories of going to Camp Michael together, her mother had such a big influence on my life. Oh, she was so artistic and so lovely. And we'd tackle anything. When her husband went off one time, uh, if you told her not to do something, that was just like waving a red flag. Her name was Mrs. Robinson...and she wanted to do over her Grand piano, and her husband said, "Don't you touch that piano." She said, "We've got to finish it before Claude gets back." Honey, she took the top off, we went "ahhh." We worked on that, she taught me how to do over furniture, she taught me how to sew, and she painted. I just loved her, oh.

CO: You think that's where you got interest in art?

CRP: Not necessarily just from her, I had a lot of good influences on that. But, she was one of the most influential people. She was my mother's good friend, and Heath was my uncle's good friend, and his brother, this is a side-bar, his brother was Louie Robinson, his wife was Sarah Newsome, and it was family connection with Sarah Newsome, and Louie Robinson became so famous in California, we have such a connection with California because it was such a Depression here and Colonel Boswell and his brother had graduated from West Point, served in World War 1, and they were cotton farmers. And when cotton, boll weevil and everything went here, they pioneered in growing cotton in Arizona, irrigating, and California. The Boswell Company was one of the biggest companies in California. One of them's nephew who ended up head of the company was Jimmy Boswell, and I have the book they wrote about him, the *New York Times* reporter, and it was the *King of California*.

CO: Because of the irrigation, that was the salvation...?

CRP: ... for California and Phoenix. And they had it this high, oh, that cotton was so beautiful. And they would have us out there, and I'd take my children even, and they had this beautiful, beautiful home. They had two. Cochran was the head of Boswell Company, they had one out on Pebble Beach, and he had a Japanese garden and everything was just gorgeous. My children were exposed to a lot of nice things going out there.

CO: Are there artists or writers or ... musicians in the family?

CRP: Well, no. I'd say off hand, no. They dabbled in it, but no.

CO: Have there been, I'm sure you, as educated as the family is, you've done a lot of reading, is there a book or a series of books that have had a big influence on your life? A genre, even?

CRP: Well...this is very common. I was 13, I think, when *Gone With the Wind* came out, and I read every word of it, and I could just see my grandmother's life and things she'd told me in it.

CO: How many times did you read *Gone With the Wind*?

CRP: Three times. And I couldn't stand Melanie until I was older.

CO: I had a friend who read it 11 times. Do you think that that novel ...

CRP: ...reinforced my, all that I had been told about the Civil War by my Grandmother.

CO: Ok. So your family was definitely a "Lost Cause" ...

CRP: We still, my great-grandchildren and my daughter, we still go over to "Confederate Memorial Day" at our Cemetery, that we have every April the 26. We got all of them.

CO: That's coming up.

CRP: That's right.

CO: Ha ha. So what do you do? What's that like?

CRP: Well, the Sons of the Confederacy are in charge of it, and the Daughters do something. And, uh, they have a very nice program. We all answer the roll with our Confederate ancestor and say the unit. We don't tell all they did, we just answer the roll.

CO: Besides William Monfort, how many of them, how many names are called?

CRP: Ah, everybody's over there is descended from at least one. It's a big crowd over there. Is that what you're talking about?

CO: No, for your family, how many names are called?

CRP: Oh, my family. I don't think they answer but to two, one on each side, but it's written on the back of my....certificate for the Daughters of the Confederacy, there were seven brothers who went in the Reid family and the youngest was the drummer boy.

CRP: So they were my great great uncles. They were very...a lot of them buried in Crawfordville, some of the Reids were from Crawfordville and friends of Alexander Stephens.

CO: Has anybody written the history of the family?

CRP: Well, I wouldn't say straight history, but we have...150, or 200, I don't know which it is, letters from the Sanford family and the Monfort family. And they tell you a lot.

CO: . Where are they?

CRP: Well, Charlotte Marshal has them but she gave us, you know, copies...and I have them.

CO: Does she have them preserved in some way?

CRP: I'm sure she does. I mean, she is really something.

CO: Is she providing that they will be given to....?

CRP: Well, she is active in the University of Georgia Rare Books, everything. She has written several books, I just, the last thing she wrote, you wouldn't call it writing a book, it was doing research on the Oconee Cemetery, that she'd done. Well, this one was this thick. I called George, her husband, sometime and he said, "Carolyn, I'll give you her cell phone. Every pretty day she's in the cemetery writing things down." But she wrote, uh..., oh, I guess she'd say something to go along with old houses in Athens, you know. She researched them and right now she's with two people I know and some I don't, and they are doing a rather large book on old houses of Athens that are no longer standing and the ones that have been moved. She's always doing something.

CO: Did you say she works with the Archives or at Hargrett at UGA?

CRP: No, she's just a volunteer. She works.

CO: Oh, ok. But she knows about keeping the letters preserved?

CRP: Oh, yes. And Rare Books has really done a little job on us, and my daughter decided we should give them, although they are not mine, and I agreed with her completely. They have their great grandfather's letters kept in R. B. Smith, who served in the Confederate Navy and Army.

CO: And you've got his letter?

CRP: I don't, my daughter Marguerite had, and she made copies for everybody in the family, and we gave them to the Rare Books.

CO: Oh, good. They can take care of them. You know, they ...

CRP: Oh, I know. I've been on the white glove, they've had me over there over and over again to do the white gloves to look through things. In fact, those people are good friends of mine. She invites me, I'm just not well enough to go, and she keeps saying, "Can't ya?" I say, "Nope, I cannot come." I did go back, before I felt bad like this, to the big, they re-did the Fine Arts building, at the University, and of course my degree was in drama with the Fine Arts, and the famous artist Lamar Dodd was my head, he was head of the whole department. So I was invited over there and I was the oldest person in the whole thing. I graduated in '43, and oh! It is so gorgeous. I really enjoyed that day.

CO: Can you say the...like, when you entered UGA it was '39? When you entered UGA?

CRP: No, I didn't graduate from high school till '41, and I finished school in 3 years, I graduated in 1943 and I didn't go there, you know. I got through school like that. I was 16 when I graduated from high school and I graduated from Georgia when I was 19 years old.

CO: Ok, in '43? And then, you did some graduate work at UGA?

CRP: Yes, yeah.

CO: Ok, alright. I'm just trying to get the dates down.

CRP: I understand. And then I came back and taught school because I had to be 21 before the Red Cross would take me.

CO: Hmm. Will you say something about that work with the Red Cross?

CRP: Well, I didn't get to work long, but I loved it, I absolutely loved it.

CO: That was in, during the war?

CRP: Uh-huh.

CO: Ok.

CRP: I was there when the war was over.

CO: Ok, alright. And then you married...?

CRP: In September. The war was over sometime in August as I recall.

CO: Yeah. Alright. You don't want to talk about your mother, so can you talk about marriage and children and motherhood?

CRP: Yes. Jamie, my husband, was such a Georgia Tech person, and they say, "Well, you really love Carolyn," 'cause we married at the chapel at Georgia, we were the first couple to marry there, and I had to go to the Chancellor and get permission.

CO: You were the first couple to marry at the chapel at UGA?

CRP: Absolutely. Nobody had ever married there so I set the precedent. And Lee's granddaughter married there, and I said, "Oh, this is so special to me to you marrying over here."

CO: That is a claim to be the first couple married there.

CRP: Oh yeah.

CO: Been many since then.

CRP: Well, I graduated from there because I graduated in August and we had a small class, and we graduated from the chapel. And I went there every Thursday night, Hugh Hodson had Music Appreciation, and I never missed one. Oh, he was so wonderful.

CO: Do you have a wedding picture that I can scan?

CRP: Oh sure. You walk through the house, you can see everything.

CO: Yeah, well, I've been through it, but I didn't always know who was who. So, when you were growing up, did you have an image of what, well, if you read *Gone With the Wind* at 13, that certainly has some romantic images in it.

CRP: And not only that, but, I didn't go to the actual premier, but I went to the premier week. My uncle, we had newspaper association, had tickets for us.

CO: Of the film or the play?

CRP: The film in Atlanta at Lowes and I still the programs from it.

CO: Oh my goodness, .

CRP: Yeah, I'm a packrat.

CO: Where are they?

CRP: They back here in my room with some *Gone With the Wind* things.

CO: Oh you've got a *Gone With the Wind* room?

CRP: No, just have some things in there.

CO: Ok, well I would love to see those.

CRP: You sure can. Lot of people want my program.

CO: Oh, well, I'm sure. You better guard those. So, you had, but did that, do you think, that the novel and the film...

CRP: It affected me.

CO: ...shaped your image of what romance ought to be? I mean, were you in love with Clark Gable as a Rhett? No? Please don't tell me you liked Ashley?

CRP: I couldn't stand him. He was just like Melanie, they were just blah. No, I liked Scarlett, that's who I liked. That was, she was my...

CO: She was your idol?

CRP: Absolutely. And when she said, "I'll never be hungry again," Oh boy! I like a woman who can take on the world.

CO: Spirited...and independent. Which is really not something that you could do if you didn't have, uh...you know, a whole lot of confidence instilled in you in some way or another, but you got that, and so you were able to ...

CRP: I just thought Melanie was a "milquetoast," after I got older I realized she had some good qualities, but I never saw one in Ashley.

CO: Ok, so, did, can you describe your first love?

CRP: My first love?

CO: Yes!

CRP: I told you, I went with a lot of boys. And I liked Jack...

CO: But you weren't in love with all of them!

CRP: I was pretty much in love with ????? Callaway who lived down the street from me, and his brother used to say, "Ya'll ought to get married." I said, "We're too young to get married, I'm not about to marry, I'm not in love with anybody enough to marry them."

CO: And how old were you?

CRP: (pause) 14.

CO: Oh, that is pretty young.

CRP: He went, he was two years older and he was at P.C. [Presbyterian College] till I graduated from high school when I was 16 and he was two years older. I went to P.C. to the dances.

CO: Where?

CRP: Presbyterian College, Clinton, South Carolina.

CO: Oh, ok. Alright.

CRP: That was very Presbyterian school, and he played football up there.

CO: So, do you, are you teasing about that or do you think you were really smitten by him, or was ...

CRP: Puppy-love, 14! Oh, he could dance, I liked that. He could really dance, and I loved his mother, she loved me. And, she, I was young, she was the first place I ever went to dinner that they had finger bowls.

CO: Did you know what to do with them?

CRP: Uh-huh.

CO: Yeah, ok. So, alright, you call him your first love. Tell me about that whole experience of um...so you had lots of boyfriends. Most of the women of your generation did.

CRP: Yes, because you could not go steady.

CO: Right, yeah. Was there somebody before you met your husband or before you became...engaged?

CRP: No.

CO: ...who you were really, you would have considered marrying if, you know, things had gone...?

CRP: Well, you know, I could have considered marrying Taylor, I could have, his name was Francis, I could have considered marrying Jack Taylor, both of them. And I guess I could have considered ... Griffin Moody, he was the one who went to Annapolis, but he just wasn't... he wasn't virile enough for me. He went into the Marines and he was highly decorated in Korea, and I was up there for "June Week" when they did the D-Day Invasion, and those boys were sick that they missed it. I mean, you talk about... I don't know, what you call it, they got them on that route...

CO: So you like the "He-Man?"

CRP: Yeah. They gotta be strong. Uh, but he was at Quantico, part of the time I was at Washington, and Carolyn Bishoff and I who used to double-date at Annapolis, we'd go down to Quantico to see him. His best friend was General Peck, who was second-in-command Marine Corps' son, and they used to get us in all the Navy clubs in Washington and they'd call up and said, "Uh, would you have General Peck's table for us?" And Honey, his son would walk in, you know, these young Marines who were at Quantico. I was spoiled by meeting so many lovely, lovely people.

CO: Well ... spoiled? Ok, so when you, were you ready to settle down when you married? If you had all that attention and all that...

CRP: Yeah.

CO: How do you do that? How do you go from being....you know, almost the "Belle of the Ball," so to speak...

CRP: Well, I guess, I caught the glass ring.

CO: Oh. Ok. But now, what, I'm having a hard time...seeing how this young man that you could possibly have fallen in love with was not virile enough if he was a Marine. That was a pretty...

CRP: Honey, you can be a Marine and not be virile. You can be ...

CO: The Marines would not want to hear that.

CRP: I don't know a lot of Marines, but he got all these medals.

CO: Hmm. So the other men, were you drawn to me that were real...

CRP: "He-Men."

CO: Masculine. Ok. Was you husband that way, was he real...?

CRP: Oh, he hunted and he played football at Riverside, and he...he hunted and he fished and...he was an outdoorsman. And Griffin was not an outdoorsman.

CO: Oh, ok.

CRP: And, you know, he was a fine person, he was just too polite, he was just too everything. Too perfect. Oh, you couldn't have had a better date for "June Week," oh my lord. He had gotten us a sailboat way ahead, you had to apply for that. He had me staying at Carswell Hall. [UNCERTAIN OF LOCATION, 41:29], Oh, I went up, for one mid-winter dance, oh, he couldn't have been nicer! I mean, really couldn't. But he never married.

CO: Oh my goodness. Oh, ok. I think I see where you are going with this.

CRP: Well, I don't know anything, I didn't know anything back then, but he just didn't ...

CO: Just didn't fit your image of what a man...was.

CRP: But he was lovely.

CO: But, ok. It sounds like...and this is rare, at least it's rare in the 20+ women I've interviewed so far, your images of ... romance and ... how, you know, live was supposed to unfold, kinda of lived up to your expectations, I mean, you know, they lived up, your reality lived up to your images and your expectations. It sounds like you had such a romantic young adulthood.

CRP: I did. And a lot of it was because I had that pass and could go places.

CO: Yeah. And you took full advantage of it.

CRP: Oh, I loved it. I loved to go to dances, I loved to have a "Stag Line," oh my goodness, that was just...

CO: You got pictures of that?

CRP: Not of the "Stag Line." I had pictures of Annapolis, of the Ring Dance and all that kinda of thing on the side. I've still got pictures of my old beaus....

CO: Are they out?

CRP: Absolutely not. I didn't put them in my husband's face, for heaven's sakes. I don't know whether he'd have been jealous or not, I just didn't do it.

CO: Hmm. So you were willing to put all of that behind you and you didn't have any problems when you got married?

CRP: Well, they're dead, two of them were dead, for heaven's sakes.

CO: Oh, because they were killed in the war. Is that why?

CRP: Yeah, 'cause they were killed in the war, early. I'll never forget when I heard Taylor had been killed. I mean, I don't cry much, but boy, I cried that time, and this is something I wouldn't tell many people, I certainly wouldn't tell my children, but while I was working in Washington, Jack Taylor's older sister called me up and she said, "Carolyn, we think that Jack may have lived through...the concentration camp, and we think we might have word from him...from the Red Cross." She said, "Will you wait until he gets back and he can talk to you? Would you give him a chance?" And I said, "I mean, I have not seen him for 4 years. I don't know how much I've changed, I don't, and I can't promise you that."

CO: What did she say?

CRP: Well, she still stayed my very close friend and so did her two sisters. She lives in Newnan and one of them lives in Naples, most of the time the other one outside of Myrtle Beach, and they have a house down here at the Harbor Club, and when they come they call me and I go over there and we have several glasses of wine and talk about their mother and their brother and...we have a close, happy relationship.

CO: With several glasses of wine, I'm sure it is, ha ha.

CRP: Well, we can reminisce about our childhood because they lived in Greensboro, see?

CO: Yeah. Do you like to reminisce?

CRP: Yeah, with people I love.

CO: Well, and especially because you had such a romantic life.

CRP: I did. And this aunt of mine, who didn't have any children, oh my goodness. She's the most romantic person. She married a second-time, I started to tell you, my uncle was only 44 when he had an aneurism and died. She's very young, she's younger than he was, so she married this very wealthy man and he retired and they

had this gorgeous home on Jupiter Island on the Atlantic Ocean in Palm Beach County. And she had me down there all the time. I'd go sometimes, I was married by then, I'd go sometimes four times a year, and she's a member of the "Four Arts Society" and, oh, she was always one. She was a musician, she was a very lovely lady, and she would take me to everything in Palm Beach and rented the house and then I did when I had so many children, I didn't want to take over one or two down there to see for us in the summer, two houses up from her and we'd go down there and stay. I mean, she couldn't have been better to me. She lived...vicariously through me and my family, you know, she wanted me to go to every thing, she wanted me to have a good time. I know, I was down there and she me to Elizabeth Arden for a day and said, "This is your present." It's kind of special.

CO: It is. Did you say you met Elizabeth Arden or you just went to . . . ?

CRP: Did I what?

CO: Did you meet Elizabeth Arden?

CRP: Oh, no. I just went to a salon. They just did your whole...oh, they had one in New York, too, but they had one in Palm Beach, they just, you know, gave you everything from head to toe.

CO: Yeah. Well, you, did you have ideas before you married or in your early marriage about how many children you wanted?

CRP: Nuh-uh.

CO: No.

CRP: We just knew we wanted a family. In fact, I wanted one more, and my husband was so indulgent ... my daughter didn't like this. I said, "I'd kind of like to adopt." And she said, "Momma, we do not need an Indian in this family." But my husband said, "Fine."

CO: You wanted to adopt a Native American child?

CRP: Uh-huh.

CO: And your daughter didn't want that?

CRP: Nuh-uh.

CO: So how old was, how old were your children when you decided you wanted to do that?

CRP: She was probably 8, 9, something like that.

CO: Was she embarrassed, do you think she would have been embarrassed to have ...

CRP: Oh, she wouldn't have been embarrassed, she just thought we had enough going on up here. But what I'm saying, my husband would have let me have it, just to him, it would have been like picking up another animal. I mean, he didn't...

CO: So you did most of the domestic parenting. Was he a present parent?

CRP: Very present. He did more than his share of it than most men did. I don't mean more than I, he did more. He enjoyed his children. He adored them. And everybody wanted to come up here and stay. I kept one boy six months one time. Anyway, they said...

CO: You kept somebody six months?

CRP: Uh-huh.

CO: Hmm. A friend of your children?

CRP: Yeah, because he lived out in the country, and he couldn't come in and do band practice and play football and everything like that, and Jamie went out there to stayed with them in the summer, because they had a ranch and he would break cattle, they would bring these horses from Texas and he'd break the horses with his, Billy was his friend the one who stayed up here. Oh, that life, oh I could tell you about that life out there. I love the Curtis's, I loved Mrs. Curtis.

CO: Out in the country?

CRP: They had a beautiful ranch out there, I mean, it was, they didn't come from here. She came from North Carolina, he came from New England, and he was from a very well-known, well, Curtis Publishing Company. And she graduated from the University of North Carolina. When they first married, they didn't have much money, they didn't, the family did. They went out to Arizona and ran a ranch out there. And, uh, he wanted his children to be brought up simply. He did not want them to brought up the way he was. So he bought this big piece of property, and they worked. Because he worked. I mean, they cut cattle, they did all, I mean, the girls, they'd go and Jamie loved that life.

Oh, he loved it. He was out there all summer, and on the front porch we'd hear the boots and saddles and bring in the dirty boots and leave the saddles on it. And their mother wrote poetry. I mean, she was just a lovely, lovely lady. And Dick was "rule the roost," he kept his poker table up in the living room all the time. Jamie say, "I'm gonna marry a lady like Mrs. Curtis." I said, "You mean, not like me?" He said, "Yeah. Mrs. Curtis, anything Mr. Curtis said, Mrs. Curtis said, 'yes, that's fine, that's fine.' I want somebody to act like that. She acts like he's king!"

CO: Did he get somebody like that?

CRP: More or less. She picked him and ran him, ha ha. She wanted him so bad, but yeah, she'd do anything for him, anything.

CO: So, it sounds like you enjoyed being a mother?

CRP: Oh, I loved it. I love my children, they were my best friends. But their daddy, we had, let me think, we had a little place down at Lake Sinclair, [UNCERTAIN OF STATEMENT, 31:55-52], and ...we always had boats. We had a small cabin cruiser, we had a run-around, you know, something to ski behind, and I used to go duck-hunting with my husband on the river. I didn't shoot, I just liked to go. And it would have brine ??? [UNKNOWN WORD, 31:33] so heavy, it would just be that high off the river, and here we never wore a life preserver. It was cold, February. But, oh, I just loved it. When we go married, his father said, "Well, I think Carolyn will be fine for you, she likes to get outside. She isn't prissy."

CO: You weren't prissy?

CRP: Well, to him I wasn't because I would go camping. Loved to camp.

CO: Yeah. Did your children go, did the boys like to hunt with their father?

CRP: Oh, they still hunt, and their children still hunt. Oh, they, do they hunt! Oh my gosh! My, I mean they hunt. They, Jamie's hunted in Denmark, he's hunted, Harold went to South Florida with his eleven-old boy this last weekend, and his son got another Turkey, grinning from ear to ear. His son's a good shot. They've been out all out west and killed, gosh, I guess a moose. He's got all this stuff in his house. I said, "I don't think ya'll need any more of those mounted things" but they love it.

CO: Do you miss mothering? The active role of, obviously you're still mother, but do you miss the active role of having children at home? Do you miss that?

CRP: Well, they all live around here. I see them all the time. I have, we celebrate Christmas here, and we have a big Christmas. We are here for Thanksgiving, we're here for Easter, we're here for the christenings. I had two of them christened in the Episcopal Church. I have three cradle Episcopalians. Anyway...

CO: I saw those pictures.

CRP: Yeah. And, uh... we used to all get together on Sunday, but we quit that a long time ago. After I married Lee, he loved to come up here with them, so that was no problem. They loved him anyway...

CO: So you lived in a separate place when you married him? Did you not live here anymore? No?

CRP: We visit here, and he doesn't mind it. But he built a house, uh...that was finished the day we got married. And we married down there in that house, and then we went to Europe and stayed a while and came back, and he retired the year after we married, because he said he couldn't keep up with me and look after his practice. He retired in 1988, 89...

CO: When did he die?

CRP: ...and we married in '88, uh, '87.

CO: Right, uh, I've got '87.

CRP: Yeah, '87. My husband died in '79.

CO: Right, Reynolds. But when did Dr. Parker die?

CRP: He ain't dead.

CO: Oh...I didn't, I'm sorry.

CRP: I just, well...I had a...it was...I guess it was traumatic. Uh, he is 95, and he's been going down, steadily, and withdrawing. He had a bad stroke about 3 ½ years ago, and he'd been in the hospital and he'd come home, and then they found out I had this Lymphoma again. I was having to go to Atlanta every week for these treatments, and our doctor and real close friend Dr. Coles, my children talked to him and he came to my house Sunday a week ago and he said, "Carol, it's time. Lee has got to have full-time help, and you have got to rest," because I was up one night, all night with him, although I have two people, you know, who were coming and going, you couldn't count on them all the time. So, he said, "There are two rooms out at Savannah Courts that

hadn't been filled," and he said, "I have reserved one that the girls agreed with." I said, "He is not going to take it like you would, because he does not see things like you do." His mind is... entirely different, you know, he just kind of takes. He had gotten so...as much as I admired him and loved him, he had become so in-drawn, he would hardly speak. He would go all day, he was pleasant. My children would come in, and he would speak to them. Everything I did for him he would say, "Thank you, I don't need that," but he's was so withdrawn. I'd get him on the front porch and we'd go out there and look at the wildlife. Thank god we had bird feeders and we were on the lake and, at one time, Lee had seven boats. His sister left him this nice house on the coast, and he had 4 or 5 boats down there. We'd go deep-see fishing, and we had no business doing that. We would go in the small boat and put out crab traps and take them up and he'd get so muddy. I'd think, "Oh, he's going to fall and break his back on this" but I mean, he always had all this energy, he'd just want to do it all, and we get all these crabs and we would clean them all and then I'd cook them. I didn't mind cooking. But he loved, as he called the coast, he loved to go to the coast. It was on the Half-Moon River, which went right into Inter-Coastal Waterway. We had a 44-foot boat, that's in the yacht-class. And, you know, I said, "Lee, you got to have a captain for this boat, you got nobody."

CO: How long ago was that?

CRP: Huh?

CO: How long were you doing that?

CRP: (pause) We had not been able to do anything at the coast for five years.

CO: But he was still 90? So he's been...

CRP: We didn't go out and do crab traps when he was 90, but boy, we traveled all over the world, non-stop.

CO: I heard you traveled; I would like to hear about that. Do you enjoy that, traveling?

CRP: We started traveling the day after we got married. It was Operation Tiger, which I'm sure you've never heard of, but it was when they had the Freedom of Information Act, they told him. It was, I have a real good book on it upstairs. The first Normandy Invasion, he was in Slapton Sands. I've had an operation caps from years ago all in my mouth, and I cannot speak as well as I used to. They were doing practice rehearsals for the Normandy Invasion, because that part of England was similar, and they were

going out and these E-Boats from Germany lucked up and got in them, and sank quite a few. We always say this about the British. One of the British ships that supposed to be there for some reason was in dry dock, they didn't tell anybody, they weren't there to help protect them, and about 750 men were killed. And, uh, he was there. He was not on maneuvers, he was a doctor at that time, and, uh, these bodies washed ashore and they went out and got this, that and the other thing, and Captain Bueheur or Butcher, might have been Butcher, anyway, he was one of them involved, and his daughter, in 1970, 1980, in the late 1980s, was a delegate from Maryland to the House of Representatives. And, after this Freedom of Information Act came out, and she knew about her father's part, but you couldn't tell it, she organized a trip over there. And Lee was very anxious to go, so he called ... Sam Nunn was a friend of my family, he called up him and got all the information, and we got on the trip. Now, we all went separately, but we met at this point where Operation Tiger was. She had all this information that was just available and they moved everybody out of that village where they were bringing them ashore, and they dug a mass grave and put them all in that mass grave. They had their dog tags and the ones that survived, they took them in this hospital and those that didn't, they told the doctors, "You have to treat them like you were a veterinarian. You can never ever say a word about this. If this gets out, it will compromise D-Day." So, years later, they went back and exhumed the bodies and they were buried up at Norman Cemetery and were considered among the Normandy people. And I think they wrote their family, they were in the Normandy Invasion, because that was back when... But it was quite moving.

CO: I bet. The families obviously didn't know it all those years ...

CRP: No, they didn't do it till the Freedom of Information. But you see, they were so afraid of, well, I've got the book if you ever want to read it, they were so afraid that they were going to compromise it, and they had done so much. They had Patton over there, pretending he had an Army in England with all these camouflaged things, it's just a miracle they didn't uncover it. It's also a miracle that they got in that day as it was so rough. Lee said, "Oh, it was so rough you wouldn't believe it."

CO: So he remembers?

CRP: Invasion, D-Day. Oh, he's a real hero, he was a doctor, saved all these lives and stayed on the beach 22 days.

CO: So when ya'll traveled...

CRP: On our honeymoon, you might say, but at our age, we just said "traveling."

CO: Yeah, so...did you go to different places that he had been to when was serving?

CRP: Yeah, we did. And then we went over to France and saw the beach when it was just deserted. He had never been to see it, and Mulberry, and I guess you would call them, harbor, they constructed and brought over, a lot of it, it was still there, 'cause a lot of it was wrecked by the storm, but a lot of it was still there.

CO: How was that for him? Had he been back before then?

CRP: He could compartmentalize his life. He always, he did not show great emotion although he felt it, he did not.

CO: Did he, has he, like a lot of World War II vet, in the past 10 or 15 years, begun to talk about it?

CRP: Because we went to the 6th Beach Battalion Reunion during that period, and they would have school groups and others beg them to come tell them the stories because they know so little about World War 2. He never went to talk to a school group, but he did talk to the Men's club down at Reynolds Plantation, and, uh...

CO: So has no historian tried to interview him?

CRP: Oh, gosh, honey, has he been interviewed? He's on the front of *Navy Medicine*. They've sent a film crew from Hollywood, later, they asked us to go back over there and Jan Herman who is head of the historical division of the Navy, he's on video, he's on the front page of *Navy Medicine*, and then my daughter went with us to the Navy Museum in Washington, had 8 people up there for the showing of the film, and you've never seen so much scrambled eggs in your life, and they entertained us up there, for a nice reception and everything. Then later, these are different years, then later they had him up over, we went to Normandy Cemetery 3 times because he said the only time he left the beach, he wanted to be sure they were handling the bodies with dignity, and he said they were. And it is, I don't know whether you've been to Normandy, it is gorgeous. It is up on this bluff, it is absolutely perfect. Well, he was among, I believe there were eight people, they were not all from his group at all, but they had 8 people over there when George Bush was President, my son Jamie was head of the memorials all over the world for George Bush, I guess you'd just say overseeing them or something, I mean, it was just...

CO: George H.W. Bush?

CRP: The last one.

CO: George W.?

CRP: Yeah, we knew W. I mean, he visited us...there were eight people, they had wreaths done and were dedicating the new Visitor's Center, so he was honored to be there. He was entertained by General Franks...just Jamie and his wife and Lee with General Franks. He was entertained at the American Embassy and it was, it was quite nice. But I think the Navy Memorial is the one he really appreciated in Washington. But he has been, oh, he's got, the Republic of France gave him the French Legion of Honor, and he's got other awards from the French government, and he has some from the United States, but they were late because... there are, oh well, I've got a wonderful story of it that was written by a historian. They did not know that the Navy men actually went on the beach for years. They thought they'd brought them up. They did not know the 6th Beach Battalion made the Invasion, and their... records were lost in St. Louis for many years. They were uncovered, then all of a sudden they get a Presidential Citation, they get, you know, but...some of those people are long dead. I mean... but they were called, oh, I tell you, Spielberg had a lot to do with it. When he did "Private Ryan," Lee still has his helmet. They look just like the Army's but they had a half red on it. And, of course, he had the Red Cross, they made them take them off, the Red Cross, because the Germans were killing the doctors.

CO: So, he kept his helmet?

CRP: Honey, he kept everything. He brought his pack back that had his ... supplies in it, 'course he didn't have the same stuff, I mean, he brought it back. He, they were getting ready to blow up a British landing craft, and, because this was after the bad part of D-Day, 'cause I told you he was there 22 days when it was secure, he said, "Hey, just a minute before you blow it up, can I take that compass out of there?" They said sure, well, he's got the compass at the house. He put that in his bag, had it during the war, it was heavy. He ...brought it with him. But see, he didn't stay in Europe long because the Beach Battalion, they make invasion, that's what they do. And they brought him back to Fort Pierce and he worked with what later became the SEALs, he was an expert swimmer. He was on the swim team at Georgia. He was their doctor and monitored them. And then he was on his way to Guam, uh...when they dropped the bomb. SO they sent him to China instead and then he became a Marine again. See, Marines do not have their own doctors. He started off a Marine, at Quantico, not Quantico, Buford, South Carolina. He put down what he liked to do, and I heard John

Kennedy did to, he liked to serve on little boats. I don't think he thought about a landing craft!

CO: As in the PT-109?

CRP: Yeah, yeah, but his was a different kind of landing craft. I have a picture of the first sailboat he built for himself down at St. Simons when he was a young boy. But he loved to sail, oh we had a beautiful sailboat. He'd just loved everything about the water.

CO: Is he, does he still like to talk about it, or has he gotten to where he's ...

CRP: Oh, well, now after this stroke, he will get me to read him some things...

CO: So he doesn't want to talk about it, but he's willing to ...

CRP: Well, he might. If somebody comes over there he really likes and they ask him a few things, he'll say a few things, but I mean, he isn't, he isn't senile, he isn't all with it since that stroke, it's harder.

CO: Now, how did he come along? I mean, how did you meet him?

CRP: He came here as a doctor.

CO: So, oh yeah, you told me.

CRP: I knew he was my doctor, he was our family doctor.

CO: Ok. So when did that become a romance?

CRP: Not until his wife died and my husband died!

CO: Well obviously that. But...

CRP: But we were old, old friends. We had everything in common, so it wasn't like, I mean, it was a friendship. And one time we went on nine rivers in Florida, the four of us. And we had this boat, we had to pull it from place to place, and we had people come meet us and get us out, and we had to portage. We just loved that kind of thing.

CO: Yeah, so ya'll were a couple, friends as couples?

CRP: Yeah. And they had a place at St. Clair, we had a place at St. Clair. And Lee did things that I wouldn't have done for my children. He taught, he had a son, 2 years older than Jamie, and he taught them to have a kite and go up on skis at the back of the

boat, you know, down at Sandblast. I said, "Don't you let them hit a rock across there." But they were expert skiers, he had all this patience to teach them how to ski.

CO: How many children does he have?

CRP: Two, and they were both terrible disappointments. But his son married a nice lady and have three wonderful grandchildren, daughters. Lovely, lovely. His two children wouldn't go to college. And see, in my family, that's just horrible, but his, two of his granddaughters did go to college, and one of them went to the Medical College of Georgia. She was an R.N. and took her boards and has a real good position at Athens Medical Regional. The other one got a Master's Degree and her husband got a Master's Degree at Northwestern, and she worked and helped him with that Master's Degree, and now they're living in New York and she's looking for her second baby soon. And she's the one who married at the University of Georgia chapel. She's the one that I'm so crazy about, she's just so pretty and sweet and just a darling girl.

CO: Um...if you can go back and do the "mothering thing" over again, would you do anything differently?

CRP: Nuh-huh.

CO: No. Ok.

CRP: Can't imagine what, 'cause Jamie thought I was tough. I mean, that's why he said he marry Mrs. Curtis, somebody like Mrs. Curtis...His daddy wanted him to go to Georgia Tech, but you can take Jamie so far, and that's all. So...we sent him to Woodward Academy in Atlanta, so he could take Calculus, and get ready for Georgia Tech, and he didn't like it. But, he knows in our family, if you start something you finish it. So, he would come home on the weekend and bring all his friends and they had a good time. And he graduated up there. And my daughter went there the first year they entered, I mean, they had girls. So she only got to go a year, and when she went up there, she said, "Jamie has told all his professors to look after me and been so sweet about it." And Jamie used to say, "Oh, I wouldn't have sent my child to boarding school," and his son said "I wish you'd sent me, I wanted to go up East!"

CO: Did any of them, have many of your children, grand-children gone out of the state...?

CRP: To college?

CO: ...far out of the state, like in New England, anywhere?

CRP: No, none have done that. They could have, but they didn't. Uh...3 of them graduated from Georgia, and two of them did graduate work and had graduate degrees. Harold graduated Georgia Tech, he was brilliant... and he is CEO of our bank, made a big, big success of it and bought another one in Watkinsville when you could buy them cheap, you know, with almost nil. He's a really good boy, he knows figures backwards and forwards. He's, he has certainly been good to all of us and I was so afraid he wasn't going to get married, 'cause his daddy died when he was still at Georgia Tech, and he felt responsible for me and I said, "You don't have to feel responsible for me." But...we owned some land down on the lake that later became Reynolds Plantation, and a distant cousin owned more of it, and they went in together. My girls opted out, they didn't want to be...borrow all that money and do all that thing, they just their portion and...let it be. Now Harold is an investor down there, but not to the extent Jamie was. Harold just felt like, he came back before Mercer got in on it, it was just us, we call it "Deer Run," the first part of Reynolds Plantation, and he hired the people who did Fern Bank, to come and do our roads and he had, I used to go up and meet with his architecture professor who would give us advice, so a lot of decisions, lot of money involved, you know, it was hard. And he just wanted to be sure he protected what our family had. And so, uh...a friend of ours, Richard Maddox, whose oldest said, "Harold is going to sit here and wait for a mermaid to wash up on Lake Oconee. He's got to get out and find somebody." Well, he found somebody at a Georgia Tech game and honey, three months later they were married!

CO: Whoa!

CRP: And he loves her so, and she is so beautiful. She's an international model and they've got these two precious children.

CO: One is blonde; I see pictures in the bride's room.

CRP: I'll show you her picture, and they wanted their children to go to Athens Academy, so Harold got a...well, first he had to house over there, and Leslie said there was too much of it, anyway, so, he bought a very nice condo that everything is taken care of, and they are over there all during the week, and they come here on a lot of weekends, but now the children are involved in softball, volleyball, baseball, basketball, so they stay a lot of times too. But they were here for, well, they went down to Aruba for most of spring holidays, they came here for 4 days. But they love it down here, at the Reynolds Plantation, you know, that my family built a home there real early, and my husband lived to see it all framed in, and would eat down there and he could lie in his bed and look at the lake and he saw the lake fill up. And then, he died that....they

closed the gates in January and it filled up at the end of January and he died at night. But I'm glad he got to see that.

CO: Yeah, yeah.

CRP: He had not been well, he had emphysema...

CO: Hmm. Did he smoke? Was he a smoker? Yeah?

CRP: And he tried so hard to quit and he, I mean, he'd hide it from us and I just didn't think it was right and he would feel so guilty, but anyway he did. He always felt guilty about it. But he was hooked on it. I mean, nicotine just...they gave it to him during the war, everybody had cigarettes.

CO: Well, people have depths of addiction, though....some addictions are easier to overcome than others.

CRP: Well, I asked my children, not a lot of things, sister wrote a little poem about what all I'd asked of them.

CO: I've read it.

CRP: I said, "Please don't smoke. Just promise me you won't smoke." I said, "Now, you've got to get a beer sometime, just go get it, and don't tell me. Just don't smoke." And none of them smoke.

CO: Yeah, well, that's good.

CRP: Oh, they knew what it meant to me, and they saw what it did to their daddy, but you know, it was good that they didn't do it. None of their children smoke.

CO: Yeah, and I wonder if you hadn't asked them so passionately if they would have done it?

CRP: No, not if I hadn't just told them what it meant to me, and what it meant to their father. I didn't make tremendous demands on them, but when I made them, it meant something to me.

CO: Yeah, she said she wondered if you had...

CRP: Really thought about it?

CO: You might have made more demands, especially if they were going to take you seriously. Do you think mothering today is different from....

CRP: Yeah, I think they're "helicopter mothers," I think it's ridiculous.

CO: You think that's too much? You think it's harder?

CRP: Well, I think they're stupid. We've never went to see my son Jamie in his apartment until we were invited. We never just walked in on him. Jamie, my husband went up there one time, and I guess, I'm sure he told Jamie he was coming, 'cause Jamie is very private. He called me up, he said, "Carolyn, you know, I think I'm going to matriculate. All the people that come by are good-looking girls." He said they've got it made. It was 4 friends, he lived at the Sigma Nu house for a while, but they had a nice house mother and they quit having house motheres, Jamie was, he was kind of a Playboy, he was President of Sigma Nu, and he had a very active life, but he certainly worked hard.

CO: So you think it's harder today to mother?

CRP: No! I think they make it harder. Oh, I think the mother's to blame, those "helicopter mothers" over them every minute. My daughter-in-law, and I love her, that's Jamie's child, they bought him a house in Athens, I didn't buy a house for anybody, I thought it was ridiculous. Anyway, I kept my mouth shut about it. She would take her maid over there and clean his house. I said, "I don't care whether Jamie walked through...I never even saw his apartment." And he is, now, has a good job at Augusta National Golf Course. He's gone all over the world, getting sponsors for the Masters, she goes down there and cleans up his house! She's got that one child, ugh! And Sister said, "Momma, a lot of them are that way of that generation. She's not the only one." I said, "Can you imagine?" And my son's said, "I wouldn't have taken her." I don't understand them. I think they ought to give them more responsibility and put them on a longer leash and the whole thing.

CO: So, you don't think that Internet and...what else...cell phones and all have made it harder for people to parent?

CRP: I think it's easier, they call them up all the time, they send pictures back and forth. Good lord. They call them up constantly, Jamie doesn't but she wants to know "what are you doing, what are you doing?"

CO: Yeah. That's too much for you?

CRP: I keep my mouth shut about this, it's too much.

CO: Are you able to keep your mouth shut?

CRP: Yeah, I can do it. Oh, I can do it. I don't criticize my in-laws, any of them.

CO: Yeah. So you're a good mother-in-law?

CRP: Well, I try to be. I plan to be, because I didn't have that trouble, because Jamie's mother was dead so...!

CO: Well, so you haven't really had a mother-in-law?

CRP: Nuh-huh.

CRP: I had a father-in-law who was just a remarkable man, and he didn't dare say anything to anybody because after his first wife died, he married a girl my age, a woman, she was here teaching school.

CO: You really have lived a charmed life, haven't you? In many ways. You haven't had to deal with a mother-in-law...

CRP: And a father-in-law who just...adored his son, and he was good to me. He and my father worked together at Georgia Railroad for 40 years. Not every day, because I told you they had to close the depot when we got married so they could both go.

CO: Well, do you want to take a break?

CRP: Sure.

---End of Conversation with Carolyn Reynolds Parker, part 2---

[Part 3 was tour of home at end of interview]

Resume Interview of

Carolyn Reynolds Parker, part 4 (20 March 2012)

CO: Where do most people who live here...well, as you told me yesterday, they don't work anywhere because many of them are retired...

CRP: A lot of them don't. A lot of them work at home. And a few, we do have some on our way that were Delta pilots, and they go, you know, don't they, aren't they off about 3 or 4 days?

CO: Right, right.

CRP: And she lives right up here, she and her husband, and I see them out walking.

CO: It's a beautiful view.

CRP: Oh, it is! It's wonderful.

CO: This room is wonderful. (Speaking to recording machine: Well, we are back together, it is March 20, Tuesday, early afternoon.)

CRP: Is this the first day of spring?

CO: Isn't it tomorrow?

CRP: I told Mattie Kate it's the 21st, and was telling me it's the 20th. The 21st is the vernal equinox, isn't it?

CO: That's what, it always has been.

CRP: Ha ha, oh my goodness.

CO: Well, in any case, it's close by and it's the worst pollen we've had on record.

CRP: Yes.

CO: And, so, we are going to pick back up. You took me on tours yesterday, of your home in Greensboro. Did you think of anything you wanted to...

CRP: I decided I'd tell you something else.

CO: Sure.

CRP: Uh... and I won't say I'll answer any questions, but I want to tell you a little bit about my mother, because you were talking about daughters, and I'll tell you about my daughters.

CO: Great.

CRP: Uh...I'm sure I remember before that, because I remember I had a little toy piano and I used to play it, but what is vivid is, it might have been before I was 6, but my mother was, she had beautiful clothes, she loved to play bridge. Uh, she was, she had a lot of friends, and I used to, after she wasn't living at home, after she went, she was hospitalized for various times, I used to play dress-up and her clothes were just beautiful. Uh, she taught a while but then she was just a substitute teacher because she wanted to be at home with me. When I was in the 1st Grade, I made a "B" in conduct. And, uh... my mother was substituting, or maybe she had taught for six months, you know how sometimes they needed someone, and everybody called her

“Miss. Katherine,” they loved her. And, of course, I heard about it, she was handing out their report cards, and she had already gotten mine because I was in the 1st Grade, and she teared up and oh, the children got so upset. “Miss. Katherine, what is the matter?” And she wouldn’t tell them at first. And then she finally told somebody that I had made a “B” in conduct, and that just was so embarrassing to her. I mean, it was so embarrassing. So she asked Ms. Sally what I had done, and Ms. Sally said, “Well, she isn’t, she isn’t disturbing. She talks. She talks to the person across from her, she talks to the person over there.” She says, “There’s several of them, they just talk, so I gave them a ‘B’.” I think she should have given us an “A-” to warn us, since we were in the 1st Grade and it didn’t matter. But, honey, you would have thought that I had done something horrible. My mother was sort of a perfectionist, and oh, I nearly broke her heart, but it didn’t really tear me all to pieces, I was just sorry. But she would drag me probably...before I was six, with her a lot of places, but the first thing I remember was my nursery. I’ll go back to this. She went to the UDC, the, they call it the “Women of the Church,” I think, in another church. They called it the “Missionary Society.” She took me to the “Missionary Society” and expected me to sit perfect, and her favorite thing to say is, “Oh Carolyn, you were “as good as gold.” You couldn’t just be good, you had to be “as good as gold.” So, sometimes I was not “as good as gold,” but I didn’t act bad. But, you know, she wanted me to be “as good as gold.” And I can remember one time, going in her bedroom, and she was taking a nap, and she had, and this is by memory, and she was lying with a package in her hand, and she had been crying. And that’s the only time I remember seeing her cry. But she had gone to sleep. And I felt so bad about it, but I can’t say I felt guilty, I’m going to tell you the truth. I just wondered why she was crying, and it made me real sad.

CO: What makes you think it had, it was about you?

CRP: Oh, I don’t think it was.

CO: Oh.

CRP: She had depression. And she, of course today, you know, you give somebody some medicine, but she really had depression. And she was such a perfectionist...I don’t think life lived up to what she wanted. And, uh...then, this is a little give-away. Years later...oh, I got real interested in a lot of things, and I said, “You know, I think it’s wonderful these people who are missionaries. I think it’s wonderful these people who do for others.” And my grandmother said, “Don’t you ever say that again. I don’t want to ever hear it.” And apparently, my mother became extremely religious, but I didn’t know that. My father didn’t bother to go to church, I guess that bothered her. I told you

some of my people were not real active in church, and my father was a Methodist, my mother was a Baptist, and my father just thought it was two-faced to join a church. The Baptists before my time used to put people out for dancing, and they didn't in my mother's time, because she danced and went to dances. And my daddy didn't mind taking a drink, and that was just . . . "no, no no" in the Baptist and the Methodist Church. So, you know, he just didn't like to go to church, he just didn't go. And I'm sure that bothered her, and she got, I think, more religious. But I don't remember that part of it, but I knew, though, she was in and out of hospitals. She was up at Emory, she went to a lot of hospitals, and, uh... she was removed from me. And then later she went to various sanitariums. And, uh, of course, I kept in touch with her after I was grown, I saw her constantly, I don't mean constantly. But, often. I took all my children to see her, I wanted them to know their grandmother, and by that time she had withdrawn so, she wouldn't say anything.

CO: In their lives, you mean? She had withdrawn by the time your children were born?

CRP: Before that. She just...she just removed herself. Life just...but I'm sure, you know, with depression and all the medicines they give now, they didn't give them then.

CO: Did...was anyone else in her family or anyone else related to her suffer from depression?

CRP: Well, not that I know of.

CO: Because I...

CRP: Could have gone back.

CO: You're, I mean, I've read that, uh... Unipolar depression, not the manic but the "other," just straight depression, that it...there's an 80% chance that a daughter will inherit it from a father and a 50% chance that she'll inherit it from her mother. So, um...

CRP: Well, none of her siblings...

CO: Ahh. That's kind of unusual. And none of your children have been bothered by it?

CRP: No, absolutely not.

CO: . That's, that is unusual. So you don't...nothing accounts for it other than just the ...physiological.

CRP: Well, it could be things, I don't know. But, alright...when I told you what I remembered first, this is probably about the same time. I always, and people... now, I've told you repeatedly, we were not wealthy people, but we always had help, and, uh, my grandmother lived on a larger scale than my generation did. I mean, her husband still had things, and, uh ... (pause)...but I always had a nurse, and my grandmother always had a cook. And my nurses, I have a baby book, it's up there somewhere, they all were very dark, and they wore the cleanest, most wonderfully-starched white uniforms with a white apron. And I remember loving the smell of that starch that they had, and they had large bosoms, and they hugged me, an oh, I had so much love from them. That was, starch, smelling the starch, and smelling that canvas, my earliest smells.

CO: Yesterday it was canvas.

CRP: I said it was canvas and the starch, where my...and I don't know which was earlier. Because, uh...I had nurses a long time, and then I had somebody who would come and entertain me, and my friend across the street had somebody to entertain her. Snuff & Hattie were hers, and they would wash her hair and roll it up for us. I mean, I was, we were 8 and 10 years old, we still had somebody, because our people were social, and that was, on a certain level, I'm not talking about real rich people, on a certain level, uh...you entertained. They had teas and... you had bridge clubs and...and our little group were all educated people. But...

CO: Yeah, yeah. And your mother was educated, so you really grew up in...valuing education.

CRP: Well, my great grandmother went to college. I mean, we were educated people.

CO: Where did your great grandmother go, do you remember?

CRP: I showed you, at Madison. I showed you her little diploma.

CO: Oh yeah, sitting on that table. Ok.

CRP: Yeah. Uh, and of course, the Sanford's were such famous educators. And on the Baugh family, uh, one of them ran an academy.

CO: So it was never whether or not you would go to college, it was...

CRP: It would have been a disgrace not to go.

CO: Yeah, ok.

CRP: I mean, that probably sounds strange, but you just knew you were going.

CO: Yeah, yeah.

CRP: One of my uncles went to Emory, another one went to Georgia, you know, I mean, they...one time my daddy said, "Well, uh..." I don't know whether he said "Mrs. Monfort" or "your grandmother," he said, "She went through a lot of the money she inherited." I said, "Daddy, she educated every one of her children." I mean, as far as she was concerned, that's what she needed to do.

CO: Yeah, yeah. A lot of women, not a lot, but enough to make a mark, of your generation, but even more so your mother's generation went to the Seven Sister Colleges in the Northeast, and ...

CRP: Well, she didn't have that kind of money. I'm talking about she...oh, she wanted me to go to Vassar. She thought it was awful that I, she wanted to sign me up for Vassar, and my daddy says, "Katherine, that is ridiculous. We haven't got the money right now with everything for her to go to Vassar."

CO: Three of my interviewees were Vassar, either grads or they went there, so, um...

CRP: Well, that was a very elite thing to do.

CO: These weren't elite people, I'm not sure how that happened, but, but anyway...Thank you for telling me that, because that's...helpful to know. Anything you can tell to put things in context is helpful. But, since you started out talking about...religion, do you mind talking about religion?

CRP: Nuh-huh. Ok.

CO: You've been an Episcopalian all of your ...

CRP: Well, most of my adult life.

CO: ...adult life, that's what I thought.

CRP: But I was influenced as a child by going to Camp Michael when I was 11, 12, 13, 14 years old.

CO: Yeah, yeah. Well, I want to come back and ask you ... what that was like...

CRP: And they're liberals, you know? They're liberal compared to Baptist.

CO: The religion? Yes, yes. Yes, they are. But can we start...

(Recorder stopped and restarted)

CRP: (mid-sentence) ...but those are things I thought I ought to tell you.

CO: Don't hesitate anytime to, if something comes up that you want to just share for whatever reason, feel free. I heard this question on *NPR* weeks ago, and it just was, it thought it goes well with religion, and some people just don't like the word "religion," so whatever you want to call it ... "spirituality," "religion"...

CRP: No, I like religion. My daughter, Marguerite, she says I'm spiritual. Now, she...she doesn't go to church, all the rest of my children go to church. They have children that go, they take the children. One of my great grandsons is an acolyte in the...in the Methodist Church, and Jim, he gets those little children to church. He's just, they are just remarkable. I brought up my children going to church. I mean, they, they remember one time I embarrassed them, but they got used to me. Uh... I was going to the Baptist Church at that time, they used to go to two churches. I'd take my daddy to the Episcopal sometime. The Episcopal Church didn't meet like the Baptists. The Baptists met all the time. And, the preacher was very narrow-minded, and he was giving John Kennedy, oh, he was talking about Catholics, he was talking about John Kennedy. It was just awful. And I said, "We're leaving." So we got up and left. Well, folks are used to me doing what I think is...what I think I ought to do, and so we just all walked out. And somebody said, "Was Carolyn sick?" And one of the children (said), "No, she likes John F. Kennedy."

CO: Ha ha, oh my goodness.

CRP: But, you know, I just thought it was terrible. Now, my people were driven out of France because they were not Catholics, and Louis promised to give Catholics their freedom, and then all of a sudden they took everything they had away and they went to Holland. And, uh...came over with the Dutch Reformed Church to Long Island.

CO: You've got a diverse religious background, at least a diverse Christian background.

CRP: Yeah, but they were pretty, but they never were Catholics, that's my point. And then, uh, my Scots people, they were Presbyterian, they were not...Catholics. My

English were not Catholics. We've never been Catholic, but I have nothing against the Catholics. And I just didn't think you ought to talk about somebody's religion like that.

CO: Yeah. Do you feel that same, uh...

CRP: Are you going to ask me about Romney?

CO: No, I'm not going to ask you about anyone.

CRP: Ha ha, he's a Mormon.

CO: No, I was going to ask if you felt that same sort of latitude, do you have that same latitude of tolerance or acceptance for *non-Christians*?

CRP: Oh, I don't ever give it a thought. I mean, that's their business. I'm not narrow-minded, and I wasn't brought up really narrow-minded, because I always had other influences.

CO: Yeah, yeah. Um...

CRP: In my family.

CO: The question, the first question is, though, really you could be totally, you could be an Atheist and answer it, because everybody has...

CRP: Well, I'm not an Atheist, I can tell you that. I am not an Atheist.

CO: Ok. But, you have values, obviously, all people, most of us, know what our values are. What...could you identify a single value that has been the strongest drive in your life? Something that you have just honored, like...I mean, I don't want to put words in your mouth, but you've been very...you're very, um...driven by the need for your own independence and freedom.

CRP: I feel great responsibilities...

CO: Ok, so...ok.

CRP: ...and I've always felt them. And I've always done for other people. I did for my grandmother, I did for my father, I did for my late husband, I did for my children. Responsibility is built into me. My son told me one day, my aunt, at this point, was over at Athens Heritage Home, which, a care place, back then, there weren't that many. And, uh...I got up, I always had nice Christmases, and entertained other people in my family who didn't have children or various other things. And, uh, I got up early that

morning and went over to Athens and picked her up and brought her back, and, you know, went on. I had somebody help me with lunch and Jamie said, "Momma, you're a trooper. Boy, you get up and go." I said, "That's our responsibility, I'm supposed to look after her. She ain't got anybody else." She had, uh...I had a first cousin. We were the only two people.

CO: Yeah, yeah.

CRP: And, uh, I had known her such much better than my cousin in Lawrenceville...and, you know. I had her back...she loved her bridge club, and most of them were still doing pretty good. And I had her back, and had all of them to a very nice luncheon and had two tables of bridge in the afternoon, and, you know, tried to have birthday parties and I tried my best to do for her. And then my husband had an aunt and uncle who didn't have any children and the other two nieces-in-law would not drive in Atlanta, and I took them to Emory. I can't tell you how many times, to the doctor. Uh...because they didn't have ... well, people didn't have, people who could hire like they can now. You know, limo services, their own drivers, and I took them, I didn't mind taking them. They were good to my, my husband loved them, they were good to everybody in our family, but I mean, those things, I felt like I had to do it.

CO: Yeah, yeah.

CRP: And I don't know who instilled (that) in me, I just think I was born with a sense of responsibility. I don't know if you are or not, but being an only child, there wasn't anybody else to do for these people.

CO: Yeah, yeah. OK, well, that's exactly what I'm talking about when I ask, and you didn't hesitate to answer that. You knew exactly what your core value was. And some people don't. I mean, you know, they...

CRP: I felt responsible for my children...I mean, that was the love of my life, and my husband and I agreed on our children. I don't see how you can stand it if you didn't.

CO: Ok. Um...but you said that religion wasn't that important, you found out later...

CRP: Yes, it's important.

CO: No no no, I mean, in your, at home, when you were a child at home...

CRP: It was very important with my grandmother, who raised me more or less...

CO: Your grandmother.

CRP: And it was important with my mother. It was not important with my father...at all.

CO: Alright.

CRP: He came, uh, to get more religious...

CO: He did?

CRP: Uh-huh.

CO: But you have, um...you've been exposed to, uh, a lot of...

CRP: Agnostics?

CO: Well, that too.

CRP: I was saying, my father's uncles were Agnostic, two of them.

CO: Yeah. So you've got a wide variety of, um...influences in your past.

CRP: Probably, more than some people in a little town.

CO: Yeah. Could you tell somebody what your religious, what do you believe?

CRP: Sure.

CO: Ok.

CRP: I believe in the Nicene Creed, I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, I can go right straight down it. I believe it. I know that some people say, "Well, do you really believe in the "Virgin Birth," do you really?" I say, "I do." Until it's proven different, it is...it is something that I can hold on to, and intellectually, sometimes, I have doubts and I know a lot of religious people do, and I pray about them, but my core value is "I do believe in God, above everything, and I believe Jesus Christ was his son." But I will say, a lot of times I say we are all his sons and daughters.

CO: Ok, that's a pretty radical statement. I love radical statements.

CRP: Ha ha. That's kind of broad, I guess. But I feel that I am a child of God, and I feel that other people are child of God. I think he wanted us all to be child of God, and ... it doesn't bother me if there are a hundred other worlds, and I don't care about anything. I don't know whether God has revealed himself and entirely different to them, that's not my concern.

CO: But you don't have a problem, sounds like you have, in some senses anyway, almost a universal, a Universalist understanding of...

CRP: Spirituality is my [?????].

CO: Yeah. Ok. And it seems clear that these values drive how you live your life. It's not like you set them aside and worship in sort of an isolated, it sounds like it's part of your day-to-day, minute-to-minute living.

CRP: Well, it's very important to me. But it's not...anything added to it, it's just part of it.

CO: Yeah, that's what (I'm trying to say.)

CRP: And I love to read my Bible, and I am a good student. My grandmother, that's her Bible over there, it's coming apart. And when I married Lee, my granddaughter read some of the scripture for us, and she was so young, my Episcopal priest looked at her, "Whew, you can really read!" And I thought, "Well, she was brought up to know the Bible."

CO: Did, um...could you identify...a most profound spiritual...experience? I mean, some people don't have a clue what I'm talking about.

CRP: I know what you're talking about.

CO: You don't have to.

CRP: I'm listening. Uh...I was not like Saul, *On the Road to Damascus*, I never saw a great light, I never had anything like that. But it's just a steady...faith and belief.

CO: Ok. And does that get stronger as you get, as you, no?

CRP: I don't think so. Always been who I am.

CO: Ok.

CRP: I mean, just because I'm going to die, I don't all of a sudden think I've got to change or God's expecting me to do anything else. I love his word because I love poetry. And I think, I love the King James Version, I do. It hurts me that we use the revised, because I know, now I can't say I remember them like I used to, but I, I knew two of Shakespeare's plays, just about every word. And I know worlds of the Bible, and it'll come back to me, you know. Ecclesiastes, there's just so many, and I studied the harmony of the Gospels, the 4 Gospels, how they agreed and how they disagreed. But that didn't bother me, anything about it. My daddy would even say to me, "A lot of

people think that Apostles rolled the stone away,” and I said, “Well, it just doesn’t suit me to.”

CO: Um...have you experienced something that you would consider a miracle?

CRP: Hmm. (pause) ... well, I thank God every day that Jamie wasn’t paralyzed, and he,uh...

CO: Can you say again, because I don’t think I had the recorder on when you talked about that yesterday.

CRP: Alright. I...he gave a wonderful testimony, it was just beautiful. And, I got a copy and I took it to that aunt I love so much in Jupiter. And she told me how many times she’d play it. Oh, it’s beautiful. How he felt like that was a turning point in his life. I mean, you say a turning point.

CO: But, will you just say something about the accident where he was almost paralyzed.

CRP: Alright, he was...I’ll tell you this. I thought that Jamie would ????? Ambassador to Argentina [33:53-50], and I was told that he wasn’t eligible because you had to be a career diplomat for that. But Jamie went to Argentina often, and he bought, he had 22 Polo ponies, and he bought most of his in Argentina. And he brought 2 ... pitiful in some ways, young men from Argentina who had nothing, but they knew Polo ponies, they knew horses. So he brought them here and set them up in a nice place to live and, and then let them look after his Polo ponies. And, finally, one of them he let play on his team for a while. And you can’t imagine what it meant to that young man, they just loved Jamie. Well, he went down there often and knew so many people in Argentina, I thought, “That would be a fit,” you know. But, they wanted him to go to Switzerland and some other places, not even that important, but he didn’t want to take little Jamie often. The funniest thing is, he has not taught little Jamie to be a good rider. I don’t know whether his experience ... that happened, because Jamie and Harold, my two boys, they rode Junior Rodeo, my goodness, I’ve seen them thrown off of horses, trying to lasso wild bulls and everything else, you know. They loved it. I couldn’t believe he didn’t.

CO: But Jamie was in an accident, he fell off a horse?

CRP: Yes, he was training a new Polo pony up at, around Douglasville, they had a training field, and, uh, I have seen him play, I’ve seen him be knocked off his horse, I mean, you know, that’s part of it. Well, ‘cause I wasn’t up there for this training thing,

but it was a full game, and this horse balked, and he went over his head, and just the way he hit, you know, you might, it might have and might not, and he couldn't even breathe. I mean, he just thought he was dying. And this man, I told you his last name was [UNKNOWN LAST NAME, 31:36], I haven't thought of his first name yet, uh... Jamie said he came and he talked to him, and he talked to him, "Jamie, breathe, breathe, breathe!" You know, just wonderful. And we were not very happy because ... who ever brought the ambulance up there took him to their ... nothing hospital. And, uh... of course, we were on the telephone, trying to find the best care, and it was decided that Shepard's Spinal Clinic in Atlanta was the best place for him to go. So, they, Cathy went on up that night, and I wanted to go with her, but she said no, no, I don't know why she wouldn't let me. She said later I should have taken you or somebody with me, because she was so upset. Ah, and Harold was on the telephone the whole time, making arrangements for him to be entered in Spinal Shepard. And Bob Coles, our best friend and doctor, and he was in Greece and Harold was talking to him, I mean, you know, when we move, we move! We try to find out what's going on. So... Harold went on up the next morning, and called me, and I had somebody driving me, and Lee was with me, and he told me to meet him at Crawford Long, that he could not get the people at that hospital to take him anywhere but Crawford Long, you know that's part of Emory. So we get down there, and we had, uh, talked to Shepard, they were looking for him. And that driver refused to take him there. And he said he was ordered to take him to Crawford Long, he was going to take him in there and then, if he got the orders, he would take him back. And Harold said, "You may kill my brother, moving him twice." So he went in there and stood in the middle of that... whole area of doctors and he said, "I'm going to tell you, I'm going to sue you if you don't let us take Jamie to Spinal Clinic. My, he wants to go, he could answer, his wife wants him, his mother wants him to go, and the doctors," and he said, "I am not going to let him be dragged out and put back in another ambulance." And honey, they gave in. For a week we were out there in Atlanta, Shepard, she and Harold Shepard. They, they really run it. Their son was in this terrible accident and paralyzed from the neck down, and that's why they got into this. And they are one of the most successful in the country. And, of course, they've given them...it's not for money. And she was out there waiting for us, she said, "What kept you so long." I said, "Alena, you don't want to hear it." But, oh, I have never been so relieved to see how her sweet smile and glad to see us and took us. I mean, that was just wonderful. So, the next day, Harold has...a problem and they have to put a splint in him over at...at Pidemont. And they had an underground connection between the two, so...I was going both places, but I felt Jamie needed me

more, and Harold seemed to be doing better. But, I don't know whether ... one thing, you talk about feeling that I needed God's help, whew!

CO: Yeah.

CRP: It was awful.

CO: So, was it pure coincidence that your son Harold also needed treatment, or attention, at the same time?

CRP: Yeah, and it was dangerous. And he's had to have one more since then too. But, uh, and he's younger. But, uh...Jamie could, they had him in, you know, this "halo," if you've ever seen these, you can't move anything. And, he couldn't move and he just... he was very brave, he has always been stoic, but oh my goodness, seeing him lie there like that! And, uh...he didn't want to want his son immediately to see him, he wanted to see his son, anyway, his son came up there. Oh, his little son cried to him. I just didn't know where to, I mean, they couldn't say then whether he was going to make a complete recovery or not, but he did everything, and I don't mean it's a big one, but Jamie has established a foundation up there and we all give money to it. It is a big, big thing in my life.

CO: When was that?

CRP: 1996. It was, the Olympics had just gotten over, and Jamie was one of the organizers for the state of Georgia. And oh, we've had so much fun, he had included us in everything about the Olympics.

CO: .

CRP: We kept two people here who ... were gymnasts and, oh, it was so wonderful. We went down the coast and saw all the boats and all that. We went over to Georgia and saw the soccer, and the Brazilian Team stayed here at Reynolds and, uh, the Equestrian Team was entertained at Port ??????. Uh, the Jervis' owned [LOCATION] at that time, and oh, we just went to non-stop parties, we had the most wonderful time with them, but it changed Jamie's life. It definitely did. It really did.

CO: That was a marked turning point for him. How old was his son at the time?

CRP: Oh, I don't think he could have been over 10. Maybe 9?

CO: Probably changed his life too, seeing his father...

CRP: I know it did! And when it came to be this, Jamie said, "Harold, I want you to be my son's guardian." (Crying, "It's so tough.")

CO: You don't have to talk about it anymore. Thank you for telling me about that, though. I can see where that would be regarded as a miracle. Now...ask one more question, how long between his ...admittance into that hospital and the time you knew he was not going to be paralyzed?

CRP: Well, uh...I don't really know. He was up there 6 weeks, and when they let him come home, they knew that ...I mean, the body worked, and it worked within weeks. I mean, you know, that, it wasn't that he was paralyzed for any length of time. But his, nobody knew how well his neck was going to be. And they didn't take that off, he didn't take it off till Harold married. He was going to be his Best Man, and, see, he got hurt in September, and Harold married in January.

CO: Hmm, That's a long time to wear that...hmm. You mean he just had to wear it, did he go back to work and...?

CRP: He did...oh wait, no, he didn't do all he'd been doing, but he has a wonderful secretary and he handled things that he could talk about and do. He didn't go out in the field, see. He had been very active. Uh, he bought and sold timber, and he cruised and did that, he didn't do any of that.

CO: Yeah, yeah.

CRP: But, uh, he was already deeply involved in Reynolds Plantation, you see. He ... he had that, uh, to think about, but, uh, of course he gave up Polo, he couldn't play. He couldn't turn his neck back enough. But he does still play some golf, but he says he doesn't play well because, you know, he really can't. But he rode horseback all his life. And that was a small thing to give up, I don't mean that, but...

CO: So, you saying that it changed his life. Um...do you think he's grateful for the experience? I've heard people who have almost died with Cancer say that ...in retrospect....

CRP: I'm, I can't say, he suffers every afternoon, he keeps an icepack on his neck. He is not without pain, daily, and that's not easy.

CO: Right, of course not. Ok.

CRP: But he decided the most important thing in his life was his family, period. He gave up a lot of these...fun things that he had worked hard and was able to do. He just

...physically he had to. But then, apparently he just decided he didn't miss that. Oh, he goes to church every Sunday. He doesn't always go to the same church because he got aggravated with the Methodists and goes to the Presbyterian, ha ha ha, but he goes.

CO: have your religious values changed any over time?

CRP: I'm afraid not.

CO: No. So what you believe now, you believed as soon as you knew what a belief was, in your...?

CRP: Well, I think I've broadened and have depth to it and all that, but my basic hasn't. I was baptized when I was 6 years old.

CO: Hmm. Ok. Alright. do you believe in an afterlife?

CRP: I don't know. I'd like to. I hope...I hope but, uh...you know I feel like if I'm a part of star somewhere, I'm a part of anything. I think like, you don't go to nothing. I think you're still part of everything, and, uh, because, I...had one of my best friends was so liberal. And she, and you know, she wasn't particularly religious person, I didn't think. The Boswells, here, are able to be buried in Pinfield, 'because Colonel Boswell, that one I told you got so rich, he restored it so beautifully because his mother and father were buried there, they had a little wall going around it, it has a full-time care-taker. So, if you're a Boswell, you can be buried over there with perpetual care. Well, her husband died early, with Cancer, and she buried him over there. And then, Lilly, well, her father was buried here and mother was buried here in Greensboro, and do you know what she told me. She said, "Carolyn, I don't want to wake up with all those Boswells." She said, "I'm going to bring Carlton(?????) back over here and I'm going to be buried here." And durned if she didn't dig him up and bring him back over here. And I thought, "Well, lord, if you believe in the Lord, it doesn't matter where you die." I mean, maybe you'll rise, maybe you won't, but why does it matter? She thinks she's going to wake up and have a conversation with them on this earth, I guess. But, I mean, I've known people that liberal.

CO: Right, right.

CRP: I mean, I would like to have people, certain, that I would like to see, but I don't know that you'd see them anyway. I think so, spiritual.

CO: Yeah. What single experience have you given you the greatest joy?

CRP: Having my children.

CO: Ok. And do you feel at peace?

CRP: Do I feel what?

CO: At peace?

CRP: Yeah, very much.

CO: Ok. How do you achieve that? A lot of people don't feel at peace, how do you achieve peace?

CRP: Well...maybe, maybe people expect different things from peace.

CO: What do you expect?

CRP: I don't expect anything. I just, you know...I'm at home in this world.

CO: You're at home in your skin?

CRP: I mean, you know, I do the best I can, and I'm not...oh, I had this great friend who died a few years ago, and I miss her so. And I used to say, we walked together every morning, I said, "Mary Jean, I just don't feel responsible for everything in the world." I don't.

CO: But you do have a strong sense of responsibility to family?

CRP: Yeah but I don't feel like that it's up to me. Uh, I can't alter the course of the world or history or anything. I don't think that's my responsibility. I think, Jesus says "first in Judea, then in Samaria, then in the rest of the world." I mean, first in your home, your family. And then in your community. I can't take on the whole world and everything, and I don't even try, because I am up on politics and I do feel bad about a lot of things, but I don't let it make me sick.

CO: Yeah, yeah. Um...maybe these questions seem redundant, but you can just pass. Are you certain of anything?

CRP: Am I certain of anything? Well, I'm certain of God, and I'm certain of being loved and loving other people. And I'm certain of my family values, and I'm certain of my deep, deep love and devotion to my family. You see, some of my...Christians up here and I real, if I have a pride, I am so proud of my children, my grandchildren, my great grandchildren. So, I would say that's very rewarding to me.

CO: Ok, that's, uh...

CRP: That may not be what you want.

CO: That is! I want what you ...

CRP: I mean, I don't know whether that's the angle you wanted.

CO: No, whatever comes to mind. Can you talk about loss?

CRP: Oh yeah, and I'll talk about nature. I'm really into nature.

CO: Oh, good.

CRP: Uh, I'm a gardener, and I was a very, very good gardener. I was a charter member of the Southern Garden History Society in Winston-Salem. And I studied gardening, and I went over to the university after I finished school and took all kinds of horticultural courses and, you didn't get a grade on them. You just took them, went to the Botanical Garden and constantly studied. And, oh, I had a nice library on birds and, ah, roses and all sorts of things. It was a great blessing to me. And, uh, we had camellias and ... a few azaleas, not many azaleas, but we had [UNKNOWN FLOWER, 16:25] and all different kinds. Uh, banana shrub, you know, all kinds of things like that. And, uh, when I was a little girl, I had a little flower garden of my own, as part of the...vegetable garden. It was looked after, it was fertilized, and this boy, who lived next door to me, he loved it too. He had one on the other side, and we were just trying to out-do each other with our gardens, but we just had so much fun. It was just...

CO: This is a life-long, you've been a gardener forever.

CRP: Yeah. All my life. I've just, I love to grow things. I just love to work in the yard, in the ground. And, uh...Marguerite, my daughter, says, "I don't know whether Momma was prouder of her children or her trees," because I planted every tree in my yard up there but the Pecan trees, and I had a friend who says, "Carolyn, you could not have planted that Oak tree or that Oak tree," and I said I did. But I will say, my husband....got somebody to dig it up. He was opening a subdivision, and the road was coming right by this Oak tree, so it exposed one whole side. And he got a crew to come dig it up and pull it up the chain and everything else in the world, and that is one of the most beautiful Oak trees you've ever seen.

CO: It survived the move? Was it moved?

CRP: Yes, that's the one that's so big that nobody thinks I planted it. They think it looks a100 years old--well, gosh, I'm nearly 100, maybe it's 120 years, 150 years old. ha ha! And I love "Boxwood", and my husband indulged me and things like that. We'd go to North Carolina and find some place that sold Boxwood, and we'd bring them home and plant them.

CO: Now, you mentioned, you talked yesterday a little bit about the landscape architect who designed your garden. Who was that, again?

CRP: Hubert Owens.

CO: Hubert Owens, ok.

CRP: And he started the Landscape Department. In fact, they called it "Enviromentalist." But he was a landscape architect and started that department.

CO: At UGA?

CRP: Uh-huh. And I have the letter from Cathy Whiteside stating that I have the only private, I'm not talking about public, I have the only private garden that he did, because he just started. I mean, he was about the 3rd year, I guess, before I had him, that's still intact.

CO: Hmm. And did she come and take photographs of it?

CRP: Oh yeah. She's writing a Masters or something on it.

CO: Ok. Well, I'm not sure how asking you about loss made you think of gardening, but it's ok....

CRP: I thought you said what was important or ...

CO: Doesn't matter. This is just the experience of loss, and of course the most, uh, difficult loss is through death. What has been the most difficult loss for you to...?

CRP: My husband. Of course, I cannot imagine anything worse than losing a young child.

CO: Yeah, yeah. I interviewed a woman who lost her husband 10 years after she married him, her 9-year-old daughter from a brain tumor, and her son just two years ago.

CRP: There are people that have inner strength that is absolutely amazing. Well, you know, I was torn up when my grandmother died, but that was nothing like my husband and children losing their father.

CO: Yeah. So, and besides death, have there been other losses that you've had to cope with? I mean, how do people cope with something like, everybody copes, you know, in their own way, but how do we get through something like the loss of a spouse or, for this woman, the loss of a child?

CRP: I don't know how people get through a loss of a child. And when they lose somebody else, uh...

CO: Well, this woman, you know, it was very, uh...significant that people would just say the wrong thing.

CRP: Isn't that awful? Isn't that pitiful?

CO: It is.

CRP: And you know they don't mean it, they just...They say, "Oh, you'll get over it."

CO: Right. Expect you to get over it and then, one of the worst things that seems to most people is to say, "I know how you feel."

CRP: Oh yeah. And you want to say, "Do you?" No, uh...this is a broader statement: people have always been kind to me.

CO: So that helps? Has that helped through the grieving process, just kindness?

CRP: Well, I mean, in every way. I haven't had people sniping at me.

CO: So, so ... who teaches us how to grieve? I mean, we try so hard not to even think about death, not to...

CRP: Well, this may sound strange, but...I was so steeped in the "Lost Cause," I was grieving for those people when I was a little girl!

CO: It doesn't sound strange at all, but it does sound....let's say 50 years ago, it would have sounded very normal. Today it might not sound like that.

CRP: I'm sure it wouldn't.

CO: But...it's interesting to me that you know what the "Lost Cause" is, you grieved for the Confederate dead as a child. I mean, that's something that, I've

never talked to a human being, I read about it all the time, it's my era, but I've never talked to anybody who understood what the "Lost Cause" was. I mean, they see monuments all around them, but they still don't get it.

CRP: Well, in Greensboro High School and Greensboro Elementary School, when I grew up, it wasn't that far. We marched to the cemetery on the 26th of April and took flowers. There's a long row of Confederate dead over there, and there's some of us also have, I have two great grandfathers who I always took flowers to (there), and we just covered those graves with the flowers. I remember 10 Confederate veterans, and they used to give the "Rebel Yell" up on stage and sing "Dixie" and...the whole bit. It was very...see, this was 1930-something, that was very real.

CO: Right, right. But it was also...I mean, that period was a time when the...whatever acrimony there might have been between the two regions, there was kind of like a "love-fest" in the '30s, that's what *Gone With the Wind* was all about. *Gone With the Wind* could never had been made if there hadn't been this harmony between the North and the South.

CRP: Well, my grandmother always admired Abraham Lincoln. And there are some Southerners who hated him, and she said everything would have been better if he hadn't been killed. And it was, uh, his two cabinet ministers, who hated the South so...

CO: So she thinks that Reconstruction wouldn't have been as bad if Lincoln had lived?

CRP: No, that's what she said. She never thought it would have been as bad.

CO: Hmm. That is very interesting, 'cause most people who have any, most Southerners who understand anything about the "Lost Cause" hate Lincoln, so...

CRP: But they don't know enough about it.

CO: Yeah, right right right. Ok... so...

CRP: I mean, it's documented. What, was it Stetson, oh, what was his name? He was so...adamant about it, and, of course, Lincoln had a "Southern Sympathizer" in his wife, and he was going to open, be glad to bring them back in, and he wasn't going to just "punish, punish, punish." There were some people who, they wanted to kill the leaders, you know?

CO: Right, right, right. Radicals in Congress. Yes, exactly. so you actually had the experience, the emotional experience, of grieving for...this past.

CRP: Yes, but my grandmother said our country was better off being united. There are some people today who don't even think that.

CO: Yeah, I know.

CRP: I mean, they're new ones. There are people who are so...

CO: "Neo-Confederates", yeah.

CRP: I don't even know whether they're "Neo-Confederates," they're just so...anti big-government.

CO: Oh, oh ok. Yeah.

CRP: Have you ever read *Confederates in the Attic*? That's a funny book, really is.

CO: It's on my list. I have not read it. I have to read so much for class and couldn't even use that in class.

CRP: No, you couldn't.

CO: It is on my list. besides death, are there other losses that you've had to learn to cope with or just simply had to cope with.

CRP: Well, of course, we've been fortunate over all, but we've had some financial losses, I think. I remember my daddy telling me, although it didn't affect me that much, that he said, "Carolyn, I had stated a college fund for you, and a company bank in Greensboro went broke, and I lost everything I had put in for you." But, he had time later and worked all those jobs, but when banks went broke in little towns, it was awful. I remember ...well, I don't know whether I remember the event or the picture, but...there was a picture up town of this cart, no....this goat was pulling it, it said, "Hoover was the cause." I mean, they hated Hoover, hated him. And that's what I'm saying to so many people hailed..."

CO: Did we talk yesterday about FDR?

CRP: Yeah. Well, I said my grandmother just thought he was a savior.

CO: Hmm. Ok.

CRP: And most people right here in Greene County thought that. Greene County was a rich county, had all these wonderful plantations on this river and...

CO: So they benefited from the New Deal?

CRP: Well they lost before that. They lost everything in the Civil War and then the Boll Weevil came and half the people left in a 10-year period. And the government bought the land to help. The people didn't pay but 5 dollars an acre for it.

CO: Yeah.

CRP: So, listen, that's why it's the Oconee National Forest here. They bought all that land to help people. And if you want, if you fly over it, which I've done many times, it is so many trees, it is so beautiful.

CO: Doesn't it give a different perspective when you see an aerial view of where you live?

CRP: When, of course my husband loved to fly. Well, I'll go back to the first flight. My grandmother had a small farm and Mr. Finch had one next to it. And it was flat, and they, I guess the city, county, or somebody, built a little runway, you wouldn't call it an airport, and Ben Epps, that's famous in Athens, you know Ben Epps Airport, and Ben Epps, Sr. was killed over there on the back side of the university. Ben Epps, Jr. was in love with the girl who lived next door to me who was about 5 years older than I was, and he would come over on Sunday afternoon and fly over our houses and, uh...Anita would say "Come on." I was younger but she just wanted somebody with her. "Come on, Carolyn, we got to go to the airport. We've got to meet Ben Epps." So Ben Epps would take you flying for 5 dollars, but old Carol, and Anita and I go to go sometime. And, uh, then, after the war, during World War 2, they built these emergency airports and had these beacons up all along here, and there was one in [UNKNOWN CITY, 3:44], it's no longer there, and Colonel Garner used to come up real often, and he had a two-seater, and I would fly in the open cockpit. Oh! I thought that was the most romantic...I loved, I love, because as I said, my daddy, he was not a pilot, he was in the Signal Corp, but he was in the Air Corp, so. And he had a cousin who used to fly up to see him, and he was a Bethea, and I know one time he came up and was about half-drunk. He had flown up from Augusta to here in his plane. I didn't fly with him, my daddy wouldn't let me, but he just came up to see us.

CO: Well, can you talk a little about the experience of aging?

CRP: Oh, I thought you was going to talk about World War 2.

CO: No, I do, I am, I've got a whole section on history.

CRP: Alright, I was just... Well, I didn't think about it. I didn't think I was going to get old. I never gave any thought to it.

CO: Well, didn't you say yesterday, which is so telling to me, that you still felt 25? But you see, I ask people, I ask the question "How old do you feel in your heart, in your mind?" Your mind's still working great, you still have a, you know...

CRP: Oh, I look in the mirror and think...

CO: That's what I'm talking about!

CRP: ... "Who is that old woman?"

CO: You look, you see your reflection and you're like, "Who is that?" Because inside, you don't feel that way. And we talked about it yesterday, but did you say how old you felt? Inside? No? How old do you feel?

CRP: I never have put an age on it. I feel *alive*.

CO: That's a good answer. So, um...is there any part of your life or any time in your life, any age in your life, that you look back to nostalgically?

CRP: Well, I have friends, I have, uh, old boyfriend, that we just stayed friends, and he wouldn't get about of bed when he's 40. I mean, I never was *that* way. I thought it was the most ridiculous thing I ever heard. He was very handsome, and I guess he didn't...I mean...

CO: You mean, because he felt that he aged too much?

CRP: He just didn't want to be 40.

CO: Oh, ok.

CRP: I mean, he just thought that was beyond anything.

CO: So you don't, you don't have, there's not an age you feel you'd go back to?

CRP: No.

CO: Ok, alright.

CRP: I mean, I never heard of somebody not getting up out of bed.

CO: Yeah. Well, did he get over that?

CRP: I don't know whether he did or not. He had a beautiful, wonderful wife that I adored, and she died with brain cancer when their youngest child was, when she was Harold's age, when (she??) graduated from school, and then he married immediately

somebody else, and then, uh...his children were very unaccepting to him. And he died in an automobile accident. He was driving. I used to date him, and he and Bob Gunn used to go to Indianapolis all the time, and they came back, and they drove like they were at Indianapolis. He would go 120 m.p.h.. We used to drive down I-15 on the dirt road wide open. I don't know why he wasn't killed then, we didn't think about it then.

CO: But he was eventually killed in a car crash?

CRP: Yeah, but I don't think he was...wild then. At all. And he married the most settled woman. Oh, his first wife a beauty queen.

---End of Conversation with Carolyn Reynolds Parker, part 4---

---Resume Interview, part 5---

CRP: He met her while he was in the Army. She was just beautiful, I just loved her so and miss her so. We had children about the same time, and we swapped maternity clothes. I always told her that hers were prettier than mine. She sewed all the time, and she always put white ruffles that would take your eye up here, you know? And then I had another friend...who had 5 children, and she was sew her dress after she put it on her skirt, so it was real tight here, you know, so that this part was straight and then she'd have that coming out.

CO: . Well, you sew too?

CRP: Oh yeah, I love to sew, but Jean was better than I was. I didn't put all those white ruffles on mine.

CO: Did you take the ruffles off when you got her clothes?

CRP: Oh, no. I left them, because we passed them back and forth for 4 children each.

CO: Ok. This is about regional identity, which you probably understand with a depth that...maybe nobody else.

CRP: Probably too much, ha.

CO: Yeah, maybe more than anybody. But if you had to, maybe you've even had to do this, to somebody outside this country. I mean, in this country, people have some general, wherever you're from, you've got some impression of how the South is different from the rest of the country. But if you had to explain it to

somebody who just didn't know anything at all about it, how would you explain and describe the differences between the South and the rest of the country?

CRP: Well, I'll tell you one interesting thing that happened to me, because I had to fight prejudice against the Japanese because of what happened to Jack at Corregidor and Bataan, and I just idolized Douglas MacArthur. Although I can't say my husband thought he was perfect, I don't think he's perfect, but I just liked him. I just, he was a hero to me. I did everything I could to help them with Reynolds Plantation when it was first organized. We developed this part first, and then my sons went in with Mercer a bigger thing and I did not go in with that, I still own a 180 acres right through there and 3 years ago I gave it to my children. I said, "I don't need it and your grandchildren, they'll never be able to afford property down here unless I give it to them." But I toured groups through the Jackson House, because a lot of people wanted to come. I remember Barbara Dooley brought her crowd up here, she just loved it, you know? Their little groups. And, uh..

CO: Barbara Dooley?

CRP: Yeah, Vince Dooley's wife.

CO: I know, but the students won't know, so they'll be transcribing and they'll wonder what you say.

CRP: Oh, yeah, yeah. And she's such an outgoing and wonderful person, just loved it. And the Canterbury Group, that's retired Episcopal ladies, they would come down, you know. Well, they call me one day, they say, "Carolyn, we need for you to do a favor. We've got a group that wants to see the Jackson House." And I said, "Ok, who?" "The Japanese." ... I don't know a thing about ...right here. I said ok, I toured them, and I told them...how the South was so defeated. Honey, they related real quick with what had happened to them. And I told them, "We were beaten down and we didn't come back till World War 2." And I have a good, well, she's dead, who are me good friends, huh? Betty Talmadge, she was married to Herman Talmadge, she was First Lady of Georgia and then later he was a senator. She heard on television he's getting a divorce from her. We were in the same class at Georgia, and she was a [UNKNOWN WORD, 58:02], and my husband, Lee, was a fraternity brother of Herman Talmadge and a suitemate, which is kinda...But Herman had been married before and divorced when he married Betty Shingler...and she was quite a business woman. She bought hams and then seasoned them and aged them and they were called "Talmadge Hams" and she did well. And in their divorce settlement, she got Lovejoy Plantation, which

was outside of Jonesboro that a lot of people think ... that probably was the place that Margaret Mitchell, one of the areas that she was talking about, the type of house. And it was, Betty did a good job on that house, and she would tell me, uh...she entertained, she was on like the Visitor's Bureau in Atlanta when they worked out, when doctors' wives would be there and all these things, and she had a lot of foreign groups. She said, "I make more money on the Japanese than I do anybody else, and they are carried away with the South." I thought that was interesting, I had that experience.

CO: Well, and some people, yeah, it's definitely...people relate when they have something in common, a common historical experience. It does make people, and it's one reason people say finally....

CRP: They loved flying Flannery O'Connor, the Japanese.

CO: Loved Flannery O'Connor?

CRP: Oh, they loved him. They come down to Georgia College from Japan just to study the library down there.

CO: Yeah. But the rest of the country appreciated...the experience of defeat that the South...people all over the place would say, "get over it," you know, talking about the feeling of defeat, but after Vietnam...the rest of the country, because in more ways than one, we were defeated in that. And so, everybody was brought to their knees by that, and so finally...historians have said, the rest of the country can relate to what the South experienced in 1865 after Vietnam. I don't know, maybe that doesn't resonate with you, but...

CRP: It doesn't, it doesn't. But...it really doesn't, because there wasn't that many people involved in it. It wasn't that.... you know, how many people were killed in the Civil War, and they were all Americans, and sometimes brother against brother. I mean, there was so many more people killed.

CO: Right, I understand that. But there were 3 million Vietnamese killed, so...a lot of people did die even if only 58 thousand Americans died...

CRP: Yeah, up there on The Wall, I've seen The Wall and seen how moving that is.

CO: Yeah, it is. But what does it mean to you to be Southern? Ok, let's go back, because you didn't describe...the parallel with Japan is excellent, that's great. How would you describe to those Japanese? Ok, you used the Civil War and that experience of defeat and...

CRP: I told them about the family that built the house, and how he lost brothers who were killed in Virginia. One of the bodies was returned, the other one was never found.

CO: So for you, the difference is really all the way back to the War? A lot of people say, "We're nice, we're hospitable, we love family, we like...our food is different, we talk different."

CRP: Yea. Those are all very superficial and very true. But I have so many friends down here who are not from the South and they say, "Well, it wasn't our fault, we weren't born here. We got here as quick as we could." And Scott Hurston, who has been here since the very beginning as a land planner and landscape architect, his little girl Katherine was born here, and he said, "Miss Carolyn, I got me a southerner now." She was just so cute, but most of them, they want to go along with the South and they like the idea of it, and they want to hear about it. Not long ago, are you familiar with Dr. Raper, he was from the University of North Carolina, he wrote 2 books about....

CO: Arthur Raper? Yeah.

CRP: *Tenants of the Almighty* and *Sharecroppers All*. Well, they had a professor, I think from Georgia, that was speaking on it, and they had so many people who wanted to come because it's about Greene County. He did Greene County and Macon County. And they want to learn about it, they are really anxious to hear about it, and I don't do it anymore, but they have, on occasion, asked me to come tell them the history of this area because of the Indians and, just various things that happened, wouldn't you know.

CO: Ok. Well, some people...and I understand that it's pretty strong in Europe...understand the difference between the South and the rest of the country to be centered primarily around troubled race relations.

CRP: Oh yeah. Not only that, but a lot of people think Lil Abner....they think of us as uneducated Appalachians, you know? Oh yeah, they have the "Hillbilly" and all that kind of thing, a lot of prejudice.

CO: Yes, yes. Do you remember when you were growing up, there certainly was, before the Civil Rights Movement, a "code of ethics" for...behavior of both races?

CRP: (pause)...Well, I was, of course not alive during Reconstruction and I understand some very sad things happened during that era. By the time I came, things were very smooth. Now, whether they were smooth all the way underneath or just what we knew I don't know, but we had excellent relations. And...

CO: But you did, you know what I'm talking about when I say that there was an expectation that blacks would come to the back door and that certain, I mean one...cardinal rule was that blacks and whites did not eat together. And that was just...

CRP: But you know, I thought maybe it was just like...English aristocracy and the great houses. The servants ate at one place, I mean, it wasn't that different.

CO: Right, right. But I mean, like an example of how strong people felt about it was 1905, I believe it was, when Theodore Roosevelt invited Booker T. Washington to the White House. Do you remember hearing anybody talk about that? You weren't alive, but...

CRP: I've heard about it, because I've read about Roosevelt enough to know about it. Of course, some people got mad at Eleanor Roosevelt.

CO: Oh my god, she...yeah, she had, you know, her life was in danger.

CRP: Really?

CO: Yeah. Many times, when she came to the South. But Roosevelt was just...in southern newspapers, they were just, there was a black sheet over, you know, a pall, over the White House in these southern newspapers because they were so angry with him for dining with a black man. I mean, he had had him to the White House for some very very...

CRP: I, you know, I really didn't know that much about that.

CO: Yeah, but I'm just using that as an illustration of how commonly-known it was that that was one "code" that was not...

CRP: Well I know that the University of Georgia got kicked off the accredited list just about because of Eugene Talmadge, no, yeah, Eugene, Herman's father, raised so much cane about an integrated barbeque or something with professors.

CO: But...one thing that historians are interested in is, when do we become aware as children, and usually it is as a child, somehow or another it hits you, if you grow up in a legally-segregated society, that ...not that this person is different from you because the skin's a different color, but that that means something.

CRP: Well it was just like osmosis, it...we just knew it. I mean, we just lived according to different...

CO: ...expectations from...so you don't recall a time in life when you said....

CRP: It was always that way. Have you, you probably have read *The Help*?

CO: Oh yeah.

CRP: Well, my grandmother had a ...it was a privy, because that was what as the house when it was first built, very nicely. They used that. I mean, that was just....and after I married, Jamie, his mother had...a nice...bathroom, well, not a bathtub, but anyway, it was a connection with one of the outdoor buildings of the house, and nobody used the same bathroom.

CO: Right, right. Do you remember ever questioning that?

CRP: No.

CO: No.

CRP: I just thought that's the way it was. I mean, I wasn't that attuned to it.

CO: Ok.

CRP: At that time, nobody had been to West Point or Annapolis that was black.

CO: Right, right, right. well, I'll come back to that when we get to the '60s, but just to go back to history because you've been so..."historically aware" and especially with World War 2. What has been in your life the most significant historical event that either you've participated in or...

CRP: World War 2, of course. Oh! Absolutely, it changed everything, everything!

CO: People from your generation say that. If I ask a class of students that, they don't skip, miss a beat, they say "9-11," you know?

CRP: Oh, I mean, that's important. World War 2 brought the South out of Depression, nothing else would have. The building in Charleston and Mobile, all the ship-building and so many people went to those places to build, they got jobs, they went...I think I told you one of my uncles started out for one year at a "CCC Camp" in Sparta and ended up being head of the whole southeast and then went in the Army as a Major in the Engineer, I believe that's what they put him in, as an Engineer, and these boys that

he had under him were from such poor families, and they were good, I'd say farm people, and they sent their money home, and that might not have been much but it helped. And they were disciplined, they wore nice, clean, khaki clothes, they learned skills, that Alexander Stephens Memorial that I said we used to camp and fish at, they built all that. They learned skill, and boy, when they went in the Army you couldn't have better people. They were already disciplined, they lived like soldiers. I mean, it wasn't as tough as the Army in many ways, but I believe in universal training. It doesn't have to be military, but I think everybody should put in a certain length of time. I'm very strong for that.

CO: Men and women? Do you think women ought to serve as well?

CRP: Of course women ought to. Good lord, why not? My daddy never said a word about me going into the Red Cross, because I wanted to go to England like a friend of mine had. I mean, it was sure, one of my best friends married a RAF pilot who was training down here in Americus, and his mother and father were both killed in the Blitz. I mean, we knew it was...had some risks and everything, but I could not imagine somebody not wanting to help.

CO: Yeah, but you're talking about...

CRP: World War 2.

CO: Yeah, right, but you're talking about even today you think that it would be a good idea...

CRP: Absolutely.

CO: ...for all people to serve.

CRP: Oh, yes. Oh, I've said that a lot. And, uh, I'm not saying it has to be universal military, but I think it has to be universal service.

CO: Eleanor Roosevelt thought that too. Um...and of course, the first thing that comes to some people's mind is Israel because they require

CRP: Yeah. Kippiz, Kibbutz, whatever. My son roomed with a, I think that was the first Jewish friend he had. Curtis Bane was Jamie's roommate and Jamie called me up and he's always had this funny sense of humor, and he said, "Momma, I think I ought to be a Jew. He's already had 3 holidays." They had, you know, in the fall they had their important holiday. "He doesn't have to go to school half the time!" And Curtis took him to his home, they had a wonderful, big home in Atlanta, Jay Bane was a big

organization then. And later he told me, he said “it’s just like that movie ‘Goodbye, Columbus,’ you ought to see it!” Seen him going for the prunes, you know. He just enjoyed it, and then Curtis went to Israel and was in a Kibbutz, am I saying it right?... and served full-time over there.

CO: Yeah, yeah. It’s a completely different life. It’s a communal life that Americans especially are not accustomed to.

CRP: Well, I’m not saying that, I’m just saying...there’s so many places you could serve. You could be a mentor, you could help these children. Oh my goodness, those children need so much help. You could go to “Old People’s Homes” and help them, read to them.

CO: Right. I’m becoming very aware of the need to include old people, because...their numbers...

CRP: So many of us.

CO: ...yeah, their numbers are just exploding. So, you recall World War 2 pretty vividly? You were directly affected by it?

CRP: It changed my life, and that changed all of our lives, I think.

CO: Of course it did, yes. Well, you could say that World War 2 is responsible for the movements that come out of the late ‘50s and ‘60s and even into the ‘70s. World War 2 was, you know, I hate to use this hokey word, but it was a “watershed”...

CRP: And you think of the Tuskegee Airmen? I mean, it’s just so much involved in it. And they didn’t get the rights till later. I mean, it was very hard, and then they made the blacks be the truck drivers. I mean, it was a lot of things. They told us, when I joined the Red Cross, we could not even dance with an enlisted man. We had to dance only with the officers.

CO: Even if they were white?

CRP: Yeah. Had to be an officer. Maybe some people don’t realize that, but it was very much that way.

CO: Now that is a class-bias that I ...

CRP: Well it is. You haven’t run into that, you didn’t know that?

CO: Well, no, I didn't. I mean, I knew that the military was segregated, but I didn't realize (there was a class bias.)

CRP: Well, I had a first cousin, I've talked about a lot, Fred Hunter, and he was a Pharmacist's Mate. And he was an enlisted man, he had a good ranking or whatever you call it, and he fell in love with the RN, and she was an officer, and they couldn't date. They had to wait till the war was over, they got back and got married.

CO: But I mean, I can understand that, from a military's perspective, put to have Red Cross...

CRP: You're in there trying to do things. Oh, we could have parties for the enlisted men, and we did. We couldn't dance with them.

CO: That is bizarre. Um...so, ok, the '40s, and the '50s you started having children. You had, well you had your first child in '49, and then you spent...

CRP: '51...

CO: the early '50s having children. So, what do you recall about the '50s?

CRP: Children.

CO: Children. So, was that a good decade? Do you look back at that decade with...?

CRP: Yeah.

CO: Do you remember things, other things going on? It sounds like your whole family has been aware of things outside the home.

CRP: Oh yeah, we had big discussions, and they used to say we were all chiefs and no Indians. Everybody expressed themselves.

CO: Well, so, what about the Cold War? Do you recall having...?

CRP: Yeah, I recall about the Cold War and being very afraid and apprehensive, and Jamie and one of his friends, for one of their projects, they built a bomb shelter in our basement.

CO: Oh my goodness. Well, see, I have, some people don't even remember the bomb shelters...

CRP: Oh goodness, we've got pictures of them, well, anything like that was just up my husband's alley. That was like [UNKNOWN WORD, 39:40]. He put them in enough supplies, I'm telling you.

CO: So they had a real, a real, what they believed was a real bomb shelter?

CRP: Yeah.

CO: In that house I was in yesterday?

CRP: Yeah. Down in the basement, it's got a big basement. And I said, "Well, I'm not having any part of a bomb shelter." I said, "I'm not going to keep anybody out, and it won't be enough for other people. I don't want any part of that. Forget it."

CO: Well, the people who do understand or recall bomb shelters have the exact same reaction, they didn't want to be in a world where...

CRP: other people were out there dying. No. I've been to Hiroshima.

CO: You have been. Oh, . Did...were you in any way active in the efforts to...get, to stop the escalation of nuclear build-up?

CRP: No. There were people I voted for, but no, I [UNINTELLIGABLE, 38:36-33].

CO: But that wasn't a cause for you to ...?

CRP: Well, I guess I wanted us to protect our country and I'm sorry that we got into the nuclear age, but we were in it. I've been to Russia several times through the years. I was over there when they first opened...was it Gorky? Where they made the tanks? They finally opened it and we got in there to see it. I loved Russian literature, I love Pushkin and I love The Hermitage and Catherine the Great's Palace. I always had great love for Russian literature, and unfortunately I love the Tsar, the Tsarina, and we were there for one of our several visits when they had recently interred the Tsar and Tsarina and the children, and it was in the area of the Peter and Paul Museum and you should have seen all the flowers the Russian people brought. Oh! I mean, they loved them. Here they were, well, Gorbachev was in I believe there, we did get to meet him, but I have never seen such flowers and such devotion.

CO: Did you got to any of the churches when you were there?

CRP: Uh-huh. I did.

CO: What was that like?

CRP: Well, we went to a Russian Orthodox, and it was huge and beautiful and you could see the miters and everything. They were baptizing over here, they were doing something over here, and nowhere to sit, everybody stood up and... it was just...

CO: What was the experience like?

CRP: It was just interesting. I didn't know any Russian but I thought, oh, and we went all through the countryside with those little bitty churches they had, more or less, used as museums. Saw the most gorgeous icons.

CO: And were they, then, being used for worship when you were there?

CRP: No, not then. But that big one was, in Moscow.

CO: Ok. Um...alright, moving to the '60s. Did you remember the *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision in '54?

CRP: (nods head, probably)

CO: You remember that? Do you remember what your reaction, your family's reaction...

CRP: Alright, they did not like, and neither did I, we did not like Earl Warren.

CO: Ok.

CRP: We thought it was going to destroy education, and it did.

CO: You think it did?

CRP: Well it did. I don't have to think, I know. I know 'cause it happened down there.

CO: So do you think segregation was the best way? Do you think it should have been continued?

CRP: Well, I think it should have been more gradual to work out how you were going to educate them. Instead, you did it and you ran all the whites out. I can't say whether how you could kept them. You couldn't keep them because you lowered the standards. You decided we are going to have, everybody's going to be down to the same standard, we are not going to have people who are excellent, we are not going to push out, no matter what the color, we are not going to push them. I mean, it cost us a lot, we sent everybody to school. Listen, in Greene County, they started that little Nathanael Greene Academy all around, everywhere they had them. George Walton,

Briarwood, just...everywhere. It was, whether it was right or wrong, it happened, and nobody was going to sacrifice their child. Somebody say, "Next generation would have had it worse." Next generation didn't get any better. Not here. Maybe somewhere they did, but...and it's not, not these good schools don't welcome all the races, it's not that. But you've got to be committed, you've got to have parents who are behind you. My daughter, Frances, just stopped teaching, I guess it was 3 years ago, you know. She taught all those years, and she taught at Nathanael Greene Academy and then she taught at Union Point, an integrated school that had the highest average of any school except the charter school out here in the county because people wanted their children to go there so badly, they couldn't bus them legally but they could bring them. And they brought them. And when they are interested like that, you have a better school.

CO: Yeah, yeah. But you remember the decision? I talked to some people who don't even remember it, but you remember the decision.

CRP: Yeah, absolutely. We knew it had changed everything. And when I told you how many people in my family talked, they were very much aware.

CO: Right, right. So, ok, and then following that, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, do you remember that? It didn't happen in the backyard but...

CRP: I thought it was hard. And George Wallace standing at the door. That, is that what you're talking about? And then those children being bombed.

CO: A little bit later, oh yeah, well, that comes along a little later, but the act, the protest part of it actually starts with the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

CRP: And then Arkansas and Eisenhower...yeah, I remember all of that.

CO: Yeah. How did you regard it? I mean, clearly, change is taking place. Do you remember the Emmitt Till lynching in '55? Right after the *Brown vs. Board of Education* in '54? It's a very infamous lynching that took place in Mississippi.

CRP: Oh yes! That was a white person.

CO: No, this was a young black boy...

CRP: Well, there was a white...oh gosh, is that, I can't think of his name. I almost can. Yeah, it was absolutely horrible. Any lynching is absolutely inexcusable.

CO: Yeah. But this one had a particular...it kind of catalyzed that...generation of young black people to become very active in the Civil Rights Movement in the '60s.

CRP: Well, they were martyrs. They had been martyrs all through everything. I mean...all through history.

CO: Right, right, sure. Um...so what...when you recall the '60s, I certainly recall it in a particular way because of where I was at the time in the decade, but it was a tumultuous decade, historically. When you look at it from beginning to end. And of course it launched many movements in the '70s. How did you experience the '60s, you and your family?

CRP: Well, you know...we went out to California several times, and it just almost made us cry. We'd see these beautiful girls on the side of the road with the boy who looked like they were stoned out of their minds. We saw Haight-Ashbury, you know, in San Francisco, and it was just so sad to us to see this generation...

CO: So the Hippies scared you? Did you find them...

CRP: More than that, they...I was afraid for my country.

CO: Were your children in any way, did they ever get involved in any kind of...

CRP: Well, honey, that is what I prayed about all the time. And I'm not saying none of them ever smoked marijuana, but no, they didn't get into any trouble. They didn't get into that depth at all. But they were in, let's see...they didn't go to school till the end of the '60s...

CO: You mean off to college? Yes, Frances was...11 in 1960, so...

CRP: Uh-huh, so they were too young for some of that... Like I said, Jamie grew his hair long, Harold's was like an Afro, but the girls didn't react at all to that.

CO: Ok, alright. So, you traveled a lot, so you were in California and you saw the Hippies, what about the protests against, well, back up. You remember the Cuban Missile Crisis?

CRP: Oh! Listen, one of my very best friends was **Shep Sheppard**, and he was a, I guess at that time, instead of a Captain, he was a Commander, and he was on one of those first that went in there to face them. And we thought that we might be at nuclear war, and I mean...that was a scary...

CO: What prompted your sons to build the fallout shelter?

CRP: I think it was a project in school, they just thought that was a great thing to do. They picked that project. Listen, they didn't realize it was all that serious or anything, they just...

CO: So, but do you remember, because we had drills when the Cuban Missile Crisis was...yeah, you remember that? And the children?

CRP: Well, you know, I don't think we did a whole lot of that.

CO: But then, of course, everybody remembers where they were, if you were alive and could talk at the time, when Kennedy was assassinated.

CRP: Oh yes. Oh yes. That was just unbelievable. As I said, I was a great admirer of Kennedy, I really was. I loved his speeches, I loved his "we're going to the moon," and I just loved all of it. And I enjoyed Jackie. I didn't think she was the greatest thing in the world. I thoroughly enjoyed everything she did, what she did to the White House and how lovely she looked and how she's a great representative in France.

CO: Ok, yeah. And then Johnson took over and then Vietnam kind of...

CRP: Well you see, I thought Lyndon Johnson was a... common man. I liked...I don't mean common in a good way. I thought Lady Bird was lovely, and I was lucky enough to have met her several times, and had meals with her and she was a wonderful hostess. We were out there one time and she had had some of us who were on a board to her house down there at the ranch, and she served just like we would.

CO: After his death?

CRP: No, before.

CO: Oh.

CRP: And she was serving a ham biscuit just like we would have done it, you know, and she had her waiter in a white jacket, and all of a sudden she thought he didn't bring enough in there, and she went back to the kitchen and got it. She and Betty Talmadge were real close friends, and she visited...

CO: Now, in what capacity were you in the White House? This is the White House?

CRP: No, it was in their ranch in Texas. It was out in Texas.

CO: Oh, ok. And...so was this before or after he was president?

CRP: Oh....you know, this is terrible that I can't remember exactly, I would have to look it up. I do remember, he must have been president because, and maybe he was dead, because they had this beautiful saddle Mexico had given him, and I was great admirer of saddles, and it had silver on it, probably more than you were supposed to accept. It was just gorgeous.

CO: So, again, what capacity were you there?

CRP: I was there with the National Trust Historic Preservation, one of their people who was invited.

CO: Ok, alright. Um...

CRP: But as I said, I had met her through Betty Talmadge because Betty Talmadge wanted to do a Beautification. You know, Ms. Johnson did all that Beautification.

CO: Yeah, I've talked to somebody else who loved Lady Bird; didn't particularly care for her husband...

CRP: I liked Lady Bird. I did not like Lynda. I went on a Delta cruise with Lady Bird and Lynda after Lyndon was dead, and I met some very nice people, and one of them had substituted in the school that Lynda Johnson, whatever her married name was...

CO: Lynda, as in their daughter?

CRP: Uh-huh....children was in school, and she said she was a pill. But I got up early and I'd go get my coffee in the morning and Mrs. Johnson had three Secret Service...well, she had three shifts because...and I talked to them often, and they said that she was the loveliest lady, and she looked after them at Christmas and wanted them to have time with their family, and that she was the most thoughtful, lovely lady. Oh boy, they really praised her. And, you know, nobody could stand Hillary.

CO: Hillary. Ha, that's a long way from LBJ to Bill Clinton, and especially when you consider a Georgian was in the White House in between. Did you have strong feelings about Carter when he was running and when he was President?

CRP: I was...I supported Carter when he was Governor, and he...and somebody who was working for him asked if I wanted to join the "Peanut Brigade." I said no. I did not support him as president when he ran.

CO: Did you know him? Did you know him or the family?

CRP: Yeah. Not real well. His son, Jeff, went to Woodward Academy with my daughter, and the boys used to throw him in the shower about every week because he wouldn't bathe. And his brother Jack was a friend of one of my cousins, and he was apparently very nice. And, Chip, somebody knew Chip, I didn't know Chip. And I met Miss Lillian, his mother...

CO: What was the occasion for that?

CRP: I was invited to the Governor's Mansion on several occasions. And then I was asked one time to get a group of ladies to come up there and be docent, you know, for various things. And...I guess that was when I had voted for him for Governor, see, and I was invited up for Christmas parties. And I sat with Ms. Lillian on a couple of occasions, and then I went to the Georgia Trust in Americus, and she had us to her Pond House, have you ever heard about her Pond House? Well...I enjoyed it.

CO: What was she like?

CRP: Tough.

CO: Was she?

CRP: She was a RN, or Practical Nurse, maybe she was an RN, and she had a hard life. Her husband didn't make much money. I mean, it wasn't her fault, it was those times. And she went out and stayed with this doctor like some nurses did, too, to help deliver a baby or stay with somebody, and there was a big rumor around. Boy, you talking about an urban legend, there's a big rumor around that she had...she had intercourse with JFK's father.

CO: Yeah, I've heard that rumor.

CRP: Have you? Well, anyway...she kept aiming Amy a lot for them when they were on the campaign trail, their daughter, their youngest daughter.

CO: Yeah.

CRP: She's very Irish, she felt very Irish, and she had a beautiful Waterford decanter and she said, "That Jimmy, I shouldn't have anything that cost" oh, whatever it was. And she says, "I keep my bourbon in this, and I'm keeping it." She said, "You want a drink of it?" I said, "Yeah, I'd love one." Ha ha.

CO: What do you think about her going into the Peace Corp at such advanced age, Ms. Lillian?

CRP: I wasn't at the age to go in the Peace Corp.

CO: No, I said what did you think about HER joining the Peace Corp?

CRP: Well, I thought she was a very independent woman. But she had a little "prudence" about her, I'll say that.

CO: "Prudence", did you say? She was a prude?

CRP: Uh-huh. A little there. She wasn't "manor-born," she wasn't all that smooth, but I'm not saying anything against her, she was just....I met Gloria by accident, and she had, that's her sister, and she had a black leather jacket and all these chains and she came in with a motorcycle crowd.

CO: She was the preacher, wasn't she?

CRP: No! That was Ruth. Ruth Stapleton. She had a son in prison, Gloria. And she went with a motorcycle gang.

CO: Yes, now I remember.

CRP: It was tough. That was one of Billy's favorite things to say, because he went to Emory and he had a high IQ, and I said...

CO: Do you think some of that was an act?

CRP: Sure. He said, "You know, people think I'm crazy." He said, "I've got a sister who thinks she's going to be a preacher, I've got another one in a motorcycle gang." He says, "I've got a brother who thinks he going to be President of the United States, and they think *I'm* crazy?"

CO: He could turn a phrase when he wanted to.

CRP: He was funny. Oh, he was just an alcoholic that was his problem. You know, later in life, he turned it around and quit.

CO: Yeah. Um...we'll go back to the '60s and then we'll get through with the '60s. Um...do you remember, I know everybody remembers JFK's assassination, what do you recall about the Civil Rights Movement as a movement? I'm sure it probably didn't...how was it experienced in Greene County?

CRP: Not like it was in other places. Because I knew all that Martin Luther King was from Atlanta and Coretta King, and we were in New York when Martin Luther King was

assassinated, and we flew back on the plane with Harry Bellefonte and all these people. We were walking around New York and all of a sudden here were all of these mounted policeman everywhere. And, we'd been to a show, we went over to Sardis (?????), there wasn't anybody downstairs, we went upstairs, we liked upstairs anyway. And everybody was around the television set, and that's the first we knew of it.

CO: Hmm. When King was assassinated?

CRP: Uh-hm. And then, when we flew back, there were people coming to the funeral and Harry Bellefonte was one. There was a lot of big wheel black people on that plane.

CO: Yeah. . Coming from New York?

CRP: Uh-huh.

CO: Now why were you in New York?

CRP: Well, we went a lot. My husband owned a small chain of theaters, and we went up there to conventions and I wanted to go to the shows. I mean, we'd fly up to New York and have a nice time, maybe a week.

CO: What fun. And so did you see anything going on because of the riots over the country, did you...?

CRP: We did not see any riots in New York, all we saw were those mounted police and we left the next day.

CO: All because of that?

CRP: No, we were leaving the next day.

CO: You were leaving anyway, ok.

CRP: We didn't have sense enough to know what was going to happen. We weren't even worried about it.

CO: Oh, ok. So you weren't worried about in danger or anything?

CRP: No, we didn't think it through, I guess.

CO: And so, shortly after that, just a couple of months, Robert Kennedy was assassinated. Do you remember that?

CRP: Oh yeah, of course I do, of course I do.

CO: ...having any reaction to it?

CRP: Oh yes, absolutely. And we wondered about Sirhan Sirhan, it really strange to us. And, uh, I was always, I was in conspiracy about the Kennedys, I really was. And I ...

CO: You mean, you were into conspiracy, you believed in the conspiracy to get them...ok.

CRP: I didn't know who had it, who did it. I didn't know whether the CIA was in on it, I didn't understand Jack Ruby's part....we saw that on television. We were just coming in from church, turned on the television and saw that. I don't think the truth has ever been told about it. It's been too many things about which way the bullet went and this, that, the other thing. I don't see how Jacqueline Kennedy stood it, I really don't. And, you know, it's strange, after everything that's happened with the Kennedys, and I have read book after book about all of them, I'm glad she didn't live to see John John do that stupid thing.

CO: You mean, his death? You mean, what led to his death? What are you talking about?

CRP: John John tried to fly a plane when his foot was hurt, and she begged him never to fly. Now I don't think she could have expected him never to fly, but she had something about him flying. She talked about it all the time, and he wanted to film, and she blocked that. Now, I'm not saying...that other mothers wouldn't have said the same thing. I couldn't stand Ted Kennedy. He led everybody astray. I heard a lot of inside stuff down at Palm Beach about him.

CO: Ok. Um...so, ok...

CRP: I was intrigued with the Kennedys, and Jamie and his wife is too, and Jamie says, "She's nothing but a whore, I wish you and Cathy would stop talking about it." I said, "Well..."

CO: Who are you talking about?

CRP: Jacquelyn Kennedy.

CO: Oh, ok.

CRP: When she, you know, married Onassis, a lot of people just collapsed. I said, "Well, Kennedy just went out with everything that had skirts on, you know?"

CO: Yes, they are...they intrigue so many people, and I can't tell you the students who get...very caught up in the conspiracy, and they do the comparison between the Kennedy assassination and the Lincoln assassination, you know?

CRP: Oh yeah, they had the secretaries and, of course, she used the same...set-up for the casket and got somebody to do all the research and had it just like it. Oh, Jackie did her homework. She was smart enough to get the best people to do research for her and listen to them.

CO: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

CRP: And I felt sorry for her, you know, her father was too drunk to take her down the aisle, so she got Hugh (?????) to walk her down. I've been to her house up there and seen the room she had where she wrote a little poetry and everything.

CO: You really were intrigued by it, weren't you?

CRP: I'm sorry?

CO: I said you really were intrigued by it, weren't you?

CRP: Oh yes. Saw her mother's house, and it was painted pumpkin-colored.

CO: That's really not surprising, though, when you consider...

CRP: It was very attractive. She tried to pass her off as a Lee from Virginia, though, and they weren't related to the Lee family at all. I mean, her mother. Of course, Jackie had all kinds of background with her father.

CO: So did you admire her persona, the persona of the...

CRP: I'm afraid I did, and that's what Jamie just couldn't understand, how I could possibly. I thought she loved her children, I thought she tried to be a good mother. You know, she said, "If you succeed with your children, then you succeed, and if you fail, you fail." Well, she succeeded with Carolyn...

CO: Uh-hum. Why do you think she failed with John-John?

CRP: I don't know if she particularly failed. I think he was so good-looking and so idolized...

CO: Did he ever get...out of the shadow of that...salute as a three-year-old?

CRP: Oh, I'm sure not. I'm sure not.

CO: I mean, how do you live after something like that? How do you have a life?

CRP: He tried to have that *George* magazine and it wasn't any good. I don't think that woman he married was any good for him. They said she was in cocaine in a big way.

CO: Yeah, well, that they were so...or at least he was...so affected by the shadow of his parents...

CRP: Well, a lot of people, I mean, I think Roosevelt...

CO: The Roosevelt children, that's what I was getting to. The Roosevelt children never overcame the...living in their parents' shadows.

CRP: And I mean, I don't see how they hardly could. And I don't know, the Rockefellers had some problems.

CO: Yes, they did, they did. But I think they probably...

CRP: So many of them, maybe...

CO: Yeah, and I think they tried to make up for, or overcome, the reputation of some of their family. At least, it seems that way. Well, in the '70s, ok....

CRP: What can I do for you, I've got to take a bathroom break? Do you want one?

CO: Yeah, I do. So we'll stop for a minute.

CRP: Ok.

CO: The decade of the '70s and then we'll move on. Actually, we only have one more section after this, so...

CRP: You want some fresh water?

CO: No, I'm good, I'm good. Uh...you know, before we get to the '70s, have your ideas about race changed over time?

CRP: Gosh, that's a question I'd have to think about. Well, see, I grew up loving them. They were so good to me. I mean, a lot of people didn't have a nurse all their life, and I had Nobby, but I don't even remember that when I was a baby she looked after me. I remember we used to have mad dogs in the summer time. You probably don't remember that, before they gave all the dogs shots...And I can remember one of my nurses grabbing me up and running into the house with me, she thought it was a mad dog. They were protective, my goodness. And Luther worked for my grandmother on a

farm, she didn't have a big farm, and he would come in in a wagon or a buggy and let me drive it. Oh my goodness, I thought that was just wonderful.

CO: So you felt...affection for the particular...?

CRP: Very much, because they were so good to me. And when my grandmother, for years, and when she died, actually, Josie looked after her and she was so clean and so sweet, and looked after her just...Oh, she was so devoted and kind. I will tell you one little thing that Jamie's always teasing me about everything. I said, "Oh, you don't know how it was without central heat." I had a room, it's called an "L room." It was...off, I had windows on three sides of the room, and the bathroom was on the back porch. I had to go out of my door and it was right there, and then later they did, you know, enclose it and all that, so you could just walk out and just go. I said...we had quilts, and they would, not actually people, it wasn't a servant. We heated flat irons, as they called them, we had those and somebody would wrap it up in newspaper and flannel and they would get the bed warm with it, and put it at your feet. I said in the middle of the night, it would turn ice cold, and the quilts were so heavy we couldn't even turn over. I said, "I couldn't get out of bed until till Bessie came by about 5." Jamie said, "Go ask Bessie about the Depression instead of you."

CO: Ha ha. So, but you don't think, you don't feel like your ideas about race relations and...

CRP: Oh, I'm sure they changed, of course they've changed.

CO: Because of, because times have changed and circumstances have changed and...?

CRP: Yes, and...there's a lot of hate with the young people, I mean young blacks, they're bitter, and I'm so sorry. You know, and they have gotten on crack and it's just very sad. They are resentful for a lot of good reasons, and I can remember when...grandmothers, I'm talking about black, they raised all the children. And their mothers and fathers went to Detroit or Cleveland, and got a decent job and sent money back home. But their grandmother's raised them and they were raised entirely differently. And now they have this single mother home...

CO: Oh, right, I see what you're saying. So do you think that the grandmother's did a better job of raising...?

CRP: They were there in the afternoon when they came in from school, and they were religious and had high principles, and these children are too young to be having children.

CO: Right, I see. Ok. Alright.

CRP: But it's everything...it's not one thing, but I'm sure they have resentment because they can't get ahead and they don't seem to understand; they have no discipline and you can't get a job if you can't speak English, you can't get a job if you don't, if you're not trustworthy, if you don't go on time. That's just something that nobody has taught them.

CO: Right, I mean, in my experience, that's not a race thing, that's a generation thing. And, you know, I just came from North Georgia where they're saying the exact same thing about young, resentful blacks, they're saying it about the young white mountain kids.

CRP: Oh, those mountain kids. Now, they are deprived.

CO: Yeah, well...so.

CRP: (to servant or someone else bringing something to CRP and CO) thank you. [looking at photos of CRP 80th b'day party] That was a happy night. The only ones not properly dressed, Bobby Thomas, that's them, because he's the darn football coach and he doesn't think boys ought to wear velvet pants. All mine had velvet pants. You think he'd let them put on velvet pants.

CO: And you said this you had down at the Jackson House?

CRP: NO, this was at the Ritz Carlton.

CO: Oh, I'm sorry.

CRP: I bought Jackson's at Saks 5th Avenue when I was up there right before then, and all my boys and some of my grandchildren all had velvet suits, and doesn't he look precious in that velvet suit? They had Eton...little jackets and things, but Bobby Thomas...they're gonna wear sports things for him. It's none of my business, and if it suits Beth, it suits me. I never say anything to them. But this precious girl who's married to...Jim was pregnant and Carolyn, she named her baby Carolyn, was born 5 days later. She said, "Carolyn, you were there, you just didn't show."

CO: She, yeah, you certainly can't tell, she's got the perfect dress.

CRP: I know it. And that's Troy, Sister's husband that died so unexpectedly. But everybody was there in that one.

CO: That's a good picture.

CRP: It is good, of all those people.

CO: SO you were actually...

CRP: 80 years old, that's my birthday.

CO: Oh, yeah, ok. Is that a Christmas tree?

CRP: Yeah, but, uh...my birthday was the 28th of November, and the Ritz had already put it up. My, well, this distant cousin of my children is, uh, he writes symphonies and he's a pianist, and he got a chamber group up from Macon Symphony Orchestra, he wrote this for me, especially, and they performed it, and then they had a regular band, you know, with people. When everybody walked in, I said, "Well, I don't know whether this is the best idea. Don't give anybody anymore." They gave everybody an apple martini when they walked in.

CO: What a way to be greeted.

CRP: It was a beautiful party. It was beautiful.

CO: I'm sure. It wasn't a surprise?

CRP: Oh, good Lord no! Don't you see that good-looking dress I've got? Ha ha. No, they wouldn't have wanted me to write down any of my friends I wanted, and I wrote down my friends from Greensburg, and I still had some alive, then, who could come, and they added a lot of their young friends which added a lot to the occasion.

CO: How many people were there? How many people were there?

CRP: I reckon 65, 70, something like that.

CO: Cozy party. Ok, now, the '60s...a decade you recall a good bit from. What about the following decade, the '60s, which the Civil Rights Movement spawned all these other movements, the...Gay and Lesbian....

CRP: What about Feminism, when did that? And Gloria?

CO: Yeah, Gloria Steinbeck. Do you remember the book, *The Feminine Mystique*? Did you ever read that book?

CRP: Yeah.

CO: You read it?

CRP: Uh-huh. Wasn't that...

CO: Betty Freidan wrote the book *The Feminine Mystique*.

CRP: She wasn't that good-looking, golly she was ugly.

CO: Ha. Published in '63, do you remember when you read it? Ok, so you got to tell me how that book hit you, how did you feel about it?

CRP: It didn't hit me a whole lot one way or the other. I just wanted to know what was going on.

CO: Hmm. So you didn't, ok, so what were your feelings about the Women's Movement?

CRP: Well, I believe women should have all the rights in the world, I think there are a lot of different ways to get them. I wasn't so sure they went about it the right way. It might be right to them, it wasn't right for me.

CO: It sounds like, though, have you ever experienced, yourself, anything that you would consider discrimination because you were a woman?

CRP: No. No. Never. No, because my husband wasn't that way.

CO: Yeah. Ok. So, do you have....how did you feel about the Woman's Movement at the time? And what do you think the legacy of it has been?

CRP: Well, you know, I just didn't get too carried away with it. I was brought up, and I still want a man to open the door for me and treat me with respect. I don't see that you have to do without those things to be a feminist. I think you ought to have equal opportunity, I think you ought to be a pilot, I think you ought to fight, I think you ought to do whatever you want to. Well people fought. My gosh, women fought in the Revolution, women fought against the Indians right here.

CO: Yeah, right, right.

CRP: None of that's new.

CO: Right. What do you think has been the legacy of the Woman's Movement? Do you think it helped or do you think it hurt the cause?

CRP: Oh, I really, I don't think I can...comment on that. I really don't know that. I think...well, my granddaughter has friends...they're friends of my daughter and my granddaughter, but my granddaughter....they were both pilots, this man and his wife. And her husband has retired and the wife is an international pilot, big, big job, I think it's wonderful. I think it's fantastic. And I wouldn't want to be a helicopter pilot, I wouldn't want to fight, but I think it's wonderful if somebody wants to and they have the right.

CO: Yeah, ok. Have you had strong feelings about the Gay and Lesbian Movement?

CRP: Well...I had a lot of gay friends in the theater...

CO: Oh, yes you would...

CRP: ...and they always sent me flower, oh my goodness! I was in a lot of productions and...I had one of them send me this wonderful heather (?????), you know, for an English...period piece. We'd do like....

CO: So does having personal friends help shape or influence your opinion on something?

CRP: I guess so. Listen, In Greensboro, people are always very accepting of the gays.

CO: In Greensboro?

CRP: Oh my Lord, yes. They were...

CO: Open?

CRP: Yeah, I mean, Miles Walker Louis, whose grandfather was Judge Louis, one of the most wonderful people, and...he was gay and we sent him to the Legislature. He was Mayor of the town, and he used to come in the house...

CO: And, but was he open about his sexuality?

CRP: Sure, yeah, everybody knew it. They were always odd Southerners, you know, eccentric Southerners.

---End of Conversation with Carolyn Reynolds Parker, part 5---

*****---Resume Interview, part 6---

CRP: Charles, who I quote all the time, he comes down here and he helps me. He's gay as he can be, I've always loved Charles.

CO: Somebody famously said recently, oh my goodness, I wish I could remember the occasion, but it was so classic. My friend who's not a Southerner told me about it, said, yeah, this was like probably a media person, said, "Yeah, in the South, weren't not ashamed of our...we don't lock our...crazy relatives up," if somebody had kept a relative...

CRP: Well we did know some that were locked up, but usually they just sat down and drank Sherry.

CO: Yeah, right, ha ha. And I loved that Cokie Robert's statement, remember when one of the...I can't remember which...senator was misbehaving, but she said, "In the South, when are husbands do that...we don't...we don't divorce them, we just take them out and shoot them."

CRP: Ha ha!

CO: She said this on, like, ABC [*Good Morning America*] or something.

CRP: Yeah, yeah. Well, gosh, I've always known gay people. I thought every woman, particularly married, wanted at least one or two gays, and her husband was so glad, because he could...they'd take her to the ballet, they'd take her everywhere.

CO: Well, yeah...but I think it does make a difference...when you have a personal relationship with somebody, whatever their difference is, to know somebody personally makes a world of difference.

CRP: Well, um...Miles Walker lived on my same street, and he would come up and play with me, and help me...we used to get orange crates, I don't know whether you even remember, they were like this and had a partition in them. We'd get two orange crates and make us a doll house out of it. And anybody in the neighborhood who...papered, they had to share their paper with all of us, and Miles would come up and paper my doll house and help me make my doll furniture.

CO: So it was no surprise to you that he "came out" as...homosexual?

CRP: Well, I just knew that's the way he was, that he liked ...very feminine things. And he was from the "right" family, he was in the South.

CO: Well, that does allow you to get away with a lot of...eccentricities. Well, we're on the home stretch, now, and some of these are redundant, and so you can, don't fuss, just pass if you don't want to answer it. The first one is not...redundant, even though...maybe. It's a philosophical question. It's sort of the "nature/nurture" kind of question. We are always trying to figure out cause and effect...and we know that in our lives, our lives are shaped, to one degree or another, by things completely beyond our control: illness, accident, you know. And then, on the other hand, we are responsible for a lot of what our lives, how our lives turn out, by the decisions we make, and choices we make and who we marry and that kind of thing.

CRP: Oh, I think who you marry is about the most important thing you do.

CO: Yes, right. For you, which of those has been most responsible for where you are and who you are today? Um...decisions you've made or circumstances that you have no control over?

CRP: Decisions.

CO: So you've been more of an agent in your life...?

CRP: Well, I *think* that.

CO: Yeah. And, ok, since you mentioned it...the choice of partner has been...?

CRP: Oh, I think that changes your whole life. It does. You've got inherited, you've got your genes, you've got your environment.

CO: Yeah, ok. Alright.

CRP: And, of course...my mother wrote in my baby book, but she wrote a lot...

CO: You're mother wrote a lot?

CRP: Yeah, I mean, she didn't write stories or anything, but she was always writing.

CO: She had a journal, diaries and stuff like that?

CRP: I wouldn't say that. She just...wrote in books, baby books...and when she was in college, she was in a lot of dramatic...performances. She did a lot of that.

CO: So she almost had a poet's temperament, you think?

CRP: Yeah, I do. She wrote that I was a happy baby, that I was always a happy baby and that I was a happy child. Well, if I was, I just inherited it. I didn't do anything about being...I mean, I think you inherit some of those things, you don't have much control over it...in a lot of ways...like blue eyes.

CO: Yeah, right, but do you think that she inherited her disposition for depression?

CRP: I am not an expert on that. I have no idea. I think a lot of...environmental things came into play, too. But I don't know. I mean, if I were....old enough....you know, but I wasn't old enough to make my decisions at all. And I always thought my father was very brave and, you know, very...courageous and...but they were not temperamentally suited.

CO: Ok. Um...what period of time, in your life, was the happiest?

CRP: Well...that's hard. (Pause) I showed you a picture up there when we were going down to the river...with the boats?

CO: Oh, right. Yes. Young, you were very young. You and your first husband, right?

CRP: And before I had any children.

CO: So your early married life?

CRP: I thought it was very happy. And then I was so happy with my children...so extremely happy. And then I will say that...although I didn't expect it, I was very happy with Lee when we traveled all the time, because he was the best traveling companion, and he was just, you know. Sister said, "You and Lee would never have made it if you had married early, because you had such different ideas about your children's education and everything." But we, that didn't come into it, you know?

CO: So really, for you, it sounds like the happiest time were the two decades between the '45 marrying, and your children were young and at home, to '65, maybe those two decades, after your married life? After you married?

CRP: Well, I can't...Well, I worried about my children a lot, because I was an only child, and I was determined, I was going to look after them. I took them to the pediatrician in Atlanta like the drop into a hat. I was up there all the time. I took them to a dentist in Athens, I took them to Athens to take...art, I took them museums, I worked really hard...

CO: ...at being a mother?

CRP: ...and I enjoyed it.

CO: Yeah. Ok.

CRP: They responded so, and those were different, that's all I can say. They were different. I like to be busy, and I was busy.

CO: Ha, yeah. Um...what period of time has been the hardest?

CRP: (pause)...Watching my husband die.

CO: Hmm. And that was '80...?

CRP: Well, he...that was 79, but he was sick before that. He had emphysema, and he was in and out of hospitals.

CO: So that was '87 when he died, how long was he sick?

CRP: Off and on for 10 years.

CO: So that was a tough decade. Ok.

CRP: It was '79 when he died.

CO: Oh, that's right. And you remarried...I've got that here.

CRP: '87. He was young when he died, you know, and I was just in my '50s...54, something like that. That's not old.

CO: But you know, now, you couldn't remember...or at least I don't have it here, his birthdate.

CRP: Oh yeah! He was born...May 19.

CO: 19...what?

CRP: I thought you asked me Lee's birthday too. Well, just go back 8 years before my birthday.

CO: So that would have been 1915?

CRP: Yeah.

CO: Ok. And I did ask you Dr. Parker's birthdate, and I think...

CRP: Harold's birthday is June 19, and Jamie's birthday, my husband, was May 19.

CO: But you don't know the year?

CRP: Maybe I just completely don't want to think about it. I go to the cemetery, I've got roses planted over there, I've got it look, I've put two big oak trees, I've got it looking good and I go over there and keep it. But....

CO: No, I mean the birthday of Dr. Parker?

CRP: Oh, when he was born?

CO: The date, the year, yeah.

CRP: He was born a couple of years after Jamie, he wasn't quite that old.

CO: So, 1917, perhaps?

CRP: Uh-huh. I've got his passport; I could go look it up.

CO: That's ok, that's close enough. Ok...you've mentioned this on and off about turning points, could you name the 3 most important turning points in your life?

CRO: Oh, when I got married, certainly.

CO: Your marriage, ok.

CRP: When my husband died, that certainly changed my life completely. When I married Lee it changed my life again.

CO: Ok, alright.

CRP: Because my children were grown then, see?

CO: Right, yeah. That matters, doesn't it? You don't have to worry about...

CRP: Well, you enjoy your grandchildren, you enjoy your children.

CO: Yeah, how different has that been for you, how different was, is "grandmothering" from "mothering?"

CRP: Well, I had a friend I love, and she said her happiest time was...when she saw the red tail lights going out the driveway after the visit. And the next happiness was when they came. She loved it when they came. Well, I don't have that, because they don't spend the nights with me because they live...either my grandson lives in

Madison, which is no ways away, and Harold's here on the weekends, so, we see each other. Oh, Harold entertains all the time over there. We eat the best food over there. They are here for...a lot. Jamie comes over, usually, every other afternoon anyway, and sits with me.

CO: That's nice, that's wonderful to have them close enough to visit like that.

CRP: And see, well, you weren't here yesterday, but my grandson came over with his wife and two little children and...

CO: So you've still got the little ones, too, to ...

CRP: Oh, I enjoyed them. He sat him up here by me, he just sat and laughed, he's so sweet. See, people always say, "Well, I don't feel responsible for them," you know. You don't have to take them to the doctor, you can just enjoy them. Now these are bright grandchildren. My grandchildren, I helped Francis with them, I was young enough. And her father had...**(phone rings in background)** she loved my...I'll tell you this.

CO: Chocolate-covered pecans I brought you? I gave them to you yesterday? Be sure somebody eats them! They're Amoretto, chocolate-flavored pecans. They're a decadent treat from South Georgia, so...

CRP: Oh, that's wonderful! I mean, I'll eat them one by one and just cherish it. Thank you for reminding me.

CO: you were going to tell me something, and the phone rang and...

CRP: Well, I was going to say that I thought it was remarkable that my father lived with me the last six years of his life after he had a stroke and my children loved him so and got on with him so. He died before my daughter's 3rd child was born, and she named him "Baugh" for my father. And this is the one who came over with his 2 children, and my father's name is William Harold, they called him Hal, and Bill, William Harold was Bill. So he has a little boy, brought him over, and he calls him Hal, just like my daddy. Now, I just think that unusually sweet.

CO: It is, yes it is. To be named, to have, I have 3 little girls named after me, it's one of the...that's one of the prides of my life.

CRP: Well, it would be. I was so proud of having finally one named for me, ha ha!

CO: Your, uh, the granddaughter, Carolyn?

CRP: The great-granddaughter is named after me.

CO: Oh, it's the great granddaughter, ok. Um...

CRP: Well, Francis had two boys and one girl, so...she just had one opportunity. I like the name she gave her daughter. She thought when Bill was born she was going to name him after me, name him Caroline Bethea...because that's...all of us kind of like the Betheas, they're so...

CO Spell that. B-E-...

CRP: T-H-E-A.

CO: Ok. Alright. Um...if you could live your life over again, I can't imagine, I mean, I...think I know you're going to answer this, but I'll ask it anyway, would you do anything differently, from how you've done it?

CRP: Well, I don't know of it. It might have...I don't. I'm just so glad I didn't make a mistake when I was young and do something foolish.

CO: Yeah...yeah. Ok. Is there anybody you would like to make amends to, anybody you've hurt?

CRP: No, but I would like to talk to somebody. Lee has a granddaughter who...as the other one said, "has issues," I don't know what they are. And I'd like to talk to her and ask her what it is, because that's the only person I know that...she hardly ever comes to see us. I don't know what her issues are.

CO: Ok.

CRP: I kind of know what one of them is, but it's nothing I can do anything about. It's between...another first cousin. I don't know that I can do anything, because that's his family, you know.

CO: Yeah, right.

CRP: But I don't have any old friends or anything that we had any antagonism, I guess that's what you're talking about...or family.

CO: Um...do you have any regrets or any remorse over anything, unsettled issues?

CRP: Well, I think everybody has remorse, but I don't have any unsettled issues. I mean, I'm so old, mine have just settled themselves, I guess.

CO: That's wonderful to hear. Um...what do you consider the most valuable lesson you learned in life?

CRP: That you can't control everything.

CO: Ok. When did you learn that? Have you known that all your life?

CRP: I don't ever remember when I learned it. I guess it goes back to me saying I wasn't responsible for everything that happened in the world, and I had to live on faith and I just had to. . . . I had a friend who's older than I was and had 5 children on my block, and one of her children and I became great friends, although she's younger. And Florine and I used to go to Atlanta at night, drive up there because we wanted to go to the symphony. We wanted to go to everything. I always wanted to go to everything that was going on up there, and I said, this is before I had children, I said, "Florine, how do you leave those 5 children, how do you arrange it?" She says, "Honey, I do the best I can and pray."

CO: Did you find that wise advice?

CRP: Well, I was...I didn't grow up with any children, so I was more tense. She went off, when June graduated from Stevens School out there in Missouri, and one of the children's set a curtain on fire but they got it off...I mean, they were just, those little boys, she had 4 boys and one girl. Those boys were rounders. You know, they got through all right.

CO: Well, that's good to hear. Has there been...one individual or even more than one, you know, a small number of individuals, who you believe have had a shaping influence on you?

CRP: Yeah, I think I told you my grandmother. I think I told you Mrs. Audrey Robinson, and Riley Thompson, Mrs. Thompson, she lived across the street and her daughter and I were like sisters.

CO: And who was Audrey Robinson?

CRP: She was the one who, she was such an Episcopalian, but she wasn't. She was a Baptist. She and my mother were good friends, and she wrote this beautiful thing, it's in one of my scrapbooks as a child, and she said that my best friend is my daughter's best friend. Well, I really wasn't, but we were really good friends. And her

son...Claude, told me that his mother wanted us to marry, but I never felt that. But I dated Claude for my Junior/Senior, we were in the same class. Oh, she made me the most beautiful thing to wear. I had designed my dress, and it was black organdy skirt, and there was white, little tiny lace, the whole thing was made by lace, and I had a crushed...beautiful deep rose, sort of **OBIE?? [UNCERTAIN OF WORD, 13:33]**, she made me this beautiful corsage to wear on it, oh, she's so talented. She painted and...

CO: So was she a maternal influence, or did you think of her more of a friend?

CRP: Oh no, she was more like the next generation. I looked up to her, I loved her more than her daughter did. She's the one that got me interested in everything, she's the one that took the top off the Grand Piano and got me to help her do it over before her husband got home. Also, we made, we cut up stencil and painted the linoleum in the kitchen, I mean, oh, she loved to grow flowers. She was into everything. They had a big Road Master Buick, and...they would take me with them on these excursions, and all we did was pick up rocks. We had to pick them up if they looked a certain way and she had this rock wall built in her garden.

CO: Whoa. Is it still there?

CRP: I want you to know, the whole house, after she died and after her husband died, they tore the whole house, it was an English country home, his father was an artist who came from Exeter, England, and married into a prominent Greene County family, and she's the one who taught everybody. Oh, I should have shown you in my dining room, I had a lot of paintings...that are local, my aunt painted and other people.

CO: How did she influence you? It sounds... you sound a lot like her.

CRP: Well, because she influenced me so much. She sewed and she taught me a lot about that. I remember one time she was going to make a raincoat. Do you remember, there were, maybe you don't, they would, you made a dress, you made a coat, and the coat was lined with the same material as the dress. Honey, we laid that pattern all over the dining room table, all over the dining room floor, all over everything, we were down on our hands and knees cutting it. Well, her girl, her girl was very musical, but she did not want to make clothes. She did not want to do over furniture; she did not want to plant the garden. And she was in my wedding. I showed you that one that sang.

CO: Uh-hmm, yes.

CRP: And then Riley Thompson was from Maryland, eastern shore, but she said everybody treated her like a Yankee, but oh boy could she cook.

CO: What does it mean to be treated like a Yankee?

CRP: Well, she just said that they didn't think she was a real Southerner.

CO: Oh. What's your biggest worry, now?

CRP: My biggest worry now? Well, of course I was worried about my husband, and not thinking I could give him the kind of...attention he needed, because he's....I could not get enough help to look after him all the time. My back is really not strong enough to here without somebody to help him up and help him down. Although he's adjusted...I just envisioned us...he's older, and I thought maybe he might pass on before I did, and then I told one of my children, Lee doesn't worry, he's going to live to be 100, and I don't know who's going to look after him when I'm gone, and that worried me a lot. He's got a very very nice place to stay and he seems to be enjoying it, but I feel a little guilt regardless. I'm not happy about it...and yet I...(to THIRD PERSON, CRP's help Annie Kate) I'll write you a check, you know, I didn't get my mail yesterday. Did you bring it in this morning?

Annie Kate: No ma'am. Sister brought it down.

CRP: Oh, she did. Ok, thank you.

Annie Kate: She said that was what you been looking for.

CRP: Oh yeah, very important. It's a check! Thank you, thank you Annie Kate.

Annie Kate: Oh, you're welcome.

CO: Well, that's a...I've had...many people have a similar experience and express a similar...guilt, even though there's nothing, there's no other way, there's not another way.

CRP: And you know, our doctor said it...he said it was 3 years late. I don't think so. But, I mean, he....he's gone down for 3 years....write down the amount if you want me to, in the corner. It's 2 days...

Annie Kate: Uh-huh. And I was late yesterday.

CRP: Well...you tell me.

CO: She was there when I got there.

CRP: He liked the way...it wasn't so personal. Every funeral service is the same, you're not getting somebody up there and they're going one and on and on. And it's, uh...it's not cut and dry to me, it follows a wonderful formality.

CO: Yeah, so you like the liturgy?

CRP: I love it. And I love the 3 Bible readings. I mean, other churches don't read that much. We read a Psalm; we read from the Old Testament, we read from the New Testament.

CO: The Gospel? The Gospel is always read...

CRP: By the priest. But we have readers who read the Old Testament, and we usually say the psalms, and sometimes we say...we have wonderful music. Somebody wrote one time that Episcopalians had the most beautiful hymns of anybody.

CO: Sometimes I find them difficult to read, I mean, to sing, but the ones that are inspiring are very inspiring.

CRP: And our...organist is from Georgia College, and we have, all our music is classical except for, you know, our songs, but I mean, everything he plays is from Bach, is from, oh, it's just wonderful. He's just so good.

CO: So friends have inspired you and still inspire you and the church inspires you. Ok. Um...I think I'll know what you'll say, to this as well, but what is, of what are you proudest?

CRP: My children.

CO: I knew you were going to say that!

CRP: Ha ha. Well, I love them so much and they're so good to me, and they just enrich my life. I had some friends who used to kid me. They'd say, "Nobody suited Carolyn, she wants somebody who like this, this, this, and that, so she just had them." Ha.

CO: So you had children that met that? Oh. Um...how do you want to be remembered? Where do you want your legacy to be?

CRP: I've already done it with my children.

CO: Ok. So you feel like your legacy to...the world or the community is your children?

CRP: Yeah. And I think they have been useful people, and I have great hopes for my grandchildren and my great grandchildren. I mean, I won't be here to know what they do, but I have great hopes for them. And, you know, I appreciate the fact that we have employed a lot of people...and that we have helped them through our [?????], we have helped the community and helped establish things.

CO: Ok. Is there anything...no, I didn't ask you this, but is there anything that your children don't know about you...that you would like for them to know about you but you just can't, you know....I don't mean something secret, but I mean something about you that your children...? No?

CRP: I don't know. I have decided, this is ridiculous; I've still got some letters from old boyfriends that I've decided I was going to destroy. They're nothing that I'm ashamed off, I just think they'd think I was silly to kept them.

CO: I wish you wouldn't.

CRP: Really?

CO: No!

CRP: Well, this friend I had, Montel Calloway, that's some name, he always wrote me from P.C. on the prettiest stationary and the prettiest handwriting, I mean, it's just beautiful. And he wrote me twice a week. And boy, I was there to get that letter.

CO: That breaks the hearts of historians to hear that you would destroy letters.

CRP: Really?

CO: Yes.

CRP: Well, I have that one from Griffin Moody, who was a Marine, you know, write me when I got married and said, "I don't know why, but I just wish I'd be there. I just hate to miss anything in your life." And I thought, "Well..."

CO: So you've got them? Are they at the other house?

CRP: Uh-huh.

CRP: ...And their pictures are too.

CO: You've got their pictures? Are their pictures with the letters?

CRP: No, I have the pictures they gave me, 8x10s. That's kind of childish to keep all that.

CO: No, it isn't! You're great grandchildren will probably love that. I mean, you might be...you know, there may be a historian among that group, and they would just love that as a gift. It would be the greatest thing you could leave them. That and....

CRP: But you see, two of them, they're all dead now, and two of them died early.

CO: But what does that have to do with anything? It was a big part of your life, part of who you...

CRP: They were a part of my life...

CO: It's a slice of life, otherwise they won't know, you know? It's a part of you that...you probably haven't shared with them, and I would just...

CRP: Well, they know this much: They know that...that their sisters are good friends of mine.

CO: Ok. Is there anything we haven't covered that you would like to throw in? You're good at throwing stuff in.

CRP: Can't think of anything. I really didn't know...exactly what you were interested in, and I was glad to share what I could.

CO: Well...it's just whatever you want to share is what I'm interested in. But most people hate this question, this is the last question, and 3 or 4 have really enjoyed it, actually, and come up with something like that. Some people say I'll have to get back with you on that. It's hard, it's hard for some people. But what would you title your life's story?

CRP: (pause)... I can't imagine...Well, I remember one of Ernest Hemmingway's, he's one of my favorite authors... "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber," well, mine isn't short. I'll say "The Happy Life."

CO: "The Happy Life."

CRP: "The Full Life." I think it was full, at least it was for me. I had a lot of interests, and I was able to pursue so many of them. I had the leisure to pursue them in many ways. I didn't have to work as hard as some people. I worked hard on community things, I was always trying to get something cultural going and doing all of that, but it was fun.

CO: Yeah. So you've had a good life?

CRP: Yeah. I've had a good life. I've told my children, "Do not grieve for me." And I don't think they will. I say, "For heaven's sakes, if y'all want to have some friends around and have a wake that's fine with me, but do not grieve for me. I have had a good life," and I think they realize it. They've been good to me, everyone one of them.

CO: Yeah. Do you think they will? Are they the type of people to grieve or do you think that they'll...?

CRP: Well, I hope not.

CO: ...enjoy the fact that you've lived such a full life?

CRP: I hope not. It's just broke my heart they way Sister's grieved for Troy.

CO: Hmm. Yeah.

CRP: And that was the love of her life. I mean, they were really...well, Leslie tells me her mother and father eloped, and that they have always been madly in love and, you know, that's kind of interesting.

CO: Now which one is Leslie?

CRP: That's, uh...Harold's wife, the one that had the pretty hat on, you know?

CO: Yeah. So they eloped and...

CRP: Her mother and father did.

CO: Yeah, right, but...

CRP: They were both still in college.

CO: . And...

CRP: And they made it...they worked hard and he is...he's retired, he was principal of the school in Baldwin County and she was a teacher.

CO: Hmm. I love those stories.

CRP: Oh...they are so good-looking. They were the best. She's beautiful. They were just the best-looking people, and saying that her grandmother let, just about collapsed, they were in the Air Corp, her mother's people, and they had just moved to Warner Robbins and she came to Georgia Woman's College, back then, to school, and he was

at G.M.C., and I think they were real young. She wasn't pregnant, but anyway, they got married and she said they had to have a little apartment, and both of them had to work and had a real tough time, you know?

CO: But they are still in love?

CRP: Oh, that's what she said.

--- End of Interview with Carolyn Reynolds Parker, Complete ---

Part 3, tour of home in Greensboro on East Street

CRP: (resumes mid-sentence)... to my children, and they have another one, these little, it was just when it was 3 of them, and their grand-daddy gave it to them. And we've always had 2.

CO: Do you keep the silver polished and...does it stay...?

CRP: Sure. You don't think I do it, I've got...

CO: Well, I'm sure....

CRP: Well, we use it enough, I mean, you know... I have a certain standard of living. I'm not going to let down. Those came from my grandmother's dining room.

CO: Oh my goodness.

CRP: And they have just memories for me, just wonderful memories for me. And here's my sweet little precious...that's [UNCERTAIN OF NAME, 32:45], this is Harold and his wife. Isn't she beautiful?

CO: She is.

CRP: Tall, thin, and those are their two children... and this is my grandson, Bill and Tammy and Ella and Hal. My father's name is William Harold, his name is William Harold, and he calls his little boy Hal, and I appreciate that so much. That's Sister with Laura Bush and here's Frances's son Jim; he looks like Jamie. That's my Reid family, that lighter hair is coming out in him because he's a Reynolds. You see that darker, uh...these are 3 of his children, he's got 4 now, there's the 4th one over there. Oh, there are all 4, no, it's just 3 of them here. And see, he's got a pretty blonde wife, too. She is Eric Zeier's sister, which, you may not know, but he was a famous quarterback at Georgia and played for the Buccaneers. And she is...she can do, oh, she's...she's strong. Very strong. She, uh...teaches school half a day, she gets all their clothes out for the week and marks them what they are going to wear.

CO: Oh my goodness.

CRP: She's something. I never was that organized. And now, 2 of Jim and Evelyn's little girls there. That's my Aunt Elizabeth, see, she's a nice-looking lady. Let me walk over there and look at here.

CO: Yes, she is.

CRP: Let me move that, uh, candle out of the way.

CO: So she never married?

CRP: No. There was one man she seemed to care for but I don't know, she wasn't that crazy about him. (Pause) And this is my pretty Marguerite...her younger days. Look at her, isn't she a beauty?

CO: She is.

CRP: Everybody says she looked like my mother. And that's (her) with Senator Warner.

CO: So they say that Marguerite looked like your mother?

CRP: Uh-huh. And, uh...that's Senator Warner from Virginia. You know, he's married to Elizabeth Taylor. That's over a Jamie's house. And that's Lee and I in front of the White House. And uh...that was a happy, happy time for us up there.

CO: There?

CRP: Yes. We're in Venice and I have Sister and my granddaughter with me, Frances's daughter Beth. Oh, we had so much fun. We traveled...

CO: Now, this was...when was this? This was before your husband died?

CRP: No, that's Lee.

CO: That's Lee? Ok.

CRP: Yeah, my children just go anywhere with Lee, they love him. (phone ringing in background) That's wonderful.

CO: Is this you? It is, isn't it?

CRP: Yeah. (Yelling to housemaid, "Ann Kate?? Well, I'm not going to answer that." Ann Kate!!") She's gone, I reckon. And that's Jamie's wife with Laura and George Bush.

CO: Now, this is the one who said he wanted a wife like um...the people who lived out in the country? The poet?

CRP: Like Mrs. Curtis? Who thought her husband was perfect? Uh...this is an attaché ball, box, and you see it's broken. It, Civil War, that one of the Jackson boys who was killed in Virginia, and his ... body servant was with him, and brought his body back, brought this back, and brought his sword back.

CO: Oh my goodness. That's a Civil War sword!?

CRP: Yes, yes, both of those are. And this is my husband's, part of his gun collection.

CO: . What about this sword? These two swords right here?

CRP: Uh...that's a Civil War, the striped one is. And I really, I really, I've had an expert look at them, I don't know what they said. I've got it written down. And this was the plantation house that those boys who went out, you know, and that's where Rachael Reid's grandfather was a slave, at there. I don't know of anything else to anything interesting out here. That's Bill, that I showed you, with his two children.

CO: Uh-huh.

CRP: A good artist painted that for me because he's named for my farther. And that is Sally Lightfoot's college diploma from Madison, and that's 185-something.

CO: Whoa! Did you have that framed?

CRP: Yeah, sure did. Uh... the original was in some kind of book, but it was lost, I mean the book. (To housemaid "Ann Kate!! The telephone rang out, if it rings again, get it! I'm not going to get it.") This is my daughter Frances and her husband Gentry, of course, some years ago. And this is her precious daughter Beth. (To housemaid again, "The telephone rang, but I can't get to it, so if you hear it, get it, 'cause I'm not going to worry.") Um...that's their daughter Beth. Her hair's gotten a little dark now. She is so sweet. My first granddaughter. And this is my grandmother holding my uncle.

CO: This is...?

CRP: Carrie Reid, who I consider ...

CO: Who you're named after?

CRP: ...was the biggest influence of my life by far. And this is Jamie's mother, and this is ... his great-Aunt Tot, who was fantastic. She was in the American Red Cross in World War 1. That's another picture of my grandmother. And, uh...Henry Collins painted that, or made it. Uh...they said, "Well, he didn't finish it." I said, "He thinks I'm not finished." That's my grandmother and that's my mother under her.

CO: Oh my god, you look just like your mother! Unless these pictures I'm seeing in here are your mother instead of you. 'Cause I was pretty sure they were you, and I think they're you, back in that back room.

CRP: Um-hmm, those are me.

CO: my goodness, you look like twins!

CRP: Thank you! Thank you very much! 'Cause everybody told me I wasn't pretty like she was. These are my two boys. That's Harold and that's Jamie. Uh, they weren't made at the same time, I had them both made when they were 22 months apart. And that's Frances, the one that has children. That's Frances and those are her two first children there. (pause) That's Jamie, and this is my son Jamie and his son Jamie. He's the one who just the one child, momma is the "helicopter." And they in the Oval Office, so that's kinda special.

CO: Now, what were they doing in Washington, then?

CRP: They are great friends of George Bush.

CO: Oh, ok. So they were, was than an occasion of some kind or were they just there visiting?

CRP: I don't know. Uh, little Jamie worked for George Bush one summer. And this is Governor Zell Miller and Shirley, and Jamie took me up to the capitol. See, Jamie has always done all these things for me. And this is Frances and her husband, and I'm there with Lee and there are Frances's three children.

CO: Interviewing Zell?

CRP: One of them was Zell Miller, I just love him. And that's just one of those invitations to the inauguration. We went to both of them. We went to everything, and this is, uh, I think, no, it's just a land grant of my ...revolutionary soldier.

CO: Hmm.

CRP: These were my husband's...that's just Mamma. And these....this is her father and that's her brother. And he was second vice-president of the cotton mill and he was the 3rd. And this is his father. Father was a nice-looking man.

CO: That's your...

CRP: ...father-in-law, that's my father-in-law. And that's when I was dating Jamie.

CO: (pause) You had an attitude, didn't you?

CRP: Had what?

CO: An attitude... didn't you?

CRP: Ha ha, I don't know what you're talking about. It's just me. 'Course, I've got on my Andrew Gala shoes, uh, they said that I spent more money on my shoes than I did anything else, but I couldn't help it, I love shoes. Well, there's a picture of me way up high, and that's another picture I guess that's Laura Bush with me and Lee, Harold. And, oh, this is my daughters-in-law and a friend when we went to [UNKNOWN STATEMENT, 23:22-20], and this is, uh, Christian picture right there. And that's little Jamie, you know, my son with the helicopter mom. And this is Frances's...all my children. My two girls got married up here, and my granddaughter, and that's Frances and Sister over there. She married right in front of the fireplace that we have going.

CO: I saw those pictures back in...

CRP: Yeah. And there are my children...Jamie with his hippy look hugging his dog. And that's didn't bother me, I didn't care what they wore. That's Sister.

CO: ... Marguerite?

CRP: Uh-hmm. Frances. Jamie. Harold. And that's Gentry holding the baby. Wait...I can't even see, I should have brought my glasses. Well, see, there's Frances holding her first baby. She was up here for Christmas. That baby wasn't old enough for anything, I'm telling you. And there are her 3 children. And that's her late husband. And that's a picture of me and Lee. I just put a [UNKNOWN PHRASE, 22:02]. That was after we had been married a while. And this is my children's favorite picture of me telling George Bush what to do.

CO: Ha...what are you telling him?

CRP: I told him he had a...spend more on the military is what I told him.

CO: And what, how did he respond to that?

CRP: Oh, oh course he's a politician. He said, "I understand, I understand. Understand I'm important." I've forgotten what the occasion was, probably when Harold was getting married is what it looks like, 'cause I wore that dress when Harold got married. Uh...and that's Troy, Sister's wonderful who just dropped dead. Got in his truck and keeled over dead.

CO: What's he doing there? Is he teaching?

CRP: Teaching. He's a teacher. Oh yeah, he was a wonderful, wonderful man. That's my Shakespeare. That's when Lee and I got married. And that's little Jamie. That's our house at the lake. That's little Jamie with the torch. He passed it on to his...to Bill. And this is my precious little granddaughter... and her ride. Look at her ribbons. Oh, and here's my grandmother's house.

CO: And it's still...?

CRP: Uh-huh. It looks nice.

CO: Who's in it, who's in it?

CRP: I sold it. They told me, uh, I kept it for about 8 years, and then they said, "Momma, you can't do that. You can't look after all these houses." Those are just pictures. I've got my [UNKNOWN WORDS, 20:16] for a reason, it was, uh, somebody over at Georgia who wanted to look them up, and, uh, I have a lot of family histories and such here and down here too. I'll see if I saw the card. They have a nice book. Uh...I've got these bounds of ...

CO: Oh my goodness, that's Ayn Rand.

CRP: Huh?

CO: Ayn Rand.

CRP: Right. Oh god, I loved her.

CO: *Atlas Shrugged*.

CRP: Uh-hmm. I've got *The Fountainhead* and whatnot. My good friend Sarah, who lives across the street, we've rode back from California together, and she told me to come out and bring two children, 'cause she had two and that's all we could put in the car. So I went out there and stayed with her. And we had a paperback of it, and we tore it so somebody could take one chapter before the other one.

CO: I thought that one looked pretty new.

CRP: Yes. This is one that my book club had. I bought a new one. I'm trying to see ... where my books are. I repainted this room and had to get somebody to help me put up a lot of them.

CO: I guess so.

CRP: They didn't always put them where I wanted them to.

CO: What are these ceilings, 12?

CRP: I do not know. I forgot.

CO: Those books are a long way up.

CRP: Yeah. Oh, that's a picture of Sister with Henry Collins. He's a well-known painter. He painted that.

CO: That looks 1980s.

CRP: I think it's later than that. It's acrylic. And over there, that's Jim Strickland he painted. It's acrylic. And, uh, those are interesting, up there. Uh, you know, in Milan, I used to have green [UNKNOWN WORD, 18:12] of it, but I don't know what happened to it.

CO: Ahh, *Gone With the Wind*.

CRP: Yup. See it over here. Just, uh, look at those, uh...what's the name of them, look at the ... program.

(sound of recorder being moved)

CO: Is this it?

CRP: Uh-huh.

CO: I have my hands on ... an original, program...for *Gone With the Wind*. I'll sit here.

CRP: Yeah, you're welcome to sit on the bed, lord, I don't care.

CO: Oh my gosh, I can't believe this.

CRP: Well, I'm going to go to the back. I was just thrilled to get to go. That was just so typical of my uncle to take me. Those are real, antique [UNKNOWN 17:12] right there. They were Jamie's mothers. And this was mine, I painted it white, but you know, it went bald here [MAYBE??] This is one of my favorite painting in the museum in London, and Sister got me that reproduction. These are my children's pictures done at Disney Land in California. The picture, that's my mother.

CO: That's your mother? (Very harsh sound of recorder being moved)

CRP: You can turn on the light, it's when you come in the door. Help a little. You see, she was beautiful.

CO: Yeah. Now, who are these babies, your boys?

CRP: Oh, wait, that's Sister over there, and this is Jamie over here.

CO: Oh. Oh, ok.

CRP: And then, that's a group of our children right there for something. Oh, and that's me with the fancy cap on, and it's late. We believed in dressing up, and there's my mother holding me up high.

CO: There?

CRP: Yeah.

CO: And that's you?

CRP: Uh-hmm.

CO: Who's that? Your daughter?

CRP: Marguerite, yeah.

CO: And who is this?

CRP: My uncle who died early, who was head of the Associated Press, was so good to me.

CO: He looks very, um...he looks like um...not a reporter but he looks like someone who would be with the Associated Press.

CRP: He was a smart man. I was putting my, that's me with my first child, Frances. And that is Jamie's, my late husband's mother holding him. I think that's sweet, isn't that dress beautiful?

CO: Yes. (pause) There's a picture we just saw of her with white hair.

CRP: Yeah. She turned white real early. And these are ... that's Jamie's baby carriage. I had one like it but my, I, uh...you pushed it from the front so you can see the baby, and his was from the back, see? But, uh, my mother gave it to somebody. You know

how everybody passed around everything. And, uh, he passed it to the Robinsons and, by the time I had grandchildren, they gave it back to me.

CO: Awe.

CRP: Wasn't that sweet? [UNCERTAIN OF PHRASE, 14:22] This is Frances, that's Frances, and those are 3 of Frances up there, and that's Jamie. And that's, Sister, by the China [??] I think all my children and grandchildren were beautiful, that's 'cause their grandmother, I guess.

CO: Well, they are.

CRP: They have blessed my life. Did you notice those, uh, Walt Disney people...sketched my children?

CO: Yeah.

CRP: And I took Harold back about 4 years later and found the same guy and him to do him. We went to California often because we had those good friends and two uncles out there, of the Reynolds.

CO: Now this, who, this is obviously um...

CRP: A baby.

CO: Yeah.

CRP: Some of them of our generation, some of my children's. I really couldn't tell. And that's a little girl named for me, Carolyn, a great granddaughter. (pause) And that is my husband when they long hair and dressed him that way. Isn't he pretty with that... that...you'd think he been a sissy but he wasn't. Uh, you can leave that flat and pull the top down, there's another picture of him up there.

CO: Ok. This? That?

CRP: Isn't that sweet?

CO: Yeah. Oh my goodness.

CRP: [SOMEBODY, 12:31] adored him. I knew her. In fact, I was sick one time and, uh, he, I was a little girl, and [UNCERTAIN OF PHRASE, 12:17]. These are our, that's Leslie, my beautiful daughter-in-law, with Chandler, and I fixed the...uh, Baby's Breath on the carriage for her. She always enjoys something pretty.

CO: If that isn't picturesque, I don't know what is.

CRP: Isn't she beautiful? Doesn't that look Southern?

CO: Yeah, this is, this is.... is this her, or ...

CRP: No, that's Leslie. That is great-granddaughter.

CO: From a distance they have a similar sort of...

CRP: Well, they have that blonde hair and everything. And that's Sister, and that's Sister. And that's Frances. And that's Sister, and that's Sister. In back of me, uh, I told you that's my grandmother, and that's, uh, that's Carol and Mary Kate, my great-granddaughter. And then those two are Harold, and that's Harold, and these are Frances's 3 children, and those are Sister. (pause) ...And that is from, uh...a generation ago, came from one of her [UNKNOWN WORD, 11:10], isn't that sweet? And this is Victorian doll carriage here that was in our family. And these came from the Davis house. If you go by the Methodist, beautiful church here, when you are facing on the right, (there) is a white antebellum home that's cobbled, and these came out of that house. And, if you open that, these are clothes of mine and Jamie's that I [UNCERTAIN OF STATEMENT, 10:3-32].

CO: And that's your husband? Yeah. . So his mother and your mother kept all these clothes...because you were an only child? So, you didn't have to deal with hand-me-downs?

CRP: Nope.

CO: This "Bride's Room"... how many brides have, uh...

CRP: (softly) Well, they've had receptions up here and they've married up here. I'll sit down and tell them to you. (Normal tone) You can move the chairs any way you want to. Uh...that's Leslie's bridal dress. She had her put up, which I thought was smart. Beth just hung hers up here, "Grandma, I just want you to have it." And, that's her veil, no, that's Ellen's veil, you can turn it around. Ellen's dress was, uh...strapless. And Sister's is that...little denim, that violet.

CO: Uh-huh.

CRP: They are much like Sister, she's not fancy. She had a pretty hat. I started the *Brides Magazine* and she thought, she said, "That's what I want." We had to get Neiman Marcus to order it, the hat, 'cause that's what made it to me.

CO: Is that picture in here? Yeah, here it is.

CRP: Oh, let me turn on the light for you. I can get it.

CO: This is you?

CRP: Yeah.

CO: Well, that looks just like that picture of your mother to me.

CRP: And that's mine, right on the side of it, in blue. It's back over here in the white. Yeah.

CO: That does look like Scarlett O'Hara, haha.

CRP: That's a stretch.

CO: Who's that?

CRP: That is Aunt Marguerite that Sister's named for. That's...she got out her wedding dress a good while after she married just 'cause a professional photographer came to take her younger sister's picture, so she just pulled hers out too.

CO: Now, what wedding is this? Do you know?

CRP: Yeah. That's a Reynolds wedding in California. Hadn't she got a ... shorter dress in the front? Alright, that's....my husband's uncle, who went out there with the Boswell Company and made a little money and married a California girl.

CO: Now, I can probably scan this without taking it out of the frame, so...

CRP: Welcome to. (pause) That's, uh, Mercer Reynolds' family, and that's Frances and Gentry when they married. That's Frances below that, too, uh-huh. She had some, uh, "enhanced" a little, they were fading. That's the picture when I married James.

CO: Hmm. It looks like a ... a photo shot for a 1940s film.

CRP: Ha! I've got on my...Bally shoes, a kid me. I was in Washington to buy my clothes in a minute, and I got the little hat with the

CO: So you didn't have a big wedding here? Back here? You had a wedding in D.C.?

CRP: No, I said my marriage was in chapel at the university.

CO: Oh, of course you did.

CRP: I didn't have long to get ready, and he wanted me to put it up a day. I said, "I can't put it up a day, everything, the reception, everything's set."

CO: Now, do you have any, pictures from the wedding that aren't framed?

CRP: I think so. Here's one over here of us, you see, with the cake.

CO: Actually, I can scan that.

CRP: What I love is this little picture here, a Baptist church, what they call a double wedding. And there are the...participants right there. That's Jamie's mother and aunt and their wedding, which I think is just sensational.

CO: This one?

CRP: Uh-huh.

CO: Yeah....

CRP: And this is their beautiful, her beautiful sister. Look how ethereal she looks.

CO: She does.

CRP: And that's the sister who grabbed her wedding clothes so she would have a picture of them.

CO: She does look ethereal.

CRP: She loves, she was the loveliest, sweetest person I ever knew, and that's her wedding party out on her lawn. Can you see all those people?

CO: Yeah. That's your mother?

CRP: Yes.

CO: Hmm.

CRP: (pause)...and that's a picture of me and Lee, and that's another picture of us.

CO: You're cutting your cake there, that's the wedding, that's what you're doing there?

CRP: Yep. That's right. Well, you know, we had to take the sugar over to the baker in Athens 'cause of the...

CO: Because of the ...?

CRP: Yeah. Shortage.

CO: Yeah. .

CRP: I just stuck a lot of pictures in there for, uh, their wedding. That couple, propped up there, that's Fred Holler III. I was telling you about his mother, his grandmother. Well, the one who's standing up in the frame, and that's his second wife, and she said, "You haven't got a picture of me." I said, "Well, bring me one." Glad to have it. That is Tammy and Bill, they married out in my garden.

CO: Hmm.

CRP: It was simple and very sweet. We had a wedding breakfast for them.

CO: I love the dress.

CRP: And then, there's a picture of the bride and groom, standing up. I think they're so cute.

CO: Yeah, uh-huh.

CRP: (pause)...and there's probably more pictures sitting around, they're everywhere. I've got a book of Frances' and a book of Sister's. And I've got [UNKNOWN STATEMENT, 4:03]. And, uh, those are...some things from [UNKNOWN STATEMENT, 3:56] over there, and this is Ellen, you know, you thought she looked like...Leslie.

CO: Yeah, yeah.

CRP: And, look, you'll have to look at her crowd that she had. Well, that's the family, but she's got all of her bridesmaids, I guess [UNKNOWN STATEMENT, 3:39]. She had about 8, I know some of them.

CO: I saw, I saw one huge wedding.

CRP: But I want you to see how pretty the Episcopal Church went out, was fixed with Harold and...

CO: Is that the church here? Oh, . That is beautiful.

CRP: Isn't it lovely? Oh, it was just such a beautiful setting. To me, it was perfect. Now, uh, a couple of these pieces were, uh... who are they, I can't see them?

CO: That's the one with all the bridesmaids.

CRP: Yeah. Ha! And...she had one of them about to give birth.

CO: . There's 12. Well, that was her Maid of Honor, standing right beside her, that's very pregnant. Whoa! Matron of Honor.

CRP: Yeah, very much with that baby there.

CO: .

CRP: (pause)...well, if you look on top of that, that was my aunt's when she was in Paris. You see the one with the red roses on it?

CO: Uh-huh. (pause)...is this, who is this reading? Sitting with the open book? (Lots of noise from recorder being moved) I don't think that's...

CRP: Oh, isn't that the *Age of Innocence*? A painting?

CO: I don't think so... it's secured, it isn't going to come out. But no, it looks like a photograph. But maybe it's not.

CRP: [NOISE FROM RECORDER OBSCURES STATEMENT, 2:05-1:57]. And those are some of the originals...

CO: What, who's is this?

CRP: That Frances', isn't it gorgeous?

CO: Uh-huh.

CRP: That's old English lace.

CO: Whoa.

CRP: Yeah, I bought hoping somebody else would wear the dresses but they didn't. It wasn't an investment, I thought surely somebody would. Those are ... Marguerite [UNKNOWN STATEMENT, 1:34], those are the 3 girls, you know, that were so...I just say they're the "Three Graces," I just think they're cute.

CO: ...she is especially pretty, or has a great profile.

CRP: Yeah. I think they're all pretty.

CO: How long has this room been like this?

CRP: probably...10 years. I haven't looked at [UNKNOWN STATEMENT, 1:02], I haven't checked up on it. I've got to cut those bed things back. (HARSH RECORDING SOUND AND THEN BACKGROUND NOISE FROM 00:56 TO END OF INTERVIEW.)

---End of Conversation with Carolyn Reynolds Parker, part 3---

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