

Maj. and Mrs. M. Updegrave, USMC (Ret.)
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Tape One, Side One

L.J. Kimball: The interview with Mr. Maurice Updegrave, 1002 Decatur Road, Jacksonville, North Carolina, Wednesday, 17 June 1998. Interviewer: L.J. Kimball. Tape One, Side One.

Maj. Updegrave: What got me in touch with you was when you wrote that article in the Jacksonville paper . . .

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: About bringing the first, first fire department unit up here from Parris Island. That was in May of 1941. I was a high-flying PFC at the time. And, as a matter of fact I had a, I had a car at that time. My father had just given me a car and I was one of the first Marines, first of that group, well I was the first of that group to get up here because I drove my car up. The other people drove the fire truck up.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: Well, we got here and there was absolutely nothing here. Absolutely nothing. And, a matter of fact, I slept the first two nights in my car. Then we went over to what is now where the General's Quarters are on the base at Paradise Point. And we built a tent camp over there and Col. [James F.] Moriarity was in charge of that, we were part of G Company, the 2nd Battalion, First Marines at that time. We were just a company then. We stayed over there for a short while. Then I moved on over here to what is currently known as the Second Front. We moved into a farmhouse right on the, right on what is now the base Camp Geiger. We set up a couple of tents in the front yard and used those for billeting and used the farmhouse for a mess hall and whatever else we needed right at the time. Well, about that time, I became acquainted with another Marine. He was Lt. Col. W. P. T. Hill's driver and . . . he was stationed over at Montford Point. Col. Hill had a beach cottage over there.

L.J. Kimball: Is this Col. Hill?

Maj. Updegrave: Col. Hill. Col. Hill did, the driver and his wife were staying at my wife's mother's home. That's how I got to know him and his driver. And of course, I got to know his driver. His name was Givens. "Geechie" Givens. And through him I got to know Col. Hill even though I was a PFC. Why he

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would tell sea stories all the time. They were both China Marines by the way. Old China Marines.

L.J. Kimball: You mean both the driver and the . . .

Maj. Updegrave: Driver and Col. Hill. And he used to tell me about the Boxer Rebellion, and they were in the Gobi Desert. They talked about that too. For a young Marine, that was pretty damn, high-level stuff. But I got to know him. I got to know his wife real well through association with the driver. A prince of a man. A prince of man. Then there was another man there. I think he's still here in Jacksonville. I'm pretty sure he is. He was a Warrant Officer at the time. Warrant Officer Bozarth. And he was a fine old . . . fine gent there too. Matter of fact, I think he stayed here at Lejeune most of the war. And he's probably as much responsible for that base as anybody.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. To go back a way if I may sir.

Maj. Updegrave: Sure.

L.J. Kimball: Just to get the background. Could you tell us your name?

Maj. Updegrave: Oh. Maurice Updegrave. Maurice. M-A-U-R-I-C-E.

L.J. Kimball: I want to make sure I pronounced it correctly, so, the way that you pronounced it.

Maj. Updegrave: Up-de-grave. Three syllables. U-P-D-E-G-R-A-V-E.

L.J. Kimball: And you're originally from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania?

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, out of Harrisburg. Pennsylvania, Dutch.

L.J. Kimball: When did you join the Marine Corps?

Maj. Updegrave: In April of 1940. April the tenth.

L.J. Kimball: Is the Recruiting Office there in Harrisburg?

Maj. Updegrave: No, there was a Recruiting Officer in Philadelphia.

L.J. Kimball: Philadelphia.

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Maj. Updegrave: I was recruited by a man by the name of Truesdale. He's the one that recruited me. He had a Medal of Honor from Nicaragua. He only had one arm. He sacrificed an arm in throwing a grenade. I got to be friends with him and then, over the years, I ran into him several different times. He was from South Carolina by the way, I'm pretty sure he was.

L.J. Kimball: Where did you go to Boot Camp?

Maj. Updegrave: Parris Island. And I stayed down at Parris Island for a year. After I got out of Boot Camp, I was kept there for about a year. That's when I joined the Fire Department down there.

L.J. Kimball: How did you get in the First Marines?

Maj. Updegrave: Well, by virtue of moving up here with the fire truck. That was I guess they just transferred records. They were the ones providing the security for the base here then.

L.J. Kimball: The First Marines were?

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah. G-2-1. [Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment]

L.J. Kimball: Was G-2-1 the only . . . unit from the First Marines up here at the base?

Maj. Updegrave: As far as I know at that time. Later on when they started expanding, why, I think they bumped a few others in there, but then we're getting into. . . you know, we're getting into December 7, '41 too. Right close then. And it was just unbelievable, the expansion that was going on at that time.

L.J. Kimball: The first contingent of Marines that came up from Parris Island, I believe, were under Arthur Challacombe. Did you know that gentleman?

Maj. Updegrave: No. The only one I knew was Col. Moriarity.

L.J. Kimball: So when you got up here, Col. Moriarity was in charge of the, the detachment of. . . fire fighters.

Maj. Updegrave: He came up later. He was up . . . yeah. He was . . . right. He was in charge of that detachment when we got here. Or when I got here, I don't know, I believe I got here before him.

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L.J. Kimball: And I just want to get this straight in my mind. You belonged to the Base Fire Department at Parris Island?

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, at that time.

L.J. Kimball: And you were transferred to the First Marines when you got to Camp Lejeune?

Maj. Updegrave: I have no idea. I mean I have no idea how I became attached to whoever at that time. I was, I just know that that's the way things happened there.

L.J. Kimball: You drove up in your own vehicle.

Maj. Updegrave: I drove up in my own vehicle from Parris Island. Right.

L.J. Kimball: To the barracks in. . .

Maj. Updegrave: No, there was no barracks.

L.J. Kimball: Well, what they called, Marine Barracks at the time even though there was no structure there.

Maj. Updegrave: There were no structures, period, here. There were no tents, period. There were no nothing here.

L.J. Kimball: And after sleeping in your vehicle for a couple days, then you moved into. . .

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, we moved over to the tents G-2-1 constructed where Paradise Point is. The General's Quarters right now.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. This was after you were over at . . .

Maj. Updegrave: No that was the first time.

L.J. Kimball: The first time.

Maj. Updegrave: That was first, right. And I don't know just all the details how these things came about, but that's where we, I first went there then.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

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Maj. Updegrave: And, ah, I think it was an awful lot of indecision as to where we were supposed to put this fire truck, period.

L.J. Kimball: The fire truck originally was with you all over on Paradise Point.

Maj. Updegrave: Oh yes. Oh yeah. It was with us all along. No matter where it went, that's where we went. And it was just a determination and, who wanted it and who wanted it where.

L.J. Kimball: Um, where on Paradise Point, exactly, were you?

Maj. Updegrave: Where the General's Quarters are right now.

L.J. Kimball: Right on the water itself.

Maj. Updegrave: Right there, yeah.

L.J. Kimball: Do you remember the CCC Camp that was there?

Maj. Updegrave: I don't remember the CCC Camp, no. I was at that time, why . . . you know I was so indoctrinated with the Marine Corps, I wasn't even concerned about any other military organization or quasi organization. But the CC Camps right here, and my wife could, well, she could probably tell you some things about that. Her, her aunt married a man by the name of Preston Motes. And he was a Lt. here with the CC Camp. And he's still living. He's down in Columbia, South Carolina, now.

L.J. Kimball: Was he an Army Lt.?

Maj. Updegrave: He was an Army Lt.

L.J. Kimball: How do you spell that name, sir? Motes?

Maj. Updegrave: M-O-T-E-S.

L.J. Kimball: And do you know which CCC Camp he was with?

Maj. Updegrave: I can't, I can't recall. I don't know whether he was out here in Hofmann Forest. Was there one out there?

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L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. There's one around Deppe. Down the road on 17 going toward Maysville.

Maj. Updegrave: I think it might have been out that way then. But, ah, at that time he married Julia. Her name as Julia Hemby. She lived out on Route 53. Her father had a big farm out there on Route 53.

L.J. Kimball: On Paradise Point, have you heard of an area called Simmons Point?

Maj. Updegrave: Simmons?

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. That was out where Paradise Point is. The reason for this question is when you were out there, was there an old resort or anything there?

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah. There were resorts all through the area here. Over at Paradise, I mean at, Montford Point, that's where a lot of the beach cottages were. They had a pier over there, that was used, ah, the people in the Jacksonville as a recreational area and picnic area. And that's where Col. Brewster later set up his operation, over at Montford Point. He took over one of the, one of the beach cottages there. This was where the first Marine barracks was located . . . I gave a picture of that to the Camp Lejeune paper [The Globe] here just two or three months ago. And it was the first Marine Barracks here. I don't know if they ever published it or not.

L.J. Kimball: Did they ever give it back to you?

Maj. Updegrave: I got . . . well, they put it right on, on their computer. But the picture I had was from Givens' wife.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm. Can I see the picture?

Maj. Updegrave: About Givens' wife, who was Col. Hill's driver.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: She had the picture. She's living out in California now. She and my wife correspond regularly and she just said look I found this picture the other day. I thought you might be interested in . . . and take a look at it and we did. That's when I took it over to the base, but I since then sent the picture back to her. Of course, I could get it again, I'm sure.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. I'd certainly like to see that.

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Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, well, I thought. . . well, when I gave it to the base and they were going to publish it in the, in the Camp Lejeune paper. I was gone for a couple of months and I don't know if it ever got published or not.

L.J. Kimball: No sir. I don't know.

Maj. Updegrave: It didn't get published?

L.J. Kimball: I would certainly remember that I think if it did.

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, well, they were going to, to call me to talk to me and interview me about that picture too. And I never heard another word from them.

L.J. Kimball: Well, back at Paradise Point, there was a resort development at Simmons Point which was basically the same place that we call Paradise Point. A gentleman by the name of Walter Simpson ran a resort out there. And I just wondered if you'd recalled any structures there.

Maj. Updegrave: Not by me. My wife is a local girl here. She was born here, there were only about 750 people in Jacksonville at that time. So she might very well remember. I could get her down here and she could probably answer it.

L.J. Kimball: Well, we'll talk to her today.

Maj. Updegrave: All right.

L.J. Kimball: After we finish chatting a bit.

Maj. Updegrave: Sure.

L.J. Kimball: I just looked down here, I picked up one folder to bring with me to show you, but I left the other one on my desk. I was going to show you a picture of the buildings around Simmons Point and see if they look familiar.

Maj. Updegrave: The biggest thing I can remember about that camp that we set up there was the dirt road that ran right along side of the river.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: And Col. Moriarity had . . . the trucks would come back and forth across that and they'd make a hell of a lot of dust, you know. He was at the far end of that. He had his camp, tent at the far end. And he has those trenches all

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across this road, where the trucks could not proceed more that about 5 miles an hour. It kept the dust down. I do remember that one there.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. You say his tent was at the far end. Is that the north end or the south end?

Maj. Updegrave: That would be, well let's see. . .

L.J. Kimball: At the top?

Maj. Updegrave: I guess, yeah, I guess that would be probably the west end, wouldn't it, going down the river. The river . . .

L.J. Kimball: The river runs north and south.

Maj. Updegrave: All right. The river runs . . . OK would be the north end.

L.J. Kimball: I do have some pictures here. I'm looking at some newspaper articles. This is Maj. Arthur Challacombe who subsequently took over the 7th Marines. It says he commands the first contingent of 180 Marines who arrived here last week, and, this is the Fire Fighting Detachment.

Maj. Updegrave: I didn't even know anything about him.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. And he was, he brought the first Marines up from Parris Island.

Maj. Updegrave: OK. OK. Well, that makes sense. That would have been where we would have put, into there then.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. It said, the Marines, the first contingent of Marines, 180 strong, moved into Onslow Tuesday afternoon to serve as an advance guard and provide fire protection for the construction of the Marine Barracks here.

Maj. Updegrave: Right.

L.J. Kimball: The Marines are stationed at Paradise Point under the command of Maj. A D., that's Arthur Challacombe, who has served with the Marines at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and at Parris Island in recent months. Arriving from Parris Island in fifteen motor trucks and station wagons, the Marines were quartered in abandoned buildings at Paradise Point Tuesday [6 May 1941]

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night. They will move into tents in the area as soon as tent floors have been erected.

Maj. Updegrave: OK. That's where, the area I was in.

L.J. Kimball: So you arrived after the tents had been erected. Or did you put up the tents yourself?

Maj. Updegrave: We put up the tents.

L.J. Kimball: You put up the tents?

Maj. Updegrave: I put up the tents, yeah.

L.J. Kimball: Did you see any of the abandoned buildings before the tents were put up?

Maj. Updegrave: I don't really recall whether we did or not.

L.J. Kimball: This article is from the *Jacksonville Record* for the 8th of May 1941.

Maj. Updegrave: 8th of May, OK.

L.J. Kimball: And here's . . .

Maj. Updegrave: OK I got here April. I think it was Ap. . . no it was in May I guess, I got here. Yeah. I got here in May.

L.J. Kimball: And here's a picture of Maj. Challacombe who very shortly thereafter got promoted to Lt. Col. and went back down to Parris Island.

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, that probably is why the one I remember is Moriarity.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. And it talks about the fires in the Marine Base. Do you recall responding to any fires while you . . .

Maj. Updegrave: Oh, yeah. We had fires. I don't recall any particular one.

L.J. Kimball: This is a picture in the May 15th *Jacksonville Record*, showing the tents that were erected on Paradise Point . . .

Maj. Updegrave: Yup.

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L.J. Kimball: . . . the fire-fighting detachment was in.

Maj. Updegrave: Yup. Yup, that's an old road there that they put in.

L.J. Kimball: This gentleman here, Lt. Cmdr. Madison Nichols was the officer in charge of construction of the base. And of course W. P. T. Hill was the Marine Liaison Officer.

Maj. Updegrave: That's right.

L.J. Kimball: And this again talks about forest fires and some of them with suspicious origin. And here's Marines loaded up on trucks from the Fire Fighting Detachment.

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, that . . . there were that . . . that's as well as I remember it, yeah.

L.J. Kimball: And do you recall wearing a pith helmet?

Maj. Updegrave: Oh, yeah. I, matter of fact, I recall very well. You, you were not allowed outside without your pith helmet. And you're also not allowed to get them dirty. And Moriarity would give you hell if yours was ever dirty, but you couldn't have. . . you know the outside wash racks. He disciplined one or two of the boys in our outfit for scrubbing their hats when they were out there. Not wearing their pith helmets. Oh yeah, I remember those very well.

L.J. Kimball: It says First Lt. Cogswell. He was the Quarter Master and Adjutant of the group.

Maj. Updegrave: I . . .

L.J. Kimball: He was giving instructions to the Marines in the trucks apparently going out to fight a forest fire someplace.

Maj. Updegrave: I couldn't, I couldn't dispute any of that at all. Like I said the only reason I got to know Col. Hill is through his driver.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

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Maj. Updegrave: And I got to know him very well. I didn't know any of the other officers. I wouldn't have.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. Here's Lt. Col. James F. Moriarity arrived last week. This is *Jacksonville Record* dated the 5th of June 1941. Moriarity arrived from Parris Island to assume command of the Advanced Detachment Marines stationed at Paradise Point. He succeeds Lt. Col. Arthur D. Challacombe who was transferred to Parris Island Friday. So Challacombe was up here through the beginning of June at which point Moriarity . . .

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, then Moriarity came along. The area over here by where the air facility is, . . . I have some documents.

L.J. Kimball: Yes, some documents for the areas . . .

Maj. Updegrave: Yes, I have some of the, the prices that they paid for a lot of the land there. The total prices that they paid.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: The documents were from Eleanor's cousin. Her cousin's farm was over in that particular area then.

L.J. Kimball: When you moved from Paradise Point over to what was known as the Tent Camp area, the farmhouse there. Do you remember when that was?

Maj. Updegrave: No. I just. . . all I can say is probably that was in the, in the summer months there. We sent up the guard unit there then.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: That's where we took the fire truck that particular time. We set up a guard unit over in that area there. Then we built that, start building that area, the Tent Camp.

L.J. Kimball: What did you guard?

Maj. Updegrave: Well, the construction there. There was . . . all the construction people were using that. They were coming in and out. . . We set up a gate there and were required to allow only those people who had authorization into the base.

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- L.J. Kimball: One of the pictures I left in the folder that I wanted to bring to show you showed a Marine standing in the doorway of one of the old structures on Paradise Point. It was a gentleman by the name of Corp. Vincent Babbins and the caption alleges that he was from Headquarters in Service Company, First Marines. And they were providing communications support.
- Maj. Updegrave: Very well could have been.
- L.J. Kimball: I think it said August through September 1941.
- Maj. Updegrave: Well, during that period of time, I was over here at the Tent Camp, now Camp Geiger.
- L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.
- Maj. Updegrave: I was at the Tent Camp then. Matter of fact, I got on over there, it would have been May or June. And June, that's probably when I got over to the Tent Camp.
- L.J. Kimball: The farmhouse that you moved into was the Gurganus Farmhouse.
- Maj. Updegrave: Right. That's why the connection . . . I don't know if that was, ah, any relation to Julia or not. But her name was Julia Hemby. But her father's farm was out in, on Route 53. And she's the one that married Preston Motes who was a Lt. in the, ah, CCC, he was Army lieutenant.
- L.J. Kimball: Well, in the . . .
- Maj. Updegrave: He stayed in the Army. He was on McArthur's staff in the Philippines, or in Australia for most of the war.
- L.J. Kimball: When the First Marine Division showed up later on in the year, Gen. [Phillip H.] Torrey and Gen. [A.A.] Vandegrift used that farmhouse that you stayed in as a Headquarters. There was another retired Marine that lives around here. I don't know if you know Clark Ruse.
- Maj. Updegrave: Ruse?
- L.J. Kimball: Yes. He remembers checking in to that farmhouse, and seeing the fire truck and the tents out there when he checked in.

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Maj. Updegrave: Yeah. Matter of fact, we had a Platoon Sgt. then by the name of Soltys. He worked here for a long while after he retired. He was working over at the Marine Corps Exchange. Years ago when I came through here I ran into him over there. But I've checked around, I checked the telephone books here and I don't find his name anywhere. So I don't know whether he passed away or whether he retired from the Marine Corps Exchange and left the area or not. But the only one that I know that's still around here, that I think is still around, and I haven't got in touch with him at all, is Warrant Officer Bozarth.

L.J. Kimball: I've had a chance to talk to . . .

Maj. Updegrave: Have you?

L.J. Kimball: . . . Bozarth for several hours.

Maj. Updegrave: He's probably the most knowledgeable one about this area.

L.J. Kimball: When you got up to the Gurganus Farmhouse and the Tent Camp area. Were there tents there?

Maj. Updegrave: Where?

L.J. Kimball: At the Tent Camp area.

Maj. Updegrave: No. No. We put up two or three tents out in the yard. Just for our own use. And that's when we started, then they started developing and putting the area up where the Tent Camp was and Camp Geiger is now.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: That's when they started building the Tent Camp and we doubled up as part of the guard force too. So, we set up a guard for us there and, well, as you know. PFC's and Cpls. weren't privy to a hell of a lot that type of information as to what the higher ups were up to at that time. You couldn't see the big picture at all.

L.J. Kimball: That's one of the things that's not clear in my mind. We know that there was at least a company size unit up there from the First Marines.

Maj. Updegrave: All I can remember was G-2-1.

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L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. And Lt. Col. Moriarity was up there?

Maj. Updegrave: Right and that's it.

L.J. Kimball: I was wondering what his relationship was with Lt. Col. Hill who was the Marine Barracks Commander.

Maj. Updegrave: Ah, from the best I knew, it was . . . They didn't get along too well. From the best I knew.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: And again, that's just hearsay. I'm getting that through Col. Hill's driver. They were . . . I don't know anything other than that. But the relationship was one was in the Division and one was operating directly out of the Headquarters Marine Corps.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. Well, Hill was the Commanding Officer of the Barracks. I would assume the fire fighting support was provided to the Barracks that you folks would come under the Barracks.

Maj. Updegrave: That's exactly what the discussion was most of the time. It was, that was why who's going to control us—I can remember that. And, then Col., Col. Hill got promoted and I think at that time Col. Moriarity was the senior Lt. Col. But then they both got promoted to Col. about that same time, later that summer.

L.J. Kimball: The Col. Brewster, David Brewster . . .

Maj. Updegrave: Oh yeah.

L.J. Kimball: . . . came down and took over the Barracks.

Maj. Updegrave: He took over the Barracks, right. He took over Marine Barracks, OK. That was . . . My knowledge of Col. Brewster is when they built Midway Park. By this time Eleanor and I had gotten married. We were into World War II then. And she and I'd been married and we had a son. We were one of the first ones to move into Midway Park and the quarters up there, and right across the street from us was Col. Brewster. That was his quarters. He

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moved into Midway Park too. Now we're both across the street from each other.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall when Col. Brewster took over? Were you at the ceremony when he took over the Barracks from Hill by any chance?

Maj. Updegrave: I might have been. I might have been. I don't . . . I don't . . . All I know is that I wound up being his next-door neighbor and I was . . . at that time I was . . . I was a Sgt. then I guess. I'd made Sgt. And he was a Col. We were both at Midway Park. Those were the first quarters.

L.J. Kimball: You mentioned Hill lived in a summer cottage over at the Point . . .

Maj. Updegrave: Over at Montford Point.

L.J. Kimball: All right. Is that clear in your mind? Might . . . his summer cottage had been where Camp Knox is now?

Maj. Updegrave: Well, wherever Camp Knox is. Camp Johnson is. . .

L.J. Kimball: If you leave Montford Point and go over Scales Creek, they have a trailer camp over there. Used to be an area where they did various things - there was an overflow from Montford Point, they had the war dogs there, and it's a trailer camp now called Camp Knox. I've heard that W. P. T. Hill was over there.

Maj. Updegrave: Ah, my wife could tell you. Identify this particular area a lot better than I can. At that time, ah, all I knew it was was Montford Point, and that, that's where any specific part of that, why I'd have difficulty.

L.J. Kimball: After you stayed at the Farmhouse there and the tents were there, where did you move to?

Maj. Updegrave: Moved back. . . That was when they built a couple of the firehouses over on the base. At that particular time I had charge of all the fire departments on the base. I'd made Platoon Sgt. It was the one on Hadnot Point, up across from the chapel there, you know?

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

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Maj. Updegrave: That was number one Fire House. And a friend of mine had the other one down in the industrial area, which is down right across from the Commissary now. You know where that's at?

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: His name was Perkins, Robert Perkins. He had that station down there and I had that one up at Hadnot Point. And then we had another one that we put up at the Officer's Quarters right up by the BOQs up there. We established that then. We started, of course at that time, getting more people in. When we first came up, there were only four of us came up from Parris Island. Myself, a guy named Perkins, another one Cardinal and a guy by the name of John Smith. Then as we started expanding, why, getting more trucks, more equipment, more buildings. That became . . . About that time I was getting ready, I was getting sick of this. I want to go. . . I wanted to get involved in the war.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. It seems you belonged to the Base at this time though because you're working with the Fire Department.

Maj. Updegrave: Absolutely. I mean the distinction there I can't tell you who we belonged to. But I'm pretty sure it had to be the base. Because I know there was some. . .

Tape One, Side Two

Maj. Updegrave: I, I can't . . . I can't tell you who we belonged to. But I'm pretty sure it had to be the base. Because I know there was some . . . I know that there was some disagreements between Col. Moriarity and W. P. T. Hill.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm-hmm. And when did you ship out?

Maj. Updegrave: I shipped out . . . I went around. . . I shipped out in '42. We went around, ah, into San Diego. Through the Panama Canal. We shipped out of Norfolk. I forget the name of the the ship. We went around the Canal into San Diego, went up to Camp Pendleton. Then when I left there I went out of San Diego. And we made the landing right then, right from San Diego to the landing on Roi-Namur. We went directly from San Diego and that was the first operation ever made from the continental United States to Japanese-held territory during World War II.

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L.J. Kimball: When you transferred out of Camp Lejeune, were you a member the base when you transferred?

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: Who did you join up with?

Maj. Updegrave: Fourth Division.

L.J. Kimball: Fourth Division. And you joined the Fourth Division on the west coast?

(Pause)

L.J. Kimball: Tape one, side two. I want to make sure I . . . picked up what you were talking about when I changed the tape here. You left Camp Lejeune and joined the Fourth Division on the west coast and . . .

Maj. Updegrave: No . . . We probably joined it here before we left. It was at that time, it was A Company, First Battalion, 25th that I was in. And that was formed by . . . formed by part of the 9th Marines that came back from Iceland and had been up there. We formed the Division out in Camp Pendleton. That's where the Division was really formed. We were at Los Pulgas Canyon out there.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: We formed the Division right there. We stayed there for not too long. Then we left there in . . . December . . . December of '43 wasn't it?

L.J. Kimball: Probably.

Maj. Updegrave: '43, '44. I . . . I . . . but anyway we made that landing right there. And then went back to, ah, went back to Maui. We had a rest camp on Maui at the time. And the next landing we made was Saipan, and Tinian and then Iwo Jima. We made all those landings over a period of about thirteen months. And, had, had a lot of casualties. Suffered an awful lot of casualties.

L.J. Kimball: What was your MOS?

Maj. Updegrave: Infantry.

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L.J. Kimball: Infantry. And you stayed in the Marine Corps for a considerable number of years after that?

Maj. Updegrave: I stayed in the Marine Corps for a total of 34 years. I went, . . . I was separated with a temporary disability in . . . '71. I had over thirty years then, and, ah, three years later, they gave me a permanent discharge, or separation.

L.J. Kimball: Did you come back to Camp Lejeune at any time?

Maj. Updegrave: Yes. I came back with the 2nd Division. I was with the 2nd Division one time with the 8th Marines here. The First Battalion 8th. And I was at the 3rd Battalion 8th. Then I came back another time . . . I was the Company Commander of Headquarters Company of the ASD [Automatic Supply Distribution] Battalion at that time. Then I became. . . the Adjutant and S-1 of the Battalion. I was the S-4 in the 8th Marine. I was between there and Pendleton and Headquarters Marine Corps. I'd been. . . I was in Headquarters Marine Corps. I was in 8th and "eye" at one period. I was the First Sgt. of the Ceremonial Company there.

L.J. Kimball: Mmmm. What rank did you retire at, sir?

Maj. Updegrave: Major.

L.J. Kimball: Major. And I didn't get this at the beginning of the tape, but when were you born?

Maj. Updegrave: March 16, 1921.

L.J. Kimball: Going back to the early days of the Barracks there, you moved from Tent Camp, and then ran a Fire Station at Hadnot Point.

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: Where were you billeted?

Maj. Updegrave: Oh, in. . . we were billeted right in that, in the Fire Station then. Man, we were first class. Then we had our own station and we had our own pole to slide down and the whole works.

L.J. Kimball: Mmmm-hmmm.

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Maj. Updegrave: I think Depaola, he stayed here all during the war. He was another fireman. I don't know if he's still around or not.

L.J. Kimball: Mmmm-hmmm.

Maj. Updegrave: Guy by the name of Depaola. I hadn't. . . I hadn't. . . I hadn't thought about that, but check in on it.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: He could. . . could tell you about the latter part of it there.

L.J. Kimball: Back over at the Tent Camp area, do you recall when they started putting up huts for the Marines to stay in, or do you just remember tents over there?

Maj. Updegrave: I just remember tents really. Because I moved from there over to, over to the Barracks as soon as they put that brick firehouse there.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. What was at the 2nd Front then?

Maj. Updegrave: Nothing really. There wasn't a hell of a lot of things there. There were a few shacks they put up. But at that particular time there was nothing. There was right up the street from there. . . from us there was a prison up there. And I think that's an area where the Highway Patrol is now.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. Where that restaurant A. Capone's is?

Maj. Updegrave: There is no restaurant there.

L.J. Kimball: I mean the building. There's a restaurant there that was recently closed called A. Capone's. That building was part of the prison.

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, OK. Yeah, that's the area.

L.J. Kimball: You say there were a couple of shacks there in the 2nd Front. Were these bars?

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, they would be bars. Right. Right. I didn't. . . I didn't really frequent that too much. Like I say I was one of the few Marines at that time that had an automobile. I was probably the only enlisted Marine. And the only

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reason I had one was my father gave it to me. My father was . . . he was able to send that at that time and he gave me the car.

L.J. Kimball: Where did you meet your wife?

Maj. Updegrave: At that gate, going into the Tent Camp. She was bringing her brother in. He'd been working in construction over there and he was hurt and he had to go to the sick bay in there. I allowed her to take him on in, but I told her you gotta come back out here and wait for him. I'd been eyeing her pretty closely over the years, over the months right there.

L.J. Kimball: And what was your wife's name?

Maj. Updegrave: Eleanor Hitch. H-I-T-C-H. And we just got going together then over a month after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, why we got married.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall while you were there the landing exercises the Marines were conducting over Onslow Beach?

Maj. Updegrave: They were . . . I think . . . I remember the operations, yes. I think Lou Diamond was one of them that was in there right . . . I didn't get involved in it at all. I knew they were making the landings there and they were the first ones that they'd made in that area. And I knew that they were making them, but I didn't get involved in them in any way.

L.J. Kimball: Apparently the First, Fifth and Seventh Marines were involved in landing operations. . .

Maj. Updegrave: That would have been the whole Division, yeah.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir. One of the things that I've often wondered and I don't know if you can shed any light on it. At the conclusion of these exercises, instead of moving into the Tent Camp, they went back to their home stations.

Maj. Updegrave: Yes, they did.

L.J. Kimball: And then came back up later. . .

Maj. Updegrave: There was no room for them. They wasn't no room then for them.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm-hmm. That was why they went back, because there was no place to put them?

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Maj. Updegrave: I'm sure of that. Yeah. Because the First Marines, they were, ah, they were operating a lot out of Parris Island I think at that time. And out of, of there and Cuba. Ah. . . at that particular time, I know we were using, Hilton Head Is. as artillery, practice for artillery. From Hilton Head which of course is right now a big resort area. And that was the First. . . First Marines there. Is what were using then. But, no, I'm. . . I know they went back aboard ship.

L.J. Kimball: Mmm-hmm. You thought you might have been affiliated with Company G, 2nd Battalion, First Marines. You didn't have any dealings with the First Marine Regiment or the. . .

Maj. Updegrave: No. No. We were just carried on there administratively, I'm sure. When we came up, they had to put us somewhere and this was the only outfit that they found that they put us in there, you know. And administratively would have been the only reason. We didn't act with them at all in any capacity, as members of that company.

L.J. Kimball: Did you have any occasion to go over to Montford Point while you were there?

Maj. Updegrave: Oh yeah. Constantly. That was where my wife and I did most of our courting in that area I mean. . . it was a good swimming area. They had a nice pier there.

L.J. Kimball: Are we talking about the period of time when you were operating out of the Fire Station at Hadnot Point?

Maj. Updegrave: No, mostly when we were out. . . over at, ah, where Tent Camp is, in Geiger.

L.J. Kimball: Camp Geiger.

Maj. Updegrave: And, and, out at Paradise Point, yeah out at Paradise Point. At that Tent Camp. And then out at the Tent Camp at Geiger.

L.J. Kimball: What do you recall being at Montford Point then?

Maj. Updegrave: Not much of anything except that a nice swimming pier and a couple of those beach cottages. That's about it.

L.J. Kimball: Do you remember which one Col. Hill used as his quarters in the. . .

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Maj. Updegrave: That's . . . that's where my wife would probably, . . . I could guess, but it would only be a guess. She could probably identify it though.

L.J. Kimball: Well, there's one story and it's very difficult to track down specific information on this. That the first base warehouse was a converted tobacco barn, down at Montford Point. Do you have any recollections?

Maj. Updegrave: Could very well have been. It could very well have been. I mean, there wasn't a hell of a lot that they needed a warehouse for at that time . . . I don't know.

L.J. Kimball: The recreation center that was down on the New River there at Montford Point. Do you. . .

Maj. Updegrave: Yup.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall what they were using it for? Was that a mess hall or what purpose it served?

Maj. Updegrave: I don't recall that at all. I wasn't stationed there at all.

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: The only time I'd go over there was when I'd go over with Givens, the Col.'s driver. And the Col. was, he was just, he was a real gentleman. When I left to go into the Division during the war, all of us left there that he'd been working with. He told all of us, he said if there's anything I can do for you boys, you just get in touch with me, let me know. Well, he later became Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps and I came back. I was a Gunnery Sgt. then. I'd just come back from landing on Iwo Jima. My father had passed away. I came back on emergency leave. After I got back, when I got back, why, we had dropped the bomb on Hiroshima. So, I said, "well, I probably don't have to go on back. I'm going to see what I can do here." So I'm going to go down to Washington. My mother was getting along in her years then. I went down to see W.P.T. Hill, Col. Hill, Gen. Hill. And he just walked me right into his damn office, and. I've never forgotten and he asked me well, "OK, what can I do for you." I said, "well, I don't think I have to go back now that they dropped the bomb." He said, "no you're not going to have to go back." He says where would you like to go. I said well, my mother is. . . my father just died and my mother's at, . . . up

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near Harrisburg there by herself. I said I'd like to get as close to her as I could for a while because I don't think she's going to last much longer. He said "OK, I'll transfer you to Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. The Navy Supply Depot." That's what I can tell you about Gen. Hill. He was a Lt. Col. and I was a PFC and probably a Cpl. or maybe a Buck Sgt. when we left there. That he was, he was just a prince of a guy.

L.J. Kimball: Col. Hill's driver, Givens. What was his first name?

Maj. Updegrave: All I knew it was, was "Geechie."

L.J. Kimball: Geechie. How do you spell that?

Maj. Updegrave: G-E-E-C-H-I-E. Eleanor would know that. Chalmers. C-H-A-L-M-E-R-S. Chalmers.

L.J. Kimball: Chalmers. Givens.

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, he was from. . . He was a Georgia boy. And he's since passed away though.

L.J. Kimball: What rank was he?

Maj. Updegrave: He was then. . . I think he was a Sgt.

L.J. Kimball: Sgt?

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: There were a couple of other Marines that were in the 2nd Battalion First Marines this time, but given that you're only assigned to them administratively, you probably didn't know them. There's Al Schmidt, you probably heard his name. He won a Navy Cross. And Robert Leckie, who became a noted historian.

Maj. Updegrave: No, didn't know them.

L.J. Kimball: In that you were responsible for basically firefighting, you didn't get out and train with the Marines in the field . . .

Maj. Updegrave: Not then, no.

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L.J. Kimball: Did you do any landings?

Maj. Updegrave: No, I didn't make any of the landings in any of that.

L.J. Kimball: What were your recollections of Jacksonville then. Have you had a chance to get . . .

Maj. Updegrave: Jacksonville. My first recollection was, Jesus, I drove by the courthouse when I was coming in and saw a couple of guys sitting out there playing checkers. Hell, I thought they were statutes. It was, it was pretty dead. There was only one little ol' diner here then. There wasn't much of anything here then. But, it was a damned nice town then. It was a nice town. Good friendly people.

L.J. Kimball: Where did you go when you went on liberty?

Maj. Updegrave: I stayed right in Jacksonville. I had, I had a girlfriend there.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah. I had no need to go off to Raleigh or anywhere else.

L.J. Kimball: When you were courting in Jacksonville in those days, where would you go?

Maj. Updegrave: Montford Point mostly. Down at the other end of the swimming . . . all they had was one theater in there. Not much else. There wasn't much else. Of course I'd go down there and spend some time down there. And, but, there wasn't a hell of a lot . . . anywhere else to go, outside of the theater.

L.J. Kimball: On Paradise Point, do you recall any airfields?

Maj. Updegrave: There weren't any airfields then. Not that I know of.

L.J. Kimball: Do you remember any kind of recreational facilities that might have been there from a resort . . . golf course, tennis courts. . .

Maj. Updegrave: There was nothing there then. There was an old log road that came out to where the Tent Camp was, where we set it up. And then we went up Piney Green up in . . . where the entrance to the main gate is right now. Up in that area. You had to go down there and then you turned and went down a log

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road and, ah. I know I ran off the thing one night taking a couple guys back to camp in my car. I had to go get a truck to pull me off that log road.

L.J. Kimball: There was a little article that appeared in the paper several years ago. Says Dear Old Salt, I am trying to locate any of my old mates from Company B First Battalion First Marines that served at New River or on Guadalcanal during World War II. Please give me a call. Marvin L. Arthur. So I'm . . . it looks like a gentleman I should get ahold of to see what recollections he might have. . .

Maj. Updegrave: I remember some of the officers that were there. Goettge. You know. . . the one for whom they named Goettge Memorial Field House . . .

L.J. Kimball: Yes sir.

Maj. Updegrave: . . . up there. He was, ah, he was killed on Guadalcanal. He was ambushed there. On Guadalcanal. I remember him. And I thought, well, I had really thought I'd be able to go. . . I'd be going off at the first, worrying from when I left here and went to Guadalcanal. That's when I got . . . but I stayed right at the, in the Fire Department. And then that wasn't suiting me. I gotta get going from here. That's what I had going.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall who the Base Commander was at the time when you left?

Maj. Updegrave: Col. Brewster. . .

L.J. Kimball: Still Col. Brewster?

Maj. Updegrave: I think so. I think he was the Base Commander here. Yeah, the best I know, he was.

L.J. Kimball: Hmmmm . . .

Maj. Updegrave: Bill Staley, he was. . . Bill Staley was First Sgt. at that time. He's passed away though. His wife's still living down in Ft. Worth, Texas though. We stay in touch with her.

L.J. Kimball: Do you think your wife might be interested in talking a little bit about her. . .

Maj. Updegrave: Sure.

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L.J. Kimball: . . . her family.

Maj. Updegrave: Hey, Eleanor.

L.J. Kimball: You're Maurice Updegrave's wife, please tell me what your maiden name is.

Mrs. Updegrave: My maiden name was Eleanor Hitch.

L.J. Kimball: H-I-T-C-H?

Mrs. Updegrave: H-I-T-C-H, right. Uh-huh.

L.J. Kimball: And you're folks were here . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Folks were here. Yes, I was one of the original 800 in Onslow. . . in Jacksonville. When the Base came . . . when the Base taken over the town.

L.J. Kimball: You say you were one of the original 800. You lived in Jacksonville?

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes, I was born and raised here.

L.J. Kimball: Whereabouts in Jacksonville did you live?

Mrs. Updegrave: Right down on Bluff Street in back of the First Baptist Church down on the River, right across by the bridge. In fact, my grandfather was the first one who brought a sawmill to Jackson. And brought in the power lights. And he was here until about 1916. And he left and went back to Maryland. Right about the time of the war.

L.J. Kimball: You say brought in the electric plant. For his own use or for the town?

Mrs. Updegrave: No, well he started out for his. And there was only about 100, I think about 100 houses when it started, when he first started. And, um, I guess it was they had electricity from sundown cuz it was battery powered. So it had . . . they had electricity from about sundown til about 10:00 at night. Of course, everybody thought that was great, come in and they didn't have to use a lamp or a lantern.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall what your address was on Bluff Street?

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Mrs. Updegrave: 17 Bluff Street. It's one of the historical houses in Jacksonville today, listed.

L.J. Kimball: It's still there?

Mrs. Updegrave: Mmmm-hmmmm.

L.J. Kimball: Is it still 17 Bluff Street?

Mrs. Updegrave: I think yes. Still 17 Bluff.

Maj. Updegrave: What's the guy name that's in there now. You sold it to him.

Mrs. Updegrave: I can't think of his name hon. He's a contractor.

Maj. Updegrave: He's a contractor. He did some. . . a lot of work on that then.

L.J. Kimball: You were related to the Gurganus's?

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes. Lots of them.

L.J. Kimball: I was talking to your husband about the Gurganus Farmhouse there at Tent Camp.

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes, they were cousins.

L.J. Kimball: Do you ever visit their house there?

Mrs. Updegrave: Oh yes, I sure did. Lots of time. In fact, there were. . . all the Gurganus's, my grandmother and grandpa. . . my grandmother and grandfather's farm, that was part of an original grant from the King of England.

Maj. Updegrave: It's out on 53.

Mrs. Updegrave: On 53 and her brothers, Grandmother's brother's son had the original deed. I really don't know who has it at this point, but, that was original grant. And I guess that's the only part of the, of the grant that's still in the Gurganus family today, is Uncle Grant's youngest. . . one of his son's owns . . . has property there.

L.J. Kimball: What's his name?

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Mrs. Updegrave: James Gurganus.

Maj. Updegrave: But there's nobody on it now.

Mrs. Updegrave: James is there. He lives on the farm. Not at the farmhouse, in the farmhouse, but on the farm.

L.J. Kimball: And this is on 53?

Mrs. Updegrave: Mmmm-hmmmm.

L.J. Kimball: About how far is it from Jacksonville?

Mrs. Updegrave: It's about 6 miles from Jacksonville. Right out on 53 at the crossroads there on 53 and, I don't know what the . . .

Maj. Updegrave: Southwest.

Mrs. Updegrave: Southwest. Yeah, Southwest.

L.J. Kimball: Do you know Marie Koonce More.

Mrs. Updegrave: Marie Koonce. Yes I do. She's part. . . she's in the family relations somewhere in there too.

L.J. Kimball: She was tied in with the Gurganus's also.

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes, that's right. She and, um, oh what was her sister's name? Ah, can't think of it right now. But, um.

Maj. Updegrave: Matter of fact, while I'm thinking of it, the last week in this month, we're having a reunion out there, of all. . .

L.J. Kimball: Really?

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah.

Mrs. Updegrave: At the last Sunday. And do you know the Burtons?

L.J. Kimball: Um. . .

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Mrs. Updegrave: Bruce Burton.

L.J. Kimball: Yes.

Mrs. Updegrave: OK. Bruce's mother, you know Charles Kuralt?

L.J. Kimball: Mmmm-hmmmm.

Mrs. Updegrave: His grandmother, Bruce's mother, my grandmother, were all brothers and sisters.

L.J. Kimball: So there's, additionally there's a tie in with Stratton Murrell too. Do you know him?

Mrs. Updegrave: Strat Murrell. Oh yeah. I know Strat and Van both. In fact, their parents. . . their father, mother and father are the ones who had the big beach place down at Montford Point when the Base had taken over.

L.J. Kimball: When you were courting down there around Montford Point when the Marines occupied Montford Point . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall what was the recreation center being used for then?

Mrs. Updegrave: Well it was a . . . a regular summer camp down then. They had cottages down there just before the Base had taken over. They had cottages down there that they rented during the summer. And it was just a regular park down there. And of course the swimming pier was down there and we'd all go down for swimming. And picnics and swimming and what have you. But, ah, of course, after the Base came, the Base moved in there and that's where they set up, where they had W.P.T. Hill, Col. Hill was near there. And the mail carriers and all, they had living quarters up over the pier, where the concession stands were down below and they had rooms, housing up above. The family I think did. And that's where Geechie Givens, Col. Hill's driver, and the mail boys all stayed up there. And Col. Hill had a cottage over by what is now Camp Knox. He stayed in one of the cottages over there when they first came. Before any buildings were put up here.

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L.J. Kimball: So just after the Marines arrived and they used the Recreation Center for billeting. . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Right.

L.J. Kimball: And when . . . do you remember when Col., Col. Brewster came and took over the Barracks.

Mrs. Updegrave: Yup.

L.J. Kimball: And he apparently used some of those cottages for his headquarters and for where he lived.

Mrs. Updegrave: Well, he didn't live there. They started right after they got there, after they got Paradise Point built up. The Barracks set up down there and the Tent Camp set up over at Tent Camp. Then they started out in Midway Park. And they put quarters. . . built quarters in Midway Park. Those were the first quarters that came. They had a section for enlisted and a section for officers. Well, we lived on this side of the street in a house, and Col. Brewster lived right across the street in another house. So that his quart. . . first quarters down here. I don't know where he lived before he moved there.

L.J. Kimball: This is what I was trying to determine. You know John Burton had a cottage there. At Montford Point. Right up the hill from the recreation center. I believe that Brewster, as soon as he took over the Barracks, before he . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: He may have moved into that when he first came. He may have lived there until they built the quarters over in Midway Park.

L.J. Kimball: Now you said your father had one of the first sawmills?

Mrs. Updegrave: My grandfather.

L.J. Kimball: Your grandfather.

Mrs. Updegrave: Had the first sawmill. Started out at. . . Tom Hitch.

L.J. Kimball: Tom Hitch.

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes.

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L.J. Kimball: And where was the sawmill?

Mrs. Updegrave: Down at . . . near Verona. Down at Jarman's Crossing. That's where he had the first one. And then because the railroad was right there and then they built the . . . Then he moved it and came up here to the trestle, over here right outside of Jacksonville. And set up over, set his mill up over there.

L.J. Kimball: Was this the railroad trestle?

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes.

L.J. Kimball: And this was on the Jacksonville side?

Mrs. Updegrave: It was on the Jacksonville side.

L.J. Kimball: And he set up a sawmill there.

Mrs. Updegrave: I think it was the Jacksonville side.

L.J. Kimball: Do you have a feeling for how long he operated the sawmill there?

Mrs. Updegrave: He was here about, well I can tell you in just a second.

L.J. Kimball: OK.

Mrs. Updegrave: Just hold it. I can tell you when he came down. . .

L.J. Kimball: Your grandfather operated a sawmill on the New River near the trestle there from 1900 to 19. . .

Mrs. Updegrave: No, from 1900 when he first built it, it was down at Jarman's Crossing on the highway between Wilmington and New Bern. And he was there I don't know how many years he was there.

Maj. Updegrave: Wilmington and New Bern?

Mrs. Updegrave: Wilmington New Bern Highway. 17 North. Wilmington into New Bern.

L.J. Kimball: Then he moved up to. . .

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Mrs. Updegrave: Then he moved up here and he was here until 1921.

L.J. Kimball: I understand one of your relatives married a Lt. Motes?

Mrs. Updegrave: My mother's sister married Preston Motes.

L.J. Kimball: He was affiliated with the CCC here. . .

Mrs. Updegrave: He was with the. . . he was in charge of the C, oh excuse me, with the CC camp here at Deppe.

L.J. Kimball: Mmmm-hmmmm. Do you know about any other CCC camps that were here?

Tape Two, Side One

Mrs. Updegrave: I'm sure there were others around, but that was the only one in Onslow County, I think.

L.J. Kimball: Actually there were four of them.

Mrs. Updegrave: Well, I only knew about the one.

L.J. Kimball: The one at Deppe was here a long time before the others because the other three. . . one was at Camp Davis and two were at Camp Lejeune . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Yeah, OK.

L.J. Kimball: . . . only came along to help with the war effort.

Mrs. Updegrave: Right. Well, of course at that time I had gone from here. Right after I graduated from high school, I went up to Maryland with my grandparents, up where they were living.

L.J. Kimball: And where about was that in Maryland?

Mrs. Updegrave: In. . . Fruitland. Fruitland, Maryland right out of Salisbury.

L.J. Kimball: Eastern shore?

Mrs. Updegrave: Eastern shore, Maryland. Right. Great place. So.

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Maj. Updegrave: Then her father died and she came back here.

Mrs. Updegrave: Yeah, when my father died. Yes, my father died from a heart attack. And of course Mother wasn't in good health. So I came back home. And that was just before the Marine Corps started building. The First Marines came.

L.J. Kimball: And when you came back, you came back and were living at 17 Bluff Street.

Mrs. Updegrave: I went back to 17 Bluff Street with my mother.

L.J. Kimball: How did you meet your husband?

Mrs. Updegrave: Well, he was. . . I met him at a dance first. Then after that, my brother Jimmy hurt his hand, and I had to. . . he was working on base. And I had to take him over to the dispensary there and Maurice was on guard duty, gate duty. So he said I could take him in but I couldn't stay. I had to come back. Well, I came back and I sat there and sat in the car and talked to him. Until I could get, until Jimmy was ready to come home. I went back and got him. And then we started dating and married.

L.J. Kimball: Where was the dance that you met him at?

Mrs. Updegrave: Down at old . . . the Lodge. . . Pine Lodge down by the old recreation, well down across from the US . . .

Maj. Updegrave: It's where the USO is, isn't it?

Mrs. Updegrave: No, it was across the street from the USO. There was an old log cabin, an old log house down there, right across from the USO. The USO was over here right in front of where the voting area is, is where it was.

L.J. Kimball: Being down there on Bluff Street, and one of the original 800 there, you probably remember what we call the Pelletier House now, there on Old Bridge Street.

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes, I sure do. Miss Liza Morton.

L.J. Kimball: Did you know Liza Morton?

Mrs. Updegrave: I knew Miss Liza well.

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L.J. Kimball: What can you tell me about her?

Mrs. Updegrave: Oh, she was, she was one that worked with. . . an insurance company. Oh, what was the name of it? My mother had insurance on . . . she had insurance on every one of us children. Pilot Life. Pilot Life insurance. And gosh it was at that point in time, it was five or ten cents a week. And Miss Liza, faithfully, every week came by to collect for the. . . the insurance. And she did that all over town. A very lovely person.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall what her house looked like? Was it larger than it is now?

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes, it was larger than it is now.

L.J. Kimball: In what sense? What was larger then?

Mrs. Updegrave: Well, the whole house outside was larger. I don't. . . I think they've only preserved about a third of it.

L.J. Kimball: When you look at the front of the house, you remember there's a wing or a (tape stops)

L.J. Kimball: Tape two, Side one. OK. We were talking about the Pelletier house. First off, when you looked at it, it's only about a third of the size now that it was then. And there was more of it off to the right, and. . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Well, when you. . . as I remember it, when you came in, you went down a side like a porch here, like sort of like an L shape. And I think part of that is gone.

L.J. Kimball: When you walk right in the house, what did you walk into? Was it a living room?

Mrs. Updegrave: The living room I think. It's been so long ago. It's been so long ago, I can't remember it. At that point in time I was only about 18. . . 16 . . . 17 and, ah, I really don't remember that much about what was in there. I know I was in there a lot because Miss Liza and my mother were very close.

L.J. Kimball: Looking at the front of the house, was it continuous, or was there a breezeway or some kind of separation?

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Mrs. Updegrave: I don't remember a breezeway being there. It seemed it was all just one portion of the house. Now there could have been a breezeway. I don't remember really.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall where the bedrooms were and the kitchen was?

Mrs. Updegrave: No, I don't. No, I don't. That I can't help you with. I wish I could.

L.J. Kimball: Can you talk about the spring?

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes. OK. Down below there was a big spring down there that had real good fresh water down under a willow tree and, of course, we kids used to go down there and play under the willow tree. And of course Miss Liza didn't bother any of us. She just let us play. She didn't bother anybody and she was just happy to have us around.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall. . . visualizing what the spring looked like, was there any kind of any concrete basin around it or anything?

Mrs. Updegrave: I can't remember, but I don't believe there was. I don't know, may still be there.

L.J. Kimball: The spring is still there but it. . . there's been a lot of work done on it. . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Has it?

L.J. Kimball: . . . over the years and the house was restored. . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Restored. Oh, yes.

L.J. Kimball: . . . restraining walls and I just wondered, back in those days those if there was any kind of boards or, ah, concrete . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: I can't remember. You know, being a kid down there playing, you didn't pay any attention, any attention to that. Or at least I didn't.

L.J. Kimball: Another quick question about Montford Point. Do you recall any Rod and Gun Club down at Montford Point?

Mrs. Updegrave: No, but there was a Rod and Gun Club down on, on, ah, Paradise Point. There was. . . down the Rod and Gun Club down in that area.

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L.J. Kimball: Do you remember the resort that was on Paradise Point, Simmons Point there?

Mrs. Updegrave: Mmmm-hmmmm.

L.J. Kimball: What do you remember was there?

Mrs. Updegrave: Oh, there was a big, beautiful home there. It wasn't an. . . I think it was the Coddington boys out of Greensboro.

L.J. Kimball: The Coddington place was on the other side of New River at Townpoint.

Mrs. Updegrave: At Town. . . oh, I'm sorry.

L.J. Kimball: I'm thinking about Paradise . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Paradise Point. Mmmmm. Let's see. Well, I can't remember much about Paradise Point. Mostly was just family. . . families down there. Because that whole area down there, there was all kind of families living down there. In fact they were all farms over there, the whole area.

Maj. Updegrave: Didn't travel that far out of town at that time, did you?

Mrs. Updegrave: Well, yes we did because I had. . . we had school friends that were living down there. The Morretti's lived down there and the Gillettes. . . Gillettes, Morretti's, and, um, some Gurganus's lived down there. And I was just trying to think some of the others, but those were all farms on that side of the river.

L.J. Kimball: Do you remember when Mrs. . . Miss Liza Morton died?

Mrs. Updegrave: No I don't. Because I wasn't here when Miss Liza died and I really don't remember about it.

L.J. Kimball: Do you remember her having a shop on Court Street, or do you remember people talking about a store that she might have had on Court Street?

Mrs. Updegrave: I don't ever remember her having a shop on Court Street. Now she had one I didn't know about. I didn't know it or I don't remember it.

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L.J. Kimball: That was probably before your time.

Mrs. Updegrave: Well, it may have been. Because it may have been way before she started the insurance business. Because the only thing I remember about Miss Liza was her insurance business. Because she had a big insurance business.

L.J. Kimball: And her husband was probably gone before you . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes, I never knew. . . I never knew her husband. Never knew him at all. Only Miss Liza.

Maj. Updegrave: Your Uncle John, he was . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Uncle Johnny Gurganus was, he was the Clerk of the Court for. . . well he stayed at the Court til he died. I don't know how many years. Now that was my grandmother's brother.

L.J. Kimball: Do you remember, were you here when the black Marines came?

Maj. Updegrave: Yes. We sure were.

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes. We sure were.

L.J. Kimball: What was the feeling at that time?

Maj. Updegrave: Well, at that time, you know, there was a lot of racial problems. We didn't much care to have any black Marines in the Corps at that time. And I can remember some incidents there where . . . especially if they wore. . . blues. I can remember some incidents there. Nothing really, serious. . . They were separated pretty well from the rest of us. Nothing really overt there.

Mrs. Updegrave: But they usually would take them out of town. They wouldn't. . .

Maj. Updegrave: They wouldn't allow them to . . . have liberty in Jacksonville much.

Mrs. Updegrave: Not in Jacksonville.

Maj. Updegrave: I only saw them a few times in Jacksonville though.

Mrs. Updegrave: Very few times.

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Maj. Updegrave: I think most of the time they'd take them up to Raleigh, or to Wilmington, or . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Kinston.

Maj. Updegrave: . . . someplace else.

Mrs. Updegrave: But not around here. Very few of 'em.

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, that was it.

Mrs. Updegrave: Thank goodness that's all changed.

Maj. Updegrave: . . . I remember when they first came. I remember very well when they first came.

L.J. Kimball: Back again, the early days here in Camp Lejeune. Do you recall that they had any blackout restrictions when you were here?

Maj. Updegrave: Oh. Yeah.

Mrs. Updegrave: Oh yes, they sure did.

Maj. Updegrave: Frequently. Frequently.

L.J. Kimball: What did you have to do during the blackouts that was different?

Maj. Updegrave: Well, we were living. . . most of the time we were living out. . . that was when we were living out, out at Midway Park.

Mrs. Updegrave: We were living in Midway Park.

Maj. Updegrave: And, all we did was cut our lights out and, . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Go sit on the porch.

Maj. Updegrave: Go sit on the porch and think.

Mrs. Updegrave: Wait until the lights come on again.

Maj. Updegrave: Wait until the lights come back on again.

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L.J. Kimball: Were there any black Marines over at Midway Park when you were there?

Mrs. Updegrave: No.

Maj. Updegrave: Not . . . no, not at that time.

Mrs. Updegrave: No black Marines over there at that time. In fact, there. . . I don't even think there were any people that were not Marines. No black Marines that were married that were here that I remember.

Maj. Updegrave: I don't think so. I don't think there were any married blacks then.

Mrs. Updegrave: And I think they were all single young men and no families at all. Because of course they came in young and at that time they were not married. So they stayed right on Base. I can't remember where they were housed over there.

Maj. Updegrave: At that particular time, the Marine Corps did not. . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Was not happy.

Maj. Updegrave: . . .did not encourage marriage. Until you were a sergeant or Staff Sgt.

Mrs. Updegrave: If they'd wanted you to have a wife . . . they'd issued you one. (Laugh)

L.J. Kimball: When were you married by the way?

Mrs. Updegrave: In '42. February the 12th, 1942.

L.J. Kimball: In 1941 when the Marines first came here, what do you remember being in Jacksonville in the way of stores, and all?

Mrs. Updegrave: What was in Jacksonville? There was just right down front, where the Courthouse is. You came down that street and you went down Main Street. And you went down College Street. That was Jacksonville. If you came in and you blinked your eyes twice, you missed it altogether.

L.J. Kimball: What are you calling Main Street? Is that Court Street?

Mrs. Updegrave: Court Street.

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Maj. Updegrave: Down at Amans. . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Amans. Yes they had Amans.

Maj. Updegrave: . . . Petteway's groceries.

Mrs. Updegrave: And Clayton Petteway was down on one corner. And Margolis' was next door to him. And then there was Ketchum's Drugstore along in there. And then the Post. . . Post Office at that time was down in there.

Maj. Updegrave: There was a hardware store.

Mrs. Updegrave: Sabiston's.

Maj. Updegrave: Sabiston's.

Mrs. Updegrave: Sabiston's Hardware Store. Was in back, was behind the Courthouse. And, ah, Pender Capps. And Johnson's Drug Store. And Speck's Diner. And of course the Pig.

L.J. Kimball: And what was the Pig?

Mrs. Updegrave: (Laugh) That was a little, like Hardie's. But that's where all the kids gathered. But Speck's Diner, oh, Scott's Cafe was here down on one end of town. And um that was just about all there was at that time.

L.J. Kimball: Where was Speck's Diner?

Mrs. Updegrave: Speck's Diner was up, um, as you go up Court Street and make your turn, going towards New Bern. Um, it was sitting right up there on the corner, right by the gas station. I can't remember what that gas station is right now. But, ah.

L.J. Kimball: Was it a diner or just a . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: It was just a din. . two. . . a diner, yes. It was three diners. One went this way, and one went this way and one this. And that was just about the eating places that and Scott's Cafe.

Maj. Updegrave: Wasn't there a hotel down . . . where you turn down by the church?

Mrs. Updegrave: A hotel? A hotel?

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Maj. Updegrave: Yeah.

Mrs. Updegrave: Um. . .

L.J. Kimball: Riverview.

Mrs. Updegrave: The Riverview Hotel and let's see. Mz. Humphrey. Now I cannot think of Mz. Humphrey's. . . her first name. . .

L.J. Kimball: Georgia.

Mrs. Updegrave: Georgia. Miss Georgia Humphrey. Exactly. And then she sold it to B.J. Holloman. And Holloman's kept it until they, I guess, sold it. They destroyed it, moved it.

L.J. Kimball: Do you remember an old hotel that was down near Bluff Street called the Yankee Hotel.

Mrs. Updegrave: Old Yankee Hotel? Yes I do.

L.J. Kimball: Where was that located?

Mrs. Updegrave: That was about two streets over and I can't think of the street over there.

Maj. Updegrave: Over by the railroad station?

Mrs. Updegrave: No. . . it was over that way. But it was down where Geneva Chadwick lives. And it was a big house over. . . right down on the corner down there.

Maj. Updegrave: Well, she still lives down there.

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes, she still lives there.

L.J. Kimball: I. . . I've met Ms. Chadwick a couple of times.

Mrs. Updegrave: Oh, have you?

L.J. Kimball: I keep telling her I'm going to give her a call and come over and talk to her.

Mrs. Updegrave: Well, Geneva, my God, Geneva could help you too.

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Maj. Updegrave: Oh, yeah.

Mrs. Updegrave: Because Geneva's been here a long time.

L.J. Kimball: That seems like a strange name for a hotel in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The Yankee Hotel. Have you heard any stories about where it got its name?

Mrs. Updegrave: No, I sure haven't.

L.J. Kimball: How long it's been there?

Maj. Updegrave: Wasn't there some guy who used to come down here and do a lot of bird hunting or something?

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes there was. But he used to stay right next door as you going over the bridge. The old bridge where the old. . . old hotel. . . where the, ah, Riverview Hotel used to be. There was a house right across the street. And he'd always stay there when he came. He came down and brought his hunting dogs, his, ah, quail dogs. And he was usually there about, oh, couple of months he'd be down here. And he'd stay right over there all the time.

L.J. Kimball: In that old house?

Mrs. Updegrave: Huh?

L.J. Kimball: The house that you're talking about. He'd stay there?

Mrs. Updegrave: He. . . yes, he'd stay over there. But that house has been. . . it was down from the Baptist Church and it was up on this corner but it's all gone now and I cannot think of the people's names that owned that, that lived there.

L.J. Kimball: One other question I had. . . the Gurganus Farmhouse, there was a Tent Camp there.

Mrs. Updegrave: Right.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall when that went away? I understand it burned down, maybe, or was torn down. What do you recall?

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Mrs. Updegrave: That . . . that was there, up until we left.

Maj. Updegrave: We left there . . . whenever we went out to California. Of course, Eleanor came back here. She was pregnant with our second child and she came back here and stayed here most of the . . .time.

Mrs. Updegrave: I was here for. . . then I went back up to his mother's. Up in Pennsylvania. But it seems. . . I don't remember the house not being there until after we came back . . . after we. . . after World War II. I think it was still there after . . .until after World War II.

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah, I think it was too. We came down occasionally . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: But then after that I kind of. . .

Maj. Updegrave: I was on recruiting duty in Harrisburg and I think it was still. . .I don't. . . I can't remember.

L.J. Kimball: Approximately what date did you recall. . .the last time you recall it still being there.

Maj. Updegrave: What. . .

L.J. Kimball: What date, what year, would you recall it still being there. The last time you recall it definitely being there.

Maj. Updegrave: I . . . I really . . . I really couldn't tell you.

Mrs. Updegrave: Couldn't tell you.

L.J. Kimball: Was in the 1950's?

Mrs. Updegrave: It was in the 50's I think. Early.

Maj. Updegrave: I think it might have been there early 50's. . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Early 50's anyway.

Maj. Updegrave: Because it seems to me that I could see it sometimes when we drive by, but I never had occasion at that time to go back out that way. We came down

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here. Her mother was here and, you know, driving from Pennsylvania on weekends down here . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: You got home and you didn't go anyplace else.

Maj. Updegrave: At that time, that was a long ride.

L.J. Kimball: Well, I really appreciate your giving me your time here. And talking to me.

Mrs. Updegrave: Well, gee, you're sure welcome. If I've helped you any I'm . . . I'm real happy.

L.J. Kimball: Like a big puzzle. Just a little piece here and a little piece there.

Mrs. Updegrave: And put it all together.

Maj. Updegrave: We could ask, ah, Preston if he'd write something about the CC for you. He could give you . . . he could give you page after page of data, I'm sure.

L.J. Kimball: That I would. There is so little information that exists on the CCC.

Mrs. Updegrave: Oh, is there?

Maj. Updegrave: If anybody could give it to you, . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: I think Preston could come as close to it.

Maj. Updegrave: He come as close to the. . . the exact history of it. I think that's what we ought to do. We ought to call information . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Well, I've got to call Preston . . .

Maj. Updegrave: . . . call and see if they're coming up for the reunion.

Mrs. Updegrave: They may be here.

Maj. Updegrave: And if they came up for the reunion, why, he could sure. . . set up to talk to him then.

L.J. Kimball: And the lady who had the picture of the early Marines Barracks.

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Maj. Updegrave: Oh, that was Ann Givens.

Mrs. Updegrave: Yeah.

Maj. Updegrave: Ask her to get that pic. . . send that picture back to him.

Mrs. Updegrave: Honey, go over to the Base. They've got it where you gave it to them.

Maj. Updegrave: They got it over at the Base.

L.J. Kimball: I'll ask there first.

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes.

L.J. Kimball: The *Globe*. He took it to the *Globe*?

Maj. Updegrave: The *Globe*, yeah.

Mrs. Updegrave: Yes. And they were going to send us a pic. . .

Maj. Updegrave: I was going to talk to. . . they wanted to talk to me about the. . . that particular time, and. . . we got moving around.

Mrs. Updegrave: I really wanted that picture back. A picture of it back. Because it had up there first Marines Barracks.

Maj. Updegrave: First Marine Barracks.

Mrs. Updegrave: New River Marine Barracks. And it was just a house with a sign up on it.

L.J. Kimball: The building that is the First Marine Barracks. Where was this building? Is that the Gurganus Farmhouse?

Mrs. Updegrave: No, it was at Montford Point. Everything was set up at Montford Point.

L.J. Kimball: I would really like to see that.

Maj. Updegrave: That was Geechie, the postman and all that . . .

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Mrs. Updegrave: And Johnny Cappazola [?]. Geechie Givens. Slim Biganivitch [?]. That's right. You remember. And, um, of course, Geechie was. . . Givens was Col. Hill's driver. And they all lived there.

Maj. Updegrave: Was Geechie a Sgt. at that time?

Mrs. Updegrave: I think so.

Maj. Updegrave: Yeah.

Mrs. Updegrave: I think he was.

L.J. Kimball: OK, well I'll go over to Public Affairs there on Base and see if they remember. I'd like to put it in the Xerox machine and reproduce it.

Mrs. Updegrave: Right.

Maj. Updegrave: He put it on the. . . he put it on the computer. And, ah, I'd like to see the thing. I . . . I . . . well, I was wanting to get a picture. I would have kept a copy of the paper, but then we were right in the midst of this . . . buying this house.

Mrs. Updegrave: They never . . . they never did give us a picture. They were going to send it on his computer and he gave them then. They may have tried.

Maj. Updegrave: . . . them the wrong e-mail address.

Mrs. Updegrave: Huh?

Maj. Updegrave: I gave them the wrong e-mail address.

Mrs. Updegrave: That's right. They gave . . . he gave them the wrong e-mail. That's probably . . .

Maj. Updegrave: So they may have sent it.

Mrs. Updegrave: That's right. That's what I was getting ready to say. He may have tried to send it and couldn't because he had the wrong address. And, of course, then we were buying the house down in Charleston and what have you and getting all that set up. And we kind of got waylaid, in a lot of things. Yes we did. You know, you kind of procrastinate after a fashion.

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L.J. Kimball: Yes ma'am.

Mrs. Updegrave: And, um. You always mean to do it and intend to do. And then when we'd get over, we'd forget until we got back home.

L.J. Kimball: If I can get him to get me a copy of it, I'll reproduce a copy for . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Boy I wish you would because I really would like to have one.

Maj. Updegrave: . . . have one too. You know, we got other pictures . . . we've got a bunch of pictures of . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Well, only have pictures of. . . they just of us where were down swimming and down on the end of the pier and that type of thing. And over at the gates going over to Petersfield. There was Petersfield Point down there.

Maj. Updegrave: Down to Onslow Beach.

Mrs. Updegrave: . . . at Onslow Beach.

L.J. Kimball: You have pictures of Onslow Beach?

Mrs. Updegrave: No, not of Onslow Beach. I have, ah, but, I have several pictures.

Maj. Updegrave: There were. . . I know there were a couple of nice big pecan trees on our way down there. We used to stop there and, ah, load up with pecans . . .

Mrs. Updegrave: (Laugh) Load up with pecans. Pick up all of the pecans and bring them back. Gee, that was even before we were married.

Maj. Updegrave: But I've got. . . I told you I had all those documents. I got it from Ruby, you know.

Mrs. Updegrave: Oh, yeah. From all those houses.

Maj. Updegrave: . . . It went down as far as Town Point I think, some of those. It was over in the New River area there.

Mrs. Updegrave: Well, it was over in the New River area and . . . did she have it?

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Maj. Updegrave: The people that owned the farm. . .

Mrs. Updegrave: Did she have it . . . over across over down on Paradise Point?

Maj. Updegrave: No, not on Paradise Point.

Mrs. Updegrave: Just on the New River side.

Maj. Updegrave: Well, that was where Sally lived, over. . .

Mrs. Updegrave: My friend Sally . . . my friend Sally lived, right.

L.J. Kimball: OK.