

START OF TAPE ONE, SIDE A

MARY MANNING
JANUARY 27, 2001

NOTE: It's clear that other people were present during this interview, although Gilgor and Manning never make reference to them. Several times during the interview, Manning is inaudible due to the background talking or laughing, or she talks to somebody else in the room. Places where she is inaudible are noted in the transcript.

BOB GILGOR: This is January 27 in the year 2001 and this is Bob Gilgor interviewing Mary Manning at her home at 231B McDade Street. Good afternoon, Mary.

MARY MANNING: Good afternoon.

BG: I appreciate you taking the time to talk with me today. I'd like to begin with a very broad question, and that is, tell me what it was like growing up in Chapel Hill.

MM: Well, I was born up in Carrboro on Birch Street and we moved--just kind of walk across the hill in Chapel Hill. And we were a tight knit family, so when I was growing up, we were around family then, cousins, brothers and sisters. And we were all very close. And there were my aunts and they'd be at our house two or three times a week. We'd go to their house nearly every day, coming home from school, we'd stop by there.

BG: They lived in the same neighborhood? In Carrboro?

MM: We lived in Carrboro, they lived in Chapel Hill. Over there on Pike Street. And we'd pass through there coming from Northside, coming back home. And we just more or less played with each other. And we'd sit around at night

and listen to my father tell us stories about when he was growing up, and we really enjoyed that.

BG: Do you think storytelling is common in the African-American community?

MM: Yes. Someone was always telling a story. Lot of times a lot of the children in the neighborhood would be there listening to the story. My father was like the uncle of the neighborhood. Everybody called him Uncle Bud. And he watched the--he was disabled due to diabetes, and had been born with polio, and walked on crutches his whole life. So he was home, and my mother was out working. The children in the neighborhood they'd be there with Uncle Bud and he would just be there watching them. And when I was growing up, if you did something wrong, anybody that looked up, if they saw you they'd spank you. So we didn't really get into a whole lot of trouble, because we knew that no matter what somebody on the street would see you. And most of the time, my father was sitting in the yard, doing chair caning and he would see if nobody else would see, and you would get a spanking.

BG: So if you got a spanking from one of your neighbors for doing something wrong, did your neighbor then tell your parents?

MM: Yes.

BG: Did you get it again?

MM: Sometimes.

BG: What did a spanking consist of?

MM: Well, they'd get a switch, and they'd whoop you.

BG: How many whoops would you get?

MM: Well with my father, probably one or two. With my mother, you might get five or six, maybe more.

BG: Depending on what you did wrong?

MM: Yes.

BG: The reason for my asking is, I think today with child abuse as an issue, I think it's important to understand what a whooping meant.

MM: Well, I tell my mother now, that she'd be still in jail if they had enforced that abuse then.

BG: What was the relationship with your mother and father like?

MM: They had a good relationship. My father told my mother, and she'd tend to agree with it. She believed that whatever he told her was right. They never had major arguments. Sometimes you might hear them arguing but it wouldn't be anything outrageous, usually. If they were going to argue they'd wait till we went to bed and you were suppose to be asleep, but sometimes I was still awake and hear them arguing, but they would never have any fights.

BG: Were you the oldest at the time?

MM: Oldest of seven.

BG: Seven. That's a big family.

MM: Yes.

BG: What kind of a house did you live in to hold seven children and two parents?

MM: Would you believe a two bedroom.

BG: Where did you put everyone?

MM: We had to have two beds, three beds in the rooms, and somebody would sleep on the sofa.

BG: Was this a frame house? A wooden frame house?

MM: It was a frame house and it had some type of siding on it. The siding looked like brick but I guess you call it, like stucco or rock. I don't know what you call it.

BG: What kind of heat did you have in the house?

MM: We had a wood stove for heat and we had a wood stove for cooking.

BG: Did you have a wood stove in your bedroom?

MM: No, just have one stove in the living room.

BG: So, you had to leave the door open to get heat in the wintertime?

MM: Yes. But you'd get heat into one bedroom from the kitchen and heat into the other bedroom from the living room.

BG: Who cut the wood?

MM: My brothers and my father before they got large enough to cut wood, he'd cut wood.

BG: So your father made a living by caning chairs, and your mother, did she work also?

MM: She did domestic work. She worked sometimes two and three jobs a day--babysitted, took in washing and ironing. And I remember when I was nineteen years old somebody had brought some clothes by to be ironed, and it had to be ironed by a certain time, so I ironed them for her. And I guess I must have done a good job, they didn't complain about it.

BG: So your mother was a hard working woman. How did she have time to raise seven children working more than one job at a time?

MM: Well, she and my father shared the responsibility. She was at work, and he was at home, then he'd take care of us. And they shared the responsibilities of cooking. He would start the supper before she got home.

BG: Who was the boss of the family?

MM: Believe it or not, my father was the boss, even though he was not working and stayed at home because of [unclear].

BG: Did he do most of the disciplining?

MM: No, she did. My mother did that. He would tell my mother when she came home if we had done something, and he would say, "she needs to get a whooping." My mother would give us the whooping. I never remember my father whooping me.

BG: Why do you think he didn't whoop you?

MM: He didn't whoop anyone. He would tell my mother, and tell her that "she needs a whooping," and she would do it.

BG: Sounds like he was, I don't know the word to use--was he a very loving man?

MM: Yes, he was.

BG: Do you think that's why he wouldn't hurt you? How did you interpret the turning over the discipline over to your mother?

MM: You know, I never really thought about it, but I'm thinking about it now. I think he did that so that if we were going to be mad with someone, we'd be mad with my mother and not him.

BG: He didn't want anyone mad with him?

MM: But even though we got whoopings, I don't ever remember being mad with my mother because she didn't ever whoop me unless I deserved it, or she thought I deserved it.

BG: How many whoopings would you get in an average month, say?

MM: Hard to say. If you didn't do anything, you wouldn't get any, but if you did anything to warrant a whooping you got it.

BG: What kind of education did your parents have?

MM: I think my father had an eighth grade education, and my mother, I can't remember if it was a third or fourth grade education, but my father could really read and write. And my mother couldn't read too much but she could write a little bit. Over the years, she more or less taught herself to read.

BG: Did you have a dictionary or encyclopedia or books at home?

MM: We always had books, we had dictionaries and encyclopedias. My father read all the time.

BG: Did he read to himself or did he read to you, or both?

MM: He would read to himself sometimes, and he would read to us children.

BG: Was that a ritual, at night or during the day?

MM: At night.

BG: So he sort of read to you most nights, every night?

MM: Most nights. And he always helped us with our homework.

BG: Was your education stressed?

MM: Yes, we had to go to school once we became school aged. You had to go to school until you graduated.

BG: So he expected you to graduate?

MM: Yes, he did.

BG: Did he expect you to get more education after graduation from high school?

MM: Yes he did, but I graduated first because I was the oldest, and I didn't want to go to college, so I didn't go. I went to work. And I got married when I was nineteen, and I had my three children. And when they were in school, I went back to Durham Tech to be a nurse.

BG: So did you get a LPN, or a RN?

MM: LPN.

BG: How long did you do nursing?

MM: About eight years before I got sick and had to quit working.

BG: How did you get sick, Mary?

MM: Had a heart attack. The doctors never let me go back to work. At the end of one year they were making the decision. I had been to the clinic since the date that I had the heart attack and they said I could not go back to work.

BG: You were mentioning an operation, did you have a bypass?

MM: Had a bypass.

BG: Let's go back to your childhood. Do you feel you grew up happy?

MM: Yes, I was happy.

BG: Did you feel poor.

MM: Well, no I didn't. I guess I was in high school before I really realized that we were actually poor.

BG: How did you realize that?

MM: Well a lot of things that other children had, we didn't have. But we always had plenty of food and plenty of clothes, but other things we didn't have that were not necessities.

BG: What was mealtime like in your house?

MM: Well, mealtime was when all the children would sit in the kitchen and eat and sit down. And my mother would fix our plates.

BG: Did you have regular time that you had your meals?

MM: Usually we'd have dinner about seven.

BG: And all the children were there at the same time?

MM: Yes.

BG: And your mother and father?

MM: Our father most times wouldn't come into the kitchen because he walked on crutches. Sometimes he'd sit in the living room, sometimes he'd be in kitchen, but not sitting at the table, because with seven kids, there was not enough room for seven of us and our parents.

BG: Must have been noisy.

MM: Oh yes.

BG: Was there a lot of competition among the seven children?

MM: No. We'd all get in there together and do whatever we needed to do. Everybody would have certain chores that they needed to do, and we'd just do them because we knew that was our job.

BG: Did your parents try to teach you anything about segregation, or how to deal with the problems that African Americans faced at that time?

MM: No, not me, because, when I was going to school, I was never involved in segregation.

BG: You went to black schools.

MM: Yes.

BG: Did you have white playmates, or were all your playmates black?

MM: All my playmates were black.

BG: When was your first encounter with whites in this area?

MM: My first encounter was when I started working, and I started babysitting, when I was about sixteen.

BG: Did you have any problems?

MM: No.

BG: So you were pretty much sheltered in the black community?

MM: Yes.

BG: Was that a common thing, that parents would keep, in the black community, would keep their children right there, and not allow them into the segregated world?

MM: When I came, one would.

BG: And you think this was like a policy they wanted to have to protect their children?

MM: I think it was.

BG: Was there anything else you wanted to share about your childhood that stands out in your mind?

PAUSE.

BG: I wanted to ask you about, whether you had electricity in the house.

MM: Yes, we had electricity.

BG: Whether you had running water.

MM: Yes.

BG: Whether you had sewer, whether you had an outhouse or whether your toilets--.

MM: Well, we had toilets. When I was growing up, we lived in a four room house, and the toilet was on the back porch and we had to go out the back door to go into the toilets.

BG: I'd like to talk about Lincoln High School now and just stay with that. And just pick your brain clean about what you remember from Lincoln High School. So I won't even ask you a question other than what are your memories of Lincoln?

MM: Lincoln high school to me, we were always schooled and you were always [unclear] into different categories, when I went in seventh grade there was three red [unclear]. And that was my first experience at having to change classes, go to a different classroom.

BG: Do you remember the year that you were in seventh grade?

MM: I went six years at Lincoln, so [unclear].

BG: I don't know if this microphone is picking up what you're saying now. I'm going to move it a little closer. Thank you, I appreciate that. How did you get to school?

MM: We walked. We walked to school. At that time we were living on Main Street in Carrboro, and we'd walk up Main Street and go around Merritt Mill Road.

BG: How long a walk was it?

MM: About two, two and a half miles.

BG: Did most of the children walk, or did you have a schoolbus?

MM: They had schoolbuses, but that was for people who lived out in the county. We always walked to school.

BG: Did you walk alone or did you walk in a group?

MM: We walked with--usually there was a bunch of us and we'd all walk to school.

BG: What time would you get there?

MM: Around 8:15, 8:30.

BG: So right when the school was about to open. And the school opened at what time, at 8:30?

MM: 8:30.

BG: Did you have two separate parts of the school, one for the middle school and one for the senior high?

MM: No. Lincoln High School was just seventh through twelfth grade.

BG: And you had three seventh grade classes. Do you know about how many were in your class?

MM: No, but I know when we graduated we were a small group.

BG: And how many graduated?

MM: I don't even remember, but we were a small class, maybe somewhere between 25 and 30.

BG: And that was in '64?

MM: Yes.

BG: Did you go into a special door when you were at Lincoln? Was there one entry or multiple entries?

MM: There were multiple entries. The front door faced Merritt Mill road, and when you would come into the parking lot, there was a door there on the side. And go to the end of the hall and there was another side door.

BG: Did anybody greet you at the door?

MM: No. Sometimes they had patrolmen there, opened the door for you. If you got into any kind of problems, then patrolmen would report it into the principal.

BG: Now patrolmen, was that a student?

MM: A student. They were called the safety patrol, they would have, I don't know what you call it, across the shoulder and it fastened around the waist, like a badge that said safety patrol.

BG: Was it noisy in the school when you were in the hallways?

MM: Sometimes, but most of the times, it wasn't noisy, because if you were in the hall making a lot of noise, you got into trouble.

BG: Did you have to walk on a side of the hall, or could you walk where you wanted to along the hallway.

MM: Usually there was a side.

BG: Walk on the right, or walk on the left?

MM: Either side, it didn't matter.

BG: Do you remember your teachers?

MM: I can remember the teachers, but I can't remember what grade I was in when I had them.

BG: Any particular teachers who left their mark on you?

MM: I really liked **Ms. Post** [spelling?], the home economics teacher. And I guess I liked her because she would teach us how to cook. Then, once we started getting into sewing, and I liked sewing, but by then I realized that I was poor and didn't always have money to buy fabric. She would take us with her up to **hall weather** [unclear] and if we didn't have money, she would buy fabric for us, and we could stay after school and cut out our patterns and make whatever we wanted to make and she would help us. And sometimes she would have fabric left over from some of her projects at home, and she would bring it to school and she would give it to us.

BG: Did you have to pay for your lunches at school?

MM: I always carried my lunch. If we didn't, then we had to pay.

BG: Did some children not have money for lunch?

MM: Yes.

BG: How was that handled?

MM: I don't know how they handled it, because I always had money or had a sandwich from home. But I remember that as you got into higher grades I guess somehow or another you got a free lunch, but I don't know how you did that. I don't know if you had to fill out papers.

BG: Did you know the teachers who taught at Lincoln?

MM: Yes. When I was growing up on Broad Street, Mr. McDougal was principal, he lived on Broad Street. I knew Mr. Peace. I knew **Mrs. Peace**. I knew Mr. Smith.

BG: So, you knew a lot of the teachers. Did they know you and your parents?

MM: Yes, everybody tended--it was like a small community, and everybody tended to know each other.

BG: Did you feel the teachers were your friends, or part of the family, or just teachers trying to get you to learn some information?

MM: I think they were just teachers. Some of them would be trying to help you, but it wasn't like they were my friends. The people that you knew would be working with them. And that was because they knew you and they knew your family. And if they knew your family, they would say, well you need to do such and such, or such and such a person did such and such. They wanted you to be just as smart as the person who was ahead of you. Now, I did not go through that with my brothers and sisters cause I was the oldest, but I always hear them saying "they always trying to compare me with my sister."

BG: Were you a good student?

MM: Pretty good. I was a pretty good student. But I did know if you lost your school books, you had to pay for them. And I remember in eleventh grade, I had lost the book, didn't have the money to pay for it. And I asked my mother

and she said she didn't have it, and I said, "well I'm not going to school today," and she said "yes you are." I left home, and I met up with some friends, and we played hooky from school, but I got caught because my mother had managed to come up with the money that I needed to pay for the book, and she called me to come back and get the money, and I wasn't there. Because if you didn't pay for the books you couldn't take your final exams. So I just didn't go to school.

Then I had to go the next day, and my mother had to go and make arrangement for me to get back into school for playing hooky. And I ended up taking all of my exams except for one. I remember I missed my English exam that day I played hooky. So, they gave me an "I" in English--an incomplete. So the first day of school, I had signed up for all my classes and then Mr. MacDougal called me to the office to talk to me, and he talked to me and he explained it. I was in the twelfth grade but I could not graduate if I had not passed the eleventh grade English, and an "I" was not passing. He told me if I didn't get into any trouble, he would allow me to take eleventh and twelfth grade English. I had to take both of them that year. So I did. And was able to graduate with my class. That was a bad mistake, playing hooky and not going to school. I didn't have any problems passing the two classes, but I often thought if I had gone to school that day, then I wouldn't have had to take two English classes at the same time. Having to take two English, I had to drop my trigonometry class. I only got a chance to go to trigonometry class one day. And math was one of my favorite subjects.

BG: What was graduation like?

MM: Oh, we were so excited about graduation. Ordering your cap and gown, I was so excited. And I thought I probably won't get a class ring. I had took pictures, and my parents were able to come up with the money to get the pictures. And it was just so exciting to have commencement, and they were going to have it on campus somewhere, in the gym I think. I was so excited, I was just as nervous as I could be when it came time to walk up on that stage.

BG: Did anyone besides your mother and father come to graduation?

MM: All my uncles and aunts. I was excited because I had an uncle that lived in New Jersey, and he came home for graduation, but I can't say he came to my graduation, he came because he had two nieces graduating. My uncle's daughter was in the class I was in, and we graduated together.

BG: Did you have parties after graduation?

MM: No, we didn't really have parties. Well, I wasn't really a popular person, and I don't remember going to a party.

BG: Speaking of parties, were there gathering places for students before school or after school?

MM: Well, after school, you would go up on **Franklin Street**. Where M&M Grille is. Right down **Front Street**, right there beside where that pizza place is. That's where Mr. Ben Baldwin had his little--I don't know what they called it, but they had a jukebox, sold drinks and hotdogs and soda and that was where everybody would gather. At Mr. Ben Baldwin's, at night at the grille, you

would just stop by there, maybe and have sodas and French fries and hotdogs or whatever.

BG: So M&M grille on North Grand. And Ben Baldwin's. Where was Ben Baldwin's?

MM: It's right there on Franklin street, right there at the corner of Franklin and **Grand**.

[Background voices say by the Chinese theater. By the copy place.]

BG: Did you play any sports or play in the band.

MM: No didn't play any sports. Didn't play in the band. I was always in the choir.

BG: The choir at school. Can you tell me about that? What that was like?

MM: To me, we just go into the choir and sit in there practicing and singing after school.

BG: Where did you sing at school?

MM: In the auditorium.

BG: How often did you do that?

MM: I don't remember. It wasn't that often.

BG: How many were in the choir?

MM: There were quite a few

BG: Did you go around to any of the churches singing?

MM: No.

BG: Did you have a regular meeting in the auditorium?

MM: Not really, not unless you were having a play. They would always have something going on in the auditorium for people. The whole school, you know, that large of a school, cause the auditorium and the gym were the same facilities.

BG: So you set up seats in the gym to have an assembly in the auditorium?

MM: Yes.

BG: Did you have a once weekly gathering there or do you remember anything like that Mary?

MM: No I don't remember that.

BG: Did you go to any of the sporting events, the football games or the basketball games?

MM: Yes, I would go to the football games and I went to some of the basketball games.

BG: Could you describe what the basketball games were like? Did they have a big crowd or a small crowd?

MM: Well it wasn't a big crowd like they have now, but usually there were quite a few people there. For football games, there were always lots and lots of people. Adults and the students, cause Lincoln High school had a good football team. I forgot how many years they went undefeated, but it was quite a few

years. I think Lincoln High School probably lost only two games probably the whole time I went there.

BG: From '58 to '64?

MM: About two games.

BG: Did they have any rituals that stand out in your mind? Anything that they did there at the games beforehand or afterwards, or halftime that made it special?

MM: At halftime the band was always out there on the field performing or doing something, and then homecoming they would crown the queen at halftime.

BG: How did they decide on who was going to be the queen?

MM: I really don't know. I think we had to vote.

BG: When you had homecoming, did the band do any extra marching?

MM: They always looked like they were competing against the other bands that were there, so--.

BG: Did they march through the street to get to the stadium, where was it, in Carrboro?

MM: Yes they would march through the streets. They'd come down Franklin Street into Carrboro. The park, the ballpark was right in Carrboro?

BG: What was the name of the ballpark?

MM: I think it was the Lions Club. That's all I can remember. And it was out in Carrboro behind where Carrboro town hall is now.

BG: When they would march through the streets, would there be crowds out there looking at them?

MM: Yes, there would. There'd be big crowds.

BG: Did the children watch them?

MM: They walked behind them.

BG: Walked behind them. Did they try to mimic what the bandleader was doing?

MM: Some of them would, yes.

BG: Can you tell me about the bandleader?

MM: The bandleader, when I first went to Lincoln High school, I think his name was Jim [unclear], and the bandleader, they were always in charge. And they were always doing all these things, these steps. And I can remember blowing the horn--they blew the horn and that meant for them to switch from one step to the next one.

BG: Did he have a baton?

MM: Yes.

BG: Did he twirl it, or was it just one of those--?

MM: Yes. He would twirl it.

BG: Did he carry more than one baton?

MM: He just carried one.

BG: What kind of uniforms did they have?

MM: I want to think that the uniform was white. Not white, but kind of off-white and had these, what do you call them? Sort of like ropes going around.

BG: When you got to the game and the team came out on the field, would they run through a paper sign, or did they just meander out onto the field? Was there anything special about their entry onto the Lions Club field?

MM: Not to me it wasn't. I just remember them coming out onto the field.

BG: Anything special about their uniforms?

PAUSE.

MM: I think the uniforms were black and orange. Black and orange were the school colors.

BG: Did you get white people coming out to see the games also?

MM: I don't remember seeing any white people, but I'm sure there probably was but I just don't remember.

BG: Did you go to the prom?

MM: I went to the prom in the eleventh grade.

BG: What was the prom like?

MM: They had decorated the gym, and [unclear] and my mother went with me.

[Laughing loudly in the background]

BG: Was she your date?

MM: I didn't have a date. [Loud talking in the background]. Uncle Horace came. I don't even remember dancing, I just remember sitting at the thing, and my mother was asleep. [Laughing in the background]. Like most children, when their daughters, when they're gone it's depressing. Gone with [unclear]. But I didn't even think anything about it. It was fine with me.

BG: Did they have a band there or did they play records?

MM: They had to have just played records, I don't remember no band. [Laughing in the background].

BG: Did they have any special decorations?

MM: They decorated but I don't remember what the decorations were. They always used crepe paper.

BG: Did you go out afterwards, or just wake your mother up and go home?

[Laughing in the background].

Pause.

BG: Do you remember any other events that took place, like May Day?

MM: I remember May Day, everybody would be outside, and they had to run the maypole around the pole. We just had some fun outside. The only thing I remember them doing is wrapping the pole. Everybody out there laughing and having a good time.

BG: Did they have a queen of the May or anything like that?

MM: I never seen a queen. They may have had one and I just don't remember one.

BG: Are there any other things that you remember about the school that you want to share?

PAUSE.

BG: I wanted to ask you about the principal. Do you have any memories of Mr. McDougal?

END SIDE ONE.

BEGIN SIDE TWO.

BG: So tell me about Mr. McDougal. You say you found him wandering the halls?

MM: He liked to be walking the halls, and if you were supposed to be in class, you got into trouble. And when Mr. McDougal was living on Broad Street it felt like he knew us and if we did anything wrong, it'd definitely get back to your parents.

BG: Did the teachers do the same thing?

MM: Yes, because a lot of teachers lived right in Chapel Hill and you'd know them your entire life so they would tell on you.

BG: Did the teachers make visits to your home?

MM: No.

BG: How about when you were at Northside, did the teachers make any visits to your home then?

MM: No. But you know if somebody lived right there in the neighborhood, like I said, Mr. McDougal lived on Broad Street and Mrs. McDougal was teaching at Northside, and I do remember that I had Mrs. McDougal in second grade, and again in fourth grade.

BG: When you were at Northside?

MM: Yes.

BG: Was there a place outside Northside called Kelley's?

MM: I never heard of Kelley's.

BG: No. Was there a place there where you could get soda or where students could gather outside Northside?

MM: No. I don't know. [Fumbling with microphone] Mrs. Kelley. You were talking about Lincoln High school.

BG: So there was Kelley's near Lincoln High.

MM: Yes.

BG: What was Kelley's?

MM: Ms. Kelley ran a store and she sold sodas and candy and we would always stop in there and to buy something.

BG: Did you have any dancing in there? Did she have a place to sit down or a jukebox or records playing?

MM: I don't remember music. Mrs. Kelley, she was right there on the corner of Grand and Merritt Mill road.

BG: Things I forgot to ask you were about church. Whether the church was part of your family's life.

MM: Yes it was. It was definitely a part of this family life.

BG: How so?

MM: My mother thought that we should all go to Sunday School, every Sunday. If you had any other activities going on, if you didn't go to church, you couldn't attend other activities.

BG: Did your father go to church with you?

MM: No. My father didn't go to church. Like I said my father was sick. He was handicap, he walked on crutches. He didn't go to church with us, but he would go to church sometimes, and Reverend Manley is still at First Baptist. Reverend Manley was at First Baptist when I was a little girl. He always came to our house. When my father was living, Reverend Manley every week, sometimes two and three times a week to visit with my father. And if Reverend Manley had been to the house you knew Sunday morning when you went to church. Reverend Manley gonna get up there and tell something that my father told him.

BG: So your father was almost a legend in the community.

PAUSE.

Did your brothers go to church, and you sisters?

MM: Yes. We had no choice.

[Laughing in the background].

BG: What kind of influence did you feel the church had on your life?

MM: Church had a good influence on my life. I liked bible school and all these different things, I always liked things where we had to read something and we had to tell about it. I always liked that.

BG: Did your teachers go to church? The same church?

MM: Mr. McDougal and Mrs. McDougal and Mrs. Peace, Mr. Peace, they all went to First Baptist.

BG: Did the church have any summer activities that you could go to?

MM: Yes. We went to vacation bible school, when I was little, vacation bible school was like, be in the mornings from eight to twelve or something like that. And now I think they do it in the afternoons, at five or six o'clock.

BG: How long would you spend at church? How many hours would you be there? On a typical Sunday the services were at eleven?

MM: Service was eleven and they'd get out by twelve-thirty or one.

BG: Did you have anything special that you did after church?

MM: We stopped by the milk dairy and get ice cream cones and then go home.

BG: Is that what a lot of children did? Get something at the dairy bar?

MM: Yes the dairy bar was right there at the corner of Franklin and Ralston street. You know the cross street more or less from the church and that's why everybody went. They either went there or they went to Big John's Drug Store which was right on Franklin Street.

BG: Colonial Drug. Even though you couldn't sit down there.

MM: We didn't even think nothing about sitting down in there. We just go in there and get a cone of ice cream or lemonade that was, usually that was what we got, and go on out. I never think about it. I guess I was used to it, never sitting down, and it never crossed my mind.

BG: Are there other things about growing up or about Lincoln that you want to share Mary?

MM: I think that's everything.

BG: Well I really appreciate you talking with me, sharing. Thank you.

MM: Thank you.

END INTERVIEW.

TRANSCRIBED BY JENNIFER NARDONE