

MSgt. Bruce and Virginia Morris
703 Christine Avenue, Jacksonville, North Carolina
Interviewer: L.J. Kimball
22 September 1999
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Tape One, Side One

L.J. Kimball: Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Morris, 703 Christine Avenue, Jacksonville, North Carolina. 22 September 1999. Tape one, side one.

Where were you born Bruce?

Mr. Morris: In Onslow County, North Carolina.

L.J. Kimball: Whereabout in Onslow County?

Mr. Morris: Ah, up by Belgrade. Oh, about three miles east of Belgrade. I had a small farm up there. That's the place that I was born.

L.J. Kimball: Three miles east of Belgrade. Isn't that Maysville?

Mr. Morris: No. No. Maysville is north of Belgrade.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: And. . .

L.J. Kimball: You're close to the river?

Mr. Morris: . . . going toward Swansboro from, ah, Belgrade.

L.J. Kimball: That's that doggone coastline that always disorients me because you think of the Atlantic coast going north and south and when it goes east and west you tend to lose track of your directions there.

Mr. Morris: Well approximately east. Let me put it that way.

L.J. Kimball: So it was down. . . Is that Belgrade-Swansboro Road?

Mr. Morris: Yes. Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: So, your farm was down on the way to Governor Russell's place?

Mr. Morris: Mmmm, just before you get to Palo Alto. On the right of the road there.

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L.J. Kimball: Was this near the . . . the homestead. . . of Fitz Hugh Morris and John Q.A. Morris? Was that the same area?

Mr. Morris: In the same area there, yes.

L.J. Kimball: Who are your parents?

Mr. Morris: David and Rebecca Morris.

L.J. Kimball: And they were farmers?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Mmm-hmmm. Yes, we were farmers all of our life.

L.J. Kimball: What's the history of your family in the area?

Mr. Morris: Well, ah, really, ah, just regular people there. Nothing exciting about what they had except, ah, to farm on a yearly basis trying to make a living like everyone else in this area.

L.J. Kimball: Now you descended up through Allen Morris, right? Who is the brother of, um. . .

Mrs. Morris: Brice.

Mr. Morris: Brice.

L.J. Kimball: Brice.

Mrs. Morris: Yes.

L.J. Kimball: Oh, yours. . . your relative is Brice Allen Morris.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: And he was the brother of somebody further down the line, John Q.A. Morris and Fitz Hugh Morris . . . ?

Mrs. Morris: Uh-huh.

L.J. Kimball: I just . . . the name slipped my mind right now.

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Mrs. Morris: Brice. They. . .they were, in fact, Aurilla. . . oh, there's about. . . there was five of them that, ah, were John Q. Morris'.

L.J. Kimball: Just trying to get that family tree without getting every relative and cousin, nephew in there. The point that I start looking at the family was Brice Morris. Born about 1803. Then he had some sons and Brice Allen was the line that, ah, Bruce came from? And the other one, I don't know if that was John Q.A. or whatever that. . .

Mrs. Morris: Br. . . Bruce. . . Bruce wasn't Brice Alan. It was just Brice.

Mr. Morris: It was Brice Morris.

Mrs. Morris: Uh-huh.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mrs. Morris: Father-Allen. . . there's three. . . there was three boys. Brice M. Morris, . . . Josephus, and John W. Morris.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm-hmmm.

Mrs. Morris: And then. . .

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mrs. Morris: And John Quincy came from the Brice Morris.

L.J. Kimball: All right. And they all, let's see, Josephus and John and Brice M. Morris-father Allen Morris . . . there were quite a few of them there that served in the Confederate Army.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Yeah, my wife, she's the genealogist of the family . . . so . . .

L.J. Kimball: I know when I was . . .

Mr. Morris: And she takes care of the family trees and all of that stuff and knows a lot better than I do. Oh, my.

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L.J. Kimball: I know. Virginia was very helpful when I did my research for the . . . writing the diary of John Q.A. Morris.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: But you know unless you deal with family trees on almost a daily basis the details escape you.

Mrs. Morris: They do.

L.J. Kimball: Especially if . . . that's not your family and your just researching it for historical purposes. But the Morrises all lived in about that same area though? Along the Belgrade-Swansboro Road?

Mr. Morris: Yes. Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: And you know where Fitz Hugh and John Q.A.'s house was?

Mrs. Morris: On old Road [Route] 30.

L.J. Kimball: Right. And that's all pretty much in the same place where your family lived?

Mr. Morris: Yes. Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: And did you . . . spend your entire childhood there?

Mr. Morris: No. No. Ah, I, ah, only lived there until I was eight years old. And then I moved down with my two aunts. Ah, Aunt Sallie Fonville and, ah, Kate Morris. And lived with them for the remainder of the time until I got. . . until really we, ah, moved off the base and I eventually joined the Marine Corps after we moved off the Base.

L.J. Kimball: Why did you move down to live with your aunts when you were eight?

Mr. Morris: Ah, really, ah, I don't know.

Mrs. Morris: Well, why you lived dow. . .

Mr. Morris: To tell you the truth.

Mrs. Morris: . . . down with the aunts.

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Mr. Morris: Uh-huh.

Mrs. Morris: Well, you know, Aunt Sallie isn't related to you. Just Aunt Kate.

Mr. Morris: Well, she's. . .

Mrs. Morris: So Harold came with you. Harold was related to Aunt Sallie.

Mr. Morris: Right.

Mrs. Morris: And OK. You were related to Kate.

Mr. Morris: Right.

Mrs. Morris: And they needed help.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. They needed help. And so I was only eight years old. But back in those days a child that was eight years old was able to work on a farm, so that's where we went. In other words, one family would help other members of a . . . of the same family however they could, you know. Whether with children or help on the farm and things like this. There's no charge to each other. Because no one had any money back in the thirties. And so it was just lend-lease, ah, labor there really I guess you'd call it.

L.J. Kimball: Yes. What year were you born by the way?

Mr. Morris: Ah, 1927.

L.J. Kimball: What date?

Mr. Morris: Ah, thirtieth of March.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Where was . . . your aunt's place where you were eventually raised?

Mr. Morris: Um, do you, ah, know where or have you found out yet where Miss Minnie Hurst lived?

L.J. Kimball: Yes. It was, um, pretty close to the beach turnoff, off of 172.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

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Mr. Morris: Right. 172. OK. Her house was on one side of Old Woman's Swamp and our house was on the other side. Just south of Miss Minnie's house.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: And, ah, of course Miss Minnie, she was related to K.B. [Hurst]. And, ah, [John] Hedrich, ah, Aman, he married one of Miss Minnie's daughters. And so all those people, see I've known since, ah, 1937 when I came down there to live. And, ah, of course our little old farm, we, ah, raised tobacco, corn, peanuts, a few hogs, turkeys, chickens and things like this.

L.J. Kimball: Whose name was on the record of deed for that property?

Mr. Morris: Ah, Sallie Fonville.

L.J. Kimball: Did I ever give you a folder? I . . . can't remember. We were talking about that years ago and I think I asked you if you gave me specifically who it was I could get you a copy of. . . The buildings that were on that property and the record of deed.

Mr. Morris: Ah, no, you never did.

Mrs. Morris: Then it was deeded over to Aunt Kate.

Mr. Morris: Well, this was after . . .

Mrs. Morris: Aunt Sallie.

Mr. Morris: . . . we moved off the Base.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: OK. So is. . . you say Sarah Fonville?

Mr. Morris: Sallie.

L.J. Kimball: Sallie Fonville. And that's the person, for example, if I looked in the back of the Onslow County Heritage, ah, . . .

Mrs. Morris: Would that be in her name when you were down there at. . . on Old Woman's Swamp?

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Mr. Morris: Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: OK.

Mr. Morris: Sallie Fonville, right.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah, I was thinking of, ah, her brother.

Mr. Morris: Because the property came through the Fonvilles and was, you know, passed down through the, ah, family. And, ah, I don't know how far back the Fonvilles went. I have heard that Brice Fonville was the originator of this and he was quite . . . had quite a history in Onslow County.

Mrs. Morris: Oh gosh, yeah.

Mr. Morris: Ah, in fact, he was one of the charter members of the Lafayette Masonic Lodge in 1825. And I think he was on the County Commissioners. . . maybe he was the sheriff of the county. And things of this nature.

Mrs. Morris: Yes, he was political.

Mr. Morris: And he was in politics here in Jacksonville.

Mrs. Morris: No. You couldn't say Jacksonville. Onslow County.

Mr. Morris: Well, Onslow County.

L.J. Kimball: What was your tie to the Fonville family?

Mr. Morris: Ah, really none to the Fonville family. Except they raised my aunt, Aunt Kate.

Mrs. Morris: She never married. Aunt Sallie never married.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Neither one of 'em were ever . . . of the woman were never married. But then boy my Aunt Kate, ah, when her father and mother passed away, she moved in with the Fonvilles to, well, to be raised really. And I believe she moved in when she, ah, when she was 16. I think was the age.

Mrs. Morris: I'm not sure of that either.

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Mr. Morris: But, ah, anyway the two of 'em, Sallie and Kate, they were commonly known as owning the property together and the farm and everything and, ah, coming up from that.

L.J. Kimball: But I suppose if it's only the two of them, I can see why they looked around to pick up somebody else to help 'em with the farm work.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Well, there was me. I was small. And Harold. Harold Fonville.

Mrs. Morris: He was . . .

Mr. Morris: He was, what, ah, five years older than I was.

L.J. Kimball: And where did Harold fit into this?

Mr. Morris: Well, he was Sallie's, ah, Aunt Sallie's, ah. . .

Mrs. Morris: Nephew.

Mr. Morris: Nephew.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mrs. Morris: And you was Aunt Kate's.

Mr. Morris: And I was Aunt Kate's nephew.

L.J. Kimball: I understand the Fonvilles owned quite a piece of the property down that part of the county at one time.

Mr. Morris: Oh yeah. Yeah. They did.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. There's still some. . .

Mr. Morris: Ah, I don't know exactly how much but they . . . they were quite prominent in that area.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall or did you ever hear that. . . that they owned the land all the way down to New River inlet?

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Mr. Morris: To New River inlet?

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Mr. Morris: No. I don't believe so. I don't think so. They owned the property I believe at one time down to the Inland Waterway. Ah.

Mrs. Morris: That in back of the house?

Mr. Morris: No. It . . . it was in . . . on the side of the house. But going down to Onslow Beach.

Mrs. Morris: Oh. Oh, no. That's (inaudible) Onslow Beach.

L.J. Kimball: Virginia, could you move a little closer to the microphone, please. I'm not picking you up.

Mrs. Morris: Oh.

L.J. Kimball: Yeah. Just if you could move your chair a little closer to the microphone.

Mrs. Morris: Oh. Oh.

Mr. Morris: But, ah . . .

L.J. Kimball: Thank you.

Mr. Morris: Anyway our property. . . the property run along Old Woman's Swamp. Was the northern boundary I believe. And, ah, at one time there was two . . . two lots of land, ah, when the Marine Corps came in and purchased it. There was two sections. Farm on one side of the road and the farm on the other side.

L.J. Kimball: OK and your Aunt Sallie and Kate, they owned these two farms?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Mmm-hmmm.

Mrs. Morris: Did they own that together or did Aunt Sallie own that?

Mr. Morris: Aunt Sallie owned it, but . . .

Mrs. Morris: I think, yeah. Aunt Sallie owned it at the time.

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Mr. Morris: . . . It was in her name.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. But then Aunt Sallie and Aunt Kate died. Aunt Kate got everything after they moved off.

Mr. Morris: Well.

Mrs. Morris: Oh, you haven't got that far.

Mr. Morris: We just talking about that place down . . .

Mrs. Morris: OK.

Mr. Morris: . . . Onslow right now.

L.J. Kimball: Now there were a lot . . . there were a lot of names, ah, old families associated with Onslow County that lived in that neighborhood. Do you remember the families that lived around there?

Mr. Morris: Well, let's see. There's Miss Minnie Hurst. Ah, Kate Brown Hurst. The, ah, Henderson. Kerry Henderson. Dave Henderson. Ah, Brown.

L.J. Kimball: Now these were the Browns that Brown Sound was named after?

Mr. Morris: I don't know. I don't think it was.

L.J. Kimball: How about the Hendersons that Henderson Beach was named after? Do you know if there was . . .

Mr. Morris: Ah, yeah. They were probably connected with the Hendersons. But. . . but I don't know who. . . where. . . just how that beach was, ah, named Henderson Beach. In fact I'd never heard of Henderson Beach. But.

L.J. Kimball: If you look at the . . . surveys of . . .

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: . . . when Camp Lejeune took charge. Um, what we call Onslow Beach now, north of a certain line around where the ferry was is called Hurst Beach and south of that was called Henderson Beach.

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Mr. Morris: Mmmm. Yeah. Could be. Could be. But, ah, as a teenage kid they. . . you don't pay that much attention to different names of places.

L.J. Kimball: But also between Hurst and Henderson, there was a little bit of beach was, I believe, then called Onslow Beach. And, of course, for whatever rationale, they decided to name the whole beach Onslow Beach. Probably cuz it's affiliation with the county, but historically, the better name for it would have been Hurst Beach.

Mr. Morris: Well I believe, ah, I'm not sure, but I believe Onslow Beach became the name after the Marine Corps came here.

L.J. Kimball: Yes. . . for the entire beach.

Mr. Morris: Right. For the entire beach there. The name Onslow Beach was it.

L.J. Kimball: I don't . . . If I review the details, I'd tell 'em to you but I don't want to take a whole lot of time on your tape here. But there was a land speculator. And it might have been Henderson. It might have been Day or one of those that were known to pick up un-surveyed pieces of land. And you know that the area between Hurst and Henderson Beach where the Second Reconnaissance Battalion, where the big stand pipe was located there. That used to be an inlet. And of course when beaches were. . . When whatever surveys they did back in those days and the records of deeds were made up, they didn't include that because that was an inlet. So when it filled up this land speculator, his name escapes me, came down, had it resurveyed and claimed the whole thing. And Hurst and Henderson had to defend their property against his claim. And, having acquired that small section, he renamed it, which might have been Onslow Beach.

Mr. Morris: Could have been.

L.J. Kimball: But the name escapes me right now. But then that name overtook Henderson and Hurst later on in history and everybody knows it as Onslow Beach now. This little community you lived in, did it have a name?

Mr. Morris: No. The only thing we got our mail from Marines. And, ah, before that for a couple of years there, we got it. . . Duck Creek was the Post Office.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: Was Duck Creek located in the community?

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Mr. Morris: Yeah. Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: And then, ah, the Post Office changed to Marines and that's when Frank Smith . . . I don't know whether you ever. . .

L.J. Kimball: I never met him. I . . .

Mr. Morris: . . . knew him or not. But anyway. . .

L.J. Kimball: . . . heard. . .

Mr. Morris: . . . he took over the Post Office there. And, ah.

L.J. Kimball: It's interesting. I have seen on Civil War maps and even ESSO road maps later on into the twentieth century that that community that you lived in was called Hurst. H-U-R-S-T.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Well, it could have been called the Hurst community. I really don't know. That was before. . . before I moved down.

L.J. Kimball: But I understand that these events happened a long time ago and sometimes at the age you don't pay a whole lot of attention to those sort of things you're. . .

Mr. Morris: I was gonna say I was a teenager down there and, ah.

L.J. Kimball: But feel free to give me your recollection or maybe what a family member told or what you think might have been the case in those days.

Mr. Morris: Ah, about the only thing I can, ah, I remember or the most prominent things, of course, was learning how to swim in the Inland Waterway. And, ah, and, ah, riding the . . . harassing Harold. Harold Fonville, the boy that I lived with. He run the two-car ferry going back and forth across the . . . the Inland Waterway to the beach. And, ah, then I used to work at the bowling alley. The duckpin bowling alley on the beach. They had one.

L.J. Kimball: Whose bowling alley was that?

Mr. Morris: Ah, a fellow by the name of Casey, I believe, from New York.

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L.J. Kimball: The last name was Casey?

Mr. Morris: Ayah. I believe so.

L.J. Kimball: He's the one that owned the property?

Mr. Morris: Well, he owned the bowling alley. I don't know whether he owned the property or not. He had a bowling alley. Little duckpin bowling alley I think. Four alleys or something like that. And he had a restaurant right beside of it. And, ah, him and his wife run the restaurant. Did the cooking and he, ah, collected the money. And, ah, someone else run the bowling alley.

L.J. Kimball: Was there a little gas station there? Part of that?

Mr. Morris: No. Not right there. There was a gas station across the road around the corner. Because as the road goes in from the bridge now to the beach, the bowling alley would be set approximately at end of that road.

L.J. Kimball: So straight across the bridge to the right.

Mr. Morris: Well, right straight up through the sand dunes.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: Because the bowling alley set on the sand dunes. You set on the back of the, ah, back porch of the bowling alley and you were looking into the ocean. And his little cafe or restaurant was just south of the bowling alley there.

L.J. Kimball: And attached?

Mr. Morris: Huh?

L.J. Kimball: They were all the same building?

Mr. Morris: No. No. Two buildings.

L.J. Kimball: Separate.

Mr. Morris: Two separate buildings.

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L.J. Kimball: What do you remember about this restaurant? Ah, physically the. . .

Mr. Morris: Ah, well, there wasn't much to it. Ah, just had a small bar with stools where you go in there and order your food. You sit there and eat. And then off to the side they probably had, oh, six or eight four-person tables. It was about. . . oh, it was real small. It was, ah, no real big thing.

L.J. Kimball: Was there some kind of facility where people could come up the beach and be served across the counter, kind of through the window?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. That. . . that was where the bar was at. It was inside but you could come right off the beach and you were right there to it.

L.J. Kimball: OK. There. . . there are stories about when the Marines did the first amphibious operations there in 1941. The Marines should be groveling on the sand, and the coxwains, the Navy coxwains, would make a beeline for the restaurant, buy all the beer and everything they could. And get back on the boats before the Marines came back. But right across from that in. . . landward from the bowling alley then was the gas station?

Mr. Morris: No. Down the beach.

L.J. Kimball: Further south. . .

Mr. Morris: Oh, you mean, ah, the gas station, yeah. Towards the. . . the gas station was on the corner towards the, ah, ferry.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: Where the bridge is at now.

L.J. Kimball: Was this the. . .

Mr. Morris: Of course, the ferry slips, you know where they're at, just north of the bridge.

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Mr. Morris: That's where the old ferry was across.

L.J. Kimball: Was this. . . was this the Tallman's Gas Station, do you recall?

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Mr. Morris: No, I don't. I don't know who owned it. Gas station. It could have been the Tallman's, but. . .

L.J. Kimball: What do you remember about the ferry? What'd it look like?

Mr. Morris: Oh, it looked like a barge with a twenty. . . ah, twenty out, twenty horsepower outboard Johnson engine on it.

L.J. Kimball: One at each end or?

Mr. Morris: No. Just one. When you get across, turn the motor around, go back over. And they was running on a cable. There was a cable across there. And every time a boat would come along, they would have to get out, drop the cable so the boats could go by, and then they raise the cable back up. And this was all done by hand. This wasn't done by electric motor or anything.

L.J. Kimball: You mean dropping the cable was done by hand?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: What else do you remember was on the beach?

Mr. Morris: Hmmm. A few houses. Not that many.

L.J. Kimball: Do you remember any other gas stations or public establishments like eating places or anything like that?

Mr. Morris: No. I sure don't. Because on a dime a month you couldn't afford to go to an eating place. And we didn't have no car, so we didn't have any business going to a gas station either. So.

L.J. Kimball: Who was giving you this dime a month?

Mr. Morris: Hmmm. Once in a while I'd get one. Aunt Kate would give me a dime once a while. Aunt Sallie would give me one.

L.J. Kimball: What could. . . what could you buy with a dime in those days?

Mr. Morris: Hmmm. Well, ah, Ned Henderson had a store right across the road from us. And he sold a few, ah, groceries. A little candy. And usually ended up buying a

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bar of candy or something like that. Or a moon pie and a RC cola to take fishing with me.

L.J. Kimball: What'd they cost, a nickel a piece in those days?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. About a nickel.

L.J. Kimball: You say this. . . Ned or Ed Henderson?

Mr. Morris: Ah, Ned Henderson.

L.J. Kimball: Ned. And is. . .

Mr. Morris: His boy was Ed.

L.J. Kimball: You say across the road . . . what is now 172 . . . across that road.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: There was a cemetery there wasn't there?

Mr. Morris: Hmmm. What, on Ned Henderson's place?

L.J. Kimball: In your little community there at Duck. . . Duck Creek.

Mr. Morris: Oh, there was, ah, several cemeteries down there. I don't know exactly whose they were or. . .

L.J. Kimball: So there was more than one. There were several.

Mr. Morris: Oh yeah. Because back in those days you had. . . probably every property owner had a family cemetery running on their property. Property owners of, you know, any size property.

L.J. Kimball: OK. And was there a school there in the community?

Mr. Morris: No. The school was Swansboro.

L.J. Kimball: So you went to . . .

Mr. Morris: Swansboro School.

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L.J. Kimball: Now when you went to school in Swansboro, was that high school and elementary school?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: Together?

Mr. Morris: It sure was. All the way through the eleventh grade.

L.J. Kimball: Was that . . . all that you were required to go to school?

Mr. Morris: That was all pro. . . probably required to go. And I'd ride the school bus all the way from there through the back roads, pick up all the kids out in the woods all the way to Swansboro. And go to school. And then make the return trip. Sometimes we, ah, got home before dark.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall how long that bus trip was back and forth?

Mr. Morris: I believe it was around fifteen miles. Probably fifteen miles. The. . . the. . . it goes straight. Straight down the road as the roads are today. Cuz there's a lot of back alleys and woods there but that bus had to get through to pick up children on the way to school.

L.J. Kimball: It could have taken you, probably an hour or so to go those fifteen miles.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. It probably did. It probably took us an hour or more. And . . . and the big day was when it rained and the bus would get stuck. We'd either be late for school or wouldn't have to go.

L.J. Kimball: Was the school year pretty much what it is now? You . . . just go to school all year with the summer off?

Mr. Morris: No. It was a regular, ah, eight, nine-month school.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mrs. Morris: You. . . you didn't start early in September though, did you?

Mr. Morris: No. We started in September after we got the tobacco in.

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Mrs. Morris: That's what I was thinking.

Mr. Morris: And, ah, started a little later than it does now.

L.J. Kimball: Well, before I ask you the next question, when did you join the Marine Corps?

Mr. Morris: Ah, well, August the tenth of 1942.

L.J. Kimball: All right. Was that shortly after you graduated from high school?

Mr. Morris: Ah, I didn't graduate from high school. I was just. . . went through the tenth grade.

L.J. Kimball: OK. What did you do then?

Mr. Morris: What did I do?

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Mr. Morris: I joined the Marine Corps.

L.J. Kimball: OK. So you just got through the tenth grade. Then you joined the Marine Corps.

Mr. Morris: Well I got *to* the tenth grade (laughing) and I joined the Marine Corps. Because there was no work or anything in this area to do. And the Marine Corps looked real good. And so.

L.J. Kimball: Were you of age?

Mr. Morris: Ah, let's not go into that.

Mrs. Morris: (laughing)

Mr. Morris: And, ah, but anyway I joined the Marine Corps. It was a little early, but, ah. . .

L.J. Kimball: Did you get your parents' permission?

Mr. Morris: Yes. Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: OK. The Marines were already there then.

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Mr. Morris: Yes. The Marines were already here.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: And, ah.

L.J. Kimball: Just going back a bit, if the Marines were there, then you were forced out of your homestead there near the Intercoastal Waterway.

Mr. Morris: Mmmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: Where did you displace to?

Mr. Morris: Ah, out here on the highway 24. Ah, it's called. . . well, about halfway really between Hubert and Swansboro. On the right side of the road.

Mrs. Morris: Across from Stanleys.

Mr. Morris: The Stanleys lived there. In fact Aunt Kate and Aunt Sallie bought the property from the Stanleys.

L.J. Kimball: Is this on the right side of the road going toward Swansboro?

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. The house is gone.

Mr. Morris: And, ah, the Stanleys lived in the house that was on the property when they bought it. And we had to move out off the Base. In other words, the Marine Corps says you gotta go now. Get out. So, we did. And we had to build a little two-room house back in the back field of the property that was bought. And of course with Aunt Sallie, Aunt Kate, me and Harold, all of us in the family, there was no room for Harold and I in this little two-room house. So he was drafted in the Army. And that made me decide to, ah, look around and see if I could get. . . get in the Mar. . . military myself. And, so I ended up in the Marine Corps at this time.

L.J. Kimball: Was your motivation, ah, for joining the military then economically related? There was no work so the military seemed like a good . . .

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Mr. Morris: I believe it was because the military was so predominant right at that time here in 1941 especially after Pearl Harbor. Until all the kids were either getting drafted or they were going out joining the military. Because for some reason, I don't know why, but probably we could have done this, was to give us some, ah, contractors on the Base to build the Base. But, ah, very few of us did this. The majority of us went in the military, or we. . . the ones that I knew.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Why the Marine Corps?

Mr. Morris: I've never figured that out yet.

Mrs. Morris: (laughing)

L.J. Kimball: Was the fact the Marines were there, do you think that provided some motivation?

Mr. Morris: Ah, no. I was visiting my sister in Norfolk. And, ah, I was walking down the street by the Post Office and this Marine Sergeant, he grabbed me there and started giving me a line about joining the Marine Corps and how great it was. And he talked me into it. Of course I wasn't very hard to persuade to do things back in those days. And so he talked me into it and the first thing I knew I was on the train going to Parris Island.

L.J. Kimball: So, he brought you in off the streets and, ah, you put your name on the line at that point. The same day?

Mr. Morris: Well, I had to come back home, get the papers signed by my parents to join the Marine Corps.

L.J. Kimball: And your day of. . . date of enlistment was then?

Mr. Morris: Ah, well, I. . . I was in the Marine Corps Reserve. I joined the Marine Corps Reserve. And, ah, that was the only thing you could join back in '42. And that was 10 August of '42.

L.J. Kimball: And you were just beg. . . getting to tenth grade at that point?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Mmm-hmmm.

Mrs. Morris: (laughing)

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Mr. Morris: Of course, I . . . you got to understand. Back in those days, if you were alive and breathing. . . and could see, you'd make a good Marine. You didn't have to worry about education and things like that. Because they were going to teach you all the . . . everything you needed to know.

L.J. Kimball: What was your family's reaction that you joined the Marine Corps?

Mr. Morris: Ah, I . . . I really think they. . . they were kind of proud of it. Cuz, ah, it gave me something to do and something that I, ah, could be responsible for doing. Of course I was always a pretty hard worker anyway. And, ah, they were. . . they were satisfied with it. That I was doing something for the country.

(pause in tape)

L.J. Kimball: Tape one, side two. Was there any hostility toward the Marines as a result of having to be displaced off their home places, off the Base?

Mr. Morris: Ah, between Aunt Kate and Aunt Sallie? There sure was. They hated the sight of a Marine.

Mrs. Morris: (laughing)

Mr. Morris: Hated the sight of a truck going by making all that noise going to Morehead [City]. Keeping them awake all night.

Mrs. Morris: They complained continually.

Mr. Morris: And, ah, of course they believed there's nothing like that farm down on the Sound. And of course they actually lived. . . all their life was on that farm. And of course, ah, you. . . you. . . I'm sure you've talked to a lot of these old people around here that, ah, wished the Marine Corps had a moved to Germany or Japan or someplace there in World War II instead of coming here. But, um, I don't know. Harold and I, we used to sit around and laugh about it. About the way people felt about, ah, getting off the Base. Because our farm down there, to put it frankly, was so poor, that if a rattlesnake crawled across it, it had to take his lunch with him. And so if you raised a hill of peanuts on that farm, you worked that hill of peanuts. If you raised a little tobacco, you worked with a little tobacco. Because that was awful poor land. Of course, Harold and I, we were the only two that saw it that way.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm-hmmm.

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Mr. Morris: All these other. . . these. . . not all of 'em, but, ah the older people. Well, they never, ah, particularly liked the Marine Corps.

L.J. Kimball: It's difficult looking back on that particular period if you were not personally involved, or if your family wasn't . . . to say yes, intellectually I understand it, but in your heart, not having experienced it, it's very difficult to understand. But wasn't there any compensation by virtue of the fact they realized it was a national emergency and we needed some place to train the units?

Mr. Morris: Ah, I don't know. Th. . . th. . .that's . . .

Mrs. Morris: I don't think that ever. . .

Mr. Morris: That's a good question.

Mrs. Morris: I don't think they'd ever faced that

Mr. Morris: I don't think that ever came into the equation of why the Marine Corps was here. Because I don't think most of the people understood the . . . what it was to be in a national emergency of that magnitude at that particular time. Now later on, ah, after the Marine Corps got here, sure, they realized there was a national emergency and I'm sure they looked at it in a different way.

L.J. Kimball: Would you say, or in your own words, that Onslow County might have been a little bit isolated in those days and people might not have grasped the world situation?

Mr. Morris: Mmmm, yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

Mr. Morris: I sure would. When you figure it'd take us three hours to come from where we lived there on the Sound to Jacksonville, if you don't call that isolation. . .

Mrs. Morris: And a lot of places didn't have . . . didn't have electricity either or telephones.

Mr. Morris: No. We didn't have electricity or telephones there til the late thirties. And we didn't get no papers. And so really what you got. . . or what we got down there was gossip from one house to the other. And, ah, as far as the war in Germany, I never really heard about that until after I got in Marine Corps.

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L.J. Kimball: So on the seventh of December 1941, there wasn't. . . everyone wasn't running around tearing their hair out . . . When did you find out about Pearl Harbor?

Mr. Morris: Oh, we found out about it back in '41 sometime, but, ah, again there's real. . . Pearl Harbor got bombed you know. But. . . but not too much excitement right in there where we lived. And, ah, all these people, well, I believe the feeling would have been a little different if the people had a been satisfied with the purchase of the property. And most of 'em when they came in and appraised the property, the value, even though it was back in those days when property was cheap, it was so cheap until they had a hard time relocating. And the government, ah, to my knowledge, didn't, ah, contribute anything to the families to relocate from the Base to another place.

L.J. Kimball: That's a subject that's kind of interesting. The. . . now I've read that the appraisers were brought in. They were considered experts. They were brought in out of state by the Department of Agriculture to give an honest appraisal of the land's value. Now obviously there was a lot of people at that time, and even today, that didn't feel that they got an honest value for their property. What are your feelings on that?

Mr. Morris: Well, I really don't know because back in those days, ah, whether it was an honest appraisal or whether it wasn't. Because I didn't know any. . . that much about it. All I knew about it was, you know, whatever the property owners state at that time and where exactly it is right now. I can, ah, take you over here on the first, let's see, first Sunday in October?

Mr. Morris: To the, ah, reunion.

Mrs. Morris: You've been to those reunions.

Mr. Morris: Have you been to those reunions?

L.J. Kimball: I haven't personally but I. . . I know about them.

Mr. Morris: But you go over there and ask them what do they think of the appraisal of their family's property. The older ones that are there. And they don't have too many kind words about the appraisers.

Mrs. Morris: You know, I. . . you know I can understand after all this politics in this day and age, you can then . . . someone probably would have told of those prices, you go

down and try to get that property as cheap as they could. Don't you think? I mean, you'd never know what. . . what they were told. Or they could have been . . . they could have been honest.

Mr. Morris: Well, ah, I can compare it with, ah, the reevaluation that we had here in the city. We did it every year. And I'll tell you a story here about . . . re. . . reevaluation. The last reevaluation we got here and this has nothing to do with, ah, the Base or even the city here in Jacksonville. Well, when I got my slip for my. . . the appraisal on this house, I had a twenty by forty. . . forty by sixty foot underground swimming pool out here in the back yard. I had a eight foot sh. . . eight door shed, a four door shed, a deck on the back of the house and all that. But anyway I went down to see the appraiser about it. And the lady down there said well somebody went out there and saw that. I said well, if they did, I says, how about having them come out there and show it to me. Because I've been living there for twenty-six years and I haven't seen it yet. And now they . . . they said if I hadn't gone down and complained about it, I would have been paying taxes on all that stuff out here in my backyard and I don't have room in my backyard for it. But anyway they could have applied to the appraisals on the Base. I don't know. In other words, as the . . . you go around here and ask any of these. . . they think reappraisers right down the street and appraise your property. Look at your tax record. So things got that way. I had sort of turned a percent to it.

Mrs. Morris: Not everybody. . .

Mr. Morris: That could have applied in those days. I don't know.

Mrs. Morris: I don't know. I don't know either but they talk about people being dishonest today in government. There were people dishonest back there too. Just as many.

Mr. Morris: Those property weren't that valuable back in those days, but I can see where the people would feel bad about the purchase and the. . . they had such a hard time.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: And they'd had such a hard time relocating to a new area. Just like Aunt Kate and Aunt Sallie. Now they. . . we've had, ah. . . let's see. . . two, four, six, seven, eight, nine. We had a ten-room house. Down on the Base. We moved from that ten-room house to a two-room house and it's pretty hard. Pretty hard.

L.J. Kimball: Tell me again. The Stanleys had a house on the property your aunts bought, did they not?

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Mr. Morris: Yeah. They bought it. But they couldn't move out because they had, ah, had tenants living in another house that they owned that they were gonna move over into that as soon as these, ah, crops got out and the tenants moved.

Mrs. Morris: Is that when Aunt Kate then moved up to the front house there?

Mr. Morris: Yeah, they came and moved up to the front house as soon as . . .

Mrs. Morris: They had four rooms.

Mr. Morris: . . . the Stanleys moved across the street to the old tenant's house.

L.J. Kimball: And, ah, your aunts did not think that they got sufficient compensation monetarily for their property.

Mr. Morris: (laughs) According to their words? They did not. They were never satisfied. And they never liked the Marine Corps.

L.J. Kimball: Did they. . .

Mr. Morris: In fact I don't think they even liked me after I joined the Marine Corps.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah, they did.

Mr. Morris: But they did. I was just kidding.

Mrs. Morris: Oh, I tell you. They . . . they complained continually. Every time we went down. Oh, my. And if there was a truck went by when. . . you know, a Marine Corps truck.

L.J. Kimball: Then one day you found yourself on a train to Parris Island?

Mr. Morris: Yes sir. The first train I ever rode was from Norfolk, Virginia, to Parris Island, South Carolina.

L.J. Kimball: Where'd you get on the train?

Mr. Morris: Norfolk. And, ah, took us down to Parris Island. Took us over onto the Base. Unloaded us and gave us some. . . something to eat there.

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L.J. Kimball: Was there a bridge over to Parris Island?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Yeah. Horse Island Bridge. It was there they unloaded us at Port Royal. Off the train. And, ah, did you. . . did you go down to Parris Island?

L.J. Kimball: I didn't attend Parris Island, no. Went down to see my son graduate though.

Mr. Morris: Oh. From Parris Island. Well, it's the same bridge. Through the same, ah, gate there going north. Only bridge going to Parris Island. But, ah, that was pretty easy work down there. We had to walk around and, ah, run a little bit. So, of course, we were in pretty good shape off the farm. And, ah, they gave us three meals a day, a place to sleep and something to eat. And I said to myself, I says, Bruce, I says, you found a place for life. Right here. And then they paid us at the end of the month and boy, that was like being in heaven.

L.J. Kimball: So you didn't find your Parris Island experience very challenging?

Mr. Morris: Oh, yes. It was. Because it was different. And they, ah, reframed our mind to think the military way and, ah, which was something all of us weren't used to. And, but, physically, I was in the platoon predominantly from . . . the men were from New York, Philadelphia and those areas. So they would be sitting around with their tongue hanging out and I could still be going. But, ah, there was real challenges in it but I enjoyed it. I didn't regret it. Ah, because we had, ah, as I said before, plenty to eat, something to wear and we got a little bit of sleep at night. And, ah, I found it pretty, ah, pretty exciting.

L.J. Kimball: How long was Boot Camp then? Do you recall?

Mr. Morris: Ah, ten weeks.

L.J. Kimball: Did they give you a MOS [Military Occupational Specialty] after Boot Camp, when you left the camp?

Mr. Morris: Ah, no. Just basic Marine, ah, ah, basic infantry really was what it was. And, ah, my platoon was lucky. Ah, they sent half of us to Jacksonville, Florida, and the other half went to Norfolk, Virginia, area on guard duty at Navy bases. And, ah, I was stationed there at Jacksonville, Florida, for, oh, about eight months. And then they started pulling us in, I guess, from the Navy yards. I really don't know the procedure that they used on that. And, ah, brought quite a few of us up here to Camp Lejeune to join 22nd Replacement Draft to go overseas. And put us in over here at, ah, Tent Camp. At that time. . .

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L.J. Kimball: Tent Camp?

Mr. Morris: Yeah, at that time it was known as Tent Camp. And we did our advanced training there.

L.J. Kimball: Advanced infantry training?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: What did that consist of?

Mr. Morris: Oh, mostly field problems because we were in the field, oh, at least five days a week. And we got one day liberty a week.

L.J. Kimball: How long were you there?

Mr. Morris: Were here? In advanced training? Hmmm, I believe it was about two months.

L.J. Kimball: This was in '43?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Mmm-hmmm. Until they got the replacement draft formed, a complete replacement draft.

L.J. Kimball: Was it all tents at that point? Or did you start seeing any . . .

Mr. Morris: Mmmm, well, there was a few Quonset huts there.

L.J. Kimball: Quonset huts? That early?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. There was a few Quonset huts and, ah, . . . But the most of it was, ah, tents. . . I remember the brig . . ., it was a big tent, big pyramid tent with concertina wire around it. And, ah, the structures, the mess halls, the company offices and everything were, ah, made out of some type of, ah, wood but they weren't very, ah, substantial. In other words it. . . they were just put up.

L.J. Kimball: Is that. . . you know what a homosote hut is?

Mr. Morris: UmMMM. . .

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L.J. Kimball: It's . . . kind of like pressed board, fiber board. They usually called them green huts because they were painted green. There were some of them over at Montford Point. I was wondering if that's the sort of hut you're talking about.

Mr. Morris: No. I don't remember that any of them did at Tent Camp at that time.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Were these just little structures? Or they were. . . some of them were larger? They come in all different sizes and shapes or?

Mr. Morris: Oh, you mean the buildings?

L.J. Kimball: Yes. The ones you said looked like. . .

Mr. Morris: Yeah. The mess halls. You know mess halls was large. Quartermaster and all of the other buildings that had to be inside.

L.J. Kimball: OK. What you said some kind of wood. In my mind I was thinking that it wasn't wood you'd recognize. But in fact it was regular wood building.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: With overlapping wood siding of pine or whatever. Typical construction.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. They were actually just cheap wood that they built the building out of.

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Mr. Morris: And it was temporary buildings really, is what. . . what it was.

L.J. Kimball: And you had one day a week you got liberty?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: Where'd you go on liberty?

Mr. Morris: Mmmm. Usually went to bed. Get caught up on our sleep. Clean up our gear. Do our washing. Get ready to go back out on the field again.

L.J. Kimball: Did you have a chance to go visit the family?

Mr. Morris: Ah, I went to visit 'em twice while I was here. Had an opportunity to go visit 'em twice.

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L.J. Kimball: Did you ever go on liberty in Jacksonville?

Mr. Morris: Mmmm. Let's see.

Mrs. Morris: (whispers) Court Street.

Mr. Morris: I think I came up town once, once or twice. But heck you couldn't get up town. Because there was so many Marines up here that you couldn't walk down the sidewalk or the streets. And, ah, there was nowhere to go really. If you went over to the 2nd Front which was across the road from us, you'd had to stand in line to get in a fight. And so, ah, nobody, ah. . . very few people went over there from our outfit.

L.J. Kimball: Now . . . they say there were a lot of girls brought in for illicit purposes, with all these Marines here. Did you . . . see any of that when you were at the 2nd Front or in Jacksonville?

Mr. Morris: No. But I wouldn't doubt it. I mean, ah, from my experiences being a Marine for 24 years, ah, it happened at other bases, that's all.

L.J. Kimball: It wasn't obvious to you then at the time?

Mr. Morris: No. Not to me. You got to remember now I was a young man.

Mrs. Morris: (laughs)

Mrs. Morris: Well, it was sure obvious in '49 when we were here.

Mr. Morris: Huh?

Mrs. Morris: It was sure obvious in '49.

Mr. Morris: Oh yeah. '49. Now things changed around because they got modern by '49.

L.J. Kimball: Did you say you were born in '27?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: And this was 1943? You were 27 . . . you have 27. Gee, you could have been as young as 16 years old then.

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Mr. Morris: But, ah, anyway after we got through training here for the replacement draft they put us on a train. And took us to, ah, Linda Vista, California. Did you ever. . . have you been to . . . know where Linda Vista is at?

L.J. Kimball: No, I haven't sir.

Mr. Morris: OK. That's just north of San Diego. For our final training before taking us overseas.

L.J. Kimball: There was a camp there. Was it called Camp Elliott or what was it called?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Camp Elliott was north. . . north of Camp Elliott. Joined right on to it. Camp Elliott was a Navy prison at that time. And, ah, because we had to furnish guards for the prison. And I . . . I used to catch that duty bus a while.

L.J. Kimball: You say they took you to Linda Vista to give your final training?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: What kind of training was that?

Mr. Morris: Ah, field training. Infantry training. And, ah, there we picked up our specialist MOS. I ended up being the, ah, automatic rifleman MOS.

L.J. Kimball: That would have meant Browning Automatic Rifle in those days?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Yeah. And, ah, we had our own MOS and our own big old rifle to carry around. Got our training with that, so.

L.J. Kimball: At what point did they assign you to a unit?

Mr. Morris: Ah, what do you mean by unit?

L.J. Kimball: Well . . . at what point did you stop being in a replacement draft and become a member of a Division, Regiment, Battalion, and Company, that sort of thing?

Mr. Morris: Oh. That was, ah, when we went overseas. Went to Hawaii. Ah, they used us as a replacement for the Second Marine Division. Put us in the Second Marine Division.

L.J. Kimball: OK. At Hawaii?

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Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: What regiment were you in?

Mr. Morris: I was in First Battalion Second [Regiment].

L.J. Kimball: First Battalion, Second Marines. OK. And then you shipped out of Hawaii?

Mr. Morris: And went to Saipan.

L.J. Kimball: And . . . when did you arrive in Saipan?

Mr. Morris: Mmmm. June 1944.

L.J. Kimball: Did you participate in the actual landing?

Mr. Morris: In the actual landing. Was there all during the landing.

L.J. Kimball: When did you come in, do you recall? In what wave you were in, what beach? Any idea?

Mr. Morris: Hmmm. I believe my unit was in the Third Wave. And we came in on Red Beach One. Just south of Garapan.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: And, ah, we had to go in and swing up, go through the town or city of Garapan. That was our first objective I understand. And then, ah, go on up the coast cuz they had Second Marines and the Army, 27th Army Division. . . then the Fourth Marines was on the eastern side of the island so we just came in, swing around and go up.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall who were your Battalion and Regimental Commanders were?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Shotgun King Crow. Ah, I'm sorry. Maj. Kyle when we first got there.

L.J. Kimball: Was the . . .

Mr. Morris: He was the . . . he was the, ah, Reg. . . ah, Battalion Commander.

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L.J. Kimball: OK. And the Regiment. Who had the Regiment?

Mr. Morris: Regiment. Ah, I don't know who he was.

L.J. Kimball: So Maj. Kyle was the Battalion Commander at the time?

Mr. Morris: He was the Battalion Commander.

L.J. Kimball: Have any interesting experiences during the Saipan operation?

Mr. Morris: No. Not really. Ah, just, ah . . .

Mrs. Morris: Were you wounded there? No, you were. . .

Mr. Morris: . . . staying alive.

Mrs. Morris: You. . . you was wounded on Tinian, huh?

Mr. Morris: Wounded on Tinian. Ah, anyway, ah, about all we did was just try to stay alive, fight and, ah, get our job done and get out of there.

L.J. Kimball: Did you have any up close encounters with the Japanese? Did you see them close enough to shoot at them?

Mr. Morris: Oh yeah. Yeah. You could see 'em that close. Ah, about the, ah, most comical thing I ever seen, we were going out on outpost one night. And, ah, I guess probably about eight or nine o'clock. We were marching along trying to be real quiet. Word was passed down. And says hey, there's a Japanese marching along beside us. What you want us to do? Lt. Roberts said shoot him. So everybody turned around and shot at him.

L.J. Kimball: Just one Japanese?

Mr. Morris: Just one Japanese. And so he fell to the ground. And we went over to see whether he was dead or not really. And all we found was a riddled pack laying on the ground and that Japanese was gone. I don't know where he went to. He was gone.

L.J. Kimball: Was he walking the same direction or the opposite direction?

Mr. Morris: No. He was going the opposite direction from where we were going.

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L.J. Kimball: Was there a blood trail? Do you recall?

Mr. Morris: I don't know. We didn't look.

L.J. Kimball: Just found the riddled pack.

Mr. Morris: Just found the riddled pack. He was gone, so, well, we were still probably a quarter, half-mile from our outpost and so we had to get on down to that.

L.J. Kimball: Mmmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: But, ah, that. . . that was one of the comical things there at that place. We started moving into Garapan on the first day, second day really. And, ah, we got bogged down there. And we were holding the line up. We had to move back. And the Navy. . . Naval Gunfire and Aviation, they just completely riddled that town. And the next morning we walked through. We didn't have any problems. But we had good leaders. And I'm sure that contributed a lot to our success as far as that goes when I was with the First Battalion Second.

L.J. Kimball: And you stayed with them for the entire operation on Saipan?

Mr. Morris: On Saipan, yeah.

L.J. Kimball: When were you withdrawn from Saipan?

Mr. Morris: Ah, well, we were. . . we was at Saipan until . . . for a short rest. Then we went Tinian.

L.J. Kimball: Right from Saipan to Tinian?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: Did . . . you make an amphibious landing or an assault landing on Tinian? Or were you just one of the follow-up units?

Mr. Morris: Well, ah, my unit. . . I was a . . . quite a few of us were mistaken. . . was put over into the Eighth Marines because the Eighth Marines was supposed to have a more active part on Tinian, I guess, than the Second Marines. And, ah, so I was put into the First Battalion Eighth. And, ah, that's were Lt. Col. Crow was the Regimental

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Commander of the Eighth Marines at that time. And you've probably read quite a bit about his exploits and all of that stuff.

L.J. Kimball: How about the Battalion Commander of the First Battalion?

Mr. Morris: Ah, that was, ah, hmmm, what is that? Major. . . I really can't remember his name.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: Because I was . . . there was . . . those people were all new to me coming from the Second Marines as a replacement.

L.J. Kimball: Sure.

Mr. Morris: Over to the Eighth. And, ah, we were put in as a decoy. Our unit of the Eighth Marines going over to Tinian. And we were supposed to make a mock landing at Tinian Town. And anyway the unit, I'm sure you've already read the history of Tinian, went in on the two small beaches at the southern end of the island. And so after it was the. . . they made the initial landing, then they pulled us back around and pulled us out.

L.J. Kimball: Over the same beach?

Mr. Morris: Over the same beach. Two small beaches.

L.J. Kimball: Did you go in on D-Day?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Mmm-hmmm. And we stayed, ah, oh, went all the way through Tinian. And through the mopping up and everything. And, ah, during the mopping up I was hit. Sent back to Area Heights Hospital in, ah, Hawaii.

L.J. Kimball: How did you get hit?

Mr. Morris: And, ah. Ah, shot with a bullet. Rifle bullet.

L.J. Kimball: Was it during an engagement? Or a sniper?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. It was a sniper's. During our mopping up exercise. And came back to Area Heights Hospital. Went to Seattle. Hospital there.

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Mrs. Morris: When did you go to Australia? Ah, that was R&R wasn't it?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. And then, ah, went to San Diego for reassignment after I got out of the hospital in Seattle. Stationed at Mare Island on Guard Duty.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Let me get the chronology here. And particularly the dates. When were you released from the hospital?

Mr. Morris: Whew. Well, a month. January of forty. . . five.

Tape Two, Side One

L.J. Kimball: Then you went to San Diego for reassignment. In January of '45. Then you were stationed at Mare . . . Island.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. And to San Diego just for orders. Down there for orders. I don't know why they ever did that. They could have given us orders out of the hospital. Save that trip to San Diego but anyway they sent us down there. And I was on Mare Island for two years until '46. November of 46.

L.J. Kimball: How did you feel when you heard the war was over?

Mr. Morris: Oh, well. That . . . that was a, a real, ah, real elation there on our part. It was a . . . that was. . . because really all that was said our orders that, well, not all of us, but quite a few of us had orders to go back overseas at that time.

L.J. Kimball: To participate in the landing at Japan?

Mr. Morris: Do that. That was it.

L.J. Kimball: So you didn't feel any great disappointment that you weren't going to be able to go over there?

Mr. Morris: No disappointment at all. So then they just tore our orders up. They says forget it. You're gonna stay here. So then I got out of the Marine Corps. After the war was over. And, ah, got out on points on early release. And on 7 December, believe it or not, 7 December of '46. . . '45, I reenlisted as a regular in the Marine Corps from the Reserve.

L.J. Kimball: OK. You say you were at Mare Island for two years?

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Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: Tape two, Side one. When last we were talking—you said you were at Mare Island for two years. So part of that time was after you reenlisted.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Yeah, because I stayed right at the Base there, the Ammunition Depot at Mare Island.

L.J. Kimball: And what rank were you there?

Mr. Morris: Ah, I was all the way up to a Corporal.

L.J. Kimball: Were you a Corporal before you reenlisted?

Mr. Morris: Yup. Mmm-hmmm. I reenlisted as a Corporal.

L.J. Kimball: And were you still on Guard Duty?

Mr. Morris: Still on Guard Duty. There at the Ammunition Depot at Mare Island. And, ah, after we were . . . at the end of '46, ah, in November '46 got my orders to, ah, go to Fifth Service Depot on Guam and, ah, and turn to go to Air Sea Rescue on Saipan. And back to my old stomping grounds.

L.J. Kimball: Saipan.

Mr. Morris: And, ah, our duty at that time was to inventory all of the gear that was stockpiled on Saipan for the invasion of Japan.

L.J. Kimball: OK. You were in Air Sea Rescue?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: And your job was to inventory the staged material?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: Because at that time, see, Fifth Service Depot on Guam was turning all of this staged gear over to the Chinese Nationalists. And, ah, so it was our duty to inventory, turn it over to the Nationalists there. And then they would track it

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down, put it aboard their ships and take it back to China there for operation. And we had two to three Chinese ships in there just about all the time, loading them. And, ah, but anyway, going back a little ways, I met my wife back at the time I went to, ah, Treasure Island and we got married, oh, on 7 December. . . in 1946.

L.J. Kimball: So you. . . you joined Bruce when he was over on Saipan?

Mrs. Morris: I had to wait cuz he went to Saipan and then when the housing became available I was able to go. And, ah, it happened that I was only Buck Sergeant's wife outside the continental limits of the United States in the Marine Corps.

L.J. Kimball: Was there family housing on Saipan?

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. But it was off. . .

Mr. Morris: No, not really.

Mrs. Morris: Hmmm?

Mr. Morris: Not really.

Mrs. Morris: We had a Quonset hut.

Mr. Morris: We had Quonset huts that the Navy determined that if the enlisted personnel wanted to bring their families out, and they were authorized, and this had to be authorized by, ah, COMNAV . . . of, ah, Pearl Harbor who. . . who was in charge of the area. Then we could convert the Quonset huts into living quarters. And of course if you were authorized, then the Navy would bring your family out to live with you. But you were responsible for converting the Quonset hut into living quarters. And so the Marines were given, I don't know how many units. But anyway, me and another Buck Sergeant by the name McKaskle, we, ah, put in for a unit. And both of us got 'em. We were very lucky. I don't know how we got 'em, but anyway we got 'em. And so with the use of the SeeBees, a few cases of beer, a few bottles of whiskey, we converted those Quonset huts into living quarters. Had to build our own furniture. All the electricity was by generator. And we did have running water. And, ah, so anyway, we built the thing. And she came out and joined us.

Mrs. Morris: It was back. . . Matt made Staff.

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Mr. Morris: Yeah. Well, yeah, McKaskle made Staff. So him and I were the only two Buck Sergeants in the Pacific with our wives out there. And he made Staff, so that left me by myself.

L.J. Kimball: Were there other Marines that had their families there or just you and Matt?

Mr. Morris: Oh, yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Oh, yes.

Mr. Morris: Yeah, the Sergeant Major was there.

Mrs. Morris: They had to give us priv. . . Staff NCO privileges, get the Club.

Mr. Morris: See, it was me, McKaskle, Mayham, Sgt. Major, ah, McCarroll and Whitaker. Was. . . there was that many of us, ah . .

Mrs. Morris: Up on the hill.

Mr. Morris: . . . enlisted that had our wives up.

L.J. Kimball: And you all. . . you were all billeted together or were there Navy people there also?

Mr. Morris: Well, there was Navy people in the same area that we were in.

Mrs. Morris: But not right with us.

Mr. Morris: Not right with us.

L.J. Kimball: And where was this housing area?

Mr. Morris: Ah, at, ah. . . what did they call the, um. . . it was out to the old Navy ammo dump. Where all the ammunition was stored for, ah, the big invasion of, ah, S. . . ah, Japan. Ah, what was the name of that?

Mrs. Morris: I was trying to think of what it was too. But I. . . I wanted to tell what was on my mind. I wanted to tell Kim. When the war was over and after the battles all the equipment was still setting along the beach when we got back.

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Mr. Morris: See, all of the . . . the old war time, ah, material, all of the wreckage and everything was still there.

Mrs. Morris: Was on the beach.

Mr. Morris: The caves was still there. Some still had guns in them.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: A few had bodies left in 'em with, ah, skeletons and everything.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. It was.

Mr. Morris: But, ah, anyway, that was our honeymoon time out on Saipan.

L.J. Kimball: How long were you married before you had to . . . ship out overseas?

Mr. Morris: Oh, probably about a month.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: OK. About a month. Then you didn't see each other for about a year?

Mrs. Morris: Yeah, because. . .

Mr. Morris: Yeah, because I left the . . . in January to go to . . .

Mrs. Morris: . . . and I left in February to go. I . . . I got discharged and went on terminal leave. And . . .

Mr. Morris: Right.

Mrs. Morris: . . . I went on terminal leave in Jan. . . February.

Mrs. Morris: And then we waited til we got housing. In fact, you know, after we had housing, they didn't say anything. They took, ah, housing allowances, 90 cents a day. So they took it away from us all the time we were liv. . . lived there. But when we got back to the States they start checking records. And they couldn't charge Buck Sergeants housing allowance. So we got all our housing allowance back here in . . . when we got back to Camp Lejeune, right?

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Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: This was 1949 when you were over there? In Saipan?

Mr. Morris: Well, we . . . we came back to the States in '49.

Mrs. Morris: We come back in forty, ah . . .

Mr. Morris: It was December '48 really.

Mrs. Morris: December '48.

L.J. Kimball: December '48 you came back. You left your plantation there in Saipan.

Mrs. Morris: Left it. Oh. I tell you though. One thing about our Quonset hut. Bruce had taken and screened. . . I don't know if you know how Quonset huts are open.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm-hmmm.

Mrs. Morris: Well he screened all ours in and screened it in down at the sides, they were open along the sides there, with screen. So we didn't have any rats in ours. But we've set over our neighbors and, you know, the roundup there, and we were setting in the living room and there'd be a rat setting up there looking at us.

L.J. Kimball: I lived and went to school in Quonset huts on Guam.

Mrs. Morris: Mmmm. Did you have the same thing?

L.J. Kimball: A few. . . few years later, so I know exactly what you're talking about.

Mrs. Morris: Talking about. Did you see the rats?

L.J. Kimball: Oh, yeah. Huge things.

Mr. Morris: Big ones.

Mrs. Morris: Oh. I tell you. I would set there. . . I was setting there looking nervous and one up there looking at me. (laughing) But we could. . . we could hear them running up the side, you know, of our Quonset hut. But, ah, but ah. . .

Mr. Morris: It. . . it was a, ah, a lesson there. We enjoyed it though.

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L.J. Kimball: So everything else was uphill from there or was. . .

Mr. Morris: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Oh, yeah.

L.J. Kimball: . . . was better than that?

Mrs. Morris: It . . . it . . . it was an experience. I . . . I'm glad I got to go.

Mr. Morris: It sure was.

Mrs. Morris: It really was.

L.J. Kimball: And you went from there in 1949 to Camp Lejeune?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: When did you get here in Lejeune?

Mr. Morris: In, ah, January . . .

Mrs. Morris: We came right after New Year's.

Mr. Morris: Oh, January of '49. I'm sorry.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: January of '49.

L.J. Kimball: Did you. . . get an occupational change, a change in MOS?

Mr. Morris: Yes. Mmm-hmmm. At that time I had to change my MOS or really get out of the Marine Corps because they. . . they were reducing the size of the Marine Corps and everything. And so if they had a MOS that was slack and you were in the another one and you wanted to stay in, get your change of MOS and get trained in the, ah, other one. So I changed over at that time to being a meat cutter. And, ah, came here to Camp Lejeune and worked in the Sales Commissary down there. That's the reason why she could come in shopping at six o'clock in the morning.

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Mrs. Morris: We'd be ready to leave when the cashiers came.

Mr. Morris: We opened from six to two.

L.J. Kimball: You say the Resale Commissary.

Mr. Morris: No, just the Sales Commissary. I'm sorry.

L.J. Kimball: All right. Is this the retail store where. . .

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Same as the Commissary now.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Commissary now.

Mrs. Morris: But much nicer.

Mr. Morris: Except it was run. . . it was run strictly by Marines except for the cashiers. The cashiers were the only civilians that, ah. . .

Mrs. Morris: Well, I tell you what was so nice about it. You bought coffee. It was 18 cents a pound. Cigarettes, well, what were we paying? Five cents a pack?

Mr. Morris: Five cents a pack.

Mrs. Morris: Five cents a pack of cigarettes.

L.J. Kimball: Virginia said the Commissary was much nicer then.

Mrs. Morris: Yes.

Mr. Morris: Well, it was smaller and. . .

Mrs. Morris: It was smaller and you knew. . . you knew that the. . .

Mr. Morris: We didn't have as much, ah, as many items in the store.

Mrs. Morris: No.

Mr. Morris: Ah. . .

L.J. Kimball: And the prices were right.

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Mr. Morris: The prices were right.

Mrs. Morris: Price. . . the prices were. . .

Mr. Morris: And everybody knew everybody down there.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

Mr. Morris: Like Old Home Week when everybody would to the Commissary.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: They only came twice a month anyway.

L.J. Kimball: And that was what? On. . .

Mr. Morris: On payday.

L.J. Kimball: On payday.

Mr. Morris: Nobody had any money to come any time that. . .

L.J. Kimball: Was this. . . was the store, the Commissary, located in the same place it was [Building 1200] before we moved to the new Commissary we're currently in?

Mr. Morris: No.

Mrs. Morris: Yes.

Mr. Morris: No.

Mrs. Morris: Yes.

Mr. Morris: It was, ah, across the road over there at Building 12, 1200.

Mrs. Morris: It was. . . it was right over there Bruce.

Mr. Morris: It was in the same area, but not in the same location.

Mrs. Morris: Before they m. . . built a new one?

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Mr. Morris: Yeah. The old Commissary was over across the road where the gas station. . .

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Mr. Morris: . . . used to be over there.

L.J. Kimball: Right. But when you. . . in 1949, the period you're talking about, it was . . . it was in that building.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. In that building there, yeah. And, ah, but anyways stayed here until '50. Worked at the Commissary there.

Mrs. Morris: That's when you got your . . .

Mr. Morris: And, ah, made Staff Sergeant in '49. And Whipple got his orders to go to Parris Island and he turned in the hospital the last minute so I had to replace him as a Staff Sergeant. And I hadn't, ah. . . I got my orders in the morning and I had until midnight to get there.

L.J. Kimball: To Parris Island?

Mr. Morris: To Parris Island.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. That's . . . that's over the weekend.

L.J. Kimball: Well, back to '49 and Camp Lejeune for a while. Where did you live when you were there?

Mr. Morris: Oh. Well the . . . when we first came here we got an apartment out at Holly Ridge.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. We lived there.

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Mr. Morris: Ah, because Camp Davis had closed by then and all of the Army quarters there were turned over, well, really not turned over to the Marines. They were turned over to a private, ah, conglomerate that, ah, rented them out to probably. . . I think most everybody down there were servicemen.

L.J. Kimball: This was a government housing project? [Holly Ridge Housing Project]

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: It was over on the Holly Ridge side.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Not the Holly Ridge side. Across. Ah, yeah. Holly Ridge side. Across from of Camp Davis. Camp Davis was across the road from Holly Ridge.

L.J. Kimball: It was more than a housing area. There was a commissary also?

Mrs. Morris: No.

Mr. Morris: No, not when we got there.

Mrs. Morris: No.

Mr. Morris: Because, ah, Boom Town owned the old commissary store and they had a furniture. . .

Mrs. Morris: and grocery store.

Mr. Morris: . . . and grocery store combined.

L.J. Kimball: OK. There had been a commissary there but it was gone now.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Probably.

L.J. Kimball: And there was a school across from the commissary?

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Mr. Morris: No. Not at that time. But if it was, it wasn't operational.

L.J. Kimball: OK. It wasn't operational as a school.

Mr. Morris: So anyway we lived there. They had, ah, coal burning stoves and heaters. So we were looking for a place to move so we wouldn't have to live under those conditions. Gus Crist was building some little apartments up here, out on Highway 258 by, ah, Highway 53. So we were lucky enough to rent one of those.

L.J. Kimball: Are those. . . the little apartments. . . still there?

Mr. Morris: No.

Mrs. Morris: They tore 'em down. Surely did.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. They tore 'em down.

Mrs. Morris: They were brand new when we moved in.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Yeah. We were the first ones to live there.

Mrs. Morris: But they were. . . they were nothing but what'd you say shells. They were only. . .

Mr. Morris: Just shell buildings.

Mrs. Morris: . . . as cheapest that any he could have build. But we only paid fifty dollars a month.

Mr. Morris: We paid that much?

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: That seems like a lot for a shell building in those days.

Mr. Morris: Well, there was no other place to rent. Not a thing.

Mrs. Morris: Suppose all they had was Mid. . . Midway Park.

Mr. Morris: That was the only housing, yeah.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm-hmmm.

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Mrs. Morris: And you know, it's. . . it's surprising going down, ah . . . when I think about going down the highway down 24 to the Base. They had one drive-in and that was called "The It." That's all . . . all that rest of it was woods.

L.J. Kimball: It was, ah, Ed Vecchio's place.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Yup.

Mrs. Morris: We'd stop and get milk there.

L.J. Kimball: What you called the apartments there, ah, at Camp Davis. What used to be housing for Camp Davis. Were these multiple units?

Mrs. Morris: Yes. Yes. Yeah.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Long row of them.

L.J. Kimball: And they were all stuck together though in the same . . .

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: And was it cement block?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mrs. Morris: Yes. Cement. Cement floors.

Mr. Morris: Cement floors. Cement block. Coal stove to cook with.

L.J. Kimball: Was it flat roof?

Mr. Morris: No. No. It was angled roof.

L.J. Kimball: Angled.

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Mrs. Morris: But they were. . . I think we only paid twenty-five dollars a month there.

Mr. Morris: I think that was about it.

L.J. Kimball: And it was mostly service people over there though?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mrs. Morris: Oh, yeah. It was mostly all service.

L.J. Kimball: What do you remember of Holly Ridge and Camp Davis in '49?

Mrs. Morris: Oh, going over to the Boom Town to the store. All the Popkin boys were all young and Jerry, he had a convertible. He had one. . . get in that. . . have that cap on. He'd be driving it all through town. Of course he's. . . he's gone now. He's dead. But, ah, and, ah, Itchy, he worked in the store. He worked in the meat counter. Behind the meat counter. He was just a teenager, about 16 I think back then. And, ah, Alfred and, ah, Sidney, they had the furni. . . more or less furniture the whole store. That's about the only place we went there.

L.J. Kimball: Was this all one building?

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. All in one building.

L.J. Kimball: And this was the old commissary?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Was the old commissary building.

Mrs. Morris: It could have been the old commissary.

Mr. Morris: I believe that was the old commissary.

L.J. Kimball: It was. . . it wasn't up on the road there.

Mrs. Morris: No. No. No. No.

L.J. Kimball: It was back from the road. One block back.

Mrs. Morris: Yes.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

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Mrs. Morris: And, ah, we bought our groceries. Most of our groceries there, because we didn't go to the commissary. And we bought our furniture there.

L.J. Kimball: And this. . .

Mrs. Morris: They moved us.

L.J. Kimball: . . . furniture, groceries. . .

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Everything. And they. . . they moved us free of charge from Holly Ridge to Jacksonville. They didn't even charge us.

L.J. Kimball: Because you were good friends?

Mr. Morris: Well, I don't know. The Popkin boys, ah. . .

Mrs. Morris: They were always. . .

Mr. Morris: . . . course you hear a lot of stories about them here in town also.

Mrs. Morris: But they were always. . .they were very good to us.

Mr. Morris: They always treated us good.

Mrs. Morris: They did. Cuz I. . . when we went to Parris Island, we transferred to Parris Island. I wrote back, I wanted a typewriter. And do you know, they sent me a typewriter down to Parris Island.

L.J. Kimball: Were they this nice to everybody or did you have some. . . ?

Mr. Morris: Yeah, I think they were.

Mrs. Morris: I think they were. They were nice to everybody. I mean. . .

Mr. Morris: I tell you, if it hadn't been for them, many of the Marines coming through here. . .

Mrs. Morris: That's right.

Mr. Morris: . . . that was married would of never had anything to live on. Really. Because they would sell 'em furniture. They'd sell 'em anything they had on credit.

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Mrs. Morris: Yeah, that's right. They sell. . .

Mr. Morris: Except groceries. Groceries was the only thing. . .

Mrs. Morris: They. . . that's one thing they wouldn't sell on credit.

Mr. Morris: . . . would not sell on credit.

Mrs. Morris: But anything else they did.

Mr. Morris: And, ah, as Virginia said they moved us, ah, when we got ready to move. Drove the truck over. Helped us load our stuff in. Brought us up here. We didn't have a refrigerator.

Mrs. Morris: They loaned us that.

Mr. Morris: They loaned us the refrigerator when we moved.

Mrs. Morris: Until we could afford to buy one.

Mr. Morris: And, ah, til we could afford to buy one.

Mrs. Morris: Of course we bought it from them.

L.J. Kimball: Are any of the. . . any of the Popkin boys still alive?

Mr. Morris: Oh yeah. Itchy and, ah, Sidney both are alive I think.

Mrs. Morris: Itchy. . .

Mr. Morris: Marty's dead. Ah, Jerry's dead.

Mrs. Morris: No. Oh, ah, Itchy, right. That's right, Itchy. He. . . he's still. . .

Mr. Morris: He's still spinning around in that washing machine over that. . .

Mrs. Morris: And which. . . which other ones?

Mr. Morris: Sidney.

Mrs. Morris: Who?

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Mr. Morris: Marty died.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

Mr. Morris: Jerry died.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

Mr. Morris: Sidney still. . .

Mrs. Morris: Sidney. . . I thought Sidney died too. Yeah he did.

Mr. Morris: I think. . .

Mrs. Morris: No. It was Alfred. Alfred died.

Mr. Morris: Alfred died.

Mrs. Morris: Alfred, right. Your Sidney di. . . I hadn't seen him. Itch. . . I see Itchy every once in a while.

L.J. Kimball: What else was in Holly Ridge at this time besides Boom Town? Did they call it Boom Town? The store?

Mrs. Morris: That was the name of the store. Boom Town.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. It was Boom Town.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: Was there anything else in Holly Ridge at the time?

Mrs. Morris: No.

L.J. Kimball: That you recall?

Mrs. Morris: Not really.

Mr. Morris: Mrs. Popkins, she was. . . she run the boys and, ah . . .

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Mrs. Morris: But there wasn't anything that . . . whatever . . .

Mr. Morris: She. . . she really worked them boys.

Mrs. Morris: There wasn't really anything to do.

Mr. Morris: But pick up pine cones and, ah, coal to. . .

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. To put in our stove. We sure did. We picked all the pine cones up at the farm, plus the coal.

L.J. Kimball: This shell apartment that you got in Jacksonville. That was an improvement on the quarters at Camp Davis?

Mr. Morris: Oh, yeah.

Mrs. Morris: It was closer to the Base.

Mr. Morris: Closer to the Base and like . . . like moving into the Taj Mahal compared to . . .

L.J. Kimball: How. . . was it different then? You described it as just kind of a. . . a shell.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mrs. Morris: Well . . .

Mr. Morris: It was three apartments built together in a shell.

Mrs. Morris: But they. . . they weren't built. . .

Mr. Morris: Plain.

Mrs. Morris: . . . you know . . .

Mr. Morris: Small.

Mrs. Morris: Small.

L.J. Kimball: Was it bigger than. . .

Mr. Morris: But it was . . .

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Mrs. Morris: And cheaply. They were built cheaply.

L.J. Kimball: Was it larger than the . . . your Camp Davis one?

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. Uh-huh.

Mr. Morris: Oh yeah. Yeah. Those were real small, the one we had at Camp Davis.

Mrs. Morris: And we was able to have a garden. We had a garden.

L.J. Kimball: How many bedrooms did your Camp Davis one have?

Mr. Morris: Two.

L.J. Kimball: . . . One of the reasons I'm interested in this is I'm gonna go down this month and give a presentation to some folks at that old housing area who want to take the old school, which is the only surviving complete structure from Camp Davis, and make it into some kind of a museum, make it a historical site.

Mr. Morris: Hmmm.

Mrs. Morris: Oh.

L.J. Kimball: So I'm gonna tell 'em the history of that particular structure in the area. So I picked up on the fact that you lived in that old housing area there and I wanted to, once again, personalize history. Get some . . . some impressions of the people that actually lived there, of what they thought about the houses. Because the school was for the housing project. And basically it was located . . . The intersection's here. And I can't make the intersection and point to what I'm talking about, but anyway, the commissary's here. On this side of the road. The housing area was down here. And the school was right over here. In recent years, its a church.

Mrs. Morris: Well, that could be. I'll have . . . I'll have to . . .

Mr. Morris: Oh, yeah. Yeah. I know where . . . where you're talking about now.

Mrs. Morris: We lived in . . .

Mr. Morris: But see when the Army moved out they probably assumed they didn't have any, ah, use for the school. Well, when the Base Army disbanded the Base.

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L.J. Kimball: Now from the newspaper articles at that time, they turned those quarters. . . whatever system they used for managing it, whether they . . . contracted out civilian . . . or whatever. They made that housing available to the Marines at Camp Lejeune because of the shortage of housing as you discussed.

Mrs. Morris: You. . . ah, have you talked to Itchy about the, ah, what they had, you know, the store up there?

L.J. Kimball: No, I have not.

Mrs. Morris: He might be able to help you.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Itchy would be able to, ah, give you a lot of fill in on that area, and Sidney. Both of those.

L.J. Kimball: Sidney?

Mrs. Morris: No. No. No. He's one of the brothers.

Mr. Morris: Yes. Yeah. He's. . .

L.J. Kimball: You're saying Sidney?

Mr. Morris: Sidney.

Mrs. Morris: Sidney.

L.J. Kimball: Sidney. OK.

Mr. Morris: He's the, ah. . .

Mrs. Morris: He runs. . .

Mr. Morris: . . . manager of the Popkin Enterprise.

Mrs. Morris: I think you . . . you. . . you find him down on New Bridge Street.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. His office is down there.

L.J. Kimball: Down at Boom Town there?

Mr. Morris: Boom Town. Mmm-hmmm.

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L.J. Kimball: How about Itchy? What's he doing?

Mrs. Morris: He's out at Furniture Fair.

Mr. Morris: He's Furniture Fair.

Mrs. Morris: He's Furniture Fair.

L.J. Kimball: OK. He's still active . . .

Tape two, side two. I missed your last few remarks there on the Popkins because I was into the leader there. So, you've got to watch the tape because when it clicks you've already missed, ah, a few minutes of taping.

Mrs. Morris: Oh.

Mr. Morris: Well, he, ah, Itchy has all the . . .

Mrs. Morris: Furniture Fair.

Mr. Morris: Furniture Fair units. And of course his grandchildren, Popkins and all this, that have, ah, these various furniture stores through town here. But anyway Itchy and Sidney would be the two that you could. . . who could really give you a run down on Holly Ridge. Because they opened Boom Town down there I believe in 1946 so that would have been right after the war.

L.J. Kimball: Was Itchy the older of the two?

Mr. Morris: Ah, no. He's younger.

Mrs. Morris: He's the youngest.

Mr. Morris: Ah, it was Jerry, Sidney. . . Sidney. . .

Mrs. Morris: Alfred.

Mr. Morris: Alfred. And then, ah, Itchy I believe. . .

Mrs. Morris: Marty. Marty.

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Mr. Morris: Marty. No. Itchy and then Marty.

L.J. Kimball: OK. So Sidney would have been the oldest . . .

Mrs. Morris: One of the oldest.

L.J. Kimball: . . . and probably had better recollection.

Mrs. Morris: Yes. He . . . Sidney would. Yeah.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: OK. That's interesting. You're the first two that I've run into that actually lived in those apartments. For some people it's a vague recollection that those even existed. And those are few enough that. It's interesting. You have to keep asking people until you find somebody as yourselves that actually lived there.

Mrs. Morris: You know I think Joan Dillemath lived. . . lived up there too at one time.

L.J. Kimball: Did she?

Mrs. Morris: You. . . I may be wrong about that.

L.J. Kimball: She lived in the housing?

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: I didn't think she was old enough to have lived there unless she was a dependent.

Mrs. Morris: No. Maybe. . . maybe she didn't. Maybe it was somebody else I'm thinking of.

Mr. Morris: Must have been.

Mrs. Morris: No she isn't old enough. No, it wasn't her. You're right. It wasn't her. Unless it . . . her family.

L.J. Kimball: You didn't live in . . . these apartments there on 258/53 very long because you went to Parris Island in 1950.

Mr. Morris: Right. About a year.

Mrs. Morris: '51. '51.

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Mr. Morris: Yeah. '51. Two years. Two years.

Mrs. Morris: '51.

Mr. Morris: Lived there.

L.J. Kimball: But you left for Lejeune in '50?

Mr. Morris: '52.

L.J. Kimball: Fif. . . '52.

Mr. Morris: '52 or fif. . . '51. '51.

Mrs. Morris: '51.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Well, we came down here in '49. We left in '51.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: So you were here for two years.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: What was. . . What was Jacksonville then? What do you recall?

Mr. Morris: Ah, really nothing.

Mrs. Morris: It was downtown was all Jacksonville. That's all there was. I did my shopping downtown on Court Street.

L.J. Kimball: What was there? To shop at?

Mrs. Morris: Ah, there was, ah, Leder Brothers. There was a store, dress shops, I mean, clothing store. There was Adler's Shoe Store. There was a dime store. And of course, Aman's Hardware, cuz I remember going in there. I'll never forget going to. . . and it's all your fault.

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Mr. Morris: Margolis's.

L.J. Kimball: Which. . . which store. . . is it she'll never forget?

Mrs. Morris: Going into Aman's Hardware Store.

L.J. Kimball: Why will you never forget that?

Mrs. Morris: Because Bruce sent me to the store. He. . . I was at. . . and I bought some antique end tables and chairs and things for our house at. . . there. I don't know where I . . . I think I bought 'em at Midway Park. And he was repairing them. . . one. . . one chair. And he told me to go into town and get some headless nails for him. So I went in town and I went to the Hardware store and I walked in there and I told 'em I'd like to have some headless nails. And you ought a seen them there for setting there laughing at me.

Mr. Morris: (laughing) So that was Hedrich laughing at you.

Mrs. Morris: Course I. . .

Mr. Morris: He gave 'em to you.

Mrs. Morris: Yes. But that isn't what you call them. (laughing) That's what he told me to get and that's what I went in. . .

L.J. Kimball: You called 'em headless nails. What did they call them if they laughed at you?

Mrs. Morris: Well, they're finishing nails.

Mr. Morris: Finishing nails.

L.J. Kimball: Finishing nails. But they thought it was funny that you called them headless nails.

Mrs. Morris: Headless nails, yes.

Mr. Morris: Well, Hedrich was probably the only one that there. . . that knew what she was talking about.

Mrs. Morris: Well, no. It. . . the . . . was the. . . the old . . . the old man. His father was there. George. His brother or George. There was two older . . .

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Mr. Morris: John.

Mrs. Morris: I don't know which one it was.

L.J. Kimball: Where was the Aman's Store at this time? Was it on Old Bridge [Street]?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: You were . . . saying what else was there when I asked you about, ah, Aman's Hardware Store.

Mrs. Morris: Ah, the . . . the bank. First National Bank. There was a bank there. And, ah, dime store, Adler's. There was a drug store. Cuz I remember going into the drug store.

L.J. Kimball: Which drug store was that?

Mrs. Morris: Ketchum's.

L.J. Kimball: Ketchum's.

Mrs. Morris: Ketchum's.

Mr. Morris: The, ah, the little old hotel was there.

Mrs. Morris: Not . . . not . . . not where . . . not down town. That was around the corner.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: By the bus depot.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. And there was two, ah, two movie theaters.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. We did go to the movies.

L.J. Kimball: Where was the little old hotel?

Mr. Morris: Ah, across from the bus station.

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L.J. Kimball: Chaney Avenue?

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: What happened to that hotel? Do you recall?

Mr. Morris: Huh?

L.J. Kimball: When did that go away? Do you remember?

Mrs. Morris: Did they tear that down or?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. That was torn down recently. Ah, when I say recently. . .

Mrs. Morris: Was that. . .

Mr. Morris: . . . I mean the last ten years.

Mrs. Morris: Maybe. . . may. . . oh, no, it's longer than that. Is . . . was that named Walton?

Mr. Morris: Walton's Motel.

L.J. Kimball: Walton's Motel?

Mrs. Morris: Walton. W-A-

Mr. Morris: Hotel or motel. Something like that.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Was that there during the war?

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. I believe it was. I'm not sure because I wasn't here during the war.

Mrs. Morris: It was there after the war.

Mr. Morris: But it was there when we came back . . .

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Mrs. Morris: Came back in '49.

Mr. Morris: . . . came back in '49.

L.J. Kimball: And the movies were, ah, on Old Bridge and on Court Street.

Mr. Morris: Right.

L.J. Kimball: That's got to be the State.

Mr. Morris: Onslow and State.

L.J. Kimball: Onslow and State. And, ah, Billy Arthur. . . was he operating it or was it Joseph Parsons Brown, was he the editor of the newspaper?

Mrs. Morris: Oh, he was working in Quinn's. He was around the corner there in Quinn's Furniture Store. He worked there. Cuz we bought some furniture there. And he wanted me . . . he was. . . at the time, he was writing his book. And he wanted me to do the typing for him. I can remember that. And I. . . of course then I got a chance to go to work on the Base. So I didn't do the typing for him.

L.J. Kimball: You say he worked in Quinn's Furniture?

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. He worked in at Quinn's Furniture.

L.J. Kimball: Was. . . did. . . was his newspaper office there or he actually worked for the furniture store?

Mrs. Morris: No. No. You're talking about Billy Arthur.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Billy Arthur. I. . . Was he the manager. . . did he run the newspaper at that time?

Mrs. Morris: Yes.

Mr. Morris: Yes. Billy Arthur. Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Billy Arthur did.

L.J. Kimball: And he. . .

Mrs. Morris: Brown worked for Quinn. He was in Quinn's store.

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L.J. Kimball: OK. So he wasn't associated with the newspaper anymore.

Mrs. Morris: No. Mmm-mmmm. Not that I know of now. He could have been but I didn't. . .

Mr. Morris: He could have been associated with it because, ah, I believe he, ah, opened up the Daily News. I . . . I really don't know who operated the paper. I know Billy Arthur run the News and Views. But the others there, I don't know who they were.

L.J. Kimball: Well, it's . . . it's one of those things you have to go back and refresh your mind on from time to time because there were. . . There's the News and Views, the Onslow Record, and, ah, at some point the two of them combined to become the Daily News. And, ah, I don't feel comfortable talking about it unless I go back and review it. Because I remember when Billy Arthur came out with his newspaper, which I believe might have been the News and Views, he said his is the only newspaper that carries a hoot about Onslow County. And Joseph Parsons Brown said I beg your pardon, we've been here for so many years. I welcome the noon newspaper but it's not really accurate to say you're the only newspaper that carries a hoot because we've been publishing a newspaper in Onslow County for x number of years.

Mrs. Morris: You know I wanted to ask Kim, would you like something cold to drink?

L.J. Kimball: If you're going to have something, I'll join you.

Mrs. Morris: OK.

L.J. Kimball: Yeah. So you were . . . you were a meat cutter at the Commissary at this point?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: In '49, '51?

Mr. Morris: And, ah, got my orders, went to Parris Island. And we were in the process there of opening one of the first central meat plants in the Marine Corps.

L.J. Kimball: What. . . For the non-initiated, what do you mean, a central meat plant?

Mr. Morris: Well, that is where all of the meat for the mess halls was processed.

L.J. Kimball: As opposed to being processed in the individual mess halls.

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Mr. Morris: Individual mess halls. Right. And, so we. . . we, ah, opened that meat plant. And we ended up with about 85 meat cutters there at one time. And we were processing meat for about 33,000 recruits there during the Korean War.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm-hmmm. At one time? There were that many recruits at Parris Island?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: Thirty-three thousand?

Mr. Morris: Well, that many overall. Some of the personnel then was recruits. And because we were really, ah, running 'em through fast down there. I believe we dropped the training period to eight weeks at that time.

L.J. Kimball: Were you on the grinder at all down there or were you just in the. . .

Mr. Morris: No. No. Just the. . .

L.J. Kimball: . . . meat processing facility.

Mr. Morris: . . . meat processing facility. Because that was a seven day a week job and, ah, no breaks. But, ah, because we had so much work to do. Ah, for instance, in 1952 we processed, I believe . . . I have to go back and search the records, ah, as you say. But it was, ah, in the Leatherneck Magazine. I think we processed a little over four and a half million pounds of beef. Carcass beef alone. Just for Parris Island. The Marines at Parris Island. That didn't include the pork, the fowl, the veal and so forth.

L.J. Kimball: Your function as a Staff Sergeant there, . . . you were obviously in charge of something. What'd they call it? A Unit, a Section?

Mr. Morris: Well, I was in charge of a section and, ah, at that time. Then I made Tech Sergeant in, ah, '52 and then, ah, the Master Sergeant, that was the NCOIC. He was transferred so I became the NCOIC of the plant.

L.J. Kimball: So you had all the meat cutters then under you?

Mr. Morris: So I had all the meat cutters under my, ah, jurisdiction there. And so it'd still be before '54. First of '54 I got. . . I got transferred to, ah, as a replacement for Korea. And, ah, took Virginia home up to Franklin, Pennsylvania. Got her a

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place to live and I went on to Korea. And, ah, was only in Korea for three months. Real happy there. They closed my unit down. Ah, an aviation subunit to MAG [Marine Aircraft Group] 11.

L.J. Kimball: Where. . . where was that?

Mr. Morris: Up at, ah, Pusan.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: And so they sent me over to Atsugi in Japan and spent the rest of my time over there.

L.J. Kimball: And how much was the rest of your time? Was it the remainder of the year?

Mr. Morris: No. That was on an eighteen month tour at that time.

L.J. Kimball: Was that all unaccompanied? Or did Virginia join you at that time?

Mr. Morris: No. That was unaccompanied. And, ah, so went Atsugi, stayed there.

L.J. Kimball: Were you with MAG 11?

Mr. Morris: I was with MAG 11 there.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: And, ah, I worked in Indigenous Labor when we first went over there. Hiring Japanese Nationals to work on the Base. And then the, ah, . . .

Mrs. Morris: Set that down here.

Mr. Morris: . . . And then the Mess Management Chief, he got, ah fired.

L.J. Kimball: Thank you Virginia. Appreciate it.

Mr. Morris: And so then I was put over in the Mess Hall there as the Mess Management Chief. And I run that until I. . . for the remainder of the time that I was there. Then came back to the States. And, ah. . .

L.J. Kimball: This was '55 when you came back to the States?

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Mr. Morris: Yeah. Mmm-hmmm. The end of '55. And the . . . in January of '56 I was transferred to Miami. Opalocka. And operated Central Meat Plant there.

L.J. Kimball: For the Marine Corps?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: What Marine presence was there in that area?

Mr. Morris: Let's see. I don't remember the, ah, units that were down there.

L.J. Kimball: There must have been quite a few to have a centralized meat processing. . .

Mr. Morris: There was. There was two bases. Really. Opalocka and, ah, what was that field's name over there? Masters Field? But anyway, the two bases was combined, other words, under the same operation.

L.J. Kimball: And they were Marine bases?

Mr. Morris: Oh, both Marine bases. Marine Aviation. And, ah, stayed there until, ah, they closed the Base down. And, ah, we were all sent back up here to Camp Lejeune because they were mounting out then for Lebanon.

L.J. Kimball: OK. You were sent from Opalocka up to Camp Lejeune in '56?

Mr. Morris: '58.

L.J. Kimball: '58. So how long were you at Opalocka?

Mr. Morris: Let's see. I went there. . . let's see. Two years and eight months. They closed Opalocka down.

L.J. Kimball: I went to first grade in Opalocka.

Mr. Morris: Oh, you did.

L.J. Kimball: My father was stationed on one of the Air Force bases there.

Mr. Morris: Mmmm. I remember there was. . . Oh, I know. That was down at, ah, Homestead.

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Mrs. Morris: What does?

Mr. Morris: Air Force Base.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

Mr. Morris: Because we used to go down to the Homestead to the Commissary to buy our food, ah, when we were stationed there at Opalocka.

L.J. Kimball: The question I wanted to ask Virginia . . . You said you went on the Base to work, and you . . . were there from '49 to '51?

Mrs. Morris: On the Base?

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Mrs. Morris: No. I turned the job down on the Base.

L.J. Kimball: So you didn't go to the Base and work.

Mrs. Morris: No. I had worked for Civil Service when we were out on the islands. And, ah, I went in and applied for it. I could have had a job, yes. I . . . was just curious because you said you turned down Joseph Parsons Brown . . . because of the Base, and I thought maybe you'd worked on the Base instead.

Mrs. Morris: No. I didn't. I turned them down. I could have worked in the Disbursing. I had a job in the Disbursing Office on the Base. And I, ah, I worked for Supply out on, ah, Saipan. Kept the supply records.

L.J. Kimball: And it was '56 when you came back to Lejeune.

Mr. Morris: No. '58.

L.J. Kimball: '58. What month was that?

Mr. Morris: July.

L.J. Kimball: July.

Mr. Morris: July '58.

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Mrs. Morris: We went to . . .

Mr. Morris: Because they were taking off to go to Lebanon.

Mrs. Morris: Was that fifty. . . I thought it was fifty. . . I thought we came back sooner than that.

Mr. Morris: No. No. No. No. We closed the Base at Opalocka. And they closed that, ah. . .

Mrs. Morris: Oh. OK. I was thinking. . .

Mr. Morris: We came up in July and I think the last troops came out in August.

L.J. Kimball: Out of Opalocka.

Mr. Morris: Out of Opalocka. And Lebanon was kicking off at that time. We couldn't find no place to buy. . . to live.

Mrs. Morris: No place to live.

L.J. Kimball: No Base housing available?

Mr. Morris: No Base housing available. Nothing to rent in town or buy in town.

Mrs. Morris: They. . . cuz so many people coming in to town.

Mr. Morris: So I had to buy a trailer to live in. And so I got that. And I went with the 10th Marines and we were supposed to mount out. Oh boy. And, ah, when you report into an outfit, there's nothing like it. I know you. . . never happened to you when you were in the Marine Corps? To report into an outfit that was mounting out. . . mounted out, and you didn't know what in the hell you had to do. . . that you was gonna take with you. What you had to work with when you got there.

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Mr. Morris: And the old Colonel standing up there, well let's go, let's go. And then under. . . they unload all your junk when they get through. And then you get sick because you realize what would have happened to you when you got there. They'd a shot you.

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L.J. Kimball: Let's go back and cover these events in more detail. What rank were you when you came to Camp Lejeune?

Mr. Morris: Ah, Tech Sergeant.

L.J. Kimball: And where did you put your trailer when you bought it?

Mr. Morris: Ah, first out at Hubert, ah, Piney Green.

L.J. Kimball: Was this the Marine Corps Piney Green Trailer Camp?

Mrs. Morris: No.

Mr. Morris: No.

L.J. Kimball: This was off the Base.

Mr. Morris: It was off the Base.

Mrs. Morris: Let me go out to. . .

Mr. Morris: And then we go space available on the Base and we moved it over on the Base.

L.J. Kimball: Whereabout on the Base?

Mr. Morris: Over to Camp Knox.

Mrs. Morris: Camp Knox.

Mr. Morris: On the private side. See they had the government side and the private side over there.

L.J. Kimball: Government owned trailers and privately owned trailers?

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: And the both of you were at Camp Knox?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

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Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: Where was this in regards to where Camp Knox trailers are located now as far as the government and the private owned?

Mrs. Morris: That was the . . .

Mr. Morris: Ah, same place. The a . . .

Mrs. Morris: That was the a . . .

Mr. Morris: Where. . . where the trailers are at now?

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Mr. Morris: That was government trailers over there.

Mrs. Morris: That was government, yeah. And we were on the other side of the road.

Mr. Morris: We were on the other side of the . . .

L.J. Kimball: On the other side of the road?

Mrs. Morris: On the other side of the road.

L.J. Kimball: Where that little PX is now?

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Let's see. Yeah. There's P . . . little . . . little PX over there. And where the mailboxes are at.

L.J. Kimball: Yeah.

Mr. Morris: That was all. . . that was on the private side.

L.J. Kimball: Wasn't there a trailer camp at Camp Geiger then also?

Mr. Morris: Mmmm. Camp Geiger. I don't believe so.

Mrs. Morris: There was one on the Base.

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L.J. Kimball: On Piney Green Road? On the Base?

Mr. Morris: No. No. That one over at the Base that you were talking about. Where some friends lived. They had closed that down.

Mrs. Morris: They closed that on the Base.

L.J. Kimball: Where was that one that you're talking about?

Mr. Morris: It was on the . . . where the road turns to go to Onslow Beach. Near Holcomb Boulevard.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm-hmmm. How far?

Mr. Morris: Right there on the left.

L.J. Kimball: Did they call that Piney Green Trailer Park?

Mrs. Morris: Was that. . . is that. . .

L.J. Kimball: Because the road . . .

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: . . . that came down was Piney Green. Even though once it was on the Base and they stopped using it, it . . .

Mrs. Morris: Is that what they called it? I don't . . .

L.J. Kimball: Well, you see, Piney Green came all the way down.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: South of Piney Green on the Base.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. Yeah, you're right.

L.J. Kimball: So that's what they . . . they called that the Piney Green Trailer Park even though Piney Green went all the way up to 17.

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Mrs. Morris: I never knew what the name of it was.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. That was a little old shanty town.

Mrs. Morris: Cuz we had friends living there.

Mr. Morris: We had friends living out there where they had a common shower, common bathroom and, ah, that was about all they had. Them and little old trailers just big enough to eat and sleep in.

L.J. Kimball: The trailer you got . . . was that a comfortable trailer?

Mr. Morris: Well, it was eight by fifty.

Mrs. Morris: Eight by fifty.

L.J. Kimball: That was a nice size in those days.

Mr. Morris: It was a good length but it was real narrow. We ate and . . . Try living in a eight foot space.

Mrs. Morris: And when you get company all the time.

Mr. Morris: And, so . . .

Mrs. Morris: Everywhere we've been, except when we were out in the islands, we have had company.

Mr. Morris: Oh, yeah.

Mrs. Morris: I tell you, I think every relative we had came to Florida when we were in Florida.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Going back to 10th Marines. You got to Camp Lejeune. You walked in. You check into the 10th Marines. And they were packing up and ready to head out. Who was the old Colonel?

Mr. Morris: Colonel Kartch was Regimental Commander and Colonel Allen was Battalion Commander.

L.J. Kimball: And you were assigned what? To Battalion Mess?

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Mr. Morris: Yeah. I had Battalion Food Service. I had two . . . two mess halls there. Five oh eight and, ah, can't even remember now, what the hell it was. . . number available. But anyway I had both of 'em.

L.J. Kimball: There were just two mess halls in the 10th Marines?

Mr. Morris: Right.

L.J. Kimball: And he told you get your field kitchens together and. . .

Mr. Morris: No. They were already packed.

L.J. Kimball: They were. OK.

Mr. Morris: They were on ship. Aboard ship. And then when they. . . We didn't have to go to Lebanon. And we had to unpack our gear. And then I saw what was packed to go to Lebanon. And I decided right then and there I didn't like the 10th Marines.

L.J. Kimball: What. . . was your impression of what was packed?

Mr. Morris: Wasn't very good. Ah, my men worked night and day for almost two weeks just cleaning it up. And once we got it squared away, it was, ah, it was pretty well squared away.

L.J. Kimball: And in '59 you went to Schools.

Mr. Morris: '59 when I came over to Schools.

L.J. Kimball: How long did you have to stay in your trailer there? Did you eventually get Base housing?

Mr. Morris: No. Yeah. We got Base housing over at Tarawa Terrace and we moved after that.

L.J. Kimball: Is this before or after you all were at Schools?

Mr. Morris: No. I was over at Schools when we got Base housing. And, ah, then we were there and, ah, I stayed at Schools, made. . . I was one of the first ones to make Gunnery Sergeant in the Marines Corps. I was on the first list that came out. That was E-7 Gunny. And, ah, so anyway, I stayed there. Run the Meat Cutting Department there for Schools for, what, '63. . . '63. . . they. . .

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L.J. Kimball: You mean '63?

Mr. Morris: '63.

L.J. Kimball: So that was four years?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: '59, ah, '63.

Mr. Morris: '63. And then, ah, the . . . I was selected to go to the East Coast Food Team that traveled up and down the coast checking all the food service facilities. And stayed on that eighteen months. And she lived over in Capehart at that time.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Let's go back to the four year tour here at Camp Lejeune. '59 to '63.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: Ah, initially you lived in the trailer. Then you got quarters over at Tarawa Terrace. Who lived at Tarawa Terrace at that point? What ranks?

Mr. Morris: Ah, staff NCOs.

L.J. Kimball: Were there any officers living there?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Yeah. Around the edge. Ah, the edges . . . ah, the edges . . . the duplexes around Tarawa I and Tarawa II. The back areas.

Mrs. Morris: They had some civilians too living in there.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. A few civilians. The schools.

Mrs. Morris: The school. People that worked in the schools.

Mr. Morris: Ah, people lived over there at Tarawa Terrace. I didn't know any of them. But, ah, Warrant Officers and I think Second Lieutenants lived in duplexes around the edges of Tarawa Terrace.

Mrs. Morris: But they were much nicer than they are now.

L.J. Kimball: How so?

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Mrs. Morris: People.

L.J. Kimball: People were nicer then than they are now?

Mrs. Morris: I think so. I mean they have all grades over there now. And, ah. . .

Mr. Morris: Well, to put it another way, she believes in separation . . .

L.J. Kimball: . . . by rank?

Mr. Morris: By rank. And really I did too. I did when I was in the Marine Corps and I still do.

Mrs. Morris: Rank has it's privilege.

L.J. Kimball: You say all ranks were there. Is . . . is that all ranks or do they have senior staff NCO's somewhere else?

Mr. Morris: Oh yeah. There's still Staff NCOs at Tarawa Terrace.

Mrs. Morris: But it, ah, it was a much nicer place than it is now. To me it is. I mean, that's my own opinion.

L.J. Kimball: Because they had higher ranking people there at the time?

Mr. Morris: Well, ah, older people. Let me put it that way.

Mrs. Morris: Older people.

L.J. Kimball: More settled.

Mrs. Morris: Different.

Mr. Morris: More settled and, ah. . .

Mrs. Morris: Different.

Mr. Morris: And more considerate of other . . . other people.

L.J. Kimball: Wouldn't drive up and down the roads with their boom boxes at full volume?

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Mrs. Morris: No.

Mr. Morris: Well, back in those days, in the early 60's, you could walk all over Tarawa Terrace. And it's always been my opinion, when I was in the Marine Corps up until right at the end, that a military Base was the safest place to be in the United States. For a man or a woman or a child. It didn't matter what it was.

Mrs. Morris: You was never afraid. But I wouldn't. . . I wouldn't want to live over there today. I mean I'd be afraid to live over. . . I mean I'd be afraid.

L.J. Kimball: You're talking about Tarawa Terrace.

Mr. Morris: Yup.

Mrs. Morris: Wasn't then.

Mr. Morris: Anyway we lived over there and, ah, moved over there in what, '60, '61. Sixty or '61. I don't remember when.

L.J. Kimball: What'd you think about your quarters in Tarawa Terrace?

Mr. Morris: Your quarters?

L.J. Kimball: Yeah.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. They were pretty nice.

Mrs. Morris: No problems.

Mr. Morris: There was no problems with those. They were considered adequate at that time and I think they were.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Even though they had a seen their day.

Mrs. Morris: We didn't. . . we lived in only a block. We lived in the first block inside of Tarawa II. We had a good place right on the corner.

Mr. Morris: Had an end apartment. And it had real nice neighbors. All the neighbors were real nice.

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L.J. Kimball: So, what'd, you live in a duplex or?

Mr. Morris: Well, let's see, there was one, two, three, four, five . . . there was six of us.

L.J. Kimball: Six to a place.

Mr. Morris: Six to a . . . one of those . . .

Mr. Morris: Row houses there.

Mrs. Morris: Row houses.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm-hmmm. How had Camp Lejeune changed since your previous tour?

Mr. Morris: What, when we came back up here?

L.J. Kimball: And you folk hadn't been here for about ten years at that point?

Mr. Morris: Yup. Oh. You know, at that time, there wasn't that much change. Tarawa Terrace had been built.

(pause in tape)

L.J. Kimball: Tape three, side one.

Mr. Morris: Anyway, the Base, ah, I don't think it changed that much. The big change was out here on Highway 24. It was built up all the way to the Base. Four lanes into the Base.

L.J. Kimball: And hadn't been ten years before that.

Mr. Morris: No. Uh-huh.

L.J. Kimball: And there weren't. . . I think Virginia mentioned. . . you just saw the "It" on the way there . . . were both sides of the road all trees?

Mr. Morris: Oh yeah.

L.J. Kimball: So in those ten years, all those pawn shops and used car dealerships and things of that nature.

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Mrs. Morris: Mmmm.

Mr. Morris: All of that stuff went up. Furniture Fair built up over there. And all the way down. And as I say they four laned the roads some. That was the big change. And, ah.

Mrs. Morris: I tell you one thing about Camp Lejeune. It has to grow on you to like it. I don't think anybody really likes Camp Lejeune when they first come here.

L.J. Kimball: Especially if they're single.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. But they're lucky they're not at Cherry Point.

L.J. Kimball: Really? I thought that. . .

Mr. Morris: If they're single?

L.J. Kimball: Yeah. I thought they were a lot closer to civilization up at Cherry Point. Big towns around there.

Mr. Morris: I don't know. Seems to me like there's only one . . . go to Cherry Point, cross one more bridge, and you'd be going overseas.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mrs. Morris: We haven't been over lately. We must go.

L.J. Kimball: Were there any significant new structures or new facilities at Camp Lejeune then? That hadn't existed ten years before that?

Mr. Morris: Oh, I'm sure there was. But, ah, familiar where they were. They had the same old Commissary. The same PX.

Mrs. Morris: Oh, I liked the old PX much better than I liked this new.

L.J. Kimball: You say the same old PX?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

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L.J. Kimball: So when you were here ten years before that, the PX was in the previous building there?

Mr. Morris: It was down where the old Brig [Building 3] was at.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Ten years before that. . .

Mr. Morris: I believe the . . . Building number 37. . .

L.J. Kimball: Down around there where the Chaplains' offices are.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Chaplains' offices and the old PX.

Mrs. Morris: You're not talking about '49 now?

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Oh. Yeah. That was down near. . .

Mr. Morris: Right by the Brig.

Mrs. Morris: Brig.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: And at some point I believe probably the Brig was utilized as PX also.

Mr. Morris: Well, probably after they, ah, opened the new . . . new Brig. Moved the prisoners.

L.J. Kimball: This was back in what I call the old days.

Mrs. Morris: The old days.

L.J. Kimball: In Camp Lejeune. People have said that there. . . were PX facilities in more than just that one building there because there wasn't room. I mean the Men's Clothing Shop might have . . . had a little room in what was the . . . Brig at that time and one of the other buildings might have had the Women's Shop in it. I just wondered if you had any recollection of this?

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Mr. Morris: I don't remember any. . . any time the PX was in the part of the. . . other areas of the Brig.

L.J. Kimball: Or any of the other buildings around there?

Mr. Morris: Well, the . . . they had the Seamstress Shop [Building 25] out in back of where the old PX used to be there. And I don't remember seeing anything else back there or not.

L.J. Kimball: I think it might have been Dorothy Brantley that worked in the PX then.

Mrs. Morris: She worked over there.

L.J. Kimball: I believe so.

Mrs. Morris: Could be. And she probably did.

Mr. Morris: And she'd know if, ah, part of it was in the Brig or not. All I can remember is that, ah, chain link fence between the PX and the Brig. Had the street going through there and then on one side was the old PX, the other side chain link fence and the prison yard there.

L.J. Kimball: Did they have a lot of women Marines working at PXs there?

Mr. Morris: In '49, no. Back there during World War II they did. That's when they had all the military. . . all the Marines working at the PX.

L.J. Kimball: When you were at Camp Lejeune in the early sixties, during the height of the civil . . . rights movement and the beginning of the racial turmoils. . .

Mr. Morris: You mean fifties?

Mrs. Morris: The sixties.

L.J. Kimball: The sixties.

Mr. Morris: Well. . .

Mrs. Morris: We didn't have much.

Mr. Morris: No. We didn't.

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L.J. Kimball: You didn't recognize any aboard the Base at that time.

Mrs. Morris: No. Uh-huh.

Mr. Morris: No.

L.J. Kimball: When you went out in Jacksonville, do you recall seeing any segregation?

Mrs. Morris: No. Cathy went to high school, I think, was the last year she was. . . The last year in high school that . . . that, ah, they combined the high schools. No. It was. . . no. . . it was after she graduated. She graduated in '69. I think it was the next year after she graduated that they combined the high schools. Cuz I hadn't heard about that.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: I think so. I may be wrong but I think I'm right.

Mr. Morris: Well, the Base school was always integrated.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah, but, ah, I'm talking about Jacksonville.

Mr. Morris: Since way back in the fifties. Fifties.

Mrs. Morris: They never had no problems out there.

L.J. Kimball: From your experiences, the times you went out in Jacksonville then, you're not aware of sections being set aside where the blacks could eat in restaurants and the whites would eat? Written or unwritten?

Mrs. Morris: No.

Mr. Morris: Well, back in '49, you had it.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. Way. . . yeah, in '49.

Mr. Morris: But, ah, integration wasn't, ah, one of them things at that time. In fact, military was segregated at that time.

L.J. Kimball: Ten years later you weren't conscious of any segregation?

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Mrs. Morris: No.

Mr. Morris: Well, until really the big Civil Rights Movements which was, what, the sixties.

L.J. Kimball: Yeah. Started in the early sixties.

Mr. Morris: Started in the early sixties. As soon as . . . but really I . . . I never . . . we never had noticed any.

Mrs. Morris: We never . . . mmmm-mmmm . . . Right down around, ah, even when I was growing up.

Mr. Morris: I never noticed any problems. Let me put it that way.

Mrs. Morris: I didn't either.

L.J. Kimball: From your experience up at this particular point, you had several years in the Marine Corps and were a senior staff NCO, are you aware from your own personal experience or from stories other people would tell, if the black Marines were treated any differently than the white Marines.

Mr. Morris: You know my experience the whole time I was in the Marine Corps, and I honestly believe this. Every man that I knew, regardless whether he's black, white, no matter what he was, what color he was, was always treated according to the way he performed his duties. In other words if he was proficient in performing his duties, he was treated better than some Doggie over here that . . . that you had to be on all the time to get him to even get out of bed in the morning. In other words, like, ah, Beetle . . . Beetle Bailey there where the Sarge is always beating on him. Ah, but, men. . . men was treated according to the way he tried to, ah, conduct himself I think.

L.J. Kimball: Did you have a lot of black Marines in the fields that you were working in there in Food Service?

Mr. Morris: I started picking up black Marines in my units, hmmm . . . Where was . . . where was I at? Hmmm. Let's see. I didn't have any at Parris Island.

Mrs. Morris: Right. I don't believe you did either.

L.J. Kimball: (moving microphone) Let me move this over on the other side of your glass there.

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Mr. Morris: Ah, I believe, let's see, the first ones that I had . . . were in Atsugi . . . When I came out of Korea and went to Japan.

Mrs. Morris: Oh.

Mr. Morris: And, ah, I had two real fine black men working for me over there. One was called Johnson and the other was Murphy. Both of them was real good men. And, ah, they really stand out. There was others. I had others, but, ah, those are two that really stood out in my mind.

L.J. Kimball: Was there any perception or reality, either on the side of the whites or the blacks, that the blacks were treated, ah, unequally than the whites as far as promotions and opportunity for desirable assignments and good duty, that sort of thing?

Mr. Morris: No. I don't believe so. I know, ah, that was, ah, oh, feeling, you know, through the command, that this was going. . . going on. But to be able to really pinpoint it, no I can't.

L.J. Kimball: Now, had you worked with any women Marines by this point?

Mr. Morris: Oh yeah.

L.J. Kimball: What . . . what was your impression of women in the Marine Corps?

Mr. Morris: I thought they did a pretty good job.

L.J. Kimball: Did you have any problems with women being in the Marine Corps?

Mr. Morris: Hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: Do you feel that women at this particular point were afforded the same respect for their rank as their male counterparts?

Mr. Morris: You mean as far as responsibility was concerned?

L.J. Kimball: As far as, for example, . . . a woman Marine Lieutenant walks in the room and a male Lieutenant walks in the room. These days the response isn't too different. But at certain points I suspect that it wasn't the same, that. . .

Mr. Morris: Well, back in those days, ah, I really can't see where they were treated any different. Again, as long as they did their job professionally. But to get up to the

current story. When I was a civilian working over at Camp Johnson as an instructor, I had to go before a board, ah, leadership board. And this woman asked me almost the same questions you did. What was my opinion of women in service and so forth. And I told. . . told her, I said, well I really don't have much opinion at all. I says I never paid much attention to it. And, ah, she kept saying, well, you know, some men, they don't like to work for women or with women, and so forth and so on. She says what would you think about, ah, one of your instructors was a woman. I said well I got two women instructors. I say they do . . . both do a good job for me. I says I don't see any problem there. She said well your in charge of the section. She says what would you think if your superior was a woman. I said really I don't think I'd pay too much attention to it. I says if she's a woman, she's a woman. She says, yeah, but would you resent her being a woman. I said I really don't know. I says I've had a woman superior over me for eighteen months now. And I says Captain Johnson sitting here, she's my boss. I don't think she's had any problems with me. So that ended that discussion.

L.J. Kimball: Mmmm. I suspect for a period of time though that women Marines weren't afforded the same respect as men. Well, they were not thought to be real Marines I don't think.

Mr. Morris: To begin with back in World War II, the women were brought in. They were given specific office jobs, ah, put in Motor Transport, Supply and things of this nature. Because all your other units were combat units. And women weren't going into combat at that time. Of course, compare that with today's problem here where the modern women. . . woman. . . She wants to get out on the line with the troops and so forth and so on. I don't know how I would be able to interpret that until really I was in combat with the women.

Mrs. Morris: The only thing I can . . .

Mr. Morris: But, ah, but back in those days, ah, I think you're talking about, was women were specialized in specific areas.

L.J. Kimball: I was just trying to get your feelings on it. Those early times were. . . you know any time before I was in the Marine Corps was early. The old Corps.

Mrs. Morris: We always have the old Corps.

L.J. Kimball: That and the good old days, whatever. But, ah, that women Marines were not thought to be real Marines. That they weren't taken entirely serious. For example, take a male Corporal, if a female Sergeant came in and told him to do

something he didn't want to do, he would not snap to it like if it were a male Sergeant telling him to do something. That they were thought to be something less than real Marines. Do you agree or disagree with that?

Mr. Morris: I disagree with that. Ah, because, ah, I really didn't see any animosity towards the women Marines for being in the Marine Corps. Ah, and I was always . . . tried to respect rank regardless of what I thought of the person. But, ah, then you come up to TV stories like JAG on TV. Now here you've got a Navy Lieutenant in charge of a Lieutenant Commander. Now I . . . I never could equate things like that.

L.J. Kimball: It pays not to look at these dramatizations . . . (Mr. Morris laughing over L.J. Kimball) . . . too closely. And you got Marines saluting uncovered.

Mr. Morris: But I'm sure some people, some men, felt same way as you. . . as you describe there.

Mrs. Morris: Especially the old. . . the old Corps, old men.

Mr. Morris: Especially the old men.

Mrs. Morris: I tell you what I hate to see and I . . . it's . . . it's a fault of the government is le. . . I hate to see these women that are pregnant in uniform. Now that . . . that is something I . . . I mean. They should have never. . . they should have never changed their rules and regulations.

Mr. Morris: Under the old rules and regulations, if a woman got pregnant, she got out.

Mrs. Morris: You were out. You were out.

Mr. Morris: No beating around the bush about it. You didn't have women going down to the Welfare Office to get child support and you didn't have women, and this I definitely do not agree with, you didn't have women that was having kid after kid illegitimately and getting a raise in BAQ, WIC payments, Welfare payments and all these other things, and doing it strictly for money. I don't agree with that.

Mrs. Morris: I think the rules. . .

Mr. Morris: And I think if a woman's got a baby at home, she should be home taking care of that baby. Not out here trying to be a Marine and somebody else bringing up that baby. That. . . if she's gonna be a Marine, she's a Marine 24 hours a day.

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Mrs. Morris: They got lax with their rules and regulations in a lot of ways from the old Corps.

L.J. Kimball: You say they're laxer in their rules and regulations?

Mrs. Morris: I think so.

L.J. Kimball: Any specifics come to mind, other than pregnant Marines?

Mrs. Morris: Ah, just. . . just everything's lax. It's. . . it's just like in, ah, in society like, they used to be very strict about the dress code. When you went into the PX, this was many years ago. But they're not. . . they. . . they. . . anything goes now. You know. And, ah, I remember our. . . you know. . . our daughter was only. . . I think was ten years old and she had on a pair of walking shorts that came down to the knees. And I went into the. . . I was in the PX and I wanted to try dresses on her for school. She wasn't allowed to.

L.J. Kimball: How long ago was this?

Mr. Morris: Oh, ten. . . '59.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. It was her. . . cuz Cathy's, what, she's. . . she was fifty this past week. She's about. . .

Mr. Morris: She was ten years old. Then it would be '59.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. I mean. . . the. . . the. . . What I mean, I can understand their rules and regulations. I didn't know about the rule. But they, ah, had very strict rules in the PX. And in the Commissary too. And, ah, things have changed. For. . . everything has changed.

L.J. Kimball: Talking about changes, I imagine you saw a lot of changes in Jacksonville by this time, '59 to '63. For example, New River Shopping Center, . . . was it built?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. It had been built. In fact, it was built when we came up from Miami.

Mrs. Morris: Was it then? Yeah. Oh, yeah. It was in this. . . oh. . .

Mr. Morris: I don't know what year it was built, but, ah. . .

Mrs. Morris: Behind the. . . the new housing that they had was behind Dunkin' Donuts, that was the upcoming thing.

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Mr. Morris: That was built in '49.

Mrs. Morris: Was that. . . that was when we were in '49.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Yeah. Because Pat Murkle lived over there.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. I knew Murkle did. But that. . . oh, yeah, that's right. That was the. . . that was the elite over there in '49. And then when we came back the other, it was up here Forest Hills when we come back the last time.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Where was this . . . area you're talking about? You say it was around New River Shopping Center?

Mr. Morris: Well, no, it was down here back up . . . You know where Dunkin' Donuts is at? Here on 17.

L.J. Kimball: I'm sure. . . OK. . . Dunkin' Donuts. There's a donut shop on 17 that's, ah, around Shoney's . . .

Mrs. Morris: No. No. No. That's western.

L.J. Kimball: That's western, OK.

Mr. Morris: That's western.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Down on the right side going out. . . going south.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: That there's an abandoned . . . and it looks like a filling station or something across the street.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: A gymnasium, storage facility, on the other side.

Mr. Morris: All that area on this side, that's brand new.

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L.J. Kimball: So in back of that is where the . . .

Mrs. Morris: That was the elite housing.

L.J. Kimball: The elites lived back there?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. In those little old houses. (laughing)

Mrs. Morris: Yes.

L.J. Kimball: OK. And we haven't got. . . And then you say after that?

Mrs. Morris: When we came back the next time was, ah . . .

Mr. Morris: Forest Hills.

Mrs. Morris: Was it Forest Hills because all the houses. . .

Mr. Morris: Yeah, it was new houses.

Mrs. Morris: It was all electric. Whose. . . that was Bill Qu. . .

Mr. Morris: That was W., ah, Quick . . .

Mrs. Morris: . . . Quick's house.

Mr. Morris: W. D. Quick's.

L.J. Kimball: Forest Hills. Is that kind of up in the Northwoods here?

Mrs. Morris: Right up here.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Right here.

Mrs. Morris: Right up here. Around Doris Avenue.

Mr. Morris: Right near the high school.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Where Stratton Murrell lives?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. In that area.

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Mrs. Morris: That's Forest Hills.

L.J. Kimball: All right.

Mrs. Morris: That was . . . that was the only thing was up. . . That was new. That was new.
And of course they had started to build down here in Northwoods too.

Mr. Morris: Because over there where the shopping center's at, that was Rem's Dairy Barn. . .
Dairy Farm.

L.J. Kimball: You talking about the New River Shopping Center.

Mrs. Morris: No.

Mr. Morris: No. No.

L.J. Kimball: The Jacksonville Mall?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Well, not Jacksonville Mall. Right here by the high school.

Mrs. Morris: Across New Mark. . . well, you know where New Market Square is?

Mr. Morris: New Market Square.

L.J. Kimball: New Market. Where the. . .

Mrs. Morris: That was a house. . . yeah. . . they had. . . That was a cow pasture.

L.J. Kimball: And right from the cow pasture to a shopping mall?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mrs. Morris: They sold it.

Mr. Morris: Old Wren. He . . . he made good on that. He was retired, ah, Navy Warrant
Officer I believe. He bought. . . his wife bought that for him while he was
overseas. And he sold it to somebody for millions of dollars. I don't know who it
was. Developed that.

L.J. Kimball: What was his name?

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Mr. Morris: Wren.

L.J. Kimball: Wren? W-R-E-N?

Mr. Morris: I don't know how you spell that.

L.J. Kimball: Something like that.

Mr. Morris: Anyway, ah, they built, ah, that big house for him down there.

Mrs. Morris: It's R-H, R-H. . . .

Mr. Morris: Ah, by Doris and Henderson Drive. With the chain link fence around it.

L.J. Kimball: Doris.

Mrs. Morris: Up here. Up at the light.

Mr. Morris: Where the light's at.

L.J. Kimball: Right where the big church is?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Mmm-hmmm. But down a little bit.

Mrs. Morris: It's where the

Mr. Morris: There. Across from the bank. Wachovia Bank.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: That house there with the big lot, big chain link fence.

Mrs. Morris: Which is Robin's Nest.

Mr. Morris: Robin's Nest, ah, Rest Home now, or something.

L.J. Kimball: That's what it is now?

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

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Mrs. Morris: Well, they been. . . I don't. . . I think they closed. The state closed it on them. I don't think they have people in there anymore. They had to . . .

Mr. Morris: Anyway, when Cathy was going to high school there, she says, Daddy, she says, I can't listen to the teacher. She says that cows are out there mooing all day long. Of course, that was before air conditioning too.

L.J. Kimball: Was the New River Shopping Center the center of shopping in Jacksonville?

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. That was the first move, ah, from down town.

L.J. Kimball: What. . . what kind of stores were there at that time?

Mrs. Morris: In New River?

L.J. Kimball: Yes. New River Shopping Center.

Mrs. Morris: Ah, Leder Brothers. They moved up there.

Mr. Morris: Margolis's.

Mrs. Morris: Margolis.

L.J. Kimball: Margolis's was in there?

Mr. Morris: No. Margolis. They didn't move up there.

Mrs. Morris: Not then.

Mr. Morris: Ah, Walton's moved up there.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. Walton's. Walton's Jewelry. Oh, I miss them. That was the best jewelry store in town.

L.J. Kimball: Walton's?

Mrs. Morris: Walton's, yes.

Mr. Morris: Dime Store.

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L.J. Kimball: Was Sears or Penney's there?

Mr. Morris: Sears moved up there.

L.J. Kimball: Sears moved.

Mr. Morris: Penney's moved up there.

Mrs. Morris: The Dime Store moved up.

Mr. Morris: Well, I don't know about . . .

Mrs. Morris: Lumpkin's Furniture.

Mr. Morris: Lumpkin's Furniture moved up there from down there.

L.J. Kimball: Hopkin's Furniture?

Mrs. Morris: Lumpkin's.

Mr. Morris: No. Lumpkin's.

L.J. Kimball: Lumpkin's. Is Court Street still a commercial center at this time or had it degenerated?

Mr. Morris: No. It had degenerated.

Mrs. Morris: No. They started to close that when Leder Brothers moved out. Cuz they were down there and, ah, they started. . . everything started closing up.

Mr. Morris: They had degenerated down in the forties. No, I meant, sorry, fifties, really.

L.J. Kimball: They started going downhill in fifties?

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: How about New Bridge Street. Were there still businesses thriving on New Bridge?

Mr. Morris: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

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L.J. Kimball: Wasn't Belk? Were they there then? Belks?

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. They were. . . they were on New Bridge Street. They had a good store there too. Much better than. . . And, ah, trying to think what other stores were there.

Mr. Morris: Boom Town was there.

Mrs. Morris: Yup.

L.J. Kimball: Still there at the same place?

Mr. Morris: Except they got more of it now.

L.J. Kimball: They got more of it. Is that grocery store. . . there used to be a Piggly Wiggly or something down there?

Mrs. Morris: That was on the corner where the, ah, Conf. . .

L.J. Kimball: Jacksonville Conference Center.

Mrs. Morris: . . . Conference Center is at. Yeah. Piggly Wiggly was sold. And let's see what else.

L.J. Kimball: Now . . . that old bank building that's kind of across from the Courthouse, right on the corner there.

Mrs. Morris: Across from the . . .

L.J. Kimball: Well, I say old. It's obviously newer than were the one . . .

Mr. Morris: That was the First National Bank.

Mrs. Morris: Down. . . downtown?

L.J. Kimball: Right. Now there's the. . . the real old one that's a historic site.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: And it's next to the old Masonic Lodge Building.

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Mrs. Morris: Yeah. That's the First National.

L.J. Kimball: And there was one of those relatively new glass and chrome monstrosities slab sided and . . . it's closed and been closed for awhile.

Mrs. Morris: Yes.

L.J. Kimball: It's across from the Courthouse.

Mrs. Morris: That was First Citizen.

Mr. Morris: Oh yeah. First Citizen.

L.J. Kimball: Was that op. . . was that operational then?

Mrs. Morris: No.

Mr. Morris: No.

L.J. Kimball: It hadn't been opened yet?

Mrs. Morris: No.

Mr. Morris: No.

Mrs. Morris: It . . . there was another First Citizen's on New Bridge Street because I used to go there.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. It was down there by Sabiston's old Hardware.

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. And, ah, no. It was on New Bridge Street there.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Because we used to go down . . .

Mr. Morris: It set on the . . . was outside New Bridge Street and Sabiston's Hardware set right behind it.

L.J. Kimball: That. . . that was the area that was torn down for the Summersill Courthouse and all?

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Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: The Sheriff's Department. So, um, what was over at Marine Corps Schools at this point? All the . . . was there just Marine Corps Schools? This was Montford Point, right?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Yeah. That's all there was there. Was Marine Corps schools. After, say, the blacks were moved out of there and, ah, I believe it was '51, and, ah, sometime later in that area, ah, and then it was closed down and reopened as marine Corps Schools . . . I believe Motor Transport School was first and it was moved over there. And Gerry Har and his buddy was transferred over there, I believe, '51 or something like that. Over in the old Motor Trans. . . Field Motor Transport School.

L.J. Kimball: Where were. . .

Mr. Morris: And then just grew up on that.

L.J. Kimball: Where were the schools before they were consolidated at Montford Point?

Mr. Morris: Ah, all over the Base.

L.J. Kimball: At Camp Lejeune?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: So they just took the schools that were at Camp Lejeune and consolidated them at Montford Point?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Either that or some schools, I assume, some of 'em weren't even in existence. Ah, such as clerk. . . clerical schools that's over there now and so forth. Some that they've, ah, established the building for and put 'em over there.

L.J. Kimball: In '63 were you still a Master Sergeant?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: And where did you go from Camp Lejeune in '63?

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Mr. Morris: Camp Lejeune. Went to. . . I was one of the real lucky ones there. I. . . I'm sorry. I went on the Food Service, ah, schools. . . Food Service. . .

Mrs. Morris: Team.

Mr. Morris: Team.

Mrs. Morris: Food Team.

Mr. Morris: Food Team. And running up and down the coast there for eighteen months. And, ah, when did I leave here?

L.J. Kimball: . . . Were you. . .

Mr. Morris: In, ah, December of sixty five.

L.J. Kimball: So you still maintained your quarters here while you were on the Food Team?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Yeah, we operated out of here.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: And, ah, but we were under jurisdiction of Headquarters Marine Corps at that time. And, ah, we went from all the operational bases on the East coast here. So in December of '64, I got my orders to go overseas to First Marine Air Wing. And got to Iwakuni and everybody was hiding. Because they needed a Master Sergeant in Vietnam. And there was one, a new one coming, but nobody knew. And so I was able to load myself . . . unload myself off the plane coming from the States. Put it on old Flight 5 you could plane go down through. . . through the Philippines to Vietnam to Subunit Two of MAG 16.

L.J. Kimball: You say Flight 5?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. That used to be the old . . . we . . . we called it the Airmail Flight coming in. Twice a week. From, ah, up at that, ah, . . . yeah, at Atsugi down to, ah, Vietnam. To Da Nang.

L.J. Kimball: But you went to the Philippines and from the Philippines to Da Nang?

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

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L.J. Kimball: What was it? What kind of airplane was that?

Mr. Morris: Oh a G-V.

L.J. Kimball: G-V.

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: Which is?

Mr. Morris: One of these four motor big jobs. Propeller type.

L.J. Kimball: G-V. C-124? Globemaster?

Mr. Morris: No. It wasn't as big as a Globemaster.

L.J. Kimball: A G-V?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. What the Marine Corps used for years.

L.J. Kimball: I'm trying to . . . I haven't used that old designation for so many years, I'm trying to remember what a G-V was.

Mrs. Morris: What. . . what was the ones that had the bucket seats in it we used to. . .

Mr. Morris: Oh, that was old R4D. That had the bucket seats. That was a two motor job. That. . . that was real classic back in World War II. But this. . . this was the, you know, the old. . . (pause in tape)

L.J. Kimball: Tape three, side two.

Mr. Morris: . . . drop the back out of it, load your equipment in.

L.J. Kimball: A C54, like that?

Mr. Morris: No. Wasn't a C54. I know what those are.

L.J. Kimball: But it had four engines.

Mr. Morris: Has four engines.

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L.J. Kimball: I'm mystified then. Nothing comes to mind. [The C-130 was earlier know as the GV-1 under the old designation.]

Mr. Morris: Big, big old job. But anyway that's what we flew down there in. And, ah, the job down there that we were supporting was to ferry the ARVN [Army of the Republic of Vietnam] troops around through the front there, drop 'em off. And, ah, we didn't have any, ah, dealings as far as with the combat was concerned. And so we just set down there and helped the ARVNs out.

L.J. Kimball: And you flew out of Da Nang?

Mr. Morris: Huh?

L.J. Kimball: You flew out of Da Nang?

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: This was in '65?

Mr. Morris: '65. And, ah, in June. . . well, it started in April. April, March. I think it was. '65 they kicked off down there. With the war. General Karch and his crew came in. That was III MAF I believe, yeah, III MAF.

L.J. Kimball: Was this the old 10th Marines Regimental Commander?

Mr. Morris: No. Yeah. Yeah, sure was. General [Frederick J.] Karch. He had made General back in those days. But anyway, he brought the troops down and they, ah, kicked off General [Victor H.] Krulak, he was Pacific Commander then [Commanding General FMFPAC]. And he came down. He stayed about, ah, almost a month. Down there at Da Nang with us. Right at the beginning of the war.

L.J. Kimball: And this was. . . was this '65 or '66?

Mr. Morris: '65.

L.J. Kimball: '65. OK.

Mr. Morris: And in August Colonel [John H.] King called me in and he says, Top, he says, how would you like to go to Iwakuni. I says, ah, what. . . what do you want me to pick up Colonel? He says I mean transfer. I says who do I get my orders from? He says, well, he says if you want to go, he says, I'll let you go. I told him I

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wanted to go. Got the First Sergeant to type me up some orders and I was on the next Flight 5 out of that place.

L.J. Kimball: Were you performing a food service function when you were in Vietnam?

Mr. Morris: Yeah, I had the Food Service system down there.

L.J. Kimball: At where? At Da Nang?

Mr. Morris: At Da Nang.

L.J. Kimball: The entirety of Da Nang?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. I had Air Force, ah, Air F. . . Special Forces for the Air Force, Navy, ah, Seals, Australian . . . What did they call them Australian guys? And, ah, Phu Bai an operation up at Phu Bai. And Monkey Mountain. I had all of those.

L.J. Kimball: What. . . what was that called? That organization that you were in charge of then?

Mr. Morris: Ah, Food Service for, ah, Mag 16, Sub Unit 2. And I was there by myself for about, oh, four months. And then they sent in a Warrant Officer Morgan, a good friend of mine to help me out or, really he was my boss down there. And so we stayed there until August, and Colonel King, he sent us both up to Iwakuni there. He says you been down here long enough. He says get out of this place. And so came back to, ah. . . After I got out of Iwakuni, I had the Food Service System for MAG 13 at Iwakuni and, ah, came back over to. . . from there. . . in '66 I came to Air Station over here.

L.J. Kimball: New River Air Station?

Mr. Morris: New River Air Station.

L.J. Kimball: And were you still a Master Sergeant?

Mr. Morris: I was still a Master Sergeant.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: I made Master Sergeant (E-8), back in '64. And, ah, they gave me the Staff. . . Staff NCO Club over here at the Air Station. They had so many people in Food

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Service. And so I run the, ah, Staff Club over there for about a year. And I retired from there.

L.J. Kimball: And when did you retire?

Mr. Morris: 31 December of '66.

L.J. Kimball: When you were over in. . . on your last overseas tour, where was Virginia?

Mr. Morris: Ah, let's see, you were. . . She was over here on Starling Street in New River.

Mrs. Morris: We stayed here.

L.J. Kimball: You mean the New River housing area there close to where the New River Shopping Center is?

Mrs. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Morris: Right. This area over here. It was real good area over there though.

L.J. Kimball: Those buildings I think look like. . . exactly like the ones that are at Tarawa Terrace.

Mr. Morris: No. No. But, ah, not like the ones over at Capehart either.

Mrs. Morris: It was nice.

Mr. Morris: It was pretty nice area. Most of the people that lived there then, the families that lived there, the, ah, husbands were either in Japan or over in Vietnam.

L.J. Kimball: You're talking about the New River area?

Mrs. Morris: Yeah. The New River houses.

L.J. Kimball: You mentioned at some point you were in Capehart housing. When was that?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm.

Mrs. Morris: Pardon?

L.J. Kimball: When were you in Capehart housing?

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Mrs. Morris: Oh, we moved from the Terrace to Capehart.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. '63. July '63.

Mrs. Morris: Somewhere. We only lived there about a year. Cuz you got orders then.

L.J. Kimball: When you were talking about Capehart, that's over at Berkley Manor?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. Berkley Manor.

Mrs. Morris: Berkley Manor. Mmm-hmmm.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Those seem like pretty nice houses.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. They were.

Mrs. Morris: They were nice. They were nice.

Mr. Morris: That was the best housing that we lived in while I was in the Marine Corps.

Mrs. Morris: But, getting back to New River. New River was nice then too. It's not like it is now.

L.J. Kimball: And when you were at New River Air Station in charge of Staff NCO Club, . . . what housing did you have then?

Mr. Morris: Ah, well, we, ah, bought this. And moved from Starling Street over here.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Was this a new area when you moved into it?

Mr. Morris: Mmm-hmmm. Yeah, this was brand a new house. We moved here in July of '66.

Mrs. Morris: They were just building the houses here then.

L.J. Kimball: What rank were you when you retired?

Mr. Morris: Ah, Master Sergeant (E-8).

L.J. Kimball: Any particular reason? Did you. . . just run out of years or were you getting tired of being at the Air Station?

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Mr. Morris: Well, as I tell everybody, I was just tired of babysitting drunks. Because I had the same problems every morning I went in with the same people. And they caused their problems sitting at the bar every night. And after a while, you know, you get. . . I don't want this no more.

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Mr. Morris: And the Colonel said that I had to stay there. Colonel Johnson. He says you doing a good job over there, he says, so I'm not gonna transfer you out. I said Colonel, in that case, I'm gonna have to put my orders in to retire. He says go ahead. He says I'll sign 'em. So I told, ah, First Sergeant Foster typed my letter up. Colonel signed it. We sent it to Headquarters Marine Corps and I got out. But I know I didn't hurt the Marine Corps because it's still going today.

L.J. Kimball: Did you find . . . the Marines. . . well, you'd been working with the Wing for a while so it wasn't any surprise to begin with Aviation types over at the Air Station.

Mr. Morris: Oh, no. No.

L.J. Kimball: And what did you do after you retired?

Mr. Morris: Well, I worked, ah, for Henderson Hayes Furniture Company there for a couple of years.

Mrs. Morris: Appliances.

Mr. Morris: Appliances.

L.J. Kimball: Are they still in. . .

Mrs. Morris: No.

Mr. Morris: No. He's dead.

L.J. Kimball: Where were they located?

Mr. Morris: Down there by Bell Fork Road, on highway 24 going to base.

L.J. Kimball: It was called Henderson Hayes. . .

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Mr. Morris: Yeah.

Mrs. Morris: Henderson Hayes built that.

Mr. Morris: It's a barber shop now.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mr. Morris: But, ah, anyway, I worked there. I became manager of his store in about eight months after I started. And I run that place for about two years. And so I got the opportunity to go back over to the schools as an instructor. Civil Service Instructor. So I went over for an interview and I was accepted. And for the next 16 years I stayed there at schools.

L.J. Kimball: What kind of instructor . . . food service?

Mr. Morris: Yes. I had the, ah, Food Service, ah, Section there. Had 39 instructors for me. I was the Instructor Coordinator. And I was the one that, ah, had the continuity from instructor to instructor going through. And, ah, so anyway I stayed there for 16 years and then retired from there.

L.J. Kimball: So what years were you over there then as an instructor?

Mr. Morris: Ah, the last time as a civilian?

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Mr. Morris: Ah, I went over there September '69 and retired in March of '85.

L.J. Kimball: OK. Well, . . . you had an opportunity to observe Marines for over a forty year period, starting off as a Private and ending up as a Supervisor where you saw them in a classroom situation. What's your opinion of the quality of the average Marine as you observed them over that forty year period, compared to the beginning to what you were seeing there in the eighties and all.

Mr. Morris: What I was seeing in the eighties . . . to the . . .

L.J. Kimball: Right. When you serving as a civilian instructor there for 16 years, you got to see Marines that even though, granted, in an academic environment, but you probably saw enough of 'em you were able to draw some conclusion between what the

Marines were like when you were a Marine early on in your career compared to what they became in the late seventies or eighties.

Mr. Morris: Well, when I came in the Staff NCOs and officers, and I'm not saying all of 'em, all of them made decisions that were correct. But they made a decision and they instructed you, the subordinates, on how to perform your duty. And you performed that duty according to their instructions. Right or wrong, it didn't matter whether, whichever the way it went because you couldn't question it. OK, in the eighties, take the same scenario then. And that young man, nine times out of ten, is gonna question your decision and your authority to make that decision. And I think that the military sort of has a problem in this area.

For instance, I could have a man teaching a class or instructor teaching a class. Say a forty-student class. And he'd have one student out of that forty that was giving him problems. He had to stop and counsel that one student and leave these other 39 setting over here in the classroom doing nothing and learning nothing while he counseled this one knothed.

L.J. Kimball: That was the regulations at that time.

Mr. Morris: That was the regulations. I assume they're still in force. I don't know. And the system I know is set up try. . . trying to improve the situation for the individual. And so forth. But in military environment, I think sometimes it goes overboard trying to please this one, rather than trying to make him conform to what I consider military standard or environment. Because you know as well as I know when you get out on. . . on combat line, you're not gonna have time to sit there and counsel that poor boy and say why you shouldn't get up there on the line. Keep your head down and fire your weapon in that direction. Instead of being sitting back here in the back doing nothing. But, ah, I think there's. . . there's an area that. . . I'm sure they'll come up with a solution for it. But back in the eighties, ah, that was an area that they were having problems with. And I think everybody tried to, ah, conform to that.

Because let's say now that I had a student failing in the class. Strictly a knothed. Wasting government money. Wasting time and so forth. Making failing grades on every test. You couldn't drop him from class. Unless you had counseled him a sufficient number of times to justify dropping him. And you talk about counseling. You're talking about spending some time.

L.J. Kimball: Did you see, while you were a civilian instructor compared to previous years, any difference in the racial atmosphere in the Marine Corps?

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Mr. Morris: No. Not really. The only, ah, situation there. . . I know you wanted something on this. . . that I actually observed, I had one black Staff Sergeant that was selling drugs to the students. He was court marshaled. Kicked out of the Marine Corps. With a BCD [Bad Conduct Discharge]. And he appealed it. And he didn't work for me, but he worked in the system with the students for another year before his appeal was denied. And I don't think that's right.

L.J. Kimball: As a Staff NCO?

Mr. Morris: As a Staff NCO. Took one year. One year for them to accomplish this.

L.J. Kimball: Did you think the fact that he was black, ah, had any effect on keeping him in the system?

Mr. Morris: Well, I had nothing to compare the situation with. Because never had a white inst. . . Staff Sergeant to do the same thing.

L.J. Kimball: In your particular field that you were instructing in, there were undoubtedly women Marines in the classroom.

Mr. Morris: In class?

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Mr. Morris: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: Did you see any way that they were treated differently by their male counterparts other than the fact that they were women, or maybe, because they were women?

Mr. Morris: No. The only thing I think the men resented 'em because most of 'em, they had higher grades in class than they did. And, ah, the big thing in class, especially for the basic students, was that the three high people got their choice of Duty Stations that was available for that particular class. And usually if there was women in class, they got those first three Duty Stations.

L.J. Kimball: Do you think this was based solely on their personal achievement as opposed to some kind of favoritism that was demonstrated?

Mr. Morris: I know it was on their personal achievement because I was the one that was assigning them to their Duty Stations. And I was the one that was keeping their

grades. And I had nothing to gain one way or the other, who got the grade, or who it was. In fact I didn't even want to know. Just like when I post their grades after each examination. I had to use their MOS. . . not their MOS, but their Social Security Number to post their grades. That was so one student couldn't say oh, I made a better grade than you. Unless he knew what the, ah, Social Security Number was. Really, I didn't know who. . . when I graded the papers, there was no name on them. And, ah, it was just their Social Security Number. And I didn't know their Social Security Number.

L.J. Kimball: You had an opportunity to. . . we talked about the individual Marine, but talking about the Marine Corps as a whole, starting off in 1942, and of course you were a close observer up through 1985 when you retired. What were the more significant changes you noticed in the Marines Corps as a whole?

Mr. Morris: Oh, better equipment. Better training. Ah, more schools available to the students, especially the Basic students when they came out of school. They just weren't thrown into an MOS with. . . you know, like we were back in World War II. And you'd get on the Job Training. And that's, ah, what you ended up with. But, ah, better living conditions. Everything had changed for the better.

L.J. Kimball: Virginia mentioned that from her observation the Marine Corps had become more lax.

Mr. Morris: Well, I think that was because of the, ah, treatment of the younger people. But they, ah . . . which was in your time. I'm sure that you went through the same situations there. And the immaturity I think and. . . and . . . th. . . this was a big controlling factor was the immaturity of the, ah, young Marines coming in.

L.J. Kimball: You think they're . . . they're more immature now than they were in the forties when you came in?

Mr. Morris: Yes, I do. Because, see, using myself for an example, I. . . by the time I was old enough to follow a mule in the field, I was working. And if I didn't work, then, ah, I'd prob. . . probably been beat half to death or something. I don't know what would have happened to me. It never did happen. But, ah, all the young fellows coming up in my time, we. . . we had to work as soon as we got old enough. Today, even today, this week, right down here on the street when school's out. These kids are not working. They don't have any responsibility. And they'd just soon walk up to their momma and say I'm not gonna do it. Well fine, I'll do it myself. So he gets in the Marine Corps and he's still got the same attitude. It's like I know this boy that just graduated from high school this year. He's already

got him a live-in girlfriend down there. With the approval of his parents. I say my, not me. But now what's he gonna think. . . be drafted in the Marine Corps tomorrow. Is he mature?

L.J. Kimball: He's definitely going to experience some cultural shock.

Mr. Morris: Yeah. When he has to get down and support somebody.

L.J. Kimball: How about the care and keeping of dependents? Has the Marine Corps changed, in your opinion, about how they take care of dependents over the years?

Mr. Morris: Well, I think they do a better job now than they used to because used to we go overseas, the dependents were left on their own. Ah, they'd have to get out of. . . move out of Base housing as soon as the husband left or transferred out. And had to have a . . . find a place for 'em to stay until they get back. Now they are able to stay in Base housing which I think is good. And they have all these women organizations to help the dependents out while the man's gone which I think is really good. And I think it would have helped out an awful lot if you had a had it back in my days. Wouldn't hurt anyway.

L.J. Kimball: Do you think the Marine Corps has gone overboard in looking after the dependents, possibly to the disadvantage of accomplishing the mission?

Mr. Morris: I don't know. I really don't. Ah, I've been away from the Marine Corps for so long. I don't know how this really affects the Command structure in the Marine Corps as far as being able to accomplish their mission.

L.J. Kimball: It's kind of a puzzlement. I know in World War II and Korea and Vietnam, thousands, tens of thousands of Marines died or were severely injured. And people had to adjust and had to learn to live with. . . that kind of situation. And most of 'em did, best I can determine, did very well. They did good under the circumstances and managed to get over it. These days Marines deploy from Camp Lejeune and go . . . on expedition someplace and somebody gets their foot run over by a truck or whatever and they have counseling sessions for all the kids in the schools on the Base. And I just kind of scratch my head and wonder if that ultimately serves to the advantage of the community or not.

Mr. Morris: I don't know. But, ah, I say one thing. It gives the psychologists a wonderful time and a wonderful opportunity for employment.

L.J. Kimball: Yeah. Well, are there any other observations you'd like to add?

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Mr. Morris: No. I don't think so. I think, ah, we talked about ev. . . everything.

L.J. Kimball: From a kind of a personal perspective, you were coming back and forth to Camp Lejeune and for several of those times, you still had some family living out in Onslow County, didn't you? Your aunts?

Mr. Morris: Oh yeah. Until they passed away. They passed away in the fifties.

L.J. Kimball: Did they?

Mr. Morris: Yeah. My parents, both of them, they passed away in the sixties.

L.J. Kimball: Totally unreconciled with the Marine Corps Base . . .

Mr. Morris: Oh yeah. Definitely.

L.J. Kimball: Did . . . you notice over the years any change in the attitude of some of the old-timers? The Marines having taken their land?

Mr. Morris: Not really. No. They came off the Base hating the Marine Corps. They still hate it if they're still living.

L.J. Kimball: Well, I certainly want to thank you and Virginia for your time.

Mr. Morris: OK. I know it wasn't very much. And very uninteresting there as far as my career is. . .

(end of tape)