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Images of Dan Moury. From "The Miracle of Hickory: The 1944 Emergency Polio Hospital." Exhibition at The Hickory History Center. 310 N. Center Street, Hickory, NC 28601.

Interview conducted in Pfafftown, North Carolina.

AW And today's date is...November 16, 2010 and this is Allison Wonsick and what is your full name?

DM Daniel Moury.

AW And what year were you born?

DM 1935.

AW And where were you born?

DM In Greensboro, North Carolina.

AW What did your parents do?

DM My mother was a stay at home mom at the point that I was born. My father was a salesman for a drug company called Wyfolk and Company. He traveled around the state calling on doctors and drug stores selling his medicines...a lot of them were over-the-counter medicines but in those days doctors often prescribed over the counter medicines. So you'd try to get a doctor to agree to use your medicine and go tell the druggist that it's time to stock it because you're going to be getting calls for it.

AW Did you have any siblings?

DM I had a half brother and a half sister. My mother was married...probably at 16 or 17...and that in itself is a long story, but she had my brother and sister and she was widowed when she was about 20, in the flu epidemic of 1919 and she raised them as a single mom working until my sister was about 8 years old, she was the younger, and then she...she said my sister was going out one afternoon and she said, "where you going?" and she said, "I'm just going out." And she said, "well, ok." And she realized that one of these days they were both going to go out and she was going to be all alone. She called up a friend who was having a party that night, asked her if she could borrow a dress and come to the party. She went in the dress and my father came in with another woman and she said to herself, "I'm going to marry you," and she did. Took her a couple years. They were married in '32 and I was born in '35.

AW That's a great story. And what was life like at home?

DM It was...I was raised by mother because my father left on Monday morning and came back on Friday evening, traveling, traveling the state. And then occasionally he was gone two or three weeks at a time because back then you had no interstates; it was all the old blue roads. And if you wanted to go work from Greensboro to go work the Outer Banks and along the coast, he was gone for 3 weeks. So, she pretty much raised me. It was...it was a nice middle class life in 19...in the late 30s and early 40s. We had...we lived in a

10-room single family house that my mother had built after she was widowed with the six...got it built with the six thousand dollar insurance check from her husband, from her first husband. And she struggled for years to make the payments and feed the kids until she married my dad; then they had it a little bit easier. Although she...right after they had gotten married...she was still working at a company called Lindley Nurseries, which was a big shipping nursery in Greensboro. It's where she had started, she had been, not really forced but, her father had, she had worked summers and her father at the end of the 9th grade just let her keep working and so she didn't go back. She always resented having never taken algebra and a bunch of things that she liked. And of course she never finished high school...but...you tell me how much of this you want to digress in to, this doesn't have a lot to do with nursing. But anyway, she worked in the nursery and her first husband was a graduate of Brown University and he was a landscape architect that had been hired by Lindley Nurseries to come down and they would go out and design projects, major landscaping projects, and then they'd sell the plants and ship them to them and if they were in the area, they'd send a crew to go out and plant them. It was a big operation. And I can see her as a 15, 16 year old girl, singling him out and saying, "ok I'm going to marry him." He was 28 years old when they got married, better than 10 years older than she was. And like I say, he died young in the flu epidemic of 1919, he actually died in like January 1920, but anyway...she was...when she married my dad she was still...she had worked her way up into the office at Lindley Nurseries and it was the middle of the Depression and they were laying off everybody. They laid off all the men because the women got paid less and the women had taken on 2 or 3 jobs a piece. And there was a woman who worked in the office who I remember as a child because she was invited to all our holiday dinners, but she was a very homely woman, never going to marry, just going to have to work and they called my mom in and told her they were going to let this woman go and then my mother would take over her job as well and my mother said, "no don't do that, you let her have the job, I'm getting married, my husband's got a good job." So they got married and about 3 weeks later, he got laid off. And so he and my brother, my older brother, and a couple of cousins got an old truck, hauled produce from Florida, sold it door to door through a lot of the Depression. Um...and that's about, you know, that's sort of what it was like growing up. When I was born in 1935, we were not coming out of the Depression really, but it was... my father was working again and you know, things were stabilizing for us as a family. We had a colored girl, took care of me part of the time, named Evelyn, and she was with us, I guess, until I was about 9 years old because when I got polio she went to Baltimore and went to nursing school.

AW And what about WWII? Did your father get drafted?

DM No, no, no. my father was too old for WWII. He was...my mother was 35 when I was born, she was almost 36, she was born in 1899. And my father was 32, so they were too old for WWII. And I was too young.

AW What were some things you enjoyed doing as a child?

DM Well, we lived out...the house that she had built was in a neighborhood called Lindley Park on the west side of Greensboro. And it was developed during the early, mid-1920s, and it was going to be a big upscale early subdivision and they had what had formerly been two ponds that they had drained and made into a park that went through Lindley Park and then they had...and they built nice stone gates and they were selling lots. By the time they got it all ready to sell, the market crashed, depression hit. And so our house was one of 2, 3, four that were built out there. The rest of it was all undeveloped woods and so I grew up wandering the woods, playing, and just...I had a very free life. It was a time when you didn't worry much about kids, I don't think. We were 7/10ths of a mile, I clocked it not long ago because I was curious, from my elementary school and I used to walk to school and my path was ...partly up the street through backyards up the street, through the woods, you know, it was a path that you wouldn't send on a kid on today.

AW Would you have described yourself as a healthy child?

DM Oh yeah, I was fine.

AW And what did you know about polio before you came down with it?

DM Oh, I didn't know anything about it. I wonder, I wonder what...I've often wondered how my parents felt, or more accurately, I've often thought I could feel what they must have felt, when they found out I had polio. When I came down with polio, we were at the beach. We had a tradition in our family of going down to Carolina Beach every summer. It was a big extended family thing; my grandfather was there, uncles and aunts, my older brother and his wife and kids. you know, we were...my brother was 19 when I was born and my sister was 17, so they were up and married before I was aware of very much. So we had these wonderful summers down there. This was during the war, 1944, my sister and her husband worked in the shipyard in Wilmington, they were building what were called liberty ships, they were cargo ships that were used in WWII. my brother in law was a pipe welder and my sister worked in the office in the IBM department...and we stopped and picked her up on the way to the beach... the shipyard was just off the Carolina Beach row and they lived in a little village that had been built to house the shipyard workers. And so we pulled off and picked her up and started down the road and she said, "Oh roll your windows up real quick, there's a case of polio in that house." It was a farmhouse sitting way back from the road, "everybody roll your windows up." We went by, went on down to the beach. I don't know how long it was but I mean, within a few days because we weren't down there probably but a week or two, probably down there only a week. You know, what I've been told is that I came down with flu-like symptoms: aching, fever, not feeling good and so mom kept me in bed. My brother's kids were playing all over the bed, you know, nobody thought about it being polio. And at the end of our week at the beach we came home and I wasn't any better, so mom took me to my pediatrician who did a spinal tap and came out and said, "he's got polio." Mom took me home, and got a piece of plywood, put it under the mattress, she was going to nurse me at home and it was just too much. I've still got the quarantine sign that they put on the house that nobody could come in. I say I've got it, I think all that...almost everything I've got right now is up in Hickory at the museum. But anyway...we...I don't know how long

she tried to do that, it wasn't long. It just was too much to give me the therapy that she felt like I needed. And they must have heard about Warm Spr--heard about Hickory...and the emergency hospital, this was in like September and that hospital had opened up, you'd have records of that, July, August, I forget exactly when, so they took me up there. I remember when I went in they had a stone building that was there, a permanent building that was there, and... that was the isolation ward, so they took you through the tent that was parked down by the road, they evaluated you there the they took you in there and you were kept there a couple of weeks to be sure you weren't carrying something, you know, to spread to the other kids. Turned out I had mumps, so I spent like 2 or 3 weeks extra in the isolation ward by myself, or an isolation room, then they finally put me in a ward. And all I remember really was a good time. The polio affected my left leg...you can see, you know, most of what is visually did to me there. I wear two different sized shoes, a 7 and a 9, which has always been an aggravation [laughs]. Then they moved me into a ward then and people have often asked, you know, "what was it like?" I don't remember any pain when I had polio, which some people, older kids particularly, remember pain. I was put in a room full of boys about my own age and we played games, made model airplanes, and just had a ball the whole time. Of course they came in and did the therapy, the hot packs were, they were...they were not pleasant, I mean, they were hot, they were not comfortable. They were putting this wool on you just as hot as you could stand to hold. And...when I was going through that period early on, I remember being in the tent-covered buildings, you know, the first, the first wards were...it was a military thing, they got, something they got from the military. It had a wooden floor and a wooden wall about 4 feet around, 4 feet high, and a door in each end and they put a tent over the top of it. And that's what we spent the winter in and then by spring they had built the wood wards that they moved us all into. The...I remember the hot packs, I remember the cloverleaf tubs they put us in those...to exercise us, hot water...I remember going out on the...they had porches and we would go out in the sun when the weather was nice or on the weekends. Have you ever seen the video that my dad did? Did anybody show you that yet?

AW I think so. Is it up at the museum?

DM Yeah, yeah, it's up at the museum. It's the one that shows kids playing out on the porch. There's one where I'm walking across the porch, one where I'm sitting hugging my mother. My mother...as soon as I got up there, she went up took a room in Hickory, volunteered as an aide, as a nurses' aide. And she stayed there as long as I was in Hickory and then she went to Charlotte once we moved Charlotte. But I was in Charlotte less than a month then, you know, went back home. The other thing that was going on that I wasn't aware of, my father was, very much so, was that in Hickory, black and white patients were treated the same. They had the same facilities, the same care. It was really a...that video shows in the...on a Sunday, all of us out on, together, on the space in between the wards, everybody was, I mean there wasn't any... real segregation. They were in separate wards...but it was all...it was segregated...but it was all...when we went to Charlotte, first of all, the white patients went into a concrete block building. You walk in the front door, there was a nurses' station and there were two monster-sized rooms, males and females. And you had everything from babies to adults, you had iron lungs in the same space,

which we didn't have in Hickory. Terrible facility. How Charlotte Memorial got the money to do it from the Foundation...I mean, it was political, but I don't know...nobody ever how they ever...my father never understand why they did. The black patients were out into tents in a mud hole in the front yard. It was, it was terrible facilities for the black patients.

AW In Charlotte?

DM In Charlotte.

AW So what do you remember about arriving at the hospital?

DM I don't really...like I say, I just don't really remember much about it. I know we were well taken care of but...and most of what I know of the care of patients is from the video.

AW Was it common for mothers to stay as volunteers at the hospital?

DM I don't think it was common. I mean, if you look at the number of patients and the number of mothers, there would have been relatively few mothers compared to the number of patients, but I'm sure there were some others. And there were other volunteers, too. My sister, at that time, was working for Jefferson Standard Life Insurance that merged with Pilot. Jefferson Standard was the old Jefferson building downtown in Greensboro and she had...a week or 10 days off for Christmas and she came up and worked as a volunteer for Christmas. And I'm a...there was, what's her name from Hickory...gone blank on the name, she had polio, she was about 2 or 3 years old and her older sister came and worked as a volunteer and after she worked as a volunteer for awhile they wouldn't let her back in school because she'd been out there at that polio hospital.

AW They thought she was contagious?

DM Yeah. I mean, everybody was scared of it. I mean, the story is that the mayor's wife in Hickory packed up and left town until the hospital closed. I don't know if that's true or apocryphal.

AW How did you think that you got it?

DM Nobody knows. It seemed that kids who were active and out and involved tended to catch it more often. And I certainly was all over the place. I played in creeks, you know, the park that was near our house had a creek that ran through it, and I played in that creek all the time. I mean, I could have gotten it out of...there could have been a sewage leak into that creek upstream somewhere, I don't know. I never really thought about it.

AW Your mother was there in Hickory, but how did you keep in touch with the rest of your family?

DM Well, my dad would come through on visiting days. I really didn't see any...my brother and...except for...I don't really remember my sister being there at Christmas. They had lives of their own. My brother had 2 or 3 kids by then. And they...and course I really didn't see my mother except on Sundays, she was off working, she worked with the older girls wards, she wasn't with us, so...which was probably the way it should have been. But...so I, you know, I really wasn't in touch with anybody much except for my playmates around me, and that was fine [laughs].

AW What was a typical day like?

DM As best I remember, it was...wake up in the morning and they'd bring you breakfast and you'd eat in bed. You would then play until time to each lunch, unless you had therapy, any time you had therapy they would take you out and do that. And in the early times, it was sort of every day. You had hot packs and I...I think we did them like twice a day, morning and afternoon, but I wouldn't swear to that. And then you had a little physical therapy during that time. You saw on the video where the physical therapist would run her finger up a leg and would move that leg. And what she was doing was telling to contract that muscle and of course, she's moving the leg, it wasn't doing anything to start with, but gradually, the nerves connect, begin to connect to those disconnected muscle fibers and gradually you do begin to find a way to move it the way you want it. And then toward the end, the therapy was more getting on crutches or braces or whatever you had and were learning to walk again...with those appliances that were prescribed for you. I came out of the hospital with a short leg brace, it fastened at the bottom of my shoe, wouldn't let it flop, it kept my foot straight, wouldn't let my foot turn and it came up and fastened around my calf, the top of my calf and I had crutches and that's the way I came out and went back to school.

AW How long did you have that?

DM That was until I went to Warm Springs and I had surgery. I came out...and went to the, went back into...excuse me... fourth grade, I guess it was.

AW How did you make up your schoolwork if you were gone for 7 months?

DM Never did. We didn't have any school at the hospital, at least not for our group. They may have done something for the older kids. I just lost a year of school.

AW Was that hard, to go back to school after that?

DM It wasn't really hard to go back to school...my explanation is, well, I was, I went back and was teased and bullied. And my explanation is...this is what has satisfied me, is that I had just spent a year being waited on hand and foot. Anything I wanted, anything I needed, you know, was taken care of for me. I didn't have to get up and go anything or anything else. So when I came back, I had a feeling I had some expectations that weren't going to be met. And also, I never, I never was psychologically able to handle it. I'd get mad and

This is missing?

scream and that's exactly what bullies like. So...one of the great sports was to take my crutches away from me and leave me standing out on the playground [laughs].

AW Kids are cruel.

DM Yeah. But...it was...it was a tough year and it was, really it's funny, that there was...oh, what was her first name...gosh...her last name was Pascal...Joanne, I think. Anyway, she was in my class and she always treated me kindly and always treated me sweetly. And you know, this is 10 years old, it wasn't romance. She was just always nice to me and I was always aware of that. And later, when I was working in Greensboro, I had an office at Greensboro College and the secretary to the president, it turned out, was her sister. And I got to go to lunch with her one more time and thank her.

AW Were you the only one in the community that you know of that had polio?

DM Well, you know because my father was sort of an activist in the polio community at the time, I knew of others. Joanne MacNutt had polio at the same time, she was in the hospital, she was older. Her father was president of woman's college which became UNC-G. And then there was Rufus roux, his father was an artist in Greensboro, portrait artist. And Rufus...had polio. And there were a bunch of others from around Greensboro, whatever, but I never, not any I ever kept in touch with or anything. They were just in the hospital; I knew they were from Greensboro. And partly because, during WWII everybody...gas was rationed and most people had what was called an A gas coupon or gas ration, allocation, which was just enough to get you to the grocery store once a week, that was about it, and my father had a higher allocation because his job required traveling and so every Sunday he would fill up his car with people and bring them up to Hickory, with parents and bring them up to Hickory. And then, and I can't think of this guy's name either, or his daughter, his daughter had polio and she now lives out in Colorado and she and I have been in touch in the past couple years, but he was chairman of the ration board in Greensboro and he would occasionally slip extra coupons out for parents who wanted to go to Hickory to visit their kids. But...there wasn't really any polio community or anything at that time. That's developed mostly through post-polio. We have a very active community...of old people.

AW And you're involved with that?

DM Oh yeah. I'm involved with the group, we have a group in Greensboro, we get together twice a month. There's a very active group in Asheville. I'm not sure what's going on in Hickory now, the people who were leading it...I've gotten so bad with names, it's part of aging...have seemed to gone inactive. But you know, we had several reunions up in hickory, they were a lot of fun. I drove up for all the committee meetings to plan those and participate. the high country group, I think, has gotten inactive, I can't remember her name, but she...it was one woman who sort of spark plugged that one there, run a summer camp for polios, it was running until about 2 or 3 years ago, but I haven't gotten anything. But there really wasn't a community before. Mostly what it was, was, "you kid, you have this polio, the thing you got to do is get over it and lead as a normal life as possible." That

was the goal we all had and it was being taught that polio didn't keep us from doing anything we wanted to do. See, you've got women who had polio and have since spent their life in wheelchairs, had 3 or 4 kids, you know, raised them, lived normal lives, but lived it in a wheelchair.

AW Is that something that they kind of ingrained in you in the hospital?

DM Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, it was, you don't get into it. You know....don't. You get up to exercise and...you don't see any progress, but you keep going, kind of.

AW How were nurses involved with your daily care? You mentioned a little bit about the exercise and therapy...

DM Well the therapy was mostly physical therapists. The nursing situation was, again, I wasn't aware of this at the time, it was obviously pretty difficult. People...I mean, for years, I have likened polio as the AIDS of its day. People were scared of it, they didn't know how it was transmitted, they just knew it was devastating and they didn't want to be anywhere around it. So there were hospitals who wouldn't take polio patients. There were some hospitals, one in Asheville, one in Gastonia, that had space for polio patients but it was very limited. That's why they had to open Hickory, had to have a place to put us. There were nurses that wouldn't go up there and practice. You know, there were obviously some that took it as part of their life's work and they went 31:48 immediately and readily and served and we had known some of those nurses, one of them lived in Greensboro, died about 3 years ago and left \$5000 to our polio group and she used to come meet with us periodically while she was still alive. At one point, they brought in a bunch of women from the state prison and they worked as nurses' aides and got their sentences commuted, I presume, for taking the risk of coming up there. 32:28 but the practice of nursing back then was...a very different thing, the world belonged, the medical world belonged to the doctors. And the nurses were, in some sense, white slaves within the system. They did not have the respect and that's one thing that I think over the years that the national league of nursing brought to nurses. It...codified it into a profession. But having done so, the thing that I, the bone that I pick with the national league of nursing is that when I was trying to work with them I wanted to put together a career ladder program at Pfeiffer so that women who had gotten their LPN or nurse's aide things from community colleges could come in and bring their work and work towards a BS in nursing and NLN would not approve anything like that. They did not want to dilute the numbers of RNs with these other people. Once you're in that level, they want you to stay there. And I didn't think that was right. So I battled with them, it didn't do any good and in the end they maintained that and I think that's changed but I haven't been involved in 20 years, 25 years. The nursing care for a child in that hospital was like having a mother, surrogate mother there just to take care of whatever you needed. And of course that, unlike being at home, included bringing you urinals and bedpans, things like that. The nurses did all of that. And of course, you know, what's changed is...I was in the hospital for minor surgery twice this year already, and it was just really fascinating to see the number of para-professionals that now surround the registered nurse. And the way the work has been divided out, so one of them comes in and weighs you, another one comes

in and takes your blood pressure and your vital signs, another person comes in and does something else, nurses come in and oversee it all. Nurses now have a status within the medical profession that's a lot higher than what it was back when I had polio. They are more partners with the doctors than just servants 35:13.

AW When do you think that change happened?

DM I think it's just been an evolution. I mean, exactly...exactly when it occurred, I don't know. My experience teaching nursing...I don't know if you want me to go into that here or not, but anyway....I was...I got my doctorate in biochemistry at Purdue. I went to Purdue, in large part, because when I was a senior at Wake Forest they were just opening a new wing to the medical school and for some reason, I decided to go over there and go to an open house they were having. And I met a guy named Hugh Loflin, who taught biochemistry at the med school and who ran the clinical labs. He and I just sort of hit it off and he knew I...told him I was looking for graduate schools, trying to decide where to go, and he had gotten his doctorate at Purdue and suggested that was a good place to go and so I ended up going up there. and when I got out, I went, when I went back to college after flunking out of Carolina and working for a couple of years, I went back because I wanted to teach in college and so I knew I was going to get an advanced degree, teaching college. But that's what I wanted to do. And when I went through Wake Forest, Wake Forest was Wake Forest College back then, they didn't do research. We had one faculty member in chemistry who did research and he went back to Duke to do all his research. So I didn't know what research was until I went to graduate school. And I had some good luck with my research, got some good publications out, a little recognition, so when I was finishing up and trying to decide where to go, I didn't know whether I wanted to go into research or into teaching anymore. And so I had interviewed a lot of places, both academic and industrial, and I had been down to R.J. Reynolds for their research labs, and I went over to see Hugh while I was here and they had recently gotten a major grant to study cardiovascular disease, atherosclerosis, and he said, "why don't you just come down here and take a post-doc with me and then you can decide what you want to do?" so that's what I did. I had a really good year and during that year, they had a vacancy in the biochemistry department and asked me to come in as an instructor in biochemistry, so that's what I did. And I thought that would give me a chance to do a little research and teach. And so I went to NIH and got me a grant to work on what I had been working on in graduate school and started my research program, got my lab equipment. And the teaching, it turned out, was working labs, I don't know, 4 or 5 afternoons a week, in the organic chemistry course, which is a big ten-credit course for doctors and the one they hate worst of all. Anatomy they could see a relation to, biochemistry they had a hard time figuring out what I was doing all this time. And then during the year I got to do, I think, 2 or 3 lectures. And that was all the teaching. So it was mostly a research position. During that first year, I...there was a woman, well, I'll digress...the hospital had a nursing program that was separate from the med school. There was Bowman Gray School of Medicine and North Carolina Baptist Hospital. North Carolina Baptist Hospital had a three year certificate nursing program, which I think have sort of disappeared now, into the four year baccalaureate or the two year community college, but there weren't any community colleges back then. And so they had this program, Reed Holmes was the

administrator at the hospital and this woman who had taught chemistry to the nurses for a right many years decided at the last minute not to do it. And he was looking for somebody so I went and told him I'd love to it, to take a crack at it. And he was happy to have me do it. But I went to my department head, Cornelius Strickmyer, who was a Harvard PhD and very arrogant, nose in the air sort of guy, and he basically let me know he didn't want any of his faculty teaching nurses, that was beneath what we should be doing. And so I told Reed and I said I still I'll do it but you got to get Strickmyer to agree. So he went to Manson Meades who was then the dean of the medical school and Manson explained to Con how things we're going to work, and I taught the nurses. And it's a lousy course, as a chemistry course. It's general, organic, and biochemistry in 13 weeks. It's a book about that thick and so it is the most superficial survey courses to teach. But, you teach it...I had 78 nurses, 77 women and one man.

AW What year was this?

DM This was...well, let me think. I came back here in '63, '64 on a post-doc so it would have been spring of '65, probably. And it was taught...actually there was a little old church that had been abandoned across the street from the hospital. A church and the hospital now owned it. And it was taught in that sanctuary. And so I started teaching this course and I just thoroughly loved it. Loved working with the students, I mean, they were undergraduate age, post-high school, and I enjoyed working with them and I cranked through that course and got through it in the 13 weeks and then for their final exam they took the National League of Nursing chemistry exam and all but one of those students scored above the 90th percentile on that exam and I was just tickled to death. I felt that whatever part I had had in it, I had done it right and so I came out of that experience and I knew I wanted to go teach undergraduates. That was also, well it was the next year, all those students were in the ward, in the hospital working the next year, they were working along with their school, they were finishing their last year, and that was the year my wife had our daughter. And she got treated like a queen, she just got the best treatment up there, all those girls were hovering around taking care of her. They had a picnic at the end of the year, invited me to come to it, and they gave me a coffee mug that says "Remember the Giver" which I still have downstairs. But it was just one of those pieces of life that was very good. So I started looking for undergraduate teaching jobs and, at that time, you could have your pick. I could have gone to south campus of Miami-Dade Junior College which was just starting, had, maybe, a couple hundred students at that point; I think it now has twenty, thirty thousand. I could have gone down there as chairman of their chemistry department. There were just lots of possibilities. But I ended up deciding to go to Tusculum College out in Greeneville, Tennessee, spent 4 years out there. Then we moved on to other things. But, that was my experience with teaching nurses and it's what really pointed me in the direction for the rest of my professional life.

AW Do you think that was because of the nursing care you had as a child?

DM No, I don't think so. I think it was just...the reason that I wanted to get into teaching was sort of ridiculous, in a way. I ended up, after I flunked out of Carolina, sold magazines and cemetery lots, I went with IBM and sold typewriters for awhile. It was a good job,

paid good money. And I...one of things they were trying to do, at that time, was to get typewriters into the public school classrooms, electric typewriters. Usually the best you could do was maybe have one or two in the back classroom students could go use sometimes. Most often, you'd get a call to go sell...they sold for \$100 less if they went in the classroom. The price was like \$395 for a standard typewriter but a school could get it for \$295 in the classroom.

AW Was this like in the mid-50s?

DM This was in the mid-50s, yeah. And it was before the Selectric typewriter, if you know what that is [laughs]. Even that's gone. It was...a lot of times the superintendent or principal would call up, want to buy a typewriter for the educational price, you'd go out there to install it in the classroom and they'd say "no, that goes in my office" and I said, "I can't do that. I can install it in the classroom, if you want to take it, set it up in your office, that's up to you" but there just wasn't much interest in putting one in the classroom. And one of the ways that IBM came up with to try to promote this was to try to sell to classroom teachers on the benefits of typing, teaching typing on an electric typewriter. So, I went up to Appalachian State University and IBM had a gal named Betty Jane Henry who was the world's speed-typing champion, something like 400 words a minute. Just a little redhead, about that tall and just bubbly, just full of it. Betty Jane traveled the country doing these workshops for teachers and IBM would chip in 30, 35 typewriters and I'd go unpack them, set them up. So I set this up at Appalachian State... College, University. Went up there and set up a classroom full of electric typewriters. Betty Jane came in, teachers came in from all over the western half of North Carolina and did their thing. And I watched her do this, it was a 3 day workshop, 2 or 3 day workshop she did, and I watched her teach. And I fell in love with teaching. I mean, I thought, "that's fun." So that's what got me on the teaching kick, to start with. I forget where we were going with that at some point...

Nice!

AW If your nursing care had influenced...

DM Oh, oh. No, it really didn't. It didn't really influence. It was more that I had decided from that experience I had wanted to teach and when I had success, which happened to be teaching nurses, that's where I wanted to go. It sort of brought me back to where I had been 3, 4, 5 years ago.

AW So you had taught one year at Wake Forest or Baptist Hospital?

DM Well, I actually taught three years. I was there three years. I was going a post-doc for one year and on the faculty for two years. Then I quit and went to Tusculum.

AW Were you teaching nurses there, too?

DM No. Tusculum's just a Presbyterian affiliated, small, private college. The 24th oldest college in the United States. Founded in 1794 [laughs]. By a Presbyterian minister with a wagon load of books.

AW You had mentioned working with the nursing program at Pfeiffer?

DM Well, we didn't have a nursing program but I tried to get one. I tried, let's see...when I went to Pfeiffer it was either to work as a part of a team to get it turned around and get it financially stable or they'd have to close it. And one of the ways of getting it stable was to create some new programs and we created a Charlotte campus at which we taught criminal justice and business...and I don't know if you know Pfeiffer, but it is out in the middle of nowhere. I mean, it sits out on US-52 between Salisbury and Albemarle. US-52 runs right through the middle of campus and it's a fine, little, old Methodist college; it's got a nice history and a lot of good people that went through there. But it is not the kind of place young people want to go to school...for the most part. It's hard to attract students out there. So they are now, they have a center in Concord or Lexington, they have a center in Charlotte, they've got other stuff going, you know, they do all kinds of things now to stay alive. But we didn't have a nursing program, I was just hoping that, I was hoping at first to get Duke's program and when I couldn't do that I was hoping to start a career ladder program and NLN would not certify it and you really needed the NLN's certification. I don't know whether that's critical now or not but it was then. So, no, we didn't have nursing at Pfeiffer.

AW Going back to your hospital stay in Hickory, do you remember any of the nurses in particular? Did you have one assigned to you?

DM The only one I have any memory of, and it's because it's a picture memory is...Martha Prevost. And she's the nurse that's on the 1945 polio poster. You probably saw that up at the...they've got one up at the Hickory museum.

AW The March of Dimes poster?

DM Yeah, yeah. That's the poster and that picture is with Martha and myself. She was from Winston-Salem as...all that picked up somewhere. And that picture was started as a photograph that my dad took and then Henry Roux, the artist, who was Rufus's, another patient's, father, Henry took the photograph and painted the picture that then went on the poster. ✓

AW Was that the intention the whole time? To make that into the poster?

Dm Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. They were looking...my dad was very active at the state level of the National Foundation. He took that film that he had made and spliced together which is now a video but it was 8mm movie film. As he traveled around the state, he showed that at every civic club he could to raise money for March of Dimes. I've got a poster, it doesn't say where it is or when it is, but it says, "Norman B. Moury will be here 7:30 Thursday" or whatever it is, to show this film on polio. He did this all over the state.

AW So it really impacted his life for a long time.

DM Yeah, yeah. And then he was...I'm trying to think of the guy who headed the March of Dimes...FDR's old lawyer...I've got correspondence between him and my father. And he ran the national March of Dimes, or the National Foundation it became. So dad was really active and then when they moved to Charlotte and they had those horrific conditions, I've got a six page carbon copy, a six page letter my father sent to the National Foundation, complaining about...basically saying we would have been a lot better off staying in Hickory.

AW Did you know anything about the National Foundation before you had polio?

DM No, no, not really. I'm sure I probably had heard "March of Dimes" but it hadn't registered in a child.

AW Where were the nurses coming from? I've seen different things that stated there were kind of from all over the country....

DM They were. They came from all over the country to work there. Some of them, some of them, were, I'm sure, came just because they were nurses and that's...they wanted to serve. I'm sure some came because they were [phone rings] they were research-oriented and there was a lot of research going on in Hickory, you know, about polio. The people from the Foundation, the doctors from some of the major universities were coming in and out of there, getting, trying to get information. They were doing major surveys of the families...all sorts of stuff going on.

AW Were you aware of any of that?

DM No, uh-huh. I was just playing with my models.

AW Who was in charge of daily activities on the ward?

DM I really don't have any idea. I presume that the nurses pretty much ran it. I was not, I was never really aware of seeing doctors. I'm sure I did occasionally, but I don't really have any memory of doctors. I do have memories of nurses taking care of me but they're...they're just sort of white ghosts. ✓

AW Were there any nurses that you liked better than other ones?

DM There was one woman who was...she was tall, she had dark hair, she had just a totally plain, country face, you know, I don't know how to describe her otherwise, that I remember, that was just...she was just a kind, mother figure. But that's, you know, I remember mostly, I think, because of her appearance, you know, she just looked different.

AW Did you pick up on any relationships between nurses and parents?

DM No.

AW And you mentioned that the doctors weren't really around that you saw...do you have any memorable experiences, like one particular day that stands out?

DM No...not really. The big excitement was being the last one to get your cereal out of the Wheaties box, because if you were the last one to get your cereal out of the Wheaties box, you got the box top. And you could send the box top off with 25 cents and get a WWII model airplane. That's what we built and flew around the ward. I don't know if you've ever seen them or not, there may be one in Hickory, I may have given her one. There's a company that's reproduced those models now, you can buy them and they just come in sort of flat, lightweight cardboard, paperboard, and you cut them out and fold them and glue them, put a penny in the nose and it would glide [laughs].

AW What other kinds of entertainment did you have?

DM Games. I don't remember any particular games, but I expect we played checkers...you know, things like that. Simple games for kids. You didn't have the plethora of games that you see advertised with Christmas coming up.

AW So you went down to the Charlotte hospital after you left Hickory?

DM Right.

AW How long were you there?

DM I was there less than a month. I was there until I was discharged and that was April, I forget the date, 16th, 17th, something like that.

AW What do you remember about being released?

DM Again, I don't really have any direct memories but the memory that I have is the end of the film when I'm in the backyard with my mother and my grandmother; bunch of us had just gotten out of the car. My dad had filmed that, that event. But that's...that's not a real memory, that's one of those memories you're handed [laughs].

AW How was your care different once you were out? Did your mom have to help you?

DM No, I just went back to school and I mean I had...when I got out of Hickory, or out of Charlotte, they gave my mother like a little letter, a document, a handwritten document that gave my care. I was supposed to pick up marbles with my toes. That's the only one I remember right off. It was supposed to be a good exercise...and I forget what the others were. It's either at Hickory I've got it or I've got it around here somewhere [laughs].

AW Did they tell you anything about post-polio, well, they didn't know about post-polio then...

DM Nobody understood...that that was coming...it's all hit us as a surprise [laughs].

AW Did you have symptoms later on in your life?

DM Oh yeah. Well, first of all, I passed for normal pretty much all my life. I could get out and do hard, physical work six days a week, eight hours a day, 10 hours a day, six days a week, it didn't bother me a bit. I didn't get unusually tired. I could pick up, you know, a 50 pound sack of whatever, put it on my shoulder, carry it around [?]. The only...the only time it would show up was I always had a slight limp, but I wasn't really aware of that much, but when I would...most commonly, somewhere that I had known probably for a long time, knew me well, would see me walking down a hallway, particularly, I think, a light behind me, and they would say, "did you hurt your foot?" You know, it's the same limp I had all the time, just nobody noticed it until you get a situation where you really could see me walking in isolation. And that's the only thing that I had over the years. I can't tell you how many years ago it was, I saw something in the paper about...we were still living in Burlington, we moved here seven years ago...saw something in the paper about a post-polio group meeting in Greensboro and they were meeting at Wesley Lawn Hospital health education center and I went over to the meeting. And there were a lot of people, a mighty big group of people there and they were talking about how some of them were really having trouble. And these were people who had maybe been on crutches all their life, either that or in wheelchairs or they had been in a wheelchair and now they, you know, having trouble getting around in that. Like they had been pushing with their arms and now they really can't push the wheelchair. Listening...I listened to all that stuff and that was the first I ever heard of post-polio. That might have been 20 years ago. I listened with great sympathy and thought, "God, I'm glad I don't have any of that." And they were talking about how to get disability because some of them were still young enough to be working. They were talking about...you know, just the problems...of insurance, with preexisting conditions, all that stuff. And I just thought, you know, "this is not for me" and I'm sorry for these folks. So, I didn't go back. Then, maybe...7, 8 years later, I saw they were meeting at Cone Hospital here. By then, I was having some minor problems...just, a little fatigue, stuff...and I began to wonder. But it hadn't been enough that I had started reading about it or trying to find anything...of course, it's only been recent that you could get on the internet and get all this stuff. And so, I went to the meeting over there and they had a real live-wire group. Had a woman who had moved down here from...I think, Minnesota, because she never could get warm up there...and she was just the sparkplug of that group. And she was going out and talking to civic clubs about post-polio and, you know, really going to town. So I got involved in the group and got on the board and wrote a set of bylaws for them and got it incorporated as a nonprofit corporation. Well, what happened was, she had talked to somebody at one of these groups and somebody handed her a check for \$5000 and said, "this is tax deductible, isn't it?" and she said, "no" and so she had him hold the check and so I got it incorporated as an [?] corporation in North Carolina and then got filed with the IRS for 501c3 status, and she went back and got the check.

501 c3

AW What's the purpose of the club? Does the money go to research?

DM Well, she was doing newsletters and all kinds of things. We still have the newsletter, it comes out every month. But she wanted to have a national conference...she thought big. And I had done a lot of conference stuff, so I knew how to budget conferences. So we did a conference at the...the conference center over there in Greensboro...there at the mall.

AW Oh, the Koury Center?

DM Koury Center, Koury Center. We did a conference at the Koury Center. And we had about 500 people show up for it. We had a couple from Europe, to come to the conference [laughs]. I mean, you know, like I say, she did it right. She had arranged with some of the mobility companies to have a bunch of scooters complimentary for people to use while they were there. We had great meals. She got Dick Bruno to come down to the first conference. And then the second conference we did over there, Dick introduced his book, "The Post-Polio Paradox." And when I introduced him, I emceed those conferences, and when I introduced Richard to talk about his book at the second conference I said, "I'm not sure what this is...it is something about two doctors who had polio." The post-polio "pair-of-docs" [laughs] I'm sorry. Anyway [phone rings]...busy afternoon...anyway, that's what the group was doing back then. She got cancer and died. And there was nobody in the group that really wanted to take on that kind of load. We did do a third conference that she came to just before she died. She had arranged it and that one was smaller and we did it out at the Embassy Suites out toward the airport. And it was a very conference but she came and could barely get up on the stage to say a few words and she didn't come to the whole conference, she just came out to speak to the conference before she went home and died. And...so...the group has stayed together and we've got like a four page printout, Excel spreadsheet, of people who are technically members. Many of them live away, but they're mostly on the mailing list for the newsletter and the group in Greensboro, several of them get together and put the newsletter together and get it in the mail once a month. And we get together at Libby Hill seafood on the fourth Thursday and then the...third Thursday...and then the first Monday we get together at...the Italian place over there...Elizabeth's. It's really, it's really just come to be mostly a social thing. It's really fascinating because we are a widely diverse group of people who have absolutely the best time together and many of the times we get together we don't talk about polio at all, we talk about other things. But this one guy, he's...got polio when he was thirty while he was in the military...spent his life, he's Jewish, spent his life in the apparel business, traveled all over the world...China, Shanghai, traveled to Shanghai and Hong Kong, Japan...Australia...in this top level of apparel manufacturing sales. Then we've got folks who have barely been out of Guilford County, basically blue collar agricultural, or office, or what have you...in every way...economically, educationally, you name it, it's an extremely diverse group. There are about, on an average day, about 10 or 12 of us there. Sometimes it will balloon up to 20...25. Sometimes there will only be 4, 5, 6 people there. But, it is what it is...it's a support group, we get together. If we're having troubles, we'll share them with each other...it's been a really good thing. And then the group in Asheville got started, about two years ago. There's a partners care facility that's actually in Biltmore, just south of Asheville and they have this whole top of the hill where they've been building a bunch of stuff. But they wanted to do something on their history and a great part of their history

was [phone rings] they were a polio and orthopedic hospital way back. It's an old stone building up there that used to be the hospital. In doing that, the guy that they hired to do that tracked me down and a lot of other people and they decided, partners decided to sponsor this post-polio group and so they give them a place to meet, they have nice refreshments for them, they do the newsletter for them, you know, they don't have to worry too much about money. They've got a good-sized group up there and they have 1 or 2 people who come up from Charlotte, one who comes up from Atlanta every now and then. I try to get up at least every couple of months, Sunday afternoon meetings...but it's...Saturday afternoon meetings, but it's again the same kind of thing. They are younger and still more structured, they tend to have speakers in, talk about different resources like they'll have somebody in who runs a company that does orthopedic appliances or shoes or something like that. Then a lot of times it's just discussion. But they're neat people, a lot of fun.

AW Did you mention earlier that you went to Warm Springs?

DM I did. After I got out of Hickory, I came home, went back to school for the year. And my parents had determined that there was a surgery that would be good for me. They did all this, I never knew about it, I just...was told what the program was going to be. So they packed me up, took me out of school about a month early in the spring and took me down to Warm Springs. They put me in the hospital down there and they did a series of five operations on my foot. They actually did them in two surgeries. They took me in, put me under anesthetic once, did about half the work, then put me under again, did the other half. I don't understand exactly why they did that. It may have had something to do with they had to do and let heal a little bit. But...they put me in a long-leg cast after the surgery and I was in that for about 2 or 3 weeks and then they took me out of that, did the rest of the surgery and put me in another long leg cast for another 2 or 3 weeks, then took me out and I had a short-leg cast for like a month. I was down there like three months. Then when they got me out of the cast they put me in therapy to get me back on my feet and walking without crutches or a brace. What they did was...I walked with what's called a dropped foot. If I had not had the surgery I would have walked like this for my life [demonstrating walk]. Where you just sort of throw your foot out because you have no muscles to come up on your toes. And so they took bone out of the side of my leg and fused my ankle so my ankle can't turn like that...it's straight. And then they...I had no muscle in the back of my leg to go up on my toes. So they took, there about five muscles that, 4 or 5 muscles that you use in straightening your ankle that I didn't need anymore because I didn't have to do that anymore so they took those muscles and fused them to the back of my leg so that I could walk up on my toes so I could walk with a fairly normal gait. Sometimes I get stumbly [laughs]. But that's what they did and, you know, once it healed...thing I remember out of that was these bone fusions which were right in here, it's where they took bone and wedged it in my ankle...those bone fusions were tender for about two years, I mean....

AW Sounds really painful...

DM ...if anybody stepped on my foot. And I figured, there are probably several reasons, I mean, I had polio at the age when most kids got into athletics so I never did. I've never done anything, never played any athletic things like football, basketball, baseball, anything like that. And when I got out of Hickory and had that surgery I didn't want to get near where anybody could step on my foot. So I have a feeling that probably didn't help me get into things like that. But Hickory was a great...I mean, Warm Springs was a great experience. I...this is totally unrelated, but about 5 years ago I fulfilled one of the things on my bucket list and bought me a little '81 Mercedes convertible and I went up and picked up my sister in Asheville and as I say, I'm 75 and she's 17 years older than I am, and we took a road trip to Florida and on the way down we stopped at Warm Springs. Went back and toured it all, one of the guys whose in the development took all the morning off to walk us back through all these places. We went into the room that was the operating room, it's now offices, but they haven't really had the money, I guess, to remodel it because it's still got the green tile on the walls and it's still got the operating room light in the ceiling and the autoclave in the wall [laughs].

AW Were you aware when you there just how famous Warm Springs was?

DM Probably so, yeah. But Warm Springs, again, it was fun; we made fun out of it.

AW So there were other kids your age there too?

DM Oh yeah, yeah. I mean, again, I was in a ward with boys my age. There were some girls about my age in a ward down the hall. One of them was a politician's daughter from Venezuela and she taught me how to play cribbage, I remember that. And I don't know if you remember the old-type wheelchairs which had the big wheels in the front and little wheels in the back and you could...it had the wooden leg support, wooden foot supports, you could put those wooden foot supports up straight like this, get a little bit of weight out there, roll forward and then stop and then come up on those two big wheels with the little wheels off the ground. And if you were really good, you could balance like that. And we used to race on two wheels [laughs]. That was fun. Then there was the night I went over to the commissary, we had, it was like a snack bar, little place, little store you could go buy snacks and stuff and I bought a drink and brought it back up and put it under my mattress to drink after lights out. And it got hot and of course I didn't have a bottle opener so when I got ready to drink it after lights out I took it out and hooked the bottle cap on the edge of the iron rail of the bed, popped the cap off of it...I don't know if you've ever seen that or not...and the bottle exploded and cut me right across there [his index finger]. Cut the tendon just right at the insertion at the end of the last joint of the phalange. So they went and got the surgeon out of bed, brought him up there, and took me down to the operating room again. And they really, they really...were skeptical that they were going to be able to reattach it to where it would hold because the two pieces...the little piece of tendon that was left up there was so short...but it worked. They had me in a splint; didn't let me move it for a long time. But once I got it out, I was fine, I was able to bend it all the way down [laughs].

AW I bet you didn't try that again.

DM No, no; didn't do that again...they had ping pong tables there so you could play ping pong. Playing ping pong in a wheelchair can be a pain; had to chase the balls...so they had screens built out to the sides that were way up in the air and most of the time, not always, but a lot of the times the ping pong ball would go off the side, land in that and it would roll down to your end of the table which was nice.

AW Did you stay in contact with any of those patients?

DM No.

AW So how would you say polio has affected you over your lifetime?

DM Oh, gosh...I don't know. I once...I had a friend when I was in Burlington who wanted to start a men's group and I told him that anytime he wanted to do it, I'd join up, and we did...he's a psychologist. And we got to talking about a psychology thing at that men's group one time about...I don't remember what the topic was, but at any rate, the thing that came up was abandonment. And in the....I was talking about the polio experience and the fact that I was in the hospital for nine months and he said, "well you were an abandoned child." And I said, "No...no, my mother was working, she was off somewhere else, but she was up there, I guess and you know, my father had to work for a living, how was I an abandoned child?" He said, "you understand that as an adult, but did you understand that as a nine year old?" and I said, "well...I don't know!" And it persuaded me to go into a few sessions with him and I think that that may have had some influence on my psyche, on who I am...but I don't know how you evaluate the how. The problem with evaluating anything like that in life is that there is no way to evaluate the road not taken. And I don't know if I had not had polio, I mean, I don't know how my life would have been different. But I am sure it's had some effects, you know, through the length of my life it sure as hell's having effects on me now. Because I can't, you know...I had a guy come take a tree down over here, six or eight weeks ago. I told him to just drop it; I'd clean it up...about a sixty foot tree...and over time, I got all the brush part cut away and hauled up to the street, the city came and got it. and I got all the limbs cut into firewood links and dropped them...some of it's stacked back there behind the canoe. Then I had the trunk left and I got a trunk that's that big around with a 10, 12-inch chainsaw. So I finally got cut through in about 5 pieces, 5 places, 6 places, through the trunk with my short chainsaw. Got all that on the ground and got my splitter over there and I couldn't move those big pieces to split. And, you know, I could have, at one time. So my son had a guy call me, came out and did that for me and my grandson came out and helped me for awhile, Sunday afternoon, until the trailer blew a tire. But...I can go out and do that kind of work now for about 30 minutes and then I've got to sit down. I just can't, I can't be [?] things like that. And it's VERY frustrating for someone who has always done whatever he wanted to do, pretty much when he wanted to do it without ever thinking there's anything he couldn't do...it's very frustrating to be able to do very little. Now, you know, it's not all post-polio, I've had 6 bypasses and I've got coronary arteries that are stopped up again. I've had prostate cancer and bunches of other stuff. But...it's just part of life. The end game is not always as much fun as the front-end.

Interesting!

AW Have you talked to your children and grandchildren about your polio experiences?

DM Oh yeah, yeah. As a matter of fact, the two older grandchildren, as they came through elementary school at about the 4th or 5th grade level, I'd go over with the video and with some of the stuff that I've collected, that my mom saved, and give them a talk about what polio is because they don't know. These kids don't know what polio is.

AW Do you remember when the vaccine came out?

DM Oh yeah. I remember carrying my son over to what's now an abandoned school, some kind of church is in there, to get his sugar cube. And crying. You know, just knowing that he didn't have to go through this. Yeah. I remember [laughs]. That wasn't really the vaccine, that was later. But yeah, I was aware of the vaccine.

AW How many children did you have?

DM Two. Both of them live here. That's why we moved here seven years ago, to get closer to our caregivers. But, it's mutual. We have a good time together. I've just in the last couple of weeks started homeschooling my 15 year old granddaughter.

AW That's quite an endeavor, I'm sure.

DM [Laughing] Well, the hardest thing is finding, well we weren't able to, but the hardest thing is trying to find materials that weren't loaded with fundamentalist b.s. It's...you just have to skip some stuff, but...this morning was fun because we were doing Ancient Egypt. A year ago last October I packed her up and took her to Egypt for two weeks. So she did Egypt pretty well [laughs].

AW I bet! That sounds great.

DM It was fun. I had...the summer before I had gone to Europe with my grandson, he's the same age he's just...four months older. But his 8th grade class had gone and so I just packed up and went along with the group for the fun of it and came back. And Brittany says, "when do I get to go somewhere?" and I said, "well you pick somewhere to go and I'll take you." And she came back with Egypt, so that was fine. I think she was trying to find a place I hadn't been.

AW Well is there anything else that you wanted to add that we haven't covered about nursing or anything?

DM I can't think of a thing. I hope it's been what you have needed. I've enjoyed, I've always enjoyed, talking about it. My son packed me up last year and took me to StoryCorps.

AW With NPR?

DM Mmm hmm. NPR StoryCorps so I've got a tape on file with them somewhere, which has a lot of the same stuff in it.

AW And you don't get tired of talking about it?

DM I don't. I've had an interesting life...in a lot of ways. And...I've pretty much enjoyed the ride. You know, it hasn't always been fun in the moment...but, life is a carnival ride, you know. Except for the stopping...that's a downer. But, the world's gotten along with a lot of other people and it will get along without me at some point. But right now, my joy is time with my children and grandchildren and there's nothing there that I'd rather do. I'd still like to do some traveling. My wife is facing very serious back surgery; she's going to have a five or six level fusion in her lower back and she has been trying to postpone it. The surgeon we're working with at Baptist is working on a noninvasive procedure...or a less invasive procedure and he's doing it for 2 or 3 level fusions. He really hasn't gotten up to 6 or 7 yet. And she sort of wants to wait for that. I don't know whether she's going to be able to or not, she's got to decide. But that's stopped our traveling because for two years she hasn't been able to sleep in a bed; she's had to sleep in a recliner and it's hard to travel and take a recliner with you [laughs].

AW Yeah.

DM But...I am watching the aurora borealis and if I get a really good window, I'm going to fly to Fairbanks this fall or winter. It's one of the things on my bucket list [laughs].

AW Well, I really appreciate talking to you.

DM It's been fun, Allison. Like I say, I hope it gives you something that you need.

AW A lot of information; I appreciate it.