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L. J. Kimball: Sgt. Major, you were saying that somebody had come down to interview you recently? Would you tell me about that again please?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Right now I forgot what the gentleman's name was, but he is with the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. He's part of the Women's Veteran's Project. I believe, they say they're trying to get tapes of women in North Carolina. He's already interviewed about 30 women. And I think I'm, see I'm the only one here in Jacksonville, and I think he had one over in Emerald Isle in Moorhead City, so he's got some women from the East and I think he's had about 3 or 4 women Marines, interviewed.

L. J. Kimball: Really, do you know of any Marines in the area that he's interviewed other than yourself?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I think I'm the only one.

L. J. Kimball: Just out of curiosity, I understand this New River Housing, was Government Housing at one time, was it not?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no, no, I don't think so. This, in 1952, this housing was built and it was just when, say a lot of the civilians that worked on the base in 1952 lived over in Midway Park and so I think the Marine Corps was expanding and so therefore they said to the civilians, you people have got to move out. So, I guess some gentleman, and the gentleman had built all this housing and he also built the house next door to me. That was his house. So, they had this project. An awful lot of the civilians that had worked and lived in Midway Park moved over here. It was never government housing, it was just say a housing project. I'm not sure, but I would think this was one of the first Housing Projects there was.

L. J. Kimball: I think it was one of the first that, and you probably noticed that most of the units in New River Housing look suspiciously like Tarawa Terrace.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, it does.

L. J. Kimball: I think they were built probably by the same contractor at the same time.

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: It could possibly because, I don't know, but I know that the contractor, or say the builder, he had the house that was next door and that was the only one that was different and so my house and all the houses in this circle had been changed over because the house right across the road from me was the way the first houses looked. They had 3 bedrooms, but very small bedrooms. My house has all been improved and say a lot of the other houses have.

L. J. Kimball: Do you know if the Government never owned this area, did they plan to set aside quarters, military quarters for military personnel over here in New River Housing?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That I don't know, but I, well, 1952, don't you think that the Marine Corps would still have the policy that say, it would have had to be an integrated neighborhood in order for the, say military to live in these housings. Because I know recently heard it is and I'm almost sure it probably was back then. Because the integration, was happened in 1948, so that was about 4 years that they probably had integrated housing here.

L. J. Kimball: So, are you saying, that because this was civilian housing it wasn't integrated and that's why the Marine Corps wouldn't use it?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, they would, if it hadn't been integrated housing, I'm sure the Marine Corps wouldn't allow anybody to use it.

L. J. Kimball: O.K. Let's go back and talk about you a while. Where were you born?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I was born in Ogdensburg, NY. That's up on the Canadian Border, right on the Saint Lawrence River.

L. J. Kimball: May I ask what your birth date was?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: It was December 28, 1922.

L. J. Kimball: Very good, and did you go to school up there?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I went to school in Ogdensburg, NY and I was there until, well, I worked in a civilian store, it was like a drug store where a soda fountain type thing and then in 1943 I took a course in Engineering Drawing and my father at the time was working in Syracuse, NY and they had needed a, say, somebody to work on the photostat machine and blueprinting machine and

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a drafts woman or draftsman. So, I went there and worked until 1945 as a draftsman working on all kinds of simple, piddling jobs. I was the only girl in the office. There was a woman secretary, but I was the only one working with the Engineering Department.

L. J. Kimball: What was the firm that you were working in?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: It was Lampson Company. They were making commercial, washing machine equipment, big, commercial equipment. I think they had Government Contracts so that, and I was there from 1943 until 1945 when I came in the Marine Corps.

L. J. Kimball: Your course in Engineering Drawing, you said you took? Where did you take that?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I took that at the high school. They were having that at the high school. I had graduated in 1940 and I had some drawing, but I had never had engineering drawing. Because in high school I had taken a classical course which was 4 years of English, 4 years of Latin, 3 years French, so it was not really an art course type thing. I was interested in it, so that I enjoyed that.

L. J. Kimball: You, like most of your generation were raised up during Depression. How was it growing up in those times in your family?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, I guess all of us, you've heard comics say, you know I didn't know I was poor until somebody told me and I think that's the way most of us were. We were just making it through all of those years, but for the most part we didn't think we were poor. We just, if we wanted something and we couldn't buy it, we went without it.

L. J. Kimball: But, you never had to go without shoes or socks or shoes or food or anything like that?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no, nothing like that.

L. J. Kimball: Any brothers or sisters?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I had one sister and my sister died in 1991.

L. J. Kimball: Was she older than you?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, and she had 4 children and I'm sort of their second mother. Because I never married, I never had any children, so my nieces and nephews are my children.

L. J. Kimball: What made you decide to join the Marine Corps?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, I don't know, I mean maybe during the War say 1942, 1941, you had all these movies about Marines and we just, I just thought they were just extra special and I thought, well, that's exactly what I want to do. In 1943, when the first women came in, I still, I think 1943, I would have been say still old enough to join without parent's consent. Because during WWII we had to be 20 years old to come in.

L. J. Kimball: Just women?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Women. Had to be 20 to come in and had to have parent's consent until we were 21. But, maybe it's because I had a job and I figured, well, maybe I can do this job rather than going in the Marine Corps. I didn't know anybody else to go in with. So, you know, you have nobody else, but I had always admired the Marines and thought they were the greatest, so when I finally got up courage and all the time I was working in Syracuse, the woman recruiter would be standing and waiting for her bus. And every time my bus would pass that place, I'd say, that's what I'd like to be, so I, and I always say, you know sometime I'm going to join the Marine Corps and one of the men in the plant, he said, "I bet you won't" and I said, "I bet I will," so I did. And he bet me \$10 and when he gave me the \$10 he had the \$10 welded to a piece of metal and you couldn't get the \$10 off.

L. J. Kimball: Were you hoping that maybe you'd do the same thing in the Marine Corps that you had done as a civilian? Working in engineering drawing?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I didn't even think of it, you know I thought that say for the most part, whatever they want me to do, that's what I'll do. You know I mean, they're the ones, I always felt they know what I can do and what I can't do, so. . . you know and I had worked in sales and I had worked as say, the place where I worked also, was the Sub Post Office, and I had worked with Post Office stuff so I could have been 2 or 3 different things. But, after I left Boot Camp, I was stationed at Camp Lejeune and this was in 1945 and so they put on as a sales clerk and I worked at the main PX.

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L. J. Kimball: Let's go back to 1945 when you signed up. Do you recall what that experience was, where did you sign up? Enlist?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Oh, I was still in Syracuse, so I signed up in Syracuse, but at that time, that was just the recruiting office, so I had to go to Buffalo, NY, to be sworn in. So, I went to Buffalo and I was sworn in and then I went home and waited orders, because I think at that time we weren't shipped right away, we waited. And I waited orders and then I went back and I had to go to, I think I got a train out of Syracuse and we went to Washington and then we went down to Camp Lejeune.

L. J. Kimball: Did you get off the train in Jacksonville, or at Camp Lejeune?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I think we came right aboard at Camp Lejeune. It was my impression that it was like a troop train coming out of say, Washington and it seems to me that I remember that we came, and our train came all the way into Camp Lejeune and we were brought off the train just down where the industrial area is, where those warehouses are and then we were brought to our barracks and I think the barracks were Area One that they brought us to our barracks. The barracks in Area One are all gone now, I think.

L. J. Kimball: You say Area One, you know where main side is? Virginia Dare and Molly Pitcher?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, that's two, that's Area Two, because that's the Area Two pool is. Area One is almost down near, across from where the Catholic Church is, down in that area.

L. J. Kimball: You're familiar with where the Women Reserve Area was, those barracks
...

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, later, that was a different area. We, the recruits were not where the barracks are, the women area is now, or was. It was down there in Area One.

L. J. Kimball: O.K., you weren't billeted over in the women Marine area then?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, not until later when I got out. I mean when I got out of recruit training I was stationed at Camp Lejeune.

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L. J. Kimball: So you went over in Area One. You were billeted there while you got your recruit training.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember how long recruit training was?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I'm not sure if it was six weeks or so. I can't remember. Now, an awful lot of women, if you interviewed some women and they were in two years, they could almost remember everything step by step, but if say you're a career Marine, you don't even remember what happened at the last station you were at.

L. J. Kimball: I understand. Well, do you have any recollections of recruit training?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, not really, I mean, I remember that we went to Area Two to the pool because I liked to swim and I think we stood guard duty and we'd walk around our area. I think, and well, I don't, a thing that I could remember, I think most women that came in were absolutely shocked that we had to have, we went into a big room to take showers. You know, the male shower room and the thing is, my bunk was right near the door. We were in squad bays and I was the first one when we went up to exercise to take a shower and at night I was the last one to take a shower. I wasn't going to take a shower with all those women. Other than that, I guess I can't remember very much.

L. J. Kimball: What was it, an open squad bay? There weren't any divisions or anything in there?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, it's and it's just many years at Lejeune we lived in open squad bays.

L. J. Kimball: Were your drill instructors males or females?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: We had male drill instructors that would teach us drill, but all our other, you know, the women were our DI's [Drill Instructors].

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember where you went for your drill instruction?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, that's what I can't remember, some of it, I don't know there must have been a field down there, or something. I can't remember.

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L. J. Kimball: Did you ever fire for qualification during recruit training?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no, no, the women never had to.

L. J. Kimball: Any familiarization firing?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No.

L. J. Kimball: How much of Area One was set aside for women's barracks? Do you have any recollection?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That I can't, have any idea whether there were 3 or 4 barracks that were there. This was in 1945, so, you know, the war wasn't over yet, so I have no idea how many barracks were down there. It just doesn't seem to me that we were very far from that street that's, what is that? The street down by the river?

L. J. Kimball: Yes, I know the one you're talking about. Julian Smith, or River Road.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes. Julian Smith Street, or something. It didn't seem to me that we were far from that area down, because my impression too, you know how you hear things? It seems to me that the Dutch Marines were being trained here, whether they had been trained, or were being trained here. So that all in this close area, down there in one.

L. J. Kimball: The Dutch Marines were down there too.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes.

L. J. Kimball: They leave you alone?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I guess we never even saw them.

L. J. Kimball: So, they must have left you alone.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes.

L. J. Kimball: Your showers were completely open also, just like the open squad bays?.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes. Then the rest of the things were not, you know they had the bathrooms and everything. They had always, whether we had gone into a

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male barracks and they had never even thought of putting stalls up, so I don't think anytime during the period, they were always open showers.

L. J. Kimball: What age did you enlist in the Marine Corps?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: It was, I'm trying to think, it was sometime in March, I think in 1945. Around the 13th of March.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember when you got to Camp Lejeune?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: It was around the 15th of April.

L. J. Kimball: O.K. You went through your several weeks of recruit training. Your recruit training is done and then they send you to specialist training after that?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Oh, no. Then we were, say, I think, I'm not sure how the rest of the people went, but I think some of us were then sent right to our duty stations, because then I came over to the women Marine area, over at Camp Lejeune and that was to be my duty station. For the women just getting out of Boot Camp, most of us they put us right on mess duty.

L. J. Kimball: In the women's mess there?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, the women's mess there. See that whole area was women on both sides. Well, I think, you know 59, Barracks 59, that was that street. One street I think was all women.

L. J. Kimball: How long were you on mess duty, do you recall?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: A month. I worked in the scullery. The pots were as big as I was.

L. J. Kimball: At that particular point, having finished recruit training and scullery duty, was the Marine Corps what you expected it to be?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I guess, you know. I guess nothing ever bothered me, because I figured, well, this is what it is, that the, you can't be expected to be given the very best job, I wouldn't think, not when you come in that late.

L. J. Kimball: Alright. So, your principle function for a month was mess duty. That's all you did, you didn't go to school or anything else, all day long.

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know. I just really don't know. I don't think any of us did go to school.

L. J. Kimball: You finished mess duty now, then what did you do?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Then I was assigned to the PX [Post Exchange] and the PX system. At first, they thought, well, maybe we'll send you over to our club. See, in the women's area, that, I don't know whether it's the library, or, sort of that nicer building that's not a barracks, that was our club [Building 62]. The women's club, that only women could go to. Well, men could come, but they had to have a woman escort them into the club. So, about a week I worked in the club was, you know, then we had beer and all the rest. And then I went over to the main PX. Do you know where the Chaplain's offices are? The little low building? That was our main PX [Building 37].

L. J. Kimball: Was the whole PX in there? Were there any other buildings around there utilized? That was it, the main PX for Camp Lejeune.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Because they had other little PX's all over just like they still do, but they had their little PX's, I think they had, they even had a little cigarette type PX up by the Brig [Building 3]. That was only about a half a block from us.

L. J. Kimball: Building 3. Was that still the Brig at that time, in 1945?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, there was a Brig there. Is that 3? Yes. That was the Brig.

L. J. Kimball: The buildings, you know there's two large buildings [Buildings 58 and 67] on the other side of the road, from what was the main PX then? What were they?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Officers. BOQ [Bachelor Officers' Quarters] for women.

L. J. Kimball: Was there a mess in there?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know, I really don't know. I mean I didn't have any idea what the officers were doing. I know those were the two, officers' barracks. And I think there was probably, say some, Navy personnel worked there too. So, those two were the main buildings for women.

L. J. Kimball: Now, there were athletic fields adjacent to the women's area.

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know whether we had, I can't remember any.

L. J. Kimball: You recall any athletics other than calisthenics that you did?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. I can't really remember, I don't think there was any, say tennis courts or anything like that behind. And you know like the new bowling alley [Building 89] and everything. I don't know when that was, but it wasn't there.

L. J. Kimball: You know the area between the bowling alley and the women's BOQ where tennis courts and things were located? I was looking at old maps of Camp Lejeune when the women's area was there. It would have been there in 1945 and it's identified as a field hockey field.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, maybe. Maybe it was just an empty field but they have, women maybe played field hockey, I didn't.

L. J. Kimball: When you worked in the PX what company or battalion were you in?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, we were all with the women, see. All the women were right together in women's companies and a woman's battalion. So, it was a woman's battalion. That was always a woman's battalion and I think we maybe had, they say, I think, maybe close to 1,000 women working right there.

L. J. Kimball: You all worked right there in the women's area?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I think some worked in other areas, because we were, you know, like housed, all the PX workers and everything were in Building 59 and other building, each building down that road or street, were different women. So, they may have been working in different areas. I'm sure that they did.

L. J. Kimball: Once you got out of recruit training, do you remember any organized physical training or athletics for the women?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I really can't.

L. J. Kimball: Field days, sports teams, intermural?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I can't remember any.

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L. J. Kimball: Getting up at 4:30 in the morning?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, right. But, because, see, they may have all earlier, but I don't think, see some of them, you know I don't think that during the 1943 to 1945, 1946, that it was probably more after the war ended. Then we maybe were thinking of the other activities.

L. J. Kimball: You never went to any kind of specialist school?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No.

L. J. Kimball: Just went right over to working in the main PX then. Do you recall, was your mess hall what is now the H & S Battalion Mess Hall?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I think so, I'm not sure, but I think that's what it was. If that's where the H & S Mess Hall is, is in that old women's area, that's where our mess hall was. [The WM Mess was in Bldg. 54, the H & S Bn (formerly Post Troops Mess) is in Bldg. 9]

L. J. Kimball: Now the service club [Bldg. 62], it's kind of across the street.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, that was our, we had a service club there and there was another service club way over by Smith Boulevard there. And I don't know what's in there now. It's up, maybe a half a block from that street by the fire station. You know the road that comes by the fire station? That stop on Smith Road, or whatever it's called and this up a ways was another club, a women's club. Women's clubs were just for the women and men could come to the clubs, but we would have to escort them in.

L. J. Kimball: There weren't any black women in the Marine Corps?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. I have asked some people and they said they don't think there was ever a regulation that they couldn't come in, but the armed forces were segregated and it we would have had to have only one or two women, so I think recruiting just never recruited them.

L. J. Kimball: That service club, which is now I think an Italian restaurant, was your PX in there?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. No, we didn't have a regular PX. We didn't have a PX.

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- L. J. Kimball: I understand the women Marines had a beauty shop.
- Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I'm not sure were the beauty shop was.
- L. J. Kimball: You don't recall if that was in the service club?
- Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Not, you may have, they may have had a beauty shop at recruit training, but I think once we got out of recruit training, I don't think we had a special beauty shop. Because I can't even remember where the beauty shop was.
- L. J. Kimball: The cobbler shop and the tailor shop, were they just for women? Or were they for the post as a whole?
- Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, that would be for everybody. You know where the PX was, I think there was a family shop and some stuff over, around that building. It's behind the brig, no that was for everyone.
- L. J. Kimball: Battalion Headquarters?
- Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That I don't know where it even was.
- L. J. Kimball: O.K. Building 50 is identified as Battalion Administration. I suspect that was the headquarters.
- Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Where's 50 now?
- L. J. Kimball: Its in back of Building 15, the Dental Clinic.
- Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: We may have had two rows of barracks too. If you can't remember, you live sort of within your barracks. We'd go to work and. . .
- L. J. Kimball: I don't know if you can make much out of this sketch, but when I was going through the maps, I couldn't reproduce all of them, so I just drew some. But, this is what was called the MSR. The Main Service Road, it goes down to H1, the hospital. That's the big bicentennial oak, you know where that is. This is the women's area. Now, before these other streets were built and named after women, this was known as Boundary Road, later Post Lane. And the mess hall is here and on the other side is the service club. And of course the roads were around the other side and the

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women's BOQ's were up here. But, this is Building 50. It's right next to Lucy Brewer Ave., right in back of Building 15.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Oh, yes. Oh, maybe, yes. Would that be the two rows?

L. J. Kimball: There were two rows in between Molly Pitcher and Post Lane. Two rows of buildings of one sort or another. Building 66, which is now the Staff Judge Advocate, that was the infirmary. You know the Dental Clinic next to Building One? Do you remember if that had any women Marine functions?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. I think that say, a lot of times, you know once we got out of recruit training, the thing is for the most part, I think that everything that we were involved with, except we did live separately than the rest. We went any place that we wanted to. You couldn't when you were in recruit training, but. . .

L. J. Kimball: And I believe that you stated that you think that the Paramarines occupied Area One.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That's what I thought, but you know how you hear people say something about, the Paramarines had been down there, but by the time, even when the women came in 1943, I think the Paramarines had been dissolved. Because my impression, I don't know where the history is, but I think that the Paramarines were used at Guadalcanal, and after that they were pretty well wiped out and I don't think they had Paramarines after that. But, that's my impression. I don't, I've never seen it written, but you hear people talk.

L. J. Kimball: Don't be afraid to give your impressions.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no. Because this will help you, you can further research something and see what it was. Have you heard people tell you that the Dutch Marines were here, that they were trained here?

L. J. Kimball: Yes. I know of it. They were trained out of Camp Davis. And apparently at some point before or after that training they were billeted here.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That may have been. They may have been billeted here at Lejeune, down in that old area. I say it's Area One, because I think there's nothing else between. It seems as if we came to, it wasn't very far, because we came

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over to the swimming pool and we had to walk over to the swimming pool. We weren't bussed over to the swimming pool.

L. J. Kimball: Quickly back to your recruit training. You said you had walked post around this area? Principally to keep men out, I suppose?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I would think so, that would be the thing, was to keep the men away from bothering the women.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember having any trouble?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I never did. I guess I stood it probably once during recruit training and I don't know whether I had a watch about 2:00 in the morning, something like that. We had only a billy club, nothing else.

L. J. Kimball: I was going to say, since you didn't have any weapons training, they didn't give you a weapon.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. They didn't give us weapons. We had a billy club, I guess.

L. J. Kimball: Were there any male guards also besides the women?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I never even saw any.

L. J. Kimball: Now you're over in the women's area, I guess they call it the women's reserve area?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That would be WRS, see, there were women reserves then.

L. J. Kimball: Were there any guards mounted over there?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, we had no guards. I can never remember and we never had to stand duty, so I mean as far as being part of a guard. To me, we never had any women walk around. And say for the most part with the women's barracks, they had venetian blinds. So with the blinds down and the doors locked, there was no reason to have guards.

L. J. Kimball: If a male Marine wanted to visit a female Marine, what was the procedure?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, say if I remember right and I think it's because sometimes I may get things mixed up in my mind with later on and I've lived in barracks so it's

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hard to remember if this is exactly the way it was at Lejeune in 1945. But, often you had sort of a guest lounge. And say a young gentleman would come and we would have a duty standing there and say, he would say who he would want to see and then the person would call, and I don't, whether we had a loud speaker, or . . . **Tape 1, Side 2** . . .

L. J. Kimball: So, there was kind of a little waiting area and the women on duty would call up one way or another, loud speaker. . .

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: And have the woman come if her guest was there.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember who the women's battalion commander was at that time?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I have no idea.

L. J. Kimball: So, if you had any quarters inspections it was women officers who inspected?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember if there was a lot of male Marines coming by the barracks to pick up female Marines?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I think so. I mean it would be a normal thing, you know and the thing is, say then, in 1945, a lot of these men had just come back from being overseas, so I think they were interested in the, and a lot of times they'd see the women around the base and they'd see them in the PX and they would make dates with them and they would come. And too, we had two women's clubs which made it nice, because then they could be sort of separated from that whole mass of going to say one of the male clubs and you have 200 men and you come in with just a young woman, it would be more private, I think.

L. J. Kimball: What were in your service clubs? Do you recall?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, I know in some service clubs they served beer, soda.

L. J. Kimball: In the women's service clubs, were there pool tables?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no. They had a jukebox, a place maybe if you wanted to dance. There was stuff you could buy as far as food. So, I mean a lot of people would go over and have something to eat and not go to the mess hall. Have something to eat and listen to music, watch the other people dancing.

L. J. Kimball: Did you ever go to the men's service club?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't think so. You know what? What I did go, I think there were a couple of places that was Marston Pavilion they had big affairs there.

L. J. Kimball: Dances and that sort of thing?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes and I think we went for something. I can't even remember why, but I remember going to Marston Pavilion because it was beautiful it was just opened I think in 1945.

L. J. Kimball: The reason I asked you if you'd been in a men's service club is that I wondered if the inside of the women's service club was any different? More feminine?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't really know, you know. I don't think so. I don't think it was more feminine.

L. J. Kimball: How long were you working at the PX?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I worked in the PX from 1945 to 1946 when I got out.

L. J. Kimball: And the other military that were working there, were they all women? Or were there some men, male Marines also.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, we had this Shop Steward, steward of the PX, a Tech Sergeant or maybe he was a Tech Sergeant or Master Sergeant. I think we had a supply corporal or sergeant, men, and all the rest were women. Near the end of the period of time, after the war, 1945, and into 1946, then they started hiring dependents of the Marines, women. It was strictly off, and the thing is say for the most part, my impression of what the women did, they were, up to the time the war was over, they replaced most of the men in the most jobs there were as far as possible.

L. J. Kimball: Within the PX?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, oh yes.

L. J. Kimball: Do you know a Mrs. Dorothy Brantley?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No.

L. J. Kimball: She's the wife of retired Gunnery Sergeant, Bud Brantley. She worked in the PX around those particular periods. I don't recall if she was married at that time or if she was a dependent at that time, but she did work in the PX there for awhile. I just wondered if you might have run into her, might have remembered her from those days?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. Because it was a small group of people who worked in the PX, because our PX was not nothing like today. As I said it was that small building and we had small tiny PX's in all the little areas and you know you'd have enough, shaving creme and toothpaste and cigarettes and maybe say some other tobacco type product, but very small.

L. J. Kimball: For the male Marine.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: For the male Marines and the women could go into it, you know. Once we got out of training we could go anyplace, but it's just that they'd all come over to the main PX because they had all women there working.

L. J. Kimball: You said that you were billeted in Building 59 [now, Hqs., 2nd FSSG].

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: 59. It's that first, it's that building that's sort of across from Officer's Quarters. That back road that's in front of the say bowling ally, is one street, it's the next street up. Is that, ah, Molly Pitcher?

L. J. Kimball: I believe its Lucy Brewer.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That's where I was billeted.

L. J. Kimball: You stayed billeted there and stayed working in the PX until you got out in 1946. Did you remember what people were feeling when they found out the war was over?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, they were real happy, but of course I think, the thing is, say the women came in, we were women reservists and the thing is, say your contract would read, the duration of the conflict, plus six months. So,

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most of us knew that we wouldn't be getting right out. Some would get out and then we knew that it would be a period of time. So it was almost a year, I mean, I was probably, I got out I think in June of 1946. So, it was almost a year we had to stay in, we were still in.

L. J. Kimball: Were your feelings, great the war is over, or something like, oh, oh, now we've got to get out of the Marine Corps.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I think most of us weren't even thinking of, we were, probably just came in the Marine Corps, served during the conflict and then be on about our other business that we were to do. Because I don't think very many women were thinking, well, oh, I would like to make this a career. You know, because we couldn't make it a career.

L. J. Kimball: That option wasn't available.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That option wasn't available just yet.

L. J. Kimball: Did you find yourself the subject of a lot of interest, being a women Marine in a principally male Marine base?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know, maybe I live in a dream world. I guess I don't pay much attention to what people think or feel, you know. I guess, I don't know, I just didn't seem that interested in probably what any of them were thinking. Probably by that time, you know earlier, some of the men were very impolite to the women and the Commandant got real annoyed with them and said he felt that was, it was not the proper thing to do and that he wanted it stopped immediately and that was the early, say 1943 or so. You know they were insulting to the women and all the rest and that was not called for. They were fellow Marines and they were supposed to be treated that way.

L. J. Kimball: Do you recall ever being treated rudely by male Marines?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't think so. And as I told the other interviewer, I think sometimes I live in a dream world because I guess I don't pay any attention to what they say. You know, and say for the most part, I might be wise right back to them, it would be there according to who it was or why.

L. J. Kimball: So, you got out of the Marine Corps in 1946?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes.

L. J. Kimball: What rank were you then?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Corporal.

L. J. Kimball: Corporal?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That's a Lance Corporal, now.

L. J. Kimball: What do you recall about liberty in Jacksonville while you were here?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I think I went in town once. Because there was, you know, none of us had cars. I think there was one person, I saw something about women Marines, one women had a car, but men didn't have cars. We didn't have cars. You had to have most of the time a bus to get into town. I think that was the only time I went into town.

L. J. Kimball: You rode a base shuttle bus?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I'm not sure. I think I did, but, I mean for us to leave when we left on liberty, I think I had a vacation or a leave during that period of time. We had to get the bus on the base. We would go on to say up North or go to Washington or wherever.

L. J. Kimball: You're talking about the bus station that was on the Main Service Road.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, the bus station.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember it being segregated?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: The segregation down here?

L. J. Kimball: The bus station. Do you remember the bus station being segregated?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know whether that was or not. I know other bus stations were. Once off the base and whether it is, I am innocent, or I just did not care or pay any attention, but many times I have gone into a colored restaurant or I have drank from a colored drinking fountain. I'm not even thinking. I probably see colored and I, and you don't even know. If your from the North, you don't even realize that there's this distinction and of course I

would not be for this distinction, so do you see what I mean? I just go blissfully on my way.

L. J. Kimball: Well, it's kind of a cultural shock. I can remember the first time I was in the deep South it was in 1962. I was a midshipman and I went down to Alabama. Caught a bus down to meet somebody, to catch a bus someplace else or whatever I was doing over Christmas break. I walked in to this bus station and it's just like you're in a different world. I couldn't believe it. Because I saw white water fountains, colored water fountains, white ladies room, etc. just like a flashback to 100 years ago. I really couldn't understand what I saw was happening. And of course I was only there for a little while, left again, and was never back in the deep South for many, many years and by that time integration had swept it all away.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: It's strange and you just don't understand it. If I'd have gotten on a bus I probably would walk to the back of the bus. You know, I would go to whatever section of the bus I was used to sitting in and I would have probably just sat down in the colored section.

L. J. Kimball: You don't recall then, whether you took a base liberty bus to go out in Jacksonville?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know, I really don't remember that whether we had a, I don't think so, we may have had a shuttle going back and forth.

L. J. Kimball: What do you remember of Jacksonville then?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: As I said, I think I was in Jacksonville once and I can't remember anything there. All I can remember from Camp Lejeune into Jacksonville, there was nothing on the highway. It seems to me I remember a sort of a big tent that was probably a beer joint. You know, and that's all that was there. I mean it's fine, we go in now, one side is empty, but the other side we have all kinds of sales places. There was nothing.

L. J. Kimball: Did the women Marines go into Jacksonville by themselves, or did they always make sure they had a male escort?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know. That I don't remember, because as I said there was just the one time I went in on liberty and I guess I was just satisfied to stay on the base.

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L. J. Kimball: You don't recall what you did that one time, do you?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, I do, I went and got drunk.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember where?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: It was my birthday and I had brought a bottle back with me. They had given me a bottle for my birthday, so. I don't know. It was probably on Court Street, I don't know.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember if you were by yourself?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I went with some people. I went with some other women. And I guess there must have been some men with us or something. I don't know. I don't think I drove in, or I think I'd have remembered that.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember what people used to say about Jacksonville in 1945, 1946, as a liberty spot? Do you remember any stories or anything?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. I don't because, I don't think most people went into Jacksonville. There wasn't much there only a cross street. Probably just Court Street.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember 1945, 1946, any black Marines?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Just once in awhile, because some of them would come over from Montford Point because they may once in awhile come into the PX. I may have seen some in the PX. You know I may have said, where are they from? Or something, because I think once again, I think sometimes, maybe it's the way I think about say other people or nationalities or something, or it's just that I'm so naive or something, but I would think if they came in, I wouldn't be surprised, you know, I mean, you know it, once again I come from a countryside that had no discrimination, so you wouldn't even think that oh, that person is and indian, or that person is a black, so, or you'd say he is a Negro, so it was no big deal.

L. J. Kimball: Do you by any chance remember any black Marines coming over to date the white Marines?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. I don't think so. They weren't allowed to do that. They could only come to the PX, I think.

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L. J. Kimball: Do you remember what people, particularly women Marines, impression was in having black Marines in the Corps then?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No.

L. J. Kimball: By the time you got out of the Marine Corps in 1946, how did you feel about being a woman Marine at that time?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I think I was very proud.

L. J. Kimball: Did you consider yourself something different by being a female Marine? Did you feel yourself as much a Marine as anybody else?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I guess I thought I was just as much a Marine as they were.

L. J. Kimball: Did you ever find, as a Corporal, as an NCO, any unrated Marines, male Marines who were disrespectful to you or didn't respect your rank?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I just never noticed any. I don't think it was as prevalent as it is today as far as resentment and everything. Rather they were resentful or not, I think a lot of the men. . . men at that time and probably same way when you came in, say the Marine Corps, I think the men were different than they are of today. Because I think some of the young men are very disrespectful to just women, not necessarily women in the Marine Corps. You know they seem to be. Maybe it's and I mean as far as, I've heard some of the women talk on the base, you know, now at different times how some of them will stand up to the people of rank. Never have I heard any man, or any of the women we have that worked with men, any men talking back to us and saying, you know, I don't have, you're a woman. You'd say, see that?

L. J. Kimball: I didn't follow what you're saying. Early on, in the 60's, or whenever, that men were, or now that men are more disrespectful to the women?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Now. I think, well it's just that I hear, I hear and as far as when I'm someplace, young men were always respectful. I hear them say Ma'am, yes Sir, no Ma'am. But it's just what I'm saying is I've heard other women that rank down, say sometimes a Sergeant or a Corporal or their whole attitude is such, I don't have to obey, you're a women. I didn't experience that.

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L. J. Kimball: I don't recall experiencing that either.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, it's just recently. But, I don't think that, maybe it was early, but I don't think that even during the war it was.

L. J. Kimball: The mess hall. Do you know if it was any different than the male's mess hall?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't think so. I think that most of the time, my feeling is that for the most part, they wanted us to be as close as possible to what the men were doing. They wanted us to be the same way and nothing special, because we were women.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember there being women Staff NCOs?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I think there were women Staff NCOs.

L. J. Kimball: Did they have separate barracks or separate areas in the barracks?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I can't remember. I can't remember, I think that sometimes in some of the barracks, you know in barracks, you had four squad bays and you had some rooms in between. Also you had the heads and showers and say the laundry room, but you had a few individual rooms. They may possibly been in there, but you know, you're in and you're just a Corporal and you just sort of stay within your own rank. You are not, even notice what the other people are doing.

L. J. Kimball: Well, once again, being that you were NCO, did you find yourself with kind of a gulf between you and the unrated female Marines?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I didn't even notice that I was a Corporal.

L. J. Kimball: You hung out with the Privates?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes and everybody else. You know, all of us, and I don't even think we were aware, we just had stripes on our sleeves. It may have made a difference as far as our pay, but I don't think that we noticed it. We were never in a position to be in authority of saying you've got to do this or you've got to do that.

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L. J. Kimball: So, you all considered yourself just women Marines, regardless of your rank, say a Staff Sergeant, Corporal, or a Private all pretty much treated each other the same?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I think so. I mean there was probably some difference, but I just never noticed that many Staff NCOs. There was a Sergeant at the PX that was in charge of us, but I guess I don't think I've noticed any Staff NCOs, or anybody with rockers on.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember during that time up to when you got out of the Marine Corps the first time in 1946. Do you remember any interesting events which occurred aboard Camp Lejeune, or any interesting people, civilian or military that you might have met, or recollect?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes. There's two people that I did meet, at least I saw him and that was General Puller. He was Colonel Puller then. And I think that his wife was a sweet woman. She had come to my counter. I waited on her. What I can remember is that he was showing pictures all over through the PX when his wife had the twins and he was just so proud of those babies.

L. J. Kimball: He struck you as being a nice, friendly person?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes. Well, yes, I mean, when you know, say by then you knew who he was. You knew that he was a hero, so that you would feel that that was something. I think that I saw a medal of honor winner. Was some old salt that had been in the Marine Corps a long time, because he had no arm and he was still in the Marine Corps. He was a warrant officer, so that was something that was a leftover from, you know before the war.

L. J. Kimball: Do you recall who he was?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I don't even know who he was.

L. J. Kimball: Were these the two interesting people that you recall?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes. I guess I wouldn't even know who they were.

L. J. Kimball: Well, do you remember any movie stars, or that sort of thing?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I never saw any of them here.

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L. J. Kimball: Any place put on shows for you?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. I guess I probably have been impressed with that. You know, I was impressed with somebody in the military, that would probably be the only thing I would be impressed with then. Because, I figured the movie stars were just like us. They made a little bit more money they we did.

L. J. Kimball: Alright. During 1946, how were you notified that you had to get out?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know, I think that we were, you know, it would probably be close to the, it would be coming up. Each person would be told that they were going to be say, released from active duty and you probably were a couple of months ahead of time that we would be released from active duty at a certain date.

L. J. Kimball: The big day comes, what happens? They just get on a bus or train and leave?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, we'd just go home.

L. J. Kimball: Do you remember, did you catch the train?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I would take a bus, probably to, let me see, I think for the most part I probably would have taken a bus, I may have taken a bus all the way to New York, I don't know.

L. J. Kimball: At that point, were you disappointed that, or you figured that was the job and it was done.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, it was the job and it was done. I felt that maybe I wanted to go to school and I wanted to be an engineer, so. I was glad that it was over and so then I went out and I tried to be an engineer, and I didn't do very well, because of calculus and a few other math problems. So, in 1948, 1947 it was, the Marine Corps once again wanted to know if people wanted to be in the Reserves. I said, sure, why not? So, we were inactive reserves and we got our ranks back and then in 1948, of course, women were, the law came we could come into the regular service and they asked, do you want to join the regular Marine Corps? 1949 I joined the regular Marine Corps.

L. J. Kimball: As a Corporal.

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: As a Corporal.

L. J. Kimball: When you were on inactive reserves you didn't have to go to drill?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No drill or anything, it was just an inactive reserve. You know because that was during the period of time where the Marine Corps was building up their reserve, men and women. It wasn't until a little later that they had women reserve units. But we were just inactive reserves.

L. J. Kimball: In 1949 you joined the regular Marine Corps. You were no longer a reservist.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. No longer a reservist.

L. J. Kimball: Did you sign for 4 years? Do you recall?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I think it was a 2-year enlistment.

L. J. Kimball: Where did you go then?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Washington, D.C.

L. J. Kimball: What did you do in Washington?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: In Washington, for awhile I worked at Headquarters Marine Corps. I think, supply department, and the photostat machine. I was making photostats. Then we had, I had orders to go to Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C.

L. J. Kimball: Eighth and "I"?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Eighth and I. There were 7 of us over there and we worked with the Marine Corps Institute. And the, they had women there during the war but then they discharged them, so there were no women there. We were once again, women going back into their new jobs and I worked in the files and I worked in the registrar's office, registering people there for courses. Then because they saw that I had engineering drawing I was an engineering drawing instructor for MCI.

L. J. Kimball: You just monitored the courses or did you actually give courses to people?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, it was really it was the mail order thing. Things would come in and we would correct their papers and we would send it back to them. I think it was right at the beginning of Korea, my enlistment was up and then I stayed in.

L. J. Kimball: You re-enlisted?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I re-enlisted.

L. J. Kimball: Did you find during your period in Washington, D.C., that the male attitude toward women Marines had changed at all?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, I just, maybe I'm not as sensitive say as most women. I just never noticed that the Marines were treating me any different than, you know, well, you're married, but say they'd accept you as a Marine.

L. J. Kimball: Where were you billeted when you were there?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: When we were, right at the beginning, when we came back in, the Marine Corps had only about 200 women at Headquarters Marine Corps and they were all living out, so we were billeted in just one barracks for the week or so we were breaking in for, when we came back in 1949. Then we lived out. We were given subsistence, so I lived out. Just a block away from the barracks for awhile. And then at Marine Barracks, we were living out. But, when we went to Marine Barracks, we went to Marine Barracks. We were transferred to Marine Barracks and they had our service record books over there, so they would be responsible for us. They would have had to give us court martials and everything. So, for maybe a year and a half, we lived out in the economy, and we were stationed at Marine Barracks. Then they, for expense wise I guess, they didn't want to give us any more money and then they billeted us at Headquarters Marine Corps, we were assigned to Marine barracks. And I made Sergeant in December of 1949.

L. J. Kimball: You said later on you were billeted at Headquarters Marine Corps.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes. At Henderson Hall. Just like the rest of the Marine Corps.

L. J. Kimball: Alright, you're a Sergeant, it's 1949 and you've re-enlisted. And where did you go then?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, I stayed at Marine Barracks until 1952. Then, during that time I was in the 1300 field. I was in the engineering field, so and there was one other woman who was in the engineering field. We were draftswomen. I made Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Tech Sergeant in the 1800 field.

L. J. Kimball: 1800 or 1300?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: 1300, Engineering.

L. J. Kimball: Did you in this time ever get any other formal training in the engineering field, any college training?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No.

L. J. Kimball: O.K. So, you're . . .

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: So, once again I can say that the Marine Corps is beginning to think, well, we're going to move these women back to O1 [the Administrative field], we don't want them in the engineering field. We're getting up to the top ranks. So, we were sent to Administration School. That was in 1952. I went to Administration School and I went to Cherry Point to be in administration.

L. J. Kimball: Where Was Administration School?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Parris Island.

L. J. Kimball: You went to Parris Island, you were a Tech Sergeant then. You became an O1 Admin School. Was that an Admin School just for women?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no. It was for men also. Marine Corps Admin. School.

L. J. Kimball: You went to Parris Island.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Parris Island.

L. J. Kimball: From Parris Island to Cherry Point, and this was 1952?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, it was 1952. Then I came over to Camp Lejeune to Leadership School in 1953. That was just, we had just started Leadership School here at the beginning of the year. Then I went to Investigation School at Fort

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Gordon in the Army, and then I went to the Naval Justice School in Newport and then finally after being at Cherry Point for awhile, I went to Recruiter School and then that was in 1955, 1956.

L. J. Kimball: O.K. In 1953 you're going to Leadership School. Is that over at Camp Geiger?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no, no. It was here in the women's area.

L. J. Kimball: Still in the women's area.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: It was still a Leadership School just for women.

L. J. Kimball: Just for women. You were a Tech Sergeant?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I was Tech Sergeant for many years.

L. J. Kimball: That was a hard time to get promoted, during the Korean War. Alright, you went to school in Newport, Fort Gordon and in 1955, where did you say?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, that was in 1953, 1954, 1955. It was sort of every year I had to go to a school. They sent me off to a school. They wanted to get rid of me, I guess. Now, when we went to the Investigation School, we had 11 women from 11 bases, the Investigation School at Fort Gordon. We were all of us in O1's. None of us were investigators. I think one of our women was Sergeant Major of the Women Marines. She worked as an investigator, that was the only one. They wanted us to have investigating training, in case women were ever interviewed or interrogated by male investigators, they would have a person that was a school trained investigator to be able to sit in on the investigation. I never was called.

L. J. Kimball: You mentioned a Sergeant Major of Women Marines?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes.

L. J. Kimball: Tape Two, Side One. There was a Sergeant Major of Women Marines. Was there a Commanding Officer of Women Marines?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes. When the women say, when they had women reservists, they had a Director of Women Marines, Women Reserves. Then the same way we

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had a Director of Women Marines until 1976. They also had a, from 1963, I think, we had a woman Sergeant Major of Women.

L. J. Kimball: Did the Director of Women Marines have a special office like the Commandants?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, she was a say an advisor to the Commandant, so she had an office by herself.

L. J. Kimball: We're in 1955, you're still a Tech Sergeant, since you were one for nine years. Where are you now in 1955?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: In 1955 I was on recruiting, and that was in Baltimore, MD. I was there on recruiting when we had a little incident on Parris Island.

L. J. Kimball: Ribbon Creek?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes. And then, from recruiting, they thought I had experience with the women, so they thought maybe I would have to be a DI. So, they sent me to Parris Island to be a DI. I was there 2 years on the drill field and 3 or 4 months waiting for assignment for the next assignment.

L. J. Kimball: O.K. You went to DI School?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no, no. The women then didn't go to DI School.

L. J. Kimball: Just on the job training?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, on the job training.

L. J. Kimball: The women Marine recruits were not integrated with the male Marine recruits?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no.

L. J. Kimball: You had your own special little part of the grinder?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That's right. You had your special area. We had our own little area.

L. J. Kimball: Did you have any black, women Marines yet?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes. They women came in, in 1949.

L. J. Kimball: So, you're down on the grinder for 2 years.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Right.

L. J. Kimball: When you were a recruiter in Baltimore, did you have any trouble meeting your quota every month?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't think so. I think for the most part, our quotas were kept. I wasn't that, I think we made our quotas all the time.

L. J. Kimball: You're down there with some of the Marine's finest. I guess you were probably one of the finest, or you wouldn't have been down there either. Did the male DI's kind of look down their nose at you?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, they treated, I think by then. Now, some women, it's strange. Some women feel, or maybe they feel resentful toward a man or something, but I guess I never felt that they, you know, didn't want to say or something, it was just a matter of camaraderie between us and it seemed to me I always got along with them. If I didn't I talked back to them, and they, or I'd ignore them.

L. J. Kimball: But, you'd keep them in place.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, probably, yes.

L. J. Kimball: Two years at Parris Island. Where did you go from there?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Then I went to El Torro. At El Torro I was there about two years. I worked in the classified files and I didn't realize, I'd never gone to sick bay and I always said, I'll go to sick bay when they take me in an ambulance. And they did. I had a seizure and my blood pressure was 260 over 160, and it was two weeks before I was supposed to re-enlist.

L. J. Kimball: You went to El Torro. What year was that?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That was, I think, in 1961. 1962 I was taken sick on my birthday.

L. J. Kimball: You had a seizure.

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I had a seizure and high blood pressure. It was two weeks before I was supposed to re-enlist, so I could not re-enlist. They had to hold me C of G [Convenience of Government] and I was put on the disability list.

L. J. Kimball: O.K. You were on the disability list awaiting disposition, you were still getting paid? And did they keep you at El Torro?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: They kept me in the hospital all that time. I wasn't sick. They kept me in the hospital.

L. J. Kimball: Had they determined what caused the seizure?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no.

L. J. Kimball: Then what did they do after they decided you weren't sick?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no. I would be on disability. So, they put me on the disability list because the blood pressure was still there and they couldn't.

L. J. Kimball: You were retired on disability.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, it's temporary disability list. That is a, say a system, if you're on that list for five years and then they will decide one way or another and I think it's four years they figured my disability had almost disappeared, you know, my blood pressure was down to normal, almost and so I said, I want to re-enlist. Because I had 16 years and I had 4 more years to go to retire. So, they allowed me to re-enlist.

L. J. Kimball: So, you were out for what? Five years?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, it was four years, from 1963 to 1967.

L. J. Kimball: What did you do?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Nothing. I didn't do a thing.

L. J. Kimball: Were you home with your folks?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. We, my mother and I moved from El Torro back to Peekskill, NY.

L. J. Kimball: You stayed with your mother?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: My mother was my dependent. She was traveling with me.

L. J. Kimball: You weren't employed?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no, I wasn't employed during that time.

L. J. Kimball: So they let you re-enlist in the Marine Corps.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: And I came back to Headquarters Marine Corps, kept coming back, Headquarters Marine Corps.

L. J. Kimball: Did you come back as a Tech Sergeant?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Ah, yes. No, no, see when I was at, on the drill field, I think it was sometime in their, I forget when, I was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant. I was a Gunnery Sergeant when I came back in. When I came back in, in 1967, they also had remedial promotion boards for people that were never picked up for ranks. If for some reason you weren't picked up for the last promotion, and so all my peers had, during that 4-year period had made Master Sergeant and I was promoted to Master Sergeant, because, you know, if you were on active duty, you would have probably been promoted along with your peers.

L. J. Kimball: And what year is this again that you re-enlisted in the Marine Corps?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: It was 1967.

L. J. Kimball: And they sent you to?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Washington, D.C.

L. J. Kimball: Barracks?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, Marine barracks. See, I'm living out, because my mother is my dependent, so I don't live in the quarters anymore. So, then I served at the, I think this was congressional mail for two years and then I was able to talk to my monitor to get me to have orders to go to Europe. So, I went to Europe for 3 years.

L. J. Kimball: Where did you go?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Stuttgart, Germany, EUCOM.

L. J. Kimball: Embassy?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: EUCOM. It's the European Command. And during that period of time, see, probably during the 1950's and 1960's, the women that were going to Europe, we were sending a woman, one enlisted and one officer. Most of the time the woman officer would be, say, an aide to one of the high ranking generals and the enlisted woman that would go would be the secretary to the Marine General, that was at any of the places. So, that. . . but when I went over there was an enlisted billet, male billet open and it was, I don't know if it was, I was a master Sergeant and I think it was an E6 billet. I said, I don't care, I'll take it. I filled the male billet. So, I was there 3 years.

L. J. Kimball: Before I forget, let's go back to 1946 and you had to leave the Marine Corps. You had said that all women Marines signed up for duration plus 6 months, so the Marine Corps lost all of their women Marines.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes. The men did to. I've seen something I don't even know where it is. It was something. In 1943 the Marine Corps did not recruit anymore. They all came in, in the reserves. The men were all reserves too. But, most people don't talk about that. But, the men were all reserves, because that's the only way you can keep them.

L. J. Kimball: Draftee volunteers.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Draftees and the volunteers were coming in as a reserve, so therefore it would be, the duration of the war in 6 months.

L. J. Kimball: What I'm wondering about is, if all the women Marines left. . .

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: They didn't all leave.

L. J. Kimball: They kept some of them.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: They kept some, because Headquarters Marine Corps were deciding, boy, we have 600,000 people to get out, we need some people to do some of the paperwork. So, they said, we'll let 200 women stay and we'll have, and say all the bases are closing, and some of the women said, and they were asked then, you know, do you want to go to Headquarters Marine Corps

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and stay a couple more months? Some of the women said yes. They had about 200 women up at Headquarters Marine Corps. By the time we became regulars in 1948, they maybe had a little over 100 women that had never gotten out from the time they came in in 1943.

L. J. Kimball: What I'm thinking is, there were no women Marines at Camp Lejeune.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, no, that's right.

L. J. Kimball: So, the women's area ceased being the women's area.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Right and I had no idea then, and it was many years, those barracks still stayed as barracks and I think men were living in all of those barracks. It's only recently like the last say 10 years that we had new barracks there. But, then it was turned over to the men.

L. J. Kimball: 3 years at Stuttgart, then you come back. . .

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Headquarters Marine Corps again.

L. J. Kimball: Back at the barracks again?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Henderson Hall, and this time I think for about, I get a new job a month or so, I think I'm going to stay and they say no, you go over here. I worked I think in, what's it, something about staying in the Marine Corps.

L. J. Kimball: Retention?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Retention or something like that. About 2 or 3 months and then they needed an administrator over at B Company. Now, B Company is the Officer Company, Headquarters Marine Corps. We have 1300 officers, and 10 enlisted. So, I had to go there and work and this was in 1942 when I came back from Europe.

L. J. Kimball: 1962.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, 1972. I was at then Marine Barracks, I mean B Company.

L. J. Kimball: Headquarters Battalion?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Headquarters Battalion B Company, Officer Company. Now, you're talking about Sergeant Majors. The thing is, all this period of time, the women could serve only in 3 positions as Sergeants Major. The recruit training, officers training and the Sergeant major of the Women Marines. That's the only place they could wear Sergeant Major chevrons. When they left those places, if they didn't retire they had to revert back to what they were before they were Sergeant Majors. We could not decide you know how men can decide to be a First Sergeant or a Sergeant Major, we could not decide. We had to be master sergeants and master gunnery sergeants. While I was in Europe, I was promoted to Master Gunnery Sergeant. When I came back here in 1972, Headquarters, I have no idea why they did it, they said, would some of you women like to be Sergeant Majors? Well, a lot maybe asked to be, 9 of us were picked. I think 3 of the women who were picked had already been Sergeant Majors of the Women Marines. So, it wasn't until 1972 that they would let us choose to be Sergeant Majors.

L. J. Kimball: Would they let you choose between Master Sergeant and the First Sergeant before then?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. You could not choose to be First Sergeant or Sergeant Majors.

L. J. Kimball: As a Master Sergeant, or First Sergeant, didn't they promote you to master gunnery sergeant and then take a select few of the master gunnery sergeants and make them sergeants major?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, this was a one-time thing. And then, from then on, I'd say, they would then select, let the women choose to be either master sergeant or first sergeant and sergeant major or master gunnery sergeant. It was 30 years before they would let us choose.

L. J. Kimball: Three years then at Headquarters Marine Corps. When did you leave there?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Then I came to be Sergeant Major of Base Material Battalion.

L. J. Kimball: What year was that?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: 1975.

L. J. Kimball: 1975?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: And I retired in 1976.

L. J. Kimball: Base Material Battalion, that's since went away.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Oh, yes, that went away.

L. J. Kimball: Alright.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: We had one company of men under Base Material Battalion, and all the rest were civilians and we had women assigned to Base Material Battalion, but they belonged to the Base Headquarters Battalion.

L. J. Kimball: Women's Company?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, that was part of a, yes it was part of a women's company. I was starting to think, we were still in women's companies then. Then they dissolved.

L. J. Kimball: Where were the women's companies quarters?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That was over, where the women's area is, over in that area.

L. J. Kimball: But, there was just one company so maybe just one barracks?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know, well, yes, I imagine so, it was just the one barracks. I have no idea what barracks it was, because I was with Base Material Battalion.

L. J. Kimball: Where was Base Material Battalion?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: It was down by, right now I can't remember. One of the warehouses, but there were buildings down there, in the Industrial Area. I can't remember streets. I just drive the streets over the base. But it was all down there. All the stuff, all material was under the warehouses and the supply stuff.

L. J. Kimball: I think the Base Material Battalion at one point became Base Support Battalion.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Probably. That was after 1976 when I retired.

L. J. Kimball: You lived out in town, with your mother?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: With my mother.

L. J. Kimball: As a Sergeant major. Where did you live in town?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Here.

L. J. Kimball: Here, right here, the house you're in now? O.K. What was your impression, how did your impression of the Marine Corps change from 1946 until your last year in 1976?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, it had grown a lot bigger.

L. J. Kimball: Was there anything conspicuously different about the base in the 1970's than the 1940's?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I can't, you know, sometimes you don't know if you don't, if you're only living in a certain area and you know you've seen all these new developments and you've seen like the brig changing and like when I was at Base Material, the brig wasn't any longer across from the theater. It was over in the boonies, over here and, so you know, it's those changes.

L. J. Kimball: Did you notice if there was any difference in attitude toward women Marines and the Marine Corps at that point?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, I don't know, you know, it's, I just didn't ever notice it. Maybe it's there, you know what I mean, it's happening, and I'm not seeing it, as far as if I did see it, I probably wouldn't have liked it and I probably would have said something about it.

L. J. Kimball: How about Jacksonville? I know you were only there once in the 1940's, but what was your impression of Jacksonville in the 1970's?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, it had changed a whole lot, it had gotten bigger. You've got an awful lot of business and, you know, because I didn't see Jacksonville in 1945, really, so I wouldn't even know what it was then. If we had been able to come in all the time and go shopping at whatever stores were here, you would notice the difference. Now, I go back to Parris Island and we were in Parris Island maybe every six weeks, because we'd bring recruits in to get shoes. I go down to Parris Island now and I don't even see where the stores were now, it's changed so.

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L. J. Kimball: And when you came back, the PX was moved to a different place also?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, that PX is not where it is now, but it was the other PX. I mean most of the time when you say, that's where our PX was, they said, wow.

L. J. Kimball: Was Court Street still pretty much a swinging place in the 1970's?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, I think so.

L. J. Kimball: Did you have a general impression of Jacksonville? Was it a place you'd take your friends or was it kind of a seedy place you wouldn't be caught dead in?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, I guess, once again you know, I'm living with just my mother and we're here in a different world than our Marines are, our single Marines that out trying to find some entertainment, you know, it would be different. So, I probably didn't even know what was going on. I probably had never been on Court Street when it was say, the red light district of the area.

L. J. Kimball: Do you recall any of the racial difficulties in the Marine Corps during the 1960's and 1970's?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No.

L. J. Kimball: Ever experience any of that?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I was lucky I guess.

L. J. Kimball: What was the attitude toward black Marines in the later 60's and 70's, at the time you retired? Did you see any difference?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, see now, when I was at Base Material and also I was the Sergeant Major so I would be involved with say, court martials then. Or office hours. I don't know. You know, you just, you're not sure what the situation is, and if I'm not, I haven't probably even heard a lot of the things that went on. You know I heard of some things, but I haven't experienced it, or been close enough to know all the details of some of the stuff.

L. J. Kimball: Did you tell me you had a list of the members of the Women's Marine Association in the area?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes. I'm not sure, but. This is the directory of women.

L. J. Kimball: Pretty substantial list.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, this is all of the women.

L. J. Kimball: Members of the association?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: All of the association.

L. J. Kimball: Looks like thousands there, do you have any idea how many?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: 3,000. That's not very much when you think that during WWII we had say, 18,000 enlisted, 2,000 officers and on an average since then, I'm sure we're recruiting maybe about 1,000 a year. See a lot of women don't want to tell anybody that they're in the Marine Corps.

L. J. Kimball: Why do you think that is?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know I guess they just feel that people will think that they're not very nice people.

L. J. Kimball: So, you think that there might be a perception that being a woman Marine is not very feminine?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, yes, or they'll say that we're maybe one of two things and I just won't tell you on the tape.

L. J. Kimball: I understand what you're trying to say. Alright.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Now, this is the North Carolina ones. I think Audrey Mattern and I think she was in WWII and see right down here. Flanagan.

L. J. Kimball: She was in during WWII?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I think so, they may both have come to, and they probably were in in 1943, 1944.

L. J. Kimball: Margaret Flanagan.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Margaret Flanagan.

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L. J. Kimball: PO Box 432, Swansboro, NC 28584. Do you know what street she's on, by any chance?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No. You maybe can call them because they may have a different impression because they stayed in. Audrey stayed in maybe 2 or 3 years. She was here and she went to Headquarters Marine Corps. Maggie, or Margaret Flanagan, was in almost 11 years and she's had quite an experience because she was working with, when she went to Headquarters Marine Corps she was in Secretary of the Navy's Office. I mean she has see a political idea of things going on.

L. J. Kimball: I can look up her telephone number. There was another one on here.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Audrey Mattern.

L. J. Kimball: O.K. Audrey K. Mattern, 416 Joy Court, Rock Creek Village, Jacksonville, North Carolina, 28540.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, that's out by Richland, close to Richland.

L. J. Kimball: By the golf course? She was in during WWII. Let me ask you this. Obviously we're intrigued with the women's experience when there was a distinct women Marine organization here at Camp Lejeune. But, we'd like to talk to some young women Marines also about their perceptions of the Marine Corps. Do you know, or have any in your women's association that are good, young female Marines that might be available for me to talk to?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, but the thing is say, right now, what I've been doing say for about a month or so, when they have these things. They have mentoring sessions over at Camp Johnson and it's the Headquarters or Base, say Camp Johnson Commanding Officer. The thing is, they may, some of those women are talking to the brand new Marines coming out of advanced combat training, before they go to a school here and we have a mentoring session with them. We discuss many problems they may face when they go on liberty. So, I mean, you may be able to get some from and, the commanding officer over to Camp Johnson is, I'm not sure, it used to be Colonel Washington. It's not Colonel Washington anymore. A new officer just took over. But, you might ask them, because. . .

L. J. Kimball: They're monthly?

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Weekly. But, the thing is we don't always have these mentoring sessions. You may have some of the women who are the instructors over there and there you get a newer idea of women that have just been in since the 70's. They're at Camp Johnson, but they're still part of the Marine Corps.

L. J. Kimball: Then I would be interested in talking to some maybe, well, this is 1999. Some could be in in the 90's and still be a Staff NCO, I guess. O.K. I think you mentioned Helen Crowell, or June Crowell.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Now, June Crowell is over and she is one of the women and she's over in Havelock.

L. J. Kimball: 221 Elizabeth Circle, Havelock, 28532. M. H. "June" Crowell.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes.

L. J. Kimball: And she was in WWII?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, she was one of the women that stayed on from WWII. Never getting out and then retired.

L. J. Kimball: Very good. I'll look into this mentoring session, because like I say, they're really interested in the Genesis of the women Marines and their experiences at Camp Lejeune, but we'd like to find some young ones and see what their perspective is and see if it's any different being a young women Marine in the Marine Corps now compared to when. . .

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Right, right. I think that's good to. . . and I saw the colonel the other day and he had been colonel of the school over there and he recognized me and I didn't recognize him, but you can go to the Commanding Officer at Camp Johnson. And maybe they will refer you and they also refer you to some of the young instructors at the schools. You see and those women have varied, and some of the women talk to this mentoring session and say how they get along in the Marine Corps and what they've done and, so I mean I think that would help.

L. J. Kimball: Yes, it would. Tell me about Major [Helen J. (McGraw)] Tatum.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Major Tatum. I served with Major Tatum at Marine Barracks. She was the Registrar I think at Marine Barracks. When she was here, this is one of her books. When she was here, when she came to Camp Lejeune, right out

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of officer training Corps, she wondered what she was going to do. I think she was a teacher before she came in and the thing is, say, one of the commanding officers had been from the same part of Colorado that she was. So, we thought, oh, gosh, that's nice, I wonder, what, oh, I know what you can do, you can help me say, set up the school system here at Camp Lejeune. So, she was one of the officers that set the school system up for the dependent children. So, that was and say for the most part all through her career in the Marine Corps, from 1943 on, she knew nothing about, only the school system. So, she wouldn't probably even know there was a war going on.

L. J. Kimball: This book is great.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: If you want you can borrow that book.

L. J. Kimball: That would be great. I would appreciate borrowing it to make copies.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: You can maybe take some things out of it, now see, this is Colonel [Katherine A.] Towle, she was one of our Directors.

L. J. Kimball: Of women Marines.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Women Marines. See, our first director was Colonel [Ruth C.] Streeter and she was strictly a civilian woman that came in. She was, say she was married, she had two children. Three children, two of them, her children were already in the armed forces. So, women could come in during the war, but they could not have any children under 18, so we were bringing in older women. But, then thereafter, it would say we could not have children. This is all different battalions, so, was there a date in there?

L. J. Kimball: This is what irritates people when you try to get research. For some reason they don't put dates in books.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That's how, I was looking too, I could not find a date in there.

L. J. Kimball: Are you in here?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I came in 1945 and these are all 1943 I think. It's the 13th Battalion. They came to Camp Lejeune in 1943, and some of the officers had gone to officer's training up at Mount Holyoke, and we had 2 or 3,000 women at, say

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L. J. Kimball: Tape Two, Side Two.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Women went to say, Hunter College, enlisted in NY City, and officers went to Mt. Holyoke in Holyoke, MA. It was for, say from March until June of 1943. Then they came here at Camp Lejeune. That's when we had our recruit training and officer training at Camp Lejeune. Let's see, I'm trying to, there she is.

L. J. Kimball: Helen J. McGraw.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: She's was the one that started it. It was her book. If you want you can take it.

L. J. Kimball: Do you have any mementos from when you were at Camp Lejeune during the 40's? Pictures of yourself in uniform?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I do, but I can't find them and it seems to me that I, I was thinking about that and the photographs, I had one I had, we bicycled out to the main gate and it was, the photograph was good because it just shows you a little post for the main gate and it was a two-lane highway coming out. And what we did was say for a lot of times, we were involved with a program with the church and that was a program I think that we all went on our bicycles and we went on a bicycle ride to the gate, and that was four miles.

L. J. Kimball: Do you have pictures at anytime during your career? As sergeant major, tech sergeant, corporal or anything during that time?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Different times, but right now I can't find them.

L. J. Kimball: If you would, make yourself a mental note, when we put the book together, of course what we'd like to have is sort of then and now, like a picture of then, private, so and so, a copy of re-enlistment papers, her liberty card that she kept, a laundry chit from 1945. . .

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, I have my orders. I have all my orders.

L. J. Kimball: Standing in front of Building 59 and later on, here's sergeant major, so and so. There she can be seen as a private or a sergeant major. Maybe something personal to kind of personalize the history to make it more meaningful, because people like to see names and personal details and where people were from. Little artifacts like that. Oh, look, a liberty card

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from 1945. If you think, or come across any photographs, would you please give me a call and let me know? What we'd like to do is at some point come and take a picture of it, you know someone that knows what they're doing and maybe put it in a book. You've got some other things there I believe.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: These are some more things that she had, just certain items that was different things and there was dates on it. Like this one was Camp Lejeune High School. June 1945. This says Infantry Battalion Headquarters Company Cooks, Baker School, Christmas Day, December 25, 1943. That's cool.

L. J. Kimball: Yes, and this is 1945. It's an aquacade, at the Area Two pool, February 1945.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: This is Camp Lejeune High School, Camp Chapel 2000 [8:00 p.m.]. Commanding General was Major General Marston and Brigadier General Noble.

L. J. Kimball: Was this a graduation exercise or something?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know. She was involved with the school, so she would have some of the stuff with the school. And this was, this is 1943, too. Well, I guess they had stopped the fall basketball team and I think, it looks to me that this is 1944. It means when we had. . .

L. J. Kimball: This is an interesting thing too. I'll make a copy.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Some of these things you can take with you Colonel and you can do whatever you want with it.

L. J. Kimball: Which ones would I keep and the others I could bring back to you.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, is there something you want to keep?

L. J. Kimball: Yes. I'll keep anything that deals with the Marine Corps, but it's up to you. Could I borrow them? I'll just reproduce them and get them back to you, or keep them or whatever. Whatever is convenient for you.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Most of this, but maybe the book, I'd like to have it returned, but most of the stuff, you can have.

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L. J. Kimball: I'll certainly return the book.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, but all the other stuff you certainly have to. . . she just wants it given out someplace and you have. . . have you ever been to Sergeant Major Sywanyk's bar?

L. J. Kimball: I've got it on my list.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That is something.

L. J. Kimball: Do you know if he spent any time at Camp Lejeune?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know whether he did or not. When he retired he was sergeant major I think of the Air Station.

L. J. Kimball: New River?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I think so. He was sergeant major, one of the sergeant majors over there. I don't know whether he was Sergeant Major of the Air Station or not, but he was sergeant major on the air station.

L. J. Kimball: Last night I just looked up his address and telephone number. I'm going to give him a telephone call. Because as I explained to you, if you have some pictures to go along with the text and he might have something that relates to Camp Lejeune.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: He has got that whole bar type thing. It really is an historical museum over there.

L. J. Kimball: Do you have any idea what the significance of 2000 is?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: 2000.

L. J. Kimball: Oh, maybe that's the time?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: You're involved with this 2000 too much.

L. J. Kimball: It's not a building number. It's 1945 and it never occurred to me that it was the time.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That's because you're thinking about the 2000, the Y2K.

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L. J. Kimball: You mentioned at one time that you rode up to the Main Gate, that you had your pictures taken on bicycles, that you were involved in some kind of church activity?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes.

L. J. Kimball: This was in 1945?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: 1946.

L. J. Kimball: What kind of church activities were you involved in?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: It was a young people's group, men and women. We would meet, say at different times, maybe a Saturday. We'd have an outing together, maybe a picnic, or we would like say this, like the time we all biked out to the gate. I think many of the activities now, don't they have young people's groups at the church? The chapel? And it was a Protestant chapel that we. . .

L. J. Kimball: Why I focused on that, I had somebody tell me that women Marines at Lejeune contributed toward a stained glass window in the chapel. Are you familiar with any of that?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I don't know whether, no, that I don't know. They probably did, or, and I don't think. . . what I'm thinking of, women Marines, the association that I'm in, we gave a window at Parris Island, but I don't think we ever did it at Camp Lejeune.

L. J. Kimball: I was very interested in trying to find some substantiation. You know the windows at the Protestant Chapel. One was provided by Marine Corps Base. I think the women as far as the Marine Corps Base contributed toward that window rather than providing a single window themselves.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That might be it. Because I would have thought that it said it was from the women reserves.

L. J. Kimball: Did you ever see the Marine Corps Base medallion?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No.

L. J. Kimball: There was one.

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Was there?

L. J. Kimball: Yes and it's surprising that the number of people that aren't familiar with it. In my research I came across an article where they had a contest to design the medallion. Somebody won, and the article described what the Marine Corps Base Medallion looked like. If you're going through the chapel look at each of the windows, they have division and Corps patches. The last one on the right has the medallion for Camp Lejeune.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Is that right?

L. J. Kimball: As a matter of fact, it can be found in both chapels. The base medallion has a diamond shape and it's got a palm tree, ocean, and a sunset in the background.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I can't ever remember...

L. J. Kimball: I would like to find someone that says, oh, I've got a shoe box full of Camp Lejeune back here. I'd love to get one of them. That would be a great contribution to a museum.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I never even heard of that.

L. J. Kimball: Next time you're at the Catholic Chapel as you walk in, last window, look up on the right hand corner and you see a diamond shape patch, that's the Camp Lejeune shoulder insignia. There's a similar one in the Protestant Chapel.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: You know, say the sergeant major that works with me at our bingos, is Sergeant Major Bob Brady and he works down on Wednesdays at a bookstore and he's always been interested in collecting things and everything. He might know about those patches. I think on Wednesdays he works, there's a bookstore down on 17, next to, there's a quick copy place and then, I don't know...

L. J. Kimball: Is this a used bookstore?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: It's a used bookstore.

L. J. Kimball: It's across from the waterworks.

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes. You can stop there and see when he's in and his name is Bob Brady and he might know, because he's has just come back from a museum at Quantico and he just raved about all the stuff that the historical museum had there, that the foundation has.

L. J. Kimball: He's only at the bookstore on Wednesdays, though.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes.

L. J. Kimball: I'll look into that.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, because he might know, because he's always talking to me about different things that he collects. He collects all kinds of things.

L. J. Kimball: Maybe Sywanyk has one.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: That may be too, and either one might even know about it. You get that interested. Because I think Bob talks a lot of times with some of the other people that have interest in historical things about the Marine Corps. So that they will be talking back and forth about different things.

L. J. Kimball: When this gentleman came down and interviewed you a couple of months ago? Was there anything else he asked you questions about that I haven't addressed?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I can't remember. Would you like to have my tape and listen to it? O.K. Almost the same questions. All the women he has a list of questions he asks everybody (**second side of tape begins here**) And I don't know who the other woman was, but some were only in 2 or 3 years and they all have a different impression than somebody that's a career Marine. Because I can't remember half the time what I did yesterday without, and some people, because that's the only experience they had in the Marine Corps, it's long-term memory that they have and my memory wouldn't go that long. You know, because I have too many other memories in between.

L. J. Kimball: What impresses me is someone like John Carson, the retired Sergeant Major John Carson. He can sit there and remember chapter and verse 50 years ago, the ship he was on en route way to Guadalcanal, who his squad leader was, who he shared his foxhole with. How can he do that?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Did you talk to John?

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- L. J. Kimball: Oh, yes. He's quite a character. I enjoyed talking to him. The only other thing I suspect, unless he has a super memory, is at some point he wrote a diary or memoirs and once in awhile he goes back and looks at it.
- Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Have you ever gone down and talked to Sergeant Major [Matthew] Hardiman that's with the USO? He and I served at Camp Lejeune together as sergeants major.
- L. J. Kimball: That's great. I'd like to talk to Matt again, but every time I go by the USO, he's in the middle of an audit and he's got so many commitments.
- Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, he has quite a lot.
- L. J. Kimball: At sometime when he has time to catch a breath I'll talk to him in a little bit more detail about his experiences.
- Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Because you know, we were there together in 1975, 1976.
- L. J. Kimball: What was he in?
- Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: He was Sergeant Major of Headquarters Battalion. Base. We were Base Sergeants Major.
- L. J. Kimball: That's interesting.
- Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: See, there were women under him. Because the companies, back, all the women, whether it was battalion or they were all in his company, I think, or his battalion. He might have a feeling about say the latter part of the women being at Camp Lejeune, because that was close to the time they started to integrate the women into all the different companies and battalions. And they sort of started breaking up the women companies.
- L. J. Kimball: That's a question that I wanted to ask you. It might already be on the tape here some place. What year did they do away with women Marine companies?
- Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, that varies with each company for each area, because in 1976, the Director of Women, it was canceled out. There was no longer a Director of Women Marines, no longer a Woman Sergeant Major. It was, that was the end of it. They had to, the women companies had to then start to be integrated into male companies, so it would vary with each base how they

could do it, or how soon they could do it. Then, I think here at Lejeune, it wasn't very long, I don't think. If it was by 1978, I have no idea when it was. But, then they started to mix the men and women together.

L. J. Kimball: I guess it was about 1973 or 1974, to 1976. I was at Camp Elmore. You probably heard of Camp Elmore, the world's smallest Marine base? I was a captain and major there, a company commander and Headquarters Commandant for II MAF, as they called it then. Then I was the camp and Headquarters and Support Battalion, S-3. They had five companies, as I recall. They had an MP Company, a Service Company, a Headquarters Company, and a couple of other companies. One of them was the Women Marine's Company and they had a separate barracks. I had very distinct impressions of that. I always considered myself very objective, fair minded, conscientious, made no difference, all Marines, male, female, black, white, were Marines. But, when I tried to treat the women Marines like all other Marines, there was hell to pay. I mean, if this brings back any memories, it was a unique experience. I would go for example, as Operations Officer, to supervise four male company PFT's [Physical Fitness Tests]. I would stop by the woman's company, they were just one of the five companies. The company commander accused me that the only reason I was there was to see all these young female Marines, you know, jiggling around, and this really offended me. They'd come up with a requirement and I would hold the woman Marines to the same requirement as the male Marine and they really took me to task, as best they could. Because they were captains and lieutenants and I would only take so much. I went to the Battalion Commander and said Colonel, what's the problem here? These are the regulations, these are the battalion orders, all Marines have to follow them. When I go over to talk to the women Marine company commander she says, "I'm not going to do that." He said to me, "ah, what do you expect, they're only women."

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: When was this?

L. J. Kimball: This was 1973, to 1976. And as I said, that's the response I got from a battalion commander that I'm supposed to treat women Marines differently and his attitude was, "they're only women, what do you expect?" This has never set well with me because like I say, Marines are Marines and I wasn't going to treat them any different.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, you shouldn't.

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L. J. Kimball: But, I got absolutely no support. The women Marines give me a bunch of static if I tried to make them comply with regulations and the Battalion Commander just chose to ignore it.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, see this is why I say, some of the things have changed. Let's say in 19, say in 1972, up to 1972. I was in Europe from 1972 to 1975. I was in Headquarters Marine Corps, I was in a male company. I had officers. I had to be talking to majors, lieutenants, colonels and generals, so I probably didn't even know what the women were going through. No, Colonel, as far as I'm concerned, they were wrong.

L. J. Kimball: That's what I thought.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: I would say that if say you're asking a woman to do something that is almost beyond her physical ability to do it, I would say no and I would fight like the devil for that. But, I mean if she has to do a certain thing and this is what the Marine Corps has said, then this is what she has to do. And say, maybe it probably is with young officers and say they hadn't been in the Marine Corps very long and maybe served with a lot of old, salty, senior NCO's, women, women would have said, Captain you're wrong. Because everything should be the very same thing. Now, I often have said to the men. Don't let the women pull all this, you yell at them and you scream at them and they show tears. Most women, we take a Kleenex and we hand them the Kleenex and we say, when you're finished with your tears I'll talk to you. But, the tears are not going to stop the chewing out you're going to get.

L. J. Kimball: I felt I was in a very awkward position because if the battalion commander had said, "hey treat them like any other Marine," there wouldn't have been a problem, but when he's not supporting me and the women refuse to do it, then there's not a hell of a lot I can do about it.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, you can't. And then you see, when the women do such things, the thing is, say Jimmy you're pushing back what all the other women have fought a long time for, back to where we were in 1943 when they were saying, well, we'll just tolerate the women, they're going to be here for a couple of years, and then we're going to send them home. Now if we're going to be career Marines, now see, most of the time, and see I get upset because I wonder if you can be a mother and a Marine. I think some can do very well. But, I wonder about it, because say for the most part with the women when I was in, most of the women that served during WWII

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and were career women from then on, very few of us ever married. Very few of us if we did marry, it would be the last few years of our career in the Marine Corps. Because we never wanted to get pregnant and have to get out. You see, and that's the thing they held over our head. Pregnant, out you go.

L. J. Kimball: When was that? How long did that last?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Up until about 1972. You see what I mean, and then the women they have now, they'll stay in, or they can't get out. But, see this is the thing, I wonder about that. It upsets me and it upsets a lot of the women that have spent their career in the Marine Corps, because what we fought for all the time is, we will do any job the Marine Corps wants us to do and we're not going to say well, "I can't do that," I can do anything you tell me to do. I mean, not unless it's something physical I can't do. When I worked in Washington with the photostat machine, the photostat machine was up. . . I'm five feet, the photostat machine is almost up to my, I mean how can I pick up a 5-gallon can of fixer or developer, I'd say, get me a footstool. I got a footstool, I walked up the footstool and then I can dump it in. I found a way to overcome the fact that I was too short to do the job, but I never asked to change jobs, or do this for me. I guess I was too proud to say, "no way and I going to ask you to do it for me."

L. J. Kimball: What were the physical requirements, by the way, when you joined the Marine Corps? What was the height and weight requirement?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: 5 feet. I was under 5 feet. I stood on my toes.

L. J. Kimball: What was the weight requirement, do you recall?

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: No, I don't. It was probably within the range and they had, and the age was different, too. We had to be 20 and say, I think it was up to 39, for enlisted and 49 for officers. You know, this was, just this one period of time. You could be married, but not to a Marine. You could not, you could have children over 18, but none under 18. So, those were the big requirements. But, there's been many things very much against women throughout the career in the Marine Corps. I mean women had to get out if they were pregnant. Say, if women had a husband, we did get married and had a husband we wanted to get an ID card for him you could not. Only if he was 100% disabled. They've changed that now. You couldn't

claim your husband, because he's the bread winner, so you can't claim him.

L. J. Kimball: Well, I may have been a little idealistic or naive at the time. I had never worked or seen a woman Marine until, well, around 1973, and it was completely beyond my experience. They didn't feel that they had to rehearse for parades. They didn't feel they had to show up when the male companies did on the parade deck. They're language was worse than the male Marines. It offended the spectators who could hear them swearing away out there. And the women officers were on a first name basis with all the senior male officers. All they did was banter and all they had to do was bat their long eyelashes at them and get anything they wanted. I really was a disappointing experience.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Some of that may, and it would be a disappointing experience. But, see, once again I was never exposed to some of these things, because where I was it was in a different situation. You know, but I don't approve of things like that at all, and as far as language on the drill field, I mean, they had since the men used that language, same kind of language.

L. J. Kimball: Well, the next time that I dealt with women Marines, basically, we were all integrated and everybody acted like a Marine. This is the way it should have been. Thank God they got away with women Marine companies, because I think that was one of the problems, continuing that attitude, that there was something different about them.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: The thing is say, what I've always felt that maybe without the women companies, that women sometimes do not have mentors. They should have mentors and we should be able to talk to them and explain things to them. Because we may explain differently than a man would explain something differently to a woman, what we expect from them. I wouldn't tell them you know, flick your eyelashes or something. I'd say, that is a taboo. You don't do that. And you know I mean, don't use the fact that you're a woman to any man. Don't show tears. Don't give this garbage, you know, it's that time you know. Well, that's too bad go to sick bay.

L. J. Kimball: Well, it was detrimental in a couple of respects, because not only did a woman Marine think that during that particular period she was something special, deserving of special treatment, but the male Marine that came in contact with her did not see her as a Marine.

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Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Well, you see this is the reason why they don't see her as a Marine, is because she's expecting special, say privileges and you have no special privileges just because you're a woman and you wear a skirt. I mean too many of the women before tried very, very hard to prove to the men that whatever they asked us to do we would do it and we'd do it to the very best of our ability, which was sometimes much better than what men could do. I mean we would never ask special favors no more than a guy would ask for a special favor. I can see how sometimes some of the bitterness against women, because with this attitude.

L. J. Kimball: I had some great, some good experiences with women Marines later on when I was at the Naval Academy. The Navy sent me there to teach physics. The Marine Corps sent me there to tell them that there was a rational alternative to spending the rest of their life in a blue uniform. So, I had a hell of a time. I was a bachelor, involved in all the extra curricular activities possible. I would take them up to winter survival school. In New Brunswick, and then mountain climbing school, and all sorts of fun things. Carol Mutter. You probably know her. She came by once and she was I think a captain or a major at the time. Midshipmen have no shame and there's something that you learn as a plebe called passing a "feelie" where everyone is kind of. . . well, the plebe is up to the table braced like this and everyone has their legs under the table, . . . you have to pass a "feelie." It's just an unwritten rule. You can't stop a "feelie" as an officer without a loss of esteem from the ranks. What it is is you reach over and grab a person's knee next to you and you squeeze the knee, and of course they pass it to the next person, and they pass it again, and I kept thinking to myself, oh God, please don't start a "feelie." And they did. At least one thing saved me, it went around this way and she was sitting to my right as opposed to it passing to me first and her completely oblivious to this bizarre ritual, I would have to reach over and squeeze her leg, and I just could imagine all sorts of horrible things that could happen, but the feelie went around the other way and the midshipman next to her reached over and squeezed her leg and she didn't even bat an eye. She just kept talking and reached over and squeezed my leg. I thought, oh boy, thank God.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: See, she knew what it was.

L. J. Kimball: I don't think she knew that. She knew the midshipmen were kind of strange and did weird things like that and just concluded that midshipmen on their own would not reach over to a commissioned officer and touch him like that. I could just envision her standing up shrieking, smacking

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somebody with their purse, but she just took it like a real trooper, you know? A smile on her face, didn't blink an eye, kept on talking, just kind of reached over and passed it on.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Oh, that was just great.

L. J. Kimball: I'll never forget that. I thought, she's got a head on her shoulders. She's obviously a very confident, very intelligent, very good Marine.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, three stars.

L. J. Kimball: I was thinking, gee it's too bad she doesn't live around here, I'd like to introduce myself. I don't know if she was married then or not.

Sgt. Maj. Sabourin: Yes, she was married. I don't know whether she was then, married to a colonel.

L. J. Kimball: Well, I don't know if you'd . . . **tape stopped - tape ended.**