

John Plyler, Jr. Driving Tour

Interviewee: John Plyler, Jr.

Interviewer: Courtney Tollison

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Transcript

Mr. Plyler: We're right here on the side of this street which is... This is in the snow. That makes it hard to see.

Dr. Tollison: Okay

Mr. Plyler: So if you go down this hill and then you would start up this way, University Ridge will continue, and that's the James C. Furman Classroom Building [James C. Furman Hall of Science]. And this next photograph is like taking this one and zeroing in. Those are the stone entrance gates to the men's campus on this University Street. So right where you see the flattest part there before it starts up?

Dr. Tollison: Where the grass is?

Mr. Plyler: When it starts hill where the center grass is and all?

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh.

Mr. Plyler: Alright, that's right here. This is right here in this area where Howe Street comes in from the right, just almost where the Governor's School entrance is but a little bit above that was a road that went around and went around Manly Field and came up the other way. But this is University Ridge going up between those gates. And this is James C. Furman Hall [James C. Furman Hall of Science] here, the science building, and there's Old Main [Richard Furman Hall] up the hill.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, where would the James C. Furman Science Building [James C. Furman Hall of Science] be in terms of what's up there now?

Mr. Plyler: It would be a little around the curve. We'd have to go down to the bottom to see it.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, over there.

Mr. Plyler: Alright now, what you have in front of you is, that area behind the county office buildings?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: That is higher than it used to be. In other words, they took dirt from the top of the hill where the James C. Furman building [James C. Furman Hall of Science] was and pushed it this way so that they... This was a good slope. You see how much you're going up there?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: Well they pushed dirt from the top of the hill down this way so that sort of made this down level but it also gave them a level area for originally the shopping center and now for the area they have. It's more level than it was.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. And just to let people who are watching this film know – my name is Courtney Tollison. I'm here again with Mr. John L. Plyler, Jr., son of President Plyler [John Laney Plyler] and we're here on University Street which, you said, used to be University Ridge?

Mr. Plyler: University Ridge.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. And today's August 24th in the afternoon. Great, thanks.

Mr. Plyler: Alright, and we'll just pull up a little more then. Now if we were at this point, and you see we're going to the right to Howe [Street]?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: Is if we went, this fence up here in front of us that the paramedic ambulance is in on the right, the corner of that fence? If we just sort of went up that way that would be the direction of the University Ridge, although University Ridge would a little bit like a snake.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. And over there would have been the James C. Furman [James C. Furman Hall of Science]...

Mr. Plyler: No. James C. Furman [James C. Furman Hall of Science] would have been up there too.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, okay.

Mr. Plyler: This way was just a back road around below James C. Furman Hall [James C. Furman Hall of Science] and would go behind Manly Field and the only thing to the left of that road was the old Fitting House, the Fitting School classroom house [Furman Fitting School], which later became the KA house.

Dr. Tollison: (laughs) This road was not actually there, or was it?

Mr. Plyler: Well it wasn't there exactly. It would have been a little to the left of there, but just slightly.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Mr. Plyler: And then the other road that goes down by the falls [Reedy River Falls]?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: Was there where it is. The one directly behind us now. I've got the car... I'm sorry...

Dr. Tollison: Oh no, you're fine. University Ridge, was there. No.

Mr. Plyler: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: But what was the road that went back to the falls [Reedy River Falls]?

Mr. Plyler: No, I don't even know the name of it. You know where you can go down it below the falls [Reedy River Falls], or just below the falls?

Dr. Tollison: I'm not quite sure.

Mr. Plyler: Okay, lemme do that map. Alright I'm gonna do that right now. When they moved out, were buying these as they became available.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, okay.

Mr. Plyler: And in that few years, once they decided to move to the new campus, but wanted to build up the student body so they wouldn't have too many to add in any one year, they had students living in these houses. And in one right along here, the current Furman Chemistry professor, Dr. Tony Arrington [C.A. "Tony" Arrington], and my cousin and several others lived, they were students together here at Furman.

Dr. Tollison: (laughs)

Mr. Plyler: Okay. We're just gonna take this road.

Dr. Tollison: So this road was...

Mr. Plyler: This road was here.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Mr. Plyler: Almost this exact path.

Dr. Tollison: And this is obviously, there's the river, so this is the edge of campus.

Mr. Plyler: Well yeah, actually Furman owned what's down to the left too.

Dr. Tollison: So when people talk about how the campus was on the river [Reedy River], this is what they're talking about... the river...

Mr. Plyler: Excuse me, do you see this building? This rock work?

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh.

Mr. Plyler: Alright, this rock work was done by the Conservation Corps out of the Depression.

Dr. Tollison: Oh sure.

Mr. Plyler: And they did it from the campus area down this way and this was nicely done, I think, at one time. But when we lived at Furman even in the 30s and 40s this part, it was pretty rough. I mean this whole area was just grown up in high grass and there were winos and all kinds of people down in here. But they had these walks and they went right on up to the other side by the KA house and to the... If you go straight on around... See, that's from the original. You would go out to the, and look up straight at Old Main [Richard Furman Hall]. There are pictures in old annuals of the 1920s and all of students down here in the waters below the falls [Reedy River Falls] having tug-of-wars and doing things.

Dr. Tollison: There's the falls [Reedy River Falls] over there.

Mr. Plyler: And what I haven't been able to... I talked with Carl Clawson and he didn't remember it. But down in here to the left there used to be a little brick building that I always understood was a Confederate powder house from the Civil War. And it was on Furman's property and I understand that Carl Clawson was drawing the dimensions like he had of the Bell Tower. And that they took it down and they were gonna save those brick and could reconstruct it on the new campus if they wanted to. But that was never done. And now no one seems to know anything about it or where the bricks are.

Dr. Tollison: Hmm.

Mr. Plyler: And so I just remember it from visiting...

Dr. Tollison: Excuse me. Is this original stone work as well?

Mr. Plyler: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: That's from the old campus?

Mr. Plyler: Yes. Well but this part wasn't... Furman students, some of them, never saw this.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Mr. Plyler: Now in earlier years they may have. But this was done – what did they call – there was the WPA [Works Projects Administration] but there was the CCC?

Dr. Tollison: The Civilian Conservation Corps?

Mr. Plyler: And then, somehow, they had a corps of people who could be in college and work, and Furman had some of that. And I think those people are the main ones that built those walks and stairs and all. And they went up through this side of the campus. And this was the lower road and then that other road that I told you that came in would have passed right up there at the base of those buildings. And then up above that, up another little incline, about a third of this distance up, was where Manly Field was.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, okay.

Mr. Plyler: Two of the old mills over on the right?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: And one of them was still standing when we came to Furman. And it was, for some reason, it was filled full of paper. They were storing paper in it and I remember it catching on fire and burning so that was the end. But we can pull up here a little bit and I believe you can see the foundations on the right. I know Dr. Shi [David E. Shi]... And if you want to we can get out, I don't know...

Dr. Tollison: Oh, whatever suits you.

Mr. Plyler: Would you like to?

Dr. Tollison: Sure.

Mr. Plyler: Okay, I guess this is a safe place to leave the car. ...in this rock wall... But you see like that steel in that rock there?

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh.

Mr. Plyler: Right here.

Dr. Tollison: Oh yeah.

Mr. Plyler: This rock base and the brick and all?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: They have this pretty well cleaned up. Just look how they're cleaning up and how much debris is left from that flooding. That's the Wyche Law Firm. Greenville was founded with the textile mills along the river [Reedy River] here

below Reedy River Falls.

Dr. Tollison: And the falls [Reedy River Falls] generated power for the mills.

Mr. Plyler: They covered part of what used to be there.

Dr. Tollison: And when did they destroy the mill?

Mr. Plyler: Well, there was one of these mills that burned, I would say, in 1939 to '40. I don't know the exact date. I'm sure it's still in the paper. But it was used as storage only then. Oh, and it wouldn't slope down like this and there were more walks down here.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Mr. Plyler: But you can see, they had to do it for the Governor's School. They had to have back entrances in and also they...

Dr. Tollison: Now how often would Furman students come down here and walk? Or was it not something that many people did.

Mr. Plyler: Well, during the time that I was at Furman you didn't do it.

Dr. Tollison: It was a dangerous area.

Mr. Plyler: Well, it just wasn't clean. But I can't say I didn't do it. Let's go over here just a minute. Right over here is Falls Cottage and it used to be, it was a Spur filling station when I was in school, but it later it was a restaurant and other things, and there were steps up on that side. So I would cut below the old Bell Tower, come down these stairs, go across through sort of a swampy area and up those steps and I'd be going straight up Main Street. And that's how I would... I don't think they can bring many more down here. Howe Street, and at least from right here, Howe Street is just like it was on the right except there were more houses.

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh. So these houses here.

Mr. Plyler: These were here plus there was other houses. It was houses all along the way. Dr. Sampey [John R. Sampey] lived in one along here. And then to the left, the ground wasn't quite this sloped, it was a gradual slope. And on the left would have been this great open field that some old pictures of Furman show Field Day occurring out there.

Dr. Tollison: Oh. Up here on the left.

Mr. Plyler: Yes. This is the field up here except it was more of a slant and more open there.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. What was this area up here?

Mr. Plyler: This was still it. This was this field all to the left with houses on the right, all this was filled with houses.

Dr. Tollison: Was that there? That house?

Mr. Plyler: Well it didn't look like that, but I'm sure it was. As were these. And the field came here.

Dr. Tollison: Was this considered part of campus?

Mr. Plyler: All this was campus on the left. And I'm gonna, in just a minute, get to a map and re-orient you. This was the street I walked down to Greenville High. It was very much like it is right now. There were some duplexes down there that Coach King [Robert "Bob" King] lived in I remember for certain. At one time on the right here were tennis courts, right here?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: But then after that, old West Hall was here. Actually...

Dr. Tollison: I'm at the intersection of Howe and Claussen right now.

Mr. Plyler: I think West [Hall] was right in here.

Dr. Tollison: Near the current Masonic Temple.

Mr. Plyler: And then this is Thurston Street [Thruston Street]. And this was where Graham Field was.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. What was Graham Field used for?

Mr. Plyler: Well, it was an old baseball field and athletic field. But this is where the apartments were and if you... Dr. Babb's [Winston Chandler Babb] daughter [Judith B. Chandler-Huse] did an article about living on the old campus and the faculty and the Faculty Circle?

Dr. Tollison: In the Furman Magazine.

Mr. Plyler: Right. Well that Faculty Circle was up here where the Scott Towers is now – the tall building that's used for retirement or whatever it's used for. It was a little elevation up was where, right up here on the front is where the Faculty Circle was. And then there was a slope down and then what was more...

Dr. Tollison: So this right here was where the pre-fabs were?

Mr. Plyler: Well, they were all over this.

Dr. Tollison: All over this area.

Mr. Plyler: But the Faculty Circle was up on this end of it.

Dr. Tollison: And what was the Faculty Circle?

Mr. Plyler: Well, it was pre-fabs that faculty, including the Babbs [Winston Chandler and Mary Davis Babb] and others. It was sort of a crescent shape that there were these World War II pre-fabs that some faculty lived in after the Second World War until Furman moved to the new campus. And then there was another drop-off – they sort of leveled it off – and more of the old flat Graham Field and it was filled with housing for married students, married student apartments, and that type thing.

Dr. Tollison: And now it's a parking lot.

Mr. Plyler: And the land has been re-shaped some too. It's hard to get the... And then along in here and on up there were houses that were owned by other people, on this side, on the right side. The left side was Furman. All this was houses on the right. The left side at this point Montague Hall would have been in here, up toward the higher point. And that was the highest point on campus, I believe.

Dr. Tollison: Where Montague Hall was?

Mr. Plyler: Yes. Now this has all been changed and I'm gonna go to this next point and pull out a view and you can see it. Alright, you see they call this Presidents Street.

Dr. Tollison: Umm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: Alright. And that's Presidents Street to the right. They still call this Thurston [Street], or Thruston [Street], to the left, and it used to be Presidents Street all the way to University Ridge there. And then Thruston [Street] started here. I'm gonna orient us again when we get up to this corner.

Dr. Tollison: This is University Ridge.

Mr. Plyler: This is University Ridge and Thruston [Street]. If I can get these books... [This] is Presidents Street right here and this is Thruston [Street] coming into it and then Presidents goes on that way. And this is University Ridge right here. And this is the faculty home that was right here on the corner where three different families lived and this is the vacant lot. And next to this is the president's home and I have it in another book. It doesn't show on this.

Dr. Tollison: On University Ridge.

Mr. Plyler: On University Ridge. This is Dr. Bradshaw's [Sidney Ernest Bradshaw] old house in the woods there that was across the street from the president's house. And

then on across there's the heating plant. This is the big ravine that paralleled University Ridge. And this is the heating plant and this is the Gymnasium, right here. And there's McGee Hall below the gym. And this is Manly Field out here. And this is a pretty good hill. And this is a road that wrapped from the Governor's School all the way around Manly Field and came back up this way. Alright, on this side, I'm sorry, up this way. And here's Alumni Hall [Judson Alumni Hall] and here's Old Main [Richard Furman Hall]. And then this is the area below Old Main [Richard Furman Hall] and if we followed it on through, those steps we just saw below the falls [Reedy River Falls] would be right over here. And when we were coming down University Street – that used to be University Ridge – from Augusta [Road] and were coming up, this is University Ridge coming up and there's the James C. Furman Science Hall [James C. Furman Hall of Science] that you saw first when you entered the campus.

Dr. Tollison: And Augusta's [Road] over here.

Mr. Plyler: Augusta's [Road] over here. And then on up to Old Main [Richard Furman Hall] and the Carnegie Library. And this shows the little addition they put on after the Second World War to store some additional books. And this is the big area, right here, where all the roads met and the Block F was on the corner there. So the Block F was the real meeting place for students.

Dr. Tollison: This is the corner of... This is University Ridge...

Mr. Plyler: This is University Ridge that comes through and goes on down the hill.

Dr. Tollison: And what is this street here coming down?

Mr. Plyler: This one?

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh.

Mr. Plyler: It's just a campus street. I don't know that it had a name

Dr. Tollison: And the Block F was at the corner of this.

Mr. Plyler: Yes. It was at the edge of the campus at the big circle at University Ridge. This was, I believe, the old president's house that, when we came here, was the administration building. And then this is Webb Infirmary [Charles S. Webb Memorial Infirmary]. And at the ending of the Second World War they needed more space for administration – they had more space than they needed for the infirmary – so they flip-flopped the buildings and the administration moved over here and this became the infirmary.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Mr. Plyler: This is an area that had sort of a canteen for men students, initially, so it was a

soda shop and all. And behind it, the tennis courts. So if we are right here, then right here on the corner was where the tennis courts were. These tennis courts were right here going back this way.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, so we're here...

Mr. Plyler: We are right there.

Dr. Tollison: On this map. Okay. And the tennis courts were right there.

Mr. Plyler: And then sort of back there is, that's the Refectory, that's the dining hall.

Dr. Tollison: So directly... What are those?

Mr. Plyler: That's Geer Hall [John M. Geer Residence Hall].

Dr. Tollison: Those are dorms.

Mr. Plyler: That's the biggest dorm.

Dr. Tollison: Geer Hall [John M. Geer Residence Hall] would be right in front of us.

Mr. Plyler: No, no. Right in front of here is Griffith Hall [Griffin Hall], this white building.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, that tiny little one adjacent to it

Mr. Plyler: And that's right in front. And if you just turn just left there you would see Geer Hall [John M. Geer Residence Hall].

Dr. Tollison: So Griffith [Griffin Hall] would be here in front of the...

Mr. Plyler: And you see that historical mark under the trees?

Dr. Tollison: That's the... yes.

Mr. Plyler: That would be where Geer Hall [John M. Geer Residence Hall] would be.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. Then beyond that, is that the Carnegie Library?

Mr. Plyler: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: Would be way over there.

Mr. Plyler: It would be sort of across but it's at a greater distance.

Dr. Tollison: Okay

Mr. Plyler: It'd be on the other side. See, from here, we're looking from here. So here's the Carnegie Library. We'd have to look through Geer Hall [John M. Geer Residence Hall] to see it.

Dr. Tollison: Oh okay.

Mr. Plyler: Now the reason this looks so different now is this is University Ridge, and they made it... They did this: they straightened it out and they came on across cutting it in like that and come out over here. So they really don't follow the same route. And when they do all of that, they take a lot of this space and so all that fits in here now is the Health Department because they cut off so much there.

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh. So Augusta Road is over here.

Mr. Plyler: It's over here.

Dr. Tollison: And over here is Church Street.

Mr. Plyler: The new Church Street was cut down here. And then I have this, and it doesn't show everything, but this is the Church Street when it was built in the late 1950s. And this is before they had re-leveled Furman, so this clear spot, that's Manly Field. And if you look closely you can see the heating plant chimney. And you can see little bits – if you know where to look – of the Gymnasium and McGee Hall. This is Alumni Hall [Judson Alumni Hall]. You can see the dome of that pretty easily. And then looking up towards, that's the town of Greenville, of course. But you can't see a lot, but you can see how wooded the campus was.

Dr. Tollison: Oh yeah.

Mr. Plyler: Alright now I have some more things to show you in some other books.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, great. Thank you.

Mr. Plyler: On to University Ridge here, you go across the street, it immediately started down and it was a great ravine. And this was the ravine. So University Ridge is over here. And then immediately from University Ridge you start sloping down and this is the ravine that goes through with springs and a little stream at the bottom. And then coming down the other side, the same thing. And over here on the upper part of it was located the Amphitheater. And on down was the heating plant and then the Gymnasium and then McGee Hall. But all of those were on the upper part of this slope, not over there. And this was pretty wild and there was a path sort of through it if you wanted to take it. And this ran all the way down 'til, somewhere, that stream flowed into the Reedy River.

Dr. Tollison: So this area, right here, would be located...

Mr. Plyler: Right in front of us, right across the street.

Dr. Tollison: Okay and then Griffin Hall would be right about there.

Mr. Plyler: Yeah, but even this ravine started sort of behind Griffin Hall. It started right behind Geer [John M. Geer Residence Hall] and started on down. And this is looking from behind Geer Hall [John M. Geer Residence Hall] down.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. So there's the ravine. And they've filled that in obviously and then built a parking lot.

Mr. Plyler: Oh yes. It's so hard to get the feel of it. They just wanted so much level land. So what we call the hill, where Old Main [Richard Furman Hall] was, and what we call, where Montague [Hall] was, they pushed, evidently pushed that dirt to fill up the ravine. And they just relocated... I don't know if this helps. This is actually looking at downtown Greenville from the top of the Bell Tower.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, okay.

Mr. Plyler: Let me see what else I have in this thing. That's the old Doughboy ["Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue] that was in front of that Webb Administration Building. He was in a little circle. And I've got something else in here... Now when we lived in it – you see there's a sleeping porch on the front? That was removed. So it was actually a porch with a roof on it and then the house was back. Then we still had a sleeping porch on the back of it and this was the president's home and Dr. Bradshaw [Sidney Ernest Bradshaw] lived across the street. And somewhere I've seen a picture of Dr. Bradshaw's car and it looked almost like that one but I don't know if that's Dr. Bradshaw's car or the president's car and similar to it or what.

Dr. Tollison: I have seen Dr. Bradshaw [Sidney Ernest Bradshaw] sitting in front of that car. I have a picture of it in the book.

Mr. Plyler: Well his house was right over here across. In fact, he probably drove in this little area right here. This picture is made from Montague [Hall], it's gotta be, looking down the walk from Montague [Hall]. And you can see the slope down the hill there.

Dr. Tollison: Now Montague [Hall] would be where in...

Mr. Plyler: Back over here behind the Health Department. We can go back over there in a minute. I was trying to see if there was anything else to show you there. That's sort of the side of Geer Hall [John M. Geer Residence Hall] again, but I don't know if that helps... Water fountain....

Dr. Tollison: I know exactly where that is, there it is.

Mr. Plyler: Well, it used to be in front of the library [Carnegie Library].

Dr. Tollison: There's a stone water fountain that's between Johns Hall and Furman Hall in the breezeway, closer to Furman Hall...

Mr. Plyler: Right. And there's some shrubs...

Dr. Tollison: Under some trees.

Mr. Plyler: And it was given the name of some young man who lost his life in the river, maybe in the Yangtze River or somewhere, I can't remember the details now.

Dr. Tollison: Is it a missionary?

Mr. Plyler: Maybe the son of a missionary or something. There's a plaque on it that gives the details.

Dr. Tollison: You said this is Carnegie Library before the annex was built?

Mr. Plyler: Annex was added. But I have some more and better pictures.

Dr. Tollison: I get the impression that the old campus wasn't nearly as open as the campus is today. Is that correct?

Mr. Plyler: Right. It was just some buildings stuck around, it wasn't planned. It was just some buildings stuck here and there. I had no master planning to it. There, we looked at this 'cause we saw the entrance way and all. Well, this will show something. This is the president's home again and this is the home on the corner. So this would be, right on our right here, probably beginning about fifty feet behind us, if you'd go fifty feet behind us and take a straight left you'd find that house. It was very close to this road. And then there was a vacant lot, and then the president's home, and then Mr. Cox [Hiden Toy Cox], the Professor of Physics, was next door, and then the Haynes – they had nothing to do with Furman. And then Dr. Pool's [Frank Kenneth Pool] old house – R.C. Blackwell [Reece Croxton Blackwell] lived in it at one time. And Dean Daniel [Robert Norman Daniel] was down on the end. But this was sort of one block of houses mostly of Furman people.

Dr. Tollison: And that was, you said, go back behind us down...

Mr. Plyler: Well just go back about fifty feet and go straight down the hill.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. That was Presidents Street?

Mr. Plyler: No. Everything was facing University Ridge.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, okay

Mr. Plyler: I mean the house was set back a little bit.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, off of University Ridge.

Mr. Plyler: Yes. But you have to know, too, that University Ridge was just two lanes wide.

Dr. Tollison: Oh. And now it's four.

Mr. Plyler: Yeah, plus the turning lane. So it was much more narrow than that. And they cut some off this side and some off the other side. ...Right there and it was really a nice dorm. It held 225 of Furman's about 375 boarding students.

Dr. Tollison: And that would have been over there.

Mr. Plyler: [There's] the front the Gymnasium.

Dr. Tollison: And where was that?

Mr. Plyler: It was down facing Manly Field, the end of Manly Field, and the back of it was down in the upper part of the ravine. And this is the Carnegie Library. And this is the Webb Infirmary [Charles S. Webb Memorial Infirmary] that became the Webb Administration Building.

Dr. Tollison: And your dad's office was moved into there?

Mr. Plyler: Yes. This was the old president's house that was originally the administration building. And this is Fletcher Hall.

Dr. Tollison: But that's not where you all lived?

Mr. Plyler: No. I think this is Dr. Furman's [James Clement Furman] house or just after. This is the old president's house. It was the administration build when we came. And this is Fletcher Hall.

Dr. Tollison: Where was that located?

Mr. Plyler: And it was between the Webb Infirmary [Charles S. Webb Memorial Infirmary] and Geer Hall [John M. Geer Residence Hall].

Dr. Tollison: So somewhere over there.

Mr. Plyler: It's down the road that went in front of Geer Hall [John M. Geer Residence Hall]. And during the Second World War it was where the military had its headquarters, the Air Force group had its headquarters there. At one time it was sort of a little student center to a student union. It was where public relations was at one time for Furman. And, it ended up, it was the Art Department. Tom Flowers – I don't know if you know that name – Tom Flowers. I remember when he was a student there and Mr. Blackwood [Charles Edward Blackwood] was the Professor of Art. I don't know if Tom Flowers... I think Tom was maybe on the

faculty there too. And the only other thing I'd say about Webb Infirmary [Charles S. Webb Memorial Infirmary], Judson Cottage, which was one of the first dormitory type buildings on campus, was located in a building that was incorporated in the front of the Webb Infirmary [Charles S. Webb Memorial Infirmary] when it was built. So somewhere in that building were bricks from the old Judson Cottage but you didn't see any of it from the outside.

Dr. Tollison: Now where was Old School [Old College] located?

Mr. Plyler: Down University Ridge on the left. You see the group of crape myrtles – what would you say those are – not red, but what color?

Dr. Tollison: Oh, I see, sort of magenta-ish?

Mr. Plyler: Yeah, but you see the two or three together on down?

Dr. Tollison: Yes.

Mr. Plyler: About in there would be where the Old College was, set back about forty to fifty feet from the University Ridge at the upper edge of the ravine. It and Dr. Bradshaw's [Sidney Ernest Bradshaw] house were the only things on that side of the street going down to what now is Church Street.

Dr. Tollison: So where was Dr. Bradshaw's [Sidney Ernest Bradshaw] house in terms of where those trees were located?

Mr. Plyler: You see where that car just turned in? Well you see the sign to the Center?

Dr. Tollison: Yes

Mr. Plyler: And the stop sign just past it?

Dr. Tollison: Yes

Mr. Plyler: Dr. Bradshaw's [Sidney Ernest Bradshaw] house was right in that general area set back just a little bit. It, actually you looked slightly down to it, it was downhill, a little bit from the road in the upper part of the ravine.

Dr. Tollison: So did your dad walk to work every day?

Mr. Plyler: Yes. And it was our big thing to go to his office and visit a while and then walk home with him. And the interesting thing is, is that along the tennis court there was a hedge along the sidewalk. When you hit this side of the street, the elevation of the land was higher than the road, so they had a little curved wall going down through the first house and the vacant lot. And then it went to a stone wall beginning at the president's house. So you know what young people like to do – we don't walk on sidewalks, we walked the wall.

Dr. Tollison: Of course. (laughs)

Mr. Plyler: ...on the women's campus. And this walk comes in from what is College Street. And that would be about where the – I guess it would be between the art museum and the library at Furman now would be. That building was set well back about back at the distance that the art museum is set and then this is the walk up to Old Main [Richard Furman Hall].

Dr. Tollison: Mmm, pretty. And this is... Excuse me...

Mr. Plyler: And this is another picture. And all of the women's buildings were joined. This is looking from the side down the women's campus.

Dr. Tollison: This is a building on the women's campus?

Mr. Plyler: Yes. And then this is looking, side view, across the women's campus.

Dr. Tollison: Ramsay Auditorium [David M. Ramsay Fine Arts Center].

Mr. Plyler: On the women's campus. And that was really the nicest auditorium in Greenville. They had the fine arts series for Greenville and everything in there. It was very nice

Dr. Tollison: You said Webb Infirmary [Charles S. Webb Memorial Infirmary] became KA headquarters?

Mr. Plyler: No.

Dr. Tollison: No, what became...

Mr. Plyler: The Fitting School classroom building [Furman Fitting School] and it doesn't show there. Somewhere I have a picture of it. This is the science hall [James C. Furman Hall of Science] and Old Main [Richard Furman Hall] and then Geer Hall [John M. Geer Residence Hall] and that's the house on the corner which would have been right here, so we're sitting right there. So if you were at that point you couldn't see these buildings because of Geer Hall [John M. Geer Residence Hall]. It would block our immediate view but if you went through at Old Main [Richard Furman Hall] and on across.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, which is that way

Mr. Plyler: Yeah. And here's the sidewalk and there's University Ridge right there going on up that way. It's hard to see on that map, it's not too good. So this is in this intersection up there. These are the glider pilots marching up from McGee Hall, I'm sure to the refectory for a meal. And behind it is the library [Carnegie Library] and Old Main [Richard Furman Hall] and they're marching across that center of campus. And then the rest of these are Furman students who had

been the year before and the reason I say... Here's Billy Seel [Lieutenant William Seel, U.S. Marines] the football player, in the last annual in his Marine uniform. He's on duty with the Marine Corps. And then these are other Furman students who'd been called to the military. And if they didn't get to finish before they left, they, most of them, I think all these came back and finished after the war unless they.. . something happened to them. The brooms the freshmen would have to get and you see they blasted them with the brooms.

Dr. Tollison: Oh goodness.

Mr. Plyler: And then this is the inside of the old Carnegie Library. See these tables?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: There's one of these tables in the current library. It used to sit in what was the Haynsworth Room and then, the last time I saw it, it was sitting outside the door.

Dr. Tollison: Oh yes, it's got stuff sitting on it

Mr. Plyler: And it has sort of a little engraving or something on the four corners of it. But that's one of the library tables out of the old library. And you see it had nice windows and you could look around the campus, not much room for books or study. But that was just an inside picture of the old library.

Dr. Tollison: Very cramped?

Mr. Plyler: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: What was behind in terms of from here? What was behind the campus?

Mr. Plyler: The ravine.

Dr. Tollison: It just was a deep ravine?

Mr. Plyler: You go down the ravine and you go up the other side and straight across on the other bank of the ravine would have been the amphitheater and then a long low building that would have had the military science buildings. See, we're right here. So you look across there's the ravine, this is all ravine. And so you would have had these military science buildings and here's the amphitheater right in here with the stage right there and my little pool right in the front. And then this is Manly Field, with the heating plant, and the Gymnasium, and McGee Hall. And then this road came this way, see, and went just past the infirmary and then turned and went down the hill and around Manly Field. And on the left are the library [Carnegie Library] and Furman Hall [James C. Furman Hall of Science]. And then this is Geer [John M. Geer Residence Hall] and Fletcher Hall, Webb Administration Building, and the Alumni Hall [Judson Alumni Hall]. And this is a

little parking area with the stands for Manly Field right here and then Manly Field. And then these buildings were used for ROTC when it started. They've been used, I think, for some pilot training classes, also, at one time in the war.

Dr. Tollison: And the [Reedy] river is up here.

Mr. Plyler: It's on down here. Well I can show you, there's North Hall. We haven't seen it before. This is the pre-fab. And the road that I mentioned that goes down here and around Manly Field?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: This is that road again right here. So this is that road that comes in. This is North Hall. It was sort of at the other end of Manly Field from McGee Hall. And I want to look... Here's some figure eights or something with tanks at one time.

Dr. Tollison: And we said those were the tanks. That's a car in a parking lot and these were the circles.

Mr. Plyler: They just ride around here and around there. But I think that's three of the tanks. And I don't see it right now, but that Furman Fitting School building?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: I think that's it right there, that later became the KA House. And that road went right in front of it. And then the steps and all that we saw coming down from the Governor's School?

Dr. Tollison: Yes.

Mr. Plyler: Well there were walks across this area. This is just a wooded area that had low vines and all planted, with rock walks, rock curbed walks, and then the steps down to Reedy River Falls and the falls would be over here, so this was just going down that way.

Dr. Tollison: The campus seems pretty big.

Mr. Plyler: Well, not really.

Dr. Tollison: Not really.

Mr. Plyler: And this is that big field that you'd see Field Day in and we used it for intramurals. So you see it's lined off for intramural football... [inaudible]

Dr. Tollison: Oh, you know what? I have a photograph with almost that exact view of those same buildings

Mr. Plyler: If you were in the tower [Bell Tower] of the... Well I'm getting you off, but I'm gonna do this anyway and then we'll come back. If you were...the tower towards town you would look up Main Street. The old Furman Bell Tower?

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh. You look down Greenville's Main Street.

Mr. Plyler: You would look down Greenville's Main Street. And what we just saw was the insurance building which is on one side there right across from the Poinsett Hotel. So it would be on the right side. It's an aiming point for looking down Main Street. It's right on Main Street. Here, I'll show you when we get back here... You see that red building just to the right of that...

Dr. Tollison: Of the Poinsett Hotel?

Mr. Plyler: No, you don't see the Poinsett [Hotel].

Dr. Tollison: Oh. No that's in front of the Daniel Building.

Mr. Plyler: Oh me, I got a UPS. You see the red building to the right? The Poinsett's [Hotel] to the left. You see the top of the Poinsett?

Dr. Tollison: Oh yes, yes.

Mr. Plyler: And the one to the right is the insurance building?

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh.

Mr. Plyler: Well they're across Main Street from each other.

Dr. Tollison: Right

Mr. Plyler: So if you look straight between the two, the Daniel Building would be on your left then as – we're sort of at an angle now – but if you look straight between the two, you would be lined up straight with the tower [Bell Tower] of Old Main [Richard Furman Hall].

Dr. Tollison: Now the Daniel Building wasn't there though. Right?

Mr. Plyler: No.

Dr. Tollison: That wasn't there until '67 or so?

Mr. Plyler: Right, it wasn't there.

Dr. Tollison: Great.

Mr. Plyler: The land would have sloped well up to the left and you can see it starting up

some.

Dr. Tollison: You said that this area over here was Manly Field.

Mr. Plyler: Well, sort of, yeah, where we were. I'm gonna turn around... And it came off behind the Governor's School?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: And, actually, when it's getting in here, if you went around a bit it's pretty close to the one that went around the edge of the campus that came up by McGee [Hall]. So I would say we're – maybe a little bit to the left – but right in here we're pretty much at Manly Field.

Dr. Tollison: Off to the left or right in front of us?

Mr. Plyler: To the left. And it was pretty big and maybe including some of this. Maybe just slightly to the left here would be Manly [Field].

Dr. Tollison: And that's where football games took place until '36.

Mr. Plyler: Yes. Until Serrine Stadium was...

Dr. Tollison: Until Serrine...

Mr. Plyler: Okay.

Dr. Tollison: But then it was, after it was used for intramurals and just...

Mr. Plyler: Well, it was the football practice field.

Dr. Tollison: The practice field.

Mr. Plyler: And they actually played baseball games there. I remember going to baseball games there before the Second World War. They dug out for this building, but if you take this first part down to about this fence and all, that was pretty much what was the first house and the vacant lot and then the president's home was about right in here.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. Right around where that fence is?

Mr. Plyler: Yes, I'd say back in, right in this general area of this parking lot area. But they cut this out so the other homes went on down the hill. So then Dr. Bradshaw's [Sidney Ernest Bradshaw] house would have been, well, right over in this area, just roughly. I think that stop sign, it might have been right in here. But they're sort of across from each other.

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh.

Mr. Plyler: They've widened this road so much and all, it's hard. I don't have any... The old tree... They used to have the old tree here that was in my backyard and I could always go to it.

Dr. Tollison: Oh and they cut it down?

Mr. Plyler: Yeah, they cut it down. Street coming down. Right there, just at the end of that parking lot?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: Okay, there were several homes coming down Presidents Street. And then there was this bank across the back?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: And this was the back extension of our lot and the lots next door.

Dr. Tollison: You had a big backyard.

Mr. Plyler: We did. We had about two acres behind the house and that's where my father farmed.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Mr. Plyler: Of course it wasn't like there. They pushed this dirt back and leveled that next door, but I think that's, it's right in there, is where our house was. And then from there on down to the end of the block on the back is where they brought those fifteen or twenty trailers in at the end of the Second World War to set up student housing. So we'd harvest the lettuce and the radishes and things out of our garden and then I'd go over and sell it to the student families. I think for ten cents a bunch for lettuce and maybe five cents a bunch for radishes and carrots or something like that. It wasn't too expensive but we grew plenty of them and that was all good money then. Late 1950s and this is Church Street and University Ridge right here. This is University Ridge going on down. And at one time this was all African American housing. And that's the service station down on the corner that's still there.

Dr. Tollison: Right there?

Mr. Plyler: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: Down there?

Mr. Plyler: If we go all the way to the bottom of University Ridge, that service station ought

to still be there. And this had been filled with houses but Furman had been buying this property. And I remember when they sold that, when they knew they were going, they sold that property right there on the corner. That was Geer Drug Company at one time. Geer Drug's the first one to build there. But this was where, when they thought they might expand here, they was, as they could, acquiring property here. I remember coming up this street and having some of the African Americans sitting out on their porches on the weekend having those jam sessions like they have in New Orleans, New Orleans jazz bands and all. And coming up this street. And where... This was a little, narrow road. It was not much more than a lane and a half that came up to University Ridge and nothing went forward of it. All this was new road.

Dr. Tollison: Was Geer Drugs associated with President Geer [Bennette Eugene Geer]?

Mr. Plyler: I don't know. I don't think so. There was Geer Drug in Spartanburg, Greenville and Charleston, I believe. And then this is University Ridge, of course, crosses there and comes on up the hill. But Dean Daniel's house was on the corner so the Furman faculty houses started right here, right at the edge of Church Street and went on up to the Furman tennis courts. And then this was African American neighborhood with Sistine Stadium at the bottom of the hill. Across the back of the houses.

Dr. Tollison: So Dean Daniel's [Robert Norman Daniel] house was up there at the corner of...

Mr. Plyler: At the corner of that, right... And this area behind his house and all of these, this is where the trailers were for Furman students.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, okay. And we're on Wakefield Street right now.

Mr. Plyler: And this is where they changed the lay of the land. Because you see how that was with the trees?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: This back part here, this is like it was at the back of our house. So this is probably the back, part of the back, of the president's house right here. And then this was the vacant lot and then the houses on the end and that house on the corner again. ...Slightly widened. And when you would get right in here the Refectory would have been, the back of the Refectory would have been right here on the right in part of the parking lot of the Health Department. And then, going on, and to the left side of the refectory was a short distance and then at this corner and going across was Montague Hall.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. Right over here.

Mr. Plyler: Right here on the right – we'll go up that way – with the back of Montague [Hall] on Howe Street.

Dr. Tollison: And we're on Howe Street now.

Mr. Plyler: Yes. And this was West Hall here. And then this came across here. And then Howe Street and the others were about this width. You see, that's about the old width of the road, right there on the left.

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh.

Mr. Plyler: And that's how this was going down. And right here... You know I showed you the picture of the stone columns coming into that end of University Ridge, the entrance to the campus where we looked?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: Well there were two more sets of stone columns here that were this drive into campus at this point right here.

Dr. Tollison: This intersection was here, wasn't it?

Mr. Plyler: Well, no, this street was here.

Dr. Tollison: The street was here.

Mr. Plyler: All that wasn't here. Just this one little part here.

Dr. Tollison: Okay

Mr. Plyler: And when you turned in this, you pretty much turned slightly, but you went straight. You went right over there. And over there was that big quadrangle in front of Geer [John M. Geer Residence Hall] with the library [Carnegie Library] to the left. And then you'd turn from it back down University Ridge so they've changed that road a great deal there.

Dr. Tollison: That's not the... Is that the Furman marker right there?

Mr. Plyler: Yes. Do you want to see it?

Dr. Tollison: Oh, I've seen it. ... Okay, right here at this Burger King intersection was where, Dean Robert Norman Daniel, his house was. At the Burger King and the gas station.

Mr. Plyler: Yeah, it was right towards the end so I'd say where the gas station is.

Dr. Tollison: Right there where the gas station is. Now which gas station was... Was that? That's not the gas station that you said was there.

Mr. Plyler: No. I'll show you where Furman... Furman actually owned this... moved they

weren't interested in any keeping that property so I think they sold it to the man. I can't remember his name, you know, but after he died or quit his son ran it for a long time and it was more than just a station for filling up gas. You know, he did minor tune-ups and maintenance and all those sorts of things. Seymore was his name, Mr. Seymore.

Dr. Tollison: We're crossing University Ridge and Church Street right now.

Mr. Plyler: And this was Geer Drug Company. They bought this land from Furman originally and built this drug distribution house. And these homes were here on the right. And then the Furman players and fans would park up there, a lot of them, and walk down the field and turn this way into Serrine Stadium.

Dr. Tollison: Oh and there's Serrine Stadium.

Mr. Plyler: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, has a new entrance.

Mr. Plyler: Yes, they've done a lot of this. And here's Seymore. Here's the old service station. It looks like he's maybe added a little bit but that's pretty much as it was.

Dr. Tollison: The Seymore's service station?

Mr. Plyler: That was Furman's service station, was there. I don't know if the Seymore family owns it or not. And, of course, this was the parking lot for the stadium. It was just a grassy hill then. They've paved it since then. And the group that bought it for Greenville High from Furman, they've spent a good bit redoing it. Made it look pretty nice really.

Dr. Tollison: You mention that was Furman's service station. The property was owned by Furman.

Mr. Plyler: Yes, and the building but they leased it.

Dr. Tollison: And the Seymore's leased the building. And did most Furman students have cars then?

Mr. Plyler: Furman students didn't mostly have cars. But I would say that the university probably bought a lot of gas there but I don't think students did so much. What was the Spur station where the Cottage Falls Restaurant later was built?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: It was one of those service stations that had all kinds of glassware and everything stacked up high up front. You always got premiums with your gas

and inexpensive gas. I would guess that more students would have bought there rather than Seymore's.

Dr. Tollison: This is very nice.

Mr. Plyler: Dick Hendley was a Greenville High star and then he was a star at Clemson also.

Dr. Tollison: Wow, it looks great. Daniel-Mickel.

Mr. Plyler: Yes. I remember seeing all kinds of games in that.

Dr. Tollison: I remember when it didn't look like that.

Mr. Plyler: But the seats are pretty much the same.

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: And those banks are. And, see, people would come down... Now how much time to you have? Do you have another hour?

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh. Sure.

Mr. Plyler: I'm just gonna show you one thing on this side and then go by the cemetery and then we'll see what we... and maybe go by the women's campus. Lived right there on the corner.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, okay, at the corner of McDaniel [Street] and Cleveland [Street].

Mr. Plyler: Right.

Dr. Tollison: Let me get... There's those trees in the middle in the way.

Mr. Plyler: I'm sorry.

Dr. Tollison: That's okay.

Mr. Plyler: That wasn't part of my tour. Over here I believe – it's 'cause it's been redone – but I believe it's this house on the corner. It was a wooden house.

Dr. Tollison: That's Dr. H.T. Cook's [Harvey Tolliver Cook]?

Mr. Plyler: Well [inaudible] yeah I believe it was. Because I read something the other day that was originally where James C. Furman had lived.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, wow.

Mr. Plyler: And I need to check. But I rode with my father, he came to Dr. Cook's [Harvey

Tolliver Cook] hundredth birthday party. And it had to be that house. It was a wood frame house. And this was all on the left. There were no houses. This was all a pine forest and on the right was all a pine forest. And when we first moved this road wasn't paved. None of these houses were here. It was just this part.

Dr. Tollison: So when did you first move here?

Mr. Plyler: We moved here in late 1937 and my parents built this house and this is where we lived. An attorney lives there now.

Dr. Tollison: Great, yeah. And what's the address?

Mr. Plyler: Well, it says 105 Pine Forest Drive. And next door lived Ed Sloan who was a road contractor. And after we moved there he paved the road, the first time it was paved. And his firm did the grading for the new Furman campus, the initial grading in 1953 when it was graded. Sloan Construction Company did it. And then later they had a big contract at the Greenville downtown airport and removed a number of long-term shrubs, and all, from that and gave them to Furman.

Dr. Tollison: That's a great house. So you all, when your father became president of Furman, you moved from this house over to...

Mr. Plyler: Yeah, we had only lived here just a little over a year. And, all-in-all, to what we moved to from here was a tremendous change even though it was a short distance. I guess, in retrospect, you wonder why, but I think he felt he had to be on the campus and all. Dr. Cook's [Harvey Tolliver Cook] house. And, if so, then at one time it would have been James C. Furman [house] and I guess we just have to check that out if we want to know.

Dr. Tollison: We can check that out at the Greenville County Historical Society. I'm sure Sidney Yarborough would know that too.

Mr. Plyler: Alright, I think that's the house. You know, earlier I mentioned my father's secretary, Miss [Giraudoux?]. She lived in a house along here after her husband died but I don't remember. Mrs. James Williams, born Elizabeth Blackburn, widow of a Revolutionary officer and mother-in-law of Chancellor Waddy Thompson?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: She was the first one buried here. It was the first grave. And she's my...

Dr. Tollison: And here we are at Springwood.

Mr. Plyler: Now these are Confederate soldier graves over here on the left.

Dr. Tollison: You said she was your great...

Mr. Plyler: I'd have to add them up but she, I'm a direct descendent.

Dr. Tollison: One of your great grandmothers.

Mr. Plyler: Yeah from one of them. I guess by then you have several of them, don't you? Okay, I turned one to soon but we can go around this way. My grandparents are over there next to the street and I'm trying to spot them now. Oh, I see them now. You see Gibson?

Dr. Tollison: Oh Plyler.

Mr. Plyler: Right past Gibson, that's my grandparents and two aunts are buried there. And there's Earle, this is families...

Dr. Tollison: Earle.

Mr. Plyler: All these are

Dr. Tollison: Now aren't most of the... Or aren't all of the plots, they've already been sold?

Mr. Plyler: Oh yeah, a long time ago.

Dr. Tollison: But there's still some people here that Furman...

Mr. Plyler: There's still some... Like my mother can be buried here.

Dr. Tollison: Right. Oh, there's Ellett [Joseph Carlyle Ellett].

Mr. Plyler: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: This is the Furman...?

Mr. Plyler: The Furman plot on the left. Would you like to get out?

Dr. Tollison: Sure.

Mr. Plyler: Dr. Gardner[Eugene Elmore Gardner], teacher at Furman from '21 to '55.

Dr. Tollison: Teacher at Furman University and there's his wife [Blanche King].

Mr. Plyler: This is Dr. Sampey [John Richard Sampey], really the one that started and built up research at Furman in the Chemistry department. He lived 'til '67 and his wife Jewell [Cheatham] recently died. This is Mr. Riddle [Charles Dayton Riddle] and his wife Margaret [Margaret "Bobo" Knight]. And his daughter was in my class and his son was just a few years ahead of me, the one that's a physician.

Dr. Tollison: Winston Babb [Winston Chandler Babb].

Mr. Plyler: Here's Winston Babb [Winston Chandler Babb] and his wife [Mary Tavis Babb]. This is Frank Pool [Frank Kenneth Pool], the Religion Professor I told you lived on University Ridge just several houses below us, and his wife [Rose Goodwin]. And behind them you see Dr. McGlothlin [William J. McGlothlin] who was the president of Furman.

Dr. Tollison: There's the Gilpatricks [Delbert H. and Metta Eppler Gilpatrick], Dr. and Mrs. "Gilly."

Mr. Plyler: Sanders [Albert Neely Sanders], who was a History Professor.

Dr. Tollison: Yes.

Mr. Plyler: And this is the Rasors, he [Charles Lewis Rasor] was an English Professor, but mainly the registrar for years. And his brother-in-law, or Elsbeth Rasor's brother-in-law too, married to her sister was the Math Professor Wylie [Clarence Raymond Wylie, Jr.] who came from – I believe he had been Professor of Math at the University of Utah or somewhere and came to Furman. He wrote a number of books and left monies for scholarships to Furman with athletics and otherwise.

Dr. Tollison: There's Dr. Poteat [Edwin McNeill Poteat].

Mr. Plyler: Yes, Edwin McNeill Poteat, wrote the alma mater.

Dr. Tollison: Was he married?

Mr. Plyler: Yes, and this is interesting. His first wife [Harriet Hale Gordon] died early and, at the death of his second wife [Harriet Helen Brittingham], she was buried next to her first husband.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, so he's buried...

Mr. Plyler: By himself.

Dr. Tollison: Oh. There's Dr. Cox [Hiden Toy Cox]

Mr. Plyler: Hiden Cox [Hiden Toy Cox], my next door neighbors. Well, actually, the only one I knew was Mrs. Cox [Nora Elizabeth Hough] because he died in '37 and we didn't move to the campus 'til '39.

Dr. Tollison: Tibbs. Dean Tibbs [Albert Elias Tibbs]

Mr. Plyler: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Oh there's Charles Judson [Charles Hallette Judson].

Mr. Plyler: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: 1907.

Mr. Plyler: Dr. Fisher [Paul Lewis Fisher] who taught Geology and Geography.

Dr. Tollison: Wow. Blackwell. Now was that President Blackwell [Gordon Williams Blackwell] or Math Professor Blackwell [Reese Croxton Blackwell]?

Mr. Plyler: Well one of them is President and one of them is R.C. I believe. Let's go over there. Here's my father's [John Laney Plyler] right here.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, I'm sorry I missed that.

Mr. Plyler: No.

Dr. Tollison: *Teacher. Attorney. Judge. President Furman University.* Wow, that's beautiful.

Mr. Plyler: Okay.

Dr. Tollison: Joe King [Joe Madison King], who was Joe King?

Mr. Plyler: He was Professor of Religion.

Dr. Tollison: Who is *Mother, Father*? Would that be Charles Judson's [Charles Hallette Judson] parents?

Mr. Plyler: I don't know, I really don't. I should. Have you ever heard of "Double-O" Fletcher [Orlin Ottman Fletcher]?

Dr. Tollison: Yes.

Mr. Plyler: The Philosophy Professor. This is "Double-O" [Orlin Ottman Fletcher].

Dr. Tollison: And his wife Eva [Eva Emery].

Mr. Plyler: Okay, here's Judson too. I actually don't know all these Judsons. See this is the one, this is Mary [Mary Camilla Judson]. That's the one whose picture's in the board room.

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh. In the trustees...

Mr. Plyler: She was a teacher.

Dr. Tollison: She was at GWC [Greenville Woman's College].

Mr. Plyler: Right.

Dr. Tollison: And she's Charles Judson's [Charles Hallette Judson] sister.

Mr. Plyler: Right. But I don't know who the next one is. Alright let me see. Alright this is Reese Croxton Blackwell.

Dr. Tollison: This is R.C.

Mr. Plyler: This is the Math Professor.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Mr. Plyler: And this is Gordon Blackwell [Gordon William Blackwell].

Dr. Tollison: And his first wife Elizabeth Blair Lyles.

Mr. Plyler: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: Well, it looks like the grass has already grown back.

Mr. Plyler: This is Dr. Patty [John Roland Patty], Professor of Physics. He was Furman's only Physics Professor for a long time. And Putman [Arnold Everett Putman] taught music.

Dr. Tollison: Oh look, there's Ted Ellett [Ted Tidwell Ellett].

Mr. Plyler: There's Carlyle Ellett [Joseph Carlyle Ellett] and his wife Ted [Ted Tidwell Ellett] is still living

Dr. Tollison: His wife Ted [Ted Tidwell Ellett] will be there. I've interviewed her.

Mr. Plyler: She's a wonderful person.

Dr. Tollison: She is.

Mr. Plyler: And this is David Pulley [David Clarence Pulley], I've mentioned I think. He was Professor of Education and he directed the Summer Session and other things.

Dr. Tollison: Who is this? Glen Smith?

Mr. Plyler: I don't know who that is either. I don't know who John Jenkins is, *of Edisto Island, South Carolina*. And I'm not sure that's the one but he [Edward T. Buist] was Professor of, I believe, Chemistry at Furman for a long time. That's much earlier. Here's [the] Furmans here. This is what I wanted to see. Alright, here's James C. Furman, the first president.

Dr. Tollison: Wow. *For forty-six years he labored in the cause of Christian education.* Annie Furman Haynsworth.

Mr. Plyler: She was his daughter

Dr. Tollison: And married a Haynsworth.

Mr. Plyler: She married H. J. Haynsworth [Henry J. Haynsworth] in...

Dr. Tollison: And their son, right?

Mr. Plyler: Well, their grandson.

Dr. Tollison: Their grandson was...

Mr. Plyler: But this man... Lemme see now, when did he die... Alright, his son [Clement Furman Haynsworth] is the one that loaned my father money to go to Harvard Law School.

Dr. Tollison: Oh.

Mr. Plyler: And for whom he initially worked.

Dr. Tollison: And that's Mary Glenn [Mary Glenn Davis]

Mr. Plyler: James C. Furman, I believe, had two families. I think he had two wives.

Dr. Tollison: He did.

Mr. Plyler: Okay.

Dr. Tollison: I'm trying to remember if this is his... This is his second wife because he died in 1891.

Mr. Plyler: This has got to be the second.

Dr. Tollison: Mary Glenn Davis was his second wife. He married sisters.

Mr. Plyler: This may be a child of the first wife [Harriet Eloise Davis]. This person may be a child of the first wife.

Dr. Tollison: Annie Furman? I think probably so. I wonder where the first wife is.

Mr. Plyler: I think I heard something about that but I can't remember. Alright, James C. Furman the second.

Dr. Tollison: The second.

Mr. Plyler: Now, where is he though? I get all twisted around at these cemeteries sometimes. Alright, this is Dorothea Furman.

Dr. Tollison: I think that was James C. Furman's first wife.

Mr. Plyler: Here's Charles M. [Charles M. Furman]. So he's a Confederate Soldier, too, and a lawyer. He died in 1892. But we found Richard [Richard Furman], alright. Now, let's see, Manly's [Charles Manly] around here too. Let's see, we found Blackwell [Gordon William Blackwell], Plyler [John Laney Plyler], Poteat [Edwin McNeill Poteat], we saw McGlothlin [William J. McGlothlin], we saw... We didn't see Poteat, did we?

Dr. Tollison: No.

Mr. Plyler: We saw McGlothlin [William J. McGlothlin].

Dr. Tollison: We saw McGlothlin [William J. McGlothlin].

Mr. Plyler: And uh...

Dr. Tollison: Oh, we did see Poteat [Edwin McNeill Poteat]. He's over there.

Mr. Plyler: But we didn't see Manly [Charles Manly] yet. We saw Furman [Richard and James C. Furman]. Let's see, Manly's around here somewhere.

Dr. Tollison: And Dr. and Mrs., not doctor, Charlie Daniel [Charles E. Daniel] and his wife [Homozel Mickel Daniel] are buried in there. Is that correct?

Mr. Plyler: Charles E. Daniel and Homozel Mickel Daniel.

Dr. Tollison: And this might be the name of the street we were on [Thruston Street]. Wasn't it?

Mr. Plyler: Well that was the name of the street, but I'm not sure that's...

Dr. Tollison: If it's connected to the family

Mr. Plyler: For whom it was named. ... Eliza Anne Keith, wife of James W. Earle. James W. Earle is my great grandfather. And so this is my great grandmother and my father's grandmother. And Eliza Anne Keith's sister [Ellen Hard Townes] married Mr. Townes [Henry Townes] and so the other sister is Charlie Townes [Charles Hard Townes] grandmother.

Dr. Tollison: Is that where your brother [Keith Plyler] got his name?

Mr. Plyler: Yes, I'm sure. My uncle's name was Earle Keith Plyler. All of these are Keiths and Earles. They're all families.

Dr. Tollison: Grady, that's a...

Mr. Plyler: Those were aunts, those were great aunts of mine. They were sisters of...

Dr. Tollison: Townes.

Mr. Plyler: Yeah, but I'm not sure which Townes. I'll have to go see the right one. But I'm sure the family's over there.

Dr. Tollison: Do you know if Dr. Townes is supposed to be buried here?

Mr. Plyler: Oh, I don't know that. I imagine he and his wife would... I don't know where they would be buried. Bella Keith, wife of George F. Daniels.

Dr. Tollison: Now this was Eliza Keith's sister.

Mr. Plyler: And she is Charles Townes' grandmother. And there's George Townes. That's her husband.

Dr. Tollison: He [Alexander Sloan Townes] was president of the... yeah, Greenville Female College, Greenville Woman's College.

Mr. Plyler: President of Shorter College, too. Boy, Furman really had a connection to Shorter didn't it? Because I know several others other than he. I mean, Charles Burts was there, George Christenberry was there, and it seemed to me somebody else was there, and then... I don't know about Alexander Sloan Townes. I just don't remember him that much in history. Here he is on the back row, right here.

Dr. Tollison: There's John Matthews Manly who was at Chicago. And he's got an endowed chair at the University of Chicago. Charles, President Manly [Charles Manly]. Now his daughter, if I'm correct, was one of the first co-eds to take classes at Furman.

Mr. Plyler: I don't know. I know when my father taught in the Law School in the 1920s there was a female law student. But I didn't know, not about his daughter.

Dr. Tollison: There's Mary and Annie.

Mr. Plyler: Here's a daughter of Charles [Charles Manly]...

Dr. Tollison: Yeah, Annie and Mary.

Mr. Plyler: And she died in 1915. *She fell asleep*. [inaudible]. That's what it says.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, they both *fell asleep*.

Mr. Plyler: I guess that was an expression of the day

Dr. Tollison: Must have been.

Mr. Plyler: Like maybe they would say *passed on* or something like that now. So you've got them all right here except for...

Dr. Tollison: I want to see what this seminary alumni... who this is. Williams. *Professor at Mercer and for 18 years in the Baptist Theological Seminary.*

Mr. Plyler: And they died in an automobile wreck near Gastonia, North Carolina.

Dr. Tollison: That's right.

Mr. Plyler: And I think they're around here, right there?

Dr. Tollison: I wonder who? This is the Furman family. Who are these people? McEavers? Dr. Ives [Sumner Albert Ives].

Mr. Plyler: See he died in 1944 in the middle of the year. Same time they were having the Battle of the Bulge.

Dr. Tollison: There's Dr. Daniel [Robert Norman Daniel].

Mr. Plyler: Yes. And I don't know who did those flowers. If you notice, this cemetery, they pretty much don't allow artificial flowers or other flowers to stay up long. They keep it clear. Dinner that the Duke Endowment trustees gave Furman, see he was listed, he was a trustee still then in '64. He was a living trustee and present at that dinner. The library [Carnegie Library]. About the end of these buildings, I guess that would have been East [Hall] – wasn't what that one dorm was called East [Hall]?

Dr. Tollison: I think so, I don't think they had names, or at least a family names. So here we are on Academy [Street] and College Street at the former GWC [Greenville Woman's College] campus. And this the site of the Greenville County Library.

Mr. Plyler: Of course all of Academy Street was done but a street did come up there and run into this green space right here. See there... We're gonna turn right on College Street.

Dr. Tollison: There's the row of buildings that made up the campus. And, I guess, that's Ramsay [David M. Ramsay Fine Arts Center]?

Mr. Plyler: Yes. Alright now those buildings would have been across here probably set back at the distance of the Art Building [Greenville County Museum of Art].

Dr. Tollison: Art Museum [Greenville County Museum of Art]?

Mr. Plyler: And this front would have come up more too because this street was not nearly this wide. So it would have come out to, say, where that barrier is.

Dr. Tollison: And did it cover pretty much the length of the green?

Mr. Plyler: Yes. This is from here across and on. And actually, see there was a little green space here? And this is the back of the Coca-Cola plant here. That road that's down there was not there. That road's cut in here.

Dr. Tollison: So Ramsay [David M. Ramsay Fine Arts Center] would have been over there.

Mr. Plyler: Ramsay [David M. Ramsay Fine Arts Center] would have been about where the little theater [Greenville Little Theater] is but set back.

Dr. Tollison: And it was not attached... or was it?

Mr. Plyler: Yes, it was attached. But only on the first level, it was not attached on the upper level. So all of these the women could walk across from building to building on the dorm levels.

Dr. Tollison: Just like they do now.

Mr. Plyler: But if you wanted to get to the dorm level of Ramsay [David M. Ramsay Fine Arts Center] you had to go downstairs, come across, and go up. So you had to come down to the first level to get to the upper level of Ramsay.

Dr. Tollison: The snack area that they had in that little, in The Shack?

Mr. Plyler: That was behind.

Dr. Tollison: Was behind the row of buildings.

Mr. Plyler: Shows on here.

Dr. Tollison: Do you see it?

Mr. Plyler: Let me get oriented here. Yeah, back here. The first floor level of this is for the dining facilities, the dorm above. Now this marker is of the Greenville... that's of the college [Greenville Woman's College]. But this is another historical marker down here.

Dr. Tollison: Oh this is where the Soldiers was.

Mr. Plyler: We ought to get out here. The Soldiers Rest home was right behind this and then that became a home and then Furman's library, the library for this [women's] campus.

Dr. Tollison: That building [Soldiers Rest] sat right about here or a little bit further south?

Mr. Plyler: No, it sat out. It sat up towards the road.

Dr. Tollison: And that was used as the Soldiers Rest during the Civil War and then as a library for the Woman's College.

Mr. Plyler: Yes. And between the two I think it was a private residence also. Right here, alright this is it right here. And I guess that's this house. Does that look like it? Or is there another one on the corner? Maybe that's the second one there, we can't see this one. But anyway, this is the road right here.

Dr. Tollison: That we're on right now.

Mr. Plyler: Yes. And this is Marshall Avenue, or Marshall Street, and to the left is Central [Street], that's Central.

Dr. Tollison: Okay so, this is Marshall [Avenue].

Mr. Plyler: This is Marshall [Avenue] here.

Dr. Tollison: And this is Central [Street].

Mr. Plyler: And that's Central [Street] going up. So these were sort of fields for women's sports and I think they used this over here too.

Dr. Tollison: And these were right in the back right here where this parking lot is.

Mr. Plyler: Yeah, this was just this field. There was this field and all back here. And then the [inaudible] had a little room over here and there was a room, I think they built scenery for the stage and for things they were having in McAlister. And the infirmary was over here in front of this in the trees, it was to the left. This is the library building, I guess, and the infirmary was in another house over here.

Dr. Tollison: Now how did you drive in? Where were the entrances?

Mr. Plyler: Well they were right here off of College Street, you can't see them in front of those trees, and turn in and you'd have that loop around at here. Or you'd come in this end and park in this area. Or there was a circle there right in front of East [Hall]. And the rest of them you either had to park out on the road or walk over. There weren't drives to all of them. There was a walkway across the front and a long walk from the front of the buildings out to College Street.

Dr. Tollison: Now what is this building that extends back from the...

Mr. Plyler: The first part of that I know was the cafeteria. I don't remember the name of the building. I guess it's a part of Old Main [W.C. Main].

Dr. Tollison: ...New Buncombe Road?

Mr. Plyler: This is New and that was Old and then that, at this level, not down there where Poinsett Highway is. And when they met here the New Buncombe Road had the right-of-way. And we're going out now New Buncombe Road after they had met and this was the only Buncombe Road then going to Buncombe County, North Carolina, where Asheville is up by Hendersonville. And so this was the way that you would come to the property that was acquired for the new Furman campus.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, you had to go this way. Because Poinsett Highway didn't exist.

Mr. Plyler: No, it didn't. So this is where you would come down this road – and I've just gotta be careful that I find the right place here. Okay, you see the name of this street now?

Dr. Tollison: Hawkins?

Mr. Plyler: It's Hawkins Street but this used to be Roe Ford Road from right here off of Buncombe Road. And you would follow this road up and it went right in front of a house that stood about where the back of McAlister Auditorium is now located.

Dr. Tollison: Right there.

Mr. Plyler: And see that's McAlister [Auditorium] right there.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, right there.

Mr. Plyler: And then the house was right in that parking lot behind it and if we had gone straight here we would have gone into the Furman campus. And all of this Poinsett Highway is located on land that Furman had purchased. So Furman had land to this and this was Furman's – this was the way you went into the campus. And when Furman was buying the land they tried to buy at least a patch here out to the Buncombe Road. And actually there was a house in here. I don't know what's... Somewhere in here was a house. But tried to buy land out to the road to build the entrance into the campus. And it was just this little road and the Hawkins family wanted – what my father considered – far too much for the land. So Furman didn't buy the land. But he thought he had them. And that's when they just worked it out with the state to build that part of Poinsett Highway. And so they built it.

Dr. Tollison: And your father went to Columbia and talked with the legislatures there and worked it out?

Mr. Plyler: Oh yes. And so they built this new road and then they didn't need this entrance.

Dr. Tollison: And this entrance is where the junk yard was.

Mr. Plyler: Well it was up there right outside the curve of the road that goes in. We'll go by that in just a moment. But you see Old Buncombe Road, and it's now Hawkins Road that dead ends, but this used to be the beginning of Roe Ford Road. Now you have that map.

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: There's actually a car coming on it coming in from Buncombe Road.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, that's the road we were just on.

Mr. Plyler: And there's the house and McAlister's [Auditorium] right here. This was the best road coming out here. And you see how it was? So the little road that is Duncan Chapel Road goes on the back side, it wasn't that straight part that goes in front of those new apartments now. It started back up the road some and made some real, a real sharp turn. You couldn't get a truck around it through kudzu vine and all to get in that part off of Old Buncombe Road. Furman had a fire truck in its maintenance department and started the fire station that became Duncan Chapel and they contributed that engine and that land to start the Duncan Chapel Fire Department.

Dr. Tollison: Now where did the trustees and your parents come when they were initially looking at the property?

Mr. Plyler: I'm gonna show you that in just a minute. I just wanted to show you the entrance to this if I can find it, if it's still even visible. I'm looking to the right for a roadway and this might be it right here. That look like an old road?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: It does. Okay this is it. Alright Duncan Chapel Road?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: This is the way you would come off Buncombe Road to go in that would come around the back gate and Cherrydale [Cherrydale Alumni House]. And you would come down here and I'll show you where it comes in up here. I think they came in over the hill. I believe they came in on this road, they came in from out here.

Dr. Tollison: So what road is that?

Mr. Plyler: I'll have to get up there and look. But this is where Cherrydale [Cherrydale Alumni House] is right now. And this is this road that goes down the hill. ...intersection of the road... and see this road was here. And actually the part that from Cherrydale down the hill? It's still there. I mean, they've changed and re-paved the road and all but it's the same roadway pretty much.

Dr. Tollison: So they stood around Cherrydale [Cherrydale Alumni House] and looked out at the property.

Mr. Plyler: They stood just in front of those trees which is down a little bit from Cherrydale [Cherrydale Alumni House]. We'll go there now.

Dr. Tollison: And there's Paris Mountain out in the distance.

Mr. Plyler: But you can see if you had to go in there and I'll show you where you would down instead of just make this straight cut. And, of course, the Roe Ford Road on the other side, you turned in where we did just now. That was a way to get to the property. Yes it still is.

Dr. Tollison: This is Furman property.

Mr. Plyler: The other thing is, is there's another stream down here and it was set up so at the end of where the stadium is they could have another little lake and drive around it coming into the games if they wanted to. Okay, now let's see if I can spot this thing. I used to be able to. But you know the road we just saw?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mr. Plyler: Where it came? It came around here. It came right around there above that kudzu right there and then it twisted on this way. And this was still just the width of that other one, a little windy road. You know that before they built any buildings but after they had the property and all, the Greenville Waterworks walked the water lines every year just to see that there were no leaks, no problems with them. And the waterlines cut across that creek down there and they found a tremendous still down there on that creek when they were walking the waterlines.

Dr. Tollison: So this must have been the road right here.

Mr. Plyler: Well, yeah, but I'm gonna turn left from the way they would have come. It's a back way to go in like at Cedar Lane Road or something that off of White Horse Road. It runs into White Horse Road. But there were no houses or anything on this but you can see this road on there. I'll back up two cars behind me if I can work a turn over there. Okay. I believe this is the road the bus came on with the trustees.

Dr. Tollison: Watkins Bridge Road.

Mr. Plyler: Now every time we came out we usually came...

Dr. Tollison: That smaller road?

Mr. Plyler: Yeah. Duncan Chapel Road. But I believe the trustees came right up this road.

And this road, it was just a little intersection here and you would go straight on across, where that road is blocked now, and through Cherrydale [Cherrydale Alumni House], and that was the route. It wasn't this steep. It's been cut back because this road has been widened and this intersection done. But the road went straight on across here and that's the road the trustees went. And I know that the top of the hill was where they looked. And that's where I had the movies [inaudible] of looking out. Has it rained out here again this afternoon?

Dr. Tollison: I don't know, I guess we missed it.

Mr. Plyler: It looks wet doesn't it?

Dr. Tollison: Younts [Younts Conference Center] under construction. There's Timmons [Timmons Arena]. There's the football team. Cherrydale [Cherrydale Alumni House].

Mr. Plyler: Okay. This was roughly the point. Of course, none of these trees to the left were here. And from here you could see Paris Mountain. And then, if you looked to the distance at that time, from this altitude, before all those trees were down on campus, you could see the Blue Ridge all the way around.

Dr. Tollison: Wow.

Mr. Plyler: You could see Table Rock and the whole Blue Ridge across over there.

Dr. Tollison: That was beautiful.

Mr. Plyler: So this was the view of the campus. To come just out of that grove of trees behind us and look around you. And to the right – and it's been leveled some now – there was more of a slope all the way down to where the stadium was. It was a cotton field out to the right. And the weekend before the trustees came we came out and just walked over on the hill – it was a little bit of an incline like you see there to the right – and stood and looked all around also. If you would stand here and look directly through this tree you would see this hill. And it really stood out because this is a house, but the hilltop was higher than the house and the library [James B. Duke Library] sits right on top of that hill, although they cut the hill down some for the library. There's a good cut through here. It was much lower land. And some of the dirt they took from that and some of these other sides they filled that in. This is the grove of trees that's behind the baseball diamond. The baseball diamond was cut out in there. This entrance is the same but they took the road behind most of those trees. And the South Housing complex is here, the lake is through this area, the Lakeside Housing is in here, McAlister Auditorium is here, the fountain in front of it here with Furman Hall coming across there, and then Plyler Hall coming on across here, with, I guess, the PAC building [Herman W. Lay Physical Activities Center] – I'm a little bit out of measurement of the PAC building – right in here at the base of this road. It would be right in here.

Dr. Tollison: Wow. I'm sure it was beautiful.

Mr. Plyler: And then, of course, this is where the current Poinsett Highway was cut, to about where that car was or maybe a little bit more up through there. Now if you look real close here, this is Buncombe Road and it comes around and through and then see it goes up this way and around. Now this is Roe Ford Road here and then down through the trees and then, see, coming around here. Now all of these trees – the lake went in there – so those pretty much came out. And a number of these trees came out for the women's dorms. The heaviest wooded area was across towards where North Village is and from there on over the back side to Poinsett Highway. And these trees came out pretty much. These are some around the football field now. These are here behind the tennis courts now, some of them was down to that gate. But where the parking is now for the classroom [Furman Hall] and library building [James B. Duke Library] and all down here was behind. See the trees weren't there. Most of these trees have grown up since so it's not like cutting an old forest, it's just that... ..a hospital there. [inaudible] probably did what he understood. You know how the bridges are at Williamsburg and saw what they do up at Biltmore Estate. They've done nice bridges...

Dr. Tollison: Like stone curved...

Mr. Plyler: He thought that he had gotten a commitment from them to do that here. And he was away and when he came back they hadn't done it. They did this and he had to live with it. Alright, to the left here, when they first tried to put it in, before they planted it, you could look though there – they couldn't get too close to the road – but back in there they had junked cars and all.

Dr. Tollison: The Hawkins?

Mr. Plyler: On their property anyway. But you see how much – Furman didn't even put the kudzu, I guess that just came on its own later – but on that curve they just planted it with trees and shrubs and all real heavy...

Dr. Tollison: So you couldn't see it.

Mr. Plyler: Then you couldn't... And there were enough evergreens and all in there that you couldn't see it summer or winter.

Dr. Tollison: And so this is still the Hawkins property that Furman...

Mr. Plyler: Was on the right.

Dr. Tollison: ...just purchased a few years ago.

Mr. Plyler: I don't know exactly what it was but I assume this is right across an entrance you'd see here.

Dr. Tollison: And this is where they were threatening to put the trailer park.

Mr. Plyler: That's what I understood, somewhere in here.

Dr. Tollison: There's a house.

Mr. Plyler: Yeah, but I think they were threatened. Now I don't know whether... I think Furman bought that. That that road we came up is right here.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, there's that circle we...

Mr. Plyler: Over there closer to the other side of the house is where he put the junked cars but he had all that land across... So that Mr. Daniel [Charles E Daniel] built him another garage 'cause this one looks bad enough but his old one looked worse. It's [Pender?] now but this is where Marshbanks lived, right here.

Dr. Tollison: Mr. Marshbanks. And now who is Mr. Marshbanks?

Mr. Plyler: They owned this farmland right here that they didn't get. And they didn't have this. So that road wasn't there. I think that's the one that Charlie Daniel [Charles E Daniel] was able to get that road built out. Because you could enter there, but this was the road you followed when you entered that way.

Dr. Tollison: Before the front gate was built. The front of the campus.

Mr. Plyler: Before that Charlie Daniel [Charles E Daniel] bypass was cut. And so you could come in this way and this road was here and went down to Roe Ford Road. And then Furman cut this road to the right here. It's part of Stratford Forest. This is Regent Drive and the house on the corner was built and lived in by Eldridge [Ernest L.?] Caskey. I believe that was Caskey's. And then Dr. Olivia Futch had a house down there. So Furman had some houses in there. See this Furman property on the left, see it fenced in?

Dr. Tollison: Uh huh.

Mr. Plyler: This is all Furman property. I don't remember who's on that side. They had all of this property but this road came on down and it hit what was Roe Ford Road.

Dr. Tollison: Oh and here are some of the gates

Mr. Plyler: Now this is Roe Ford Road and it followed the route that it now follows around to where it runs into the New Roe Ford Road, just before you get to the light there at exit [Highway] 25 just past where you turn in for golf. And then this was Roe Ford Road through the campus. And they pretty much maintained the route of this road.

Dr. Tollison: Was it this wide?

Mr. Plyler: No. It was like that little road we turned in off of Buncombe, the Old Duncan Chapel Road. Had North Village already been constructed when you were a student?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm. I was the first class to live in it.

Mr. Plyler: Well that land was just trees and all. It was just part of that heavily wooded part there. And those are gates from the front of the old women's campus. Those were the low gates and then you've seen the high gates around here. I mean the high post. We'll just turn around... That's still Roe Ford [Road] going straight there. Here are the corner posts that were out on College Street. And I think the brick and the caps – they may have to get some new brick or some – but the caps and all are the same as the ones at the old Greenville Woman's College. Class of 1920, these two gates. This is '21...

Dr. Tollison: '20 and '21.

Mr. Plyler: So I guess each one gave a column there. And those were... I don't know whether those were the ones that turned into Ramsay [David M. Ramsay Fine Arts Center] or turned into one of the other gates. And then there's a couple more down here if I remember correctly. Yes, here's two more. These were the gates off of College Street going into the Greenville Woman's College, or the Woman's College at Furman, or whatever, it changed...

Dr. Tollison: It kept changing names.

Mr. Plyler: This is '22 and '23. So '20, '21, '22, and '23 gave all of the columns.

Dr. Tollison: Those shacks over there, one of those was behind the row of buildings on the women's campus.

Mr. Plyler: Yes. Only one of them is The Shack and they built a couple more right.

Dr. Tollison: And there's The Cabin and The Hut or something.

Mr. Plyler: And I'm not sure I could tell you from here which The Shack is. I wish they'd get rid of the ducks. I know they've tried, or gotten rid of some of them, but they keep coming back. Okay, again, we're back on Roe Ford Road and this road, you would have turned slightly to the left here and gone on to the left and there would have been a big white house on the right and then it would have gone on that road – it's now called Hawkins Road – down to Buncombe Road. So the house would have been over here to the right. And the house was used as the construction headquarters through the building of Furman Hall and – well, before McAlister Auditorium – for the other buildings that were built before McAlister.

Dr. Tollison: Art Building [Thomas Anderson Roe Art Building]. Well thank you so much. I

really do appreciate your spending this time with me today.

Mr. Plyler: I fear, that because I saw it before and I just am closing my eyes and seeing it, that I don't describe it well enough that you can see it also.

Dr. Tollison: No, you do.