

Melissa Bass: Drena, how long have you lived in the Cane Creek community?

Drena Little: About... probably about fifteen years.

M.B.: Where did you live before that?

D.L.: My husband and I had just been living in North Carolina and we came back to Chapel Hill to go to school and I rented a house out there which we subsequently bought.

M.B.: Who did you rent it from? Do you remember?

D.L.: It wasn't... It was a, just, you know... a management agent. Our house had been built by someone in the community.

M.B.: Okay... How did you first hear about the reservoir?

D.L.: There was a public meeting, you know, a community meeting announced... at the community building. And the OMASA representatives came out to announce their plans with great finality...

M.B.: With great finality? What did they announce?

D.L.: That they would have a reservoir in two years.

M.B.: Did they give specifics- like how big it would be?

D.L.: Yea, yea... Where it was, what it was going to be....that it wouldn't be any problem to the community; it wouldn't hurt anybody at all and that we would all

just love it.

M.B.: What was the initial reaction in the community?

D.L.: Just anger.... anger at being roughshod... handled in that way.

M.B.: Well, who were some of the people that were at the meeting? Can you remember any specific names like any, like the Teers, the Stanfords? *don't supply names*

D.L.: Everybody...everybody was there; and Bobby Kirk.... I get tears...(pause)

M.B.: I know, it must have been very emotional, very hard.

D.L.: Well, not so much then, but remembering it. Oh, this is ridiculous... we better cut it (the tape recorder) off...

*PAUSE*

M.B.: Do you remember any members of OWASA that were there to present the plans?

D.L.: Yes, <sup>S</sup> Everett Billingsley was there and actually at that point the utilities were still owned, I think, by the university or had just transferred. ... So there was a representative there for the university and Everett Billingsley. And everybody in the community was there. And little Bobby Kirk stood up...and said: "I'm not going to have this!". Bobby was young then, I guess he was in his twenties... he was redheaded. His face was absolutely purple. And he stood up and said..."We're not going to have this without a fight.".

*great!*

And Bobby immediately saw the way the program would threaten the dairies which were the whole social center of that watershed area... and... Fred Summers was in the back of the room with his hospital clothes. I guess he'd come from the hospital. He, I mean we had this whole spectrum of the community members there. People from the farm families whose families had been there for two hundred years or a hundred years in that neighborhood and people like myself who had been there around ten or fifteen years. People who maybe had, maybe were brand new. People like Fred Summers who had been there for a long time but who worked in town. That community is such a nice mix of ... of people whose work, work interests are varied, and whose histories out there are varied, but who all have liked the geography of the place and liked the feeling of the place and that's the beauty of this organization to me. It's that... it tied everybody together in a way that previously existed I think mainly in the church... was a real rallying point that still is but people like myself who didn't belong to a church, who didn't go to a church didn't have as many opportunities to interact and get acquainted. So, it's just been wonderful in that respect.

H.B.: When exactly did OWA3A come out with those plans? Do you remember?

D.L.: You're going to have to get those dates from Ed Johnson. I don't remember the dates. We've had one Farm City Day and a Craft fair. Those are our two fundraising events. I think for seven or eight years in a row. But... I'm not specific.

M.B.: Around 1977, 1978?

D.L.: Something like that. It's hard for me to remember exactly when we started.

M.B.: Before the controversy was there much interaction between the newcomers in the community and the people that had lived there for years? Was there much of an invitation extended to people who moved in there?

D.L.: Yea, yea, I think so... But it's just human nature if you don't have something, some pride, if you weren't doing something; you were working in the fire department or in the church or you know--- the community building had the dinners to raise, raise money and stuff for that. But there just weren't as many opportunities or you know ... neighbors certainly...

M.B.: Who are some of your neighbors?

D.L.: My neighbors are, well, the Andrews and the Kirks, are the people, and the Snipes are behind me.

M.B.: You're surrounded by dairy farms. They're pretty close to you.

D.L.: The biggest pieces around me are. My immediate

what  
is  
she  
getting at?  
A

neighbors are smaller parcels, people like myself who are working in town but live out there.

M.B.: How do you feel as a person who works in town and doesn't have a dairy... how do you feel about the fact that the dairy farmers are gonna literally have their lifestyles wrecked?

*very leading question!*

D.L.: I think it's unnecessary and it's ashame. I see a town, five years from now, ten years from now or whatever when it's going to become very chic to protect agriculture. And at that point there's going to be a swing. People will say: " Why? Why did we jeopardize those dairies for a short term reservoir?". It seems very, very short-sighted to me.

M.B.: Do you see the reservoir as short term?

D.L. Ummm. indeed. I have another idea in my mind that the reason the powers that be have their eyes set on this reservoir so much. Have to remember back to when the Jordan reservoir was proposed. I guess for twenty years. At least the elected officials in Chapel Hill and the mood of Chapel Hill was against that reservoir. And one of the primary arguments against it was that the water would be undrinkable. And they spent a lot of public money and a lot of private time organizing and opposing it and eventually the battle was lost of course. All those very same people are

*follow up on this battle - read the Donald essay*

still the people who were the elected officials and the backbone of the Democratic party and who, being the workers and political roadblock of Chapel Hill. Those people having fought for Jordan for so long, I don't think there's any psychological way those people could have ever accepted the fact the reservoir was there and noone could use it. And I think that's why Cane Creek was sought so, so strongly. Even though it's a real short term solution in the overall scheme of things. Even in their mind there's no way Jordan could be built, could be used. However, all the communities around the reservoir- Wake County, asked for all of the water from the reservoir. Like, Chapel Hill wasn't going to ask for anything and finally got embarrassed into saying.. well maybe we'll take allocations in the future.

great point

A.B.: Isn't the water drinkable now.. or hasn't it it been passed?

D.L.: There are some stages (indistinguishable).. it's going to be drank... I promise you that.

A.B.: What do you think would be the best solution to Chapel Hill's drinking problem?

D.L.: I think the Jordan, it's a huge water reservoir. People have already lost that land. Those people have already been taken off their farms. And now water is there... You also need these dairies. And these

follow up -  
ask for  
clarification -  
what does  
the mean  
exactly?



dairies in the Cane Creek area are really not just moderately productive. I think they look that way to some of the people in town... They don't understand, they see an old barn and they think it's a falling down operation. I don't think they have much understanding. And I probably have a lot more now than I did before the....

M.B.: They're (the dairies) are highly productive aren't they?

D.L.: They're very productive and they should be protected... not hassled, which is what's happening to them.

M.B.: I read somewhere that..in terms of area... or.,

D.L.: It's their relative production... the relative production per cow is higher than, I think, North Carolina is higher than the southeast, and we're higher than North Carolina and Orange count is higher than the reast of the state. I mean we're just tip top producers. Really more or less younger, most of them have younger generations that want to keep doing it.

M.B.: The Kirks...?

D.L.: The Kirks, the Teers, the Snipes, the Bests, and if we've got someone whose willing to work those hours....(laugh) in that production, you encourage them, you don't make it hard for them. And you just can't go out and buy another dairy farm. You've got

to find the right pasture, the right soil, the right grass....

M.B.: What do you like best about living in Cane Creek? *L*

D.L.: Probably one of the things I like best is the, well, the people of course. Visually, it's very beautiful, the dairies, the open fields and that's just a selfish kind of personal satisfaction but it's very pleasing to me.

M.B.: What kind of community activities did you participate in before the fight with O.L.S.A.?

D.L.: Nothing really, we weren't real organized.

M.B.: You mean you just sort of knew your neighbors?

D.L.: Well, we knew them... saw them at the store, saw them at voting. Well now, I did that. I was; I worked at the polls on election day which was a nice way to get to know everybody.

M.B.: What did you do to raise money?

D.L.: Well, the main thing we have done is twice a year. We have two events that are held at the community building. We have what we call FarmCity Day in the spring, and that was our initial event. And... we did that; we tried to invite people from Chapel Hill... out to the community to get our side of the story. And I think that in the public eye we were real effective. But the people who were actually making the

*for political leanings area*



decisions, I think their mind was already made up.

and they saw the reservoir as something they needed  
and they had to have it and they were after it.

H.B.: Sort of a power play?

D.L.: Well, these people actually made the decisions  
were of a different mind, so we had invited people out.  
We had tours of the farm. We had wonderful tours of  
the whole watershed and this farm and that farm... and  
also we sold barbeque sandwiches and raised money.  
and then in the fall we had what we call Craft Fair.  
Which is another fundraising kind of event. Well we  
had bake sales in town, we had yard sales; you name  
it, we did it.

H.B.: Did you find just an abundance of support for the...

D.L.: Yes, yes... certainly in the community, I mean  
we kind of laughed when we'd get ready to plan one  
of these things. We'd say "Well, it'll all just fall  
into place." and in large measure it did. I mean  
certain people took to doing the barbeques, handling  
that, staying up all night. It's a lot of work.  
Getting supplies, kitchen work; lot of work in getting  
the kitchen set up, to handle all these, ... make all  
those biscuits and stuff... sell that barbeque. and  
real good fun together.

H.B.: How much money did you make?

*Rather precise  
exactly who did what -  
men/women*

*see Sam  
Crawford  
for similar  
comments*

Could you have a figure in mind?

D.L.: Yea. I do. I think usually, probably about a couple of thousand an event. Sometimes we'd do a little better, or we'd do a little worse.

A.L.? I'm curious. How much has been spent? Like for lawyers and....

D.L.: I saw... there are a couple of people who could tell you that. At one ~~one~~ point I saw, of course OMAA's expenses are a matter of public record. If I'm not mistaken we had a little newsletter one time OMAA had fifty eight or sixty thousand dollars and we had spent twenty four. And the difference was huge. But also that's a lot of bake sales. But the big farms have consistently made big contributions. You know bigger contributions.... But it's important that everybody make an effort too. It was truly community wide concern. The ladies who made the cakes were as interested and as concerned as the farmers who put up a large contribution.

A.L.: Who made the cakes?

D.L.: Everybody, everybody....

A.L.: How did the, well, did the fight change your perception of the community? Did you find that you maybe loved it more or you were more loyal to it? *Reading*

D.L.: Only in that you... only in that closer friendships

are made. The community is very much what I always  
thought it was. I know more about it. I care more  
for that reason. Met some people that I wouldn't have  
met otherwise.

M.B. Drena, could you tell me a little bit about your life?

Like where you were born, where you're from?

D.L. Well, my Dad was in the army, so I travelled places with him. I was born in Illinois and my parents are from Kansas and Oklahoma and I grew up on the move... (indistinguishable)

M.B. And you went to college here?

D.L. Went to U.N.C...right.

M.B. What's your degree?

D.L. Journalism.

M.B. And you're a real estate agent?

D.L. That's right! (Laughter)

M.B. Where did you usually go to school, or did you move around that much?

D.L. Went to school, gosh until the eighth grade, went to school on the post. And then when you get older they send you to school in town. Well, I went to school in Georgia, Kansas, California, North Carolina, Germany and South Carolina.

M.B. What made you decide to come to Carolina?

D.L. My father was stationed at Fort Bragg but I wanted a degree in journalism. So that's why I came here.

M.B. How did you get in Real Estate?

D.L. Sideways...(Laughter)

M.B. How long have you been in the real estate business?

D.L. About fifteen years.

M.B. Since you graduated?

D.L. Mmmhmm.

M.B. What was Chapel Hill like when you moved here as compared to the way it is now?

D.L. Well it's really very hard for me. I mean I'm comparing apples and oranges because the Chapel Hill then was the campus. When you're a student it's all you're concerned about. And it's the most exciting place I've ever been in my life. I loved it. I loved it. I loved it. It was just a big smorgasbord of things to try. It was fun. I like it very much. I liked the town, but it was very subordinate to the campus... And as an adult living here, and especially being in the real estate business I see the whole town--not just the campus. It's bigger... I partake of a different part of the life.

(Background noise)

M.B. Do you hang around town a lot? Or do you mostly stay out in the country?

D.L. Yes, yes, sure... places to eat or go to movies. Yes, I do lots of stuff in town.

M.B. I'm really curious. Have you had much of a rural background? Or has this been your first taste of rural life?

D.L. NO, no... when I moved to Cane Creek I'd never lived in the country. And I went out there mostly to please my husband... who had grown up in the country and I'd intended that we'd move back into town in a year. (Laughter) But the first morning I woke up. I just walked out behind the house and looked at the pond... I got up and I washed my hair and went outside on the back steps to dry it, because some people who had helped us move had spent the night with us and they were all still asleep in the house. And

I woke up real early because the bugs woke me up. The bugs and the frogs. And I thought... that just woke me up and I went outside to wash my hair and I thought, I mean to comb my hair, and I thought, 'This feels great'. 'This is better... I like this better.' And I knew right then that's why I wanted to live out there.

M.B. And that's where you moved?

D.L. Same neighborhood... About half a mile down the road.

(Laughter)

M.B. And you didn't go to church out there?

D.L. And there's another point I needed to ask about... It's your political convictions as compared to the community's.

D.L. Probably, well....

M.B. In the last interview you said you worked at the polls and that's how you got to know a lot of people. What do people think about the town?

D.L. About what?

M.B. The town... the people who run the town.

D.L. They're, well they're real... they're very kind... and very they're kind. I think pretty broadminded. There is not a sense of bitterness, or a sense of... I am surprised. I mean I think they have a beautiful set up for anti-town feelings and you just don't get it. I don't feel you get it. You don't get little sniping comments and you don't get... well you get people who, being real mad at Everett Billingsley because he's sort of the focus for OWASA.

M.B. Does he live out there?



D.L. No, he doesn't. And people being mad at... mad at the officials. But it's not just blindly applied to anybody from town.

M.B. What kind of people live out there?

D.L. A wonderful mix. I think we talked about that before. It's a lovely mix of people who've been there, whose families have been there for a hundred and fifty or two hundred years. People like myself who have not been there very long at all. I went to, I went last Saturday they had at the Community Building, they had a ham and e.g. supper. Which was just... Did you come?

M.B. Some people from my class did.

D.L. Oh! So much fun. We had worked that afternoon; worked outside all day. It's real convenient to go up there and have dinner plus being real pleasant. It's just close and easy. Dinner was great. Eggs, country ham, gravy and biscuits and jellies... the building was full.

M.B. There were a lot of people there?

D.L. Oh yes, the building was full. We got there towards the end of it and we just kind of hung around and talked to, you know, various people. I looked around and there were little Snipeses and little Kirks, these two big families. Little Snipeses and little Kirks must be about less than two years old running around the building... Looking exactly like the game pools that they came from. (Laughter) You could just tell...

M.B. You know who their parents were.

D.L. This was so sweet. There were three generations of each of the families there. And I just... it was neat...

M.B. Is there alot of pride there?

D.L. A lot of pride? Huge amount... yes, there is. But... it was a good event put on without too much trouble. Probably, I bet fifteen people did most of the work in the kitchen cleaning up. Made some money for the building... put on anew roof, buy a new carpet, do something. Plus it was real fun. Nice to have a nice time without going to any trouble.

M.B. The girl that went out there really enjoyed it. She got to talk to Rebecca Crawford. Almost the whole time...

D.L. Oh did she? I didn't see Rebecca while I was there. I was talking to Danny Shipes who's just building a new house. So we were talking about his new house... (indistinguishable)... It was sweet.

M.B. Are they real happy out there? Is there a sense of foreboding?

D.L. Just like people anywhere else. Well... there is a nagging sense of defeat about this reservoir. But I suppose everybody's like this with something like that. I mean if you're in the tire business you're afraid you'll go out of tures. You hurt. I mean everybody's like this, it upsets. So, certainly those people aren't going to be overwhelmed by.... (Pause)

M.B. Could you ever see y urself as a farmer?

D.L. Yes. Practically it's not in the cards because don't start that from scratch...but sure. Oh yes. I'm not sure I'd want to work that hard.

M.B. They do work hard.

D.L. They work very h rd....

M.B. How many people out there are actually employed by the university? Do you know? Is there a large amount?

D.L. No, I don't know.. Yes, probably there are. For instance, many people do and I think this is common all over North Carolina. Many people who are in agriculture also have another job and since the major employer around here is the university. Many people's wives work in town, some sort of public work. It's not uncommon that someone works at the university or Blue Cross Blue Shield. A lot of those women out there work for ECBS and ot have some other connection.

M.B. How do you think this has changed their idea of the university? CWASA that is?

D.L. They're more sophisticated. Yes....

M.B. That's what I thought.

D.L. Yes, they are. There are not naive people. Very good people They're just... I think you asked me earlier about the town/country feeling. They're not... I don't find in them any sort of "kneejerk" characterization of people in that basis at all.

M.B. What about you?

D.L. (Laughter) I'm probably more inclined to it. No, it's too simple.

M.B. How about Eane Creek as compared to Jordan? That's a point I wanted to bring up. How do the situations compare?

D.L. They're both tragic in the same sense in that people who have a home and a sense of land that they've had for 200 years are ripped off them. You can't begin to compare the loss of

Cane Creek with the loss of Jordan because of just the size--- the numbers of people. That loss is always very great and there's no way you can repay people for that kind of loss. On the other hand... the way I can compare them is that Jordan's there, Jordan's been done and we damn well ought to be drinking that water and not doing it again for a pointless twenty year reservoir. I think it's very... it's just... it's sour grapes. The powers that be in Orange County and Chapel Hill couldn't get what they wanted at Jordan. Which was not to have that reservoir; they've convinced themselves they can't have it. That it was awful foul and the devil's work,,, they will have Cane Creek. So they've just exercised another bit of condemnation. It didn't have to be, except for their mindset. That's why I think it's a tragedy.

M.B. They were that much against the Jordan?

D.L. Yes, they spent the last twenty years of their political life in that group even though the membership of that group changes a little bit over a twenty year period, it was the same people who fought the Jordan who controlled the Democratic party in Orange County and who refused to drink the Jordan just because they'd spent years in court saying "It's undrinkable, it's awful." It's terrible we can't have it. Chapel can't have it. Wake County asked for the entire allotment of the reservoir just as fast as they could get in line. Chapel Hill said, "No, no... no.. we can't have it!" Now they have asked... they were forced into asking for an allotment. And they have asked for an allotment but they say they don't really want it. But I'm convinced

th t's why they have the Cane Creek Reservoir. Because those people had spent so much of their political life fighting the majority for reasons they thought were valid. They convinced themselves of it. And they said, you couldn't have those same people in office and have those people agree to drink the Jordan. So we have Cane Creek. A short term, very expensive, really unnecessary reservoir.

M.B. Why is it so necessary if they're going to get water from Jordan?

D.L. Well, they're just not going to do it now... they think they're not going to do it for another twenty years or there might not be an allotment left for them in twenty years. (Laughter) That's always been very frustrating to me. As I thought that the push for Cane Creek wasn't resolved on the basis of the theory it was resolved on the basis of this issue and that issue, etc. But I really think it came from the activity opposing the reservoir at Jordan. Environmental Management Commission, which had to exercise a permit authorizing OMA to condemn land, twice ruled against this reservoir. That was a little subcommittee and then each time the commission as a whole ruled for because the University and Jimmy Wallace did tremendous behind the scenes lobbying. These things, people's connections, influence count. But we didn't have it.

M.B. I didn't know if you all had many connections.

D.L. Well we hoped that the Secretary of Agriculture Jim Graham and we hoped the people at State University and we hoped that some other people would help us. But we weren't as actively involved in it as other people as Jimmy Wallace and the University.

(Pause) I'M delighted that Jimmy Wallace is now the mayor of

Chapel Hill. As you can imagine... (Laughter) He's one of my favorite people.

M.B. Legal help now?

D.L. He just can spend all of his attention fighting Rosemary Square. He's shipped us already...

(Pause)

M.B. Why did they shoot for Cane Creek so much?

D.L. Well, you'll have to ask them that. I think one of the reasons is it was close... and it's a fairly narrow impoundment, so that's what they always said... "This is a nice reservoir for us to take... because the terrain's so steep..." It's fairly narrow area and they can impound more water, but it was just close and easy for them to get to, and uphill. They'd get the gravity feed of Chapel Hill. And because they think it's just out in the boonocks they think, "Oh nobody matters out there". I will never forget Paul Morris who is on the Owasa Board saying... some of our people went and made a presentation about the value of the dairies... and he said, "Don't talk to me about dairies... I milked a cow every day until I was nine. I know about the dairies." He made people so mad with that comment and it was so offhand and so condescending... he doesn't know shit.

Background: Are you still being recorded?

D.L. But he milked a cow every day until he was nine... That's a lot. That's great. That's a great bit of outlook.

M.B. Oh, I milked a cow, too.

D.L. Well, I mean... it really insulted everybody. He probably thought he was being cute... but he really offended people out



there with that comment. It's been quoted over and over again.

M.B. In terms of sophistication... how sophisticated are people out there? Everybody thinks of them as farm people who don't know everything.

D.L. That's ridiculous! That's totally off the mark. They're bright business people, bright middle class people... I mean. They're not "quaint agrarians". (Laughter)

M.B. Now about Chapel Hill's attitude towards the Cane Creek Reservoir? Do they really want it?

D.L. I'm not really sure I can answer that question. I think probably... the average person in Chapel Hill doesn't have much of an opinion. The people that I'm inclined to talk to are the people who are inclined to already believe... or at least supporting me. We get lots of people that come out there when we have our events. We get people that send us a check. That doesn't make any sense either. By and large it's not an issue that emotionally involves people, I think. People read our letter... read our facts and figures and see it from our standpoint and say "that doesn't make sense either, it's just not an issue that's captured the imagination of the body politic town. There's certainly not a burning desire to have it or conversely to not have... But I've never had anybody approach<sup>me</sup> and say, "Well, we really need it." I don't know much about it.

M.B. What would you do if somebody came up and said.. "We really need it!"

D.L. Be happy to talk to them about it.

At this point in the interview I switched off the tape recorder and we discussed feeling in the community towards people who had support the reservoir. Eddie Mann, a board member of OWASA, who joined the other side... and we discussed feelings towards the Stanford family.

L.B. Drena, why do you like living in the country?

D.L. You mean because I didn't grow up on the farm?

M.B. Yes...

D.L. Well, I think I told you earlier that when I, what happened was, my husband and I came back to Chapel Hill because he was going back to school-- he'd gotten out of the army and he was going back to school. And do some graduate work. And he'd grown up in the country and he said, "We're going to live in the country." And I really just went along to be a good sport. I thought it was a terrible idea. Didn't think I'd like it one bit. We rented this place and I just fell in love with it. I like the space. I liked the room. I liked the people. I liked being outside. I liked being more in touch with the weather. Just, everything about it I liked. And when I met the people I like them, too. I've grown up on the move. I had a wonderful time growing up in the service. My family, we'd be somewhere a year and a half and we knew that we'd be leaving six months and we'd be just ready to go. "Where are we going? Where are they going to send us next?" And we'd be bugging my father to tell us where his orders were for, and he'd say, "I don't have them yet..." He'd get the orders and we'd be packed... ready to hit the trail. Of course when I went to school that was like being on the move again. Because I went

to Flora McDonald for two years , came up to UNC for two years, than I went overseas for two years, then I went overseas for two years, came back, married my husband and we moved around the state for two years, came back to Chapel Hill and moved out to the country. And I'd been out there about three years, one day I woke up just terribly depressed. I thought... 'What is wrong, what is wrong?' and I thought, 'Oh, God, I'm never going to move again in my whole life! This is so sad. I'll never go anywhere.' Then I thought, 'Well, I could go if I wanted to go. Now where do I want to go..'. And I just couldn't when I looked at it that way I was just so happy there. And then started to know people in the neighborhood, and not in a real close way. But just sharing things sharing in the appreciation of the land or an enjoyment of the privacy that that comes from having that much room around you and then, another thing is that my husband comes from a great big old southern family. And I don't know any of my relatives. By my family I mean I know my mother, my father, my brother and that's just about it. Because we never spent time with them. And the closest thing I had to kinship with the family was close friends of my mother and father. We'd be stationed together in Kansas or in South Carolina and we'd see them over and over again. Then when I married Lloyd, he has this great big family in North Carolina and South Carolina, I just got... Boy, I lapped it up. I became just like a Baptist convert. I liked it better than any of them. It was new to me. I just truly adored that family...connection. After years of being footloose and enjoying that I really took one hundred percent to this business of being rooted to the land

and to the family and to ties. It's all the ability to enjoy what you have. But I really did like it a lot. And I get a great deal of pleasure talking to Mae Crawford and knowing that her family has been ther... The date that little Cane Creek Church down there near the store, Floyd's store,,, that church was founded a year before the University. I can't remember the exact dates on the Church or the University but that church was founded one year before UNC. It just pleases me that those people have been there that long. Nice, good continuity. Something happened to me this weekend that I enjoyed a lot. Saturday night about ten o'clock and I was at home alone lying on the couch reading and I thought I heard some dogs barking. Hunting dogs. So I turned off the radio and opened the window and indeed, heard a great big pack of hounds coming down the creek. So I went out on the porch to listen. It was kind of neat to hear and damned if they didn't tree something fifty feet from my porch. (Laughter) The dogs were barking and there were three or four flashlights down there and I could see the little flashlights and I just thought, 'I love this!' (Laughter) And the week before... early on Saturday moning, Beth Muirhead, who lives over behind me who hunts / These guys on Saturday were just coon hunters; out running their dogs up the creek. Just a week before Beth, who rides and is a member of hunt club, fox hunts, red suits all, they were out training their beagles. That Saturday morning I was awakened by the beagles. It was a training class for the beagles and three of them got real lost and confused in my front yard. (Laughter) We kept saying, "Go that way, go that way.." And all the others had followed the scent that had been laid for them but these three

had gotten all confused. Beth finally... they'd hear them off in off in the woods blowing the horn. But Beth came back for these three. Finally Beth came up on her horse and I said, "They're over there." And she was reduced to whistling for them... and saying such things as "Come on, come on puppy!".

M.B. Ferocious foxhounds...

D.L. I know, it just failed. But I just enjoy that. I just love it. I think, 'God, if I lived in town I wouldn't have these treats.'

Pause

M.B. It's nice to live out in the country and have a place for your dogs to run..

D.L. It is nice. The other night when we were at the ham and egg dinner, I was talking Danny Snipes about building his house. Danny asked me if I would come by and tell him what it would be appraised at, because he needed to get some insurance and he had questions about what to value the house at from a real estate value. He obviously knows what it's cost him to build it. But he's done a lot on his own time. He didn't know how to value all that. So we went over and did that for him after work one day. It's a real pleasure to be able to do something like that for him. In there, his brother was helping him do the wiring. God knows how many people have helped him lay brick or lay block or do the excavating. Bobby Kirk built a house last year people were helping him put it together. Bobby Kirk helped me clear for my house when I did it. It's just a sense of helpfulness. And last Saturday we helped Bruce Miles raise a barn. It's nice to do these sorts of things for each other. I need to build a fence and I

was talking about it and Bruce said, "I'll come down and do it with my post-hole digger." Community, it's a valued and treasured thing.

M.B. It's always been like that.

D.L. I guess so. I think somehow we lose it when people get put together in too close quarters. Too many people. It just diminishes. But always a <sup>type of</sup> tragedy when people band together. Mexico City, New York City with the lights out. People do it, but somehow in the rural segment... People, I don't know why, the only factor I know is that there's not as many people. Somehow it seems to be stronger. It's not forgotten. It's still done.

M.B. That's the way it is in a lot of small, rural communities. People help people.

D.L. Yes... I think it's a function of numbers. Small numbers is when you know people better.

M.B. You have more intimate relationships.

D.L. Mmmmm.

M.B. Is there a lot of development out there now? From a real estate point of view?

D.L. Sure, sure.. you bet. I mean the growth coming in from the Research Triangle; Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill is spreading out. there just like it is everywhere else, absolutely.

M.B. Are you involved that much?

D.L. Well, yes... that's the way I make a living. I am a real estate broker. I like that area a lot. now, there are some people I wouldn't take out there...(Laughter) I mean that's my neighborhood and if they're pills I'm not going to take them out there. But if I like them I'll take them out. As land becomes



available... it's most productive use in terms of economic return is to sell it for residential development and that's what happens to it. Especially if it's not productive land. The dairies will use anything they can... but the dairies aren't going to pay fifteen thousand an acre. They can't pay fifteen thousand dollars an acre and use it for pasture land. But some people pay fifteen thousand an acre for a building site. So, the nice thing about that is that there is land which isn't really useful for production but which can be used for residential. That's the way the two can work hand in hand. Ultimately, widow Jones dies, got fifty acres of pasture...

M.B. Sell it.

D.L. Sell it... Can't ask her not to. She's got to provide for her own family...

Long pause

M.B. Are you going to stay out there?

D.L. I just moved back. Okay. I lived out there for twelve or fifteen years. My husband and I divorced. Well, first we separated and then divorced. Anyway, I was gone for about two years while we, just while we kind of took our time about how we were going to proceed. And we finally realized that we both were staying in this area. My husband paid me for my half of the house and I bought another place down the road. And I live a half a mile away. I love it and I wouldn't tell you something very touching. When I first moved... it wasn't three or four months it was election time, and I went back and voted, which technically I shouldn't have done. But it just didn't cross my mind to re-

register in Chatham county. The two years I was away I just didn't vote. And when I moved back I went and voted again like I'd never been gone. And people said..."We're so glad you're back. Girl, glad to see you." Made me feel great.

M.B. Well, I called somebody and she said, "Why don't you ask Drena Little? She'll help you. She knows everything about it."

D.L. "She" just talks real well. That's what it is. Out there everybody is allowed to use their skills. Martha Kirk can do this, Mae Crawford can do that, so and so can do that... Drena Little can talke, so let me talk.