

Date: 1979-06-25

Interviewee: Maxine Halliburton

Interviewer: Peggy Jemison

Location: Halliburton Residence

Collection: Everett Cook Collection

Notes: Poor audio quality, especially towards the end.

[0:00:00]

Peggy Jemison: We are interviewing June 25th, 1979 for the Neighborhood and Public Policy Project under a grant from the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities which is an affiliate to the National Endowment to Humanity. I'm interviewing today Ms. Maxine Halliburton whose family has lived in the

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[Inaudible] neighborhood for some time. And when was [Inaudible] built?

Maxine Halliburton: On the corner of Faxon and Evergreen, where it's the second lot from Evergreen, number 1701.

Jemison: And do you know what year was that, Maxine?

Halliburton: Well Peggy, you're embarrassing me, I think it was 1921.

Jemison: 1921? And so it was 1701 Faxon?

Halliburton: Mm-hmm.

Jemison: Ok, were you the first house to come out there, or were there other houses?

Halliburton: It was a new subdivision that was being opened up there, with some old farmhouses in the neighborhood there. [Inaudible] so I could go to school.

Jemison: Was it from out of town [crosstalk].

[0:02:00]

Halliburton: No, no, no. Lived in town. The thought was I would acquire a pony and I needed a place to ride the pony and the parkway used to be the perfect [Inaudible]. I took that pony over every [Inaudible].

Jemison: Wonderful.

[Interruption in audio]

Male voice: Let's just turn it back.

Halliburton: subdivision. [Inaudible] I'm Sorry, I don't [Inaudible] I was going on six so I don't remember much. [Inaudible].

Jemison: Ok so [Inaudible] started building the house, changed the lot and started building the house.

Halliburton: That's right.

Jemison: Do you remember the build of [Inaudible] subdivisions?

Male voice: [Inaudible]

Jemison: Ok.

Halliburton: Two bedrooms one [Inaudible] brick [Inaudible] with a great big basement [Inaudible] all the time. Unfortunately, we were downhill from the house and [Inaudible]. It was a very comfortable place. At that time was, a very nice [Inaudible] house. Other houses that soon after moved in in '21 [Inaudible] the area. Got around to paving the streets and all those sorts of things.

Jemison: Streets weren't paved when your family moved there?

Halliburton: Not if I remember. I think everything out here was still gravel.

Jemison: [Inaudible] it was.

Halliburton: But it [Inaudible] in the 1920s then, that they then paved the streets.

Jemison: And who were some of the other people that moved into the neighborhood, do you remember?

Halliburton: Well the [Inaudible], and the Hudsons on Stanford then.

Jemison: [Inaudible], can you spell that for me?

Halliburton: R-[Inaudible]-w.

Jemison: Can you remember their first names?

Halliburton: I have no notion because they moved when I was still about nine or ten.

Jemison: The Hudsons?

Halliburton: They moved, [Inaudible] if I don't remember correctly, probably when I was in my teens.

Jemison: [Inaudible]

Halliburton: Harry [Inaudible]

Jemison: Tell me a little bit about the farm houses down there because I have a feeling that some of those are still standing. Are you aware where any of those around-?

Halliburton: I know when we moved there, there was an old white house, across the street. I don't know [Inaudible], I have no notion. And then down in the block to the east there's a two story with a little white house, it was there, and over on the corner was the Wyermier house. It doesn't look like it did then at that time, it was a white Victorian type house with a steeple and all this torn off the front- with all the fancy grill work they tore off so imagine a square, red-bricked house, it was bricked over.

Jemison: And whose house is that?

Halliburton: Wyermier.

Jemison: Wyermier. Can you spell that?

Halliburton: Wyermier. They moved out [Inaudible].

Jemison: Now did they [Inaudible]

Halliburton: No, no, Evergreen. It was Evergreen and come back [Inaudible]. They moved back and [Inaudible] moved back. The Wyermier house [Inaudible] moved back.

Jemison: And any other house that would be of that age?

Halliburton: Then towards the east, in that little section there. There were four blocks and, I shouldn't say the lot that's closest to McClain. I don't know if you talked to Nell Sanders,

she has an old house down there on the corner of Faxon. Little Cross street there across from McClain and Everett.

Jemison: And who is that?

Halliburton: Nell S. Burrow [?].

Jemison: That's her married name?

Halliburton: Mm'hmm.

Jemison: And what is her husband's name?

Halliburton: [Inaudible] He's an attorney. They were both attorneys. [Inaudible]

Jemison: Does she live in the house?

Halliburton: Mm'hmm. She'd probably remember everything about the street. [Inaudible]

Jemison: Alright, cool. We'll do that. Alright, now, let's talk a little bit about about the neighborhood as it was when you grew up, what were some of the special things that you did and liked and remember?

Halliburton: Well one thing I liked was riding. And people around there [Inaudible] had a horse. And [Inaudible] had a pony. And Jack Owens had a pony and we all rode. It was country, and of course the Briar Patch at that time, you're too young to remember, the Briar Patch went all around Parkway at one point in time it was a great place to ride. That I remember clear as day.

Jemison: And where did you keep your horse?

Halliburton: In the backyard.

Jemison: In the backyard?

Halliburton: Well it was the country. Had a little colt out there and it was quite a novelty because at that point in time people didn't know about Shetland Ponies because [Inaudible]. I'd ride down to Parkway and everyone would stop and look. [Inaudible]. There were plenty of places to ride a pony in the country. It was before we had restrictions on [inaudible]

[0:10:00]

It was really [Inaudible] at that time. Got more and more restrictions. It really wasn't [Inaudible].

Jemison: So, when you went to Snowden. And about ready to start Snowden, about when did you start Snowden, did you [Inaudible]?

Halliburton: Yes. Grade one.

Jemison: And what are your recollections of Snowden at that time?

Halliburton: Very vague, I didn't care for school, I liked to ride. Going into third grade I think they said I couldn't see anyway [Inaudible]. And of course, at that point in time, I had started with music and my [Inaudible]. People that weren't there [Inaudible]. And they talked to her [Inaudible]. Snowden, and the people that went there [Inaudible] might be able to talk to him [inaudible]

[Serious dip of sound quality, inaudible for about a minute]
[0:13:00]

Jemison: Who were some of the other people who lived around or on North Parkway?

Halliburton: [Inaudible].

Jemison: Did you have some [Inaudible]

Halliburton: [Inaudible]

Jemison: [Inaudible] Behind it?

Halliburton: I'm not sure. [Inaudible]

Jemison: Well alright, and so, you went on to Snowden. Now tell me a little more about, about when your brother started driving [Inaudible].

Halliburton: This is not my brother. I had no brother, just sisters.

Jemison: Oh, I see.

Halliburton: I had an older sister.

Jemison: [Inaudible]

Halliburton: This is a cousin. I'm not really sure where he is [Inaudible]. His father often referred to me as his [Inaudible] niece which was very confusing to everybody. But I [Inaudible] figured out my daddy and [Inaudible] father had a grandfather in common. Now what to him that makes me, I don't know. [Inaudible]

Jemison: Well alright, Maxine, so your family lived there for how long?

Halliburton: Until 1977.

Jemison: [Inaudible] important year.

Halliburton: [Inaudible]. Two years ago.

Jemison: Okay. So, did you see a lot of changes in the neighborhood?

Halliburton: Yes. Of course, I didn't live there.

[0:15:00]

I hadn't lived over there in over thirty years. But I was back and forth over there. And of course, the thing I see now, all the older families the ones that are still up and around and stayed there but young people buying in there a house. [Inaudible] And it is quiet. [Inaudible] Of course, they didn't care for the decorating and they redid the whole thing.

Jemison: In the neighborhood, in your eyes, remained pretty the same?

Halliburton: Yes, remarkably so. I was very pleased. And the people who live there fix them up. [Inaudible] she had to move and she did.

Jemison: Why do you- how do you account for the stability of the neighborhood or can you. What do you think kept it that way?

Halliburton: Well it was always a very, not a close neighborhood but of course [Inaudible] everybody sat on their front porch and now we all stay all locked up inside and we don't know whose out there at all. We lived on the front porch, and when people walked by, they stopped and we had lemonade and talked and listened. We did the same thing, we'd walk down the street and saw somebody on the front porch we stopped and visit but of course no body sits on the front porch anymore. [Inaudible]. We all hide behind our walls and the patio [Inaudible] inside the air-conditioning.

Jemison: [Inaudible] Well, and the other [Inaudible] and too much crime and [Inaudible] are changing. [Inaudible].

Halliburton: Too much changing [inaudible]. No, [Inaudible] lived there for [Inaudible] years all by herself. And her dogs.

Jemison: Yeah, and she must be pretty elderly by now.

Halliburton: She's 89.

Jemison: She's 89. So then in '77 she sold and you and [Inaudible] moved here.

Halliburton: She moved in with me. [Inaudible].

Jemison: Alright, let's talk about this.

Halliburton: [Inaudible] moving in here, this is set up in [Inaudible] A double tenement.

Jemison: A double tenement, now explain that remark now.

Halliburton: [Inaudible] So called Hyde Park. My mother was horrified because she said they're building a double tenement in Hyde Park which [Inaudible].

Jemison: Many a duplex.

Halliburton: Many a duplex. Nobody knew that then.

Jemison: And about when was it built?

Halliburton: That's what we were trying to find.

Jemison: Tell me now Maxine what you were just saying about the [Inaudible]

Halliburton: [Inaudible] and another just like it over on [inaudible] on a [inaudible] here in Memphis. And her daughter married [inaudible].

[0:19:00]

Jemison: Well this was a lovely wedding present, wasn't it?

Halliburton: Yes, and I'm looking at, [Inaudible] tile out here. And calling it Burtheart subdivision. [Inaudible] past [Inaudible] subdivision. And this would have been lot 16 and 19, I'm not sure, but it would be the Burtheart subdivision. [Inaudible] Look at it, need to get somebody a little smarter than I am to [Inaudible] because there are no [Inaudible].

[0:20:00]

Halliburton: They talked about that their building restrictions and they set out to have a property. "These will be in effect [Inaudible] instruments and it is required according to these restrictions, quote "that no one, should be erected under one of two full [Inaudible]. Second and third parties agree that restrictions here and authority should be strictly observed and that [Inaudible] first party must [Inaudible] by process of law that [Inaudible] Julia Burthart and L. Burthart." And that's spelled b-u-r-t-h-a-r-t. And that property was owned by John Pleasant at one time [Inaudible].

Jemison: You started telling me something about the naming of Trezevant?

Halliburton: Now I wish I could remember what the story behind Trez was but [Inaudible]. Now, you know all these streets were named for people.

Jemison: Right.

Halliburton: And anything [Inaudible] other three [Inaudible]. And the year was 1935. And the tax at that time was 28.76. So high you couldn't [Inaudible] the restrictions. Looking in the book it says that its now been modified to the extent that one of them may be erected of value of not less than five thousand dollars. I believe that the plan was to [Inaudible] options to build a one-story residence at a lot south of an adjoining property herein described at a cost of not less than five thousand dollars, and that is not dated for some reason. I guess I [Inaudible] 1937. [Inaudible]. Go ahead. [Inaudible] South of here. [Inaudible]

Jemison: Yes.

Halliburton: Now Helen and her husband Charles- I think his name was Smith.

Jemison: Yes.

Halliburton: Owned it, and he died. And architect died so they got married and moved over there-

Jemison: In Arkansas?

Halliburton: In Arkansas [Inaudible]. And when I came over here, I asked for an option to buy, and [Inaudible] for sale, I had the option to buy it for twenty-three-thousand. So I did.

Jemison: Now tell me the year again?

Halliburton: 1978.

Jemison: '78 you bought it for twenty-three-thousand. Do you happen to know the sale, what he payed for it? Do you happen to know?

Halliburton: I had no notion. [Inaudible] Now Helen, was still alive.

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[Inaudible]

Jemison: Well, tell me how you feel about the neighborhood now. How do you like it, do you think it's holding up?

Halliburton: Well of course I liked it and of course the reason I do is it was a part of my life and I don't think there's a section of town that has prettier trees and I think I bought it because of the trees and now I'm afraid [Inaudible]. There's something about it that's not like new subdivisions. I think [Inaudible] new subdivisions because [Inaudible].

Jemison: Do you have a good neighborhood relationship with people now?

Halliburton: Yeah, they're nice neighbors. Nice neighbors and [Inaudible]. It's different around here.

Jemison: Tell me what [Inaudible] neighborhood.

Halliburton: Doctor Robert Brown who was Memphis [Inaudible] they sold, and Hank Williams sold his house to [Inaudible] bought the house behind his place on Holly.

Jemison: So it really is an artistic neighborhood. That's interesting.

Halliburton: [Inaudible] All through the neighborhood. A lot of lawyers. A lot of Southwestern professors there. This is one reason that I think [Inaudible] across the street. Then there was Everett Church.

Jemison: You mean Evergreen?

Halliburton: Evergreen. [Inaudible]

Jemison: [Inaudible]

Halliburton: So this is the reason. I guess my roots are here, you might say.

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I don't think anything [Inaudible].

Jemison: I was going to talk to you about that, now [Inaudible]?

Halliburton: Well originally, [Inaudible], and they took [Inaudible] off all the houses on this side and [Inaudible]'s side. It was actually, I guess but we [Inaudible]. Well anyways, I guess [Inaudible] up there originally.

Jemison: It's a very different street.

Halliburton: It's a very different street. [Inaudible]

Jemison: You've got big [Inaudible] on your lot.

Halliburton: And the trees.

Jemison: And the trees. Of course, do you know why [Inaudible] opened up like this. Do you remember?

Halliburton: That was done, oh I guess fifteen or twenty years [Inaudible]. Way before I moved over here.

Jemison: So, [Inaudible]

Halliburton: Well for one thing, y'know, [Inaudible] would make things a little bit safer, which may sound foolish but if you live in a code, its [Inaudible] people [Inaudible] but I don't care it really doesn't bother me. [Inaudible] Down Central is [Inaudible].

Jemison: [Inaudible]

Halliburton: Subject. Very, very violent.

Jemison: So, what you're saying is [Inaudible] is not a problem in the neighborhood?

Halliburton: No, we had problems, yes. I had never had anything here, not they did break in next door at Bob's house and knock the air conditioning out of [Inaudible] for a couple months and [Inaudible]. Somebody knocked the air conditioning out of [Inaudible] and all they took was a tape recorder and [Inaudible]. No [Inaudible]. And [Inaudible]'s house [Inaudible].

Jemison: Do you have any [Inaudible]. Get together in any sort of ordinary way?

Halliburton: No, not that I know of. Now they [Inaudible]. Probably others in the community are more active than I am because I don't work. [Inaudible] Insurance.

Jemison: So, you've been working until just recently.

Halliburton: Yes, I've still working down [Inaudible]. Cataracts. [Inaudible]. But I think you might talk to Helen Branch, now I think she talks to [Inaudible] secretary. [Inaudible].

[0:31:00]

Halliburton: I'd like to [Inaudible] over on Barbara Drive [Inaudible]. You know Barbara?

Jemison: Yeah.

Halliburton: [Inaudible] named Barbara. [Inaudible] I had [Inaudible]. But at that time Helen had already [Inaudible]. I moved out [Inaudible].

[0:32:00]

Halliburton: I [Inaudible] all my life, and I went to Southwestern.

Jemison: And you graduated from Southwestern?

Halliburton: Yes. [Inaudible]. Southwestern [Inaudible]. I think [Inaudible] professors lived in [Inaudible] area. I feel that it makes it a more interesting experience, you know. [Inaudible].

Jemison: Do you feel the neighborhood is threatened by over action on West Drive and [Inaudible].

Halliburton: I wonder sometimes, I don't like [Inaudible] here. I don't know how personally [Inaudible] come into this area, how to feel about it. I really don't. And of course, I know they're strange, I know they're [Inaudible]. And I don't really know [Inaudible].

[0:34:00]

Stopsigns.[Inaudible].

Jemison: What was it like being a student at Southwestern in the 30s?

Halliburton: Well [Inaudible], four years [Inaudible] a little house over there and I was over [Inaudible]. And then I walked from [Inaudible] to [Inaudible] at eleven or twelve o'clock. And on the weekends, I [Inaudible]. I had a very cool life, I was very social.

Jemison: [Inaudible]

Halliburton: Yes. [Inaudible].

[0:36:00]

Halliburton: It was fun [Inaudible] couple of years.

[Interruption in audio.]

Jemison: The other tape ended there, and I did not have another one to put in so I just end the interview here with a few comments of mine about the interview. The house is well-built and attractive, but the truck noises are really bad and you can see what's happened to this quiet residential street. Maxine's duplex faces a brick wall on the other side which has been built apparently for a house facing into Hein Park. So, from what Maxine said it appears that Trezevant was really considered part of Hein Park. It's too bad about the traffic and the sounds that come. I drove east of Trezevant to the little cove on Holly that she mentioned and it's a charming cove with clapboard houses, well cared for and painted attractive colors, well-kept yards, and it butts in to the- a dead end driver- in the Faith Temple property. As I was leaving, Maxine made some comments about the Faith Temple. She said that it actually was not a problem in the neighborhood, that on Sunday's there were very few cars there. Maybe only twenty or so, and she had wondered how they were able to keep up the property. They do sometimes rent the facilities out to other groups and then car parking can be a problem. There was additional property in the Gage Estate, Maxine said, which ran from Trezevant to Maccanaco and the property facing Maccanaco was sold off or else or else the church itself built the small duplexes, but some of the property itself was used as I understood, for the building of small duplexes. Maxine has a picture of herself in front of the house on Faxon when she was just a little girl. You can see a portion of the brick house. She also has a picture of her father with some young ladies in a horse drawn wagon right on the edge of Overton Park and she thinks that this was probably taken before 1910, a good indication of how the young men and women dressed and their transportation and she would let us use those pictures if we desired. I would like to follow up on the deed on the Faxon house. And when she has time to get it out, locate that, perhaps it will tell us something about that subdivision.

[0:40:24:00]

[END]

