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Tidewater Voices: Oral History Project  
Old Dominion University  
Norfolk, Virginia  
For Research PurposeS Only

### Transcription Conventions

< > out side language

@ laughs

- truncation

[ ] overlaps

Speaker 1: interviewer

Speaker 2: interviewee

5.00 timestamp

<< change in speaker voice

a: vowel length

0.0 Speaker 1: Ok, I can hear you

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: Are you sure

Speaker 1: YeSpeaker 1:

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: Testing testing

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 1: Ok what is your name

Speaker 2: My name is [WORDS REMOVED]

Speaker 1: [WORDS REMOVED]

Speaker 2: mhmm

Speaker 1: And umm how long have you lived in Tidewater

Speaker 2: umm, my entire life actually with the exception of ahh when I went to school in Richmond and umm and for a few years after that I moved to Atlanta worked down there and ahh came back to Norfolk <a:>

Speaker 1: Ok, umm

Speaker 1:<@>

Speaker 1: Sorry umm

Speaker 1:<@>

Speaker 2: that's alright

Speaker 1: So can you talk to me about umm the segregation

Speaker 2: < sigh of breath> uhhhh

Speaker 1: And when it started

Speaker 2: Um, I believe it was 1957 I was still at Taylor University however my brother who is four years older than I am was at high school in Maury and the schools did not open uhh when they were suppose to (noise in background, moving microphone) and of course as far as we were concerned and that was the greatest thing that ever happened and it was a longer summer vacation for me uhh my brother however was (pause) in a much more difficult position because he was missing high school and it was uhh problematic and that he was earning credits uhh you know to

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go towards uhh college and he was in a much more important part of his academic development than I was in elementary school uhh a lot of private << schools started popping up most like today's 7-11's they were all over the city and are in particular that I remember was a-and the house is still there, and I actually know people who use to live there in that house, its this mm-mammoth house right on uhh Fairfax and Mobrich yard, over by the head and I think it's a uhh I don't know a thirty room mansion, mini mansion and uhh the family that owned < a:> the house at the time uhhh donated it to become uhh a p-private school and it was called the Macarthur Academy it didn't stay in business that long most of the little private schools and study groups popped up during that period of time didn't stay around they were umm they were created out of necessity and convince to keep children on there academic tract they were on umm but I-I was too young to understand really what was going on umm (pause) but I do remember ummm going back to school listing to my little friends talk about it and knowing people my whole life but had never been to school with any of them and what was really interesting was I ended up going up all the way through high school and never had a black person in any of my classes and then when I went off to college I still went through four years of college and still had never had black person in any of my classes

Speaker 1: Wow

Speaker 2: umm b-but being <a:> from the south a-and you know I guess lot of people acquaint southerners to racist an and segregation but I umm my father was born and raised in Baltimore my mother was born in Richmond but raised here uhh in Norfolk <a:> and it was just (pause) it was different in my family I mean there was no no (pause) resentment of black people uhhh I just I

Speaker 1: Sniffed in background

Speaker 2: I never understood what a big deal was uhhh my brother interesting enough was hurt by what happened uhhh academically by what happened because my parents kept their home here but they bought a home out uhhh by on the James River in Carrolton and my brother and I ended up commuting to Church Land High School back then (sigh) there was no standardization on uhh <break up of words> with the high school through out Virginia for example Maury High School back then was on a quarter system so you were you were earning credits and your courses would change every quarter but the Church Land High School was on a semester system so you would you would do a full semester not unlike what you would so in college and when he transferred from the Norfolk <a:> public schools ummm to Portsmouth I guess Church Land was part of the city of Portsmouth back then he ended up losing some of his academic credits and he actually he ended up I think to quarters short of having enough

5.00 Speaker 2: umm credits to graduate High School and that was devastating to him because he ended up having to attend another full year of high school uhh in order to get the academic credits the two credits he needed for graduation and uhh for

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whatever reason it the courses were not available for summer school so he had to go to for an entire school year and that was a direct result of umm the period that started in 1957 as a result why the schools didn't open

Speaker 1: Mhmmm

Speaker 1: Wow

Speaker 2: But

Speaker 1: (Coughing, clearing my throat)

Speaker 1: (Cough, clear throat again)

Speaker 2: So I I having an entire academic

Speaker 1: (sniff)

Speaker 2: Career that never put me into a <@>

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: Classroom that never had a black person uhhhh << you know not that that's important but I thought it was sort of interesting

Speaker 1: Right and especially throughout college

Speaker 2: Yeah exactly

Speaker 1: (sniff) now uhhhhh ummm and neighborhood

Speaker 1: That you grew up in

Speaker 2: I grew up in the neighborhood

Speaker 1: was it predominantly white?

Speaker 2: is the the neighborhood I live in right now

Speaker 1: ohh wow oh

Speaker 2: Interestingly enough I grew up in the seven hundred block of west Over Avenue

Speaker 1: Mhmmm

Speaker 2: Which is a block that is between Mannio <a:> and Colley Avenue uhhhh and every house on that block had a uhhhh had families with children with the exception of one and uhhh she was like the neighborhood grandmother

Speaker 1: Mhmmm

Speaker 2: << All though I did I grew up in a family that included my grandparents my grandparents lived with us my parents my brother and myself uhhh which I think is not uncommon for this area

Speaker 2: ( Coughing) excuse me it's allergy season

Speaker 1 :<@>

Speaker 2: umm but I have great memories great memories of growing up and and I still have a newspaper article you know we still in a small town of on the west side of this city that happens to be part of a city my father was an engineer with ford motor company for uhhh

Speaker 1: (noise microphone moving)

Speaker 2: Thirty five years he was a tinkered and was was building things and and creating everyday gadgets that would make everyday life easier so he thought (clearing her throat) but he decided to build a boat and i-i-in Ghent you have very narrow lots most of the lots are very narrow and there deep and between our house and the house next door there was like an alleyway and it was a common space half of to was there property and half of it was our property but the purpose of those alleyways go back to when everyone heated there homes with coal a-and the door to

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the coal shoots was in the ally way and they would deliver the coal and go up the alleyway and open the coal shoot and dump the coal into basement and that's where you got your coal for your furnish to heat your house and by then our house was no longer heated

Speaker 1: (sniffing)

Speaker 2: By coal but my father decided to build a boat and he built it in the ally way and it was a twenty four cabin cruiser and once he got the boat built he realized<@> there wasn't enough space between the house to get the boat out so <@>

Speaker 1 :<@>

Speaker 2: Engineer I'm not sure where his degree was from <@> actually I do he was very intelligent man and very

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: Successful career and engineering but I still have the newspaper clipping as yellow as it is ummm from the local newspaper E.T. Gresham the crane company that is still here donated a crane I mean this was quite

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: the spectacle in Ghent donated a crane parked it in West Over Avenue extended the boom dropped all these harnesses attached them to boat and lifted << the crane and we mean huge it was like an eighteen room house three stories tall lifted the boat up over the food of the home <a:> and then put it down on a flatbed in the middle of West Over Avenue <@> and took it and launched it in the bay and uhhhh I-I gave the newspaper article from that that somewhat embarrassing to my father but quite exciting to the children in my neighborhood event that took place in the late fifties actually <@> but umm

Speaker 1: <@> wow

Speaker 2: I have lots of memories here lots an-and I think another thing that's unique about this are we are primary known as a military family community but there are a number of people like me just dig around through the military families come into the are that come and go on a regular but people who grow up here her or stay up here on they tend to come back here like I did

10.00 Speaker 2: it's a good place to raise raise your family I mean there is uhhh and my experience is in Norfolk<a:> is limited to the West of the city but there is a strong sense of community on the west side of the city of Norfolk <a:> which I wanted for my family and uhh my mother went to Maury High School I have a great picture of her sitting sitting on the brick wall around Maury High School

Speaker 1: Wow (clearing throat)

Speaker 2: At homecoming and she got her corsage on and she's going to the football game

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: And something never change I guess they don't wear corsages anymore to homecoming <@> however I've got a picture of her sitting on the wall at Maury High School

Speaker 1: Wow now umm are your parents, parents from here

Speaker 2: uhhhh my grandmother was from Richmond uhhh my mother's mother was from Richmond my grandfather was from here

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Speaker 1: Ok ok so how did they meet

Speaker 2: Uhh they met because my great aunt my grandmother's sister ran a boarding house on Colonial Avenue

Speaker 1: Ohhh wow

Speaker 2: uhh which was not uncommon back in in I guess the thirties umm and twenties she would rent rooms ummm (short pause) she was a widow and you know that what she did she didn't have any particular skills or educational background that would have qualified her not to do anything else not that women did much of anything else but cook clean house and raise kids and she never had children so she started opening a boarding house and it was in a house a home over on Colonial Avenue and uhhh my grandmother worked for the railroad and he rented a room from my great aunt and my great aunt and my grandmother came to visit her sister and they met and got married and the rest is history

Speaker 1: Wow

Speaker 2: Yeah

Speaker 1: Wow that's interesting

Speaker 2: So fun to drive through all the area were all the different houses where my family had lived and see and uhh I don't think any of them have been torn down all the homes

Speaker 1: Wow

Speaker 2: My family lived in that I'm aware of are still standing

Speaker 1: Wow wow now how do you feel when you see umm college students and military running around and (sniffing)

Speaker 2: << you know it's just a part of my life that had always been there it's it's it's more populated now

Speaker 1: mhmmm

Speaker 2: It's busier now uhh but you m-my mother actually went to to Norfolk<a:> division off William and Mary which is where

Speaker 1: where ODU is

Speaker 2: Yeah where ODU is

Speaker 1: OK

Speaker 2: where ODU is so it's it's you don't even notice is a part of the landscape

Speaker 1: Right

Speaker 2: All though it had gotten much busier driving up and down Hampton

Boulevard now that the University had morphed across the

Speaker 1: <@> uhhhh

Speaker 2: The entire world it's a little more dangerous to drive on Hampton Boulevard not hit pedestrians crossing <@> you can tell when the classes are changing that's part of the way

Speaker 1 :<@> Yes people on bicycles <@>

Speaker 2: uhhhh Yes and very big skateboards walking and talking on their cell phones

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: But uhh it's always been pretty much always part of the landscape as far as I'm concerned

Speaker 1: Ohhh

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Speaker 2: And I actually took a couple classes at Old Dominion so

Speaker 1: Do you know how it transitioned into Old Dominion

Speaker 2: I don't I don't remember I mean it was a long time ago

Speaker 1: Uhhh I can't remember somebody told me ummm a long long time ago when I first came here but I forget <@>

Speaker 2: Me too

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: I forget a lot of things

Speaker 1: <@> Well ummm tell me about do you notice is there a different way that people talk in your area

Speaker 2: << There is there is and I have to admit that I never made a conscious decision to change the way in which I enunciate words however I think my uhhhh chosen career has done that for me always my husband is from New Jersey all though he was born and raised in Pennsylvania Dutch Country so he does not have a New Jersey accent

Speaker 1: Mhmmm

Speaker 2: And thank God I don't think I could be married to him if he did uhhhh

Speaker 1: What do you do or do you still work

Speaker 2: I do

Speaker 1: Ok

Speaker 2: I still work

Speaker 1: Ok what job

Speaker 2: I am a lobbyist I have been for twenty-six years

Speaker 1: Ohhhh ok

Speaker 2: And uhhh I-I am the chief lobbyist for the medical society for Virginia which has approximately nine thousand members they're all doctors uhhhhh

Speaker 1: Ohhh ok

Speaker 2: and uhhh I represent them at the state level and so I do whatever I can to make the practice of medicine a good one experience for the physician in Virginia and from legal issues to reimbursement issues to

15.00 Speaker 2: uhhhh to uhhh whatever there are a whole host of things one go the experience I found me I thought I would never have put me on the opposite side of the national rifle association and who would ever think a lobbyist would be going up against the NRA but uhhh I had to because they felt it was inappropriate if you went to the doctor and uhh would primarily happen to the physician and pediatrics if you were under care of the doctor and the doctor said are there guns in the home are they loaded are they kept under lock and key and the NRA felt it was an invasion of their privacy and the amendment of there second rights and from a physician perspective it is not if your dealing with psychiatric issues or a parent you know first time parents that have young children in the home and you have to change things about your lifestyle from safety in your home so I found my self on the opposite side of NRA I am proud to say I beat them and common since prevailed and psychiatrists and pediatrics are still allowed to ask if you keep guns in your home umm anyway I've done that for twenty five plus years

Speaker 1: wow now ummmm we are kind of learning about well not kind of learning we are <@> about standard dialect

Speaker 2: mhmmmmm

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Speaker 1: And how it's ummm probably enforced in corporate and legal world so

Speaker 1: (sniff clearing throat)

Speaker 2: One of the words I use to say that my husband found particularly funny was about <a:> ummm and out <a:> <@> some how through because I do uhhh in my job I have to have to do a lot of public speaking we all learn differently I have to testify before committees I have it watch people for what I think are very good at what they do from sitting and listening and having sweating palms and knowing I have to get up very soon

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: It all comes to gather and it's neutralized some of the distinct Tidewater dialect out of my uhhh my speech patterns if you will and it wasn't a conscious patterns if you will and it wasn't a conscious decision but I notice that about <a:> and the outs <a:> have sort of disappeared ummmmm

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: Over the yard I have been doing this so that's a casualty of my career ummm I'm not sure it it's not good or if it's not bad it's just something that happened

Speaker 1: Right

Speaker 2: So I don't say about <a:> anymore

Speaker 1: yeah I have never heard that until I came here I would say about or boat

Speaker 2: Exactly exactly

Speaker 1: uhhh <@>

Speaker 2: Put the dog out <a:> out <a:> what does that mean

Speaker 1 :<@>

Speaker 2: Uhhhh so those are the things

Speaker 1: ohhhh

Speaker 2: types of things that have disappointed I am still talk like that if I make myself sound like I am from Tidewater uhhh butt I have lost the types of inflections over the years

Speaker 1: Ohh well how many kids do you have

Speaker 2: I have two children my husband and I have been married for thirty one years but it was the second marriage for both of us so I have two daughters

Speaker 1: Ohhh

Speaker 2: And he had two sons and one daughter and uhhh one of his daughters actually is a school teacher on Chesapeake

Speaker 1: Ok

Speaker 2: Lives there he has a son that lives in Main and a son that lives in Cumberland, Maryland and the two sons are married and the daughter has been and had two children and both of my daughters are married and I am really lucky because they live like two miles away from me and they each have a baby<<

Speaker 1 :<@>

Speaker 2: I get to have baby fixes on a regular basis

Speaker 1: ohh grandchildren always coming over<@>

Speaker 2: ohhh yeah every Sunday we have spaghetti Sunday which is the high point of everybody's week actually because everybody comes over we eat dinner and everyone dozes off to their favorite spot one son-in-law ends up on the porch in the swing smoking his cigar and my husband is usually out there too

Speaker 1: <@>

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Speaker 2: And the girls :and I are in the kitchen and the two little boys are nine months :and two years are where ever they are

Speaker 1: <@> crawling everywhere

Speaker 1: Crawling and walking

Speaker 2: The other son-in-law sort of wanders to all the different points to where people are congregated just so see what everyone else is doing so it's fun

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: We enjoy it

Speaker 1: Ohhh ummm bow can you tell me about anything historically in the area

Speaker 2: Ummmm you can know ahhh it's interesting if you go down

20.00 Speaker 2: To Saint Pauls Church which is one place were I like to take people from out of town to come visit us and read the tomb stone and they got some great tombstones down there and they also got a cannon ball from the civil war you can tell I wasn't a history major

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: uhhhh that's imbedded around the brick wall around the church and you can see these rod iron black starts that had been put through the brick wall and there's one on the outside and one on the inside they are actually reinforcements where the wall was hit during fighting

Speaker 1: Ohhh ok

Speaker 2: Uhhh and there is still a cannon ball in the wall but it's great to go down there and read the tombstones and they go back way back it's not uncommon to read tombstones that haven't completely disappeared

Speaker 1: Right

Speaker 2: from the weather over time there's one in particular that I like where a man buried his wife and I think it was from the early 1800s late 1700s and clearly she was unfaithful because he was trying to give her a good Christian burial <@> write something on her tombstone but his anger and frustration came out and just the way on which it is written it make you laugh

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: She was my wife of whatever number of years but she lacked in many areas and she strayed during the marriage it's just so funny there so much history in this area I wish just in Williamsburg last week for a meeting uhhh and you can't go very far in this region of the state without being completely submerged completely into history

Speaker 1: Mhmmmm

Speaker 2: And ahhhh (pause) we have been in a very pivotal location and a lot of historical events and I think of course you can go to Europe were infants of history and you only got to go to Europe one time to realize what a young country we are but we are uhhh steeped into tradition and there are traditions that have been around for a long long time I mean I love it I chose to come back here and because I think we have four season of the year the winters are not severe

Speaker 1: Right

Speaker 2: uhhhh I can't imagine living some place like Hawaii for example or [ WORD REMOVED] my youngest daughter went to school in south Florida and went to visit her and it's freezing cold up here and she's laying out by the pool down there

Speaker 1: <@>



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Speaker 2: How do you buy a Christmas tree and go Christmas shopping when it's eighty-five degrees outside I need four distinct seasons and everything is moderate here we don't have severe heat in the summer uhhh humidity yes heat no and we don't have blizzards in the winter but we have four very gentle seasons and we're close to the ocean close to the mountains uhhhh

Speaker 1: Seafood

Speaker 2: yeah lots of

Speaker 1: I love Seafood

Speaker 2: Good fresh seafood ummm I think we just got the best of both worlds

Speaker 1: uhhh ohhhhh I know what I wanted to ask you umm I always go down Colley Avenue is it the Granby Zoo

Speaker 2: Lafayette Zoo right next to the cemetery that's close to it uhh have you ever heard of any ghost stories

Speaker 2: You know

Speaker 1: Growing up around here

Speaker 2: You know you hear that stuff ummm

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: I was convinced there was a witch that lived in a house down the street my father had a business over on the corner of mhmhhh (short pause) Orapax Avenue and Bosivene

Speaker 1: is that where the Orapax Restaurant is

Speaker 2: Orapax Restaurant is right

Speaker 1: Ok

Speaker 2: And across the street from that where 7-11 is there use to be a little general store and if you go over there and look right down by the curb are there are ceramic tiles imbedded in the concrete but that one for whatever reason has survived for all these years and I can remember walking from my father shop over to ummm that little general store across from the Orapax restaurant that use to be just a dive bar and trying to pick these ceramic tiles I was so festinating with them

Speaker 1: (snigging) <@>

Speaker 2: I just wanted one never got one but

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: I-inspite

25.00 Of me probably a lot of other children who also tried to pick those ceramic tiles out of the concrete ahhh they still there

Speaker 1: mhmhhh

Speaker 2: Uhhh (pause) now I forgot the original question Colley

Speaker 1: You believe there was a ghost

Speaker 2: Ghost<< stories right yeah

Speaker 1: Right Right and I was just wondering because since I grew up in Baltimore and moved to Northern Virginia right outside of D.C.

Speaker 2: uhhh

Speaker 1: And you know they filmed the Exorcist there so growing up walking around Georgetown

Speaker 2: Right

Speaker 1: Right were they filmed the Exorcist where the priest falls down the stairs

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Speaker 2: mhmmm

Speaker 1: We would never never see anybody walking down the stairs especially at night time so I was just wondering

Speaker 2: I've got some great books on urban legend I'll let you read them laughing

Speaker 2: I've never been a big believer in Ghost all though I did think this women was a witch because every time my brother and I did ride our bicycles past her house she would always come flying out the front door with a broom cus we were not allowed on the side

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: Of her sidewalk in front of her house and I acquainted broom and nastiness to her being a witch and I was just convinced of her being a witch

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: But now you know uhhh you hear the ghost stories and the urban legends but I never <@> put a whole lot of stock in those things except for the one the lived on Bosivene and I know she was a witch

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 1: Well uhhhh ummmm I'm trying to think ummm

Speaker 2: You know the renaissance that I've seen take place in Norfolk<a:> in the west side of this city there again that's my sphere of exposure Ghent became a very run down community it was ugly it was not a very desirable place to live and what was interesting was the period of time after I was grown and after I had left home and when I had gone to school and when I was living in Atlanta and when I came back I ended up living in West Ghent is never called East Ghent across :Hampton Boulevard has always been called West Ghent west Ghent never experienced the decline and decay that Ghent did but Ghent is just a wonderful place to live now and with the retail district and the detail they have done on Colley Avenue and down twenty first street I mean you can see it

Speaker 1: Right

Speaker 2: It's just incredible

Speaker 2: All though it has not always been like that

Speaker 1: When did you first start to notice uh well my question is did they start to rebuild on Colley avenue of all the bars and

Speaker 2: Eww ohhh gosh I would say don't hold me to it I'm not much of a historian I

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: I would say the resurgence of the quality of life probably in mid 70s and has done nothing but improve since then

Speaker 1: Right

Speaker 1: Cause I always hear Ghent is the nicer place to live the more expensive places in Norfolk <a:>

Speaker 2: well it's so eclectic in this neighborhood that I really enjoy is being able to walk anywhere ummm you know it's not uncommon for me to walk to the grocery store on twenty first street or walk to the drug store or to go to the Narrow which was I'm trying to remember was the Colley theater but I'm not one hundred percent sure

Speaker 1: uhhhh ok

Speaker 2: They had three movie theaters on Colley avenue when I was growing up the Memrose the Colley and the blah blah <@>

Speaker 1: <@>

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Speaker 2: I don't remember the name of the other one I actually remember sitting in the balcony at what is now the Narrow theater with a girlfriend on mine and a little sailor shorts called mini blouses we thought we looked so special

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: And seeing the Ten Commandments with Charleston Heston

Speaker 1: I love that movie

Speaker 2: It was a brand new movie I remember sitting up in the balcony on the right hand side third row up I even know were I was sitting when I saw that movie

Speaker 1: Wow that is a great movie

Speaker 2: yeah that is

Speaker 1: Yeah I know that one think my mom she started off and use to make me watch old movies black and white movies and then all of the sudden I started to get into it and I definitely can appreciate the Ten Commandments Jezebel all the older movies

Speaker 2: Exactly

Speaker 1: Gone with the Wind yeah so

Speaker 2: Yeah I also remember going to a theater farther down and that might have been the Memrose farther down Colley Avenue probably in the vicinity of were children's hospital is now

Speaker 1: ohh CHKD

Speaker 2: ahhhhhhh

Speaker 1: ok

Speaker 2: uhhhh and seeing Creature from the Black Lagoon

30.00 Speaker 1: ohhh <@>

Speaker 2: Another famous black and white movie uhhh but yeah we have had three more theaters walking distance just over Avenue of course back then you could walk wherever you wanted to it was safe relatively safe the funeral home cox funeral home I can always remember where it is and I grew up on the other side of Manio and cox two houses from the corner and we could see from the back porch we could see the back entrance to cox funeral home and I always use to think wouldn't it be neat if we could sneak down the back step because we could see the hurts coming in after they would go pick up dead bodies and did the embalming see what it was all about because I never got in because it was this huge huge mountain of a man

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: The man who work there he was a black man and he was to all the kids in the neighborhood wanting to sneak down the back steps into the embalming room to see what really happened and in the funeral home never made it down those steps

Speaker 1: Wow

Speaker 1: Ohh it's really interesting to see a bunch of the fraternity and sorority house that pop up especially in the older homes off Colley and Grandby

Speaker 2: uhh right private homes

Speaker 1: ok uh I guess my other question was were there fraternity homes around here

Speaker 2: There were and uhhh I can't tell you all my stories because this is going to become public information once this is all recorded and transcribed

S<@>

Speaker 2: But I do remember going to some Pike parties <@>

Speaker 1: <@>

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Speaker 2: It was on one of the numbered streets 40<sup>th</sup> street or whatever and I think both of my daughters can tell you about their experienced going to fraternity parties uhhh but they were always in the homes on the east side of Hampton Boulevard

Speaker 1: I just thought it was interesting I never know or know now the houses get started

Speaker 2: You know

Speaker 1: I'm not in sorority or anything

Speaker 2: You know I never was either because I went to Medical college of Virginia we didn't have a uhhh yeah but I can remember going to some Pike parties it had been few years

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: and that's all I have to say on that subject

Speaker 1: that's it I won't ask any more questions about that

Speaker 2: <@> next time moving right along

Speaker 1: ummm well I'm trying to think of anything else I wanted to ask you

Speaker 2: Uhhhh Downtown Norfolk<a:> is something that is interesting to watch the ummm fazes its gone through because downtown the end of Granby street where you got the federal building and these trendy new restaurants and what not Granby street is the place to go now

Speaker 1: ohhhh yes

Speaker 2: It use to a bunch of sailors bard and tattoo joints and pawn shops I mean it was a rough section of town

Speaker 1: <@>

Speaker 2: And I remember going to the very first harbor fest that was every year at the water front at downtown Norfolk<a:> was very decayed ummm you know you had bulk head collapsed pilings were the soil had collapsed and gone into the river it was just a very run down area umm I do remember taking a fairy out of downtown Norfolk<a:> to umm I guess Baltimore because my dad was from there I think I mention that ealier we took a fairy to Baltimore one time and picked it up in downtown Norfolk<a:> but over the years the downtown are became extremely run down and umm the wisdom an for sight and the vision like [WORDS REMOVED] really worked for him one summer when I was was worked for him one summer when I was I college uhhh came home ummm and worked in his practice he practiced with his brother(pause) and his office was in the medical tower and I was always intimidated by him because he had these bushy eye brows and his pants never had a crease in them he was a brilliant physician a-and a visionary uhhh but didn't care what he wore to work but I remember him coming to me asking me if I know how to use a 35mm camera and I said well I think so you know I just this kid who has finished there freshman yeah in college I don't know what I'm doing uhhh and I was terrified of the man he said come with me and took me out form and said he wanted me to shimmy up the flag pole infront of the medical tower

Speaker 1: <@>

35.00 Speaker 2: Uhh and take a picture and I you know maybe can use a camera but I don't think I'm good at shimmying up or down flag pole and the photograph he wanted to

Speaker 1: (sniffing)

Speaker 2: was of later the are that became Eastern Virginia Medical School

Speaker 1: ohh ok

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Speaker 2: He was one to the driving forces behind the creation of the medical school

Speaker 1: wow

Speaker 2: And bringing it to Hampton Roads we are so fortunate to have the type of medical care we have here I'm not a historian but the medical part it is what I do understand and know best and and they have fought with the state for many many years because they were created as a private school and when the state granted a charter to EVMS uhh to open their doors it was under the condition that they would never ever ever ask for state money

Speaker 1: mhmmm

Speaker 2: And the reality <@> of that has faded over the years they have had to and this past legislative session there was a legislative that was introduced that puts them more in a parity role with UVA medical school and UVC medical school which is no longer called MCV medical school it's VCU now but ummm it now a more infuse off state dollars in the school and of course the state has more say over the government of the school but as a trade a medical school here in the city of Norfolk<a:>

Speaker 1: wow mhmmm

Speaker 2: It attacks a lot of talent

Speaker 2: We otherwise wouldn't have

Speaker 1: ohh ummmm

Speaker 1: Speaking of medical schools I think I transferred in of January of 06 when I first came to ODU and I Never I have heard of Norfolk <a:> State

Speaker 2: Mhmmm

Speaker 1: But I didn't realize that they had I think it was the first African American hospital on Campus for school for it

Speaker 2: uhhh I think I-I think it was a hospital it was Norfolk <a:> Community college hospital

Speaker 1: Ok

Speaker 2: Which umm I guess they closed their doors maybe ten years ago uhhh

Speaker 1: And I know they wanted to tear it down but there was umm a lot of people saying it was a historical site and they did want to see it come down

Speaker 2: But it closed its doors as a hospital

Speaker 1: Right which I mean I thin they shouldn't tear it down because it's part of NSU

Speaker 2: Yeah

Speaker 2: Part of their history

Speaker 1: Right exactly

Speaker 1: Yeah but it's really scary driving by so a banned there <@>

Speaker 2: Do you think there are ghost in the halls of Norfolk<a:> community hospital

Speaker 1: I don't know <@>

Speaker 2: <@>

Speaker 1: So well it was great talking to you

Speaker 2: I enjoyed this

Speaker 1: I did too

Speaker 2: Very much

Speaker 1: It was very interesting I didn't honestly didn't know there was so much history in Norfolk<a:>

Speaker 1: There is especially in Virginia Beach and Ghent

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Speaker 2: We are a sailor town

Speaker 1: Right right

Speaker 2: And you it's interesting and traveling and uhh around the world in different places ummm and people will say where are you from and from Norfolk<a:> and very little you will get a comment back ohhh Norfolk<a:> when I was in the Navy I was stationed there everybody knows where Norfolk is<a:>

Speaker 1: mhmmm

Speaker 2: Because they have come through here at some point in time mostly men obviously who have been in the military but umm everyone knows where Norfolk<a:> is all though they think we are Virginia Beach

Speaker 1: Right

Speaker 2: But that's ok

Speaker 1: Well and I still talk to a lot of people from New York and DC and stuff and some have heard of Norfolk<a:> but if you say Virginia Beach

Speaker 2: They know exactly

Speaker 1: They know exactly yeah were Virginia Beach so a lot of time I just end up saying ohhh I got to school in Virginia Beach

Speaker 2: <@>

Speaker 1: ohhh how is that

Speaker 2: Exactly

Speaker 1: It's great you know

Speaker 2: I don't know I'm proud of that I will never give up on educating people where Norfolk <a:> is

Speaker 1: Mhmmm

Speaker 2: Because we are so different from Virginia Beach

Speaker 1: Right

Speaker 2: This is an old city

Speaker 1: I see that know I see a big difference

Speaker 2: Very old city

Speaker 1: Mhmm

Speaker 2: And Virginia Beach is not and it's a sprawling city we are very contained ahhhh you know there like where I live right now when I say I'm going to walk around the block now I literally walk around the block I don't know if there are any blocks around of Virginia Beach there winding streets and lanes and roads but no blocks

Speaker 1: yeah wow well thank you

Speaker 2: Awww well thank you I enjoyed this

(Noise turning off recorder)