

**September 2007**

**Interview with Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum**

**By Isabelle Chewning**

[Items enclosed in brackets [ ] are not on the audio, but are editorial notes inserted for clarification]

Chewning: My name is Chewning and today is September 5, 2007. I'm in the home of Mrs. Marjorie Chittum in Fishersville, Virginia and we're going to do an interview for the Brownsburg Museum. Mrs. Chittum grew up in Brownsburg and so I'm going to ask her if she can share some of her stories with us, but first I'll ask her for a little bit of background. Can you tell me what your whole name is?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum.

Chewning: And did you grow up in Brownsburg, Mrs. Chittum?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I did, I did grow up there and lived there until I was 18.

Chewning: And when were you born? Do you mind telling me when you were born?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, I don't mind telling you. I was born March 15, 1929.

Chewning: Great. And so you stayed in Brownsburg until you were 18.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I was 18.

Chewning: Were you born in Brownsburg? Were you born at home?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I was born in the house where my brother, John Layton Whitesell, lives right now [2664 Brownsburg Turnpike]. I was born in that house.

Chewning: So you were born at home.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** That's right.

Chewning: And how about your brothers and sisters. How many brothers and sisters did you have?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I have one brother John Layton and I had no sisters. I always wanted a sister, but I never got a sister.

Chewning: And how about your parents. Were they from Brownsburg as well?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** My mother was from Brownsburg. She was Margaret Dudley and her parents lived there, Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Dudley. My grandmother's name was Martha and they lived just three houses above us right there on the main street of Brownsburg [2640 Brownsburg Turnpike]. My father's home was over in, it's called Decatur, or Aqua some people call it. That's where he was from.

Chewning: So your mother's family grew up in the log-- is that the log house?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** That's the log house. That's where my mother's parents lived.

Chewning: And they were Dudleys.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Dudleys.

Chewning: How did your father get to Brownsburg? Did he move to Brownsburg after he married your mother?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes he did. He [Miley L. Whitesell] was an undertaker, and his grandfather Miley, was a well known undertaker in Decatur. My father's father died when my father was about six months old, I think it was. And so his mother, who was Annie Miley (who I'm named for) came back home to live and brought my father, and he grew up there. And then he met my mother. I'm not sure where he met her, but my father was 17 years older than my mother. And he met her when he was in Staunton working for an undertaking company, and then when they got married they stayed in Staunton a while. And then he was building this house [2664 Brownsburg Turnpike] and the undertaking business was joined to the house.

Chewning: In Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** In Brownsburg. And so he married her, and that's how they got to Brownsburg and then he opened up a funeral home in Brownsburg and ran it until he died at a very young age, 52.

Chewning: Oh my goodness he was young. How old were you when he died?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I was eleven.

Chewning: Oh my goodness.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I had just turned eleven in March and he died in April, very suddenly. Of course, back in those days if you got anything very serious there was nothing to do and he had bleeding ulcers and they couldn't stop the bleeding.

Chewning: Oh my goodness and you were only eleven.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** And my brother [John Layton Whitesell] was a junior in high school. It was in 1940.

Chewning: And then did your brother take over the business?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well, no, my mother kept the business. My mother had her Funeral Director's License and she kept the business for a while and an undertaker in Lexington would come out and to the embalming. She did that for a while and my brother thought he was going into it. He did try really hard and he [was an apprentice] over in Charlottesville but he just said, "I'm not cut out to be an undertaker." He liked part of it. He like the funeral directing part but he just – he didn't like the embalming and he just said, "I can't do it." Mother was disappointed because my great grandfather had handed the business end of it down to my father. And I know my father would probably want him [John Layton] to [take it over] but he wouldn't want him to [do it if he did not like it.] But my father ran a store there also in the undertaking business. My brother [later] ran the store and he was Postmaster there for many years, until he retired.

Chewning: So do you remember the store and the undertaking business?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh yes, oh yes I do. My father closed the store some time before he died, but yes I remember [both very well]. In fact, children, a lot of children, a lot of my little friends at school, [would plan] to come and spend the night. And I used to get so upset because I really wouldn't know until the last minute if they were going to come, because the day would come and they would say, "Your Daddy doesn't have a body in there does he?" And they were afraid. And so I always just – it really didn't mean that, the only thing it meant to me at that time in my life was that it was the way we made a living. I was just used to it. And of course before Daddy put the funeral home into the part that was adjoined to the house where he had the store. He'd put them over in the living room and mother would lock the front door because you know nobody locked doors back in those days, even at night a lot of times, and mother would lock the door so we wouldn't come bringing in people through there. And as soon as we'd get home from school I would pop through that door, calling "Mother." And so this day she forgot to lock the door and when I popped the door open and called "Mother," there it [a body] was. But, course I wasn't afraid because I was used to it. It really wasn't until my father died that I realized what death really was. Because I was just at that very impressionable age. When you lose somebody it's [hard]. And we were very close, my father and I. We fished together. My brother was close to him too but there were about six years difference in our ages and Daddy wanted a little girl. So that's the way it was. [And John Layton wasn't into fishing. I loved to fish. Maybe that is because I am a Pisces!]

[Paragraph regarding fishing moved here from page 20.]

Chewning: Did he [John Layton] fish with you when your Dad took you fishing?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No. He never did like to, because you'd have to sit and wait. You know, we went up there to the-- where we fished was, you go up there to Rockbridge Baths, like you're going to turn left and go to Lexington and turn right and go to Rockbridge Baths? You go down to Rockbridge Baths and then you go across that bridge and come back and we used to fish down on that riverbank down there. But he didn't like it -- Mother would pack our lunch and we'd go, but John Layton didn't want to-- he wanted to catch one as soon as you got there. When we camped, Lou [Wiseman Stuart] and I fished all the time. We loved the- you know, still fished in our older days a whole lot.

Chewning: That must have been an interesting childhood. Were there a lot of funerals in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes. And of course there was a funeral home in Craigsville, and there was one in Middlebrook. But you know that was a different area. So Daddy got the one that was up in that area, mostly.

Chewning: Was there one in Lexington?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh yes, Harrisons was there. And there was one there called Varner and Pole. They ran a furniture store and a funeral home. And then there was one, can't think of that [one], the man who ran it was I think maybe a [distant] cousin of Daddy's. His name was Sam Miley and my grandmother was a Miley. So there were actually three in the undertaking business at that time, [I believe].

Chewning: But your dad probably got most of the Brownsburg, Fairfield, Raphine business?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Right, Montibello and over in that area, yes.

Chewning: And did he do blacks as well as the white people?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh yes.

Chewning: Everybody.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Everybody, [I think] yes. Lots of black people lived there in Brownsburg and around Brownsburg and they were over at Fairfield, they were no different. [I believe everybody in Brownsburg respected each other as a neighbor and also a friend, black and white alike.]

Chewning: What's the first thing you remember about being in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** You know I was thinking about that and I just can't really pinpoint one thing. It [seemed] I was always there. There was just no big event; nothing like it was when I found out about Santa Claus, you know. That was so traumatic!

Chewning: [Laugh] How did you find that out?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** At school.

Chewning: Somebody told?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mm-hm. Somebody told.

Chewning: You'd been protected up until then?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Until then, yes. And back then you didn't learn things like you do now, you just didn't.

Chewning: How about school. Did you start first grade in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes I did, and I loved school!

Chewning: Which building were you in?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I was in the red brick one that was the first one that was torn down years ago. It was sort of beside the stucco building. Actually, it was beside of that. And my [first grade] room was at the very back of the hall and Mrs. Whipple – Mollie Sue Hull, she was then – was [my] teacher. She was just out of college and then you didn't have to go four years. You could get teaching certificates and she had just gotten a teaching certificate. And then she went back in later years and got her degree. And so I teased her after I grew up. I said, "If I had known you were that young I wouldn't have listened to you!" [Laugh]

Chewning: She was my second grade teacher. She was just about my favorite teacher.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh she was mine. I have her picture right on my refrigerator right now. She actually is the reason I became a first grade teacher. I just loved her to death, and then I took piano lessons from her and she played at our wedding.

Chewning: She played at my wedding. Where did you take piano lessons?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** We had a piano at home. But she was living then where, Mr. Barnes lives [8 Hays Creek Road] in the house that was beside of the [store building. The last store that was there was the Farmers' Co-op.]

Chewning: Next to the bank?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes. She was living there at that time and that's where I went to her house to take piano lessons.

Chewning: So she had a piano there? She'd brought a piano with her?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** She had a piano there. I think I must have been in third grade then, I guess. Yes, I was in third grade.

Chewning: How many years did you take piano?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well now, let me see, I don't know exactly how many years that I took with her. And then it seems she quit giving lessons there for a while – maybe when Freddie [Fred R. Whipple, Jr.] was little – there was another lady, Katherine Earhart who went to New Providence Church. She said that if we would let her use our piano, she would give me my lessons free. So that's what we did until I got tired of taking lessons. And then I think – now that is one thing that's sort of unclear. I think I went back – I know I did – and took some more from Mrs. Whipple, some more piano lessons.

Chewning: Do you still play?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I don't. My husband, a couple years after we were married, gave me a Wurlitzer piano for Christmas and I had no idea he was going to do it. When we lived in Staunton. And then when we moved up to Selma Boulevard, we moved the piano up there and then when we moved down here we really didn't have anywhere for it. By that time we started collecting all this junk, known as antiques. And so my grandchildren wanted it, so I said "Okay you can have it, take it." And they took it.

Chewning: Well that's good you found a good home for it.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Exactly. We found a good home for it!

Chewning: Do you remember who your neighbors were in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh yes, I do. On the one side where my brother has his parking lot now – when he had the store he made that a parking lot – there was a black couple who lived there.

Chewning: So there was a house there?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** There was a house there.

Chewning: I don't remember that.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, you don't, it was way before. [There were] Uncle Letcher and Aunt Laura Pleasants. And Uncle Letcher worked out at the Strain place [3191 Brownsburg Turnpike], do you know where that is?

Chewning: I do.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Okay. The only thing I remember is – I don't know why , but he'd take the cows out there twice a day and in the wintertime they would walk out there [from Brownsburg to the Strain place] with them. He'd [Uncle Letcher] wrap his shoes up in burlap sacks and tie the sacks so his feet wouldn't get cold. Wrap up his shoes and walk out there with those cows. And they [the Pleasants] had a swing on that porch. A little swing. And in the summertime they put a vine that would grow up so you couldn't see anything. It would keep the sun out. Out beyond your place [on Sterrett Road] – I guess Aunt Laura was Uncle Letcher's second wife. And his daughter, I think that was his daughter, was Maggie Pleasants [who lived on Sterrett Road] and [William] Dude Haliburton.

Chewning: Dude worked with my granddad.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Okay they came every evening after supper to visit.

Chewning: Did they walk?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No they had a little, not a Model T, it was a Model A. I can remember we'd be out or sitting on the porch. Mother or Daddy or whoever happened to be out there, would say, "There comes Maggie and Dude." And I used to love to go there and sit on the porch and talk to them because they could tell most fantastic tales and stories, and I loved them.

Chewning: Do you remember some of their stories?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I don't, I don't. They always had some about their olden days. And Aunt Laura would be on the fence and she would see me (now this was after my Daddy closed the store) and she would say "Would you go down to the Huffman's Store for me?" And I course went, and she'd have a little bag of eggs for me to take to help to pay. And she'd say, "Now you can have two of the eggs for taking it for me."

Chewning: How nice.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** So then my mother found that she was doing that, and my mother said, "Don't you take those eggs from Aunt Laura! You just tell her that you'd be glad to do it anyway." So that was the end of the free eggs. [But that was okay, too.]

Chewning: I have good memories of Maggie and Dude.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh, yes. I loved Maggie. We'd sit on that porch and just talk about all kinds of things going on in Brownsburg. What I was doing at school and everything. And I used to go to -- and my brother did, too -- and well everybody who lived there would go to the school. The black school which has been torn down. You know where that was?

Chewning: Right.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Okay. And they had their school closings [graduations] up at the church, well all of us went. We went and enjoyed it. Miss Carrie Peters always had a nice program. I'm seeing her now, with a nice white dress on, introducing all those people. Ruth and Frances Craney, I grew up playing with them. Ruth and Frances Craney

Chewning: She was Frances Porterfield?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** And their mother was Aggie, and their father was Glasgow. And their grandfather lived there with them and his name was Uncle Sam. But I played up there a lot, a lot.

Chewning: Which house did they live in?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** They lived where the Porterfield boy lives now [2650 Brownsburg Turnpike]. Where Frances lived. They've done-- of course it didn't look like that, it was log like my grandmother's house was.

Chewning: Oh, it was?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I mean it was that old weatherboard.

Chewning: Are you talking about the house next to your grandmother's house or the house up next to the church [29 Academy Alley]?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, next to my grandmother's house.

Chewning: On Main Street.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** As you go down that alley, right on the corner where the Porterfields live.

Chewning: Right.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Frances' grandson lives there now.

Chewning: Charles.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Charles Junior.

Chewning: And who lived on the other side of your house.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** The first people who lived there was – Mrs. Hassie Dice lived her. She was a widow and then she married a man his name was Bolen. And she had – her children were all grown. She lived there but then Lou, Lou Stuart [Lou Wiseman], her family lived there. When I first knew Lou, they lived the down beside of where Lib Ward lived, in that house [2757 Brownsburg Turnpike]. Then they moved from there up as you go around that turn, that house has been torn down also, the side of Will Gilmore's house. You know where Will Gilmore's house is, that house in Brownsburg up there that right as you make the turn to out of Brownsburg [2613 Brownsburg Turnpike]? The blacksmith's shop [2610 Brownsburg Turnpike] was on one side and Will Gilmore's house was across the street. Nobody lives in it.

Chewning: Is it the one that has sort of a balcony on it?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, that's right. And Lou and her family lived in the house beside of that and that house has been torn down and there's something else there. And then Lou's family moved down beside of me [2682 Brownsburg Turnpike]. And that's when we really got close then. I could lie in my bedroom and talk to them in their bedroom. [Laugh] When we weren't together, I mean. I spent many, many nights there and they likewise. And I ate over there, and we did everything together. And then they moved where up where Doris Lunsford lives [2651 Brownsburg Turnpike].

Chewning: You and Lou are the same age?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, no. A lot of people thought that was so odd because Frances [Wiseman] and I were the same age, we called her Jude. They started that, Carl [Wiseman], her brother and my brother John Layton. She was so little and I don't know how they picked it up but they started calling her Pejulus. Then it got down to Jewel. Then many years before she died it got down to Jude. And everybody called her Jude. And she and I were the same age. Two months difference. Lou is the age of my husband, she's a couple years older. I don't think she'd mind me telling you. If she does, it'll be okay! [Laugh]

Chewning: Oh no, she told me!

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** She doesn't care, I was just kidding. But she and I were closer together for most of the time because Jude was a different personality. She was little, she was so tiny, she liked to play ball but she was afraid and every time the ball would come toward her she'd make his little squeal and jump back. And she liked to read. And Lou and I were just-- Jude always said we were just too roughneck for her. Just two roughnecks.

Chewning: [Laugh] You were more adventuresome.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** More adventuresome. I mean of course I loved Jude to death. And I still miss her. I tried to be faithful going to see her when she was sick. But Lou and I and Earl [Mrs. Chittum's husband] and Boyd [Lou Stuart's husband], we all-- we were just really close. Wherever you saw Lou and Jude and me we usually were together. Either two of us or three of us. In the evening – kids wouldn't do that now, we were great big kids – and Mr. [Tolerance J.] Wiseman drove a school bus and parked it right out there in front of the house while their family lived there. And on Sunday afternoon – we did the same thing every Sunday afternoon – we played paper dolls in the bus, and we were great big girls.

Chewning: Lou talked about paper dolls.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, we used pattern books. My mother would come to town and we'd always say "Go into Penney's!" And Leggett's had patterns then and we'd say, "Ask them if they have any old pattern books." So she would and then we would cut the head off of a girl or child or whatever and leave a little, like a little prong, a little stick paper on that that you wet, lick it and wet it. We'd cut the dresses out and then you could stick that head on all kinds of dresses and we used the catalog to keep them in. And you'd have the mother and a father and a little boy and a little girl. And you had them different places, you put little flaps on there to tell you what and we had names for all of them. And when the little neck would get so that it wouldn't stick anymore we had to get a new one. [Laugh] A new head! But I remember Lou's doll, her main doll, was named Mary Jo. That girl, that teenaged girl, big girl. I think Lou named her girl Mary Jo.

Chewning: What was yours?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mine's name was Ruth. It was sort of like Ken and Barbie are now, you know, except ours were homemade. We didn't have Barbie. They [the Wisemans] lived there then they moved up in front of us [to 2651 Brownsburg Turnpike]. And then Lou and Boyd and Earl and I were very close. We traveled together and we camped together. All during our kids growing up, we had trailers. There were three or four couples, Carl [Wiseman] and his family, and Lou and Boyd and us and Fred Sensabaugh and his family and we'd parked the trailer and we'd go to different campgrounds. We went to Douthat a lot and we parked the trailer because back then you didn't really have spaces where you had to be in. And we sort of parked the trailers and made a little circle so we had the middle there, like our own little courtyard.

Chewning: So did your husband [Earl Chittum] go to Brownsburg School?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, he went to Spottswood.

Chewning: And how did you meet him?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well, it was during the war. And our basketball coach had gone. He was a W&L fellow, I think that's what it was. Do you know Mrs. Greaver?

Chewning: No, I don't.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** She was Angie Margaret Wade. Angie Margaret Greaver. She was our basketball coach and her husband was in the Service. And so she was just sort of there, I think filling in, because the other one had to go. And her husband was coming home from service and they had to have a basketball coach. And Earl was working at DuPont. But when he was in

high school, he was an excellent basketball player. So somehow somebody recommended him that he might be able to work at DuPont and coach our team, the girls' team. So they contacted him. And he said yes, he would come and talk to them. So he came over to be interviewed. Well, back then we had to-- the bells weren't like they are now, automatic. You had to have somebody to go in and ring them and usually it would be a senior. So I had been assigned to that job to go and take care of watching the time and go and ring the bells. So when I went in to ring the bells, I knew who he was because we were in competition in basketball. And he was sitting in there and I just went in to ring the bells. And then one of my friends, who you may know, Betty Firebaugh, she was Betty Palmer, Don Firebaugh's wife? Okay. Betty lived just sort of diagonally across from Earl. So that evening -- I didn't know any of this until she came and told me about this a day later at school -- he told her [he wanted a date with the girl who rang the bells] because he knew we [Marjorie Ann and Betty] were good friends. So he said, "Will you get me a date with her? Because I know she won't go if I ask her." So Betty came to school and asked me if I would go, and I was living with John Layton. Mother had gone away to work in Lynchburg and so I lived my senior year and maybe half of my junior year with John Layton and Virginia [John Layton's wife, Virginia Wade Whitesell]. And so she said "Would you go? Earl wants to know if you would go to a movie or somewhere." I don't know where it was, and I said "Absolutely not. I will not. He thinks he is such a good basketball player." I knew he was. So she went back and told him [that I said, "No."] And when she came back the next day and asked me again, I said okay. [I guess] the rest is history. [laugh] [We will have been married 60 years this December.]

Chewning: So tell me a little more about what you remember about school. Who was your second grade teacher?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Isabel Reubush.

Chewning: I haven't heard that name.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Okay. I don't think she was there but a couple years and she lived with Helen Watson. They lived right there on the corner, where Jo Heath lives [2693 Brownsburg Turnpike]. [Helen Watson later married Greer Carson. She taught Home Ec.]

Chewning: Can you spell her last name?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Reubush?

Chewning: Mm-hm.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I'm not sure whether it's R-E-U-B-U-S-H because some people do, or if it's R-U-E-B-U-S-H. She was from, I think- I think Isabel was from maybe Buena Vista, I believe, somewhere like that.

Chewning: So she boarded down there ...

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, she and Helen lived there downstairs, I think it's what they did. She was real short, wore her hair up. She wasn't a young person, she wasn't a young person. And she-- second grade, that's when they were-- the red building was still there. But we-- our second grade was upstairs. There was an auditorium up there and Miss [Ocie] Trimmer's office was up there. And they just partitioned off a part of that and made it our second grade. That's when Betty came into the picture, Betty Firebaugh, Betty Palmer. That's when she started coming to Brownsburg school. She didn't come to first grade.

Chewning: But she lived in Spottswood?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** She lived in Raphine.

Chewning: Oh.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mm-hm. And Raphine had a little school there for a while, I think. But Betty came in the second grade at Brownsburg. There was another little girl, and she's still a really dear friend of mine, too. She lived in the house just before you get to the Heslep place, that house right there on the left, just before you turn up in that lane [2110 Brownsburg Turnpike]. The Huffmans lived there. Her name was – in fact, I talked to her on the phone last night and I tease her, because every calls her Clara, but all during school we called her Clara Alice. So whenever I call her, I say, "Clara Alice?". And she knows who it is. But she was a good friend of mine and we were talking about it last night on the phone. I used to come in the house and I'd say, "Mother, I'm going to walk to Clara Alice's." Mother wasn't afraid, you know, there was nothing to be afraid of. I expect it's a couple miles up there, at least a mile.

Chewning: At least a mile.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** And I used to spend a lot of nights up there. And she'd spend nights with me. And we had a good time. But then in third grade, Mrs. Elizabeth Williams taught me. She lived around with Mr. Walter Dice in that house [22 Hays Creek Road]. Mr. Dice was married to her sister and when Mrs. Dice died, Mrs. Williams moved around there and you know, that was would have been a "no-no".

Chewning: Oh.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** So they had a high school girl, I'd love to know where that girl is. She was from Fairfield. Her name was Sally, but I can't think of what her last name was. But Sally lived there with them. [I think her name was Sally Gibson. She was from the Fairfield area. I really liked her. She was older than I was.]

Chewning: As a chaperone [laugh]?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** That's right.

Chewning: And where, which house was Mr. Dice's house?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** That's where this White boy lives. And no, his name's not White. Driver. Bob Driver, in the Bob Driver house [22 Hays Creek Road]. And in the fourth grade is when I lost my Dad, in the fourth grade.

Chewning: And was he sick, or did he just die suddenly?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** He had not been well for a long time. He had to diet, watch what he ate and all this stuff, but the ulcers just ...

Chewning: Was he able to work?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh, yeah, he worked, mm-hm, he worked. And the night he died, he got sick, and Miss Trimmer – your Daddy [Mc Sterrett] will remember it. Miss Trimmer put on beautiful operettas and Glee Club things and all that. And John Layton [Whitesell] always had a solo part and sang in the show. And, he was to sing to a girl that was from Rockbridge Baths. Her name was Mary Martin, and he was to sing "Beautiful Dreamer" to her. It was a Steven Foster operetta. And he said, "I just don't believe I can do it. I just don't believe I can do it" And Daddy said, "You go and do what you have to do, I'll be okay." So, he did. He made it all the way through. He got sick on the 4th, died on the 7th in his and was buried on the 9th.

Chewning: What month was it?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** April.

Chewning: April.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** April.

Chewning: Did he die at home, or did he go to a hospital?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, they took him to Lexington to the hospital and they sent me to Grandma's.

Chewning: Up the street in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mm-hm. And they took me in there, but he, I think he knew because Mother said when they came down the steps, he said, "I'll never come down these steps again anymore." I'll never forget that.

Chewning: Oh, I'm sure you won't, to be 11 years old and ...

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** It's been a long time. 1940.

Chewning: And did your mother remarry?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, she did. She married Hugh McNutt. And see, Hugh – you know Ann -- then actually I think Mother was married to Hugh longer than she was to Daddy. Because when they got married, Daddy- I think they got married in 1921, I believe. John Layton was born in '23, and Daddy died in 1940, so they were only married, like, 20 years. And I think she was married to Hugh longer than that.

Chewning: And did she move out to his house?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, no, no. When they got married, he was working with a company that did construction. They lived in Clifton Forge for a while, just a short while. Then they came back -- he got back to Staunton and they bought a house in Staunton.

Chewning: How old were you when she got married?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh, I was married. Yeah, I was married. Yeah, Doug [Mrs. Chittum's son] wasn't born when she got married.

Chewning: So she ran the funeral home for a while and then you said she went to Lynchburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, she went to Lynchburg. Actually, I was supposed to go to Madison College and I couldn't decide what I wanted to do. Mother wanted me to go to Madison. So, I said, okay, because I wanted to be a teacher, but by that time, Earl was in the picture. He was two years older than I am, and so the more I thought about it, I don't know. I guess I was just unsettled and that just seemed like a good thing to do, you know. I think it was because I had lost Daddy so young. And then I lived with John Layton and Virginia [Whitesell] and they were good as gold to me. Couldn't anybody have been any better to me. Even though I knew that I had to get his permission for everything, I didn't mind that at all. But I guess, I always wanted to be around older people. And I always liked to be cooking and doing those kind of things. So I decided, I said, "I don't want to go to Madison." I said, "Why can't" –and Lou [Wiseman Stuart] had gone to Lynchburg. She got married two months before I did and she had gone to Lynchburg to Virginia Commercial College. I said, "Why can't I go over there where Lou went?" And Mother said, "Well, I thought you wanted to be a teacher." I said, "Well, I do. But I don't want to go that long." I was afraid to tell Mother about Earl wanting me to get married. So, I did go to Lynchburg and I did get in Virginia Commercial. Lou was cut out to be a secretary. I was cut out to be a teacher. I hated it. [Laugh] I couldn't do the shorthand, I couldn't. I never could do it. Never did learn to do the bookkeeping. [Mother] got a job at the hospital over there in the dietary part of it. And every night, I cried, couldn't do it, couldn't do it. And finally one day, I just said, "I just can't take it anymore. I just cannot take it." And I just went in there, didn't even tell Mother I was in there. And told those people I was quitting. I thought it was easier to tell Mother if I'd already quit. So she said, "Well, you have to do something. You've got to prepare yourself to do something." Well I had met this girl, I lived at the Y, YWCA, and I had met this girl who said she was in beauty school over there. There was a beauty school over there, so she said, "Why don't you go to beauty school? That only takes three months." I thought, "Boy, that sounds great." So, I told Mother, I said, "I think I want to be a beauty operator." She said, "I don't care what you do. I only want whatever you want, but you're gonna do something!" So I went down and signed up and she went with me, paid the tuition and I went to beauty school. I hated that, too. [Laugh] I didn't even work a day. I finished, but I didn't work a day. And so, I said, "Mother, Earl wants to get married." By that time, I was working in Adair Hutton in Lexington. It was summer, I believe. Mr. Thorp said he'd give me a job to go to work up there. And I said, "Maybe I will go to college some time." And she said, "No you won't either." I said, "Yes I will. I will go." And she just kept on saying I would not. She said, "Your life – you'll just ruin it if you're not getting any education." So we got married in December and moved to Raphine, and lived there a little while and then we moved to Staunton. And then one day -- Tammy was already two or three years old.

Chewning: That's your daughter?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mm-hm. She's 49 now and I said, "You know what? I believe I'll go down to Mary Baldwin to see if I can get in college." So Earl came in and I told him and he said, "Well, whatever you want to do." I said, "I promised Mother I'd finish and I'm gonna do it." So I went down there and talked to Mrs Grafton. And she suggested I start out with just a couple courses. I said, "No, I want to take them all." She said, "You have been out of school for 16 years, you cannot do that. It's too hard. You came from a very small school a long time ago." And I said, "Okay, whatever you say." So she said, "I think you better just start out pretty slow." And I did, I finished. And I taught 25 years – [first grade 23 of those years. My husband was a great help with the children while I studied, and he helped with the housework. And Mother helped with keeping Tammy.]

Chewning: That's a great story.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** But when I walked [down the aisle with my diploma], there sat Mother [and my step-father, Hugh McNutt], right on the end of that aisle. And I said, "See, I told you I'd get it!"

Chewning: She must have been proud.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** She said, later, she said, "I knew when I told you you wouldn't do it, I knew you would, because you've always been so determined." Of course, I'm glad I did it. I wanted to teach first grade, and that's what I taught.

Chewning: Well she must have been determined, too, to be able to hold the business together for a while and raise two kids.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** She was.

Chewning: That had to be hard for her.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well she was raised-- my grandparents [Lucian and Martha Dudley] were very poor, very good people. Good people, well thought of in Brownsburg. But they were poor. And so Mother said many times, she'd help Grandma wash on the board till her fingers bled, because Grandma took in washing.

Chewning: And did they go to New Providence?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, they didn't. Grandma and Granddaddy Dudley never went to church.

Chewning: Did you go to New Providence [Presbyterian Church] growing up?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I went. I was baptized to New Providence and got married in New Providence. Went to Bible School in New Providence. In fact, just not long ago, I found my Sunday School little things they give you when you're promoted and Earl took them down and had them laminated. One from the Beginners Department to the Primary Department.

Chewning: Mm-hm. Oh, that's nice that you had it ...

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** And you knew Sarabelle Fitzwater? She was in my little class. And I loved Sarabelle and she had a little mesh pocketbook. And she carried a little beaded one. I can see it now, a little fringe on it. And I loved that pocketbook. I wanted one so bad and Mother never would get me one. But Sarabelle would let me hold hers while I was at Sunday School and when Sunday School was over, I'd hand it back to her. Mother did, later, get me one. But I wanted one right then while Sarabelle had hers. [Laugh] I thought about that when I went to her funeral, that little pocketbook.

Chewning: That pocketbook.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** And my little great-granddaughter said, "It's a purse, they're not called pocketbooks." She said, "Big Gammy, they're not called pocketbooks, they're purses." [laugh]

Chewning: And you mentioned Miss Trimmer. Everybody has pretty strong memories of Miss Trimmer?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yeah, Miss Trimmer. If she liked you, she liked you and if she didn't, she didn't. My brother, [I think was one of her "pets."]

Chewning: Did she like you?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well, I guess she did. I never had any problems with her. She was always nice to me. My brother said when I was-- soon after Daddy died, I think, I got the mumps. And he said he'd run into her walking into Latin class and she said -- even when she was

really being nice, she was stern and she said, "John Layton, I just sent your sister home." And he thought, "Oh, what has she done?" [Laugh] "With the mumps." [Laugh] He said, "I was scared to death!"

Chewning: Were childhood diseases the same back then as they are now? I know you're vaccinated for mumps now, but I remember--

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I had them all, except-- I had mumps and measles and chicken pox. And my vaccination, Miss Kirkland was her name. She was the health nurse for Rockbridge County. Over there across from John Layton, where the Andersons live [2671 Brownsburg Turnpike], down where he has his law office, that was a clinic. And Miss Kirkland came out once every so often and checked people and did the vaccinations. And so I was vaccinated three times.

Chewning: How come?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Because they never would take. Never, I never was able-- I was vaccinated three times and Miss Kirkland said, "It's no use to vaccinate her anymore because it's not gonna take."

Chewning: And that was smallpox vaccination, where you get the little scabs?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mm-hm, mm-hm, mm-hm. And John Layton and I-- I love him to death, but when we were little, Mother said she thought she was going to have to kill us both, because we fought all the time.

Chewning: Oh, did you really?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mm-hm. But see, he was almost six years older than I was- five years older- five or six. Well, he's 84 now and I'm 78, and he had been the only one, you see, for a long time. And then here came this little girl that was getting part of it. And so we fought all the time. And now, I was up there Sunday night and talking about it. But we love each other dearly. But we fought our way through, you know, up through teenage, not really teenage, but almost to teenage. And so I used to tease him when the vaccination wouldn't take. I told him it was because he treated me so bad. That's why my vaccination didn't take. He'd say, "No, it's 'cause you're so bad, that's why it didn't take!" [Paragraph on fishing moved forward to page 4.] But then when I went to Mary Baldwin, I had to have the vaccination and I mean, it took then. Dr. Joe Williams gave it to me, and it had a thing out there like a baseball and it just ached and hurt and they said it was because it had not taken, you know. I had to put a cup on it.

Chewning: Oh gosh.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I mean, a plastic cup. But uhm.. no, it was-- it's just a lot of good things in Brownsburg, a lot of good things. We used to play over there on the bank when Daddy had the store. People would come in on Saturday night. The kids would come, and we'd play red light, and all, tag, and hide and seek. Roll down that bank over there in front of the store. We'd just have a lot of fun. Then there was, talking about the black people, there was a lady there and she lived out on your road too [Sterrett Road]. Aunt Mariah Fisher [ph?]. She was a midwife. Aunt Mariah. She wore a white dress all the time and a little white hat that had a ruffle around it. And she delivered babies. One thing that I got teased about was there was a doctor there, his name was Dr. Bailey. And Daddy and Dr. Bailey used to fish a lot. And the lady-- the people who lived across from John Layton – Mrs. [Mamie] Morris was a preacher, have you heard about her?

Chewning: Right.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Okay, she was preaching. She took this family in, and they didn't have any children when they moved there. Then they had three, real close together. So, I didn't know anything about, you know, babies. You didn't talk about that then. But I just knew that I wanted a sister, and I knew they kept getting babies and I didn't have one. So one morning I was lying in bed with Mother and Daddy, and the people across the street had had another baby the night before. And I said, "I don't see why they can have them and we can't get one. Why do they always get one?" So Daddy said, "Well, why don't you just go down and ask Dr. Bailey to bring you one?" Like Mother said, "He should have known better than to say that." I didn't say anything, but boy I couldn't wait to get my clothes on. So as soon as I got dressed and had breakfast I went right on down to the doctor's house and knocked on the door. And Mrs. Bailey came to the door. And I said, "Could I speak to Doctor Bailey?" And she said "Well, I tell you," she said, "he hasn't gotten up yet. He was up most of the night because he had a baby to deliver." And I said, "Well, that's what I want to talk to him about." And she said, "What did you want to talk to him about?" And I said, "Well, I just wanted to ask him-- My daddy says that if I came down here and asked him that maybe he'd bring us the next one. So would you just ask him? The next one, will he bring it to us?" [Laugh] I went home, I was so excited. I couldn't wait to get home to tell them that I'd gone down there and asked for one. Mother looked and Dad, "Don't you ever do anything like that. You know she's going to do it." I never did get the baby.

Chewning: Would the doctor and the midwife work together?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No.

Chewning: So it was either one or the other?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Right. Aunt Mariah just kind of assisted when people were at home. No, I don't think any doctor ever worked with her. Then there was – up there between the garage, Carwell's Garage and that alley past there was a little, kind of a little log – no it wasn't a log home, just a little one room thing. There was a black lady who lived there and her name was Aunt Susan Porter. She cooked outside.

Chewning: Yes, Lou [Stuart] told me about her. Tell me what you remember about Aunt Susan. She cooked outside?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** She cooked outside. Even in the cold winter she'd be wrapped up out there cooking outside. Some of the kids were kind of afraid of her. I don't think we were afraid of her. Of course Mrs. Wiseman would always tell us that Lou and I weren't afraid of anything! Jude was but we weren't. That's why Jude didn't want to be with us, see? She didn't want to get in trouble – she missed a lot of fun though! But we used to peep in the door, and it was all just piled up in there, it was just one room I think, or maybe, I just remember one room. But the kids at school, I do remember the boys, some of the bad boys, because she was still living when I started school, and they used to go down there to her place at recess. Miss Trimmer had a timekeeper, I'm talking about the little grade school boys, you know? Like fifth grade boys. And they'd go down there, and she didn't like that, Aunt Susan didn't like that. She'd get really mad when they'd go down there. I guess she thought they were teasing her or aggravating her or something. I never did go up there by myself. I think Lou and I went. I don't think she ever bothered anybody. She just lived there alone. And I do remember her standing out there at that fire, with that fire going with the kettle hanging down in the fire.

Chewning: Lou said she remembered that somebody came from Petersburg, I think, and just took her [Aunt Susan] away. And she never knew what happened.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I think that's right. Yes. I'm not sure, I don't know, but in Petersburg there was a black mental institution. And I always wondered if maybe that's where she went. Nobody ever knew. I should have asked Dan Franklin. Dan Franklin worked for my stepfather, Hugh McNutt. And before Dan died I used to take things over there and I'd fix little dinners for him. Like little TV dinners when we'd have things left, you know? Dan worked up in Staunton and built our house in Staunton. I bet Dan would have known all about that.

Chewning: Some of Dan's sisters are still living.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, I talked to them. I went to Dan's funeral. Now that's been, of course, two years, maybe more, but Eleanor [Hawkins] is still living.

Chewning: What's her last name?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I don't know. I don't have any idea.

Chewning: I think they live in Northern Virginia or Washington.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** They do. Washington. And Eleanor, I think it's Eleanor, don't know whether it's Eleanor or Virginia's [Bell Franklin] boy is the one that was so good to Dan.

Chewning: I would love to talk to one or both of them, Eleanor and Virginia, too.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh, I can see them now, walking up there on Sunday afternoon to church. All dressed up.

Chewning: Where did the Franklins live?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** The Franklins lived-- I think for a while, I'm not sure whether they lived there all the time, but I think for a while they lived there where John Swisher lives, in that house [3569 Brownsburg Turnpike]. I think that's where they lived for a while.

Chewning: They would walk from there to church?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes. And the side of where the Greene's house is beside of us, you know the house with, I guess it's for sale again now [2682 Brownsburg Turnpike]. Mr. Tom Bosworth. That was -- Press Carter lived there. That was Dora , Dan's wife Dora, that was her sister Isabel. You know Isabel? Lives over there on the hill?

Chewning: Sites?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Okay. Isabel was married to Press's son first, Hunter. And he died young and Isabel remarried. But Press and his wife Hallie had raised their two grandchildren, Manuel [ph?] and Hallie Mae [ph?]. Hallie Mae, I think she was about my age, she died a couple of years ago and I think Manuel died, too. They lived here in Staunton. I think they played out there on the bank, too. Hallie Mae and Manuel.

Chewning: Do you know Frank Shultz?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes. Frank David?

Chewning: I guess. Where did he live?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Frank David lived around, we called, around the hill. Between the stores we call, you go around there, and go up by, who lives in that gray house now? Does John Swisher own that house? Where Miss Carrie Peters used to live [1486 Dry Hollow Road]? The first road to the left.

Chewning: Yes. Dry Hollow Road.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Okay. The Shoultz's, Bert [Roberta Brown Shoultz], her husband and all those children, they lived on that road. Bert worked for the Bosworths. She cooked and worked for Mr. Jim Bosworth.

Chewning: Did you know the Stewarts who lived around there too?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes. Ruch [ph?] and, I'm not sure she, I don't know her at all.

Chewning: There's Leroy who lives in Brownsburg now, and then Sammy Dock, and I think Pauline [Stewart Stevenson] lives in Brownsburg. Did you know them?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I didn't know Pauline. No. I know who Sammy is, but I didn't know them. I knew Ruch [ph?]. Ruch had one son named, seems like he was named David. And he was a really huge, huge boy. And I remember he died and they sent his body back, and it seemed to me like he had some communicable disease because when his body got here the casket was sealed with glass. I remember Daddy bringing me down to see that. It came in on a train. Had to go to the train to meet it.

Chewning: Where did the train come? Fairfield?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, he went to Staunton and got it. But the train did come through Fairfield.

Chewning: Did he have a hearse?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Daddy? Yes. He usually got a new hearse every couple of years.

Chewning: You were probably too young to have any memory of the fact that it was the Depression.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes.

Chewning: Did you hear your parents talk about that?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** The only thing, because I was born in '29, and of course that was the-- The only thing I do remember is, I do remember Daddy talking about, and then later after Daddy died and after Mother died, John Layton -- I don't recall her name. People used to pay Daddy with potatoes and things, you know. And that's how we got the piano. There was a, I think she was a black lady, and she lived somewhere down below Newport. And Daddy buried somebody in her family, I'm not sure who it was. But she told him when he came that she didn't have any money. But she said I do have this piano that I-- because that was about the time I wanted to take piano lessons. And it was a player piano. Player piano. And so he got that piano, and I do remember that. And I guess, really looking back then I was too little to know what it was all about. But I guess we were very fortunate, because I don't ever remember wanting for anything or doing without anything. I know I didn't do without food because I was fat as a butterball.

#### End of Chittum, MAW-1.mp3####

Chewning: It's about twenty after two.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** My watch has been acting up that's the reason a while ago at 11:00 my watch said twenty minutes to one and I thought, "What's going on?"

Chewning: So your mother had your clothes made?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, your daddy would know Mary Lotts. I don't know who lives in that house now. You know where the berry farm is [Orchardside on Raphine Road]? Okay, then the next house, the house that you turn and the lane goes way back and you can't see the house from the road [49 Raphine Road; Harvest Lane near the intersection of Raphine Road and Brownsburg Turnpike]. There just before you get up on the New Providence Road [Brownsburg Turnpike].

Chewning: Oh, I know where you're talking about.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Okay, okay my grandmother's brother lived there, Uncle Jim and Aunt Ann Lotts. And Mary, I don't know how she was kin to them, I don't have any idea, but she, I know she lived there and Mary Stuart lived there with her. Mary Stuart Lotts. And John Henry Lotts lived there with them. And Miss Wilson she lived there. A Miss Wilson, lived there. And Mary sewed for everybody. So mother had her make my clothes.

Chewning: Did you have a lot of clothes?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No I didn't have a lot of clothes. Back then you didn't. Maybe that was something about the Depression but I didn't realize, but it was like you couldn't buy chubby clothes then. You just didn't buy them. So Mary made all my clothes.

Chewning: Did you have a special dress for Sunday?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, I had special one, and I always got a new pair of white Sunday school shoes for summer and a new pair of patent leather shoes. And then for winter I got what they called Oxfords. And then the brown and white ones, saddle oxfords, I got those. But I didn't get, didn't have many shoes. No.

Chewning: So you went to church at New Providence [Presbyterian Church]?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** New Providence.

Chewning: Did you go pretty much every Sunday?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh yes. We sat in New Providence, I was trying to think when I was doing this paper, I think we sat in church either one or two rows behind where your grandparents [Madison M. and Edna Morton Sterrett] sat. But we sat to the right of the middle aisle and they sat more toward the left over next to that other aisle.

Chewning: They were six pews back.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Okay, that's were we sat.

Chewning: That's what I remember. They were always six back.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Okay, that's about were we sat. And I went to Bible School. Mr. [Tolerace J.] Wiseman took the bus to Bible School. And Lou [Wiseman Stuart] and I sang in the choir.

Chewning: Oh, you did?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** We sang in the choir and...

Chewning: Are you a good singer like Mr. Whitesell?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, I'm not, I don't think so, no, I don't think so. I always sang alto. But I sang in the Glee Club. I sang in our church choir.

Chewning: So you had Glee Club in high school?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh yes, Miss Trimmer, while she was there she did everything. She coached ball, taught Latin, taught English, put on plays, and everything. But then Miss Trimmer wasn't there when I got to high school, she was not there. She had already gone. She gone and I, let's see, I had two principals I had, a Mr. Bodkin [ph?] and a Mr. Stockner [ph?] was principal when I was there, when I graduated.

Chewning: And did Mrs. [Mollie Sue] Whipple play for the Glee Club?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I believe she did. I believe she did. Um.. hm.. I think she did, and I played on the basketball team.

Chewning: Oh you did?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I played.

Chewning: Oh, the Whitesells are really basketball players!

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Lou and I played; if they had ball, Lou and I played. Yeah, we played basketball.

Chewning: Did you travel to Fairfield and...

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh yeah, in fact the year I was a junior and a senior, I think we won a county championship both years!

Chewning: What schools did you play?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** We played Goshen, Effinger, Natural Bridge, and Fairfield, and Spottswood, Middlebrook.

Chewning: You had a big schedule there!

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mm.. hmm.. we did. Then we went, that year we went that was the year before Earl got there, I believe, when we won the district. We went to Roanoke and played for the championship there. We played a school called Bent Mountain. I've never seen such big girls in all of my life! When we went in there we thought we were going to whip them good, and they really ate us up! I mean they were big girls!

Chewning: Did you have six players on the team then?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No.

Chewning: Two forwards, two guards, and two rovers?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, no we had two forwards. We had a center forward and then two forwards and two guards.

Chewning: So five.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Five. I played center.

Chewning: Because you were tall.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mm-hm.. We had a good time.

Chewning: I bet, sounds like it. Now did you have to take Home Ec in high school?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yeah, I took three years Home Ec. Still can't sew.

Chewning: Can you cook? You can cook though.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I can cook, but I can't sew. I can't sew. I laughed at Mrs. Carson so many times. They passed that- we had what they call practical. The written exam I knew I could do that, but then you had to draw a bucket something practical to do. Do you know Anna Black, Anna Miller Black, who was the Commissioner of Revenue for Rockbridge County?

Chewning: No I don't think so.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** She graduated with me, she sewed. I said "If I draw a buttonhole out of there I just may as well give it up, because I will not graduate. I cannot make a buttonhole." I said, "I can't even sew a button on, much less make a buttonhole!" And she said "Well, if I get any of that cooking stuff I won't be able to do it either." She sat right next to me and they passed that bucket. She could really sew. They passed that bucket, Mrs. Carson passed that bucket around and I reached down there, I pulled that thing out and it said "Biscuits". Oh, I'm happy! And Anna pulled the next one out and she got the bound button hole! We laughed about that!

Chewning: That was fortunate. So everyone passed?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Everyone did.

Chewning: Everyone graduated?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Everyone graduated, all 18 of us.

Chewning: Eighteen in your class?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, not many of us left.

Chewning: How many boys and how many girls?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh, I'm not sure.

Chewning: About even?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I don't believe there were quite as many boys. But somebody told me the other day, I think Betty told me the other day, that there aren't but two boys left because Bobby Bolen died last week.

Chewning: He was in your class?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** He was in our class. I think Betty told me there's just two boys left, so, a lot of the girls. So every morning when I wake up I'm lucky.

Chewning: What do you remember about World War II?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** A lot. One thing I remember I've cried, when -- I cried a lot when, you know, Pearl Harbor because I thought John Layton was going to have to go. And I guess by that time I had realized we didn't fight as much then, I mean, we were more mature and I guess I thought, well, you know, I'd lost my daddy and now if my big brother's going to have to go. Of course so many had gotten killed. Troy Hickman, who was John Layton's best friend, was killed. One of the first ones. George Slusser.

Chewning: Where was Troy Hickman killed?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Troy, I'm not sure where he was killed. I believe though it was like, he was probably in Germany, somewhere like that. And George Slusser and George East, and a couple more. But I was just afraid he [John Layton] was going to have to go. And then we, Miss Trimmer had a what she called a Victory Corps. You wore a certain day of the week, once a week. She had Captains and Sergeants and Lieutenants and all of them you'd wear a white blouse and a navy skirt and red tie around you, and you marched. Of course you marched for Miss Trimmer anyway. We marched in and out and all like that. And then we had-- and I think Lou, I don't remember doing that, but I think Lou did and I think maybe I went with her. When you practiced for black outs. You'd have to go, I believe it was up at the school they had the watch tower. You'd take your turn watching. I think Lou was one of those who did that.

Chewning: So you'd stay up all night?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, no, no, it was in the day, you know, not at night. And then we'd all watch defense things. Made the little books and we'd take our little money and go down to the post office and buy one stamp or two stamps and paste it in there and then we'd get the book full and then you could buy a bond.

Chewning: You did that?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I'm not sure how many of us ever got enough to get a bond. But we bought the stamps. And then of course I remember, you know, you couldn't get hose. Mother couldn't do much baking because you couldn't get sugar and couldn't get coffee. Couldn't get gas. There was something else you couldn't get --

Chewning: And this is while she was running the business?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yeah this was back, yeah she was still at home then. I think that's when margarine first came out and it was white. There was a little orange tablet in a bag about the size of a fingernail. In a little piece of plastic. And then you mixed that up, and then it made it yellow. I remember Mrs. [Hassie] Dice when she lived on the side of us across the field, she used to let me mix that margarine up and make it color.

Chewning: So you felt more like you were eating butter?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mh-mm.. tasted terrible. Margarine now I don't think it's really that bad, but oh that was terrible, terrible, that margarine. But you know during the war it was, you entertained. We entertained ourselves. Lou and Jude and I all three loved to dance. We played the Hit Parade that came on on Saturday night, and we'd put that radio on and we'd go out in the summertime and that's when they were living right there beside of me. And we'd go out there and dance on the porch or they'd come over to our house and we'd dance on the porch. When Carl [Wiseman, Lou's brother] was in Italy, of course there was no TV and not much news. Gabriel Heater came on at six o'clock at night and I can see Mrs. Wiseman yet sitting there beside of that radio listening, just intensely listening. Of course he was wounded and sent back here to Norfolk, and I ended up going down there [to Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center] with them. Everywhere they went I was counted as one of the family. I really owe a great deal to Mr. and Mrs. [Tolerance J.] Wiseman because when Mother was gone -- of course John Layton was there, and Virginia was there, but that wasn't like an older person, you know. And I mean I just practically lived there. And they counted me as one of their children. And even after mother married Hugh [McNutt], they always went to the McNutt's on Christmas day. And I had my Christmas with Mother

and [Hugh and John Layton's family] on Christmas Eve. We had our big Christmas on Christmas Eve, so on Christmas morning, I mean, we'd get up and children would check for Santa Claus and everything and then the next place we went, we always went to the Wisemans for Christmas dinner because that was just like home. And I was with Lou, sat up with Lou the night Mrs. Wiseman died. Lou and I sat at the hospital, but they were really good to me. They were really, really good to me. She was just like a second mother to me. But the war was, and I remember when it was over we were -- a car full of us went to Lexington and just sat on the street and watched everybody celebrate. Of course that's what you did Saturday night. You know, you just went to a movie and then sat on the street and watched people go by. If you were lucky you might get a grilled cheese sandwich and a Coke at McCrums [drug store on Main Street in Lexington], but that was the extent of the fun we had.

Chewning: So did you go out with some of the boys from Brownsburg before you met Mr. Chittum?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, a couple or three! [Section deleted.]

Chewning: But you would go into Lexington for Saturday night?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, that's where we'd go, Lexington.

Chewning: Did you do most of your shopping in Lexington?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh.. hmm.. We'd be at Adair Hutton. About the only place up there to shop was Adair Hutton, I guess.

Chewning: Was Leggett's there then?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No.

Chewning: So Adair Hutton was there for quite a while?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yeah, it was. Mm-hm. Yeah. Closed on Wednesday afternoon in the summertime.

Chewning: Did you shop for groceries at the stores in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** You know, now that I don't really have any recollection of because when Daddy was running the store, we got them out of the store. And then John Layton ran the store and they had their own groceries. So there wasn't much going to stores. Now Mother, when Daddy was living after he closed the store, Mother would go to Staunton to do things, shop. And she would go to the A&P store because I remember watching her grind that coffee, A&P coffee, and she would do that. And she'd get groceries out there. But she grew most of everything. My grandparents butchered, that was a really a real treat. Grandma and Granddaddy [Martha and Lucian Dudley], they usually butchered on Thanksgiving.

Chewning: They're the ones who lived in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mm.. hm.. they had this real high back porch. And so I would with a couple other kids there in Brownsburg we'd go and we'd sit on the back high porch so we could look down and see them butcher. That was great fun. And then they made apple butter. Usually made apple butter around Halloween night and Halloween day and there again we'd, people would come in, Grandma's friends and Mother, they would peel apples the night before and then make the apple butter the next day and then Grandma would make biscuits when the apple butter was finished and then we'd do that. We'd have biscuits that Grandma made.

Chewning: Did you cook it in a big copper kettle?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yeah. I remember my kids at school when I'd tell them about butchering and apple butter and a lot of times, we'd be sitting there maybe two months later and we'd have some time on our hands and I'd say, "What do you all want to do while we have this few minutes?" "Tell us about those hogs again!" They loved to hear that story about the butchering. And Dan's daddy – Dan Franklin – Zack [Franklin], my Granddaddy wouldn't butcher unless Zack could help. Zack, that's what he did around town. And he stayed booked up. But Granddaddy would always have to have Zack, booked him way ahead of time. So he could help.

Chewning: I know Bud Martin told me that Zack was really good with the animals. If an animal was sick, he would go out and get something out of the woods. He knew what would cure them.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well, Dan told me that-- one day I was over at Dan's, not too long before Dan died, before he went to the nursing home and he was talking and he said, "You know one thing?" He said, "My daddy raised – " I think Dan told me there were ten of those kids. And Dan's Mother died, I think when maybe the youngest one was born. He said, "And my daddy raised all ten of us." And he said "We all grew up, I guess we are, good citizens. We all grew up and all of us had jobs, and pretty good jobs." And I said, "Well, Dan, your daddy never did remarry,

did he?" He said, "No. He said he was going to raise his kids himself." And he did. And every one of those kids really turned out well.

Chewning: What was his job when they butchered?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh, Zack did everything. He did the cutting of the-- hanging them up and all. Oh, he just did everything. And he did it-- everybody did it at home. You didn't take it like you do now to these packing places. You did it at home and he helped cut the meat to make the sausage and all that.

Chewning: Did most of it get frozen or was it cured?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh, cured. Cured. Hams were sugar cured. You'd hang them up in a smoke house. And Grandma had a spring house. And we went and Daddy had a cow and of course Grandma and them had a cow. They had a spring house, it's torn down now. And that little creek ran down and then that's where all the milk was kept in crocks down there. She'd put a plate on it and put a rock on the top of the plate so the water wouldn't get in it. And Mother would tell me to go to Grandma's to get some cream for whipping if she was going to make a cream pie or something. And everything-- Grandma had chickens. She tried to teach me to milk and I never could learn to milk. Never could. Daddy tried to teach me and Grandma said she believed she could do it. She could teach me. And I tried and tried and tried. But I could not do it. [Laugh] I was trying, I was determined, but I could not learn to milk.

Chewning: So they had chickens and hogs and cows.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Just one cow. And then of course right next to Grandma was a house, and that's where the spring was. Everybody in Brownsburg got water from that spring. I don't think that spring is there any more.

[Phone rings, but Mrs. Chittum lets the answering machine pick up.]

Chewning: So you didn't learn to milk. Did you help in the garden?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh, yes, I helped in the garden. Mostly what I did and John Layton did, Mother was-- Daddy didn't do much in the garden. And John Layton never liked garden work, and I still tease him about it. But we'd have to pick up-- there were a lot of rocks down there in that garden. So we'd have to pick up a lot of rocks. And that's what we did -- and pulled weeds.

We did a lot of weed pulling. John Layton didn't like it and he used to say, "I don't like this garden stuff. And if I ever get a garden of my own, I'm not working that old garden." But...

Chewning: [Laugh] Somebody works it because it always looks good.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, Jinx [Virginia Wade Whitesell]. Of course I've always called her Jinx, everybody up there calls her Virginia, but our family, we call her Jinx. And she's always worked a garden and loves to work the garden. But we had a garden when I lived in Staunton. And we had a big garden. I mean, a big garden. But when we moved down here, we just said we'd had enough of it.

Chewning: Now where did Mrs. Whitesell live, Virginia?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** She lived at Rockbridge Baths, she lived there. And her daddy drove the school bus out to Brownsburg. Mr. Kite Wade. And Kenny Beard's wife, Ruth, is her sister, and Bernice [Nye].

Chewning: And when did they [John Layton and Virginia] get married?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I was in the seventh grade, I think, when they got married. I'm not sure exactly what year that was. But in 1940, I was in the fourth grade, so in '41 I was in fifth—probably about 1943.

Chewning: And they got married in New Providence?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** They got married at the manse. Just at the manse, and Ruth and I went and I don't know -- Ruth and I were talking about it one time we were together not long ago, who else went. I guess, I don't know whether Mother went or whether her parents went or not. But I know Ruth and I were there at the wedding. I'm not sure what-- I guess Dr. Walthal maybe was there because he was there when Daddy died. He may have still been there. Dr. Locke White's the one that married us.

Chewning: So you did a lot of canning and things from your garden?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh, at home? Mother canned a lot and of course Grandma did too. And Mother and Grandma canned together. We didn't have freezers then either.

Chewning: Was there a cannery in Brownsburg or did you do it all at home?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, did it all at home. I don't remember a cannery being there. If it was there, it was after I left. We did it all at home. Of course, you know, we had a wood stove – I mean a coal stove. We burned coal. I remember perspiration just pouring off of Mother. I know one of the things Mother was so [excited about] -- where John Layton and Jinx's kitchen is now, it was a back porch. It was a screened in back porch. And I remember Daddy bought Mother an oil stove. It was yellow and green, it had an oven on it and everything. And in summer, that's what she cooked on in the summer time because it was cooler out there.

Chewning: Oh, on the porch?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, on that porch, the screened in porch. We had a table out there. It was kind of like, you know, kind of like a sun porch.

Chewning: And that's where she did the canning?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** That's where she did canning but up until then, she did it on the woodstove. I mean coal stove, we burned coal not wood. Grandma burned wood. We burned coal.

Chewning: Who do you remember most from growing up? Who were the people that really stand out in your memory?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well I guess the children -- the Carwell girls were there. And we had a lot of fun together too. The Carwell girls and Lou and Jude and I. We [went swimming in the creek.] Mrs. Wiseman wouldn't let us go unless she went with us – or some adult – down there at the big creek-- you know where the Carwell's lived?

Chewning: Yes.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well you cross that fence and go there in that meadow and there was a big tree and the limb like bowed out and you could swing out on that and jump. And we just shooed the cows out of the way and got on it there with the typhoid fever and whatever else was in there and had fun all afternoon! Sometimes we'd take a picnic down there with us. Mildred [Carwell] died not too long ago. She was a basketball player too. And Catherine is still living. Cat, I call her. In fact, I talked to her the other day 'cause I came home and she'd been here with a box

of tomatoes and left them for me. And her husband's dead. And another little girl that I played with, she's dead too. There weren't actually that many children there. But it was just sort of everybody. I guess the person who I really looked up to was Mrs. [Mollie Sue] Whipple, and Mrs. John Patterson. Mrs. Rosenell Patterson taught me math. And I really looked up to her, and Mr. Tom Bosworth taught me Latin. He had retired from Richmond. He taught in Richmond and then he came back to Brownsburg he taught high school there. And I really-- he was a pretty strong character builder too. [But Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Wiseman were like second parents to me. I shall never forget how good they were to me. I still miss them at times.]

Chewning: Did he [Mr. Tom Bosworth] have a store?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No that was his brother [Mr. Jim Bosworth] that had the store and the Post Office. And Mr. Tom never was married. He lived in the house where [the Frosts lived.] The house I was telling you I think is for sale [2690 Brownsburg Turnpike].

Chewning: Oh, the Frosts.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** The Frosts, yes. That's when Mr. Tom lived. At Thanksgiving or Easter or Christmas, we'd say "Mr. Tom we're not going to have any homework now for Latin are we?" And he would always shut his eyes, and he'd say, "Yes indeed, the day after a holiday is a working day and you have to prepare for it." So we had homework. No question. We had homework.

Chewning: But you learned Latin!

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, we learned Latin. That's right.

Chewning: So was there competition between the stores, between Mr. Supinger's store, and the Huffmans, and the Bosworths, and the Whitesells?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I don't really think so. Mr. Bosworth didn't have much in his. It was just more, I don't know, it was more like an old, old old store and it didn't stock very much stuff in it. You know, just a very little stuff. And of course the Supingers, I guess, and the Huffmans were more in competition down there across from each other. And then of course the Farm Store came, see. And Daddy had closed his up but then when John Layton reopened, see those others were gone. They had-- Mr. Supinger had died and the Huffmans' place had closed up. I think when John Layton opened back up. But I don't remember any, you know, hard feelings or anything like that. Maybe I just didn't pay any attention, didn't even know about it.

Chewning: Did people usually go to one or the other or did they take turns and go to one?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, I think they just did like they do now. Where somebody might sell this cheaper than that one, and another one cheaper than that one, and just bought different things from different people, I think. I just-- I don't really-- I don't have a very good memory of-- I know in our store, where everything was placed and I know what it was like and-- but I don't have a good memory of whether people bought different things at different places.

Chewning: Were you ever at Mrs. Morris' church [Friends Lighthouse Mission Church]?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh yes, oh yes. I went over there for Sunday school. I don't think they had it in morning, they had it in the afternoon but...

Chewning: So you'd go to New Providence Sunday School in the morning --

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** And then she had lots of evangelistic services and so we all went. Mrs. Morris was a dear, dear, little lady. She died such a-- had such a sad life at her death. She had, I guess now we call it Alzheimer's but back then we call it hardening of the arteries. She didn't really know much.

Chewning: Did she die in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No I think she went-- I think her son lived in Newport News. She had a son and a daughter. And her daughter, [Georgia] lived in Baltimore. And I believe her son's name was Clarence, and he lived in Newport News. And I think she died-- I think probably he took her down there and put her in a home. She was so mixed up and confused.

Chewning: How long was she in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh now that's one thing I remember early on that she was always there. And she had every room in her house [2671 Brownsburg Turnpike] named.

Chewning: What kind of names?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well like Haven Rest, and the Morris Room. And that little building right out at the back was called William Penn. And the Prayer Room was upstairs. And Quiet something-- I can't think what that one was. It was Quiet something.

Chewning: Did you go to her house?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh yeah, yes. John Layton says I went to everybody's house. He teased me. We'd talk about these things and he said, "Mother never knew where to find you. You were at somebody's house all the time. No matter whose it was!" If they said, "Come in," I went! [They would always say, "Come on in."]

Chewning: Was Mrs. Morris old?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well I thought she was old, but she wasn't old, [but I think she lived to be pretty old. Many people in Brownsburg called her "Mother Morris" or "Little Mother Morris."]

Chewning: But she was a widow and her children where grown?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh yes, grown, yeah.

Chewning: So she lived there by herself.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, she lived in that great big house by herself. Until this family came that she took in, and then they lived there.

Chewning: Did they take care of her for rent?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well, no, they just-- they really-- I don't know how to-- they just-- he worked. I think he worked at the Highway Department for a while. I think that's what he did. And she didn't work anywhere but she had those three children. But that house, when they left, was nothing like it was when they came in. It was in terrible shape.

Chewning: When was that when she started to...

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well let me see. Now that time as far as years -- she had already moved away from there when Daddy died in 1940. She wasn't there then I don't believe. I don't believe she was there then.

Chewning: Did she sell the house before she left? Did it sit empty for a while?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No the Swopes bought it. Carl Swope and Marie. They were the first people who bought it. I don't know who-- I guess they bought it from the younger of her children or whoever she left it to. Because I'd already gone then and I didn't hear much about it. She was an evangelist, too, and she preached like that.

Chewning: So you heard her preach?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh yeah, she was a real tiny, little lady but boy she could really preach. And there was a cemetery up there back of that church too. There's some people who've been buried up there. In that...

Chewning: In the yard where the Andersons live? And there are no markers?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, there're no markers.

Chewning: Were they just paupers that --

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No they were people, I think, they went to that church. I think there are about three or four of them up there. John Layton [may] know. One of them was a baby. I'm trying to think whose baby that was. It's just left me. There are a couple of people there. I think there are two or three buried up there.

Chewning: What kind of church was it?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Friends. It was called the Friends Church. And the Church of the Nazarene in Staunton bought it. And they moved it down there. And it wasn't down there very long until it burned down.

Chewning: Oh what a shame. Lou Stuart gave me a collection plate for the Museum, the Brownsburg Museum. Somehow she had this little wooden collection plate from that church.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh really?

Chewning: Yes, I think Mrs. Morris had given it to her parents – to the Wisemans – when she left. And then Lou donated it to the Museum.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh well that was nice. Yeah, that was nice.

Chewning: So we have a little memento of the church even if the building burned.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Of what I can remember, we'd sit on the porch and Mother would say to Daddy, "We ought to go over there to church tonight." She had a lot of night evangelist services. Mother would say "We ought to go over there to church tonight." And he'd say, "I don't see any need of me walking over there to that church when I can sit right here in this chair, comfortable, and hear ever word she's saying!" Of course, no air conditioning and the doors and windows were all open. And I mean she put the wrath of God right on you! She really did. And even when the Asbury church up there, when they had their lawn party. I remember one night Lou and Boyd and Earl and I had been somewhere. That was before we were married, any of us were married. And we got home and one of the four of us said – It was the night of the lawn party, and we had gotten a cantaloupe somewhere, and one of us said, "Go up there to the church and get some vanilla ice cream." So they did. And we sat there at Lou's and ate cantaloupe with that vanilla ice cream. I never did go up there to the lawn party but we did do that.

Chewning: Where were the lawn parties?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** They were up there-- I guess they have a basement to that church. I guess they did...

Chewning: It was called a lawn party even though it was inside?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Maybe so, I don't know. I never really knew. They had one every year. Every year they had a lawn party. Every year. And then another thing Brownsburg had, and I remember, John Layton said he remembered it too. The lot between us and the house next to us where Lou lived. They had a – John Layton said he didn't know what they called it. He said he thought maybe they called it a side show, he didn't know. But this group of people came and I think they came more than one year. And they put this big tent up in that yard, in that lot. And they had a, like a variety show. And they had girls with these fancy dresses on, you know, all that stuff. I remember...

Chewning: Did you go?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I don't think I went. I don't think I went, but I would just remember them being there. I told John Layton, it seemed to me like they came over to our house and got some water or something to use. I don't think they-- I don't know how many nights they were there. But I remember they came, I know one year, and maybe more than that, and put on this show. [Laugh] I don't know what kind of show it was.

Chewning: Did you always have indoor plumbing in your house?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No we didn't. We were one of the first people that got it. I mean I'm not saying we were the first. But I mean like a group of five or six got it about the same time and we were in that group. No, I remember very well when we did not because I was always afraid of snakes. And I just always wanted Mother to go with me because I was afraid I'd step on a snake or something. But no, we had an outside privy.

Chewning: And do you remember-- did you always have electricity?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes. Now Grandma and Granddaddy never had electricity.

Chewning: Oh, they didn't?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, they never did. And Daddy wanted to put electricity in that house, and we wanted to put water in the house, and they just wouldn't hear to it, just did not want it at all. So I thought I was really big the first time Grandma let me carry the lamp, because I used to spend a lot of nights with Grandma. And I thought I was really big stuff when I carried that lamp by myself. It was fun growing up there. It was fun.

Chewning: Oh, it must have been.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** It was fun.

Chewning: And it sounds like you had great friends.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** We did. We did. And Halloween we had fun on Halloween. We'd take somebody's chair off of their porch and put it on somebody else's porch, you know, that

kind of stuff, nothing bad, but move it all around. And it was just-- we had a good time. And there in that lot, in the winter time. I had a wool snow pants -- snowsuit, and I'd stay out in that lot and sleigh ride until my legs would chap, and had ice hanging on the pants. I'd go in a get warm and right back out there again. Go all the way down to that creek.

Chewning: Yeah, that's a pretty good hill.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh. Now, I'm not sure, but I think that was some kin -- maybe that was Uncle Letcher's son that lived back there. I guess that's where Leroy [Stewart] lives now down at the bottom of that hill. Pitt Pleasants used to live down there, and he had lots of kids. Boy, we had fun with them. Wynonna was one of them, and Dickie. Dickie lived in Lexington. I think Dickie was pretty well thought of up there. Vivian was one of them. There was a whole bunch of them. I used to love to go down there and play.

Chewning: Were they your age? Some of those were your age?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh. There's always one. Uh-huh. There was always somebody around there that was my age. The Carwells, they had a big family so they had them all ages, and we had a lot of fun with them.

Chewning: Do you remember when their house burned?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh, yes, uh-huh, I sure do. I sure do remember that. You could see it from our upstairs window. Mr. Roscoe Carwell's mother, and my grandmother [Martha Dudley] were sisters. And Miss Maggie Lotts that lived in Newport, some of her people go to-- no, who is that that goes to your all's church, New Providence Church. Davis. Mary Glenn Davis. Aunt Maggie lived in that house where they live, and that was grandma's sister. And Roy Lotts, his daddy was Grandma's brother. It was a big family, I think. Who knows.

Chewning: What about Christmas? You said you always had...

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** We had cedar trees, and I don't remember who got the tree. I guess Daddy did when we were little, but then after I got big enough, there again, I guess that's why Lou and I were so close. We did everything together, and Mrs. Wiseman and Lou and Jude and I would go get the tree, and we'd go either up on the hill back, way back up in there [back of the school], but then a couple of times Carl took us out there as you go past where Mary Patterson lives, up that hill as you go into Raphine. He'd take us out there and let us out and we'd scrounge those hills and we'd cut our own. And it was always a cedar tree. We didn't really have big

Christmases though. I mean nothing like kids do now. I remember one year I got a bicycle, but it was a used one. Of course I didn't know it was used, but I found out later. I knew later as I got older. But I got a Betsy Wetsy doll I remember one Christmas, and a nurse's kit, a doctor's kit, and then I got a real pretty doll, a big doll, one Christmas. They used to have, at New Providence, what they called the Chrysanthemum Show. And they had a meal, and it was a big, big affair. And upstairs in one of those rooms at the top of the steps, one of those rooms has a little platform like in it. I can't think what room that was. But they had a wedding, a doll wedding there one time. And Lou's and Jude's doll, a bride doll, was the bride, and then all the other little girls there had their dolls-- my doll was one of the bridesmaids. Now Mary Lotts made those dresses and they were rust colored, and the hat was, you tied it, it's tied down there, and the hat was rust and under it was sort of an olive green, under the hat. And something happened to that doll. Jinx said she's looked, and looked, and looked. I thought it was upstairs and something's happened to it. That makes me sick.

Chewning: So Mary Lotts made dresses, matching dresses for all the bridesmaids?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** For all those dolls, uh-huh.

Chewning: And that was part of the Chrysanthemum Show?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh. And her daughter works up here at Mrs. Rowes and has for years, a cashier. And one night I went in there five or six years ago and she said-- and it was after her mother died. And she said, "Guess what I found?" She said, "I found a picture of that doll wedding, and I'm going to bring it and let you see it." And she did, she brought it and let me see it. And I saw my doll.

Chewning: Oh, that's a shame it got lost.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yeah, I know it. The way I love dolls, it is!

Chewning: I wonder if anybody has any pictures of Mrs. Morris's church. Have you ever seen a picture of that?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, I haven't. I don't know of anybody that would have any of it. That would be good if they did. I can't think of anybody there in Brownsburg that would have been there long enough. People didn't take many pictures, you know, back then. I don't know of anybody who would have one.

Chewning: Did you always have a phone?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** We always had a phone. I guess mainly because of Daddy's business, you know.

Chewning: Oh, right.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** We had to have a phone. It was on the wall, and it was, you know, you'd do this [demonstrates cranking motion] and tell the operator two shorts and a long, or whatever it was.

Chewning: So they would call, and then he would take the hearse and go get the body?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh, Uh-huh, yeah. Yeah, sure would, and bring them back.

Chewning: Were there ready-made caskets? Did you have caskets in your house?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes, there were, and we got-- the caskets would come into the depot over at Fairfield and Daddy had a truck and we'd go over there and get the caskets from the depot over there. And he made a lot of long-lasting friends. The one fellow was a casket salesman and he ran the Richmond Woodworking Company. They made the caskets. And his wife and Mother became real good friends, and we stayed friends. In fact his daughter, who is my age, she and her husband were up here about six weeks ago and visited us. And we made lots of good friends through those people because then there were no motels and they'd stay at our house. They'd spend the night. See, the casket salesman would spend the night. They'd always make our stop last. Daddy always said it was because Mother was such a good cook. And then out there where you all live [Sterrett Road] that was a special place too, because that's where our school played baseball out there in the field. And man, we, I mean we'd get out of school we'd almost run the whole way to get out there before the game started, unless we could hook a ride with somebody. Sometimes we could hook a ride.

Chewning: Was it the high school baseball team that was playing out there?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh, boys, um hmm, boys. I guess we probably weren't interested in the ball game. We were just interested in the boys! [Laugh] I imagine that's what it was.

Chewning: Was John Layton a good baseball player?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yeah, he played.

Chewning: What's the most vivid memory of an event you have?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Of an event?

Chewning: What sorts of things happened that stand out in your memory?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** You know, not anything really spectacular ever happened in Brownsburg, it really didn't. It was just kind of always a laid back place, and nothing-- I guess there was no dance places, and no, you know, nothing like that. I think the saddest event though, I don't know whether you'd call it an event, the saddest event was during the war whenever we'd see that government car come through we knew somebody had been killed because that's the way they came, and then everybody knew what it looked like. You could spot it a mile away, and as soon as you'd see it you thought, "Who's next?" you know. So, but I don't-- as far as events there's just not, not much big stuff that went on there really.

Chewning: Your grandparents, did they have relatives who were in the Civil War or have memories of the Civil War? Did anyone ever talk about that?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, I don't think so. I don't think there were any that I can-- and I don't think even on my daddy's side I don't think there were.

Chewning: Were you related to [Michael] Miley the photographer?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yes. That's what I was going to tell you. This Mr. Fishwick that did the book, and I hate that I don't have that book. Doug wanted to take it home with him. Our son lives in Roanoke, and he wanted to take it home with him because there were a lot of pictures of Daddy in there, and I have some that I'll show you before you go of Daddy that Uncle Mike did. But I'm not sure that any of them were-- but in that book, now, that might tell you something in there. Because see, Uncle Mike was Robert E. Lee's photographer, so it might be something in that-- I think the name of it is, "The Life and Works of Michael Miley." I'm not sure. It's been about 25, or maybe more years than that ago, Washington Lee had an honor, did something to honor him, and they had a reception and all, and we went. And they had all these slides on the screen of

Daddy and some of the others that he had done. So it might be something in that book. But none in the Civil War I don't believe, that I can think of.

Chewning: Tell me a little bit about what you remember about the black school and the white school.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** You know there wasn't any problem with that. I mean we all played together. We all played together. And like I said, we always went to their little graduation programs they had up there. And John Layton drove the school bus after they started going to Lylburn Downing up in Lexington.

Chewning: Oh, he did?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** He drove the school bus, and I don't think there was any problem at all.

Chewning: That's my recollection: that we all played together all summer, and then come fall, we just went to different schools, and that's just the way it was.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yeah, that's the way it was, uh-huh. That's the way it was. I remember, like I told you earlier, you know, we all played over there on the bank together, and played with the Pleasants children down-- now up there on the turn where I was telling you where Will Gilmore's house is, you said the one that has the balcony [2613 Brownsburg Turnpike]. Will and Mary were the custodians up at Brownsburg for a while, but when I was a little girl growing up, Will and Mary had an ice cream store there.

Chewning: Oh, in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh, and my Granddaddy Dudley -- I had long curls, yellow curls. Mother would wrap them around her finger and pull them down like this [demonstrates], and they used to just tangle up, and tangle up, and tangle up. And when she'd try to brush them, I would cry. I would cry. And she'd say, "If you don't stop that crying I'm going to spank you with this hairbrush!" And I'm sure she didn't hurt me, but I wouldn't stop, because it was hurting and she'd take that brush on my leg and do like that [demonstrates]. Well, if my granddaddy happened to be anywhere near he'd just grab me up and he'd say, "Just come on and go with Granddaddy," and he'd take me up to Will and Mary's and get me ice cream. [Laugh] They had that ice cream store for a good long-- for a long while.

Chewning: Did they make the ice cream?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I don't know. I asked John Layton one time if he remembered, and he said he didn't know either whether they did or not, but they probably did.

Chewning: Was it in their house?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yeah, it was down in that bottom part.

Chewning: And then they lived upstairs?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh, uh-huh, in that bottom part.

Chewning: Did you ever hear anyone talk about Virginia Gilmore, or did you know Virginia Gilmore?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yeah, uh-huh.

Chewning: Someone told me she had been a midwife too.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Now let's see now. I hadn't thought about her for a long time. I'm trying to think where she lived.

Chewning: I think she might have lived out on Dry Hollow Road.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yeah, I believe she did, uh-huh.

Chewning: Was she related to those Gilmores who had the ice cream store?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I don't know. I don't know whether she was or not. I don't know. Hmm. I had forgotten all about her, but I remember now. I mean I can picture her in my mind.

Chewning: What was the other midwife's name?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Aunt Mariah Fisher. She lived over there on the hill [Sterrett Road], as you go up the hill, she lived in a little house. I think that house has been torn down there now. She lived in one of those little houses on the left as you drove up. Another thing that happened in Brownsburg was kind of a-- it was scary, but it was, after it was all over then people-- in fact I saw him at his sister's, the little Carwell boy. I saw him at Mildred's funeral and I was talking about it. Herb, you know, Herb Carwell? There was a culvert that ran down there in front of their house. It was this big, big rain came, and Herb must have, I believe Herb told me he was about two, or two and half. And they were out there playing in the water and Herb slipped and went through that culvert and came out on the other end. [Laugh]

Chewning: Oh, gosh. Oh, my gosh.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** We still tease him. I asked him the last time I saw him, I said, "Have you been going through any culverts lately?" It was so funny. [Laugh]

Chewning: Oh, I know I had asked you about if you remembered when their house burned. Do you remember when they built the Sears house?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh, uh-huh.

Chewning: Was that a big deal in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** It wasn't as exciting then, I don't believe, as it is now, you know. Since then it's been in the-- I remember one time it was in the paper about that Sears house. In fact I was telling somebody the other day, they were asking me something about Carwell, and I said they're the ones who lived in the house that Sears Roebuck made.

Chewning: Where did they live while they were rebuilding the house?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** They lived there on the corner where Jo Heath lives [2693 Brownsburg Turnpike]. And that's why I said Lou, and Jude, and the Carwell girls, all of us were right there together, you know.

Chewning: How long did it take them to rebuild that house?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Now that I don't remember. I don't remember.

Chewning: Do you remember when they moved back in?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I don't remember that. Now in the house where Lou lived [2651 Brownsburg Turnpike], there was a family of Wades [who lived there].

<audio break>

Chewning: You just mentioned that there was a family of Wades living in the house where Lou lived last.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** And they had boys John Layton's age, and then there was this one little girl. And then they moved, I think, first to Lexington, and then they moved to Staunton. But she and I used to make mud pies together. I remember one time we put eggs in it. [John Layton and the boys were always shooting marbles.]

Chewning: Well, I'll bet your mother was mad you wasted an egg!

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well, it was actually at her house we did this, we were making the mud pies. And that's something else. You couldn't do it now in these days because the school wouldn't let you, but back when I was in the first grade you had more freedom than you have now, and Mrs. [Mollie Sue] Whipple was from Goshen, and so she took me, and two other little girls, home with her to spend the [weekend]. And I mean we had a good time! We dressed up in her evening dresses, and we had makeup. Everywhere I went I got car sick, and Mother had gone to town and she had bought me a coat. It was in the spring. She bought [me] a new coat and we all had new shoes, and going through Goshen Pass, [I got sick]. And, oh, I was just so upset. I cried. [Mrs. Whipple] said, "Don't worry about it my mother will get it fixed." So sure enough, we got there and Mrs. Hull cleaned my coat up, and it was okay. And we went to church on that Sunday morning then, and then she brought us back Sunday afternoon before-- so we'd be ready to go to school the next morning, you know.

Chewning: Did you get sick on the way home?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I didn't get sick on the way home. [Laugh] But Mother was famous for telling me to hold my head out the window. Put my head out the window. Shoot, when I told Mother I got sick she said, "Did you hold your head out the window? Did you hold your head out the window?" [Laugh] I said, "I don't know. I was so sick."

Chewning: Tell me a little bit more about your mother's family. She had a little sister?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mother was the middle child. She had an older brother, and he was in World War I, Uncle Bill, and then she had a younger sister who I loved. Auntie Bee we called her. Her name was Genevieve, but everybody called her Bee, so we called her Auntie Bee. And they lived a while with Grandma and Granddaddy up there, and then Uncle Ray worked for Daddy for a while in the store, and as an undertaker, and then they came to Staunton and he worked in at Reed's Grocery Store down here. And then he and another fellow decided they were going to go to work for the railroad. So they went to Wilmington, Delaware and they spent the rest of their lives in Wilmington. We went faithfully to visit them. When the kids were little, Earl and I, all we could do was just raise kids, you know. We didn't have any extras, and so I'd take the two children and go up there, and we'd spend ten days with Auntie Bee and Uncle Ray, and have a really good time. One time I went on the train, but then I got really brave and started driving. So that was fun. But Auntie Bee was the youngest. Uncle Ray was 21 when he married her, 20 or 21, and she was 15. And they had a basketball game, it was in the winter time, January. And she was the-- I think back then they called it the point maker on the team. And Grandma and Granddaddy had gotten her a new winter coat. They had a basketball game that night, and Uncle Ray had talked her into running off with him and getting married. So she asked Grandma if she could wear her new coat to school that day, and Grandma said, "No, that coat is not for school it's for Sunday." Some way she talked her into it anyway, and Auntie Bee wanted the coat because she knew she was going to run away. So she wore the coat and up there at the school, I think that stile is still there where you cross over and go down to where the Driver's live. It's like a pig sty, you know, no ups and down. So she went over that fence, and she and Uncle Ray had made it up. And she went up and over that fence, and went out that road [Hays Creek Road] going to toward Mrs. Jen Wade's place [Level Loop at 567 Hays Creek Road]. Somebody they knew lived out there in that little house just before you get there and that's where he was to pick her up, and he did. And they went to Hagerstown and got married. And so the ball team lost the game that night. And Auntie Bee never went back to school. [Laugh]

Chewning: She went before the game instead of after.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** She went that day. She went to school, and that morning, that morning she didn't go to school.

Chewning: Oh, she didn't go to school.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** She just went on.

Chewning: And word didn't get back down to your grandmother?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** And word didn't get down. And Mother said, and well Auntie Bee said too, she said, "I really thought Papa" -- they called Granddaddy "Papa" -- "I really thought Papa was going to kill him," because he said, "If I ever get my hands on him." But he ended up they moved in with them and stayed until they got a place to go. And they had three lovely children. They were married 60-some years, 65, 66 years. Both of them are dead now. So it turned out okay.

Chewning: A happy ending.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** A happy ending. Mother said it was tough going there for a while until they got Granddaddy calmed down. And Granddaddy worked over at Fordwick, at the-- what did they call that place? I've heard him say it many times. It was like a-- I can't think now what it was, but it seemed to me like it had something to do with rocks.

Chewning: What's Fordwick?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Fordwick? Over at Goshen, that's the name of the little town, Fordwick. Down near Augusta Springs. And he worked over there, and then in his later life, his health-- he had a bad heart that's what killed him. But he just did mostly day work for farms, you know, cut corn, and worked in new ground and that kind of stuff. And Grandma took in washing and they just were happy. They didn't want a whole lot, and of course after Daddy and Mother got married, Daddy did a lot helping them, you know. He would have helped them more, but they just didn't want it. They just did not want help.

Chewning: Well, did Auntie Bee get married before your mother?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, no. Mother got married in 1921 I think. I found her wedding certificate the other day. It was 1921, I think, is when she got married. Auntie Bee, I believe, was nine years younger than Mother. I think that's the way it was, and Uncle Bill was older than mother.

Chewning: And where did your mother get married?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mother got married to my daddy in Staunton. That house has been torn down, too. Aunt Mag, the one I was telling you that lived at Newport, she worked in Staunton for the Hites, a family of Hites. They were that Hites Liniment, and Drug Store and all in Staunton. And she worked for them. They had a big, big beautiful home there on the corner right across from where the old parking garage sat. And she got married there at that house. At that big house is where she got married.

Chewning: I think I've covered all my questions. Should we stop the tape for a minute and then you can look at your notes and see if there are things that...

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Okay. I believe you covered everything.

<audio break>

Chewning: We had stopped the tape for a minute while Mrs. Chittum looked over her notes again, and she has a few more stories to tell us. Could you talk a little bit about Mrs. Whipple, and staying with her?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mrs. Whipple lived diagonally across the road from us [2685 Brownsburg Turnpike], and when Fred was working in Richmond for a while, Freddie was little, a little boy, and Mrs. Whipple didn't like to stay at night by herself, so I would go over at night and spend the night with her, and then I'd get up in the morning and run back across the road and get dressed for school, and then I'd do the same thing again. He'd go and sometimes he'd be gone all week, but sometimes he wouldn't be gone but three or four days, but a lot of times it was all week.

Chewning: Who was he working for?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I think it was the IRS he was working for in Richmond.

Chewning: And about how old were you then when you would go over there?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** You know, I was talking to Mrs. Whipple the other day on the phone and I was asking her. I was trying to figure out about how old I was, and I think I must have been about in the, maybe, the seventh grade, or maybe the first or second year of high school. See, we didn't have the eighth grade then. So it was somewhere in that time, maybe first year of high school, something like that.

Chewning: And Freddie was just a little boy?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Freddie was little, uh-huh. He was a little boy. I don't know exactly how old, but he was a little boy.

Chewning: Who else did you baby sit for?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well, I babysat some-- I called it babysitting. I'm sure Mrs. Williams wouldn't leave me by myself because I was young, too. But she would put Joe, who is their oldest child, out in the yard in a playpen, and then I'd go watch him while she was busy in the house doing something, or whatever she had to do. And I would just play out there with him in the playpen. I called it babysitting. [And I think Dora Stevenson Franklin – Dan's wife – worked for them then.]

Chewning: And this [Joe] was Dr. Williams' son?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Dr. Joe Williams. He delivered both of my children.

Chewning: Oh, he did?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Dr. Joe delivered both of my children, Doug and Tammy. He was a saint.

Chewning: You babysat his little boy and then he delivered your babies.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** That's exactly right, and he sure did. And I stayed in contact with them and visited them when they were in nursing homes.

Chewning: How long did they live in Brownsburg, the Williams?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well, let me see. Now, they came around 1940. They weren't there when Daddy died because either he had just come, or I don't believe he was there yet. And they weren't married when he got there. They married after he got there. And I think they must have come there around maybe 1941, something like that. Because I think he-- about that time. It was either '40 or '41 when they came and then they were married the following May.

Chewning: Was Mrs. Williams from around Brownsburg, or did he know her before.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, she was from Richmond. And I didn't know who it was at the time, but when I was going to Mary Baldwin, of course I was older than most of the Mary Baldwin girls, and there was this girl there [and her] name was Louise Tabb, and I knew Mrs. Williams was a Tabb, and so it was Mrs. Williams' niece, and she is now Freddie's [Whipple] wife.

Chewning: That's a nice story. And was there a doctor in Brownsburg in that house before Dr. Williams?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh, yes, there was. Dr. Bailey was there.

Chewning: Oh, that's right you had mentioned Dr. Bailey.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** And there was a doctor, I think, I kind of believe Dr. Green maybe delivered John Layton. I'm not sure. There was a Dr. Green there. Maybe he delivered me.

Chewning: Someone told me that Dr. Bailey had an airplane.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh, he did.

Chewning: That was one of the biggest surprises to me.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I had forgotten that, but he did.

Chewning: Someone in Brownsburg had an airplane.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Yeah, that's right. He did.

Chewning: And he landed it out along Hayes Creek there before...

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I don't remember that, but he did have an airplane. I do remember Daddy talking about that.

Chewning: You mentioned also that Mrs. Jen Wade was someone that stuck out in your memory.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Jen Wade, uh-huh. She taught Sunday School and then of course she was in the choir, and helped with the choir. I don't know, I just always thought she was just a very, just a lady that I admired a lot. She's so-- it seemed like she was just such a nice person.

Chewning: Did she teach you in Sunday School?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No. Eleanor [Wade Marchant] did though. Eleanor did, and Miss Sally Reid McClung did, and Miss Carrie Lucas, and Mr. McNutt was our-- he headed one of our Departments, Junior I think. And I can't recall some of the others. But I loved Sunday School. And I loved to go to Bible School in the summer time. I looked forward to doing that.

Chewning: Was Bible School one week then?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I believe it was two weeks.

Chewning: In the morning?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh, in the morning.

Chewning: And you got to ride the bus.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh, got to ride the bus, and then you'd sit out there on the front steps, have your snack, and it was always homemade cookies, and some farmer, which you could not do now, but some farmer furnished the milk, ice cold milk.

Chewning: Right, couldn't do that these days, it's [got to be] pasteurized milk.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** That's right. Got to have everything sterilized, the cups and everything sterilized. But you didn't then, and it was fun.

Chewning: Because you normally had to-- you got to walk to school, so riding the bus must have been a treat.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I walked to school, and we came home for lunch. Mother had hot [lunch most every day.]

Chewning: Oh, you did?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Mother had a hot lunch because [Daddy was always there for lunch.] And I wanted to pack my lunch. Mother kept saying, "You don't have a lunch box. You don't have lunch box," because she had wanted me to come home. And so one Christmas my grandmother, probably, I don't know whether she could have afforded it or not, but anyway, one Christmas she gave a lunch box, and I'd like to have that too, but I don't.

Chewning: So did you get to pack your lunch everyday, or just...

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** So I got to pack it some.

Chewning: But not everyday?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Not everyday. And one thing, a little story. Mother made me wear galoshes, those rubber galoshes. If they even called for rain I had to put those things on, and I just hated them. And so I would take them off, and when I'd walk up there past – going up past where that big house is there on the corner, there was a kind of a little bridge-like thing, and I would put those galoshes under that bridge. Well, I made a mistake by telling John Layton that that's what I did. And after I had told him, then he used it for blackmail because anytime he wanted me to do anything then, and I'd say I wasn't going to do it. It was just some little something he wanted me to do, and I'd say, "No, I'm not going to do it," and he said, "I'm going to tell Mother you put your galoshes under that bridge." So I always had to end up doing it. [Laugh] I don't know whether I ever got up nerve enough to say, "Well, go ahead and tell her." I don't know if I did or not. [Laugh] But I do remember putting those galoshes under there, and then picking them up. And I always worried about it because I worried that I'd forget them and leave them under there. When I'd go home in the afternoon, see I'd pick them up. You know, I was like, "Suppose I forget those things?"

Chewning: Where was the little bridge?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** It was right when you pass that house going up to the school [2685 Brownsburg Turnpike]. It was kind of a little [covering over this little gulley.]

Chewning: Where Mrs. Whipple lived?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh, and it was kind of a little dip there, and they just had kind of a little, I don't know whether you'd call it a bridge or not, but it was just a little thing that you walked over. Of course, I told Mother about it later, you know. Mother and I used to sit and I'd tell her those things. I said, "I hid my galoshes. I didn't wear them to school. I hid them."

Chewning: You finally confessed.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** [Laugh] Yeah.

Chewning: And another way that she supported herself after your father died was taking in borders?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Only Mr. Huffman.

Chewning: And who was he?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** He ran the service station. Elmer Huffman ran the service station before Roy took it over. Before Roy ran it, Elmer Huffman ran it.

Chewning: Oh, in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh.

Chewning: Oh, so he had lived in Lexington.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh. He lived in Lexington.

Chewning: So he would live at your house and then...

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Uh-huh in the week. Sometime he'd go back during the week, but you know, he might stay a couple of nights, two or three nights, but he had a room there, and he came up there and ate lunch.

Chewning: So he would close he service station and come up and have lunch, or did he have someone who worked there?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, I think Mr. Wiseman worked there then. Yeah, Mr. Wiseman worked there then. That's before we went to work at the Farm Store.

Chewning: And did your family have someone who worked for you when they had the store open?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** No, just Mother helped, and Daddy, and my uncle, I told you that, my mother's sister's husband, he helped. He helped Daddy at the funeral doings and everything.

Chewning: Well, Mrs. Chittum, are there other stories you'd like to tell me?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I don't think so -- I think I've told you everything that I can think of.

Chewning: Well, your memory's fabulous.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I hope I keep it. I hope I keep it.

Chewning: I'm so happy that you...

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Sometimes, you know here like, "What did I do with this?"

Chewning: I do that all the time.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** You know, I was reading this little thing the other day, and it said this lady would go to the bottom of the steps and she said, "Was I going up or coming down?" so sometimes I can't remember anything, but I do have a pretty good memory, I think.

Chewning: Well, we certainly appreciate your time, and thank you so much for talking with us.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Well, I really enjoyed it. I think it's just wonderful that-- I played in that house where the Museum is many times.

Chewning: Did you really?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** That's where one of the little girls lived that went home with Mrs. Whipple for the weekend.

Chewning: Oh, who lived there?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Dunaways lived there, and Beulah, her sister, carried the mail and we called her Doodie. Her name was Elizabeth. She's dead. And they lived there. And she and Tootsie Wade and I were the ones that went home with Mrs. Whipple.

Chewning: And what was your name?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** My name was "Pooky." Everybody in Brownsburg called me "Pooky."

Chewning: Pooky, Doodie and Tootsie? [Laugh]

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** And now Mrs. Whipple still does. She calls me quite often and as soon as she says "Pooky," I know exactly who it is. And when anybody calls me Pooky they'll say-- sometime somebody will call and say, "Pooky," and I don't know who it is. I say, "I don't know who you are, but I know you are from Brownsburg," because nobody down here knows that name.

Chewning: Pooky, that's funny, yep. What was John Layton's nickname?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** He didn't have one.

Chewning: He didn't have one?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I don't think they named me for a long time. I mean a couple weeks and Mother said, "You know, we've got to..." they had Ann picked out because of Daddy's mother, and she said, "We've got to name this baby," and she said-- Mother told us many times, she said, "He was just looking over the cradle and he said, 'Well, let's just call her Pooky,'" so that's what it...

Chewning: So you were Pooky before you were Marjorie.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** That's right, so that was just stuck.

Chewning: Where did Marjorie come from?

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** I have no idea. I told Mother so many times, I said, "Mother, why in the world would you think of naming me that when your name was Mary? You could have named me Mary Ann, Margaret Ann." And her mother's name was Martha, Grandma was Martha. But she picked out this Marjorie, and now Marjorie it's not-- I get Margie all the time, so, it's done now.

Chewning: Well, again, thank you so much.

**Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** Oh, you're welcome.

[End of Tape2, ]

**Post script provided by Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum:** [And thank you for asking me to share some of my memories of Brownsburg with you. Although I have not lived there for many years, I am able to keep up with some of the happenings there through my brother and sister-in-law [John Layton and Virginia Whitesell]. It's always good to go back there and see the changes that are taking place. I truly hope the changes will not change the character of the village that I loved and called "home" a long time ago, because Brownsburg will always be part of who I am. And I am glad I grew up there.]

January 2008

Continued Interview with Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum

Chewning: Today is January the 17<sup>th</sup>. My name is Isabelle Chewning, and I'm back to re-interview Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum. Can you just tell me your name so we'll see if it's picking up your voice?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Oh. Marjorie Ann, I was Whitesell now Chittum. Marjorie Ann Whitesell Chittum.

Chewning: Mrs. Chittum had some great stories that she told me after we turned the tape off another time and then also at my house, so I wanted to see if I could get her to recount some of those great stories, again, on tape. And we were just talking about a family in Brownsburg that I hadn't heard very much about before, the Carter family. Could you tell me where they lived, and...

**Marjorie Chittum:** Okay. The Carters were a black family, and Mr. Carter, his name was Press. It was Preston, but everybody called him Press, and his wife's name was Hallie. And the boys were a lot older than I was, yeah, I think even older than John Layton [Whitesell], probably. I know they were. And one of them was Sam, and one was Roger, and Albert, and then Hunter was the youngest. And Roger lived in Staunton, and it was really odd when our son, Doug, was in high school in Staunton, it was after the schools were integrated, and he came home one day and he said, "Mom, there's the nicest boy in my class, and he said his daddy's from Brownsburg." And I said, "Well, who is it?" And he said, "Well, his name's the same as mine. His name's Doug Carter. And he says he lives here in Staunton." And I said, "What's his daddy's name?" And so then Doug didn't know. So the next day he asked him and he said his name was Roger. And so I said, "Yeah. I know. He lived just two houses below us." So then Doug Carter went back to tell his daddy that he knew somebody from Brownsburg. So he and Doug Carter, our son Doug and Doug Carter became really good friends. And Doug was a, Doug Carter, was a great big boy and a football player for Lee High, and then he went onto college and graduated. And he just retired, I think, last year I talked to him, maybe year before last, and he had retired from teaching. Said he was just going to take life easy now.

Chewning: That's great. And where did the Carters live?

**Marjorie Chittum:** The Carters lived the second house down from us, but that house has been torn down. It was a little house. A little, just a little frame house, very small, and it was between the house that, I think, maybe the people that I-- Mr. Tom Bosworth used to live there, but the last people I knew were the Frosts. It was between the Frost house [2690 Brownsburg Turnpike] and Letha Swisher's [Green's] house [2682 Brownsburg Turnpike]. And it was just a little small house,

and that's where those people lived. And a couple of those people, when my daddy was in the undertaking business, a couple of those boys worked for Daddy just kind of part time when he needed them.

Chewning: What kind of work did they do?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Well, when Daddy -- of course you know Daddy was a funeral director. And they would just do odd jobs like when caskets would come in, you know, they would help to unload them, or when they had to do cemetery work and go set up the chairs, and the tent, and take the lowering device and all that, helped just do that kind of. That's the only thing they did. They were really nice. And then Hunter was the youngest one. Well, Hallie raised-- she had two little grandchildren she raised there. The little girl I played with a lot, Hallie Mae. And then Hunter was the youngest boy. He was a really, really nice boy. And he married Isabel [Sites]. What was Isabel? Stevenson? Isabel Stevenson, that's who he married. And Hunter died really young, very young. It was very sad. People from Brownsburg really liked Hunter, but he died very young. I don't think they even had any children. And then Isabel's sister's name was Dora, and she married Dan Franklin. And she worked for Dr. Joe and Mrs. Williams for years and years and years. And was just like one of their family in fact.

Chewning: Taking care of their children? Is that what she did?

**Marjorie Chittum:** She took care of the children, and she did the cooking. She just did, as Mrs. Williams said, "She just did everything." She just did everything. She was with them in Brownsburg, and then she moved down here [to Staunton] with them and they lived -- the first place they lived was on Selma Boulevard. And then my stepfather, Hugh McNutt built the Williams' house over in the other end of town, and Dora was over there with them all those years. And she was just with them until she was not able to be of any help anymore. She had, I think she had arthritis and just was not well. So she didn't work full time, but she went everyday. I mean, she just lived -- she just was one of them, really. She came everyday.

Chewning: What did Hunter [Carter] die of that he died so young?

**Marjorie Chittum:** You know, now I don't remember that. I don't remember why, what was wrong with Hunter. I know he was very young. He was a really nice looking black boy, and though he was just such a nice -- I really didn't know the older ones that well, but I knew Hunter and Albert better than the others. Because when the others were -- when I should have been knowing them I wasn't old enough too really -- I knew them, but I didn't know that much about them.

Chewning: Uh-huh. They were more someone who worked for your dad than someone -- than your contemporaries.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Yes. That's right. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. But Hunter was the youngest, but he was really a nice person, really a nice person. And everybody just thought he and Isabel made such a nice couple.

Chewning: I had asked Isabel [Sites] if I could interview her about her memories of Brownsburg and she said, "Oh, I don't really remember much. I lived there until I was six and then I moved to Bluefield, West Virginia and I remember more about Bluefield." But she didn't want to be interviewed, I guess.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Yeah. I didn't know, it was just, I think it was somebody else you asked me about when I knew them and I told you I just, it was just kind of they were always there, and I just don't have any recollection of exactly when Isabel and Dora showed up. But I know they were always together and they were really pretty girls, really. And really they just always looked so nice. And they were always -- had a happy -- they were just, just really friendly and nice girls, and everybody just thought Dora and Isabel were-- they were just really special.

Chewning: When Isabel and Hunter got married then did they move out on the hill on Sterrett Road?

**Marjorie Chittum:** You know, I just-- I believe they did, but I don't remember exactly where they lived. But I kind of think they did live over on that hill. I believe they did because I don't have any recollection.

Chewning: Now, there's a Louis Carter who lives on Sterrett Road now. Do you know what his connection to that family would be?

**Marjorie Chittum:** I don't know whether they had any children or not. I just-- I don't remember. It's -- some things are so vivid in my mind, and then some things are vague. I mean, people will say something about it, and I think, "Oh, yeah. I remember that," but then when I go to get into the detail of it, it won't come, you know. I just can't put it together. So I don't really know whether they had any children or not. I don't know because I don't even remember how long they were married. But I know when he died it was a real shock to Brownsburg that he had died so young, so young.

Chewning: Was there a funeral in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Oh, I'm sure it was. I don't have any idea, but I'm sure it was.

Chewning: I'm skipping around.

**Marjorie Chittum:** That's okay. That's okay.

Chewning: Just remembering the stories that I wanted to get on the tape. But you had told me a story about riding with Winifred Beard.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Oh, uh-huh. Yeah. Winnie and I were really good friends. She was a year ahead of me in school, but we were really good friends. And the Beards really, at that time, I don't who lives up there now, maybe nobody does because I don't -- I've never heard of it, but they had a little swimming pool in their yard. And so I used to go out to Winnie's and get in the pool. But one Sunday afternoon, Mr. Beard had horses, and he was quite a horse person. I remember those riding pants that you wear. I remember those. And so Winnie asked him if we could ride the horses. And he said, "Sure." So he got them all saddled up. Well, I knew nothing about a horse because I'd never been on a horse. Maybe one time, I think, maybe. I think, maybe one time when I spent the -- I used to spend some time with Ruth Beard and Virginia [Whitesell], her sister, and they of course, Ruth, they were all riders. And they used to have horses up at Camp Maxwellton and another camp up there. I can't think of the name of it [Camp Okihawa]. And I rode a horse maybe one or two times, but I'd never ridden a horse. So Mr. Beard got the two horses all ready, and we rode out the road that goes from New Providence back to Pisgah. Not on the Pisgah Road, but just that side road. That's where we rode. And we were just riding along talking and we went-- oh, we'd gone out there, oh, almost, I guess, pretty much half way out there to where you get on that other road where Gene Buchanan lived [763 Hays Creek Road], and we turned the horses around and came back. And we got -- it was right along in there about where Linda Beard [Wood], where that house-- where they built that [1082 New Providence Road]. It was along in there. And the horse that I was on just flopped down in the road and it scared me to death. And I really think it scared Winnie too. But it just got down in the road and just kind of rolled, and it kept rolling its head around and all. And of course I was just screaming because I didn't know what was going on. And so Winnie said -- it wasn't very far, see from there to-- so Winnie said, "You stay here with the horse, and I'll ride to get Daddy." So that's what she did. That was the longest -- I don't know how ever many -- how long it took her, but it seemed like two days that I sat there beside of that horse a-rolling and a-groaning and a-carrying on. And Mr. Beard came, and he was so nice. He'd seen that -- and I was crying, and he said, "Now, you couldn't help it. Just don't think one thing about that now. Just don't worry about it." And so I must have been 16-17, 16 or something like that. And so he said, "Just don't worry about it." And he got the horse, got it up, and got it home, and I just worried, and worried and worried. And the next day Mr. Beard came and told me that -- he said, "Now, I have something to tell you, and before I tell you I don't want you upset over it because you couldn't help it." This was on a Sunday afternoon that we rode. And he said, "The horse died,"

but he said, "I didn't know it, but the horse was pregnant," and he said, "I didn't know that it would hurt." He knew that the horse was pregnant, but he said, "I didn't know that it would -- I knew you all wouldn't be riding it fast," you know, and he said, "It's just something happened and it had nothing to do with what you were doing." He was just so nice. But, anyway, he got that old horse up and got it back, but I have not been on a horse since, and don't plan on getting on one either. Because I really didn't -- I don't think I really wanted to be on that one, but Winnie wanted to go so I just said okay. I was game for it.

Chewning: Well, I interviewed Richard Beard, and he told me that he and Ruth [Beard] used to always ride together in pairs classes at the horse shows.

**Marjorie Chittum:** They probably did. They probably did.

Chewning: That she was a good rider.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Oh, yeah, she was. And they used to have those horse shows up there at the school on the school ground.

Chewning: Ah, in Brownsburg?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh. They had a couple. Oh, they had several of them up there on the red clay area beside of the stucco building. They had several horse shows up there.

Chewning: Did you go?

**Marjorie Chittum:** I went. That was later, you know, I believe that was -- maybe it was before I was married. I don't remember, but yeah, I went. They had a couple of them up there, I know. The Ruritans sponsored it, and see they didn't have that place up in Bustleburg then.

Chewning: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Huh. Another thing I wanted you to help me clarify. I went and interviewed Virginia Bell Franklin and Eleanor Franklin Hawkins up in Washington. Eleanor lives in Maryland. And they were telling me where their grandparents lived. And I was confused about that.

**Marjorie Chittum:** I wonder who their grandparents were.

Chewning: Well, they said -- they talked about -- you had talked about Mary Stuart Lotts living, I think, on the Raphine Road, and they said their grandparents, the Franklins...

**Marjorie Chittum:** Oh, I know who. I know. Uh-huh, I know...

Chewning: I was thinking that the Lotts and the Franklin grandparents had lived closer to New Providence, but...

**Marjorie Chittum:** No, no. Now, it all comes back to me. That is what I was telling you. Sometimes I can't get it. When you say something it brings it all back. Aunt Ann and Uncle Jim Lotts -- I don't know who lives in that house now, but as soon as you turn to go down the Raphine Road from the Brownsburg Turnpike the first driveway you go in [Harvest Lane], the house sits way back in there, and I don't know whether that's the same house, or they've torn it down, or added on or what. But that's where Grandma Dudley's brother, Jim, and his wife Ann lived.

Chewning: And their name was Lotts?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Their name was Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lotts, uh-huh. And he had bees. He was a beekeeper, kept honey bees and fixed honey, made honey and sold it and that kind of stuff. And the Franklins then lived up just the next house. I think -- is there a Runkle lives in that house now?

Chewning: Well, there's a relatively new house there, a brick house [158 Raphine Road].

**Marjorie Chittum:** Brick house, okay, that's where the Franklin house was. And as well as I remember that house was kind of a dark red house. I believe it was a dark red house. And so his name was John Franklin. I think his name...

Chewning: And I think she said the mother's name was-- her grandmother's name was Mary Jane.

**Marjorie Chittum:** It could've been. It could've been. I have heard of a Mary Jane. I know they had a daughter named Janie. So her mother probably was, but they had a daughter. One of those girls was Janie Franklin. And then they had one and he lived in Staunton. And after Earl and I were married, and moved to Staunton I saw him, talked to him a couple of times. His name was Moffatt [ph?], Moffatt Franklin. And that sister's name was Janie Bell, I think that's what they called her.

Chewning: And they would have been Zack's brother and sister.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Brothers and sisters, I think. I think that's who they were. I think that's who they were.

Chewning: And they said that their grandfather was sexton for the church, New Providence Church, or that he worked at the church.

**Marjorie Chittum:** He could have. Now I don't-- that I don't have any recollection of that. The first person that I can associate with being a sexton there is Jess Lotts.

Chewning: And what relationship is Jess then too your uncle Lotts who lived [on Raphine Road] -- was he related to them at all?

**Marjorie Chittum:** I think some cousins or something, but I don't know. There were several different families of them and they were some kin like Don Firebaugh's mother was not very much kin. Where Don was kin is on his grandmother's side. Don's grandmother was my grandmother's daughter -- I mean, my grandmother's sister's daughter. See that's the way that kin came in on our side, not on the Lotts side. They probably were some kin. Jess and Mary lived -- and I think that little house is still there, at the church on the bank.

Chewning: Okay. That's how I got confused, I guess.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Yeah. Is it a brick house?

Chewning: There's a little mini-- we call it the mini-manse up close to the cemetery.

**Marjorie Chittum:** And that's brick.

Chewning: Uh-huh.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Well, now the -- actually where Jess and Mary lived when he was sexton there early on, that house was yellow. It was a little yellow house that sat on that bank. Then it seems to me like later on they built that other one back there and maybe tore that first one down. But when Mary -- she was Lamb. His first wife was a Lamb, Mary Lamb, and they didn't have any children. They didn't have any children. And it was after Mary died that Jess married Mary Stuart.

Chewning: Okay. Okay, so both his wives were named Mary.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

Chewning: You're clearing up a lot of confusion for me here. [Laugh]

**Marjorie Chittum:** Yeah. Yeah. The first wife was just Mary, and then the second wife was Mary Stuart, and she was a lot younger.

Chewning: And she was a seamstress.

**Marjorie Chittum:** No. Uh-huh. That's another Mary. Aunt Ann and Uncle Jim raised Mary Stuart and her brother Henry. They were Coffeys. They were kin to Aunt Ann on her side. I don't know whether it was her sister's children, but they weren't Lotts at all. They were Coffeys, Mary Stuart Coffey. I believe his name was Henry, Mary Stuart and Henry. He was about John Layton's [Whitesell] age. And I think he died. He lived in Roanoke, a really nice fellow. But Mary, the seamstress, she was -- her name was Lotts. I don't know what Lotts.

Chewning: And she made your clothes?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Uh-huh, she made my -- yeah, she made my clothes because at that time -- I wouldn't tell this to everybody. I'd just tell it to the world, that anybody who knows me. [Laugh] I was so fat that Mother couldn't buy clothes because back then they didn't have these chubbies like they do now. And I was just as broad as I was long, and so Mother would get this awful looking material and have my clothes made. And I'll show you a picture of one of them before you go. And they were all button down the front. And they were all just -- some of them had a collar on them, but most of them were just plain neck and had rickrack on them which I don't think -- I don't whether you can even buy that any more. But anyway, that was a sore subject because I had to have all those homemade clothes because I couldn't -- and I wasn't willing to quit eating, and still I'm not! So Mary sewed for everybody up there.

Chewning: And is this Mary, Jess' first wife, or is it somebody different? [Laugh]

**Marjorie Chittum:** Lotts. No, it's somebody different. Mary, Aunt Ann and Uncle Jim raised her too, and she was some kin to Aunt Ann. I don't know how. I don't know. It seems to me like, Isabelle, that Aunt Ann might have been a Plogger, and Mary was some of that people, some of that people. But she lived there with -- in that house, Aunt Ann and Uncle Jim lived, Mary the seamstress, Mary Stuart, John Henry, brothers and sisters.

Chewning: And their last name was Coffey.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Coffey. And Miss Mary Lou Wilson. Now, I'm not sure, but I think, I think that that house maybe was Miss Mary Lou Wilson's and I believe Aunt Ann and Uncle Jim had gone there to take care of her. She had epilepsy. Back in those days it was just like you say -- now you say a mental institution. They're mentally sick, back then you said "in the asylum." They used to say they had epileptic fits, you know, but Miss Mary had epilepsy. And she carded wool a lot. I mean, she'd just sit at that window. I can remember going out there and just sit at that window and just card that wool. She was the sweetest little lady, small. Just her voice was real soft and she'd just -- and I've seen her go into one of those. I've seen her go in, and she'd just be sitting there carding and all at once she'd just get real stiff and then she'd just fall out of the chair. And they would get her up and put her in the bed, and she'd sleep a number of hours and then she was okay. And she didn't have them every day, but she had them quite often. Closer to when she died she had them pretty often. I remember one time, talking about that brings back another memory. Frances Wiseman, we called her Jude, we walked out there one day. We used to walk a lot up there. And so she and I walked out there, and Jude was a real timid little girl. And Lou [Wiseman Stuart] and I used to tease her. She wanted to play basketball, but if the ball got near her then she'd go [makes squeaking noise]. She was so scared because she was so tiny. And we walked out there. We hadn't been there just a little bit until Miss Mary Lou had one of those spells. And I'm telling you Jude just went into hysterics. She just -- I just -- I thought she was going to have one! She didn't know what was going on. I don't why I hadn't thought to tell her that she might have one and it was okay, but like I told you earlier, it's on me because I'm not afraid of anything, but she was so scared because Miss Mary Lou had that epilepsy spell. But no, and so Mary was the seamstress and she sewed for everybody, she sewed for Frances Martin and Frances Belle, her daughter. Well, everybody up around there, that's what she did. And then she moved to Staunton, and she worked at Leggetts in the basement in the material that kind of stuff. She moved down here. And she married and her -- she had two children. And the daughter graduated with Doug, and she has worked at Mrs. Rowe's [Restaurant] for years and years and years. She takes your money, cash register. Sheila, really nice little girl, Sheila, not a little girl because she's the age of Doug, she's 54-years-old.

Chewning: Oh, that's young! [Laugh]

**Marjorie Chittum:** Yeah. It is to me too now. [Laugh]

Chewning: Well, Eleanor Franklin Hawkins told me that Mary the seamstress offered to help her to learn how to sew, and she said for whatever reason, she just didn't do it and has regretted it ever since that she didn't take that opportunity to learn how to sew from Mary.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Yeah. Looking back on that, of course as I was growing up and Mother would go out there and take me, it didn't mean that much. But looking back on it in it was kind of a sad life. She had beautiful auburn hair, and she wore it in a knot on the back of her head. It was wavy around here. And she had sat at that sewing machine until the way she sat, you know, like this until it was hard for her to straighten up. You know, she just got in the habit of sitting like that. But she really had not much of a life. I guess, probably, when she left was when Aunt Ann and Uncle Jim died. And I remember them dying, but I don't remember which one died first at all, because they had one daughter, and she died real young with influenza. She died, I think I'm right on this, she died over there in Mrs. Morris' little hospital that she had where the Andersons live [2671 Brownsburg Turnpike]. And I think they really -- Aunt Ann really never got over that. They called her -- her name was Nellie, but they never did call her Nellie. They always called her Little Nellie, Little Nellie. And I think she must have been about 16 or 17 when she died of that, and Aunt Ann never really got over that. I think she died over there in that little hospital. But then Mary Stuart then married Jess after Mary died, Mary Stuart. As far as I know Mary Stuart hadn't gone -- had never gone with anybody, but she married Jess, and then they had two girls, Emma and I can't think what the other one's name is.

Chewning: I'm trying to remember some of the -- one of the other stories that you told me was about the boys in Brownsburg teasing Dr. [Tom] Bosworth.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Yeah. They would -- Tommy [Bosworth] would come out there on the weekend, and I don't remember whether his wife was in college, or where -- I can't remember where Tommy went to college, maybe Hampden-Sydney.

Chewning: I think he went to Hampden-Sydney.

**Marjorie Chittum:** I believe it was Hampden-Sydney, and I guess that's where-- maybe that's where Stella went too.

Chewning: Maybe she went to Longwood.

**Marjorie Chittum:** She could have. Yeah. That's right. And they used to tease him because they sitting on the porch [2703 Brownsburg Turnpike]. You know, it was right there at that house, and the porch is gone now, but there was a real long porch there. And they used to sit out there on that porch, and the boys would holler. And her name was Stella. And she was a very attractive girl but, you know, they just wanted to tease Tommy because they knew it got close to him. And they would say -- they get up close enough where they could hear and they say something like, "Stella, Stella's got her feet in the cellar." [Laugh] And Tommy would make them go on. And of course they would run. But, I mean, they were big teenagers then because I remember Tommy, and I remember

when Stella would come out there. And I used to go down there and chitchat with them, you know, but those boys, they got -- the reason they did it they saw that it was really getting to Tommy because they'd hang around and watch him. You know, they'd be sitting in the swing or in the chairs and those boys would, "Stella, Stella, got her feet in the cellar."

Chewning: Now, Mrs. Chittum, you also had pictures from your first grade class that you just showed me.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Uh-huh.

Chewning: Could you just look at the picture and tell me the names of the people that you remember that were in your class.

**Marjorie Chittum:** I think I can do most of them. I may have written them on the back. Let's see. Margaret Ellen Withrow. She lived up there on the way to Lexington on [Route] 39. What did they call that? Hollow -- what is that Hollow? I've kind of forgotten. You turn left and go [Route] 39 almost into Lexington. She lived in that brick house on the right hand side [2121 Maury River Road]. And I used to stop and play with her when Mother would go to Lexington. I'd get out there and play with Margaret Ellen. And I saw her not long ago. I see her real often. And she lives in Staunton. Mary Frances Sandridge. That's Colonel's [Charles M. Sandridge] sister. She and I were the same age. And do you know Lucy Poole?

Chewning: No. I don't think so.

**Marjorie Chittum:** You know Charlie Poole?

Chewning: Right. Uh-huh.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Charlie's sister, Lucy. And she and Lucy were-- Lucy was in my class too, and she and Lucy were real good friends. And then, let's see, Judy Benson. She's the one that I told you lived out on the hill with Miss -- I wish I could bring that -- I know she wasn't married. Miss Something...

Chewning: Where did she live?

**Marjorie Chittum:** She lived where Dot Martin lived [4565 Brownsburg Turnpike].

Chewning: Oh, right, right.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Miss Something. I can't think of it. And Mary Katherine Blackwell.

Chewning: Oh, was in your class?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Uh-huh, Mary Katherine Blackwell.

Chewning: Oh, can I see her picture? I know her.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Let's see if I can find her. I've got it written here, left to right. Let's see, Margaret Ellen [Withrow], Mary Frances [Sandridge], Tootsie [Margaret Wade Harris], Judy [Benson], Lucy [Poole], and Mary Katherine [Blackwell]. She's the last... [Repetitive information deleted] Okay, here's Mary Katherine right here on the end.

Chewning: Oh, uh-huh.

**Marjorie Chittum:** She was the tiniest little thing, just tiny, and just really, really tiny.

Chewning: And who were Tootsie and Judy?

Marjorie Chittum: Okay. Tootsie is Margaret Wade [Harris]. They lived where Doris Lunsford lives [2651 Brownsburg Turnpike]. And Doodie [Elizabeth Dunaway] lived in the house where the museum is [2716 Brownsburg Turnpike].

Chewning: What was her name?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Elizabeth. Elizabeth Dunaway, and she's dead. And then I'm beside of her. And then what is that little girl I said I told you that I just loved her so much. I can't -- Mary Ann Nuckols. Yeah, Mary Ann Nuckols, and then Catherine [Carwell], and Estelle Buchanan, and Clare [Huffman].

Chewning: Who was Catherine?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Catherine Carwell, [now] Catherine Robertson. She -- okay. And Irene-- what was that name? Irene Smith. She lived with, I think, Irene Smith lived with Mrs. Hattie Berry. She took children in at one time. Hattie, you know where they lived? Hattie Berry lived where the McManama girl lives [2580 Sterrett Road]. And she had a parrot. We used to love -- we'd go down there a bunch of us would go down there real often to hear the parrot talk. [Laugh] But the parrot didn't have a chance with Mrs. Hattie there!

Chewning: Did she talk more?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Yeah. She didn't have a chance. She was a nice lady. She loved kids, and Irene Smith, I think, lived with her. Her husband and Miss Pet's husband were brothers. Charlie Berry and I believe his name was John. I told you about Miss. Pet. Did I tell you about Miss Pet?

Chewning: She worked for the doctor?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Who?

Chewning: Did Miss Pet work for the doctor?

**Marjorie Chittum:** No. She didn't have but one leg.

Chewning: Oh, okay. Oh, okay, okay.

**Marjorie Chittum:** She lived where the post office is. There was a house there, and that's been torn down. And she sewed. Miss Pet sewed. She sat and the house was real close to the ground and the porch was almost right on the ground, and then it had an extension there where they -- in later years they rented it out to Miss Emma Mines. Miss Emma Mines lived in that little extended part of it. But Miss Pet sat at that window and sewed all the time. You could just walk by any time. And then she had flowers out there in front and she would -- she went out there and worked in her garden and lay that crutch down. People -- kids were scared of her because she really -- on those flowers, or even near them or anything she kind of thought she owned that sidewalk and all that. Lived right across from Dr. Joe [Williams]. Now, Mrs. Williams, we talked about it when Mrs. Williams was still able to talk about things. Mrs. Williams loved Miss Pet. She just loved Miss Pet. If Miss Pet liked you, you were good, but if she didn't, boy! But the kids were afraid, and they'd go down there they'd get on the other side and not walk on the walk, when they walked down because they were afraid she'd get after them with her crutch.

Chewning: And her last name was Berry?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Berry. Uh-huh. Mrs. Pet. She was a Lucas.

Chewning: And was she a widow?

**Marjorie Chittum:** She was Miss Pet Lucas is what -- everybody just called her Mrs. Pet. She was a Lucas, but she was married -- before she was married, but then she married Charlie Berry.

Chewning: And then was she a widow when she was living there?

**Marjorie Chittum:** I kind of believe she died first. I kind of believe she died first, yeah.

Chewning: What did he [Charlie Berry] do?

**Marjorie Chittum:** I'm really not sure he did anything! [Laugh] I don't ever remember him doing anything. I don't remember that, but they didn't have any children either. And Mrs. Hattie didn't have any children either.

Chewning: So they took in foster children?

**Marjorie Chittum:** I think, now, I think that's where Irene Smith lived was over there with Mrs. Hattie Berry. I believe that's where she lived. But I don't know whether they had any... She had-- her daughter lived on that road where you all live [Sterrett Road] before you get to your house on the left. It's the only house along in there other than where Boyd and Lou [Stuart] used to live [2640 Sterrett Road]. It's the other little house where Mrs. -- remember Mrs. Bessie was married to Beauford [Swisher]? In that house. Mrs. Hattie's daughter lived there, Octavia. Her name was Octavia -- who did she marry? Snider. Snider. Her husband -- I can't think of what her... Her husband was John Miley's [Whitsell] wife, Joan. Octavia's husband was Joan's [Snider] daddy's brother, and they lived there. And they had Marian, and Estelle and Everett, kids. They all went to Brownsburg School. Marian is still living and Estelle and Everett are dead. Yeah, that's right.

Chewning: You told me the names of the picture of the girls in your class. Can you tell me some of the boys too? They're in separate pictures.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Oh, okay, the girls. The boys, they're in separate pictures, yeah. Okay, the boys are John Lee Thornton, he lived out in Pisgah. He's dead. Jimmy Sweet. He lived on the way to Lexington. That house has been torn down. That section there is called something Hollow, Wolf Hollow. Wolf Hollow. I couldn't think. Jimmy Sweet lived there, and he had sisters that went to Brownsburg, Winifred Sweet, and I can't think of the other girl's name. And Jimmy, I just thought Jimmy was the greatest little fellow that ever was. Jimmy, a little red haired fellow and he was just so -- I just thought Jimmy was great. Then there was a little Carter boy. He lived right as you get to the end of Brownsburg Turnpike [at Route 39] and you turn right to go Rockbridge Baths and left to go to Lexington. This little Carter boy lived in that little house directly in front of that. It was kind of down over the bank. [I remember them working on Carl Wiseman's old car.] I don't think that house is there any more, either. And Jessie James. I was trying to think about him the other day when I found this picture. Jessie James. I cannot think who he lived with, but he -- I've got a question mark over him. I think he was maybe a welfare child too. And Bobby Grimm, I think he's dead. Bobby Grimm is Mattie and Osie Wade's [Supinger] nephew, and he lived with them up over the phone office.

Chewning: Oh, a little boy lived up there with them.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Uh-huh. He was in my class. He had a speech impediment -- he stuttered. And I saw him after he grew up, and I mean, years later, and I had no idea who he was. He didn't know who I was. And I asked somebody who that -- I think we were at an auction sale somewhere, and I asked them who that was and they said, "That's Bobby Grimm." And he had a brother Hugh Grimm. And I went over and spoke to him. He didn't know who I was. I said, "Well, I didn't know who you were either." And then Donald Firebaugh, and then George R. Buchanan is one, and that little boy beside of him I don't have him. Bobby Runkle, you know Bobby Runkle?

Chewning: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

**Marjorie Chittum:** They call him "High Pocket".

Chewning: Right.

**Marjorie Chittum:** And Raymond Sweet. He's dead. They were from down at Newport on the right hand side just after you pass -- they used to call that place "The Cedars" on left. Just after you pass that on the right, Raymond lived there. His daddy had arthritis, was an invalid his whole life. And his sister, I talked to her just a couple months ago. Mary Stuart [Sweet] married one of the Hemps, Mary Stuart Hemp. Bruce Slusser, he was in my class. Bobby Runkle. Hintsel Engleman. Hintsel's daddy ran the store where the man who runs the antique shop, what's his name?

Chewning: Dick Barnes.

**Marjorie Chittum:** All right. Hintsel's daddy ran the store where Dick Barnes lives [8 Hays Creek Road]. Then that used to be the farm store. Hintsel's daddy ran that. And they moved up there from Stuarts Draft, and they moved back. And they lived in that house. And Hintsel died young. And then there, of course, there's my buddy, Elwood Weaver. That is the last one back there, that tall boy grinning. And let's see, Donald Firebaugh. Did I name him?

Chewning: Uh-huh.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Okay. I guess that's all of them. But that was a big -- I mean, Mrs. [Mollie Sue] Whipple had her hands full. Let me tell you.

Chewning: That's quite a class. That's a big group.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Now let's see. That's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 children.

Chewning: Oh, my goodness. And what class? Was this first grade or second grade?

**Marjorie Chittum:** First.

Chewning: This was first grade.

**Marjorie Chittum:** First, uh-huh. First grade.

Chewning: That's quite a big group.

**Marjorie Chittum:** There I am beside of Mary Ann Nuckols. Uh-huh, that's a big group of children.

Chewning: And you said sometime Miss Trimmer would ask Mrs. Whipple to come and play the piano and then send a high school girl in to watch her class.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Uh-huh. To take charge of her class.

Chewning: To watch her class.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Uh-huh. I guess Mrs. Whipple was probably the only person there that played the piano at the time. I can't think of anybody else that I ever remember. I know Mrs. Whipple played a lot for Glee Clubs, and even after I was in high school we had Glee Club. And I guess your daddy [Mc Sterrett] probably sang in the glee club. I'm sure he did.

Chewning: I think he did.

**Marjorie Chittum:** I'm sure he did. He ran around with a group of those boys too, Sam Patterson, and Carl Wiseman, Lou's brother Carl, and Boyd [Stuart] and all that. When your mom and -- when they were dating, and Ag and Ed [Patterson], and all that crew. It was a crew too! [Laugh] I remember them working on -- those boys coming over there when Lou [Wiseman Stuart] and them lived beside of us. Carl had this little old -- Lou probably told you about that. His car he called Elizabeth. I think it was something Elizabeth, and then they called it something Lizzy. And they'd get out there and they parked it between their house and our house in that little space there. And they'd get out there and work on that old Lizzy, and that was a crew of boys, I'll tell you. Harry Swisher, I think he was one of them. But Sam [Patterson], Sam was going with Ellen [Swanson], and your daddy was going with Anna [Lackey], and Ed was going with Ag, and Boyd was going with Lou. Carl was just kind of jumping around from one to the other. He couldn't get settled. Yeah.

Chewning: You mentioned the house next to you. You mentioned Letha Swisher.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Letha, uh-huh.

Chewning: Was she a Swisher before she got married?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Yes, she was. She was Mr. Doc Swisher's daughter. Do you remember Doc...

Chewning: No, I don't.

**Marjorie Chittum:** No, you wouldn't. Like my aunt used to, we'd go up to my aunt's in Delaware and my Uncle Ray would be asking me, after he got up in years, he'd be asking me if I knew So-and-So over at Raphine which he didn't realize it was back when he was growing up. And my aunt would get so aggravated. She'd say, "Raymond, you know Pooky's not that old. She doesn't know those old people." And he just couldn't realize how much younger I was than he was. Now, I lost my train of thought now what I was telling you about.

Chewning: Letha Swisher's father.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Oh, yeah. Doc Swisher lived out on Walker's Creek out in there where the Pooles lived. The thing that I remember mostly he drove a big cattle truck, a big truck, and had to have animals, cattle, I remember him. And her brother was Marie Swope's brother. I mean, her husband. Now let me see, wait a minute, Marie Swope was a Swisher. Okay. Letha's first husband, Carl Swisher, was Marie Swope's brother. So Letha was a Swisher and married a Swisher.

Chewning: Oh, I see.

**Marjorie Chittum:** That's how that was.

Chewning: And Marie Swope was a Swisher?

**Marjorie Chittum:** A Swisher, uh-huh. And they lived – [Marie Swope's dad's name was Mr. Dan Swisher.] They lived on the left hand side just before you turn off of the Brownsburg Turnpike to go to Decatur. Make that left turn. They lived in a big farm house up there. And I don't know. I haven't been that road for a while, but I don't remember seeing that. That may be part of what Jack Heslep owns. I don't know. They may have torn it down. I don't know.

Chewning: I don't remember a house.

**Marjorie Chittum:** But it was a big house up in there. Marie and Letha's first husband were brothers and sisters, and she [Letha] was a Swisher before she married him.

Chewning: And did the Swopes buy the house after Mrs. Morris left, or was there somebody in between?

**Marjorie Chittum:** No. I don't believe there was anybody in between there. No, uh-uh. Mrs. Morris left. She died down at Newport News. She had a son that lived down in Newport News, and they took her down there and I think put her in a private -- somebody that kept people. And she died down there and I think was maybe buried down there as far as I know. She wasn't brought back here I don't think. She had two children, a girl and boy. Georgie worked in Baltimore at a big department store, one of those big names – the May Company, or something like that. And then the other one, the boy [Clarence Morris], lived in Newport News. And then that family, I think I told you about that that family that lived with her, they stayed on there for a good while until they -- I

guess that's when they sold the house. I don't remember, but I know they were -- I know they lived there a long time. I think probably they'd already moved though maybe when I got married. I believe they had. Maybe the house just sat empty. But I think the Swopes were the first people that lived in it because they did a lot of doing, fixing it up, you know. Yeah. I think they were the first people that lived in it after Mrs. Morris, after it was sold.

Chewning: And do you know when Mr. Swope took over Supinger's store?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Let me see. When I was a junior in high school it was still the farm store. So that would have been in 1946. And then I don't remember because I moved then in '47. I left in '47, so I don't remember when he took that over, when that went out of business as a farm store.

Chewning: What happened to Mr. and Mrs. Supinger?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Well, see, she was the one that ran the phone office.

Chewning: Right. Yeah.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Yeah. And I mean, I don't know, I guess they just -- both of them died. I don't know which one died first. It seemed to me like he died first. I went in there the other day -- not the other day, back it was in November sometime, first of November. I went up to Brownsburg and John Layton [Whitsell] and them -- to see John Layton and them. And I stopped at -- well, I actually went to John Layton's and I couldn't find him. Everything was shut up so I thought nobody was home, and I hadn't called to tell them I was coming. So I went down there to the antique shop and he and I got to talking, and gosh, we had a really good time reminiscing, he was asking me things, you know. And I told him, I said, "This store, I remember coming in here and the barber shop and everything looked so big, and now it looks so little." And he said, "Well, that's the way a lot of people remember things." And I could remember going in there when Bud Wade was cutting hair back there, and it looked so big in that store, and the other day it just looked like I was, you know. Of course, I didn't go down there very much because Mother didn't like for me to go in the barber shop where a lot of men were hanging out. She said she didn't want me in there. So I didn't. Just once in a while I would go in there for something. I don't know what, but I'd go in there, and she didn't want me to go in there. But I do remember going in there, I guess. I don't remember -- I remember having my hair cut, the curls cut off, and I guess Bud must have -- I don't know whether he cut them or not. Because I don't remember Mother taking me to town anywhere to have my hair cut. But I remember going home with the -- I remember not going home, but when we got home I remember Mother had this bag with my curls in it. And I remember her crying.

Chewning: How old were you when that was?

**Marjorie Chittum:** Before I started to school. Yeah, before I started school because it just got so that I cried every time she combed it because they'd get tangled up because it was all fine. But they were long yellow curls and she'd roll them around her finger and then pull her finger down. And then when I would walk, it would just flop. [Laugh] She would hurt when she'd comb it. It would hurt. And brush it, it would hurt. And getting me ready to go to Sunday school it would hurt. And so finally I just kept saying I want to have my hair cut. I just want my hair cut. I just don't this long hair anymore. I don't want these curls. And she would -- when we'd get ready to go to Sunday school I thought, well -- I guess you maybe could say I was conniver. Because I figured it out that if I stuck my head out the window of the car, or rolled the window down it would blow it all out and then it would be ugly when I got to Sunday school. So that's what I did. [Laugh] And then she said if I didn't quit doing that she was going to comb it out there, you know, and it would really hurt then. I said, "Well, I want it cut." So I guess maybe I just hit her at the right time one day, and she said, "Okay, we'll just cut it. We'll just cut it." And I kind of think Bud must have cut it because -- well, you can see, I'll show you a picture. It's chopped. It was awful looking. It was just awful looking. And then I wished I had them [my curls] back. But now I've been very fortunate because it did come back [with the natural wave and curl in it], you know, and I don't have to worry with my hair now that [the waves and curl] did come back. But everybody, I mean, I can remember people when I had it cut, I can remember people saying, "Oh, what happened to those beautiful curls, those beautiful curls?"

Chewning: [Laugh] Oh, my goodness.

**Marjorie Chittum:** And I think I told you about Mr. Matheny's shoe shop in there.

Chewning: Uh-huh.

**Marjorie Chittum:** I thought I did, but I couldn't remember what the -- I don't know. I can't think of any other really...

Chewning: Well, you covered the main ones that I was really interested in.

**Marjorie Chittum:** It was just a great place to grow up. It really was. And I still -- I tease [Mrs. Chittum's husband] Earl now because he grew up -- well, he was actually born in Roanoke, but then they moved back here. So Raphine was his place. And so I'm always teasing him about Raphine. I say, "Raphine never ever really got off the ground." I tease him about it. I said, "Everything in Brownsburg's being restored and it's so pretty. They're going to have a museum, and..."

Chewning: We'll let people from Raphine come and visit.

**Marjorie Chittum:** Yeah. In fact we were with Ann last night, Ann Lothery, and Earl said something about -- we were talking something about Brownsburg and he said, "Everybody wants to come to Brownsburg, don't they Ann?" She said, "That's right." Yeah.

Chewning: Well, if you can't think of anything else...

**Marjorie Chittum:** I can't think of anything else. [I want to say again I would not take anything for my growing-up years in Brownsburg. It will always be special to me.]

[End of Tape]

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