

# F. Byrd Holloway



*Suzanne Willis interviewed F. Byrd Holloway at his home in Caroline County, a few weeks before his death on Aug. 22, 2007. Mr. Holloway, 83, was the son of well known Fredericksburg doctor Dr. Joseph Minor Holloway and Fanny Corbin Gordon Holloway. Mr. Holloway begins his history with rich stories of life in a doctor's household in the days before World War II. Interwoven with his story are the historic homes and properties Mr. Holloway and his late wife, Emily Avery Holloway, lived in. The first interview is held at Flintshire Farm overlooking the Rappahannock River. Flintshire Farm—where Byrd once ran a tennis club-- is part of the original land grant to Mr. Holloway's ancestors.*

**Interviewer:** Today is Tuesday, July 3, 2007. Good afternoon, Byrd. I am not sure Byrd is what you like to be called. How do you like to have your name written? Do you use the "F"?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, use the F-- for Forrest. They said I was born in a forest and I was going to be a Byrd, so they named me Forrest Byrd.

**Interviewer:** I like that. I want to ask you one question. When I came out here today, I almost thought I was on the wrong road. It looks so different. In this area, what to you has been the biggest change – land, trees, and animals?

**Mr. Holloway:** People! There are fifty times more people here than when I was a kid.

**Interviewer:** People. I had not thought of that. Were you born in Fredericksburg town?

**Mr. Holloway:** I was the last person born, last family member, in the old house where we lived-- where we were living when I was born. The land including this land we are on now, Flintshire, and all the way to Route 2 was part of a land grant. The original house was down near the river and burned before 1800.

**Interviewer:** The original house we are talking about? About how far south are we talking about? Are we talking about a 100 yards or two miles?

**Mr. Holloway:** We are talking about a couple miles as the crow flies...It is called Santee. Santee started off as a summer home to get away from the mosquitoes in the summer. So when the Flintshire home burned, they moved to Santee and put an addition on. The addition being the front portion of what there is today. The addition was typical of the period – center hall front to back – two rooms over on each side and the same upstairs.

**Interviewer:** Do you happen to have a picture of that home?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, we have pictures of it.

**Interviewer:** Then you are saying that Santee is the one you were born in?

**Mr. Holloway:** I was the last of the original owners who were born there. We moved to town in 1929.

**Interviewer:** How old were you then?

**Mr. Holloway:** I was five, turned six in December and we moved in October. My actual birthday is December 6, 1923. We moved to town so Dad, Joseph Minor Holloway, would be close to the hospital. He was a doctor – ear, nose, and throat. We bought 401 Hanover St. Actually, he and Dr. Pratt, who the Pratt Clinic was named after, were going to buy the house for a clinic. Then they thought it was too nice an area to have a business, so Dad decided to go ahead and buy it for himself. Mother, Fanny Corbin Gordon, said it was the only house in Fredericksburg that she really liked. It ended up that we moved to town in '29 - just in time for the big bust. Fredericksburg was saved by the Sylvania Plant which opened in 1929. They made cellophane. They employed I don't know how many people when they opened but several hundred people, and by far it was the largest employer in this part of the state, I guess. So Fredericksburg really didn't feel the Depression like most of the rest of the country did.

**Interviewer:** That is good to know.

**Mr. Holloway:** Of course, people will tell you what a hard time it was, but around here, it wasn't really all that hard.

**Interviewer:** I imagine it was still hard; but it wasn't as bad as other parts of the country. I always think people don't realize is that being in a smaller town enables you to have gardens; whereas people in the city can't. This food would help you out if you didn't have any money.

**Mr. Holloway:** Fredericksburg used to be full of people raising vegetable gardens. And in fact, the nurse I mentioned that looked after Mom, she planted vegetables all around the yard, mixed in with the flowers.

**Interviewer:** Oh, that would make for a prettier garden.

**Mr. Holloway:** She had tomatoes, beans, and I don't know what all.

**Interviewer:** And this woman's name is...

**Mr. Holloway:** Good. Edna Good. I think she's dead now.

**Interviewer:** She was the nurse, or a cook, or a...?

**Mr. Holloway:** She was a nurse and a cook. She was a live-in practical nurse. She cooked dinner, something simple. Helen was there five days a week in the morning, and I guess she cooked breakfast and lunch. Helen now works in the house here. (Helen's last name is Lewis.) We didn't have electric lights or anything in the country. We did have some kind of a system that didn't work half the time. Delco gas lights or something.

**Interviewer:** But, they were gas?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah, there was some kind of manufactured gas that I think you pushed a couple of things together, and that made the gas.

**Interviewer:** But, it wasn't what we would call propane today, or anything?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, no.

**Mr. Holloway:** But anyway, we did it that way until we moved to town. My older brother Bob, who was two years older than me, we ran all around the house turning lights on. We thought it was magic. And it about drove Dad nuts - just wasting money.

**Interviewer:** Was he electricity conscious?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah.

**Mr. Holloway:** Another thing that I remember about Santee, other than the lamps (the oil lamps), we heated with little stoves, and I remember getting a bucket full of chips from the wood yard.

**Interviewer:** Wood chips or other kind of chips?

**Mr. Holloway:** Wood chips, to start the fires with, you know. I remember how heavy they felt. I wasn't but three or four years old, I guess.

**Interviewer:** Was there more than one stove? Or, was there one big one in the main room?

**Mr. Holloway:** I don't think there was but two stoves. One in, like you say, the main room, one in the kitchen. But no, the kitchen stove, that you cooked on also heated. Maybe one in the dining room, I'm not sure. Upstairs, the water in the basin would tend to freeze. Tell you, looking back on it. Life was hard in those days.

**Interviewer:** You were glad to move to town, weren't you?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah. Well actually, we didn't know anything else, so you know it didn't really bother us.

*He added this comment at the end of the day after the tape was off. He remembered drying apples at Santee. They were put on a plank and dried in the sun. They had apple orchards and grape arbors at Santee as well.*

**Interviewer:** Well, how about water? How did you get water at Santee?

**Mr. Holloway:** Water came by the bucket.

**Interviewer:** There was a well?

**Mr. Holloway:** A well.

**Interviewer:** When you actually pulled up a bucket that people talk about?

**Mr. Holloway:** I imagine. Water weighs what, around nine pounds a gallon. Something like that.

**Interviewer:** Yes, I know it's very heavy. So, was there a pump in the kitchen?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, I really don't remember.

**Interviewer:** As a boy, you probably didn't have to work in the kitchen?

**Mr. Holloway:** Nope, probably chased me out. When I was carrying the chips, we were living in the office. Dad had an office - say, thirty by twenty or something like that, on the side of the yard. It's not there anymore. But, he went to the University of Pennsylvania - well, probably in the late 1920's...somewhere in there to specialize in ear, nose, and throat. So, rather than try to keep the whole house heated, and all that, we decided we'd move in there. Our mother decided she and her two boys, and her mother,

who always lived with us, would spend the winter in the office... He had been a GP, general practitioner. Family doctor, I think it's called today. He delivered babies; I mean you know, down in Caroline, King George, and Essex County.

**Interviewer:** So when you lived out there, he didn't practice much in town?

**Mr. Holloway:** No not much. He went to the hospital in town. Everybody going to the hospital had to go to Fredericksburg; it was the only hospital in this part of the state.

**Interviewer:** Well now, I suppose, the women probably didn't always have babies in the hospital, right?

**Mr. Holloway:** At home, mostly.

**Interviewer:** So, he would go there, then?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah. It wasn't a bit unusual for Daddy to leave home, like on a Tuesday. Somebody's due to have a baby, and he wouldn't get back until Friday. You know that kind of thing.

**Interviewer:** He would actually stay there?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah. Stay there or see that she was not yet term; and he would call home. We did have a telephone, the kind you cranked up; and got the operator. But anyway, he'd called back and tell Mother. I remember her telling, "So-and-so called and her son has a broken arm or something." So he would go see such-and-such patient.

**Interviewer:** While waiting?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, while waiting. And, if the expectant mother had a phone he could call Mother. Otherwise, he would turn around and go back.

**Interviewer:** What was the main thing he did other than delivering babies? Would there be farm accidents?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, all kinds of accidents. Farming was the most dangerous of jobs.

**Interviewer:** They were farming with horses, right?

**Mr. Holloway:** Horses and mules. Tractors were just beginning to be fairly widespread.

**Interviewer:** Now, when your dad did this, how did he get there?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, if the weather was good, he went by car. If it was snowy, so forth, he went by horse and buggy. It was not unusual for him to be gone all day seeing one

patient, and he probably got about two dollars or something. So, country doctors were not wealthy in those days.

**Interviewer:** I guess not. Would the people that he's helping take care of his horse, if he stayed over?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah, they would take care of it.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember the horse and buggy?

**Mr. Holloway:** Sure. Sure. I remember, well, going to Fredericksburg, we'd go past, (when we were going to Fredericksburg in a car, that is), we'd go past wagons, buggies. I don't mean they were everywhere. But, they weren't a novelty either.

**Interviewer:** Well, when about do you think you got the car?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, Daddy had a car when he got married. That was January of '21. 1921. So, he had a car and my grandmother had an old Model T that Mother drove.

**Interviewer:** Really?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah. And she bought it around World War I, maybe just before, maybe just after, I'm not sure.

**Interviewer:** Well, your family must have one of the earliest car people in the area?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, among the earliest ones, I guess. But, not the earliest one, by a long shot. You know where that little store is just below Route 17.

**Interviewer:** Oh yes, yes.

**Mr. Holloway:** That was a car lot, over there on the farm on that side of 17. My grandmother sold that to Mr. Burger, who owned a hayfield at that time at Belvedere from Vivian Wells. Burger was referred to as a wealthy industrialist from Chicago *or* somewhere.

**Interviewer:** What was the name again?

**Mr. Holloway:** Burger. His daughter, Helen married...

**Interviewer:** Was his daughter your age or much older?

**Mr. Holloway:** Much older. She was probably closer to my grandmother's age, than my mother's, I guess. I'll think of whom she married in a minute, and come back to it.

**Interviewer:** I was more interested in hearing the story of the land any how.

**Mr. Holloway:** Anyway, she sold that corner; I think it was 10 acres, so she could buy for herself a Model T Ford....Mr. Burger built a school and the house it's still standing and the school's still there. It was a one room school. He was going to have a contained village called Maryton.

**Interviewer:** Called what?

**Mr. Holloway:** Maryton, M-A-R-Y-T-O-N.

The house had a post office, in one section of it and he sold basics, bread and stuff like canned goods. And they were going to ship grain, to Baltimore.

**Interviewer:** Well, how far is that from the river, I mean, that home, that house, to get to the wharf?

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh, half a mile. But anyway, when they bought the car from the Ford Company of Fredericksburg and the salesman come down to Santee with the Model T to teach my grandma to drive it, Grandma ran into a tree. So, she would never try to drive that car again. Anyway, Mother who she was about 12 years old then was taught by the salesman to drive. I mean during that day and time they didn't even have to have a license so she could drive - before World War I. So, Mother was the chief driver for s. Matter of fact, she took Bob, my older brother to the school, for a couple of years at Maryton. In one of the trips, she was driving and all of a sudden the steering wheel was not connected to anything and she ran into the ditch. (Laughter)  
My mama got out to see what had happened, and it was some kind of cotter pin that held the steering wheel shaft, or something, broke. She connected it to the turning mechanism. By taking a hairpin and putting it where the cotter key used to be and went on home.

**Interviewer:** Fixed it herself. You have mentioned your grandmother. Did you know your grandfather?

**Mr. Holloway:** No. Grandfather died of kidney disease before I was born.

**Interviewer:** Both grandfathers? And your father's mother name was....?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah, Dr. Holloway died a few years later. She was Evelyn May Dickinson Gordon. She married Robert Voss Gordon of Santee.

**Interviewer:** Santee must have been huge.

**Mr. Holloway:** I have forgotten what it was, really but, it was huge. It was an original land grant of 6,000 acres and included land known as Flintshire Farm, Prospect Hill, and Santee. We think the date was 1666.

**Interviewer:** My goodness.



**Santee in Caroline County (Present Day)**

**Mr. Holloway:** I'm not sure it was from the King.

**Interviewer:** So it could have been from the Virginia London Company?

**Mr. Holloway:** It could have been most anything. Lot of people would come in praying for the King to protect them. So, maybe the King did sign something, I don't know. The land grant was made to Lawrence Smith and John Taliaferro. And the name changed through the years; when the daughters would inherit the property and get married.

**Interviewer:** Then it would go by that married name?

**Mr. Holloway:** But, it was the same family all the way to today that is pretty rare, anymore.

**Interviewer:** Very rare.

**Mr. Holloway:** And, Lawrence Smith and John Taliaferro also had a land grant up around where the Fredericksburg Country Club is, which used to be Mannsfield Hall Country Club. They were all land grants, too. But, I think they were land dealers back in that time.



**Interviewer:** (Laughter) Well, that's still the way they handled it, I guess. So, do you know Robert's father's name?

**Mr. Holloway:** That would be Sam. Sam Gordon of Kenmore.

**Interviewer:** Oh, the ones that actually spruced Kenmore up, at one time?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah. They lived there. I don't think they followed Fielding Lewis. I think there was an owner between. They actually named it Kenmore.

**Interviewer:** They're the ones that did that? Well, does the name Kenmore come from England or Scotland?

**Mr. Holloway:** Scotland.

**Interviewer:** Scotland. The Gordons of course. The Gordon's!

**Mr. Holloway:** And, Sam Gordon, he was probably the second. His father was Sam also.

**Interviewer:** I see.

**Mr. Holloway:** He fell in love with one of the girls. And I should know all of this, but I can't remember whether the name was Battaile or Fitzhugh (Caroline Battaile Fitzhugh). And anyway, her mother said, you can marry her, but you can't take her away from Santee. So, Sam says can I build her a house close by? They said yeah. So, they built Prospect, Prospect Hill.

**Interviewer:** And that house is which direction from Santee?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, it's northwest of Santee. It's up here about a mile, and back on a hill. It's on the same high ground as Santee, but probably a mile from Santee.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Mr. Holloway:** Do you know Dr. Angus Muir?

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Mr. Holloway:** That's where he lives. He raises Angus cattle.

**Interviewer:** So, I'm sorry, that was the house, Prospect Hill, is the house that who...?

**Mr. Holloway:** That Sam owned; they got typhoid fever or something. So, they burned the original house, to get rid of the germs, and rebuilt it. So the story goes. ...So, at Prospect Hill, the house is not the original house, but just like it.

**Interviewer:** And, it's also still pretty old, though.

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** Okay. So after Sam Gordon, two Sam Gordons, then Robert, or was there still more in between?

**Mr. Holloway:** Something's not right. I'm wrong somewhere.

**Interviewer:** Well, we can probably check it on paper again later, and add it.

**Mr. Holloway:** Okay. I can get out my chart, if I can find it.

**Interviewer:** Well, you get it out before the next time, and then we'll get it clear.

**Mr. Holloway:** And then there were a bunch of sons. I think it included another Sam and a Fitzhugh which is a family name.

...

**Mr. Holloway:** But it comes from a Fitzhugh that was a last name. You know Fitzhughs were one of the ones to... I think it's Fitzhugh. But, they were spread all over - Texas, St. Louis and one of them developed and manufactured some kind of plow from St. Louis, I believe.

**Interviewer:** Now, did this grandfather that you said died before you were born, did he have brothers or sisters that you knew?

**Mr. Holloway:** No. My grandfather, Gordon, was 60 some years old when he got married to Emily May Dickinson. I think she was like 36 or 37. She was born at Moss Neck. Do you remember the story about the two children? These were Corbins. Later, some of the children, two of them, died. Stonewall Jackson supposedly cried when they told him about it. He and the girl Jane, they had been real close and she was a little three year old when she died.

**Interviewer:** Who was it that was born at Moss Neck, though?

**Mr. Holloway:** My grandmother.

**Interviewer:** Your grandmother?

**Mr. Holloway:** She was born there. Grandmother Dickinson married Robert Gordon.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Mr. Holloway:** And I knew her sisters but, I didn't know any of Robert Gordon's. I'll have to check that chart.

**Interviewer:** Oh, you were saying he was 60. Now, was that his second wife, or was he just late in getting married?

**Mr. Holloway:** He just never married. And my grandmother just never married. They knew each other, of course; they lived just a couple miles apart.

**Interviewer:** He lived at Santee!

**Mr. Holloway:** He lived at Santee. Robert was the only one that lived at Santee. My grandmother lived at what's called Moss Side.

**Interviewer:** Called what?

**Mr. Holloway:** Moss Side. What side of the tree does the moss grow on?

**Interviewer:** (Laughter) The north side, I guess.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah, it must be the north, the tall slope. Anyway, Moss Side was once a part of Moss Neck. It was almost the end of the Civil War when one of the Corbin boys was killed up near Culpepper. And his widow, who was from Richmond, wanted her part of the farm, Moss Neck, and of course, nobody had the money. They couldn't buy her out, so she in effect forced the sale of the whole thing. It was auctioned off. Before the auction, my great-grandfather took his portion of the land, I forget how many acres; it was a couple hundred or so and he built a house on it. That was Moss Side. He farmed and raised a family on Moss Side. And my grandmother was his child. William Dickinson had married the Corbin daughter. She was there during the Civil War while Mr. William Dickinson was in the Confederate Army. So, that's how come my grandmother grew up at Moss Side. Because of Moss Neck. Because her mother was a Corbin. But anyway, my grandma grew up at Moss Side, and I knew her brother and her three sisters.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember their names?

**Mr. Holloway:** The brother was Henry, Henry Nelson Dickinson. The sisters were Ellee Dickinson, Rebecca Fanny Dickinson and Maria; I think it was, I could be wrong. She died when I was just a kid.

**Interviewer:** So, you knew the two sisters but the brother better.

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh yeah, I knew him real well. I used to go to his house and spend a whole week every summer when I was a little kid, at Moss Side. We would build fences. There was a dipper on the back porch. We'd go back and drink water from a dipper. Everybody did it - hired hands, lady of the house, the kids, everybody. It was a wonder that we didn't die of something.

**Interviewer:** That's what made your strong genes. (Laughter)

**Mr. Holloway:** Again at night, we'd light the lamps; everybody would sit around and talk a while, then go to bed.

**Interviewer:** Now, were they married, these two sisters and brother?

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh yeah one sister was and one sister was not. Brother Henry had four children.

**Interviewer:** We've done most of the background for your mother. Now, how about the other side, your father's side?

**Mr. Holloway:** Grandfather (Robert G. Holloway) was born near Port Royal. His father was a doctor. He was a real old country doctor. He was in the Civil War as a surgeon, so they called it in those days. He served in Richmond and Tennessee. Mother's father was also in the Civil War. So, both of my grandfathers fought in the Civil War. My father and my grandfather were doctors.

**Interviewer:** Do you know where the other grandfather was?

**Mr. Holloway:** Grandfather Gordon? Well, I know he was at the battle of Fredericksburg, because he would come home occasionally. During a quiet period, he would come home for a little while. They could see Fredericksburg, really. Fredericksburg had fewer trees at that time, than there are now. But anyway, if the action did pick up, he'd get on his horse or walk, as the case might be, and head back to the battlefield.

**Interviewer:** That is unbelievable!

**Mr. Holloway:** But anyway, my dad graduated from the Medical College of Virginia, just prior to World War I.

**Interviewer:** That's Richmond. The Medical College of Virginia is in Richmond.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, Richmond. He practiced with his father until he went into the army in World War I. He practiced for about two years with his father. Then he went to France.

**Interviewer:** Your father went to France?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah, with the army. He was a doctor with different hospitals. At the war's end, he decided to stay in Europe, and see Europe while he was there. He figured he'd never get another chance. So, during that period his father, old Dr. Robert Green Holloway died. He planned on coming back and practicing medicine with his daddy. So anyway, he came on back and practiced in Port Royal, until he got married. He kept an

office in Port Royal for awhile. But, then he had the office, got married and worked there at Santee. Because, by then a lot of people had phones.

**Interviewer:** That's the kind where more than person was on the line. Right?

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh yeah, they were all party lines. They had a distinctive ring. One name would be one ring, somebody else would be two. - one, two -all kinds of different rings. So, you'd pick up and hear other people picking up. You'd say, 'This call is for me, get off the line now.'

**Interviewer:** Would you hear some clicks?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah. Some clicks, there was probably some still listening. I think he and Mother only lived at Port Royal a year or two, before they moved back to Santee. My grandmother had heart trouble, by the way. This is why they moved back, she needed somebody to be there at the house, with her. She lived to be 87.

**Interviewer:** Even with her heart trouble?

**Mr. Holloway:** Even with her heart trouble. During World War II, she had a coronary thrombosis attack. They wrote me, I was overseas at the time, and they wrote that she probably wouldn't live but another two days or something. That was probably 1944. She lived until '51.

**Interviewer:** 1951? Do you think that because he was a doctor, she continued to do so well?

**Mr. Holloway:** I think it was a good part of it, because he was right there. She would have problems and he would be right there with the medicine. Yeah. They were married two years, lived in Port Royal, before they moved back to Santee with my grandmother. Just part of the family, didn't think anything about it. Of course, in that day and time, it wasn't unusual to have three generations in the house.

**Interviewer:** That's true. Now, the first doctor, your dad's dad, did he grow up in Port Royal where he practiced?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** In the actual town, itself?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, a couple of miles out of town.

**Interviewer:** Was Port Royal a bigger town then?

**Mr. Holloway:** It was a busier town than it is now.

**Interviewer:** Because it was near the water?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah. They had warehouses for storage and shipment of tobacco and grain for shipment. Also, my grandfather was born on a farm near Port Royal I don't recall the name of the farm. But he lived and raised his family on a little farm called "Ridgeway" which was taken over by Fort A.P. Hill. It was near a church and....

**Interviewer:** It is still there today?

**Mr. Holloway:** It still has a Homecoming every five years. But anyway, Daddy wanted to go and wanted to see the old house, so Emily (Mrs. Byrd Holloway) took him. Dad said, "You go on this way. Come on, you go on from here. Don't pay any attention to them." You go on this way. Emily was scared to death. Daddy said, "Come on, keep going." They went all over the place. He was trying to find Ridgeway, but they couldn't find it. They went up and down and all around. Finally, he came to an area where there were some chinquapin bushes.

**Interviewer:** Chinquapin? I don't know what they are?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, they grow in a little bush, and they're like little nuts. They're pretty good.

**Interviewer:** Oh, you can eat them?

**Mr. Holloway:** He says, 'This is it. This is where you turn into to get into Ridgeway.' It had all grown up except for the ridge. Where you turned in and over to the right, you were on the top of a ridge. That's how it got its name. One of the mantle pieces in this house came from Ridgeway and one came from Santee. But anyway, Daddy said he became a doctor after working at cutting corn for 10 cents a day. He said there must be a better way to make a living.

**Interviewer:** So, he decided that when he became a teenager?

**Mr. Holloway:** Another thing I remember is a tractor we had at Santee. The tires were steel, big old steel wheels. That thing got to shaking to pieces; it would beat you to death. I remember at Flintshire; they were cutting the wheat by hand, and stacking it. They'd come back with a wagon and load the wagon, take it to a barnyard. There would be a thrashing machine. They were taking the wheat over to the thrashing machine. It would shake it, beat it to death. Then you'd bag it, or, put it into a bin loose, on a conveyor belt to take the grain and dump it into a granary. When you sold it, you reversed the process; or most likely bagged it. That's the first problem I ever had with allergies; to hold the bag, while they filled the bag.

**Interviewer:** From that small grain...

**Mr. Holloway:** That's what it does, all day long. The first day I thought I was going to die. Probably did come close.

**Interviewer:** How old were you then, a teenager?

**Mr. Holloway:** Teenager, probably about 12 or 14, somewhere around that age.

**Interviewer:** Well, I'm confused. If your dad is a doctor, but he's still farming as well.

**Mr. Holloway:** No, Dad's not farming.

**Interviewer:** But you're working on the farm.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, I worked summers on the farm, when I couldn't get out of it.

**Interviewer:** What I mean is, because you had the land, he did some farming on it, even though he was a doctor?

**Mr. Holloway:** We, at that time, had a house up there. We had a tenant up there. A family lived there and he was a farm manager. He did farm work. When we needed additional help, in that day and time, you could find it in the neighborhood.

**Interviewer:** Sure, sure.

**Mr. Holloway:** We had mules.

**Interviewer:** For the thrasher, you mean?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, not for the thrasher. Some of the plowing would still be done by mules. We had one old man, who lived on the other side of Route 17. He didn't want any part of a tractor. He would hitch his mule to a plow. Walk all day long.

**Interviewer:** Did you have names for the mules?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah, they gave them one. The last ones that were there were named Fan and Joe... Fan, Fanny for my mother. And of course, the other was Joe for my father. ...They thought it was funny. Anyway, you couldn't hard work this guy. Every weekend he'd get drunk and throw all of his money away. But anyway, when Mother and Daddy were around with the mules they'd go and say "Get up there Joe." He'd get real amused.

**Interviewer:** I'll bet he did.

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, today to cut that wheat you go into an air-conditioned combine and cut the wheat; throw out the chaff and blow that out; take the grain and blow that into a trailer or wagon; and you hardly have to get out of the air conditioning.

...

**Interviewer:** Did you keep any of the old machinery, like tractors, or thrashers?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, we should have. Daddy had a big sale probably in the late '60's or early '70's; and sold some of it. But, there was some on the place for years.

**Interviewer:** Here?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes. The last man who was worked and lived here was Mr. Motley. He could not sit. He had to work; he could not sit around. He had this place just spic and span. All the grown up areas, he had looking like a park.

**Interviewer:** My goodness. Now, this was when the tenant house was over there?

**Mr. Holloway:** He was hauling something; I think hauling wheat. He stopped the tractor at the slip of the hill to go into a building to get something. His son was on the wagon behind the tractor, and the tractor started rolling down the hill. He saw it and ran out and tried to stop it and got caught up between the body and the wheel of the tractor up against a tree. Hit him right up in the stomach and killed him.

**Interviewer:** The son was okay?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, he was okay. They called. Somebody called Mother, and she called me. It really looked like he was dead. He was still pinned by the tractor against the tree, with the little boy looking around the corner of the building. His wife also had come out of the building. By then, there must have been a dozen people. There was yelling. I don't know how word gets around so fast. But, we were waiting for the coroner because with an accident the coroner has to check it out. But, this was crazy. So, I just told Julius, I said, "Julius, I'm going to back the tractor off of this man, and you catch him and pull him on off to the side." Julius said, "I can't touch that man." I said, "All right you back the tractor up and I'll catch him." Which he did. I carried him on off to the side and covered him up with a coat or something, I forgot. But after that it was vacant.

**Interviewer:** So then, it was empty until you and Emily moved out here? Or were there other people on it?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, eventually some other people moved in. They talked Daddy into letting them move in, supposedly it was temporary. They moved some of their friends and relatives in. They used this school bus, old school bus; they converted to living quarters, parked in the yard. So we had to throw them out, except for this one old man. He had no place to go. So, we told him he could stay there.

**Interviewer:** And this is taking place what late '50's?

**Mr. Holloway:** In the 70's. He was an alcoholic. He'd get his check the first of the month, and all of his relatives would come out of the woodwork, come see him. You wouldn't see them again for a month, you know.



**Interviewer:** You wouldn't see them; or, they'd all go to town and get something?

**Mr. Holloway:** They would all come in and spend his money. He got sick and went to the hospital. He went somewhere else, or with some relative because he had to have constant care. It was an awful shame; they never used the bathroom in their house. They had old hams and stuff in the bathtub. They never used the bathroom; they used the outhouse. It was ancient. But anyway, we decided the best thing we could do with it was burn it. So, the fire station put it on fire. The fire station had a demonstration or training.

**Interviewer:** Training, right? This took place in the late "70's. I'm just trying to do a chain of who all lived here.

**Mr. Holloway:** The house where the tenant lived was actually built by my grandfather. He used to ride horse back from Santee down to Flintshire. So, this was a working farm. So, he decided to build a little house and to supposedly stay occasionally. But, Mother said what he was getting away from was all the women at Santee.

**Mr. Holloway:** After we left Santee, the vandals moved in. Santee was practically torn down; it was so bad. In fact it was one of those places where you lose everything. We always planned on moving back to Santee when we retired. But, we decided there wouldn't be any Santee to move back to.

**Interviewer:** Do you ever know who does this vandalism? Or, does it just happen through the years?

**Mr. Holloway:** It just gets done through the years. Kids you know and hunters.

**Interviewer:** That must have happened to other places.

**Mr. Holloway:** Any vacant property. It happened to Hayfield, right next door, which is a beautiful old place. It was vacant for years. They've broken all the windows! Just like the staircase, they just tore it down.

**Interviewer:** Didn't somebody buy that recently?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, they bought it years ago. It was about to fall down. My nephew, Jay, who loves history and loves old houses and fixing old houses, which is what he does for a living. He tried to get them to do something with it, the gravel company. He did get them to board the place up, at least to keep people out of it. But, he also put it on a list of endangered properties. He didn't get the credit for it in the publication...

**Interviewer:** Did that just recently get done?

**Mr. Holloway:** Just now got done. They just had a big showing in April, I think.

**Interviewer:** And, so it's the person who has the gravel company that owns it?

**Mr. Holloway:** The gravel company owns it.

**Interviewer:** Oh, the company actually owns it! And who's that man?

**Mr. Holloway:** It's an English company that owns it.

**Interviewer:** What company?

**Mr. Holloway:** English, from England.

**Interviewer:** Oh. But, there must be somebody living there though.

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, I'm not sure anymore. They're using it for an office, I think.

**Interviewer:** Well, can people go in there? I mean, can people drive up? Or, is it locked off?

**Mr. Holloway:** They started digging gravel; people are around all the time.

**Interviewer:** Well, now this Jay. Was that a Jay Holloway?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah. My brother's son. He's very talented. He used to come to stay with us. When he was little, four or five years old, we'd say, "Jay, what are you going to do today." He'd say, "Hamah"

**Interviewer:** What?

**Mr. Holloway:** Hamah (hammer). Give him some nails and a hammer; he was good all day. He loved to fix stuff.

**Interviewer:** Hamah, that's cute. Well, just out of curiosity, so Moss Neck was right next to you?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, Hayfield is next to us. Moss Neck—it's a mile or two down the road...

**Interviewer:** Santee's across the road.

**Mr. Holloway:** Santee's across.

**Interviewer:** Prospect Hill that is...?

**Mr. Holloway:** Across the road, but in...

**Interviewer:** ...western direction. Are there any other others right around here? Names in which we would be interested?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, Belvedere. But that's not connected with us.

**Interviewer:** And there are people living in all of these other places?

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh, yeah, yeah. Do you know Towlsey Castles? She lives at Santee. We sold it in '35 or '36 to a family named Arnold. A-R-N-O-L-D. His name was Rhodes. Rhodes Arnold. His son's name was Rhodes Arnold. He lived there 'til probably World War II, or right after. The Castles bought it from them. There was Mr. Castles, Mrs. Castles and another gentleman. I don't know if it was his brother or her brother. The men died. I think within months of each other - two brothers, two men. She lived another while but not real long. But then Jack Castles married Towlsey Rowe. You know Joe Rowe of the Free Lance Star? She is a cousin of his.

**Interviewer:** That Castles wasn't he in charge of the National Guard?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, he became a general in charge of the Virginia National Guard. Jack was Gen. Castles He was a member of the National Guard as a captain or major or something. He worked for the Farm Home Administration up in Albemarle County. His car stalled on the railroad track. He tried to get out but didn't quite make it. And the train took his leg off. They took him to the University of Virginia Hospital. It was tuck and go. They really didn't think he was going to live but he did. They put on a very slick attached, artificial leg and he stayed in the National Guard. He ended up taking over the whole Virginia National Guard. We (Virginia) were ranked about nearly last – near the bottom, and he got us all the way up to # 1. He was very capable.

**Interviewer:** Now she still lives there today.

**Mr. Holloway:** She is still there. Jack died, oh five or six years ago, I guess.

**Interviewer:** And Prospect Hill?

**Mr. Holloway:** Prospect Hill is over there where Dr. Muir lives.

**Interviewer:** They have been here a long time now.

**Mr. Holloway:** They came here 20 or 25 years ago.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember anybody before that?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, we had a court case. I take that back. We had an Internal Revenue hearing about whether or not we could have capital gains tax on gravel. We got our tax man – he was the one who did the taxes. He was in a better position to talk to the IRS. So, he looked up rulings by a judge, who I think was from Chicago. It was supposed to be treated as capital gains for tax purposes because it couldn't be replenished among other reasons. But anyway it was decided by a judge. That same judge retired and moved to

Virginia and went to St. Peter's Church and lived at Prospect Hill before Dr. and Mrs. Muir.

**Interviewer:** That was quite a coincidence.

**Mr. Holloway:** Anyway, but the judge and his wife, who was quite a character, used to have great parties up there.

**Interviewer:** *Today is Tuesday, July 10. I am again speaking to Byrd Holloway at his home at Flintshire Farm, Caroline County. .*



**Boyhood Home on Hanover Street**

**Mr. Holloway:** They moved back to 401 Hanover St. which I talked about before, so he could be nearer the hospital. They lived there until they died.

**Interviewer:** You had a pretty stable childhood then?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, I didn't move to town till I was almost six... Fredericksburg was a little small town which had no trouble with parking. Then, in 1929 which is also the year of the stock market crash but it was the year that the Sylvania plant opened. It made cellophane. Fredericksburg area did not feel the Depression as most areas. We used to play football or kick the bucket or all kinds of games in the street. We would get mad if a car came by. I remember old Chief Silas Perry used to occasionally park right there on Charles, right off Hanover. And we would get mad at him hogging up our playground.

**Interviewer:** He was the chief of police for a long time, I gather.

**Mr. Holloway:** As I mentioned before, you would still see wagons with horses. They used to deliver ice – horse drawn wagon.

**Interviewer:** Where did they get ice?

**Mr. Holloway:** Made it. They still make it at the same place – on Princess Anne Street. I guess they still make it there. In those days people still did not have refrigerators, they had ice boxes.

**Interviewer:** You remember that? The guys would put the ice in the icebox. You didn't have to do that, did you?

**Mr. Holloway:** They brought it in. It was 25 or 50 pounds. Might have had a 100 pound box probably 25. Somebody else went around selling coal in a wagon.

**Interviewer:** Your family used coal did they?

**Mr. Holloway:** We used it for heat. We had a big bin in the basement for the coal. Robert B. Payne started that business in 1930 and we bought coal from them. They delivered it. We dumped it down a chute in our case right into the basement coal bin. We had a big old furnace in there and you had to add coal every few hours. Eventually, you use the stoker, which is attached to the furnace, and it would automatically feed the fire through the night, so you wouldn't have to get up to take care of it. That feature came along a little bit later. Robert B. Payne Inc. is still in business.

**Interviewer:** Is that particular Payne still in charge of the business?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, he was Robert B. Payne and I know he graduated from Virginia Tech the year I was born in 1923. He died in the 60's or 70's probably. Then his son-in-law ran it – Cameron Thompson who married Bev Payne, who is also my age, a couple of years younger than me. Cameron died three or four years ago. Their sons are running the business. Same business, but it has grown.

**Interviewer:** In the 20's was that? Is that what you're saying?

(Byrd's words could not be heard for a bit, so the conversation has changed.)

...

**Mr. Holloway:** I guess it became William Street in the late 30's. I don't really know; I wasn't here very much in those years. Anyway the Cole building was right up on William, which was Commerce Street back in those days. Charles Street had the Sanitary Store and that became a Safeway years later. Do you remember where Johnson and Glazebrook used to be at 402 William St.? There was a Sanitary Grocery there. Right on the corner was a butcher shop and then the office part of the building where J & G used to be, there was a Sanitary Grocery but they had a whole separate section for the meat.

One Christmas, in the 30's I got a Howard Johnson Bicycle which I had been eyeing for years. I took it for a ride Christmas morning and came back for lunch. I went into lunch and came back out and there was no bicycle.

**Interviewer:** Just at your own home?

**Mr. Holloway:** Couldn't find it anywhere and finally called the police. We looked all over creation. For some reason I walked up to William Street and sure enough there was a bicycle in the back of the Sanitary Grocery. There is a building there now, but it used to be open. I know I was mighty glad to see it.

**Interviewer:** Did you ever hear how it got there?

**Mr. Holloway:** I had an idea, but I remember Mother saying, don't feel too bad it is probably some little boy that didn't get a bicycle, so he borrowed yours for awhile. She was always coming up with things like that.

**Interviewer:** She must have been a sweet woman to be so concerned about others.

**Mr. Holloway:** Not long after Mother and Daddy were married – they were married in 1921--they had to go down to Richmond. They got into Daddy's vehicle, whatever it was at that time, and took a couple extra set of tires. You could never take a trip in those days with just four tires. Because you knew you were going to get a blow-out one way or another on a long trip. They took off, I guess before Route 1. They went out to Spotsylvania Courthouse and turned left and followed that road that led to Richmond.

**Interviewer:** Do you know what that road was?

**Mr. Holloway:** They had a name for it – Telegraph Road or Richmond-Washington Highway. They went on to Richmond and I don't know how many flat tires they had but coming back, it was part dark but they were riding along and all of a sudden here were these buildings, these barns and they wondered what in the world happened. Of course they had gotten off the road and didn't even notice the difference. They had driven onto someone's driveway and right into the barnyard. In those days roads weren't paved and were pretty rutty. In wintertime you always got stuck.

**Interviewer:** Now, you said they were going on this trip, but I have to go back a bit. You said your Dad saw your mother at Grace Church; did he get married in that church?

**Mr. Holloway:** They might have been married at St. George's in Fredericksburg.

**Interviewer:** Is (Grace Church) it still there?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yea, it's still there. It's still being kept up all those many years. It was another church for several years, but since World War II it's been mostly vacant. A.P. Hill took a fourth of the county and all the area south of Corbin. They took it in 1940 or '41, I guess. So, the congregation scattered all over the place, to Fredericksburg,

Stafford, Spotsylvania. So, the church fell off for awhile. The preacher at that time traveled from Port Royal, St. Peter's Church, to Grace Church and at one time to a church in Bowling Green and I think he alternated. He would probably cover two churches on a Sunday – one so-called early service and one later service. He didn't have three services every Sunday. At one time Vauter's Church in Essex was also what they called "yoked", "yoked" with St. Peter's and Bowling Green churches, Caroline County, at least.

**Interviewer:** Now, being an outsider I have heard of that church and I'm wondering why that's considered so famous. I mean, I heard of it and I'm not even from here.

**Mr. Holloway:** Vauter's church?

**Interviewer:** Right.

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, it's very, very old. It's a colonial church, beautiful brick work. Beautiful church.

**Interviewer:** It's still there today.

**Mr. Holloway:** Still there. Still used every Sunday. They're very active.

**Interviewer:** And it is Episcopal?

**Mr. Holloway:** Episcopal. And they have a utility, general purpose building where they have bible class and suppers.

**Interviewer:** So, it still has a pretty good congregation.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, it has a good congregation. Pretty wealthy congregation.

**Interviewer:** It's in Orange County?

**Mr. Holloway:** It's at the edge of Caroline and Essex Counties, but in Essex.

**Interviewer:** I interrupted you. You said it was a pretty well off congregation?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes. It is now. There are a bunch of big old farms or historic places and through the years they have been sold off to wealthy people. You know I was just thinking about the automobiles and the traveling. Tires today if you don't have to ride your car a lot, well they last longer – 40 or 50 thousand miles. Back in those days, if you got 10 thousand, you thought you were really doing something.

**Interviewer:** What's the difference; they were made of rubber still, weren't they?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, you have a different process, like steel belt tires. Back in those days they had what I don't know, something such as cotton. Steel belts keep the shape so they don't wear out. I'm sure the vulcanizing process is much improved.

**Interviewer:** That's your father having to do that, right? You were past that time. You we're too young to be having to fix tires all the time like that.

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, tires and fathers haven't improved so much. You never took off in a car without having to change the tires, if you were going any distance. One day I believe it was 1949 and I started back to town, probably after lunch, and I had two flat tires before I got to New Post and that was three miles. Boy I was cursing blue. I changed, put the spare on, and went on another mile or so and the next one blew. And I don't know why.

**Interviewer:** I bet you were good at changing tires. Everybody knew how to change tires.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yea, absolutely. When you went on a trip, you took a couple two, three extra tires with you. Still with traveling now, you probably have the tires mounted on the wheel and then you have to just change the wheel.

**Interviewer:** When you moved to town, you were about 15.

**Mr. Holloway:** I was almost six, I was five. Thursday, Oct. 1, I was five; my birthday was December 6, and I was turning six.

**Interviewer:** Did you have brothers and sisters?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, I had an older brother, Bob, who was two years older than me and he grew up in the Fredericksburg schools and he learned to fly.

**Interviewer:** At Shannon? Was Shannon here?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, not at Shannon.

**Interviewer:** An older airport here?

**Mr. Holloway:** Right out beyond Belvedere, right before you get to New Post, where the gravel pit is on the right. I've pulled a mental blank. Now, I remember. The farm is called Nottingham. I think a Mr. Holiday from Orange rented part of the farm and built an airstrip. He gave flying lessons and took people for rides.

**Interviewer:** Fredericksburg had an airport that soon?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, this is in the late 30's. I can't remember if Shannon was here then or not? At this airport he would be flying around and having flying lessons. Bob was



always flying model planes, all that. He learned to fly and all he wanted to do was get in the air corps, which he eventually did in 1942 and went with the air corps and learned to fly and he got his wings in late July of '43 and got married August 1, something like that, and was stationed at Hobbs, NM.

**Interviewer:** Was that an air base?

**Mr. Holloway:** Army Air Corps base. He married Nancy Ingles from Fredericksburg, his high school sweetheart. They had been married a little over one year when he went on a training mission to Tennessee, and they stopped at an airport there. Again, I can't remember if it was Memphis – but anyway, they refueled the tanks and took off and didn't go very far and the plane exploded. And all of them, about a half dozen, were killed.

**Interviewer:** They were all in the one plane?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes. It was a sad, sad time.

**Interviewer:** I'm so sorry. Did they know what caused it later?

**Mr. Holloway:** Not as far as we know. It could have had a fuel problem in the luggage area or something, or in the belly of the plane.

**Interviewer:** About how old were you then?

**Mr. Holloway:** I was in the army: I was 19.

**Interviewer:** You were away in the army, too? You said your brother, Bob, was two years older, so he was only 21.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah. He was 21. He was born in October, so he was close to 22. I can't think of any more. Anyway, I don't know whether Shannon airport was here or not.

**Interviewer:** Probably not for awhile. We can check on that some way.

**Mr. Holloway:** Somehow, I think it was.

**Interviewer:** Do we know what kind of plane your brother flew in or trained on?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, a B17. That was a big bomber.

**Interviewer:** Was that new to World War II or did we have that in the First World War?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, it was new. That was replaced at the end of World War II with an even bigger one.

**Interviewer:** Shall we talk about the others in your family or is Bob the only brother you had?

**Mr. Holloway:** I have a younger brother, Joe Joe. He's Joseph Minor Holloway Jr.

**Interviewer:** How much younger was he than you?

**Mr. Holloway:** Fifteen years.

**Interviewer:** I shouldn't say was, but is. He's even right here today! (*Joe Joe was working on a project while I was interviewing Byrd.*) Where did the name Joe Joe come from?

**Mr. Holloway:** I guess just to be different from Dad who was called Joe. So we called young Joe, Joe Joe.

**Interviewer:** Oh, okay. So, there were three boys.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, three boys.

**Interviewer:** Three boys. How did your mother feel about that? Did she ever want a girl?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, she did. They were hoping both Joe Joe and I were girls.

**Interviewer:** I can imagine three boys in the house was a little bit wild.

**Mr. Holloway:** Our home was a hangout for all the neighborhood boys, you know.

**Interviewer:** They came to your house, did they?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, we had a play room all our own. You just come and go through the window half the time. Just raise the window.

**Interviewer:** There was a big window I gather.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** It was just easier to go in and out the windows instead of the doors?

**Mr. Holloway:** We had doors, too. Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** Did your neighborhood have a lot of boys?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes. Right across the street was John Embrey, who became a dentist, and John and I met purely by accident on Leyte in the Philippines in World War II. We took a beach a couple of miles from where we were, to get some medical supplies. And I

saw somebody – darn that looks like John Embrey – he was at a distance and kind of had a big mustache. Well I don't know if John has a big mustache, so I walked over and it was John. He lived right across the street from me. We ended up going up to his place for supper. He was an officer, a dentist and I was a corporal.

**Interviewer:** Where were you, on Leyte?

**Mr. Holloway:** It's in the Philippine Islands. They had good food compared to how we were eating. I ate as much as I could. Anyway, John gave me a fifth of bourbon that he had gotten from some Australians. Australia was pretty strong through that part of the country. He said, "Save it for some special celebration." Anyway, we got shipped out to Luzon.

**Interviewer:** He and you?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, just my group. His group too, but they went somewhere else. And we went on to Luzon.

That's where Manila is located. And, from there, we went through to Okinawa. I heard from Robert B. Payne, the very same. He said he was coming to see me. And, so he comes with John Embrey and John Russell, who was a surveyor in Fredericksburg. He lived about four blocks away from me on Princess Anne Street. Of course, he was much older and was gone by the time I grew up, but of course we knew him. Mother and Dad and he were best friends. John Embrey was right next door to the Payne's and right across the street from me and John Russell also was four blocks away. The four of us got together on Okinawa and pulled out that fifth of bourbon.



Robert B. Payne, John Russell, John Embrey, and Byrd Holloway

**Interviewer:** That was your celebration.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, quite a celebration. Folks getting together and we were just waiting for the Japanese to surrender because by then they had dropped the bomb. You know they almost didn't surrender. There were kamikazes born to die for this; people are crazy, I tell you the truth.

**Interviewer:** As long as we're into the war, do you remembering joining up or were you drafted or what went on that time?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, I tried to get into the air corps but there was a freeze on for a stated period, so in the meantime I went to Hampton-Sydney in September and in December, I drove home on the weekend and ran into Mary Kay Vaughn, whose name means nothing to you, but everybody at that time knew her. She worked for the *Free Lance Star* and she was a member of the draft board. She told me I'd be called up in February, so, when I came home from Hampton-Sydney for Christmas, I brought everything home with me. You know there was no use going back. So, I was drafted and Tom Dew's brother, Joe Dew, was a transportation officer at Fort Lee, in Petersburg.

**Interviewer:** Is that still around?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes. He was going to send me to the air corps. Everything was all set. Well, I went down there the next day to find Joe Dew. Come to find out Joe Dew was in Fredericksburg; his wife was having a baby. So, I ended up with a very new branch of the army - the airborne; the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne at Camp McCall which was right near Ft. Bragg which is in North Carolina.

It was a brand new camp, built particularly for us, for the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne We trained in North Carolina and Louisiana and then to California to ship out to the Pacific.

**Interviewer:** Did you have much training?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, we had about nine months, something like that. I don't remember exactly the dates anymore. I had a little book that I had everything written down – dates and where we were and I know it's still here somewhere and I can't find it.

**Interviewer:** I interrupted – Camp McCall, and then you were going to go to California?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, I went to Camp Polk in Louisiana and to Camp Stoneman in California and got on the boats. I think it was near San Francisco or something.

**Interviewer:** Do you think that still exists?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes. I think I've seen some mention of it.

**Interviewer:** How would you spell that? Stoneman?

**Mr. Holloway:** I think it was S-t-o-n-e-m-a-n. I may be wrong.

**Interviewer:** Oh, Stoneman! So, you flew out of there?

**Mr. Holloway:** No. I rode a liberty boat. I don't know how many troops were on every ship, but we had hammocks, right on top of one another. There were an awful lot of people on a little boat. In the mess hall the tables were about so-high (*He indicated chest high.*) with steel legs bolted to the floor and there was ridge around the table because food and trays would be sliding all over the place. No chairs. The trouble is it got rough and people started getting seasick. And it's just too much. I couldn't eat and watch people throw up. Too much for me.

**Interviewer:** It certainly would not be tasty then. Why are they called liberty ships? Were there a lot of ships called that or was that the name of your ship?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, a lot of them. It was a ship designed by this one man, one company, and the government backed him to build these ships. I think it was Kaiser. You've heard of the Kaiser-Fraser cars? I think it was Kaiser. I might be wrong. But anyway, it was called that.

**Interviewer:** Because we were probably going to free people, so it was "liberty," do you think?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Now, were there any of your friends on that Liberty Ship?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, there was a couple. A boy, with the 11th Airborne, was hit in the hip and he too was with our division and going up North to Luzon in the Philippines. He was injured and put on a houseboat and the Japanese shelled the houseboat and killed him. I had been to see him a couple of days before.

**Interviewer:** Who was that?

**Mr. Holloway:** As I remember, it was a fellow called Pripp, Pripp Cylinnners. I think his real name was Reeve Cylinnners. I'm not positive.

**Interviewer:** So, you're on this ship, sleeping in hammocks, and everybody is sick. How long did it take to get where you were going. Where did you first go?

**Mr. Holloway:** New Guinea. That was – I don't remember exactly but I think it was three or four weeks. I know it was a long time. They worked you a lot on that little liberty boat.

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**Interviewer:** We're talking about emphysema right now. I'm trying to think -- my Dad died in '74. They did not use oxygen then; they never thought of using it then. So, you're saying your mother died in '82 and there still wasn't the use of oxygen. You don't remember it, at least.

**Mr. Holloway:** She didn't have it. Helen, who works for us now, worked for Mother and she said she doesn't remember seeing it. I don't think she had any.

**Interviewer:** Gosh, I wonder if it's really that recent.

**Mr. Holloway:** They didn't have buterol, which now it's -- you better have it with you.

**Interviewer:** I don't know what that is.

**Mr. Holloway:** It breaks up the mucous.

**Interviewer:** But how do you take it?

**Mr. Holloway:** Spray.

**Interviewer:** You do spray it. Like an inhaler?

**Mr. Holloway:** I have this with me all the time. Like now.

**Interviewer:** What, it opens up your lungs; it opens up your throat?

**Mr. Holloway:** It opens up your throat and it loosens the mucous and this goes into this thing (*shows me*) and makes a mist and you breathe it.

**Interviewer:** A mist around you?

**Mr. Holloway:** You breathe it. It goes right into your lungs and, again, it breaks up the mucous. It makes it a little easier to get rid of. But, she didn't have any of that. When you had these little things at the drug store; they used it for bronchitis you could buy these little things. I'm sure I bought those before, in 1980. I never understood what emphysema was, although Daddy told me that before that I had signs of emphysema.

**Interviewer:** So, he knew about it.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, he knew about it. We all knew about cancer and emphysema, knew about that in the '30's.

**Interviewer:** Really?

**Mr. Holloway:** Not the emphysema.

**Interviewer:** That's what I mean, the emphysema. Dad was the only one I ever knew who had emphysema and we'd never heard of it before.

**Mr. Holloway:** Cancer we hear about and it irritates your lungs and causes bronchitis and that kind of thing. But the emphysema part, even when you knew what it was, I thought well, here I've been smoking for years and if it gets to be a problem or becomes a problem; I'll just quit smoking and then I got emphysema quite quickly. That's just the way it works. You can quit smoking, but emphysema can continue to advance. It doesn't go away even though you stop smoking.

**Interviewer:** Is there anything else you take, because a hundred years from now, people might want to know what we did for emphysema at this time? So, you take that mist and use your oxygen tank.

**Mr. Holloway:** Practically everything you take for emphysema is really for asthma because asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, all of it, and COPD (Chronic, Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) that's what they call it now, COPD. Most everything I take is primarily for asthma, to break up the mucous. And, because the emphysema, they really can't do anything much about it. That's little sacks where oxygen is transferred; you've take the oxygen, to take out the carbon dioxide. When those little sacks start dying, there's not much you can do, just hope you don't die too fast, too many to fast.

**Interviewer:** When were you diagnosed with that, recently? Or did you know for awhile?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, in '76, I had my first lung surgery, but that was due to scar tissue. I did have pneumonia before, years before. I think I was probably in my early 20's. But, anyway, in '76 it failed. I went to an allergist, Dr. Peter Smith, for an allergy study and he took an x-ray and that's when he found a spot and anyway, I ended up with Dr. Massad operating on me and it turned out to be scar tissue.

**Interviewer:** I don't know of anybody who has a lung missing, either. That's not a very common operation?

**Mr. Holloway:** It's not a whole lung, just part of it. Well, I don't know of anyone and at that time I had emphysema.

**Interviewer:** And you knew in your case that it was probably due to smoking. Did you smoke even before the war? Seems to me that smoking was encouraged during World War II.

**Mr. Holloway:** I started smoking before, but during the war I guess that's when it got to be a real strong habit for several reasons, one reason you're nervous and I got really bored.

**Interviewer:** So, what did you smoke, do you remember?

**Mr. Holloway:** I smoked Marlboroughs, Camels, Lucky Strikes. I began on Lucky Strike at that time and Mother smoked Lucky Strikes.

**Interviewer:** And your mother smoked? Wasn't that unusual for a woman at that time?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, not by her times.

**Interviewer:** I don't even know when cigarettes got started. I remember my dad rolling his own cigarettes.

**Mr. Holloway:** That was done on up in the 50's. In the 30's particularly, everybody rolled cigarettes.

**Interviewer:** You didn't have them when you were in the war?

**Mr. Holloway:** If it's C-rations - little pack of cigarettes, six or 10 would be part of the package. But in the depression you could buy regular cigarettes for 10 cents a pack, your brand names were about 15 cents – like Camels, Phillip Morris, and others. For ten cents you could buy Pall Malls and two or three others brands. You could also buy 10 cigarettes for five cents.

**Interviewer:** You didn't have to buy a pack as we know it today!

**Mr. Holloway:** There was one company for awhile that sold a pack of cigarettes for 5 cents. Seem to me the name was Sunshine. I believe, but I don't know that was a long time ago.

**Interviewer:** You didn't have to roll your cigarettes though?

**Mr. Holloway:** I did do it, but not as a regular thing.

**Interviewer:** Did you ever smoke a pipe?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah. I loved to smoke pipes.

**Interviewer:** Well, they will be a collector's item today

**Mr. Holloway:** Probably so. I would rather smoke a pipe to keep from smoking so many cigarettes because a pipe you need to load the thing and puff it for awhile and go to talking and when you take another puff, the thing is out. You have to light it again.

**Interviewer:** Did you have a favorite tobacco that goes in the pipe?

**Mr. Holloway:** It seems to me I liked (inaudible) I don't remember, maybe Prince Edward.



**Interviewer:** It really is a different world for the person today who smokes. I remember always giving ashtrays for a wedding present.

**Mr. Holloway:** Not any more. Everybody had ashtrays all over the place. Now, there are no ashtrays.

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**Interviewer:** Well, we got away from the war there for a minute but it was an interesting aside. You had just arrived at Okinawa is where we were? You went to Manila but that was just the place you started; you didn't do fighting there did you?

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh yeah. It was really our biggest battle – was retaking Manila. That was the capital of the Philippines and it is where Gen. Douglas Macarthur was. He left before the Japanese got all the way. He was on Corrigador right there below Bataan. ...

**Mr. Holloway:** They were going to fall and they really couldn't hold out but for so long because they were running out of food and water and everything as well. The Japanese hit them up with canon. They were target practice, so they knew they were going to have to surrender sooner or later. So that is where Macarthur said, "I shall return." Anyway that is also why we had to liberate.

**Interviewer:** What do you do when you liberate? Do you have a lot of prisoners?

**Mr. Holloway:** We had more dead than alive. We went in to clear the Japanese out. They were such a radical people - like in Iwo Jima and some of those other islands; there would be 30,000 of them on the island. You ended up with only 300 prisoners that kind of thing; the rest of them were dead.

**Interviewer:** Did they have places to hide - like in the caves?

**Mr. Holloway:** They had caves in the Philippines like they had in Iwo Jim and Okinawa –those places.

**Interviewer:** To clear that island, you had to go in those caves?

**Mr. Holloway:** In Okinawa, when we went there as a staging area for the invasion of Japan, the battle was supposed to be severe. I went in with a group to prepare things for the rest of the division. The first night there we were up on a sort of a plateau, so we went to bed and went to sleep with no guard or anything because we thought it was secure. Well the next morning we got up and some of us were fixing breakfast. Another guy and I were just throwing a football around and all of a sudden all these bullets were flying around. We got behind those rocks in a hurry. It turned out there was some Japanese in those above ground graves on the rim.

**Interviewer:** Okinawa had those above ground graves; they had them all over the island.

**Mr. Holloway:** The Japanese hid in there until they had something to shoot at. Fortunately, they were poor shots because they should have been able to hit, but they didn't get any of us. I don't know if they got anybody else or not.

**Interviewer:** You are in the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division but I am a little confused, are you on land or sea or in the air?

**Mr. Holloway:** On land and in the air. We were paratroopers and gliders. There were gliders to hook on a big old C-47. They would take four to six gliders and the gliders would be full of troops, canon, and panzer equipment. When they get the gliders to where they were going to land, the C-47 would cut these gliders loose and they'd land in big old fields. That is where I was in the beginning is in the gliders, not as a pilot but as a troop.

**Interviewer:** What does a glider have to get it down to land? Is there a pilot?

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh yeah, It has a pilot but that is all. It doesn't have an engine. When you cut loose from the plane that is pulling you, you are going down and you better judge it right the first time because you can't swing around and come back.

**Interviewer:** Do you have any pictures of those? When I think of a glider today, it is really small; it couldn't hold all those people as you are saying.

**Mr. Holloway:** These things held about 20 people.

**Interviewer:** So, that is what you came down in.

**Mr. Holloway:** The trouble is, you couldn't do much, you just had to land. You had to land in the same area, so you ended up landing on top of each other. I think this is a whole lot more dangerous than jumping out of an airplane with a parachute, so I decided to become a paratrooper.

**Mr. Holloway:** I decided that when I was in New Guinea; I was just bored to death. They decided to have a jump school for anybody that wanted to become a paratrooper, so I volunteered. Ordinarily, you take five practice jumps to get your wings. Over there you didn't have to have but three. I took my jumps and got my wings. I think we got a little extra pay.

**Interviewer:** I would think. It was dangerous.

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, \$10 or \$20 a month – if that much.

**Interviewer:** What did you jump out of?

**Mr. Holloway:** Generally, out of a C-46 or 47. C stands for cargo – for equipment, troops or whatever.

**Interviewer:** Would there be a lot jumping out at the same time?

**Mr. Holloway:** One plane probably had 30 or so who would jump. Normally, there were a bunch of planes.

**Interviewer:** How far did a parachuter have to jump?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well the higher you are, the safer you are. A combat jump would be 500 feet. So you get to the ground in a hurry before you get shot. When you jump from a plane, your shoot is attached to a static line and it is all packaged from the hook to a static line. You jump and your static line pulls you back off your pillow (inaudible) which brings the parachute up.

**Interviewer:** You don't have to pull that? It does it all.

**Mr. Holloway:** It works automatically. Sometimes, it didn't open properly and you had a trailer and you come down like a ton of bricks. But you had a spare chute, so you had a chance and that you did have to pull. At 500 feet you didn't have much time to make a decision. The higher you were; the safer you were because you had more time.

**Interviewer:** Did you ever have to use the second one?

**Mr. Holloway:** Mine always worked, thank goodness.

**Interviewer:** Did you have to prepare those parachutes or did someone else?

**Mr. Holloway:** We had to supposedly learn how to do it, but we never had to do it. Some people, all they did was pack chutes. Because if you do not pack them right, somebody is going to be in trouble. We used to have; some general would come and watch all these people jumping. I am talking about here locally – in the states. You had people jumping by the hundreds and invariably you would have one or two chutes that would not open and someone would get killed. One or two would come in wrong and break a leg or something. I don't know why in the world they need to jump for show.

**Interviewer:** In this case, you had no control of where you land either. It is just that the plane is trying to keep you in a certain area.

**Mr. Holloway:** You mean the glider? You jump on the outskirts or near a bridge. Within a Division, you have combat troops – some are medics, some are artillery. My unit was going up a Japanese air field, one they had left. Up in the hills of Leyte, my group went up there. I stayed back with a few others of our group to bring everything back up the next day. Well, it started raining – going into the raining season in that part of the country – I mean it rains! You can't go anywhere. So we were living the life of Riley, back on the beach. The Filipinos were finding eggs, chicken, sweet potatoes. We would go take a swim before breakfast or anytime. That was in Leyte Gulf where they

had some of the biggest (inaudible). Anyway up at the airfield, just before dawn, here come the Japanese airplanes with Japanese paratroopers. They were yelling and screaming and were worried they would get shot before they hit the ground. They did do some damage. Our dentist was killed.

**Interviewer:** I never even think of the Japanese as even having paratroopers.

**Mr. Holloway:** They had them. There were apparent holes or gaps in their jumps but they turned up screaming, yelling, maybe to get themselves in such a state of mind. But charging a machine gun and getting shot before they get anywhere near it, I don't know. Crazy people.

**Interviewer:** When you actually land, what do you do with the parachute?

**Mr. Holloway:** If they don't know your landing, you try to bury it somewhere.

**Interviewer:** You get rid of it. You take it off yourself

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh yeah. By the time you hit you are ready to dump it. If they have seen you, you forget the parachute and you take off.

**Interviewer:** You are carrying a gun. Where do you keep the gun or rifle?

**Mr. Holloway:** We had a 30 caliber carbines with a folded stock, you know the stock behind the trigger, generally wood but ours were steel and folded, folded a long side the barrel. So instead of having it this long, you had one about this long and strapped to your leg. It is a semi-automatic.

**Interviewer:** You had to carry ammunition then too?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah – an ammunition belt.

**Interviewer:** Anything else you have to carry?

**Mr. Holloway:** You carry a little shovel to dig a trench and you carry a mess kit and some rations.

**Interviewer:** It must have been scary.

**Mr. Holloway:** Well fortunately, I never had to jump. (Inaudible sentence.) Not in the war.

**Interviewer:** Off a Navy ship? Oh, you mean off those landing craft.

**Mr. Holloway:** Do you go to the movies? The war pictures? There was one a few years ago - about a prison camp on Luzon, Manila and it showed how they were rescued.

**Interviewer:** The Americans?

**Mr. Holloway:** We came along right after that and those boys; I tell you they were nothing but skin and bones. Apparently they didn't have too much to eat, but the Japanese didn't have too much to eat either because our shipping had pretty much disrupted them. The Filipinos, they ate out of the woods, the jungles. They weren't going to give the Japanese any more than they had to.

**Interviewer:** There was a lot of overgrowth then.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, well some areas but it depended on the elevation. The high areas were fairly clear.

**Interviewer:** Was it still hot all the time?

**Mr. Holloway:** It's hot. I guess at that age the heat doesn't bother like it does later. Only time I remember the heat bothering me was in New Guinea which had tents - great big old supply tent as big as this room. I got the worst headache I ever had in my life. Had sunstroke I guess.

**Interviewer:** How long were you gone overseas?

**Mr. Holloway:** Two years.

**Interviewer:** You did get mail? You weren't married yet. Anything you would like to say about the battles or war that I don't know to ask.

**Mr. Holloway:** There isn't too much to tell. I would say I was attached to the headquarters of the artillery, so we had the artillery in front of us, and in front of the artillery was the infantry, and they are the ones that caught the brunt of the battle. We would get artillery fire from the enemy, the Japanese, and the infiltrators at night, they would try to infiltrate. These people - they don't seem to care whether they live or die. They would go on all kinds of suicide missions.

**Interviewer:** You always hear about their honor like it is better to die than surrender. Some people that we talk to have said that war one of their most vivid experience and others say no. What do you feel?

**Mr. Holloway:** I don't think it is very exciting. To me war is unbelievable. That human beings could do that to each other. Just doesn't make a bit of sense to go to war. I started reading this - *The Terrible Love of War* by James Hillman.

**Interviewer:** Is it non-fiction? Do you think the world or Americans are infatuated with war?

**Mr. Holloway:** I am talking about the people being infatuated. I don't agree with it to tell you the truth. There are some people, like General George Patton; he enjoyed it. I think he enjoyed war. There were many others of course like him. There are few people, (that actually do the fighting) that like it, but 95% are as horrified as you think it ought to be. When you think of all the people that have been killed by wars or because of war – disease, starvation - it is just an unbelievable waste.

**Interviewer:** Back to Macarthur, he would be the most famous in the area you were located. You didn't meet him, did you?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, I didn't meet him. We thought Macarthur had a great PR unit. He was very dramatic. He always seemed to be playing a role. He did a great job with Japan. I don't think too many people could have done it.

**Interviewer:** I don't honestly know the circumstances as to why President Truman relieved Macarthur. Is that something you would like to comment on?

**Mr. Holloway:** That was later though, in Korea. Truman was scared Macarthur was going to get us in a war with China. I think that is what was behind it. I forgot the exact circumstance, but he was supposed to not do something and he turned around and did it. That was a good excuse for Truman to relieve him.

**Interviewer:** How did you get home? After Okinawa did you go somewhere else before you went home?

**Mr. Holloway:** I went to Japan...We were the first troops in there after the war. We landed in an airfield and went to a warehouse which was full of rifles, pistols, swords. We got one of each and got in trucks and went on bases. Our people and the Japanese worked it out where we would all go. We went to a Japanese cavalry barracks. Horses and all were still there. The horses didn't know what we were talking about. We would ride them but when the horse got to a certain point he would turn and go back to the stable. There was nothing you could do to keep them from going back. (Laughter)

**Interviewer:** Were you in that area very long?

**Mr. Holloway:** We were there a couple of months. One of the guys got some disease and they had to quarantine the whole ship. We were supposed to go to (inaudible) Bay. We were on the ship from the 20th of December until it was almost January. We had Christmas on that ship

**Interviewer:** How did you get home then once the ship part was over?

**Mr. Holloway:** Went on a train. I came back to Ft. Lee, I think.

**Interviewer:** Did the government do that or did you have to find your own way home?

**Mr. Holloway:** We all came as a unit. You know now I don't remember for absolute.

**Interviewer:** Do you know how you got home from there?

**Mr. Holloway:** I took a train.

**Interviewer:** You took another train?

**Mr. Holloway:** Got off the train right here in Fredericksburg with a duffle bag. Earlier, I had called home and told them I wouldn't know when I would get home for sure. I thought I would leave today, but knowing the army it might be tomorrow. Mother said, "If you come home and we are not there, come on out to Paul's." Paul's was a restaurant out on Lafayette Blvd. They had a big separate building where they had parties. Mother and Daddy were out there because it was their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. So I got home and nobody was there but my grandmother and somebody. Mom left her car and key for me, so I went on out to Paul's and enjoyed the party.

**Interviewer:** Where about is that on Lafayette Boulevard – close to Paul's bakery?

**Mr. Holloway:** It is further out, but before the old movie theater. Let's see, do you know where the little shopping center is on the left? It is right beyond there. I think it sold antiques.

**Interviewer:** What years are you actually gone again?

**Mr. Holloway:** From March of '43 to January of '46

**Interviewer:** Your brother died when?

**Mr. Holloway:** In '43 – September

**Interviewer:** Before you left – before you went overseas – you were in training then?

**Mr. Holloway:** I was still in Camp Cobb....It was actually a good thing that I didn't get into the air corps. I was kind of safer where I was.

**Interviewer:** Joe Joe was too young to be in that war.

**Mr. Holloway:** He was born in '39.

*The interviewer closes this part of the interview and returns to memories of Dr. Joseph. Minor Holloway.*

**Interviewer:** We can finish up going back to your dad as a doctor.

**Mr. Holloway:** He moved his office to town before he actually moved his practice. He

stayed there at 401 Hanover and he stayed there until they opened the medical clinic which became the Pratt clinic. Dr. Pratt, Dr. P. Harrison, Daddy, and a little bit later, Dr. Clark Hunley were the first doctors at Pratt - later Tally Ballou, and others came.

**Interviewer:** The hospital they were practicing in –was that the hospital that are the brick apartments which are behind the library today?

**Mr. Holloway:** I guess. Dad would fix you up when you needed him. I remember going one time with a terrible pain in my throat and he put some cotton swabs up my nose, soaked them in something, put suction on and sucked that stuff out of your sinuses. I couldn't believe that all that awful looking stuff came out of me.

**Interviewer:** Did it feel good immediately?

**Mr. Holloway:** Ohhh yeah. You felt like you weren't going to live when you went in there. Came out feeling like a million dollars.

**Interviewer:** They don't do that today do they?

**Mr. Holloway:** Nope, you know why? Takes too much time. The worse thing that ever happened to the medical profession, as far as patients are concerned, was group medicine. You have to do your part- you have to make so much money – and so now they have four minutes to a patient. It used to be – well, I remember Daddy kidding with the patients, a little banter back and fourth and Daddy loved it but he never liked the Pratt Clinic and he pulled out of there in 1955. It was too much of a cutthroat business.

**Interviewer:** He was a doctor for how long?

**Mr. Holloway:** He was a doctor, at least 60 years, more than that.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember when he retired?

**Mr. Holloway:** He had a stroke in 1970, but he still practiced some until he had a major stroke, probably in '73 I guess and he died in '75. He was 86 when he died.

**Interviewer:** You know how sometimes a doctor wants all his children to become doctors as well? How did you decide you did not want to?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, I was a medic in the Army and that was enough for me. People called him all hours of the days and night. I remember a call that Daddy would get at 11 on Saturday night or something. I have an earache or whatever. And Daddy would say, "How long have you had this earache?" "Oh Dr., it has been bothering me about a week." Why the devil do you wait until Saturday night at 11 O'clock to call me is what he thought. He would still see them.

**Interviewer:** We would be afraid to even ask a doctor to help us over the weekend.



**Mr. Holloway:** You can't even find them; many of them are not in the book

**Interviewer:** How long do you think doctors still went to the home rather than have the patients come to them?

**Mr. Holloway:** He made house calls. I think when group medicine started taking hold around the country, it stopped. But in the 30's doctor made house calls. If somebody was sick they would go to the house. They also used offices. Now, if you can't come to the doctor, you have to go to the emergency room or something which costs you a hundred times more than a doctor's visit. Anyhow, he was a country doctor. He made house calls all the time. You know it might take half a day to get there and then only charge \$2 or so.

**Interviewer:** Was he paid in other items than money?

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh yeah, in the 30's- sweet potatoes – all kind of potatoes – tomatoes, watermelon – sometimes meat – ham – that kind of thing. That was very common.

**Interviewer:** You mentioned that your mother was ill a lot; it was convenient he was a doctor. I take it your mother was at home and took care of the children.

**Mr. Holloway:** She was daddy's nurse after he came back from the Pratt Clinic at 401 Hanover in the basement. Emily and I moved in there in his old office which had been used as an apartment. We also lived at the Roger Clarke Apartments on Kenmore close to the tennis courts. I think Mother talked Emily into moving into the basement.

**Interviewer:** We have to talk about Emily. Where did you see Emily the first time? In a church like your Dad?



**Emily in the 1940's**

**Mr. Holloway:** I had a blind date with her. She was working one Christmas at the jewelry store on William Street where Crown Jeweler's used to be. She was an employee of Mary Washington.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember what you did on your first date?

**Mr. Holloway:** We went out to a night spot. It was an old house a smaller version of Mount Vernon and again I can not think of the name. They were open every evening. You could dance there and bring your own bottle and have drinks and the music was nickelodeon of course, juke box. On weekends they were really busy; they must have done real well. It was beyond four mile fork.

***Interviewer:** Today is a Monday July 16 and we are going to continue our interview with Byrd Holloway. Earlier Byrd met Emily Avery , his wife to be, and they have not seen each other for awhile. What happened then, Byrd?*

**Mr. Holloway:** I was at the Pony Restaurant on Kenmore Avenue. There was a laundromat right next door to it. I looked across the street and this young lady got out, started across the street, and I looked at her. My gosh, that is Emily. Hadn't seen here for about five or six years. Anyway, I called her that night.

**Interviewer:** Did you date for quite a few years then?

**Mr. Holloway:** We dated about a year and a half.

**Interviewer:** What did people do on their dates?

**Mr. Holloway:** We would go to dances at the little night spots over town and on Route 3 in Stafford.

**Interviewer:** What tavern did you say?

**Mr. Holloway:** Clover Tavern.

**Interviewer:** That is why these interviews are interesting. We, in our time, have not heard of these places.

**Mr. Holloway:** Club Hubba was out on Route 1 near Four Mile Fork. It is long gone. There were two or three others that came and went.

**Interviewer:** Now, this is in what time, the forties?

**Mr. Holloway:** This is in the forties and the early fifties. They all had jute boxes. You needed a nickel. We'd go to that one place on Sunday nights. It was spaghetti normally. That was about it I guess. For awhile we went to some people's homes. Three or four

couples would get together at our house or somebody else's house and play music, talk, and dance. Of course, there wasn't a whole lot of other entertainment in Fredericksburg at that time.

**Interviewer:** What day did you actually get married?

**Mr. Holloway:** We got married December 19, 1953 up at the college.

**Interviewer:** How did you get connected to the college? (Mary Washington College)



**Dad, Mother, Byrd, Emily, Vinola and Francis Avery**

**Mr. Holloway:** Emily worked at the college. She started working there before she graduated actually and continued to work there after she graduated.

**Interviewer:** Did she go to high school with you?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, she went to Spotsylvania school. She lived out Route 3 on the left just before you get to the Mall (Spotsylvania Mall), right past 95. They owned several acres there. Where they lived, I think, now is a service station and the selling of used cars. But that went out of business very recently. Right beyond that, where Emily and I lived for a while, is one of those hamburger chains. Where the mall is was Mason's Dairy Farm. They were neighbors. The Masons had a regular farm. The Averys--Emily was an Avery--they just bought a piece of land -- 10-12 acres- whatever it was, from the man that owned the property across the street that Sidney Shannon later bought and built the motel and golf course, which is now called Central Park. That was farm country.

**Interviewer:** You also said it was Spotsylvania, yet today Central Park is in Fredericksburg while the mall is Spotsylvania. Fredericksburg annexed the Central Park area.

**Mr. Holloway:** ... Let me explain. When you turn on William Street going east to get to Fredericksburg, you go up the hill and branching off to the right is Hanover Street which

goes by the college athletic field. Well, the city limits was about right there. You had Westmont on your left going up the hill. There were three or four houses along the highway and that was about it.

**Interviewer:** Does that mean that where Emily lived, it was gravel roads?

**Mr. Holloway:** It was probably gravel way back when, but when I picked up Emily it was not gravel. I remember coming down that hill. We used to call it Genter's Hill. Genter's had a forest back in the old days up there. Anyway, I remember coming down that hill on a bicycle and hitting a stone, so I guess the road was gravel then. That was probably 1932 or so.

**Interviewer:** Were you okay?

**Mr. Holloway:** I was scratched but not badly hurt.

**Interviewer:** Let's go back to Emily's family. Did she have any sisters?

**Mr. Holloway:** She had five sisters and one brother. Three of them are still living and they live in Fredericksburg, actually in Spotsylvania just beyond Central Park. Well Anne married Alfred Moyse, Nell, but she was actually Cornelia married Johnny Stone, and Lydia married Buddy Thomas. He died when Lydia was about 28 and they had three little children.



Nell, Ruth, Lydia, Emily, Anne, Jane (seated)

**Interviewer:** Was that from the war?

**Mr. Holloway:** No. That was around 1960. They were living in Indianapolis at that time. He was an engineer. He got sick and they thought he had the flu but he just kept getting worse. They took him to the hospital and he died within a day or two. He had a staph infection and they didn't know where it came from. The only thing anyone could remember was that he washed his car and cut his finger on some metal, and it could have come from there but nobody knows. She and her three children, one of them was a baby, came and lived with us. That was when we lived out at the Burger King. They were with us about a year or so. We were close with them ever since.

**Interviewer:** Is Emily the next girl down - in age I mean?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, Jane is the oldest and she is dead, then Nell – no Jane, Anne, Emily, Nell, then Ruth and Frank is somewhere in-between them all and Lydia is the youngest. The three that are still alive are Lydia and Anne and Nell and also Frank. He lives in Bedford, near Lynchburg.



**Frank and Mr. Francis Avery**

**Mr. Holloway:** Frank was with AT&T and did real well and was with the New York office. I am not sure what his title was but his first wife died. Then, he decided he was going to be a minister. He planned on being a minister all along, but when he married he decided he better make some money so he could support a wife and children. Anyway, he went to the seminary there in Richmond and became a Presbyterian minister. This was 20 years ago now. He was good friends with a couple that lived in Bedford who was also an employee of AT&T. That friend was painting his own house and fell, broke his neck which killed him. This happened before Frank's wife died. She died of bone cancer. When she was dying, she told Frank that he ought to call on Tinkie, his friend's wife. She was a great person and he needed somebody to take care of him. Frank always liked the couple and sure enough he went out to see Tinkie after a year or two. Anyway, they ended up getting married.



**Interviewer:** What was her real name? And how do I spell it?

**Editor:** (Information now available lists Tinkie's name as Marian Bond.)

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**Interviewer:** Let's talk a little more about Emily.

**Mr. Holloway:** ...They had a teaching program at Mary Washington that is what a normal school was - student teaching that kind of thing. Emily ended up as an assistant, only non-academic person who ever would be assistant dean. She worked there until 1970; so she worked there about 20 years.

**Interviewer:** What is an assistant dean in charge of – finances, academics?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well she was in charge of most everything but academics – dances, laundry, housekeeping, and mechanical...

**Interviewer:** That was a demanding job.

**Mr. Holloway:** ... She had to make sure they had everything they needed. I tell you she was a busy woman.

**Interviewer:** When she retired, did you move out here to Flintshire?

**Mr. Holloway:** When she retired, we were living at Belmont. We lived there about 12 or 14 years, from 1960 – 74, I think.



**Belmont**

**Interviewer:** Did you get to live there because she was a dean? Was Belmont a part of the college too?

**Mr. Holloway:** The Melchers left it to the state of Virginia. And Mary Washington was the closest state institution that was in a position to take care of it. Mary Washington had the responsibility, but of course it was still open to the public. Of course, it needed lots of things to be done to it. They decided they had to have somebody living there to keep people from stealing it blind. Emily and I had no children, so they thought we would make a good choice. At first I wasn't interested, but then I thought about it some more. When I walked into the place I said, "You are crazy. I don't want to live in this home." There were dull curtains and it was dark and decrepit. She talked me into it. Just think you won't have to cut grass and if something goes wrong, you can just call the college. So we ended up moving in and brightened it up and painted several rooms. We got the college to do it. We didn't live in the whole house. We lived, as you face the house, we lived in the left portion, the wing. We also had the library which was part of the big house and the dining room behind which was also part of the main house. We only used the dining room for special occasions. After we had been there a year or two and the cleaning woman was pretty much used to everything, we came home one day and she said, "I want you to come look at something. I cleaned up the painting in the dining room." A great big painting of the market scene and it is still there. Have you seen it? When you walk in the dining room it is on the left wall separated from the front room. It is a market scene with vegetables – 10' by 17'. We about died. Here is this very valuable historic painting which she cleaned up; yet it ended up looking like a million dollars.

**Interviewer:** She didn't damage it?

**Mr. Holloway:** She said I didn't hurt it. Just used a little bit of soap and then dried it. It really did. It really looked great. Probably never been washed - ever.

**Interviewer:** I bet you were worried. I bet you never told anyone.

**Mr. Holloway:** Not for a long time.

**Mr. Holloway:** It was great living there; it really was.

**Interviewer:** Did it look a lot different? Did you still have the big yard where the Melchers had sheep?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes. Still had a couple of horses there - that the groundskeeper owned.

**Interviewer:** Did the groundskeeper live there too?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, he lived across the road in a little house across the street that runs directly across from the entrance - the old entrance.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember that person's name?

**Mr. Holloway:** It was a family.

**Interviewer:** Did they do the designing and planting of the bulbs and all the gardening? It has beautiful gardens.

**Mr. Holloway:** No. He just kept the things looking neat and kept the weeds out. I don't think he designed or that sort of thing. And after he died, a German family came and did the same sort of things. It was a Mr. Dillon! He was also in some of Mr. Melchers' pictures such as *The Hunters*. Do you remember *The Hunters*?

**Interviewer:** I am familiar with that.

**Mr. Holloway:** Mr. Dillon and his children were in that picture. Incidentally, they built the studio.

**Interviewer:** With the big glass windows?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, they added to that a few years ago - pretty recently. But he built the original part of it. I probably ought to not tell this. When we moved over there, in the pantry, we found an urn. It was the ashes of Mr. Melchers. We went over and told everybody and they decided they had to do something with him and they decided to put them in the studio. Mr. Willis, who was in charge of the grounds at Mary Washington



College, and Emily dug out a stone or did what they needed to do, They went and got the urn and then when walking down the stone walkway, Mr. Willis tripped. Mr. Melchers' ashes went everywhere. He said what do we do now? Emily and he went and picked up Mr. Melcher's ashes and put him back into the urn and swore each other to secrecy.

**Interviewer:** My goodness and now it is going to be out

**Mr. Holloway:** It has a plaque on it

**Interviewer:** I will look at it next time. Do I have an exclusive here?

**Mr. Holloway:** We did tell them.

**Interviewer:** What about the other buildings there? Is there an ice house?

**Mr. Holloway:** An ice house, a stable, a carriage house – but we did not use them.

**Interviewer:** What I was wondering is there a time when they died and the home deteriorated a little? Or did you move in right after Mrs. Melchers died?

**Mr. Holloway:** It had been vacant quite a while. When we moved there, the college wanted to take an inventory. So Emily and Mr. Edgar Woodard from the college, who had been her boss for years, they had that job. Some of these were rather priceless drawings, such as preliminary sketches of Rodin's, and other well known artists, not to mention the art itself that he bought for 30 years He spent most of his time in Europe, particularly Holland. I think there were things lying around every place

**Interviewer:** That must have taken a long time to do an inventory then.

**Mr. Holloway:** From Belmont we went to Westwood and built a couple of houses for sale, for speculation. One of them hadn't sold. I had to put it on the market anyway. We lived at Belmont four or five years after Emily had retired from the college. Dr. Simpson wanted to retire at Belmont, so in his retirement we moved out and he moved in. He started spending money, changing it ... The powers that be heard about it and they ended up asking him to leave. That is the story anyway. But we moved to Westwood and lived at that house for a couple of years while this one at Flintshire was being built.

**Interviewer:** What time are we talking about?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, we built it (house at Flintshire). Emily moved here in October 1, 1976. We moved to Westwood in '74 or maybe '75. The reason I said Emily moved in is that the day we set up to move I was in the hospital with a lung operation. Turned out not to be cancer, just scar tissue. My father was in the hospital with cancer, so Emily had to move in by herself. She told them where to put each piece of furniture.



**Flintshire Farm**

**Interviewer:** That must have taken you quite a while to get well then? You would be weak I am assuming. They would not let you do much at first.

**Mr. Holloway:** I could not do anything for a couple of weeks. I had an old fashioned type of surgery which cut you from the breastbone to the back bone and then they spread your ribs. So I could not do much for a couple of weeks. I also had lung surgery which was on the right side which had three little incisions. There must be a million surgeries now but with just little pin holes – no bigger than pin holes

**Interviewer:** Laparoscopy?

**Mr. Holloway:** This is much easier.

**Interviewer:** When did you have that?

**Mr. Holloway:** It was March 20, 2000. Of course that was cancer. That was seven years ago.

**Interviewer:** They caught it early.

**Mr. Holloway:** They left some of the lung because if they took it out; it would not leave me enough lungs to have a decent life. I was thin then like I am now. They wanted me to take chemo which I would not do. I would rather not but I did take radiation which is called 'pet scan' which can pinpoint exactly where the cancer is and exactly where the radiation has to go to get to the cancer. I had that done up in Charlottesville. The pet scan I took up in Northern Virginia – NOVA. They made some kind of plaster cast so they

could position my body just so to protect parts of me from radiation. There were 28 or 38 radiations or something like that. I did that on Route 3 at the Cancer Center of Virginia.

**Interviewer:** When did you have this again? I thought you had to go up North because we did not have the capability for cancer treatment here in Fredericksburg.

**Mr. Holloway:** We didn't have the pet scan. Apparently, the radiation got it all because it has been seven years. For the radiation I went five days a week for seven or eight weeks. That was here – off Route 3. It did not bother me too much. At the same time a friend had chemo and radiation and kept on working and didn't even lose his hair – although it was quite thin. There were five of us who had cancer at that time - all friends – Phil Cox of Cox, Johnson, & Glazebrook Insurance, Cameron Thomson, who married Bev Payne, son-in-law of Robert B. Payne Inc., Bossy, and a guy at St. Peter's Church who you wouldn't know.

**Interviewer:** Who is Bossy? Is Bossy a nickname?

**Mr. Holloway:** It is a nickname. Bossy (Wilford) Epps. I am a great believer in updating the immune system and took all kinds of stuff and tried to get two or three of the others to take it. They wouldn't do it. Within a year or two, they were all dead. I am the only one still living, which doesn't mean anything or that alternative medicine approach works...

**Interviewer:** But it sure could have or did in your case. You are talking about taking vitamins and supplements such as that?

**Mr. Holloway:** I took stuff. The reasons I did not take radiation – radiation kills, chemo I mean, excuse me, chemo kills the immune system. It just never made any sense to me to kill the cancer cells since it also kills other cells.

**Interviewer:** Let's go back to Emily.

**Mr. Holloway:** We were married and we had a short honeymoon in Sea Island, GA. It was a pretty beautiful area. We got home on Christmas Day in time for Christmas dinner at home. We stayed there until Jan. 1 and then we moved to the Roger Clarke Apartments on Kenmore Avenue – across from the Kenmore play area which is about the 12 or 1300 block.

**Interviewer:** In my mind, there are several different apartments there. There are wooden ones and brick ones.

**Mr. Holloway:** These were the brick ones. They were the only ones that were there. We lived there a couple of years. Then we decided to move into the basement of 401 Hanover – my old home, where I grew up. They had been made into apartments during the Korean War, in fact for that matter World War II as well. *(Everyone in town had rented rooms during that time. The military need for housing diminished by then.)* Daddy

was into registered cattle – like thoroughbred horses. He would be gone for a few days at a time, so they wanted somebody in the house, somebody around for Mother which is why we moved into 401 Hanover. Anyway, it was after a year I guess and Daddy decided he wanted to leave the medical clinic – what became the Pratt Clinic. He was tired of group medicine. So, he and I rented an apartment from Charlie Reed right on Kenmore Avenue, a little next to Cornell Street – north of that. There is a big brick apartment house which was a dormitory. We moved right next to it on Kenmore Avenue. The apartment house had just two individual ...

**Interviewer:** There is a big white house that is that has different apartments set back. Are you talking about that block? I remember Mrs. Debbie Spiller lived in the middle of that block and that belonged to Norfleet.

**Mr. Holloway:** I can't think of where the Norfleets lived.

**Interviewer:** I am having the same problem going the other direction but anyhow I am sorry, so go on

**Mr. Holloway:** So it goes down for a couple of years and in the meantime – well in 53-54, several of us, Joe Rowe and Sydney Nelson and a couple others, we built a couple of tennis courts behind Rick Johnson and Alice Grey. They are on Washington Avenue but their land abutted Kenmore Park – the playground. We built on that hill on their property. We built two clay courts

**Interviewer:** First tennis courts in the area?

**Mr. Holloway:** No. There was a bunch of them here in the 30's but in World War II they plowed them up for Victory Gardens. The Rowes, who owned the paper, they had a tennis court which is where I learned to play. He put that in 1935. Incidentally, the net posts are still there. Hasn't been used as a tennis court since World War II. They didn't take down the posts.

**Interviewer:** I know where Joe and Anne live today, but was that Josiah's (the father) house or did he live somewhere else?

**Mr. Holloway:** He lived at 801 Hanover St.

**Interviewer:** Where Charles lived when I came here? The house on the corner?

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh no that is Prince Edward and Hanover. It was 801 Hanover – their father's home - where Charles and Joe grew up. It has a great big yard. There is an apartment in the basement.

**Interviewer:** Behind that then is where the tennis courts are?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well behind and to the side. They had an acre or more, probably three or four acres. Anyway, they put that court in in '35. VEPCO, Virginia State Electric Power, put in two courts in the 30's right where the Pratt Clinic used to be.

**Interviewer:** The one where the place burned down?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, well this was after the place that burned. They left there after World War II. They moved there by the Canal where Quarles is now. There used to be two tennis courts right where the clinic was. Charles Sale worked for VEPCO and he talked them into building the tennis courts and putting up lights as a demonstration of what could be done with lighted tennis courts. There were two private courts around. After World War II, close to 1950, they put in the Kenmore Courts. That is the corner of Kenmore Avenue and Mary Ball Street.

**Interviewer:** I know where they are even if I don't know where Mary Ball Street is.

**Mr. Holloway:** Mary Ball is the last street off Kenmore Avenue that cuts over to Washington Avenue. Barney Driscoll, who lived on College Avenue, had a tennis court in his backyard. I think he was with the Virginia Shoe Company - used to make shoes.

**Mr. Holloway:** We built the two courts behind Rich Johnson's house. Actually, the house belonged to his wife who was a Rawlings. We had a problem with springs, with water coming up, and it just got to be such a pain we kind of gave up. They were there two or three years. We called them clay but they were more like dirt. The country club had two courts that were outdoors. We did not have any indoor courts until '75 I think it was.

**Interviewer:** The ones by the country club were there after World War II or later?

**Mr. Holloway:** The outdoor ones were from the 30's. They were there probably until the '60's. They were on the right before you get to the club house.

**Interviewer:** You had mentioned that you primarily learned tennis on the Rowe place, so I thought there weren't any courts at the country club.

**Mr. Holloway:** Well nobody much played there. First place you had to be a member. That was primarily a golf club, like it still is.

**Interviewer:** About when did you start playing – were you in your teens?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, did I tell you about Tom Payne who lived across the street? He was Robert B. Payne's brother. He was in med school and one summer he decided to build a tennis court in his back yard and all we neighborhood kids pitched in to help him. We built a drag and tied it to a truck and we boys stood on the track to give it weight. He just drove round and around until he cleaned all the grass and it became the tennis court. We put up saplings with chicken wire for the back stops to catch the balls. I don't know

what we used for the posts but probably good oak and some kind of net. I don't know what it was and we went to play tennis. We played there for just one summer. I was about 10 or 11. Then I didn't play for a year; I guess Tom had to go to school. The next time I played was up at the Rowe's. That was in the middle to late 30's.

**Interviewer:** Was it the same kids that played at Thomas Payne's?

**Mr. Holloway:** There were a bunch of us that played at one time or another, But John Embrey played some, probably Frank Boutchyard, Segar Hinkle, and my older brother, Bob.

**Interviewer:** Obviously one of the Rowes or didn't they play at first?

**Mr. Holloway:** I don't know I don't remember them playing but Peter Bance was in the Maury Hotel which is down hill from the city treasurer's office which used to be a post office years ago...

**Interviewer:** Are you talking about the two hotels on Caroline Street? One of them is now O'Brien's Restaurant.

**Mr. Holloway:** That is the old Maury Hotel. Bance was one who played because I borrowed his racquet once.

**Interviewer:** I was just going to say what did you use for racquets?

**Mr. Holloway:** John F. Scott Hardware had some racquets. They were down on Caroline Street on the corner of William Street and Caroline. Ben Franklin today was where it was. He was about the second or third building from the corner.

**Interviewer:** Now of the Scott's, were they the hardware Scotts?

**Mr. Holloway:** The same family. There was John Scott, Alvin Scott, Dr. Scott, and Walter Scott – all in the same family. There was a bunch of Scotts.

**Interviewer:** I'm sorry let's go back where you bought the racquets from the hardware Store.

**Mr. Holloway:** You know we could buy a can of tennis balls for a dollar. I don't know what they are now? But two years ago, you could buy them for \$ 2.50 a can. Everything else is up 10 or 20 times that amount.

**Interviewer:** That is a good price compared to other products.

**Mr. Holloway:** Very good. In the 20's and early 30's there was big Bill Tilden who was a famous tennis player and Helen Wills Moody who was the best of the women tennis players. She won about everything and they got lots of publicity.

**Interviewer:** So tennis was very popular at that time period. Must have gone into a slump for a little while and then came back.

**Mr. Holloway:** Came back in the 60's and 70's and dropped off again and now is supposedly coming back.

**Interviewer:** You were at the Rowe's house when you played as a teenager?

**Mr. Holloway:** I played there from when I was 12, 13, 14, and 15 – that would have been the 30's. I played right much in those years. Then the US entered the war and started drafting 18 to 20 year olds. A lot of the people I played with were much older than me, so I ended up losing all my partners – all my practicing partners. After World War II there was practically nothing in the way of tennis in Fredericksburg. People were just too busy getting their lives back together.

**Interviewer:** When it did get started again in the 50's where did you play?

**Mr. Holloway:** We used to play up at the college on Sunken Road. They were there in the 30's. They were concrete and they painted them. The courts were concrete but right behind the base lines it was dirt. You had to be careful you had good traction on the concrete.

**Interviewer:** You were allowed to play on the college courts?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, they would chase us off. Eventually there would always be a college professor that played tennis, so he would play with us which allowed us to play.

**Interviewer:** When did you get married? I was trying to think if you were playing tennis when you were married.

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh yeah, I was playing then again. I did not play very much at first. At Virginia Tech they had awful tennis courts that they never kept up. After World War II they were never kept up. No use spending money to fix them up if nobody is going to play on them, they said. We said, nobody is going to play on them unless you do fix them up. There were very slim pickings for tennis in the 40's and early 50's.

**Interviewer:** Since we are on tennis, I think we will continue with that and go back later to your professional life. Tennis was an avocation or were you a professional as well? You are so famous or well known for your tennis ...

**Mr. Holloway:** I just played lots of tournaments. In those days I was strictly amateur and professional, none of this open business. If you played professional or teaching tennis, you were professional; you could not play in amateur tournaments. If you took money for anything, as a matter of fact at one time if you played professional baseball, you could not compete as an amateur in any other sport.

**Interviewer:** After you were married, when some people on Saturdays were going off to play golf, were you were going off to play tennis?

**Mr. Holloway:** I'd call Joe Rowe about 1 on Saturdays and we'd meet and decide who we could get to join us and every Saturday we would play from 2 till about supper time.

**Interviewer:** Where did you play?

**Mr. Holloway:** At the college and then the Kenmore Tennis Courts. Eventually, John Ventura built a tennis court beside his house. We played up there for two or three years. That was in College Heights – in the 1960's. We played here and there. We talked Sidney Shannon into putting in three courts behind the Sheraton and played there for three or four years. I don't remember if they charged. We might have paid something.

**Interviewer:** You belonged to the country club at sometime though, so did you play there?

**Mr. Holloway:** I belonged to the country club at tech because it was \$10 a month, so I could play there in the summer but it really wasn't open but two summers my whole time at tech; they did not have any tennis courts until my last year and then they put in some good courts and had a tennis team and I did play on the team.

**Mr. Holloway:** My last two years of high school I went to Christ Church which is near Urbanna near the mouth of the Rappahannock River. It is a church school like Virginia Episcopal High School. I went there for two years and they got me there by telling me I was going to be in charge of the tennis and the tennis team. I got down there – and the same story – all grown up with grass, lousy tennis courts. There wasn't but 55 kids in the whole school and I think I was the only one that played tennis.

**Mr. Holloway:** At VPI we found a private court in town which was prettier and we played there. I don't think I played on the tech clay courts until that last year with the composition courts.

**Interviewer:** Did you teach yourself to play?

**Mr. Holloway:** In my mind anyone could play to become professional.

**Interviewer:** As good as you are, did you also teach?

**Mr. Holloway:** Not much. For some reason I did not inspire the kids. They would come out and get to hitting the ball quite decent and then wouldn't pick up a racquet until they came out the next week, so I didn't really enjoy it.

**Mr. Holloway:** In one newspaper article, it mentioned that you and Joe Rowe played together for 50 years – is that possible?



**Mr. Holloway:** Sure. We played together longer than that.

**Interviewer:** Were you normally partners with each other if you played doubles?

**Mr. Holloway:** We partnered a lot especially in other locations and around Fredericksburg for a long time - other people didn't get anything, so we would split up.

**Interviewer:** That was nice of you to give other people a chance. When you mentioned tournaments, how was that?

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh yes – all over Virginia – Woodberry Forest, Lynchburg, Richmond, Norfolk area. We would go to three to five tournaments a year. They would send you an entry and tell you who to call.

**Interviewer:** If they got in touch with you, some association must have known you were a good player.

**Mr. Holloway:** I think whoever put the tournament on and who played themselves, would just call other people they knew. It was very informal. Some of the tournaments were every year such as the one in Roanoke, and the one in Lynchburg, and the one in Woodberry - all went on for years. The Woodberry one was called the Blue Ridge Tennis Tournament. Anyone could get in from Virginia or California. Of course, California wouldn't come east.

**Interviewer:** I had experience with swim teams and they would swim at the different colleges, so I was wondering how they had the tennis competition set up.

**Mr. Holloway:** Kind of different. Was strictly on an individual basis then. In team tennis, you might know somebody in Alexandria and call them and say, "let's get together and have a team match on Saturday, the 10th." Then they would say OK; I will see what I can do.

**Interviewer:** Did you have a certain court you liked to play on the best?

**Mr. Holloway:** I liked Woodberry, I liked Keswick out there near Charlottesville, and of course the Country Club of Virginia in Richmond had good courts. They were probably my favorite. I played singles and doubles.

**Interviewer:** Did Emily go along and watch?

**Mr. Holloway:** She did.... Sometimes we would spend the night in little cottages and we would have a cocktail partly on Friday or Saturday, so it really was a lot of fun. We tried to stay in Woodberry one time in a dorm and mosquitoes almost ate us up, so we did not try that again.

**Interviewer:** You probably didn't play much tennis in the winter, but you did have a long season. These would have been all outdoor courts up till the 70's?

**Mr. Holloway:** The club put in one court in 1975 and it was the first indoor one in Fredericksburg –no, there were some at Quantico. Had an indoor court built in Standardsville, which isn't too far from Charlottesville off of 29. We would go up to a school near Standardsville – Blue Ridge School – anyway. You would drive an hour and a half one way to play tennis for an hour. This playing was in the late 60's or early 70's. Then we joined Westwood in Richmond. We would go down there once a week and it had about five indoor clay courts. Very nice and it still is.

**Interviewer:** Did you just play on Saturdays or did you have some pick up times during the week, because you worked otherwise?

**Mr. Holloway:** We tried to play three times a week but we were lucky to average two. In those days, it was hard to get four people together at the same time. In tennis if one person is way better or way worse than the rest, it takes the fun out of playing.

**Interviewer:** From those newspaper articles, it sounded like you and Joe Rowe were better than everyone else.

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, we were for awhile.



**Interviewer:** You played against each other too, right?

**Mr. Holloway:** Not a whole lot. We played mostly doubles because it was a more sociable game.

**Interviewer:** Were women playing much tennis in this area?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, in the 30's there were quite a few. It came back in the 50's but not as fast as the men. In most places it was the country club but around here the town wasn't big enough, so we used what was available.

**Interviewer:** Wasn't there a tennis court at Four Winds?

**Mr. Holloway:** That was a golf course. It was called Skinker's Neck which is two miles below here. It is right by the Rappahannock River.

**Interviewer:** During the 70's, is that when the Tennis Association or Tennis Patrons was started?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well the Tennis Patrons probably started in the 50's.

**Interviewer:** You were probably instrumental in starting that?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, a group of us. We had a tennis ladder and you could challenge the people above you and try to work your way up. The *Free Lance Star*, Charles and Joe Rowe's father, kind of looked after that.

**Interviewer:** Did the father play too?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** *Today is July 25. We are at the point in Byrd's life where he is coming back from the war. Did everyone go back to school then?*

**Mr. Holloway:** Most of us did. There was the GI Bill of Rights which the government paid your tuition plus a few dollars. It seems to me it was \$ 65 a month or something like that. That was enough to pay all your charges including eating in town at a restaurant. I am thinking about Virginia Tech where I went. It was probably true for most schools. Blacksburg then was a really small village. If it wasn't for the school there wouldn't be anything there. There were maybe two maybe three restaurants in the area, but only one that I would eat at regularly. Some of the guys went to work, got married, but quite a few from the group that came back the same time I did, which was January 26, went back to school.

**Interviewer:** How did you happen to pick Virginia Tech?

**Mr. Holloway:** We owned a farm. Where we are now, Flintshire, which was Mother's farm. Daddy was a doctor but he loved to farm. He came down here every day of the world. Just like Dr. Tom Payne. His farm was down in Essex – must have been some 30 miles from Fredericksburg and he went down there most days.

**Interviewer:** That was pretty far for your Dad also from town to Flintshire.

**Mr. Holloway:** About 10 miles. We had registered Herefords, and Daddy knew each and everyone of them. I was going to go to tech and study agriculture and come back and have a big beef production. But after I graduated tech and came back, after a year I saw that I was going nowhere.

**Mr. Holloway:** You didn't care for it that much.

**Mr. Holloway:** Well I didn't care for it that much, but my idea of what I wanted to do and what Daddy wanted to do was a little different. So, I went to work for C.H. Montgomery selling appliances. He had an appliance store in the 100 block of William Street – right behind Woolworth's.

**Interviewer:** It is the Antique Court of Shops though now.

**Mr. Holloway:** His store also sold home heating oil and coal. This would have been in 1950. There was a lot of demand for appliances because the people hadn't been able to buy them in the last years. We did a pretty good business there.

**Interviewer:** Did the store repair appliances also or just sell them?

**Mr. Holloway:** We repaired them. The name was Stone. I think he put in the first refrigerator in Fredericksburg. He sold it.

**Interviewer:** You are talking about big appliances.

**Mr. Holloway:** I'm talking about refrigerators, stoves, and wash machines – that kind of thing – not your toaster. He also put in heating and air conditioning systems. Montgomery also took care of the salt herring business. I guess C.H. Montgomery started catching herring and salted them down and put them in little wooden cages and ended up selling them all over the country. Dwight Eisenhower used to be one of the customers and several other well-known people. Of course, he sold all around the Fredericksburg area.

**Interviewer:** Now did the herring come from the river right here?

**Mr. Holloway:** They were from down river but from this area.

**Interviewer:** We had enough herring then?

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh yeah. The herring roe you used to be able to buy in cans. It was great. You could put it on toast with butter. You couldn't ask for anything more. That was a pretty big business for years.

**Interviewer:** Were there other people in that business as well?

**Mr. Holloway:** I don't remember anybody else that did it that way. There were plenty of people that sold herring locally but I don't remember anybody else shipping them to individuals. I really don't know how the business came about. I guess by word of mouth. Sort of like Carl's ice cream. A lot of people have never been to Fredericksburg but still have heard of Carl's.

**Interviewer:** How about other fish in the river at that time?

**Mr. Holloway:** Fishing was still a big business in these parts. Down by Port Royal where the river is a little bit salty, the water has all kinds of fish. You just put out nets and catch fish and take them up to Washington or Baltimore to sell them. Chester Jackson had a place below Port Royal, a place where you go to shoot clay pigeons. All the big shots of Fredericksburg would go down there. He was well-known in this part of the world. And during the war, particularly, he supposedly made a lot of money catching fish. Not long after the war ended, Chester died. There was a rumor that Chester had a lot of money that he accumulated through the years buried on his property. It wasn't too long before people started digging up Chester's property.

**Interviewer:** Great story. I don't think of fishing as one on the main businesses in Fredericksburg however. That astounds me actually.

**Mr. Holloway:** I don't know how big a business it was but further down it was big business. I guess Chester sold his stuff in Baltimore and Fredericksburg. Anyway, after C.H. Montgomery, I went to work for the Sylvania Plant and I worked there for about a year. Boy, that was the worst job I ever had in my life.

**Interviewer:** What did you have to do?

**Mr. Holloway:** I was a quality control observer. I went around taking temperatures of this mixture of chemicals before they came to be cellophane. I also read the meters. I had about two or three hours of work and then tried to look busy for 8 hours. It is awful hard to look busy when you are doing that kind of work. We were sure nobody ever read the reports anyway. One guy, just for a test, wrote some smart-alec remarks on the report instead of the report. We never heard a word about it so he was convinced that nobody ever read the reports.

**Interviewer:** But temperatures did have to remain at a certain constant?

**Mr. Holloway:** We were also asked that if we should we get a period when we are not busy to try and watch the spinners on the machines. Material was picked up which would spin a wheel.

**Interviewer:** It went through those spinners, is that what you are saying?

**Mr. Holloway:** The main problem was pressure and the cellophane would start falling in sheets and they would tear or break. So we organized a watch so we could see if we could figure out why they were breaking - what was happening. Here they had engineers and they couldn't figure it out and guess what - nor could we figure it out

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**Interviewer:** Today is October 29, 2007. Mr. Joseph Holloway, Joe Joe as he is known, has been kind enough to chat with us about Byrd. Byrd and I were at the point where we were talking about his different careers. We had already talked about his work at C.H. Montgomery and the salted herring and appliances. He told us some really fun stories about his year at the Spotsylvania Plant and of course, we did talk about his war service time. But do you know what would have followed these jobs or what else he might have done?

**Mr. Joseph Holloway:** Well, he did a number of things. He worked here on the farm in Caroline County with my father for maybe a couple of years, or two or three. Then he worked for the state in the Department of Agriculture. Going around, he tested filling stations, pumps, and stuff like that for accuracy. He might have gone from there to selling stocks and bonds for Anderson & Strudwick.

**Interviewer:** I thought he had been in insurance. Do you think the bond business was...?

**Mr. Joseph Holloway:** I don't know about the insurance. I don't remember him in insurance. He was with Anderson & Strudwick selling stocks and bonds; he was a stock broker. Then, he went with Johnson & Glazebrook selling real estate and he actually sold some real estate on his own.

**Interviewer:** Since people will be reading this history much later in time, we always like to know where these businesses are located.

**Mr. Joseph Holloway:** It is located in Fredericksburg.

**Interviewer:** Is it still in existence?

**Mr. Holloway:** I think so. Anderson & Strudwick was on William Street; I don't know where it is now.

**Interviewer:** Is Johnson & Glazebrook still in Fredericksburg?

**Mr. Holloway:** That is still in Fredericksburg, too I think. I think that was on William Street too.

**Interviewer:** Are there any stories you could say about what he did in real estate?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, when he worked with Anderson & Strudwick, he talked me into buying stocks that didn't turn out too well. (Laughter)

**Interviewer:** You are not supposed to tell that.

**Mr. Holloway:** Some of them did turn out quite well. I think I still have the certificates.

**Interviewer:** How about some of the real estate. Did he sell you some?

**Mr. Holloway:** He bought some real estate. I think he bought some property around Bel Plains. They developed that. Then, he bought a lot, I think, on the creek right below Colonial Beach which he later sold. Of course he sold a lot of individual stuff. He built a couple of houses in Westwood and he actually lived there in one of them for awhile.

**Interviewer:** He had a contractor build them and sold them on spec?

**Mr. Holloway:** I guess you know he lived at Belmont for awhile – 10 years, I think when Emily was working at Mary Washington.

**Interviewer:** Is that during the time when he was in real estate. I don't know when he did what.

**Mr. Holloway:** I can't remember. I would guess he was working in real estate then when he was living at Belmont.

**Interviewer:** Did he work in that profession the longest?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, I think he worked in real estate longer than anything else.

**Interviewer:** In real estate area, I think it would be a help to know all the people he would have known in the community.

**Mr. Holloway:** I think in the obituary it would have said some of the things he had done. I don't know if you had read that or not. It lists some of the jobs he had over the years.

**Interviewer:** Oh, yes I imagine then he was instrumental in selling some important real estate. Fredericksburg then was a lot different than it is today.

**Mr. Holloway:** It sure was. It was a whole lot different. He sold a lot of houses around Fredericksburg and in town. I think back then the prices were entirely different than what they are now.

**Interviewer:** I guess that would be true.

**Mr. Holloway:** Probably more than a 10 factor, probably a 25 factor.

**Interviewer:** He had a newspaper article about “do it yourself house selling”. That was an article in the *Free Lance Star* and it was quite long.  
He did that then and then did he retire here to Flintshire?

**Mr. Holloway:** When he built the house, I guess he built this in the mid-seventies.  
Then, he ran a little tennis club for years here and now after that he was basically retired.

**Interviewer:** The tennis club was an official club then?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, it was a members club, Flintshire Tennis Club, and he had 100 members or so.



**Interviewer:** Speaking of courts, from where I am sitting, I can see the courts through the window.



**Mr. Holloway:** We still have the three courts that he used. The hard court is not in too good a shape. It has big cracks in it. We use the number one clay court; we keep it going. Also we opened up the swimming pool here for the first time in 10 years. Next year we hope to have both clay courts going. It isn't going to be a club. There is just a group of us that play tennis. They take up a collection and pay for the clay and stuff like that. I kind of half way maintain it and everybody does his share. When they come down, they water the courts themselves and when they finish playing, they drag it and do the lines, so it is ready for the next person.

**Interviewer:** Now when he had the actual club, would he have taken care of all that?

**Mr. Holloway:** That probably was the end of the tennis club because you have to be here all the time. It is more like a full time job if you are running it as a club where you are going out to fix the lines between people playing, watering the court and making sure the water is right, and dragging it and rolling it and doing the whole nine yards. It is basically a 12 hour day, 7 day a week job and it is not a whole lot of fun.

**Interviewer:** I am glad you mentioned some of the things that you have to do to keep a tennis court up because I don't think people realize how much time it takes to keep courts up.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah. Well, clay courts are a little different than hard courts. A clay court, especially down here - if you had people playing throughout the day, you would have to water it more than once because of the very sandy soil and the water goes down real fast and if you have a little breeze and then the sun, it will dry out in two or three hours - to where the courts wouldn't be playable.

**Interviewer:** I did not realize that. Do you think when he retired it was quite an adjustment then or?

**Mr. Holloway:** I don't know, if you live on some 600 and some areas it, there is always something serious. You can work from sun up to sun down and you will never run out of something to do.

**Interviewer:** He had some tenants on the farm then or did he actually make sure everything was planted, etc?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, from the time our father died, we basically sharecropped it with Mr. Garrett. Tommy Welch was down here and farmed a couple of fields but mostly Mr. Garrett has; he has been here from the duration.

**Interviewer:** What is his first name?

**Mr. Holloway:** Well, I mean it is a whole generation of Garretts. (Wayne, Richard and Doug Garrett) Actually, I think, working right now we have three different generations of

Garretts and they are the same ones that had the farm down on Port Royal that Booth was captured on or killed on – in his barn, they burned his barn down.

**Interviewer:** That was in that family?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah, that is the same family. And they have been farming, mostly in Caroline County, since way back then probably and I don't know how much before that.

**Interviewer:** What kind of crops did you grow?

**Mr. Holloway:** We grow corn, soybeans, and wheat primarily; occasionally we have some sorghum.

**Interviewer:** What?

**Mr. Holloway:** Sorghum, it is sort of like a corn.

**Interviewer:** Okay. I am just now familiar with it. Did you have to have all the equipment for that too?

**Mr. Holloway:** Mr. Garrett furnishes all the equipment and does all that work.

**Interviewer:** You and he did not have to do repairs or keep up equipment.

**Mr. Holloway:** We have tractors and bush hogs and stuff like that. We maintain the roads, the edge, of the fields, the edge of the lakes. There are a lot of big hunters, so we do a lot of work trying to create habitat for birds, wetlands for the ducks...

**Interviewer:** You mentioned lakes; you actually have lakes on the property?

**Mr. Holloway:** We have a couple nice size lakes.

**Interviewer:** Were they always here?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, they were the results of sand and gravel operations.

**Interviewer:** That is another thing that was done here.

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, one of our biggest cash crops I guess you would say was sand and gravel.

**Interviewer:** How do they find that on people's property?

**Mr. Holloway:** You have those sand and gravel companies that are pretty knowledgeable about where the deposits of sand and gravel are along the river. They actually come in and say, "Can we drill some test holes on your property and see what

you got?" I got back in the late 60's and a fellow named John Nuckolls who worked with Solite. He came down and actually did the drilling for Solite. So we let him have a contract. Solite Company had a portion below the grave yard- about 10 acres. And Solite had Massaponax Sand & Gravel come in digging, say around where the two ponds are on Tidewater Trail - the other side of New Post. We processed it up there.

**Interview:** What is the duration of that? Is it a year or does it just take six weeks?

**Mr. Holloway:** It is a pretty long process. They started digging in the late '60's and they were still digging in the mid 90's.

**Interview:** Oh my goodness – because there was enough sand and gravel there?

**Mr. Holloway:** Not the same gravel company or the same process. It just went on that long. There is still some sand and gravel left here but there is not a whole lot of commercial sand and gravel left.

**Interviewer:** So there are different grades?

**Holloway:** Yes. Back in the earlier days, they were primarily pretty much interested in the cream off the top. They didn't want to take a whole lot of it away and do a whole lot of processing. As sand and gravel get a little scarcer, the companies will go after some of the stuff that is not quite easy to process or was as easy to get as it was 40 or 50 years ago.

**Interviewer:** I didn't realize that. You also mentioned that this was near the cemetery. There is a family cemetery

**Mr. Holloway:** Right, it has been here since the original land grant. There are graves in there back to the 1700's on up to the present.

**Interviewer:** I know that Byrd was buried there and his wife Emily. Could you be buried there too? Can people legally still be buried on their own property?

**Mr. Holloway:** Oh yeah. This plot was an original land grant from the King of England and it has been in the family ever since. Somewhere along the line, I guess most of them all had girls, so the name changed many many times. The last name before Holloway was Gordon, which was the Gordons that came through Kenmore.

**Interviewer:** I think we have a bit of that. I think we have followed that through earlier pretty well. You mentioned hunters on the property and it is a large enough property to hunt. Is it mostly birds that are here to be hunted or deer?

**Mr. Holloway:** There is plenty of deer and turkeys and we primarily hunt, at least I have and my children... We probably do more duck hunting than anything else. I have never killed a deer in my life. There is beaucoup deer around. In fact we have crop damage

tags for deer. You can shoot over your limit –a doe or an antlered buck. I think the game keeper gave us 25 this year, so there is plenty of deer. We manage the duck hunting pretty much. We put out things for the wood ducks. We have boxes where the predators can't get to them. They have a shield on them. We put probably 40 acres into conservation for wetlands. That's a deal where say Carl D. Silver takes some wetlands in Central Park and replaces that with man made wetlands. With Williamsburg Environmental we have created some wetlands here and they sell the easement to Carl D. Silver or whoever and they also develop the wetlands. For every acre they take, they replace with two acres of created wetlands.

**Interviewer:** I never realized it. That is good to know.

**Mr. Holloway:** We like to do that because we use marginal farm land and being duck hunters we enjoy creating wetlands or good habitat. We also spend a lot of money trying to create a habitat for quail. They are pretty scarce these days – wild quail especially. My oldest son has a little private hunting preserve and he buys a lot of pin birds and they put them out. You go out and shoot them and the ones that get away, we hope will end up in the wild sometime but also we put some five or six coveys trying to inbreed with the local birds trying to create a population.

**Interview:** I don't know the term pin bird. Is that a brand or a type of duck?

**Mr. Holloway:** That is another name for quail. I mean they were raised; they weren't grown in the wild, so that is why they are called pin bird.

**Interview:** But is it that species?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes. But when you first put them in the wild they are not as strong and they have to stay around awhile before they get used to all the predators. Most of them die out but some of them survive. We put 20 to 25 bird coveys in early October or late September and we've actually killed some of them as late as January. They all survive for while.

**Interviewer:** I know where I live; I can remember still seeing quail with the little babies behind them. But because of all the building around us, there are no quail now. You mentioned turkey; we had wild turkey, but there is no turkey now.

**Mr. Holloway:** You know when I was a kid I never saw a turkey down here for years and years – probably about 20 years ago the turkeys came back. You could actually go bird hunting and kill more turkeys than you would birds. There are not quite as many turkeys as say there was 10 years ago, but they are still around. It is not like when I was a kid and there were no turkeys around.

**Interviewer:** What kind of ducks or wood ducks ....was that the main type?

**Mr. Holloway:** We have wood ducks primarily in the 100 acre marsh – mostly wood ducks. They disappear once it freezes over.

**Interviewer:** They migrate?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah, they keep moving south, I guess I don't know. But there is no place to land here once it freezes. Then we have mallards and black duck – all come because of the water.

**Interviewer:** Does that mean you have geese?

**Mr. Holloway:** We have tons of geese.

**Interviewer:** Are they becoming a nuisance?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, they are definitely a nuisance to the wheat fields. They'll come in at night to a wheat field and pull up all the wheat. If you try to plant wheat on the lower fields down by the river, they kill it. They just come and pull it up; they wait until it gets so tall and they will cover the field one night and the next morning, you'll say, "That was a green field; what happened to it?"

**Interviewer:** Here we all think geese are wonderful, but here they can do serious damage.

**Mr. Holloway:** They can do damage really quickly.

**Interviewer:** Are there any other type of animals on the property that you think are worth mentioning?

**Mr. Holloway:** We are actually getting coyotes.

**Interviewer:** You have seen them?

**Mr. Holloway:** No, I haven't seen them. I haven't seen a single one but they are here.

**Interviewer:** Were they in Virginia before? Are they brand new to Virginia?

**Mr. Holloway:** I don't know. I know that once they cross the roads from the woods, say over in Santee and Prospect Hill in that area, which is where they are coming from and they are working their way this way though.

**Interviewer:** They are really predators! Another question, when you come in the driveway, there is a dog sign or poster. When you did the hunting, did you have dogs involved too?

**Mr. Holloway:** Gordon raises hunting dogs in his little preserve and if somebody wants to go out and say shoot 20 quail he will furnish them a dog and a guide if they don't have one. He has got four bird dogs.

**Interviewer:** Does this club have a name?

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes. Flintshire Farms Game Preserve or - I think he calls it.

**Interviewer:** I take it Gordon is one of your sons.

**Mr. Holloway:** He is the oldest son.

**Interviewer:** We need to ask some about you, even though the interview is about your brother Byrd. You have how many children?

**Mr. Holloway:** I have four children. All of them live in Fredericksburg. Gordon works for Quarles and he is the oldest. Then Jay is with Hazelett Construction Company. He does historic preservation construction. Then Byrd, he works for Quarles as a civil engineer. Then we have Carter who is an accountant. She just graduated with a Masters degree from Virginia Tech.

**Interviewer:** So we have three boys and a girl? It is nice that they are all here in the area.

**Mr. Holloway:** They all live in Fredericksburg and all are down here all the time.

**Interviewer:** Are they all married then? Or, they are not old enough to be married. You certainly don't look that old.

**Mr. Holloway:** Two of them are married. The oldest son and the youngest son are both married. They both got married this year.

**Interviewer:** We should have your actual name – not Joe Joe. It is...

**Mr. Holloway:** Joseph Minor Holloway, Jr. I am named after my father. And Jay is Joseph Minor Holloway III, my second son. My mother would say we got Bob, Byrd and Joe all over again. (Laughter)

**Interviewer:** We do have a picture of the first Bob, Byrd, and Joe.

**Mr. Holloway:** You see I am in the middle.

**Interviewer:** I was forgetting your father's name

**Mr. Holloway:** Yes, they called him Dr. Joe. His name is Joseph Minor Holloway

**Interviewer:** I think Byrd told me that they called you Joe Joe because they could differentiate the two of you. Is that all right that we call you that in this interview?

**Mr. Holloway:** People still call me Joe Joe.

**Interviewer:** Your wife's name and she was a ...?

**Mr. Holloway:** Anne. She was Anne Hemmingway Jones from the Eastern Shore., White Town, VA. Her father was a big produce farmer on the Eastern Shore. Her grandfather on her father's side was a big farmer – a dairy farmer – back during the war – World War II. Her grandmother on her mother's side and grandfather – he was a lawyer – a big land owner. My wife has property over there now.

**Interviewer:** So you need to watch a lot of property.

**Mr. Holloway:** We do have a lot of property to watch. The house over there is very big. It is a 6 bedroom house – similar to this except it has a slate roof. It is about three times bigger than this.

**Interviewer:** I know that you have been very busy. I know that you did live in Culpeper.

**Mr. Holloway:** We still have a house in Culpeper and we are trying to clean all the stuff out it – 68 years of accumulation takes awhile to get rid of.

**Interviewer:** Of course you moved in here after Byrd died.

**Mr. Holloway:** We actually moved in back in March to try and help him or take care of him but we were gone a whole lot because we were running back to Culpepper and the Eastern Shore. We are still going a whole lot.

**Interviewer:** You have three places to take care of at this point.

**Mr. Holloway:** Actually, we have four because we have a trawl too. A trawl is a boat that you live on.

**Interviewer:** You actually live on it! I heard you say you were taking it down to...

**Mr. Holloway:** We are taking it to Charleston at the end of the week. It will take us a week or two to get down there. We are going to leave it there for a couple of weeks. Will Dickinson is getting married down there December 1. So, we have to go back down for the wedding...

**Interviewer:** Did Byrd have boats too?

**Mr. Holloway:** He had a sailboat. He designed it and had it built in Colonial Beach. It was a 27 foot ketch. I think I sailed it more than he did.

**Interviewer:** Where did you all take it?

**Mr. Holloway:** In the Potomac. I don't think he ever made it to the Bay. The farthest I got was probably 20 miles below Colonial Beach. I don't think he got any further than that either.

**Interviewer:** I know tennis was Byrd's life. Did he have other things that he did a lot? You said he had a sailboat.

**Mr. Holloway:** He loved to sail and he loved tennis. He spent many hours sketching out different sailboat designs.

**Interviewer:** Sometimes we ask people if they can remember the biggest events that might have happened in the area during their lifetime and many people remember the 1942 flood. I don't know if you could remember for him or remember something for yourself?

**Mr. Holloway:** Believe it or not, I remember Pearl Harbor, the 1942 flood, and Bob being killed. Those three events happened before I was five years old. I think I remember the first time I touched the ground with my feet but Byrd tells me; he said you have been told it so many times is all. I do remember Pearl Harbor. We were down here – Mother and Father – we were in the field. I was in the car with my mother and my father was out in the fields among the calves. He raised registered Herefords. It came on the radio about Pearl Harbor and my mother freaked out. She started yelling and screaming which is probably why I remember it. The reason she really freaked out because she had two kids that were the right age.

**Interviewer:** She had a right to be. How about the flood?

**Mr. Holloway:** The flood - I remember we lived on Hanover Street in town. We could come right down Hanover Street where the old post office was and there was water at the intersection.

**Interviewer:** That is how many blocks from the river? Sophia, Caroline ...

**Mr. Holloway:** Caroline, right there, the second floor was under water.

**Interviewer:** Second floor even. Did that take out a bridge? Which one?

**Mr. Holloway:** I don't remember. The '37 flood took out one and the '42 flood took out the other one. I didn't see them. But, I do remember seeing water because I actually remember putting my feet in the water.



I lived in Fredericksburg until I got married. Anne and I had an apartment in Blacksburg one year and then I went to Indiana one year. All my spare time was down here in Fredericksburg. When Byrd was sick, I told Anne that Byrd and I never had a cross word between us in the 68 years I have been living. To me that is kind of amazing because my older brother, Bob Gordon; I had two fights with him before he died. I was four years old when he died and I already had two fights with him. One big time one – he used to build stick model airplanes with the stand and everything and I broke one of them and he turned around and broke my hobby horse. I mean we were tearing up each other's stuff like it was going out of style.

**Interviewer:** You are right about Byrd. I knew him; he was such a gentle man. He is a gentleman, but he is also a gentle man. I could see why you didn't have any fights with him.

Are there many buildings on the farm?

**Mr. Holloway:** There is not as many now when we were actively farming. There was a big old hay barn in the field right across. On the other side, there was a hay barn right at the end of this road. There were a couple more barns – one down by the river field. It was a loose hay barn; you know you put loose hay in the middle. You have these big forks that you have to take the hay off the wagon. You had a team of mules at the back that you walk down and you pull the hay off and you drop it. That was actually one of the first jobs I had down here as a kid – running Fanny and Joe, the two mules pulling the hay up.

**Interviewer:** Did Byrd do any of that type of thing, as well?

**Mr. Holloway:** When he got out of school, he worked more of a management role. He did do a lot of the work; he built a bridge from one meadow to the other meadow so you could get the equipment across. I think my father kept his hand in the registered Hereford part and Byrd was instrumental in building some stuff around. I think he built what we call the tractor shed now.

**Interviewer:** I gather that you father got to a ripe old age. He was here all your growing-up years.

**Mr. Holloway:** He was pretty active. I started coming down with him and working on the farm. Before I was 10, I was driving the tractor around. Of course, I quit driving the tractor. (Laughing)

**Interviewer:** But you like to do that, wouldn't you? (Joking)

I have one other thing I wanted to include and then we might finish. How about a follow through on the doctors in the family? We didn't ask about such things as diseases which happened while they were doctors. I always think of polio.

**Mr. Holloway:** I think back when my father was a doctor; the main illnesses were typhoid and pneumonia. Of course, he started out as a country doctor. He loved to take

you down through A.P. Hill. He touched a tree and said that is where I delivered my third baby one day. (Laughter)

**Interviewer:** I remember asking Byrd...He explained why he wasn't interested in being a doctor. I imagine with so many doctors in the family, how did you feel about that? Did you have any pressure about being a doctor?

**Mr. Holloway:** I was more mechanically inclined. I couldn't have made it as a doctor because of all the Latin and the vocabulary that they used. I think I have a touch of dyslexia. It would have made medical school awfully difficult; where engineering school was awfully easy.

**Interviewer:** Engineering would not be easy for a lot of people. What type of engineer?

**Mr. Holloway:** I thought about electrical engineering and decided after going through a five year co-op program that I didn't want to be an electrical engineer. I co-oped at the Naval Weapons Lab in Dahlgren and I worked at VEPCO a little bit before that. I then decided that I wanted to be an industrial engineer. I thought I was going to take a couple quarters and finish my doctoral, but when I switched I found out it wasn't quite that easy because I had to take seven courses in sequence which meant that I stayed there for two years. I ended up with three hundred or so hours. Then when it was time to graduate I was thinking about going to work for a furniture company they called "Indiana My Home". So I went out to the placement office, they had International Harvester listed. So, I thought maybe I'll interview them and maybe get a trip out of it. I went out there and they gave us aptitude tests. The little guy comes out and he says, "You tell me you are an industrial engineer and an electrical engineer." I said "Yeah". He said, "Well you missed it. You had the highest mechanical aptitude of anybody that has ever taken it." I said, "Oh well, but I'm not going to go back."

**Interviewer:** I believe that answers all my questions. Thank you.

*After the tape ran out, Anne and Joe mentioned that Bryd wrote many letters to the editor on political topics. Most of the people in the community would remember these well-written letters, even if they did not agree with the sentiments.*

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