

# Mrs. Frances Furman Hewitt

**Interviewee:** Francis Furman Hewitt

**Interviewer:** Courtney L. Tollison, Ph.D.

**Date:** September 21, 2004

**Location:** Mrs. Hewitt's home in Columbia, South Carolina

**Editor:** Anna McDanal – June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Editor:** Jessi Scott – April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Editor:** Dr. Courtney Tollison – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Timecode

Minutes 0-4

Introduction; relationship with Dr. Charles Townes when they were children; Basil Manly; Greenville High School

Minutes 4-8

Mrs. Hewitt as a student at Greenville Women's College; Dean Virginia Thomas; May Day tradition;

Minutes 8- 10

More traditions at the Women's college; the daisy chain in the spring; taking classes on the men's campus

Minutes 0-5

Mrs. Hewitt's family tree; Richard Furman; James C. Furman; Charles M. Furman; Charles' teaching at Clemson; Charles M., Jr.

Minutes 5-10

Mrs. Hewitt's children: Richard and Furman; more about the Furman relatives; Richard Furman's 17 children; Cherrydale; Alester Furman, Sr.

Minutes 10-12

Memories of the Furman family growing up; Alester G. Furman, Sr.; Janie Earle Furman Rose Garden

Minutes 0-3

Lucy Furman Arnold; Alester G. Furman, the relationship between Mrs. Hewitt and her father, Charles M.

Minutes 3-8

The law school at Furman; interactions with Mr. Plyler when she worked at the Thompson Cigar Store; Gordon Blackwell; Charles Townes

Minutes 8-11

Mrs. Hewitt's first interactions with her husband; dating in the 1930s

Minutes 0-5

Dating at the Women's College; chapel; First Baptist Church; Greenville High School; sororities at the Women's College

Minutes 5-8

The *Entre Nous*; *Spokesman*; President McGlothlin; President Geer; President Plyler

Minutes 0-5

Dr Plyler; Dr. Geer; Dr. Ramsay; Dr. Provence; Mrs. Thomas

Minutes 5-9

Professors at the Women's College; Ramsay Fine Arts Center; Heritage Green; Cherrydale; Furman's Campus in the 1930s; Kincaid Furman

Minutes 0-5

Kincaid Furman; Cherrydale; Gene Stone

Minutes 5-9

Cherrydale; Paris Mountain; family friends

Minutes 0-5

Religious Emphasis Week; demographics of the students at the Women's College during the depression; Greenville High School; Richard and Furman Hewitt; President Plyler;

Minutes 5-8

Mrs. Hewitt's discussion of her sons, Furman and Richard Hewitt, their careers, and their experiences as Furman students; Southern Baptist Seminary; Southeastern Seminary; Duke University; fundamentalist takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention

Minutes 0-5

Mrs. Hewitt's family heritage; Furman's new campus; Clemson University; Columbia, SC

Minutes 5-10

Mrs. Hewitt's grand-children and great-grandsons; Furman Hall, the Bell Tower

Minutes 0-5

Mrs. Hewitt's sons graduating from Furman

Minutes 5-11

Mrs. Hewitt's extended family: her brothers and their children; Charles Townes and his family; discussion of the origin of calling Greenville Women's College the Zoo

### **Transcript**

**Dr. Tollison:** My name is Courtney Tollison, and I'm sitting here interviewing Frances Furman Hewitt. Today is September 21, 2004, and I'm at Mrs. Hewitt's home in Columbia, South Carolina. Why don't you start off by just telling me a little bit about yourself? Where you were born? Where you grew up?

**Ms. Hewitt:** I was born in Rockingham, North Carolina, and lived there for two years. We stopped over for a job...my daddy was civil engineer for Surrine & Company in Greenville, and stopped over there and did a job there that lasted two years. From there, he went to Greenville and opened up his office, and that's where he remained until he retired.

**Dr. Tollison:** Okay. So you all moved to Greenville and you grew up in Greenville from the time you were 6 years old?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** 6 years old.

**Dr. Tollison:** Where did you go to school when you were younger?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I went to Oak Lawn Grammar School and then to Greenville High and then Furman University.

**Dr. Tollison:** And did you know Charles Townes?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I used to play with him every week. Charles Townes is one year younger than I am, and his mother had a party every week in the summertime and the neighborhood kids went up to their house and made ice cream out on the back porch. Every week during the summer...

**Dr. Tollison:** So where was your house?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I lived on Sumner Street, and they lived on the same street, except I don't know where they lived may not have had a name because it circled around Sumner Street and then on up a hill and that's where the Townes' lived.

**Dr. Tollison:** Okay.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He was about a block from me.

**Dr. Tollison:** Was he very smart as a child or what do you remember?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well he was just a little ol' boy then. Yes, I would say so, but I imagine at that time I was maybe 7 and he was probably 6. I don't remember just what year it was.

**Dr. Tollison:** What do you remember about him?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, he was just a little boy out playing like the rest of us, all kinds of games, hide-n-seek and things like that. We were just children.

**Dr. Tollison:** What about...I think your son told me that you knew Basil Manly growing up, is that correct?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Basil Manly. Yes, he lived across the street from me. Charles is his older brother. I don't know whether Charles is living or not. Is he?

**Dr. Tollison:** I don't know.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** You don't know. I used to nurse Charles and Basil when they were babies.

**Dr. Tollison:** How much younger are they?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well I was about 8 or 9 and their mother would get me to come and stay with them when she would go shopping.

**Dr. Tollison:** And who was their father?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, he was Charles Manly. Don't ask me what he did because it didn't mean that much to me as a child, so I don't remember what he did.

**Dr. Tollison:** But they were all associated with Furman somehow?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Absolutely. Well, there's a Basil Manly that was a...

**Dr. Tollison:** At the seminary, and at Furman... Senior, Basil, Sr.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yeah, I never did know him, but I knew they were related.

**Dr. Tollison:** And they lived directly across the street you said?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes, right across the street from me.

**Dr. Tollison:** You all were family friends?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** Well, let's talk about, let see, you went to the Greenville Women's College for one year, and this was during the depression. So enrollment was fairly low, you mentioned. [Editor's Note: From 1912 to 1933, the college was known as the Greenville Women's College, and from 1933 to 1961 it was the Women's College of Furman University.]

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Very low.

**Dr. Tollison:** Very low. What do you remember about being a student there?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I enjoyed being at Furman, yes. Good teachers.

**Dr. Tollison:** Who were some...do you remember some of your teachers?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Not really, not too much, because it's been so long since I have thought about it. I had a Dr. Schaefer that was one of my teachers there. I had a Ms... I've forgotten the piano teacher I had. Was it Sanders or Sandiford?

**Dr. Tollison:** I don't know.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** It was something like that. That was how many years ago.

**Dr. Tollison:** Do you remember Dean Virginia Thomas?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes, not too well. You know not living on campus made a difference. I lived out in town, so I didn't get to know a lot of those. I had a Ms. Donald was my English teacher. I remember that one real well. She was strict as all my...

**Dr. Tollison:** Do you remember the May Day tradition?

[Editor's Note: The interviewee deviates from the question-Mrs. Hewitt is 91 at the time of the interview]

**Mrs. Hewitt:** She flunked most of them in that class, Ms. Donald did, and made them go back and take high school English. I had had a good education at Greenville High, so I got along alright, but she made about half the class or more go back and take high school English.

**Dr. Tollison:** She was hard, huh?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Ooooo, she was hard, strict.

**Dr. Tollison:** Do you remember the May Day tradition in the spring?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** Tell me about that.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** They always had that May pole, you know, and they danced around the May pole, and most of us took part in it.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did they have May queen?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did you all elect her, the students?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes, yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** And what were the qualifications?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, they had to be good students, I'm sure it would be that, and I think all of those were living on campus.

**Dr. Tollison:** What do you remember about the campus?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** You mean the way it looked?

**Dr. Tollison:** Yes, ma'am.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** It was very attractive. [It] had a pretty grassy yard out in front. I don't know that any of those buildings are still standing, are they? [Editor's Note: Dr. Hewitt continually asks interviewer about facts, looks to the interviewer to verify her statements]

**Dr. Tollison:** No, ma'am.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I didn't think so.

**Dr. Tollison:** They're all gone unfortunately.

**Dr. Hewitt:** One of them was a dormitory. Of course, I didn't stay there because I lived in town.

**Dr. Tollison:** Were there a lot of students from Greenville that lived at their parents' home?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** They did well to go to college and live at home.

**Dr. Tollison:** Right. Did you go over to the men's campus?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No. They had one bus that would take some of the students over there for... I don't know what class it was, but the few that took that class they'd take them over to Furman for that class, because it saved them having to pay a teacher for that particular subject, whatever it was. I didn't take whatever that was.

**Dr. Tollison:** Right. And that was during the year that you were there? So, they began to coordinate a few years after you left in 1933. But even before then they shared a few, sometimes there were classes where...

**Dr. Hewitt:** Just a few of them that went over there.

**Dr. Tollison:** Right. What about the Hanging of the Greens at Christmas time, do you remember that tradition?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No, I don't remember that one. They may not have had it then.

**Dr. Tollison:** They might not have. What about the daisy chain in the spring?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** In the spring, yes, they had that.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did you all collect daises and connected them for graduation? Do you

remember that? [The interviewer prompts Mrs. Hewitt to remember details]

**Mrs. Hewitt:** The students that lived on campus did that.

**Dr. Tollison:** They did that, okay, gotcha.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I don't remember any of the Greenville students that lived at home that took part in that. It was too hard to get back and forth over there.

**Dr. Tollison:** Right. How did you get back and forth?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I walked.

**Dr. Tollison:** Oh! How far was that?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** About a mile and a half.

**Dr. Tollison:** Okay, so you just walked over to campus and spent the day there and went to your classes?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** And I could, I mean in bad weather, I could get a streetcar and go there. And if it was real bad weather my daddy would send this fellow that worked with him up to high school or college, either one, to pick us up. But if he was out working, he was a civil engineer, and he wasn't around, the car went with him of course. He had to do that. It was his business.

**Dr. Tollison:** Now tell me how you fit into the Furman family tree, how you are related to all of the Furmans?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Alright. My great-great-grandfather was Richard Furman. Of course I never knew him. He was born in seventeen hundred and something. He was a founder of Furman. Then his son, James C. Furman, was the first President of Furman. I didn't know him. He died in the late 1800s, and I was born in 1913, so I did not know him. But then his son was Charles M. Furman who was my daddy's father. And grandfather went to Furman and later on he was a lawyer after he finished Furman. And some fellow went to him to be defended and my grandfather looked at him and he says, "You know you're guilty." He says if it takes lying to be a lawyer that's when I quit, right now. He packed up his books, and he started teaching. And I guess Clemson was ready to be opened then because they asked him to be head of the English Department at Clemson. And he stayed there until...he taught until 1917 at Clemson. And then my father went to Furman for two years and when his father went to Clemson, which I don't know that date, I know when he finished teaching at Clemson, but I don't know what year he went. Well, sure I ought to know because my daddy finished the first class of Clemson, and he could have finished in 1895, but they didn't have a senior class and he had already completed everything to graduate, and he wouldn't let them graduate him by himself. So he took other subjects

and classes with the boys that he was with, so he was there three years for that reason.

**Dr. Tollison:** Okay.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He had already had two years at Furman. So he finished in 1896, which was the first graduating class of Clemson.

**Dr. Tollison:** Right. Well what's his name, what was your father's name?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Charles M. Jr.

**Dr. Tollison:** Charles M. Jr., and who is your mother?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** My mother was Ida Mae Jones from Rockingham, North Carolina.

**Dr. Tollison:** So your father grew up in Greenville and went to Furman...

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes. He was born in Kentucky and his father... I don't know what year they moved from Kentucky down to Greenville, but from then on he was there, until he met my mother and married in 1907. I was the baby of four children.

**Dr. Tollison:** And now who are your children?

**Dr. Hewitt:** Furman and Richard Hewitt.

**Dr. Tollison:** Okay.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Both of them have Furman in the middle name and we called the first one Furman. He's Thomas Furman – Hewitt made him take Furman from my dad—and we called him Furman. My husband didn't want to have a boy called by the same name he was called by, so he decided to call him Furman. And Richard is Richard Furman. He is named for Richard Furman, the founder.

**Dr. Tollison:** Wow!

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Richard Furman didn't have a middle name, but my Richard carries his full name as Richard Furman Hewitt.

**Dr. Tollison:** Why don't you think he had a middle name?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I don't know, but he didn't. James C. did: James Clement. His father was just was Richard Furman. Maybe because there were so many children, I don't know. Either Richard or James C. Furman, one of them, had seventeen children.

**Dr. Tollison:** Oh, I think it was Richard because his first wife passed away and he re-



married and had a bunch of children. Do you remember hearing stories about them growing up?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No, not really. I used to hear about James C. Furman. Of course I know Richard Furman was a minister, and he's buried down in Charleston. And James C. Furman was President and he did a lot of preaching all over the state I understand. And I think he's the one, not Richard, I think it was James C., that got \$5 for six years of preaching, or \$6 for five years of preaching, one or the other, which of course was almost nothing. He would just preach. They used to give preachers groceries and things out of the garden and things like that, but I understand he was quite wealthy financially. So he didn't need the money so he just preached.

**Dr. Tollison:** I believe your son, Furman, told Betsy Mosley that you remember playing at Cherrydale?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, lots of times I was at Cherrydale. My daddy's father had a half-brother. His name was Kincaid Furman. He never married. He lived in that home until he died, and my mother and daddy would take us and my grandmother...take the four of us, a lot of Sunday afternoons, and we would go out there and carry a picnic lunch and play all over the grounds there. Did you ever see that home when it was...before it was moved to Furman University?

**Dr. Tollison:** Yes, ma'am.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Do you remember the driveway that went from the street up to the house? It had these big boxwoods that were almost like, about 12-feet high that were slow growing boxwoods...beautiful plants. When Uncle Kincaid died his sister went to Greenville to get furniture and all out of it, which by the way [there] was a piece that I gave Furman, was that secretary, it was called plantation secretary, and she gave that piece to my mother and daddy.

**Dr. Tollison:** Okay.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** She gave a piano to Uncle Allie's family, Alester Furman, Sr.

**Dr. Tollison:** You called him Uncle Allie?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Uncle Allie. That's my daddy's brother. And his daughter, Lucy Arnold, inherited it from him. And when she died that old, old piano was probably given to either her son or daughter, I don't know which one got that. But I don't know what Aunt Mamie did with all the other furniture, probably gave it around here and there but I don't know who got it. But the one piece she gave mama and daddy is the one I gave to Furman. I wanted it to go back where it belonged. So it's sitting back in that house.

**Dr. Tollison:** In Cherrydale?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** In Cherrydale.

**Dr. Tollison:** How nice. What else do you remember about growing up? Any other memories of the Furman family?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, I knew a lot of my daddy's brother and his sisters, you know, and his father used to visit over there at Clemson. That's where I learned how to swim in the summertime. I went to the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association), not the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) the YMCA. It was open to the public in the summertime.

**Dr. Tollison:** Tell me about your Uncle Allie. This was Alester G. Furman, Sr.?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes. My daddy's brother was Alester G. Furman and then his son was Alester G. Jr., and he's the one married Janie Furman, and they have a garden up there at Furman University in her memory.

**Dr. Tollison:** The rose garden?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** It's beautiful, very pretty. Tell me about your uncle.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, he was older than my daddy. He wasn't the same type as my daddy.

**Dr. Tollison:** What do you mean by that?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, he was a fine person and a good business man. He made lots of money, but my daddy made a lot of friends, probably a lot more than his brother had. But he was a fine person. And Lucy, his daughter, was my favorite first cousin. I was crazy about Lucy. Did you ever know her?

**Dr. Tollison:** No, ma'am, I didn't.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** She married W. H. Arnold, and he was a lawyer.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did she go to the women's college?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No, she was older than I, and she went to college, but I can't think which one she went to. She was three or four years older than I. The depression didn't bother them.

**Dr. Tollison:** Right.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Cause they were pretty well fixed. So my daddy suffered during that time because he didn't get paid, but I had one of the sweetest daddies in the world.

**Dr. Tollison:** He had a lot of friends.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, yeah, loads of friends.

**Dr. Tollison:** Tell me about Alester G. Furman Jr.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He is was my first cousin.

**Dr. Tollison:** Lucy's brother.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes. Alester Jr. is the one that married Janie. They had two boys, Alester the third. We called him Little Alester. As long as he lived he was Little Alester. He was a couple years younger than I am. He's not in good health I understand.

**Dr. Tollison:** Is he in Greenville right now?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes. He's always lived in Greenville. I went there for Lucy's 90th birthday party that they had for her there at Cherrydale.

**Dr. Tollison:** Oh, how nice.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** And I saw Little Alester, or Alester the third, there, and he wasn't in good health at all. But as far as I know he's still living. If he's passed away I haven't heard.

**Dr. Tollison:** I don't think he has. I'll be sure to let you know if I hear though, but I'm sure you'll hear before I do, however. Let's talk about the law school. Do you remember Furman have a law school when you were at the Women's College?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No.

**Dr. Tollison:** You said you knew Dr. Plyler by Mr. Plyler because he was an attorney and a Judge?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** He worked at the law school. He was the dean of the law school.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, he was?

**Dr. Tollison:** Yes, ma'am.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I had forgotten about that, but I used to see him almost daily coming in the store where I was, every couple of days anyway.

**Dr. Tollison:** Tell me about the store, you worked in the store?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I kept books and did a lot of the buying for that store.

**Dr. Tollison:** What kind of store was it?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** It was called Thomas Cigar Store. It's really a store for me, because we were in the building with all those lawyers.

**Dr. Tollison:** And Mr. Plyler would come in every day?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Almost every day. I saw him quite often. And he saw me many years later, in 1959, when I rang his doorbell and I had not seen him since 1935, and he came to the door and said "Well, Francis Furman, come in the house." I couldn't believe my ears, because he had been around so many young people my age. When I left there he was seeing those girls that age at Furman University.

**Dr. Tollison:** Tell me about he and his wife.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, she was precious. Beautiful couple. Handsome, very handsome couple. She still lives in Greenville.

**Dr. Tollison:** Yes ma'am. I talked to her about two weeks ago. She's still a beautiful lady.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** That's what Furman told me. I'd love to see Mrs. Plyler. I was crazy about both of them.

**Dr. Tollison:** Very nice people?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh lovely, lovely. Mr. Plyler, then...

**Dr. Tollison:** Did you know Gordon Blackwell when he was a student?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I knew his son that was a student there with Furman, with my Furman.

**Dr. Tollison:** But you did not know him when...

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well I know who you are talking about, but I didn't know him personally.

**Dr. Tollison:** Right. Was he there at the same time you were?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He was, I believe either that year or the next year or so. I don't remember what time, but I knew of him, but I did not know him personally.

**Dr. Tollison:** I think he graduated in 1932, but I'm not positive on that. I'll have to

double check.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He finished Furman in 1932?

**Dr. Tollison:** I think so. Would that make sense?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Probably.

**Dr. Tollison:** I'll have to double check.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** But I didn't know him personally.

**Dr. Tollison:** Was Charles Towns a student when you were there?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He was one year behind me. I think he finished in 1935.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did you know many of the male students that were at Furman or did you pretty much stick to the women's campus.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I used to date a few of them.

**Dr. Tollison:** What did you all do on dates?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, they didn't have money and the one I married went to Clemson. And you talk about a fine boy: I married one of the finest boys that ever lived, that finished Clemson.

**Dr. Tollison:** How did you meet him?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He was over in Greenville for the Thanksgiving football game with Furman. His roommate wanted to stop by the house to see my brother because he knew him real well. Tommy had met him but he didn't know him that well when he was a freshman at Clemson. And so they stopped by the house and Bud Ward said, "I'm going to run in and speak to Al Furman before we go back to Clemson." And Tommy said, "Well, I'll sit out here with her while you go in and speak to Al." And Alester said "Anybody with you Bud?" So Alester went out and invited them in and Tommy was there from then on.

**Dr. Tollison:** And that's when you met him?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** That's when I met him.

**Dr. Tollison:** And you didn't let him go.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He came in to see Alester and there I was and when he got home he wrote to my brother and said, "Does she have any strings attached to her, if not ask her if she'll

give me a date Saturday night.” And so he hadn’t heard from my brother by Wednesday, so here he was over in Greenville and you see him flying through the store where I was working, and his raincoat was just flapping, you know, he came over and thought, *I’ve seen that boy somewhere*, and I said, “That’s the one that was at the house the other night.” He said, “I came by to see if you were going to give me a date Saturday. I said, “Yes, and you’ll probably have a letter when you get back home.” And from then on he was there every week. And during the Depression he had fifty cents for that date he could spare out of his spending money, fifty cents every Saturday to come to Greenville, and he bought two gallons of gas for a quarter from the boy that owned the car, Bud Ward. The other boy that came with them bought two gallons, so that paid for all the gas they needed to run around Greenville and coming and going to Clemson. Then that left Tommy with one quarter. We went to the movies that afternoon, 10 cents a piece. He had a nickel left over and bought a little package of fruit drops and we shared those fruit drops, and we had a good a time back then as they have today.

**Dr. Tollison:** Sounds like it.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Nobody had any money. They didn’t have it. Every Saturday when I was at Furman we would have the young people come and dance on the porch at my house one week. Then the girls took turns having couples come to their home, and my mother would fix a pitcher of lemonade or punch and make some cookies for us. We would have them out there on a table on the front porch, dance and have the best time. We had every bit as good a time if not better than they have today.

**Dr. Tollison:** You guys weren’t allowed to dance on campus were you?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** This wasn’t on campus; this was in out homes. No, I doubt it was allowed on campus.

**Dr. Tollison:** So were the regulations fairly strict on campus.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, yeah. Of course I didn’t live on campus.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did your friends, they had curfew, and...

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh I’m sure they did. And when they would go to church they would march to church and with a chaperone.

**Dr. Tollison:** You all had chapel that you had to go to?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, not too often. No, not really. We had chapel in high school, but in college they would walk to the church because we were right up there in town. They could walk to church.

**Dr. Tollison:** You walked to the First Baptist Church?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes. That's where I was baptized, at the old First Baptist Church.

**Dr. Tollison:** How often would you have church services?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Every Sunday.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did you go during the week as well?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Sometimes on Wednesday nights. But we didn't have a car, no, from the time I was about 7 years old we had a car.

**Dr. Tollison:** You said you had chapel at Greenville High School?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh yes, in high school, yes, we had chapel. We'd go there, I've forgotten how many days of the week, maybe not but once or twice a week, and probably just once a week. I don't know.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did you go to football games?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** At Furman?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** And they were held on Manly Field? Was that a small stadium or a big stadium?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** It was, of course, a little stadium. All that changed years later.

**Dr. Tollison:** What kind of teams did Furman play?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** They played Clemson every year, and on Thursday it was called Big Thursday, and Clemson and Carolina played on Big Thursday. And the whole city of Columbia practically closed up for that day. That was during [South Carolina State] Fair week; so Big Thursday was a big day for everybody around here.

**Dr. Tollison:** The State Fair?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** So, when Furman was playing Clemson did your husband pull for Clemson and you pull for Furman?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well daddy went to both schools. You, you mean my husband?

**Dr. Tollison:** Right.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** My husband did. It was all in fun, though. We never had a fuss. We never did, on anything.

**Dr. Tollison:** That's impressive.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** That's very impressive.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He was brought up in a home like that and I was too, so it wasn't any effort for us to live like that. And we always treated each other as we would a stranger or neighbor, or friend. I didn't hurt his feelings, and he didn't hurt mine.

**Dr. Tollison:** Very kind and respectful to each other, huh?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Very.

**Dr. Tollison:** What about, there were sororities at the Women's College when you were there, do you remember those?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Who had the money to belong to a sorority?

**Dr. Tollison:** Do you remember them?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I knew some of them were there, but I really don't remember any particular girl that went, so I don't know much. They would get together at the school and do something.

**Dr. Tollison:** Were they a big part of the social life or not really?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well they couldn't dance or anything. There wasn't much that they did.

**Dr. Tollison:** They actually voted themselves out of existence in 1936 and didn't come back until the 1980s or so.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh really.

**Dr. Tollison:** Yes, that's why I was asking if you remember them. What about your old yearbooks, the *Blue and Gold*, or the *Entre Nous*, do you remember those yearbooks?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.



**Dr. Tollison:** And the campus newspaper, I think it was called the *Spokesman*? [Editor's Note: The *Spokesman* was the Greenville Women's College newspaper from 1919 to 1934.]

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I had one of those old yearbooks. I don't know whether it was in the Furman book or whether it was in my high school annual, but it's a picture of me about something like "The quiet girl." I told my son, Furman, and I said, "I was shy in high school," and he said, "My mother shy? My mother?" I said, "Yes I was shy. Most teenagers are shy.

**Dr. Tollison:** They are a little... Sometimes they are.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Around 15 or 16. [They're] shy at that time.

**Dr. Tollison:** Not shy anymore. No ma'am.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No, they're not shy at all. I think the girls are after the boys now more than the boys run after the girls. I'm ashamed of them. I really am. Not all of them of course, but there are so many that I don't call ladies anymore.

**Dr. Tollison:** Do you remember President McGlothlin?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I didn't know him personally. I know who you are talking about.

**Dr. Tollison:** You remember him? Do you remember hearing that he had been in a car accident?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No.

**Dr. Tollison:** He and his wife were in a car accident in 1932 and died when he was still President. [Editor's Note: President W. J. McGlothlin died in a car accident in May 1933.]

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Did he die in an accident?

**Dr. Tollison:** Yes.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I had forgotten about that.

**Dr. Tollison:** Do you remember him...

**Mrs. Hewitt:** In 1932, was that when Dr. Plyler went in following him at Furman?

**Dr. Tollison:** No ma'am, Dr. Plyler went in 1939. Dr. Geer was between the two.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** That's right. Dr. Plyler, as I said, I left Greenville, but it was many years before I saw him again and he had been at Furman a number of years at that time.

**Dr. Tollison:** What do you remember about Dr. McGlothlin? What did he look like?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I didn't know him; I just knew of him.

**Dr. Tollison:** You knew of him.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** You know if you didn't have transportation to get around, I didn't have it where I could get in a car and go to all those places. You just didn't go like they go now.

**Dr. Tollison:** Right. Do you remember him from growing up in Greenville at all? Do you remember where he lived?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Didn't he live over there on the Furman campus?

**Dr. Tollison:** Probably.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes, I know Plyler did.

**Dr. Tollison:** Was he well liked in Greenville, as far as you know?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** As far as I know he was well liked. Of course I wasn't there when Dr. Plyler was President. I knew he was a lawyer.

**Dr. Tollison:** What about Dr. Geer, do you remember him?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I know of him, I didn't know him personally.

**Dr. Tollison:** What did you hear about him?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well I think he was well liked as a president, wasn't he?

**Dr. Tollison:** I think some people did like him. He was fairly controversial in some ways. Do you remember hearing anything about that?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No, not really, not really, not knowing him I guess I didn't pay that much attention to what he was doing.

**Dr. Tollison:** What about Dr. Ramsay or Dr. Provence at the Women's College?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well I knew of all those people, but didn't know them personally. It was quite different then when people couldn't get around in cars. Girls didn't have their own cars to get in and go. You did well to have a family car. So it wasn't like it is today.

**Dr. Tollison:** Dr. [David Marshal] Ramsay was President of the Women's College when you were there, is that correct?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** And did you all have convocation or events where he would spend a lot of time on campus?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No. I didn't see him.

**Dr. Tollison:** His office was on campus, wasn't it?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, it wasn't over at the girls' school.

**Dr. Tollison:** It wasn't?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, Thomas was president when I was there, of that school. [Editor's Note: Virginia Thomas was Dean.]

**Dr. Tollison:** So she was in charge of you all?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yeah, she's the one that had the office there.

**Dr. Tollison:** Was she a nice lady?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** What do you remember about her?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, I just had dealings with her now and then. She was very pleasant when I was around her.

**Dr. Tollison:** Was she a tough lady? Was she strict?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** The only strict person I knew around there was Mrs. Donald, or McDonald, do you know?

**Dr. Tollison:** No ma'am, but I can find out.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** She was so strict she got up there and told us the first day, she said, "I just want you to know how strict I am." She said, "I used to grade papers for a boy that made A's in one of the big schools. And after his professor gave him an A, I gave him a failure on it because it had such and such on it." She said if you misspell one word it's a failure.

**Dr. Tollison:** Whoa!

**Mrs. Hewitt:** She said “If you erase it’s a failure. You’ve got to do it over, that page.” And she was mean. I think she was disappointed in love so she was mean to most students. And she flunked about half the class to go back and take high school English. And I stayed on and got along all right with her. One paper I handed in she said...we had to go back in the middle of the afternoon now, from out in town, to back for a ten-minute conference with her to pick up our paper. And I had to do that a certain time for ten minutes. She said, “Miss Furman, this is a wonderful paper, but it’s a failure until you do over this page.”

**Dr. Tollison:** You had handwritten it?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** It was some little something on there that she wanted changed a word somewhere or something, then she gave me a B or B+ maybe. She just went out of her way to be nasty to students.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did she live on campus?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I think she did.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did most of the professors... Were they men or women, most of your professors?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** They were women.

**Dr. Tollison:** Were any of them married?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I don’t know whether they allowed any of them to be married or not, they probably weren’t, because they lived there on the campus.

**Dr. Tollison:** They lived in the dormitories?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes, at least some of them did.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did Ms. Thomas live in the dormitories too?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I think so.

**Dr. Tollison:** So everyone was in the dormitories...

**Mrs. Hewitt:** When I went back to see her I saw her in the classroom. She was there to meet each student, ten minutes, separately.

**Dr. Tollison:** The buildings were all connected? Could you go into the building on the far right and go through the buildings without having to walk outside?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes, the main building. When they had the little theatre and had programs going on over there, I'm not sure whether that building was connected or whether you had to go outside and go into it, do you remember that?

**Dr. Tollison:** The Ramsay Fine Arts Center?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I couldn't remember whether it was connected or not.

**Dr. Tollison:** The upstairs were not connected, just the lower levels, from what I understand, I never knew that campus, it was destroyed before...

**Mrs. Hewitt:** And all that's been torn down.

**Dr. Tollison:** Yes, ma'am.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well then they had the little theatre in that building for the town theatre.

**Dr. Tollison:** Heritage Green where the library is and there's a new history museum there. So it's still being used for educational purposes.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, it was a small school, but it was attractive.

**Dr. Tollison:** Was the Furman campus attractive as well?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well the Furman campus was more scattered. I have a picture of that in my living room.

**Dr. Tollison:** Would you mind if we looked at it in a little bit when we finish talking?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes. I have a picture of Cherrydale in there. I looked in the paper one day and I saw that Cherrydale just sold the house and I said, that's my great-grandfather's home where I used to run and play around inside and out, and then I looked down and started reading about it. And sure enough it was Kincaid Furman's home

**Dr. Tollison:** Now, that was not considered part of Greenville at that point in time?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** It was about four miles out from. No, he lived way out. That was his summer home.

**Dr. Tollison:** He went there on the weekends?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I think so, maybe all summer probably. He called it the summer home, but he died before I was born. But it was his son, Kincaid, that we used to go to see.

**Dr Tollison:** So it was outside of the city?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** And Uncle Kincaid, I never saw him when he had a drink, but I think maybe he liked a little nip or tottie at night or something. My brother was up looking at a book and there were some shelves for books in one of those rooms up there. That was where we used to go and sit if we were in the house, and Uncle Kincaid told my brother to get out of those books. He didn't want him to find his little bottle back in there. But he was a nice uncle and he prevailed a bachelor. He'd come to see us and had a beautiful horse and had a little buggy, you know. I can just see him sitting up in that buggy now, coming in bringing some vegetables and things for mom.

**Dr. Tollison:** What kind of horse did he have?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh I don't know what kind it was; it was a pretty brown horse.

**Dr. Tollison:** And he had it attached to a buggy? And he would ride the horse and buggy?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** One of these little buggies, you know, just that one seat, and he would drive, and I can see him right now sitting up straight as an arrow in that little buggy.

**Dr. Tollison:** And he would bring his horse and buggy into town to see you all?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, yeah.

**Dr. Tollison:** That was about a four-mile drive?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, I would say every bit of that. Yeah, about four miles probably.

**Dr. Tollison:** How long would it take you all to go?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well when we started going out there a lot was when I was about seven, and that's when we had our first car?

**Dr. Tollison:** So how long would it take in the car?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Maybe fifteen minutes. I don't know how long.

**Dr. Tollison:** Not too long.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** It was a Ford car, and then when we'd go to Clemson to see my grandfather over there, daddy's father, if we could get to Clemson and back to Greenville without having a single flat tire you'd brag about it. We didn't have a single flat tire.

**Dr. Tollison:** And that was a big deal, huh?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** That was a big deal. The roads were not paved, and probably the wheels

were rubber and so on, I don't know. They weren't as strong as they are now.

**Dr. Tollison:** So where would you all...you said that when you would go to the house there was a room where you all would sit with your uncle?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** In that room with the shelves in the wall. I looked for it the other day, and I went in that front room and I said, "Well, where are those bookshelves I remember so well?" And I walked around and I said, "Here are these bookshelves." Undoubtedly they added that front. I don't know whether it was a closed in porch that they added, I mean that they took into the house or not, do you know?

**Dr. Tollison:** I don't know. No, ma'am.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** But the room we used to sit in was the room where those bookshelves are, and they're still around.

**Dr. Tollison:** Okay, gotcha.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, mercy, I played all over those grounds. We would dig a little hole here and there and play golf out there.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did you have golf clubs?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** My daddy loved to play golf, so we would go out there and play with his clubs.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did you play with your uncle's horse?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No. I don't know whether he would let me. He may have, may not have, I never tried. My mother used to love to ride a horse, though. My mother was quite a horse woman, and when she was a little girl she was having trouble with her eyes and the doctor said to her daddy, "Buy her a horse." He said, "If she'll take a ride before breakfast and again before lunch and again in the afternoon, by the time she's 16 to take glasses off of her and make her eyes so much stronger." And mama said her daddy chucked and said, "She wasn't born on a horse but she's been on one ever since she got here."

**Dr. Tollison:** Was there a lot of land to play on at Cherrydale?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I think he just had a little car. There was a lot of land. Listen, when Gene Stone bought that land and built his factory down there...I think it's down a hill from where his factory was, is that right?

**Dr. Tollison:** Yes.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** And they built a shopping center there now. I haven't been to that. Anyway, we used go all over that place, friends everywhere [to] just play, play, play.

**Dr. Tollison:** Just lots of land surrounding the...

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Lots of land.

**Dr. Tollison:** And did you have a view of Paris Mountain?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, we used to go up to Paris Mountain quite often. We took a little girl that nursed Furman when he was 1-year-old. We got a little black girl for a nursemaid, and that was in 1938. We met her and she worked for us then, and that little girl had a twin sister. She was Lula, and the twin sister is Beulah. Well Lula died and after she was grown had seven children, and Beulah, her twin, still helps me.

**Dr. Tollison:** Really!

**Mrs. Hewitt:** She's 81 years old, and her daughter is now 60 and she helps me.

**Dr. Tollison:** Wow! So you all...

**Mrs. Hewitt:** And then when I lost my sight like I did, I called Beverly. She's a wonderful person. In fact, [that's] a good family – the whole family is just a good family. I called Beverly, and I said "Come, I want to talk to you." And I said, "Beverly my car has 23,000 miles on it and it runs well but it needs to have a new gas gauge as far as I know, and there was some other very minor thing done to it, but other than that it's in good running condition." And I said, "I wonder if you would be interested." And she said, "I sure would. How much do you want for it?" I said, "Not anything; I'm going to give it to you." I thought she was going to drop all the teeth out of her mouth she was so happy.

**Dr. Tollison:** And who was this?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** This is the daughter of one of the twins, and her mother used to help too, but she would fill in for her twin sister when her twin couldn't get there. So I didn't see as much of her mother as I did of her twin sister., Lulu

**Dr. Tollison:** Okay, Beverly is the daughter.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Beverly is the daughter of Beulah.

**Dr. Tollison:** And Beulah still helps you?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** She still helps me. She has beautiful eyes. She had a slight stroke, though; she hasn't been able to do much for the last year or year-and-a-half. Fine, fine family. Her mother and daddy, Beverly's mother and daddy had five children, and all of them...



[Editor's Note: At this point, she turned the tape over, making the dialogue fade away.]

**Dr. Tollison:** Do you remember Religious Emphasis Week when you were a student? That was something they had every year. They brought in speakers, ministers, to talk.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I don't remember that when I was there.

**Dr. Tollison:** Were most of the students, when you were at the Women's College...

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I didn't have to go to the chapel. I had to go for my classes, but only students that lived there had to go to chapel.

**Dr. Tollison:** Were most of the students, when you were at the Women's College, and then the students at Furman...were most of them from South Carolina?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I think so.

**Dr. Tollison:** Most of them Baptist as well?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Probably. What few they had during the Depression, I guess, were all from Greenville. We just didn't have many.

**Dr. Tollison:** Not many people in school there and even fewer people living in the dormitories.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** That's right. But I'm glad I went to a good high school. I had advantages there that some of them don't even get in some of the colleges.

**Dr. Tollison:** My younger brother went to Greenville High School.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He did?

**Dr. Tollison:** Yes, ma'am, he did. [He] played baseball there. He enjoyed it. They're renovating the building now, the one on Augusta Road, Augusta Street.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I didn't go to that one. I went to the Greenville High that was uptown.

**Dr. Tollison:** Where was that located?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** You go up Washington Street from Main Street...go up the hill and it was right at the top of the hill.

**Dr. Tollison:** So it wasn't on Augusta Road where it is now? That's a different building.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No in that direction. You go right straight up from Main Street up Washington, as you go from the river coming in and crossing the river going up towards

the hotels and all up there, Poinsett Hotel, going up that way. That was on the left on Washington, turn left to go up that way to the left, at the top of the hill, and that was the old Greenville High.

**Dr. Tollison:** Tell me, so your Furman Hewitt went to Furman. He started there you said in 1959? Or 1960?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes, he went in 1960 because he was a junior at the time we went up there to talk to them about it. He had one more year in high school. And Richard went in 1962.

**Dr. Tollison:** And that was when President Plyler was president.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** Gotcha. And they were new on the new campus?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, Furman had two years on the old campus. [Editor's Note: Furman relocated to its current campus in 1958.]

**Dr. Tollison:** What do you remember that being like? Was the campus in bad condition?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, there were letting it run down, you know. It was not in bad condition at that time.

**Dr. Tollison:** They just weren't maintaining it because they were building a new site.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes. But Richard started off at the new campus the first year it opened up for the freshmen, for all of them.

**Dr. Tollison:** Right.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He had a few classes over there for two years before that, but mostly Furman was on the old campus.

**Dr. Tollison:** And so your son Richard became a dentist, or an orthodontist?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He's an orthodontist in Greenville.

**Dr. Tollison:** And you son Furman went to seminary?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He went to seminary four years...I mean went to Furman for four years, and then he went to the seminary for the next four years to get his Bachelor of Divinity, the next three years to get a Master of Theology, and the next three years to get a Doctor of Theology.

**Dr. Tollison:** And where did he do that?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well as soon as he left Furman, he finished Furman in 1964, wait a minute, what am I talking about? Furman finished high school in 1956. He finished college in 1960. And then Richard finished college in 1962.

**Dr. Tollison:** Okay.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Then he went to dental school.

**Dr. Tollison:** Your son, Furman, went to Southern Baptist Seminary?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes, in Louisville.

**Dr. Tollison:** And he was a professor there? Is that correct?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No, he was a professor at Southeastern.

**Dr. Tollison:** Southeastern Seminary.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** And what happened then?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well he was there (I think it was seventeen years that he was there), and then the fundamentalists took over he couldn't take it. He was getting ulcers over that, so he left and went to Duke and for three years and got a Ph.D. Then, after he finished there, well anyway, after he finished all of those, he graduated from so many different places, but anyway after he finished all that, then he went to Duke. When he left Southeastern he went to Duke, and talked to them about opening up the Baptist house, and he did open it.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did he direct it?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He was the director for nine years until he retired.

**Dr. Tollison:** And you were telling me that Duke is a Methodist university. So that's a pretty big deal, that he was able to have them open up a Baptist...

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He was proud of that.

**Dr. Tollison:** I'm sure.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I got to thinking about that the other day. I hadn't thought of it before, but Richard Furman, that founded Furman...and then I had a brother that founded the Naval

Academy in Florida, [and] then Furman opened up the Baptist house at Duke. That was three in a line.

**Dr. Tollison:** Something to be very proud of.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I hadn't thought about it until just the other day that they had so much to do with opening those schools. As I said, Richard never lived to see Furman open. He was the one that started the ball rolling.

**Dr. Tollison:** Do you get to campus very much?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No, not often. I love to go out there.

**Dr. Tollison:** It's beautiful, isn't it?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Beautiful, always adding to it.

**Dr. Tollison:** You must be very proud to know that your family had so much to do with that.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well I am, but like I've told my children, I said, "I am very proud, and you have a heritage to be proud of." But I said, "We can't live on heritage. If you ever do anything wrong then it's worse for you to do it than somebody who never had the chance." I said, "If you don't do things well, I mean the right way in every way all through life, then you've let a good heritage down. You've let good name down."

**Dr. Tollison:** That's very true. That's a good lesson to teach your children.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, when my two boys were born my prayer was [that] my babies would grow up to be Christian gentlemen. Not money. I never prayed for them to grow up and make money. But as a newborn baby, for each one, I prayed that he would grow up to be a Christian gentleman.

**Dr. Tollison:** And they have.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** So far. As far as I know. I hope so.

**Dr. Tollison:** Anything else you want to tell me about Furman or your family members?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, so many of them have been to Furman. I'm so tied in both those schools, Furman and Clemson, with a husband that finished Clemson and a grandfather that was head of the English department at Clemson when it opened up. Have you ever been to Clemson?

**Dr. Tollison:** Oh, yes ma'am.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well next time you go there go in the alumni building there, have you ever been in there?

**Dr. Tollison:** I don't know that I have.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, if you go in the alumni building, in the reception hall or room there, there's a case of rings, glass-encase of rings. And that glass encase is every bit as big as that picture up there. And at the top is a single ring, and that's my daddy's, and it has his name under it. And then from there on, that was in 1896, and then 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900, and every four years, four in a row up to date... but the one single ring is at the tip top at the center and that's my daddy's.

**Dr. Tollison:** From the first graduating class?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** And the boys' families that donated their rings, the name is under the ring and the date. And I wanted to give my husband's ring from 1933 to Clemson to put in there, but somebody had already given one. I thought it would have been nice to have his and my daddy's in the same case, but somebody had already given one.

**Dr. Tollison:** So you spent, I guess all of your married life, here in Columbia, is that right?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes. We got married in June of 1935, and we came here in October, I believe it was. It was either August or October. I think it was probably August. And we moved in here it must have been October because he had to do some traveling just to be shown what all his job would entail, and so I was in and out of Columbia and we would just rent a room when we were here, but the furniture was not moved here until January of 1936.

**Dr. Tollison:** And you've been in Columbia since?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Ever since. When we came out here to this house, there was only one house from Warrington Drive down to Glenwood. And that's the house right at Glenwood. My daddy came out to look at the lot and he says, "We can't let our baby live in these woods." His baby has lived in these woods for sixty-three years. Richard was just 17 months old when we moved into this house.

**Dr. Tollison:** You built this house?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** And the neighborhood has built up around you.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** Gotcha.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Lord have mercy how the prices have changed.

**Dr. Tollison:** Yes ma'am they have.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** We bought this lot for \$500.

**Dr. Tollison:** Wow!

**Mrs. Hewitt:** And the closest street where there was a ditch running through the land twenty years ago was \$10,000.

**Dr. Tollison:** Not any more. Now there's a house on it.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** No more lots left on this street.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I heard they got \$10,000 for it. And that was at least twenty years ago, may have been twenty-five years ago.

**Dr. Tollison:** Anything else you want to tell me? How about your grandchildren?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** My gracious, Tommy's been dead thirty-two years.

**Dr. Tollison:** This was your husband?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes.

**Dr. Tollison:** What about your grandchildren, did any of them go to Furman?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Four of the five.

**Dr. Tollison:** Wow! And what are their names?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, Richard's son, Rick, he has three children. Rick went to Furman. Jay wanted to go to Furman but had a hard time deciding between Furman and Wake Forest, but he chose Wake Forest because he wanted to make a name for himself and not be Rick's little brother. That didn't bother my Richard, but Jay wanted to make his name by himself. And they their sister, Camille, who had a baby about ten days ago, she went to Furman. Then Furman had two children, and both of them went to Furman, a boy and a girl.

**Dr. Tollison:** My goodness.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** So four of the five.

**Dr. Tollison:** So how many great-grandchildren do you have?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I have six great-grandsons now, from 5 years down to a few days old.

**Dr. Tollison:** Do you want them to go to Furman? Maybe?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** They probably will.

**Dr. Tollison:** How has Furman changed as a school?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, of course the campus is gorgeous [that] they go to now.

**Dr. Tollison:** What about the quality of the academic program, or the professors?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, I imagine they've always been good.

**Dr. Tollison:** Was it considered a very good school when you were there?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** You know the old tower that was over at the old campus, did they call that the Richard Furman Tower or not?

**Dr. Tollison:** No ma'am, people just call it the Bell Tower.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** The Bell Tower. Well anyway, that was at the old campus. That hall that it was attached to, that was the Richard Furman Hall.

**Dr. Tollison:** Yes ma'am. People also, from what I understand, called it Old Main, but it was Richard Furman Hall, that was the official name of it for at least the last several decades that they were on that campus. I don't know that it started out that way.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** You know that was a pretty campus.

**Dr. Tollison:** Was it?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I thought it was a pretty campus. It fit in town. Of course they let it run down, naturally, when they started building another one. Isn't that a shopping center over there?

**Dr. Tollison:** It first became a shopping center in the 1960s when they first tore it down. Now it is a bunch of county offices. There is County Court over there, and all kinds of county offices.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Is that right?

**Dr. Tollison:** Yes ma'am.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well did they tear down the old Richard Furman building there, I'm sure they did.

**Dr. Tollison:** Part of it caught on fire in the 1960s.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Furman lived in one of those houses.

**Dr. Tollison:** On the campus?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** On the campus, yes. Doug Passley was one of his roommates. There was another boy there, a good musician. He was a singer. And I've forgotten the names of all of them. I know they came here the night of graduating from Furman. These boys asked, two of them, if they could spend the night here on the way to the beach that night. I said "Yes, go in and make yourselves at home." I gave them a key to go in and I said, "Now, we may not get there until 10:30 or 11:00 so just go in and make yourself at home." So when we got here they hadn't gotten here, and I made up that bed for my two boys to sleep on, and had enough people in the house. Tommy's mother and sister slept in that room which was my mother's room, and I was going to put the guest boys in my boys' twin beds and make my boys sleep out here. Mama said she's sleep in the living room, take these cushions off and put them in the living room and she could sleep soundly all night. Well 11:00 came and they weren't here; 12:00 came and they weren't here. I said, "Mama, you just get in this bed right here, cause they are not coming." I went on to bed. I had just dozed off and mama went down the hall, Francis had just arrived. I went to the door, and there weren't two boys there were four boys. I said, "Come on in boys. I don't know where I'm going to sleep you, but come on in." All these people had come from graduation: Tommy's mother, his sister, her two children were on cots back in these doors, and here were four more boys to come in and come in at 1:00 in the morning. And one of them said, "Mrs. Hewitt if we could just sleep on the floor we'll be alright." When he said that, I said, "Well. if you go up in my attic there's a big mattress up there, bring it down and put it on the floor and I'll make it up for two of your sleep on." So two of them in there and two of those great big boys over there...

**Dr. Tollison:** My goodness.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Always room for one more.

**Dr. Tollison:** A lot of people in this house.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** The next morning I got up, and I looked out it in the backyard and there was my mother sitting on one of the lounging chairs out there in the back, and I said, "Mama did you stay out here all night." She said "No, I got up early and got dressed before all that crowd of boys got up." She was a good sport.



**Dr. Tollison:** Sounds like it. Sounds like you were, too.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I made people feel free to come in here anytime day or night. I had one person come in from Maine, a couple from Maine, and she called from either Tennessee or North Carolina. She said it would be seven more hours of driving so we will just sleep here and start out tomorrow morning. I said, "If you've got enough help in driving come on." She'd be here by 2:00 in the morning. It's all right with me. She walked in that door and I was sitting here waiting for her. She said, "Not another house in the United States, including my mother's, I go in at 2:00 in the morning."

**Dr. Tollison:** You make people feel very comfortable.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I said, "It didn't both me sugar, come on in."

**Dr. Tollison:** That's very kind of you.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** People miss a lot when they can't give and take, do you know that?

**Dr. Tollison:** Well it was very sweet of you to be that welcoming of people in your home.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** It would take more than that to bother me. I've told my grandsons, I said, "Don't ever go through Columbia late at night and say 'Well I can make it to Greenville'." I said, "I don't care whether its 12:00, 1:00, or 2:00, you get to a phone and call me on the phone and I'll wake up, and I'll get up and open the door and let you come in." I said, "Don't push that last hundred miles. That's when a lot of wrecks happen."

**Dr. Tollison:** People get very tired. That's very kind of you. [They're] lucky to have a grandmother like that.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well they feel free to come.

**Dr. Tollison:** Well good. Sounds like you've got a great family.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I had one little baby here last night that was 7 months old and it was his sister that had the baby ten days ago.

**Dr. Tollison:** So do you keep in touch with any of the other Furmans, your extended family? There must be a lot of you at this point.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** The Furmans? My brothers and their families? Oh yeah.

**Dr. Tollison:** And any distant cousins, or great aunts or uncles?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well a lot of them are gone now.

**Dr. Tollison:** Right.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** But as far as keeping up with brothers and their children and all that, yes, I keep up with that.

**Dr. Tollison:** Where are your brothers?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, they're all gone. I'm the only one left. There were seven of us because my grandmother lived with us: mother and daddy and my grandmother and four children. And all my life I had my grandmother with me. She died one year before it got married. I loved her; it was just like having another mother.

**Dr. Tollison:** Where did all of your brothers and sisters live when they grew up?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** My oldest brother lived in Charlotte. He then moved to Florida later. And my second brother went to Florida when he opened up that naval academy down there, and my youngest brother, who is exactly born the same month that my husband was born, the one that's just older than I am, he lived in Greenville. His name was Alester.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did you call him Allie, too?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** He was called Al most of the time. I always called him Alester, but most of his friends called him Al.

**Dr. Tollison:** Anything else you want to tell me about being a student at Furman or childhood memories or Charles Townes?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well, Charles Townes, I knew him and I kind of knew all of his brothers and sisters. He had two sisters older than I, and a brother older than I. His one brother, Henry Townes, was about a year older than I and Charles was a year younger than I, and then I think he had two, if not three, brothers and sisters younger than he. I'm almost positive at least two.

**Dr. Tollison:** Did his brothers and sisters go to Furman, any of them?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Yes, I guess probably all of them did.

**Dr. Tollison:** When you were a student there in 1930, 1931 did you tell people that you went to Furman or you went to the Greenville Women's College?

**Dr. Hewitt:** Well, it was called the Zoo then.

**Dr. Tollison:** When people said, "Where do you go to college?"...

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I would say Furman, of course, then, but up there it was known as the Zoo. All of Furman University boys called us the Zoo.

**Dr. Tollison:** Do you know why, why they called it the Zoo?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** I don't know, they just dated the girls up there and they called us all the animals of the Zoo. They didn't call us animals but they called the whole thing the Zoo. You didn't know that?

**Dr. Tollison:** I knew that, but I'm trying to figure out where the name came from. No one seems to know.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** That was just teasing the girls and saying you go to the Zoo with all the other girls.

**Dr. Tollison:** But the official name of the school was the Greenville Women's College?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, yeah.

**Dr. Tollison:** But you didn't ever say I go to GWC, or I go to the Women's College.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** No, you'd say I go to the Zoo; they had all of us calling it the Zoo.

**Dr. Tollison:** But would you say you were a Furman student of a GWC student?

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Oh, Furman, oh no, Greenville Women's College. But it was known as Furman then. We all knew it was part of Furman University. Some of them would go over to the boy's campus to have some classes, one class anyway.

**Dr. Tollison:** Thank you so much for meeting with me today.

**Mrs. Hewitt:** Well I enjoyed having you.

**Dr. Tollison:** I enjoyed talking with you and hearing your stories.

## Index

Arnold, Lucy, 9, 10, 11

Bell Tower, 31

Big Thursday, 15

Blackwell, Gordon, 12

Cherrydale, 9, 10, 11, 21, 23

Clemson, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 23, 28, 29

First Baptist Church, 14, 15

Furman, Alester Sr., 9, 10

Furman, Allister G. Jr, 10, 11, 13, 34  
Furman, Charles M., 7, 8  
Furman, James C., 7, 8, 9  
Furman, Janie, 10, 11  
Furman, Kincaid, 9, 21, 22  
Furman, Richard, 7-9, 27, 28, 31, 32  
Geer, Bennette Eugene, 18  
Grandchildren (Jay, Rick, Camille), 30, 31  
Greenville High School, 3, 5, 15, 25, 26  
Greenville Women's College (GWC), 4, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 25, 26, 35  
Hewitt, Furman, 8, 9, 17, 24, 26, 27, 30, 32  
Hewitt, Richard, 8, 26, 27, 29  
Hewitt, Tommy, 13, 14, 30, 32  
Jones, Tina Mae, 8  
Manly Field, 15  
Manly, Basil, 3, 4  
Manly, Charles, 4  
May Day, Tradition and Queen, 5  
McGlothlin, William, 17, 18  
Paris Mountain, 24  
Plyler, John, 11, 12, 17, 18, 26  
Ramsay Fine Arts Center, 21  
Ramsay, David Marshall, 18, 19  
Religious Emphasis Week, 25  
Rockingham, NC, 2, 8  
Sororities, 16  
Sumner Street, 3  
The Zoo, 34, 35  
Thomas, Virginia, 5, 19, 20  
Townes, Charles, 3, 34  
Yearbook, 16, 17

YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association), 10

YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association), 10