

**MSS 642, New London Road/Cleveland Avenue oral histories and research materials, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.**

**Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library / Newark,  
Delaware 19717-5267 / Phone: 302-831-2229 / Fax: 302-831-6003 / URL:  
<http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/>**

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law. Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library,  
<http://www.lib.udel.edu/cgi-bin/askspec.cgi>

Marva Smith and Myrtle Bond  
Interviewed by Bernie Herman  
December 4, 2004

Bernie Herman (BH): This is an interview with Myrtle Bond on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, 2004 at her home in Newark, Delaware. Everybody will say their name.

NT (NT): Nancy Turner.

Marva Smith (MS): Marva Smith

BH: And I'm just going to set this right here and it will be fine. If we could turn off the TV that would be good. Alright, I told you about the project, and we need to know about the history of the Daughters of Elizabeth Boulden Temple. Would you mind telling us about the history of the Daughters?

Myrtle Bond: I don't remember just how old it is. [12 second pause] I knew I celebrated it for my last anniversary meeting.

BH: Well tell me a little about what the Daughters are. What they do?

MB: They are a charitable organization. They help people in the community. The young as well as the elderly, they work with.

NT: I have a question. Who was Elizabeth Boulden, that the Temple was named after? The Elizabeth Boulden Temple. She was I guess a founding daughter?

MS: Yes, she was. She lived here. It was named after her. [Inaudible.] Mom, do you remember anything about her? The lady that the temple was named?

MB: No

MS: Well, she lived here in the community and I think she was instrumental with getting all the ladies in the area together, and— with a common goal in mind of doing for people in the community, from all the churches and [inaudible.] and doing charitable works now, charitable acts of kindness. They had [inaudible.] the Elks sponsor oratorical contests each year, and we had a student from Saint John's Church to represent Elizabeth Boulden Temple just last year, and she won on the local level, and she came in second I believe on the tri-state level.

NT: What kind of competition was that?

MS: Oratorical contests.

NT: What was that?

MS: Okay, you had to write up a speech and you had to follow certain guidelines, and you had to speak within the time limit that's allotted to you, and your subject matter must reflect what your topic is. Everyone should know what you are speaking about because of your subject matter. Let's see. [Inaudible- student's name.] she represented the Temple even in Las Vegas. I think that's where it was. Las Vegas? She went on to the nationals and she was our candidate from the Elizabeth Boulden Temple, and she's now a senior at Newark High School.

NT: That's fantastic. Well the Daughters came a year after the Elks. [MS: Inaudible]. They're a year younger.

[People walk into room.]

NT: Hey there's that pretty girl. I remember you from church, and your dad said, "I want a hug. I want a hug." [Laughter.] You are something else. I'm telling you.

BH: Alright, we are going to restart. Let me just put this right here this time because I think will pick up everybody a little bit better.

MS: I think mom joined the Elizabeth Boulden Temple in the early forties.

NT: Steve and I were talking about the way things have changed down at The Lodge. Of course he wasn't around he had just heard, and he said there used to be a bus. The lodge owned a bus?

MS: They did. I think someone gave the Elks a bus.

NT: And it was really an on-the-move organization, and I'd say well it's still very important, but I think there was some glory years back then, weren't there?

MS: Yes. A lot of those people who knew a lot about Elk-dom (?), who attended the conferences and so forth, those people have passed on, and the younger ones-- you can't learn about Elk-dom by just being here in the Elks Home. You need to go attend your council meetings. You need to attend attend your tri-state meetings, the nationals meetings. It's where you learn more about Elk-dom, where many Elks are gathered, and you can learn what's going on and what it is all about. But just being here locally, you don't that much.

NT: How often do the daughters meet?

MS: Twice a month.

NT: Twice a month. Of course I've been to the dinners I've seen those things. Of course the women work their fingers to the bone, I know that. That's always what happens, but have there been some exciting events or festival or parties or dinners, things that were especially memorable that you can think of over the years.

MS: I can recall having Daughters Anniversary Ball and I can also recall Newark hosting the Council Balls. That used to be a really big affair. Each lodge or each temple had a turn sponsoring the Council Ball, and our council was called Patty B. Hovert Council at Delaware. [NT: Patty B. Hovert.]. And it meets four times a year, and The Brothers' is called the [Inaudible.] Lewis Council Number Thirteen, I believe, and it would meet four times a year. They both meet the same Sunday. In fact, the next meeting would here on the second Sunday of December, will be here in Newark, so we will be hosting that meeting, and [inaudible.] It's always nice, the social part of it, but your council is really your school of instruction more or less, for the Elks.

BH: Are the Daughters part of the Elks or are they completely separate?

MS: No, no, no. We're part of them too.

BH: I don't understand how they relate to each other yet.

MS: We're I guess what you would say, I guess accompany to the brothers, go hand in hand with the brothers, like an auxiliary, and we really are to do things together, and that, when you do things together that fosters that sisterly and brotherly relationship, when you are in this thing together. It's not an "I, me" type thing. It should be a "we" thing.

NT: And you have special colors right? What are your colors? The Elks are purple?

MS: Purple. Purple and white and gold. They always wear white, and purple is an accessory color, and there is a significance behind the colors, and I don't think all that's public.

NT: Oh okay. Oh okay. But I know all the ladies all dress up and everyone looks so nice, and now-a-days that you don't hear anything about balls anymore. People aren't dressing up.

MS: No they aren't, they aren't..

NT: And it was something to behold at that anniversary party.

MS: There used to be—I can recall as a youngster, they would have the Elks Balls, and that was really-- every household was talking about the Elks Ball.

BH: On the New London neighborhoods?

MS: Yes.

NT: Where would they have it?

MS: Well, they used to have it at [inaudible] fire hall [inaudible.] They've had them at Christiana Fire Hall. They had it at the New London Avenue School...

MB: The Armory place [inaudible.].

MS: The Armory. Yes, the Armory, years ago, on Delaware Avenue.

BH: Okay, East—what is now East Hall.

MS: Yes. That was years ago. So now the ladies have [inaudible.] shelter, and then at the Union Hall, and on the Baltimore Pike. They've had a [inaudible.] out there.

BH: But the Daughters-- the Brotherhood and the Daughters. It used be that it was everybody in the community was involved in this.

MS: Well, the community always attended. People in the community attended, but it was always planned by the Elks. It was just patronized by the community.

NT: I think the two groups are kind of like Eastern Star and Masons? Aren't the Eastern Stars the women's group?

MS: I don't know. I don't know.

NT: Yes, it's the same group, just women and men is the way it works. Well now, we're talking about the fun part, the party part, but there is also a very serious side, is in the presence of the community. If a family has trouble, you rise to the occasion. How do you go into action? What happens?

MS: Well its recorded, in every meeting there is a section in our meeting where you are to give the sick and poor and if there is any need, it's always reported in the meeting. So we discuss how-- how can we help? If there is a real need.

BH: What are some of the ways in which the Daughters help?

MS: We've helped give clothing if there was a need. In fact we do that. We also, we have given to the [inaudible.] house. We've also given to the patients at Delaware State Hospital. You know they have a real need for those patients, and the families at [inaudible.]'s house [inaudible.]. Especially this time of year, we have helped out with in that way, with charitable work [inaudible.] and if we find there is a real need for a family here in Newark, then we rise to the occasion, do what we can.

NT: Do you have a scholarship fund or something like that?

MS : We don't know have a local one per say but there is a sponsored one, sponsored by the Elks. [Six second pause.] Nationally.

NT: About how many Daughters are there now?

MS: Maybe about thirty.

NT: Was there a time when there was many more?

MS: Yes. Many of those have gone on.

BH: So your mother has mentioned that her mother was a Daughter.

MS: Yes my grandmother and my great aunt.

BH: What were their names?

MS: [Leana?] Thompson was her mother and Mary Thompson was her aunt. [Inaudible.] And all of her brothers were Elks. [Inaudible.] And of course my father was an Elk. Also my husband.

BH: And there names?

MS: My father was Fred Bond [?]. My husband is Theodore Smith, and my uncles were Herman Lane, Walker Lane, Randolph Lane, Andrew Lane, and Morris Lane [spelling?].

[Inaudible.]

BH: And everyone lived here in the community?

MS: Yes. Right here.

BH: What was the community like growing up?

MS: Oh, it was fun. When I was growing up there were a lot of kids around, and—just like you saw those little girls here today—but we were always gathering in and out of each other houses. You could always eat at someone else's house. It was just a warm feeling. We didn't know that there was any other way to live. That was the norm. Everyone being interested in everyone else and everyone looking out for the other. All the adults looked out for all the children. It was just fun.

NT: And safe I bet.

MS: Yes it was. I didn't even know what a door key was, growing up.

NT: Times have changed.

BH: Because I have talked to people—they describe places in the community, which have changed. Green's Field, the Hollow?

MS: Green's Field, right over here, where you see the University.

BH: Green's Field.

MS: Where you see the University. [Inaudible.] It was Green's Field.

BH: Who was it? It was Samuel Watson I think it was, saying there used to be a big blackberry patch there.

MB: [Inaudible.] blackberries. Yes.

BH: Did you do that Mrs. Bond? Go to the—?

MB: I used to pick a few berries [Laughs.].

BH: And I see there was School Hill?

MB: Yes. We all went to New London Avenue School.

BH: What was the school like?

MS: That was fun. There were two grades—from the first through the eighth, there two grades in each room. In fact my first grade teacher, and she taught me first and second grade, she's still living in Hartford, Connecticut, and we still talk to each other. In fact, I talked to her last Thanksgiving. We keep in touch. She is 92 years old.

BH: What was her name?

MS: Odessa Wells.

BH: So can you tell me a school day at the New London Avenue School?

MB: I graduated from there.

MS: I know Mom. Everybody did [inaudible.] eighth grade. I tell you what used to be fun-- May Day. That was one of the big things. [Inaudible.] wrapped up the may pole with different colors and I can recall us wearing different color dresses up there, to wrap the May Pole, and whatever color streamer you had, that's the color outfit you had on.

MB: May Days.

MS: Yes. That's what I'm talking about, wrapping the may pole. That was one a big thing. White teachers came over to teach us Art, I guess Phys Ed. I can't remember what else. The teachers there taught everything. I can remember we had white teachers come over there, and of course we got all of our books from what they white kids didn't—when they finished using them, then they'd get sent over here. But we had, even though we had hand me down books and so forth, we had such great teachers, it didn't matter because

they had a wealth of information to the children, and they meet all the needs that all children would have, and we had some really, some wonderful teachers. And as a result, coming out of New London Avenue School it produced many professionals. You know we were there together, but we had a good background from the teachers that we had. And I was a student at the New London Road after school when Mr. Shue came as superintendent. There was a school named after him now on Kirkwood Highway. There's also an elementary School named after Henry [Bladen?] and I was a student there when he came as supervisor, and he used to come to New London Avenue School and check on the teachers and so forth. But those were some happy years. We were wealthy [inaudible.] when we left the eighth grade and then we went into Wilmington and Howard High School to ninth grade, and we were wealthy [inaudible.]

BH: So you went to Howard then, for high school.

MS: Yes.

BH: When did you graduate from Howard?

MS: 1953.

BH: So you graduated at the big time?

MS: Yes.

BH: What was that like? Howard was at the center of one of the big changes of America.

MS: It was a wonderful experience. Didn't mind it getting up early in the dark and riding on a rickety bus sometimes, that you never knew when it was going to break down or not, to get to Howard. It was just a wonderful experience there too. We had some wonderful teachers. Wonderful teachers, and just well prepared. I wouldn't want to change any part of that. Not one bit. A lot of those teachers that I, passed on [inaudible.]. It was a wonderful experience. And having those kinds of teachers encouraged me to go on, and I became a teacher. I had some wonderful role models.

BH: Where did do you teach?

MS: I taught my first four years in [Inaudible.] Maryland. A little town called [inaudible town name]. [BH: I know [town name].]. Okay, for four years and then I came back home in 1961 and I was hired to teach at the [Inaudible.] Elementary School in Wilmington, and it's since been changed to Martin Luther King, and I stayed there for 17 years. In 1978, when [inaudible.] came around again, then I went into the Brandywine district for 13 years, and after those 13, I retired.

BH: You had mentioned Odessa Wells, but who were some of the teachers who inspired you at New London Road?



MS: Her, she was the main one. I think everyone that I had. Everyone that I had.

NT: What was special about Odessa?

MS: Just a wonderful women, loving, and just made learning so much fun. I can remember us being—she would [inaudible.] color birds, dividing the red birds and blue birds, and like that, she taught us a lot of songs. Reading was just fun, and I don't know, just the way she related to us, her tone of voice. You knew she was interested in you and so therefore you do your very best. You know, you wanted to please.

BH: There used to be a lot more around—the old buildings and things around school, Bell's Funeral Home?

MS: Yes.

BH: I hear it was more then a funeral home?

MS: Oh yes. They used to have a club there.

BH: What was the name of that?

MS: The Wagon Wheel.

BH: So you remember? Can you tell me?

MS: Yes, but I wasn't old enough to go in there.

NT: [Inaudible.] New London Road. I've never heard of that place.

MS: Yes. It was right behind his home.

BH: Is that where he had a boxing ring right outside?

MS: Down in the back I believe.

NT: This neighborhood used to be a lot more fun then it is now.

BH: I ran into Bobby Jones the other day from the funeral home, and he told me that his father used to set up a tent to show movies on New London Road.

MB: I don't remember that myself.

MS: Bob Jones showing movies?

NT: I know the first thing I used to get. They used to get together in somebody's house and see movies.

MB: I know they used to have movies up here Cleveland Avenue. Yes. In the Pilgrim, old Pilgrim, they used to show silent movies.

MS: That was a theater before it was a church.

BH: Where the Pilgrim is now?

MS: It's Prayer Temple now.

BH: But Prayer Temple was a movie house?

MS: Just during her time, not during my time.

BH: Can you tell me a little bit about that? I live right behind there.

MS: No, but I remember they used to have silent movies there. It wasn't the same building like it is now.

BH: Oh, they pulled down the old building, and built a new one? Or is it just remodeled?

MB: I am afraid to say, but I would say remodeled.

MS: From a theater to a Church.

MB: Yes.

MS: 'Cause I think Pilgrim is only about ninety years old, something like that.

BH: And didn't the Saunders family used to have a co-op?

MB: Oh yes. That was [inaudible.] Where is that?.

MS: Down on New London.

BH: What was that like? People mention--

MB and MS: Grocery store.

MS: And I think it came about a group of people who [inaudible.]. They organized this co-op and then they had, it was like a grocery store.

MB: Bobby Saunders mother had it.

MS: I don't remember too much of it but I do remember it. And then where Cleveland Avenue is now, where you turn, used to be—he had a snack bar and a gas station, where Cleveland Avenue is, you turn in Cleveland Avenue there. Where they built the road through, Hillside Road [inaudible.] because our church [inaudible.] was over where the road is now.

BH: Was that the little blue building that was just taken down?

MS: No, no, no. No.

BH: That was something else?

MS: That was Miss Ester Johnson's house. No that [inaudible.] was demolished to make way for the road. Miss Ester's house was way back there.

BH: So there were all these businesses that were in the community.

MS: [Inaudible.] He and his brother had a barber shop.

MB: Where they used to sell ice.

MS: There was a cleaners.

MB: Yes.

MS: As you turn on Cleveland, right beyond the corner up there was a cleaners when I was a little girl.

MB: And then there was one down in the field. [Inaudible.] field.

MS: Church Street.

BH: What they called Big Field? Over at the end of Church Street?

MB: Yes.

NT: Well you had said the Ice House. That's not this one right down here?

MB: No

NT: Don't they call that the Ice House too? What's the story on that?

MB: No. They used to make ice down there.

NT: They got the water from the creek? Where did they used to get the water?

MB: I don't know.

NT: And these places over here, what were they? Right across the street.

MB: They called them "The Mill Houses".

NT: There's a story behind those.

MB: Yes, but I don't remember. I know there is a story behind it.

MS: Those houses been there since I can remember.

NT: What mill were they associated with?

MS: I have no idea.

NT: Well, I know I always like to ask about big events that took place, like my hometown, every bit of 5000 people, small place down in South Carolina. Say what's the biggest thing that happen in Veniceville [?] South Carolina and everyone's going to say "the Terrible Twister of 84," just like that. Was there a huge event or was there devastating event? Or anything that every happen that kind of sticks out in people's minds?

MB: Not that I can remember, nothing too exciting, and we used to have a schoolhouse over here. Right across the street there.

NT: On this street?

MB: Yes, right across there.

NT: I didn't know that.

MS: Mom where are those books that I gave you when I went to that program down in Dover?

MB: In one of them books.

MS: You didn't cut those books up did you?

MB: I don't think so.

MS: I went to Dover because the African American Historical Society recognized many of the teachers who taught before segregation, and there is a picture of the old school in there.

BH: I was going to ask you also, about St. John's. I know you are going to look for the history of them, but I was wondering if you can tell me about the spirit of St. John's. I mean the churches seem to be absolutely essential to the community, and St. John is the oldest one?

MS: Yes it is. The oldest one here. We just finished celebrating 156 years in this community.

BH: Are there stories about its founding?

MS: Yes. I think it started with—I really shouldn't even try to tell this because I'm sure I'll get it all wrong, but a group of people a group of ministers got together. I really shouldn't even [Inaudible.]. This is about Brown—

BH: Oh, Brown vs. the Board of Education. So you graduated just as that happened. How did the community respond to Brown vs. The Board of Education? Did people here think it was a good thing?

MS: I don't recall even-- during that time I was ending school, so. People just assumed that it was something that had to be done, and they were happy that it had gone through because many of those students lived here in the area. They [inaudible.] to the University of Delaware and they were living here in the area, and so the folks here knew them.

BH: I did want to ask you all about—your house is part of Terry Manor? I just wanted to ask you about the History of Terry Manor.

MS: Okay, well the late George Wilson we have to contribute that to him. It was one of his dreams to sponsor housing for [inaudible.] so that's—he was the instigator in getting these houses built.

NT: Did he build this house?

MS: Yes.

MB: This was the first one.

NT: This was the first one? The sample house? Oh my gosh, that's great.

BH: I'll have to come and take a photograph of this for the book. So have you been the only family that's lived here?

MS: Yes.

BH: So, you bought the sample house and lived in it ever since?

MS: Yes.

NT: Oh that's neat. Do you have any of your old paperwork? Like the advertisement or anything like that about the old house? Well, not the old house, this house. Did you by any chance save it?

MS: No, no I don't.

NT: Like a description or advertisement or anything?

MS: No. I don't even know there was any advertisements. I don't remember because I was just in college at the time.

NT: Where did George Wilson live? Was he right around here?

MS: I think he said he was born and raised right here. His home was right up over there.

NT: He lived on New London?

MS: New Rodney Road. [Inaudible.] his son Richard lived next door.

BH: Down by the drug store.

MS: Right before you get there.

BH: Split levels.

MS: Yes, he built those houses.

BH: I've heard the city of Newark was not all together helpful to George Wilson when he decided to do this.

MS: No, they gave him a lot of [inaudible.] because I don't think they wanted it to come about. Look I'll just say for instance you see how long it has taken St. John's Church to get that parking lot.

BH: I'm don't know the story.

MS: Years.

NT: Years.

MS: Getting on with the city Newark is a real trip. It's a real trip.

BH: Well, we lived there for 25 years and we're not too happy.

NT: One day they--

MS : Well, one thing I can say is you can handle God's program. So we have gotten this far.

NT: Amen.

MS: And we are going to get it finished. Regardless about how they feel about it.

NT: It's a beautiful parking lot and I'm delighted.

BH: One of my students has been to services at St. John's and her part of the book is on St. John's, her pages, but she hasn't had a chance to talk to the people in the congregation. That is why I was asking you about the spirit of St. John's, what it was like, or what it is like.

MS: We are very upbeat and, you know, we're very thankful for where we are, and thankful to those, our forefathers, who had the insight to start this church, and that we've been able to keep it this long. We've gone through many changes, but still standing.

BH: Somebody had once said that it was put on the busiest street of Newark and it's still there.

MS: Yes. And it gets busy. Oh on Sunday mornings, the motorcycles, the noise level is something but you know it is not going to stop us.

NT: It is very visible. It's a visible presence in the community.

MS: Yes.

BH: But Miss Bond, you're a member of Mount Zion?

MB: Yes.

BH: What's that church like?

MB: It is very nice, friendly [inaudible.] We have a nice pastor, quite the family.

BH: So how did you end up in two different churches?

MS: Well my grandmother belongs to St. John's, and when I was growing up there were more kids my age at that time—'cause I went to Mt Zion, the old Mt. Zion, as a little for Sunday School, but then there many more children my age at St. John's and then we had a minister that who was sent to St. John's. Reverend Edward McNair.—he came in the early forties, and he had a daughter who was my age, and he really loved young people, and so I just got caught up in that, and I just stayed.

BH: No St. John's burial ground is?

MS: It's on Elkton Road.

BH: How did it end up so far away?

MS: Well, [inaudible.] get the propriety. [Laughter.].

BH: Cause Mt. Zion's burial ground is—

MS: Is right behind it.

MB: Yes.

BH: And Pilgrim's burial ground is the other two burial grounds, uses Mt. Zions and—

MS: Yes they use it and St. John's. No, they don't have a cemetery per say.

BH: Now I know Pilgrim Baptist Church had baptisms and they had the first Baptismal pool in a church, in the community, but somebody told me is that the baptisms for the churches used to be down at White Clay Creek.

MS: Oh, it's true [inaudible.].

MB: [Laughter.]

MS: When I was a little girl. In fact the minister I had mentioned he had baptized down there—we called the Creek. It was [inaudible.] North College Avenue. They built it all up now, but that's where we used to go, in the summertime, that's where we used to go, picnics and swimming, down there.

BH: Near the cider mill?

MS: Yes, I think it was a cider mill right down there. I haven't been down that road in years, but anyway they had baptized down there. I know the pastor he had Reverend McNair baptized down there, in that creek.

BH: I have never seen—people have mentioned to me but I have not seen any picture of the baptisms. But you saw them at the creek?

MS: Oh yes.

BH: Can you describe what the day was like?

MS: I was just a little kid.



BH: Well, that's alright. [Inaudible.] old.

MS: I can remember the people, I think, wrapped in sheets.

MB: Yes. Yes. The long white—

MS: [Inaudible.] well he was my step-grandfather. He was the only grandfather I knew 'cause he was baptized, and I believe they were wrapped in the white sheets.

MB: Yes.

MS: I can remember it as a joyful occasion. That's a joyful occasion 'cause everybody was there to witness that.

NT: A real sheet or choir robe?

MS: I think, he was wrapped in like a sheet. I don't remember a choir robe.

NT: And then they leaned them back like that?

MS: Yes, they dipped him down in water. Yes.

MB: Yes.

BH: And there was singing?

MS: Yes, just a joyful occasion—

MB: [Inaudible.] baptized.

MS: They'd be singing just like they do today. You ever seen a baptism?

BH: I have.

MS: Well, it's like now, you do singing when it's taking place, like "Take Me to the Water."

NT: I was going to say can you think of a couple of the songs?

MS: Take Me To the Water. That might not be the name of it, but I know it's "Take Me to the Water" to be baptized, I can remember that but I can't recall any other minister going down to the creek baptizing other than Reverend McNair 'cause I've been saying that at that time he was minister at St. John's.

BH: So would they start at St. John's and have a procession to the creek for the baptism?

MS: No. No, we rode down there. That's where everybody used to go and swim and like I said, we had—people's families would be there, and it was a fun place to be. I had forgotten all about that till you mentioned it to me.

BH: I've had a privilege of talking to a lot of folks. It's like a puzzle and everybody has a different piece of it, and so I'm trying to get as many pieces as I can get. [Laughter.]

MS: That's all I can remember.

[Side Two of tape.]

BH: Number two here.

NT: Lets go back to Creek but first as a note...Mrs. Myrtle served as a Daughter in every office except financial secretary so you were a Daughter ruler and all the way down.

MB: yes.

NT: Going back to the Creek...Was the swimming area segregated at the Creek?

MS: I can recall white people not being there.

NT: None

MS: I can't recall

MB: No.

MB: Didn't know what segregation was until.

MS: We didn't. We knew about progress. We were happy the way we were.

NT: I bet that was fun down by that Creek. We had a swimming by house we had a rope swing and everything. I bet the water was deeper too cause now I think the water comes up a little bit shorter down at White Clay Creek.

BH: What about holidays thinking about baptism and celebrations make me think of holidays?

MS: We used to do Church choirs. They used to come around the neighborhood and sing carols. There was a group of young people here from Newark. Sing to senior citizens and sing carols.

BH: My student who is writing the piece about neighbors would like to know that.

NT: They used to have egg hunts too.

MS: The Elks have Easter egg hunt with the neighborhood children every year the Saturday before Easter.

NT: That is at Mount Zion isn't it?

MS: Yes.

NT: Kind of a community group everyone gets together.

MS: Yes.

NT: St. John, Mt. Zion.

MS: The children from the area will come.

BH: Let me ask you this question. I have a question for you I haven't asked anyone this question? The world has changed so much what was it like when your husband came courting?

MB: I know you weren't allowed to do it but we snuck around and done it. We always had a certain spot that the girls used to get together. Go to the store get ice cream. Stand on the corner and eat our ice cream. And we had to be home at a certain hour.

NT: Where did you meet your husband? Do you remember where you first met him?

MB: I was in grade school. Up on the hill.

NT: You knew that long.

MB: Oh yeah.

BH: So your family goes way back here?

MS: Born and raised here right here.

BH: And you were born and raised here?

MB: Yes.

BH: And your parents came from here as well?

MB: No. My mother came from Glasgow and my father came from [inaudible.]

BH: So this would be 1900 or so. Right around the turn of the century.

MS: Yes 1916.

BH: They were a lot of families that came up from Glasgow and Middletown I guess things were extraordinaire at that time. Did your parents ever describe to you why they came to Newark?

MB: No. But I can remember why my mother used to say she used to walk from Glasgow to Newark.

NT: Walk on 896?

MB: I don't remember where they would walk from Glasgow to Newark.

NT: Wow that was a hike.

MB: Yes.

NT: I believe one of Washington's armies did too so?

MB: Yes. I can remember her saying that. I don't remember whether if she walked in to go to work or what she did?

BH: I am going to ask you both the same question but I want to ask you one at a time. I am going to start with you, Mrs. Bond. The question is...What is the most important thing that you will like people to know about the New London Road Community? In the future when someone looks back what is it the one thing you would like them to know?

MB: To be more friendlier and closer to God. Does that answer your question?

BH: If that's the answer it answers my question.

MS: I like them to remember that this is a area that was a caring... This area is made up of residence who are caring people. Who cared not only for their immediate family but for the community as a whole. The people here were supportive of young people they encourage them to get as much education as they could. To do well in whatever that are doing. But to never forget their family values that they have learned along the way. Because children today are not taught family values that I grew up with, what my mother grew up with. And they don't know what they are missing and carry that in their background.

BH: Is there any question you would like to ask?

NT: Well there is one thing that I have not heard asked anywhere. And that has to do with veterans and military service people from this neighborhood. Were there any sons lost in any wars from here? World War II. or Vietnam, or Korea? Do you remember?

MS: I don't think so.

NT: Or drafted, going off to war?

MS: I can't recall anyone being killed in the war. Not here I can't recall

MB: Not here in Newark. I can't recall any.

NT: I don't think I have ever heard anybody.

MS: But many have going to serve the country I remember my dad going. I remember being in Germany. I can't remember. I do remember he was in Germany. Sending pictures. I don't know why I can't think of any other place but Germany?

NT: Was that during wartime?

MS: Yes, that's where he served in World War II.

BH: You were little, if you graduated in 1953 that would be 1941 or 1942.

MS: When I went to first grade he was in the service. My uncles during that time also.

NT: I just wonder if the community rally around any type of war effort. I know Grandmother used to be in a program mitten for Britain and she and her lady friends used to knit gloves and scarf and things during the war. Was there anything like that going on here?

MB: I'm not too sure but I'm not too sure what organization we used to do that. I don't want to talk about it cause I don't really remember it that well.

NT: That's it I'm enjoying all this.

BH: I hope—I think this is probably enough of your time for one day. I hope for two things one is that I would like to come back to go look at your albums and take some pictures of some of the pictures in the next week or so. I can do that right here I have a digital camera. And the other thing is part of the project is that, a friend of mine who teaches in the department of art who is a photographer who shoots portraits I think all over the world. Is going to do, with people's permission a formal portrait of each person that I interview. There would be a copy for you and a copy for your mother. That is something we are going to do in the spring. Are you interested?

MS: Yes.

MB: Yes.

BH: The one thing I need to do in closing is to sign this permission. I want to thank you all and taking the time to speaking to us and to know that your words will be in your book.