

**VOICES OF THE CAPE FEAR
INTERVIEW WITH MARILYN DEVANY PIERCE**

AUGUST 24, 1995

INTERVIEWER: So, Mrs. Pierce, I'm going to ask you a few questions as we go along. Since you told me earlier that you weren't sensitive about your age, please tell me how old you are.

PIERCE: I was 90 this June, the 16th.

INTERVIEWER: Good, now where you born?

PIERCE: On Nun Street, 408 Nun, the home that my grandfather built.

INTERVIEWER: That makes you a Wilmingtonian, doesn't it?

PIERCE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, good. Tell me a little about what happened as you go through school and into grammar school and so forth to high school. Let's talk about that a little.

PIERCE: Well within walking distance at 6th and Ann, I attended Union School that Ms. Cook was then principal. She was well-known then as an educator and then later I graduated. At the end of 8th grade, I went into, what we called, the Wilmington High School that later, the New Hanover High School was made and built out there on Market Street and I graduated in 1924 that year.

INTERVIEWER: Was the new high school built when you graduated?

PIERCE: Yes, I was the second graduating class.

INTERVIEWER: I see. After high school, we'll continue that just a little, what happened to you then?

PIERCE: Well I married very early into the Creasy family and later on, there was a separation and that period, as you referred to the Depression period, I did work down at the courthouse as a case worker in the basement of the New Hanover Courthouse and I thoroughly enjoyed that.

INTERVIEWER: When did you and Mr. Pierce marry?

PIERCE: We were married November 4, 1955.

INTERVIEWER: I see and you lost him a couple of years back?

PIERCE: Yes, 2 years ago.

INTERVIEWER: All right, we've got the family history out of the way there now so someone listening to this can sort of understand that. Now let's go back just a little. What are some of the recollections that you might have had as a young girl going into grammar school, where did you live then. Tell me a little about what you remember.

PIERCE: All my life as a girl growing up I lived in my mother's and grandfather's home as I refer to it at 408 Nun and I think life was then very simple in Wilmington. We were able to go downtown every afternoon to meet friends and you knew everybody.

INTERVIEWER: How did you go downtown?

PIERCE: We walked and we walked to 4th and Grace to go to what we called then the Grace United Episcopal South.

INTERVIEWER: I see.

PIERCE: That Dr. Creasy had built at that time and I was not in Wilmington at the time in the late 40s that it burned.

INTERVIEWER: What would a child that was in grammar school or girl, what would they do for entertainment besides going to school? Can you think what you would be doing? Nowadays, it would be watching television, jumping on motorcycles and no telling what (laughter). Can you remember some of the things you might have been doing.

PIERCE: I remember walking with some of my little girlfriends. We'd go down to the library upstairs in the, I remember mounting those steps.

INTERVIEWER: Was this in the old building?

PIERCE: I remember Ms. Wood was our librarian and Ms. Sue Hardin as the assistant. Then we, there were not little girls in my neighborhood. I had to play with little boys.

INTERVIEWER: Oh you did, well I'm not going to ask you anything about that (laughter).

PIERCE: There was the Allen family, the kids next door, John and James Allen and Amos later became the noted concert pianist. He was the little baby boy in the family. And we'd go up to the next block to a cousin, William Whitehead, and we would swap movie actors and actresses. That was our collection. We adored that, the world of theater. And I remember William Whitehead put on a play, I've forgotten the name of it now, but all that was in it, I think it was a Wood boy. That would be Dr. Wood's son on Third Street. So if I had a girlfriend, I had to go way down to South Front and play with the little Harper children, Ella was my age and Catherine was older. They were the children of Captain Harper that ran the "Steamer Wilmington". And I remember one time he let me get up in the captain's... we were going to Southport or Carolina Beach, and you had to go on the Steamer Wilmington and that was an event because your grandmother packed a basket lunch and it was an all day excursion and it was quite a feat to go to Carolina Beach. You'd go on the Steamer Wilmington and then you'd get off on the little train and I was frightened to death. I'd look down that little wood-burning train and I was scared to death, but we finally arrived at the pavilion at Carolina Beach.

INTERVIEWER: All right, and what would you do at Carolina Beach?

PIERCE: I think my mother let me go wading.

INTERVIEWER: Did they have a boardwalk in those days?

PIERCE: No, I don't remember any boardwalk.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, all right. Did you ever take the Steamer Wilmington down to Southport?

PIERCE: Yes and I remember we'd go by a fishery and it was very potent in odor. And I'd ask Mama what they made and she said fertilizer. I do remember that, grind up the fish and made fertilizer sometimes.

INTERVIEWER: Let's come back to Wilmington now and talk about schools for a minute. The school that you went to for grammar school was what again?

PIERCE: It was the Union School at 6th and Ann.

INTERVIEWER: At 6th and Ann?

PIERCE: They tore it down I think later, but it was a big school.

INTERVIEWER: Did you know the Amy Bradley story on how she came to Wilmington?

PIERCE: A little bit that had been told to me. I remember the little house on the corner that, it was a sad thing for, it was on the corner, a little one room, two room little cottage on the corner of 5th and Ann. And I remember the high school in World War I being used as a sanatorium or a hospital because of the epidemic of flu and I remember that Ms. Airlie, my very beloved friend and my mother... (crying)

INTERVIEWER: That was the flu epidemic of 1919?

PIERCE: They had little bags, onion flavor, and we wore that on a little cord. And I remember the cord would get dirty and I'd say, "Mama take this cord off of me and change it" and it was awful and I had a little spot of grease here, but none of us had the flu.

INTERVIEWER: Well that was a terrible epidemic. My mother told me about that.

PIERCE: It was horrible, horrible. People died like flies.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember anything much about World War I, the soldiers, and what was in the city and what was going on?

PIERCE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Very little.

PIERCE: Very little.

INTERVIEWER: You would have been probably 13 years old.

PIERCE: 12 or 11, but I remember going down to Hibernium Hall and we would wrap bandages.

INTERVIEWER: Where was Hibernium Hall?

PIERCE: 2nd, on the corner, actually they tore down that building. It was a brick building, about 3 or 4 stories high and the Hibernium where the Catholics had their dances was next door and I

remember Ms. Cantwell had her dancing school there. We had to climb old rusty steps and I remember she'd hire, Ms. Cantwell did, Tom Wright, who later became our bishop, and I remember he was one of the younger instructors and I remember I had a hard time dancing. I was so self-conscious dancing with Tom (laughter). He was so cute and good looking.

INTERVIEWER: You certainly are giving us an insight into some of those times. You have a phenomenal memory about things. It makes me almost...

PIERCE: Well I remember Third Street, as a little girl, I remember Third Street being absolutely gorgeous with homes, two and three stories, at least, a basement and you walk up these big steps and I remember my mother, I was 5, and she said, don't forget this, I'm taking you to see your great aunt who was then Ms. James Cole Borden and she had married Mr. Borden from Goldsboro and she was a younger sister to my grandmother and they were Carruthers. That's how I'm connected with the Borden family in Wilmington.

INTERVIEWER: I know the Borden family in Goldsboro too. One of my contemporaries, Murray Borden.

PIERCE: Oh really.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, so that name means something to me. What do you remember about your high school days.

PIERCE: I don't think I had a very glamorous time in high school. It was a period, I don't ever remember being too happy about.

INTERVIEWER: Well if it's not happy, let's don't try to remember that.

PIERCE: I remember my mother was very strict, or rather I'd say my grandmother because she was the ruler of our house. She was the last word what you went by, but she was very kind. But she was very strict on what boys could come to see me. (laughter). A who's who in Wilmington.

INTERVIEWER: All right. Let's leave the area we're talking about now and let's go to another area. Let's just make a passing stop at the Depression time. That's a time that children nowadays could not possibly imagine existing when food was a problem, when being able to pay the rent was a problem, when jobs were a real problem. Do you have any recollection of the Depression time?

PIERCE: About the middle part of the Depression, Mr. Bissette, I was hired as a caseworker down with the Emergency Relief that Mr. Roosevelt had inaugurated and I was assigned the area of Wilmington that would be on the south side of Third Street from the beginning of the courthouse to the end of the city limits, which would be Greenfield Lake, and that would be a very poor, extremely poor, extremely poor section because of the closing of the Bellwill Mill that the Bellamy and Williamson family once owned and that whole group of respectable whites, I'll use the word, there were no colored families in that area at all and I had to go from house to house to give out food orders and I became very emotional sometimes (crying) of the terrible want in Wilmington. \$3.75 food order would feed six or more people a week and then there was a room in the custom house, it was signed, that we could get towels and clothing, men's pants... put what you would call a clothes order, I would write a clothes order. And I remember a little girl coming up to me one day and she said something about she was one of the underprivileged.

And she caught me so unaware, (crying), that I said, “Honey, you’re not an underprivileged little girl because you’re an American citizen”.

INTERVIEWER: That’s right, very good. The Depression leads us into the latter part of the 30s and we get into what’s making up of a big war ahead of us. It looks like about 1938 I think people in Wilmington began to realize that we didn’t know what was ahead of us. Where was that finding you at that time? When were you born?

PIERCE: In 1905.

INTERVIEWER: In 1905 and that would have left you somewhere about 35 years of age or so.

PIERCE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: and moving along with your life. As you got into the war time era, what did you do? Did you have some affiliations with the Red Cross, the thing the other ladies were involved in.

PIERCE: Yes, I felt real special because of it. I don’t mean to imply that one person was better than another person. It was a matter of a select group of ladies that were chosen, invited to become a gray lady and so I felt that it was a pleasure and it was a thrill to be, we had a very sedate little gray uniform, like a seersucker material with a white collar and cuffs and we wore the gray belt with a white band. It was like a little crown with the red cross on it and then we were awarded a red cross pin that I have today. We went regular to Camp Davis.

INTERVIEWER: That’s what I was going to get into. What was the mission?

PIERCE: Yes, it was to give aid. They say that the morale, I’m quoting now officially, that the high ranking officers didn’t want, they thought these were a bunch of society ladies that don’t have enough to do and they just wanted to come in, in other words, and worry them. And they found out that we had been so effective in helping the morale of the young gentlemen that we had raised, as I said the morale, 65% better because Camp Davis had a very sad reputation. At that time, we were losing so many, the boys were depressed and we knew many times that they committed suicide.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, I remember some instances myself.

PIERCE: And then we went to Camp LeJeune later and commuted there. I did that every other Saturday, one Saturday at Camp Davis, the next Saturday. And I remember Dr. Robeson’s wife was one of the ladies that would join us midway as we would go to Camp Davis, she would come down and meet the bus, the Red Cross bus and join us.

INTERVIEWER: What other things, I’m going to move on just a minute. What other things of World War II...

PIERCE: Well Saturday night with a group of other Wilmington ladies, I was a USO, what you call a senior hostess and I remember that we had so many young men that would come there to the USO that we physically had to take our hands and push them back, the dance floor would be so crowded. We’d have as many as 2000 young men to come in within a few hours.

INTERVIEWER: You reckon some of our kids today if you told them about the USO would know what you were talking about?

PIERCE: (Laughter) I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember what it stands for?

PIERCE: United Service Organization. I have one of the pins left.

INTERVIEWER: But being a service person myself about 4 years, I know what it meant.

PIERCE: Well I remember after a certain number of hours, some lovely officer would, we'd have a ceremony and some of us ladies got a pin.

INTERVIEWER: A service pin?

PIERCE: A service pin.

INTERVIEWER: Any other recollections of the World War II era?

PIERCE: Well, probably I was...

INTERVIEWER: How about some of the things that were happening in Wilmington at that time so far as the blackouts were concerned.

PIERCE: Well I remember one specifically. Of course, we had several, every week. You had to lower your shades and turn out your lights and be very particular....

INTERVIEWER: You mean a drill?

PIERCE: Well I was not involved. At that time I was associated with _____ Enterprise and I was gainfully employed. I had to work. I said I pushed the wolf from the front door several times (laughter) at that period. But my mother became very active and in fact took a course, a first aid course under Dr. Herbert Codington, the late Dr. Codington and so this particular night that we had a blackout, I remember running downstairs and looking over the back kitchen window and everything was totally black. Problem was that we would have blackouts and the shipyard would still be active. They did participate, but this was a complete blackout. The whole world to me was black. So I ran back up the stairs and I said, "Mama, this must be a real thing because the shipyard is all dark". And I said, "You better get up out of the bed", it was probably evening about 10:30. I said, "You better get up out of the bed because you're supposed to report to Dr. Codington over there at the First Presbyterian Church and my mother rose up out of the bed. She said, "Well I don't hear any bombs falling" (laughter) and I said that one worth remembering.

INTERVIEWER: That's a nice story, it sure is. Do you have some others that you can recall, other instances?

PIERCE: No, I was so busy. I'd dedicated to sell Childcraft, one of the many collections of anthologies that young children would enjoy and going to Atlanta one time, I remember meeting a famous artist, Milo Winter, that designed the sugar plum tree in the book. I personally met him and I gave him a little story that I had met a lady that I had sold in Jacksonville the day before and

meeting her on a little dirt road near her home. There were unpaved streets in Jacksonville at that time. At that time I was a Creasy. She said, "Oh Ms Creasy, I want to tell you something real cute." She said, "my maid came to me after you sold Childcraft to us and she said Ms. So-So, "what have you been reading your child". She said she's been talking to me, she's been dreaming all night long about sugar plums dancing here and there, you know and the little dog and cat going across. And Milo Winter was so impressed with that, he asked me to get up and give a little talk about it.

INTERVIEWER: That's nice. Let's ask you if you were affiliated and enjoyed certain of the ladies' organizations that may have been around in Wilmington. I understand you are quite a genealogist and have an interest in history. That would lead me to believe that maybe you were connected with some of the ladies' organizations.

PIERCE: Well in helping to process, let me say that, they would have documentation, but wouldn't know how to apply it so I give all due credit, Mr. Bissette, to the late Ms. Ida Kellam because all that I know she taught me.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. What was her position?

PIERCE: Well she held the various jobs and I tried to follow in her footsteps in DAR. She was for many years a genealogist and registrar and I said I've done that and she is the one who would say to me, you ought to know more about so and so, one of my many different lineages that I had, and I said well mama just said they are the son or the daughter of and she said, no, but that's not the whole complete story. You ought to get story.

INTERVIEWER: She wanted a big chart, didn't she?

PIERCE: Yes, she wanted to know who her cousins were.

INTERVIEWER: Was she connected with the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society?

PIERCE: She was a founder.

INTERVIEWER: That's what I was getting at, I had a vague recollection.

PIERCE: She was a founder with the late Winston Broadfoot and Dr. Hargrove Bellamy and Ms. Erla Swain, there was about 5 or 6 of them that started the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society. So I think I was number 24 in joining.

INTERVIEWER: I'm delighting in your recalling names that I had known of and forgotten. Yes.

PIERCE: Ms. Swain is a very distant relation to me.

INTERVIEWER: How about the DAR?

PIERCE: Oh well, I was born and bred on that because mama was a charter member with the Stamp Defiance Chapter. During the high school period, I was, talk about William Goss. I remember Honorable William Goss of Brunswick County and I said when I get to be a grown lady, I'm not going to join the DAR, I'm going on my father's side of my grandmother since I'm an only grandchild, so I've been a DAR ever since '43.

INTERVIEWER: Well tell me this, we have many fine families here in Wilmington and I'd like to get you to tell me a little bit more about the Beery family because I understand that you are related to the Beery family.

PIERCE: Well my grandmother, Sarah Jane Beery, was the oldest daughter or child of the late Captain Benjamin Beery who was the son of Samuel Beery and he was the son of Daniel Beery, that's all we know because in 1795, he's making a marriage contract with a Miss Mary Roots Lock and there was, I say, this John Lock was very rigid that he didn't want Daniel Beery to take advantage of her slaves that she owned at that time. She had five little children or four little children and that branch of the family I'm not too well-versed on, but the other part coming down from Daniel Beery and Samuel Beery and Benjamin W. Beery I know very intimately.

INTERVIEWER: Well what were the occupations and professions of the people.

PIERCE: I know my great-grandfather, Benjamin Beery, was a ship builder and a blockade runner later on in life, but later on history tells us that he joined, he invited his younger brother, William L. Beery, to come in as a partner, but my grandmother always referred to the shipyard as "pa's shipyard". Nobody else (laughter) was invited to be...later on we do know that the other brother was a member. You have a highway marker there.

INTERVIEWER: I remember there is a highway marker for Beery's Shipyard.

PIERCE: And then Louis Moore had, I'd say, he was a member of Wilmington City Commissioner and he had some professional job, that the other gentleman had a marker.

INTERVIEWER: He was head of the Chamber of Commerce for many years.

PIERCE: Yes he was. Well Louis was a grandson of Captain Beery like my mother was a granddaughter, they were first cousins along with his older brother, Roger Moore. These Moore boys were the children of my grandmother's youngest sister. We called her Aunt Jeanie, but she was officially christened as Susie Eugenia Beery and I asked my grandmother where did you get the name Eugenia and she said well I was asked to name her and she said I named her from the empress Eugenia (laughter) was it France? I think it was France.

INTERVIEWER: I don't recall and I'm sure I don't know anyway.

PIERCE: Anyway we called her Aunt Jeanie and I remember her being a very elegant looking lady and lived on South Fifth Street and she was a very favorite aunt of mine because periodically she'd come around and have dinner with us like once a week and my grandmother was a shut-in because of asthma and was very inactive in the social world where my Aunt Jeanie became 25 years manager of the, as we know, the Catherine Kennedy Home. And as a little girl, I remember on 9th and Chestnut Street.

INTERVIEWER: That's what I was going to get to. That was the original place that it started. Do you remember anything about the founding of the Catherine Kennedy Home, who was responsible for it.

PIERCE: No I don't except what is well-known already in Wilmington.

INTERVIEWER: Well I'll ask you a question that ought to be asked of a man I guess, but do you know what kind of ships were being built in the Beery Shipyard?

PIERCE: Well, history records that he made this _____ that was used during the fighting of the Confederacy. He launched that.

INTERVIEWER: Well I guess he probably built sailing ships.

PIERCE: Yes, well cousin Louis later on after, I jumped my thoughts. When the war, the night of the fall of Fort Fisher, he had a runner to let him know that the fort had fallen and that's when he burned his shipyard along with his son-in-law who would be my grandfather, the late William Alexander Willson, and that is spelled with two l's. They were South Carolinians and were not connected with the Woodrow Wilson family or other Wilsons.

INTERVIEWER: Well that's interesting, I had never known that, that it caused the ship to keep it from falling into...

PIERCE: He burned it and so in my mother's lifetime, different historians have come to us on Nun Street and would ask my mother would she happen to have any documentation and she would say each time, no, because her grandfather had burned the shipyard and burned all records because he was a profiteer on the high seas and outlawed. Jefferson Davis had commissioned him as a captain and at his grave now at Oakdale Cemetery is a small little square marker with Captain Beery's name on it and you've got initials Confederate States Navy. I am assuming that the Daughters of the Confederacy must have put it there because I have no recollections that our family members did. It is a marked grave because I had it cleaned recently.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember any instances about any of the people that have helped make Wilmington in the past that have helped to make it from the standpoint of the merchants' side or the political side or anything, that have stories of interest about their accomplishments and what they may have done. In some instances, it could also be humorous too. Do you remember anything of those? You may not be able to remember, I thought I'd ask you at least.

PIERCE: No, I think at the time of cousin Roger's funeral, the editorial was very significant, what he had contributed in the world internationally, not just locally. And the same way with cousin Louis, his contribution to the history of Wilmington and of course all of us have these

INTERVIEWER: That connects in with the same family of Alice Borden Sisson doesn't it.

PIERCE: Yes, Alice came to me twice because of my paternal lineage. Her great-grandmother and my grandmother were sisters. One was called Mary Carruthers that married Mr. James Cole Gordon and my grandmother married a George Debany in Texas and my grandmother was educated in the east in Nashville, Tennessee, at what we call, Ward Belmont today, it was just Ward Seminary in her day and she died, she died in the middle 30s, like 37 or 39, I have a record of her death.

INTERVIEWER: Well you have had quite a life here in Wilmington and the things that we are talking about. The story is not over until we bring us up just a little bit more to date. After World War II, what happened to you and what sort of life did you lead and what are some of the things that you may have become interested in. Were you just a quiet housewife?

PIERCE: Yes, in that period of time when necessity was such that I worked and then gainfully employed and in fact, I was invited to go to Chicago as one of the retirees because of the contributions that I had done and I have a pin and one or two mementos that the Fields Enterprise

gave me and I remember sitting at one of the banquets, would it be Marshall Fields VI? He was a cute, young married man when I met him in Chicago.

INTERVIEWER: Well you remember the cute part anyway (laughter).

PIERCE: Young and very sophisticated and very retiring, I think he was scared to death of us salesmen that had experience because they were trying to teach him how to sell.

INTERVIEWER: Well Marshall Field and Company is quite a name in Chicago.

PIERCE: It became Fields Enterprise after he had bought the corporation.

INTERVIEWER: Let's go back and take a look at some of the areas that we've been in and see if we can, now that we've got the mind sort of moving and recalling things. It's a funny thing how you get to talking about things. You think of one thing, one thing reminds you about another. When we go back to Wilmington as it was when you were a young girl in the early 20s, what do you remember about...let's see, let's go from the 20s, what do you recall about who was running this country. You had Hoover come in 1928 and you had Coolidge and you had Wilson. Do you recall anything about the events of those times that was...

PIERCE: Well I wasn't as politically conscious as a growing up girl as I had matured in world affairs and things like that, but of course we had Roosevelt for so long, three terms, and we would listen...no one had TVs in those days, we listened attentively at the radio with what he was saying, you know this fireside things. He was like a messiah to us at that time.

INTERVIEWER: He certainly had a personality and a following.

PIERCE: Oh yes I know and I remember having a hard time to convince my mother to change the party from Democratic to Republican at the time of Eisenhower and said, "Mama you have to think globally". I remember those words and her reply to me was, "Well what would Pa say?" They were such staunch Democrats all those years, you know it was hard... well my early recollection living in the home of my grandmother was colored significantly by her early tales of her experiences of the building of Captain Beery's house. She was 8 years old and she and _____ who was later on...I can't think right now...

INTERVIEWER: That's all right, pass it on, but you're doing great.

PIERCE: The two little girls were on the top of the rafters when they were being built and the foreman couldn't get them down so he sent a little colored runner across the river to get Captain Beery to come back over to get those two little girls off the third story (laughter) and so she was married in that front parlor, as she said "parlor", the twin living rooms were on either side of the entrance of the Beery home and she said that at that time Captain Beery had had a New York artist to hand paint the murals because I remember as a little girl coming from some prestigious home that I had visited and was so impressed I said, "why don't we have pretty things, mama?" And she said because the Yankees took everything, so they did take the house when they refueged, as soon as the wall in the fort fell, they refueged it. Captain Beery, what we call, cotton. My grandmother used the word farm, but other people used the word plantation, but it was quite massive because she said...

INTERVIEWER: Where was that located?

PIERCE: In Laurinburg and when the soldiers came through two different times, she said the most significant period of that that I do remember very, very colorfully was, it was a northern Captain Beery that mounted the steps and my great-grandfather, Captain Beery, the southern Captain Beery, conveniently didn't see his hand when he extended it to shake hands with him. He said, "I am your kinsman". And my grandmother said that he told him there is a price on your head, Captain Beery, because you are a privateer on the high seas and he said I have interceded with my superior officers and as long as you are with me this afternoon or today, nothing will harm you. And she said that the Negro slaves later found gallows in the back, way in the back field, that they were going to hang him. And this Captain Beery really saved his life.

INTERVIEWER: We've really covered a lot of ground in the time we've been talking here and I think that we're getting close to the end of our time. I just wonder if there is anything that you would like to say to begin to complete what we were talking about. Any final thoughts, anything that you can remember?

PIERCE: Well I think over my lifetime and span that Wilmington has grown culturally. There are so many advantages that the young people of today have that I...when I came along, Mama said you love art and there's no art teacher. And my aunt painted at that time in Florence, South Carolina, her older sister and my grandmother was an artist at Greensboro, the Methodist Greensboro College and I have just given away a Danish scene that she did when she was 16 years old at the college in Greensboro to her great-great-granddaughter. I'm only a granddaughter, but I gave it away this past spring. I like to know where it's going.

INTERVIEWER: You know you mentioned a name a while ago that's always been in the minds of the people of all the classes that have graduated at New Hanover High School and that is Amy Bradley because of the Amy Bradley metal that is awarded to one of the high schools, the women seniors.

PIERCE: She was the one that came to Wilmington to teach and opened up what we called in my mother's period, School. All the children of the old families of Wilmington, are the graduates of Ms. Amy Bradley. Now I remember as a little girl my mother said, "Now you look at that little lady that's walking down on Orange Street." She said, "that's Ms. Mary Hart or Ms. Annie Hart that taught school, a private school". And I have a first cousin, my grandmother's oldest granddaughter from Florence, South Carolina, spent her winters with us on Nunn Street and she went to that private school, Ms. Annie Hart?_____.

INTERVIEWER: Well that's an interesting story. We've completed our time here. I want to thank you for letting me come over this morning and talk with you about this and I hope that your tape and the others that have consented to do this, and Bill Beery is one of them, that these tapes will be meaningful to people as the years go by because they're going to the Reference Room of the New Hanover County Library and when they're all down there, the library will make arrangements, I understand, that you can hear your tape and see what you said and they have a way of doing that, so we'll sign off for now. Thanks so much for your time.