



*They are the best accomplishments of my life – my three children- Kathryn, Kim, and Chris.*  
**Janet Marie Sullivan**

*A great deal of time and a great deal of love went into two other pursuits of Janet's life. Her care and love of patients in the nursing profession lasted for over thirty years. Her interest in everything historical brought her to historical preservation.*

## *Janet Marie Sullivan*

**Interviewer:** Today is October 6, 2008. My name is Suzanne Willis and we are interviewing Janet Sullivan who has just told me that her full name is Janet Marie Sullivan. One of the reasons we wanted to interview you, besides your being an interesting person, is because this project by HFFI was established to record various community leaders' involvement with historic preservation. Since you are one who does a great deal, we want to do an in-depth interview.

**Janet Sullivan:** That would be great.

**Interviewer:** Let us start with you first. What date were you born?

**Janet Sullivan:** The date was December 30, 1942 during the war. My father (Woodrow Wilson Jones) had gone into the service and he was not here for my birth. He served on a mine sweeper, the USS Smythe, and he made about four crossings on the Atlantic side and then was sent to the Pacific. He went into Borneo and then into Japan.

**Interviewer:** He wouldn't have seen you until when?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't know when he saw me. There are pictures of him holding me, so he must have come home between the Atlantic and Pacific crossings and I must have been a year old at that time.

**Interviewer:** You would not have remembered him then, so what was your first memory?

**Janet Sullivan:** I think my first recollection of him must have been when I was about four and I remember when my brother was born. There is about a four year's difference in our ages. I remember him coming home for that.

**Interviewer:** He was still overseas in the war?

**Janet Sullivan:** I think he was still in the service. I don't think he got out until after 1947. I do remember him coming home and being here for some time,

**Interviewer:** What service was he in?

**Janet Sullivan:** He was in the navy.

**Interviewer:** He joined because of World War II?

**Janet Sullivan:** I think he joined; well, he had a lot of different jobs. He worked for the RF&P railroad and I think it was to his advantage to go into the service. He was young. He lied about his age. He went in when he was 17, but he told them he was 18. It must have been a very difficult time for him. He never talked about it. After he got out, he told some awful stories that I often wondered if that hadn't been a part of his problems later on. He was an alcoholic and did drink very heavily after he came back.

**Interviewer:** Well, that generation often smoked and they drank. It is not like it is today.

**Janet Sullivan:** I remember just one story. He used to love to sing. He was one of those people who was a quiet individual. He went to work for Bell Brothers Furniture Company and I would usually see him on Sunday afternoons. Saturday he worked. But on Sunday afternoon, he liked to take walks and we had tea parties in the back yard. I can remember he loved certain songs and he would sing. Then he would tell me stories about the war and one in particular. Many years later, I was invited to come to a reunion of the USS Smythe and Warren and I went up to Pennsylvania. I told this story that he told me and all of the men remembered it. It was about a man who had stolen a cherry pie and they threw him off the back of the mine sweeper and dragged him along behind the boat. He kept hollering for them to bring him in. He kept yelling, "sharks, sharks." He lost both of his legs. I remember my father telling that horrible story. All my life I thought there was no cherry pie that would ever be worth me stealing. Everyone on that ship remembered that incident. One of the men remembered my dad and had a picture of the two of them sitting on the ship. It was very impressive. He had died and so of course they stated his name in the memorial and rang the bell for him.

**Interviewer:** My goodness.

**Janet Sullivan:** It was very touching.

**Interviewer:** It is very touching. Does a mine sweeper have a lot of people on it?

**Janet Sullivan:** They had a lot of people I don't how you tell one ship from another. My brother and I were both invited to this memorial service and my brother chose not to go. He and my father were never very close because my father didn't really know how to be a father. We lived with my grandmother and grandfather on William Street. In fact the house is still sitting there.

**Interviewer:** What number were you?

**Janet Sullivan:** 1423 and the rest of the land was in Spotsylvania County. Our house was the end of the city limits.

**Interviewer:** For someone like me who doesn't know the numbers exactly, what are we near?

**Janet Sullivan:** My sister-in-law built the big beautiful white house there.

**Interviewer:** When you are coming from town and going west, it is on the right and has been cleaned up a lot in the last little bit. It is a beautiful house.

**Janet Sullivan:** Our house is right beside hers. Now that was all open fields.

**Interviewer:** Your house is before that then?

**Janet Sullivan:** Before that. This man has bought it and fixed it up. He has put an oval doorway in it and he has put the railing back in, but he hasn't sold it. It is just sitting there. My grandfather built our house in the 1920's. It is where I grew up and all the land was Brauer land, the land on either side of it was Brauer land. In fact my cousin is still living over there, Jane Rosenberg Shelton. She works at CIS (women's clothing store) downtown. But anyway that land was all open fields and we boarded horses for people in town. Our land ran back and attached to the Embrey land.

**Interviewer:** Which is where?

**Janet Sullivan:** Judge A.T. Embrey's. My play house used to sit about three streets behind us, so that was farmland.

**Interviewer:** Do you have a picture of this?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't. There was an old house where Ellen built her new home and that was burned down by the fire department. That was the old house on the property. That was my Uncle Henry's home.

**Interviewer:** The big white house is whose?

**Janet Sullivan:** My sister-in-law, Ellen Jarrell.



**Interviewer:** Who was there when you were growing up?

**Janet Sullivan:** When I was growing up, Uncle Henry Brauer had an old home there. That was the oldest home on the property. And that was torn down or burned down by Great Aunt Lois when she inherited the property.

**Interviewer:** You would guess that would be about what time?

**Janet Sullivan:** Must have been in the early 50's or late 40's. She built a house which now Ellen has remodeled right next to her house because she bought that entire plot. That house has now been incorporated into another home. And Jane lives on

the other side. The property ran all the way through to where the Carroll Memorial place used to be, or what is it--a landscaping business? That was Embrey's. That was where I grew up. Lots of fields to run through.

**Interviewer:** I guess. Was that called Route 3 or what was it called?

**Janet Sullivan:** It was called Old Plank Road or William Street. It was William Street when I grew up.

**Interviewer:** I guess it wasn't country.

**Janet Sullivan:** It was only two lanes when I grew up. They widened it and when they did, they cut off our front yard. We had these beautiful trees out there but when they built there, they put up a little wall very close to the front porch.

**Interviewer:** How about that road? Was it gravel by any chance then?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, it was paved. But I do remember people coming to town in horse and buggy. Spotsylvania County people came into town and they would even park... Do you know where Fredericksburg Hardware is? They would pull up in there. There were feed stores still around when I grew up and they used to have turkeys in that front window. It is hard to believe, but things were tough here after and during the Depression and World War II. The Sylvania Plant really helped save Fredericksburg and the people working up north.

**Interviewer:** Many people that we interviewed said the plant did save Fredericksburg.

**Janet Sullivan:** Absolutely, absolutely. It was a difficult time and I think that is why we still have all the buildings downtown. Because nobody had any money, to do anything with.

**Interviewer:** That was lucky in a way. Anyhow you still lived on this property until you graduated from high school.

**Janet Sullivan:** That is exactly right. The land wasn't in Fredericksburg. It wasn't annexed until – gosh maybe until they went out to Altoona.

**Interviewer:** There were five different annexations in my memory.

**Janet Sullivan:** Tell me what you remember then?

**Interviewer:** They show a map in the library. Now the last one—my home, Marion Willis's home,--was annexed in the 1990's-- no in the 80's.

**Janet Sullivan:** Taken in where? The farm was Shannons', so it must have taken in your area as well.

**Interviewer:** Well, actually across the street from us is Spotsylvania and just west of our houses is also Spotsylvania. We are the only ones on the right side of River Road that are still in the City of Fredericksburg.

**Janet Sullivan:** When I was growing up my grandfather was the Spotsylvania Registrar and then had to give it up because it became the city. Unbelievable, that was the end of the city line then. I got to go to city schools because the house was in the city and the property in Spotsylvania.

**Interviewer:** What are the names of your grandfather and grandmother?



**Janet Sullivan:** Lee Roy Brauer and Annie Gibbs Brauer.

**Interviewer:** You are going to be related to everybody aren't you? I don't know all these connections because I did not grow up here. You spell that B r-a-u-e-r. Is that any relation to Anne Brooks Brauer?

**Janet Sullivan:** She was married to John T., who is the son of my grandfather's brother, George.

**Interviewer:** Your grandfather was Lee Brauer.

**Janet Sullivan:** There were ten children.

**Interviewer:** Who were his parents?

**Janet Sullivan:** Gosh, I will have to get the Bible out of my car. His father's name was John.





*Lee Roy Brauer (grandfather) & Anne Gibbs Brauer (grandmother) Wedding Day*

**Interviewer:** Lee has how many brothers and sisters?

**Janet Sullivan:** Nine. Lee was the oldest and Lois was the oldest girl. I don't know if I can remember them all. I knew all of the aunts or all of the girls. Some of the boys had died earlier. George was the only one that I knew and he was John T. Brauer's father who married Anne. How about that?

**Interviewer:** Now the Gibbs name. When I came I remember my husband wanted me to meet the lady on Amelia. Wasn't she a Gibbs? She was a famous individual in this town?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't know. They must not be related to me because mine were good old common people. I don't think I had anyone famous in the family. Now, Grandmother Brauer had lived with the Rosenbergs on Mortimer Avenue. She was 98 years old when she died. She was a Littrell before she married a Brauer.

**Interviewer:** I am a bit mixed up now. So we have Lee, who is your grandfather.

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes and Annie was his wife. His father was John Brauer and her name – she was a Littrell. I don't know where exactly she was from. That is something we are talking about doing. That is why I have all the Bibles in the trunk of my car and riding around with them. I have the material; I just have to put it together—that is on that side of the family. Now, on the Jones side of the family, well ... I just met a cousin the other day who is part of the Potts-Jones family and he has a sister (Marion Brooks Robinson) that has done much work on the family history.

**Interviewer:** We better stick with this side of the family for now.

**Janet Sullivan:** Please do. So the Brauer family owned land on William Street and that is where I grew up.

**Interviewer:** How much land are we talking about? It sounds quite large.

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't know. It was considered a farm and it was in Spotsylvania County. Then pieces were sold off of it. Different people bought land from them. Aunt Lois inherited that part of it. She was an old maiden aunt that lived to be a 105.

**Interviewer:** Who lived to be 90 that you told me about earlier?

**Janet Sullivan:** My great grandmother. All the family lives to be old. All of the sisters lived up into the 90's.

**Interviewer:** They still had the teeth and the hair and their hearing?

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes, but hearing is a problem in my family. I don't know if it is an inherited problem or not but at least three of them that I know of had hearing problems and wore hearing aids. Not until they were older though. They lived up to their late 90's.

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

**Janet Sullivan:** Well, my great –grandmother – Lee’s mother. She was 98 when she died and I remember her as a child, so she must have died in the 1950’s. She lived with Hilda, her youngest daughter, Rosenberger and her husband. There was an old maid sister that lived with them also that died late in life. Hilda took care of all the old people in the family. She was the caregiver for everybody. She had one daughter Jane, Jane Rosenberger Shelton. It was interesting because I remember all these old aunts. We would have big family get-togethers. One of the families lived in Pennsylvania. She was my grandfather’s sister Mary. She was married to an Episcopal priest and they had two children. Ruth lived in Northern Virginia or Maryland at the time. She had two children. Annie lived here for a long time and then moved with her daughter to Warsaw. I only remember her having one child. One maybe died early and then Hilda who had one child.



Front five: *Marion Gibbs, James Gibbs, Mabel Gibbs, Ann Brauer, Lee Brauer*  
 Back: *Unknown, Lucille Baker, Unknown, Kathryn Jones (mother), Annie Gibbs Brauer, Woodrow W. Jones (father)*

**Interviewer:** Did they come to your home for the gatherings?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, we usually went to Hilda’s home on Mortimer Avenue.

**Interviewer:** I know that name but I can’t think of where the street is.

**Janet Sullivan:** Sylvania, Mortimer and Cornell. I had lots of family. I had aunts and “ants.” People laugh at me because we had Aunt Lou and “Ant” Lois. We had this Virginia dialect you know. You know like a house – hose – our pronunciations you know.

**Interviewer:** I don’t hear that much of an accent on you.

**Janet Sullivan:** Oh everybody else does, I am so glad you don’t. They laugh at me all the time.

**Interviewer:** I think of you as the most southern person I know but you don’t seem to use all the southern expression, though you certainly have the tone.

**Janet Sullivan:** Well, it was really interesting when Warren was in the service and we were in Missouri and somebody said, “You have an English southern accent.” I said, “You know we were one of the first colonies. You know, what are you going to say? If I get further south, it is going to get worse. I think it really is a Virginia accent.”



**Interviewer:** Do you think there is a Fredericksburg accent? I have heard people say that.

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't have an ear for accents, so I don't know. I am always amused when I had friends from Richmond who would say "rivah." We're going to the rivah. I have a tendency to slur my words also— if I am tired.

**Interviewer:** Or is it the English background, where you swallow syllables such as Taliaferro?

**Janet Sullivan:** Well very true. I have a friend who lived in New York, who I grew up with here and we went from kindergarten all the way up through high school together. She moved away to New York for thirty years and of course she says, "I can take a one syllable word and make three syllables out of it." She gives me a hard time all the time.

**Interviewer:** What is her name?

**Janet Sullivan:** Jane Dodd James, but she goes by Jamie James— lives up on College Avenue. She was Jane Dodd.

**Interviewer:** So, her mother would have been the one that was a professor at the college?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, her mother was the lady that started the "Meals on Wheels." She was very active in this area —Nettie Dodd. Her father was Lothar and he worked for the Sylvania Plant.

**Interviewer:** When did Meals on Wheels get started? I thought it was very recent.

**Janet Sullivan:** No. She was a member of the Methodist Church and I think Lothar went to the Fredericksburg Baptist Church. It never worked out. I am not sure when the Meals actually started but it has been around for a long time. She herself was still delivering when she was up in her 90's. She was a very active lady. They were very good about taking care of people — getting them to their doctor's appointments, etc. I think this was part of that Baraca Bible class at the Baptist Church.

**Interviewer:** Do you have pictures of these people. They would be nice to have in your history

**Janet Sullivan:** Don't know if I can get Jane, but probably can if you need that. I have friends I went to kindergarten with, Miss Gravatt's kindergarten, and they are still my friends. We get together — six or so of us. They have been my biggest supporters this year.

**Interviewer:** We were talking about your growing up. Tell me about your playhouse that you mentioned.



**Janet Sullivan:** My granddaddy built it. He could build anything.

He (Lee Brauer at left) was just good with his hands. He built the house that we lived in. At the time I remember growing up,

he was the distributor with the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and the *Richmond News Leader* in town. The great love of my life was I could go with him at night time and pick up the papers at the train stations and take them around to the hotels in town.

**Interviewer:** You mean he would actually deliver them?

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes, he would deliver them. *The News Leader* would not have a big distribution like the *Times-Dispatch*; he had paper boys that delivered that. The *News Leader* usually went to the hotels in town. Of course, I got to run those newspapers in and always I got a good treat. Somebody would give me a nice little treat of some kind, so I thought that was great to ride in a car with him every night.

**Interviewer:** You knew all the businesses in town then at a very early age. Hotels downtown - What were those?

**Janet Sullivan:** There was the Princess Anne Hotel which today has the Davenport Investment office and other offices. The Inn at the Olde Silk Mill was the Wakefield Hotel. There was another hotel on the corner where Hardee's is today, the Mary Washington Hotel. We would stop there also. I got to go up to what is now the General Washington Inn.

**Interviewer:** That was already built then?

**Janet Sullivan:** It was called Stratford Hotel, but Griffin was the head waiter there. Griffin's wife was Thelma and she was our maid for a while. Griffin always had something for me. Whether it was a cupcake or a piece of candy.

**Interviewer:** Were you about nine years old then?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, I was younger than that. The time was about when I went to school at Maury when I was five and a half. Because of Miss Gravett's kindergarten we got to skip a half year of school.

**Interviewer:** Anybody that went to her kindergarten?

**Janet Sullivan:** I guess so. It seems like to me we all went into the first grade in January. See my birthday wasn't until December, so I wasn't six years old.

**Interviewer:** Where was her school located?

**Janet Sullivan:** Miss Gravett's? We started out in the "steamboat house"; Charles Washington's house, there on Prince Edward's Street across from Sheila Baker. Fielding Lewis owned the property.

**Interviewer:** I knew it was the steamboat house but I did not know it belonged to Charles Washington. You told me some new history.

**Janet Sullivan:** George's brother, Charles lived there way back in time. We had one end of it. The Masseys owned the house then, not Kathryn Massey but Beth. They were kin; they were cousins, I know. The kindergarten only had one end of the building. We used to have two front doors. I don't know if it still does or not. They might have changed that. We had the one end close to the Pratt Clinic. I think I do have a picture of the kindergarten. Nancy Cooke probably has a picture of it. I don't care for it. I am sitting on the front row and my mother nearly had a fit because my underpants were showing. She always said ladies never keep their legs apart.

**Interviewer:** Was the class large?



**Janet Sullivan:** It was a good size class – about 20. Nancy will have the picture. It has been in the *Free Lance-Star* and *Flashback*. Every time I thought the picture was dead; it would show back up again and there I was. (Janet is fourth from left.)

**Interviewer:** Would even I, who came later, know many of the people in the class?

**Janet Sullivan:** You might know some of them. Susan Carter was in it too. Do you know Susan?

**Interviewer:** What is her last name now?

**Janet Sullivan:** Tyler, Susan Carter Tyler. Her father was at the college, as was Nancy Cooke's father; she was Nancy Hewetson. Her mother was Frances Hewetson.

...I will get that picture for you. Nancy Cooke probably knows better than I do. She remembers those things. She is retired. She taught school in Spotsylvania for over 30 years... She is on a cruise right now.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember anything from kindergarten days?

**Janet Sullivan:** I do. Charles Hall was in our class, as was Danny Elkins. After we left the Massey house, we moved over, I believe, to Dr. Holloway's basement.

**Interviewer:** Where he had his doctor's office?

**Janet Sullivan:** Where he had his office. We were in the basement there on Hanover. I think the house is still standing. I went two years I think. It seems to me, I went into first grade in January.

**Interviewer:** Is this the Miss Gravett who was at the Baptist Church. Very nice lady – died maybe six or so years ago.

**Janet Sullivan:** Maybe so. She is the mother of Marion Wilshire....

**Interviewer:** But isn't one of her daughters Bootsie?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, Bootsie is married to her son Gilly Gravett. He was a paper boy for my grandfather. Gilly! Gilly Gravett, I thought he was so neat. I loved to go with granddaddy to the Gravett's house.

**Interviewer:** Just to see him. He was your Paul Newman.

**Janet Sullivan:** Probably so. He was nice to me. Let's see, Virginia Gravett was a nurse, and Miriam Gravett was a teacher and Gilly, and I don't remember. Anyhow, they were a nice family. They weren't living where they live now.

**Interviewer:** I was going to say that they are in Woodlawn.

**Janet Sullivan:** No Westwood – somewhere along. Is that what it was called? I get the two mixed up.

**Interviewer:** I remember meeting her. I knew her when she was much older.

**Janet Sullivan:** She was a lovely lady, absolutely lovely.

**Interviewer:** Was she also the librarian or was that a different Gravett?

**Janet Sullivan:** You know I don't know the answer to that. But she had the kindergarten class and at the time...Do you know where the Park Service is on Lafayette Boulevard? Well, Willis Street where they just redid that building – I think it is Obama headquarters now. She used to live up there in a brick house. Willis Street! That was where they grew up and then they built off of Route 3. Is that your phone ringing this time? *(The interviewer adds this remark: Janet has a beautiful cultured southern voice, so you will need to listen to the tape to really appreciate this interview.)*

**Interviewer:** Your grandfather could do anything. Is your playhouse one of those that was really snazzy?

**Janet Sullivan:** Well it just had some wood that was nailed together. It had wooden steps that went up this old cedar tree. I could get up there and be alone and read. I was a great loner. I would



be up the apple tree. It was a tree house. I also liked Alum Springs. That was my favorite place to go. I could work out any problem there.

**Interviewer:** How did you get to Alum Springs?

**Janet Sullivan:** We just went across the street. We could roam right across. The Blue Gray Parkway wasn't there. You know, we would go right into Alum Springs and sit up there on the rocks, Maxine Calamous and I, watching the boys skinny-dipping.

**Interviewer:** Are we talking about high school at this point?

**Janet Sullivan:** I was talking about 11 or 12. We would ride our bikes anywhere.

**Interviewer:** Was it deep enough to skinny-dip?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, it wasn't very deep, but there were some areas that had a little extra pool where they dammed up the water. I think Fat Annie's was up a little bit further – an old black lady up on the other side of Highway 1. You know how it curves around? Now you can't tell because Fat Annie's is probably on the other side of the highway. Alum Spring Creek comes down that way.

**Interviewer:** I am going to have to get a map for that. Is she gone? Is the place gone?

**Janet Sullivan:** She is gone long ago. Yeah, the place is gone. Everything is gone.

**Interviewer:** Did you know her or did you talk to her?

**Janet Sullivan:** No we didn't talk to her. We knew she lived up there – an old back lady. There was Mr. Limbrick who lived across from that landscaping place, which used to be Carroll Memorial. He lived there and you could buy minnows from him and he had areas dammed up. Then Alum Springs comes on down and you could follow the power lines and go across. The Indians used to camp along there so my grandfather said

**Interviewer:** I know that Robert Hodge knew...

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes, I took him over and showed him the Indian face. It is on the side of a rock. I am sure it is covered over by now. I don't know if you could still find it. Maybe it is gone because of the Blue Gray Parkway. There used to be an Indian head carved on the side of the rocks over there that my grandfather showed me. Of course, we would go up behind the cemetery. There were caves back up in there, used by the Indians.

**Interviewer:** How is that connected?

**Janet Sullivan:** It is a National Park

**Interviewer:** I have to see this on a map to see how it is all connected.

**Janet Sullivan:** There was a dog that used to walk the golf course and his tombstone is out there. Midnight. That was the dog's name.

**Interviewer:** The dog's tombstone is in the National Park?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, it is part of the Mary Washington College Complex now, but I think it is still in the woods over there. I will have to go back over. I showed the kids when they were little. We used to walk the property at night time

**Interviewer:** You really could go far, but it was all connected then. You didn't have the roads.

**Janet Sullivan:** The College had a golf course over there.

**Interviewer:** What time was that?

**Janet Sullivan:** The 1950's.

**Interviewer:** They got rid of the golf course?

**Janet Sullivan:** They made the athletic complex. We used to go over because after it rained the bullets would come up out of the ground. The bullets would be hiding in the sand traps. We would go over and get some of the pears from Brompton. That was our playground all through there. You could just do that then. We could go all over town. Everybody in town knew you. It wasn't anything to be fearful of.

I mean Maxine Calamous moved up on William Street when I was maybe in the fifth grade and we were fast friends. We would ride our bicycles all over town. Ride down to the pool hall to get a hot dog from Steve Zaptanis. I could not go inside. We couldn't go in the door, so we would knock on the window. My mother would have killed me if she found out that I had been in that pool hall. So we would knock on the window and Steve would bring out our chili hot dogs. We would stand out on the street and eat.

**Interviewer:** Same lunch they have today. Now do they still run that?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, they don't. It was sold many years ago.

**Interviewer:** How did you spell that last name?

**Janet Sullivan:** Zaptanis and his two sisters are still living here. Steve is dead.

**Interviewer:** What is that background? Greek?

**Janet Sullivan:** That is Greek. You probably knew Toni Atatinitis. That is his sister.

**Interviewer:** There are quite a few Greek families around here. When did they come? Do you know?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't know the answer to that. Maxine's father owned the Liberty Café which was on the corner right by the railroad station, right across from the John Paul Jones house which is now a parking lot.

**Interviewer:** What they call the John Paul Jones house, but it isn't.

**Janet Sullivan:** Her father owned it.

**Interviewer:** When did they take that down?

**Janet Sullivan:** Maybe in the 60's. Because we used to have yard sales sometimes to raise money for some of our high school stuff, and her dad would let us use his place.

**Interviewer:** Who was this Calamous? What was the first name?

**Janet Sullivan:** Maxine and her father was Nick Calamos.

**Interviewer:** Who I know has been famous in this town but I don't know why.

**Janet Sullivan:** I think they are a different Calamos; I think maybe they are cousins but their name wasn't really Calamos. When they came through Staten Island, they changed it to Calamos, something easy to spell.

**Interviewer:** Were there a lot of Greeks in your class?

**Janet Sullivan:** Maxine was the only one I knew and it was a funny situation. There were some parents that were not so welcoming. These were Italians that were here and they usually lived in the downtown area and had their stores on the front and they lived upstairs. You had to be very careful as to who you had as your friend. But Maxine was mine. My parents and grandparents were very accepting of her. We were in and out of each other houses. As we got older and she got a car. We would go and collect the rents. If my parents had known that, they probably would have said no.

**Interviewer:** Your parents were renting and you...

**Janet Sullivan:** No, no. No we would collect rents from her parent's rental properties. They had quite a few.

**Interviewer:** Did they live above the Liberty Café?

**Janet Sullivan:** No. I am not real sure. She owns some land still down in that area. I think they had renters. I would never be able to go down to the Paris Inn, which was all black. There was an ice cream store right beside it we could always go in there. It was the first time I had pistachio ice cream.

**Interviewer:** An ice cream store next to the Paris Inn? Now, I do remember going by the Paris Inn. Now, if the Paris Inn is on the corner, where was the ice cream store in relation to it?

**Janet Sullivan:** There was a bunch of little stores and they tore them and the Paris Inn all down; Bumphrey's Taxi is still there. The newsstand was Sox Richardson's.

**Interviewer:** Still black though?

**Janet Sullivan:** Still black. Do you know Xavier? It was his great grandfather or his grandfather, I can't remember which. Sox had the taxi. He was the only person my grandfather would let me ride with. My grandfather came to get me every day.

**Interviewer:** From school?

**Janet Sullivan:** From school. I would like to hide everyday just so I would not have to get in that big old black Chrysler.

**Interviewer:** Was it too far to walk? You couldn't walk to school necessarily?

**Janet Sullivan:** He would always come and get me.

**Interviewer:** How did you get there?

**Janet Sullivan:** He took me every morning and picked me up every afternoon.

**Interviewer:** Your grandfather did? Isn't that interesting, because you rode your bike all over town otherwise. I thought you could have ridden a bike to school.

**Janet Sullivan:** I know. I kept thinking maybe I can walk home. Maybe I will get picked up. Maybe that cute Warren Sullivan would pick me up in his Ford and bring me home and there would be the black Chrysler sitting in the drive.

**Interviewer:** I can understand why he did that.

**Janet Sullivan:** He was bound and determined. Every morning he brought me to school and every afternoon he brought me home.

**Interviewer:** He had a job that he had the time to do that?

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes, he had that newspaper thing. I can remember the first day that I could ride my bike to school, which was maybe sixth grade: about the time Maxine moved up there. I was allowed to ride down the hill with my bicycle. But he would be out in front because he didn't want me to have to pedal up the hill. He would put the bicycle in the trunk of the car and take me back home again. Very protective. He knew how to do everything.

**Interviewer:** After your kindergarten with Mrs. Gravett, you went where?



**Janet Sullivan:** Maury School – just where it is today, the elementary school, we were in one end of it

**Interviewer:** And that was the end closer to the flower lady?

**Janet Sullivan:** Jan Williams is the flower lady. They eventually moved the high school, so they were renovating Maury and we were sent down to Lafayette for fourth grade, which is the downtown library now. Just the fourth grade. I thought that was fantastic. We came back up for the fifth grade. Now whether we stayed there a year and a half or moved in the fifth grade I am not sure. The fourth grade teacher that I had was a Mrs. Stone (she had been a Holcomb.) but she got married so her name was Mrs. Stone. I thought the food down there was great. The Scotts made the food, Dr. Scott's mother. Oh the food was wonderful. Lafayette School had this great hopscotch thing that went around in a circle. You know we only had the block ones. You know one two, three - two one? Well, this one went around in a circle and I thought it was so neat. We were never really settled in because there were already children who had been there – first, second, and third grade.

**Interviewer:** The first three grades were always there at Maury.

**Janet Sullivan:** We went to Lafayette School for the fourth grade. Nancy says she remembers carrying books when we walked down there to Lafayette. I don't remember that. In fifth grade we came back up to Maury School and the fifth, sixth and seventh grades were housed in the previous old James Monroe High School portion. We went up to James Monroe in eighth grade and graduated from James Monroe High School.

**Interviewer:** Where James Monroe still is today?

**Janet Sullivan:** It is still on that land but it is now a new school.

**Interviewer:** You did have all the actual grades, because I have talked to some older people who say they skipped seventh or eighth grade, which I never understood.

**Janet Sullivan:** I never have either, but I didn't. I went through the eighth grade at James Monroe. We were always the youngest ones in the class – that group that had moved in from Miss Gravett's kindergarten, that is.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember any other teachers in particular?

**Janet Sullivan:** Oh, gosh yes, we had great teachers. They were ladies that really cared about you. They always dressed beautifully. There was one that I thought was so pretty and that was Mrs. Lee Simmons. She was very attractive. I think they lived over in Argyle Heights and her husband sold insurance. He was Jimmy Simmons. She had a way of cocking her eyebrows. I can remember standing in front of the mirror trying to cock my eyebrows so I could look like her. We had a lot of good teachers back then that really cared about their students. Most of them knew your

parents. I never thought of being very defiant. I wasn't that type of individual. My kids sort of call me a goodie two shoes. I was one of those that did not want to break the rules.

**Interviewer:** When I think of girls in "our time", we just didn't do things like that.

**Janet Sullivan:** I just wasn't rebellious. In the summers, I love to read. I have been an avid reader. My first library card was the Wallace Library and I was so proud of that. I could ride down on my bicycle to get my books. I read an awful lot. My mother (Kathryn Gibbs Brauer Jones) worked at Kishpaugh's and they had a wonderful book selection, so I got to read all of the Nancy Drew, all of Cherry Ames. Gosh, I read everything she brought home. I can remember meeting with the lady that wrote *A Man Called Peter*.

**Interviewer:** Catherine Marshall?

**Janet Sullivan:** Catherine Marshall and my mother became pretty good friends. She would always stop by Kishpaugh's to make sure her books were there.

**Interviewer:** She lived here?

**Janet Sullivan:** She lived over at Middleburg or somewhere near there.

**Interviewer:** So why did she happen to come to Fredericksburg?

**Janet Sullivan:** She would come to Fredericksburg to make sure that they sold her books there. My mother just thought so much of her. We went to visit her one time and she lived somewhere, seemed like to me, near Middleburg. My mother also loved Arthur Godfrey.

**Interviewer:** That's right. He was in that area.

**Janet Sullivan:** She ran away with Lucille Baker. My mother and Lucille Baker left Fredericksburg Normal School, which is Mary Washington College now, and skipped school, went up on a bus to Washington because Godfrey had a radio show. They loved him. Well anyway, when they got there, they didn't have enough money to get home. So Arthur Godfrey flew them back down here to Shannon Airport.

**Interviewer:** He flew them!

**Janet Sullivan:** Every time he flew into Shannon Airport, he called my mother. So we went up to visit him in Middleburg at his home. I don't remember a whole lot of it, so I must not have been very old. All I can really remember is this palomino horse that he had that could do tricks. He brought the horse out and it stood up on an old wash tub and it held its foot up for you to shake hands with it. It could count and each time he hit it with the little whip he had: it would paw on the ground. I thought that was so special. It was a beautiful farm that he had up there. My mother had made friends with quite a few people. She was one of these dare-devils that even went up in a blimp. Sidney and Mary Shannon were good friends of hers. And Mary is still living in Charlottesville. She was Sidney's first wife.

**Interviewer:** I didn't realize he had a blimp here. Tethered here?

**Janet Sullivan:** At Shannon Airport my mother went up in it. She would do anything to fly. She loved to fly.

**Interviewer:** Was this a small blimp?

**Janet Sullivan:** It was a big Goodyear blimp that is all I know.

**Interviewer:** He would just bring it; it wouldn't stay here?

**Janet Sullivan:** It didn't stay; it just flew through here. He invited certain people to ride in his Goodyear blimp. This was in the 1950's.

**Interviewer:** I never had anyone tell me that a blimp came here.

**Janet Sullivan:** She would climb up on this little ladder.

**Interviewer:** Now, how did she get to be such good friends with them?

**Janet Sullivan:** They went to Trinity Church. Mary was a lovely lady; she was a beautiful lady. I saw her last year after many years and she told me she was living in Charlottesville. I knew her daughters; we all went to Trinity together. We were so surprised when that divorce took place. But Mary remarried and came to Trinity for many years afterwards. They lived out at Lake of the Woods and now he has died so she moved on to Charlottesville. They had an indoor swimming pool up there. My mother was a Red Cross swimming instructor, so she loved to go out there to swim. She taught swimming lessons here for many years. I have a picture of her with an old 1920's hat and the costume with the knickers.

**Interviewer:** Can we put that picture in?

**Janet Sullivan:** I will have to find that too. She loved to clown around and have a good time. After coming back from Vietnam, before he got out of the service, Warren was stationed at A.P. Hill. They had maneuvers down there, so he took mother down so she could ride in a tank. She was just up for anything. She was such a wonderful mother. I had a great life. She was very child like. She enjoyed life. She had worked when I was growing up to provide things for me. My grandmother and grandfather being in the house, they could take care of me and my brother.

**Interviewer:** Where did she work?

**Janet Sullivan:** She worked at Kishpaugh's.

**Interviewer:** Oh that's right.

**Janet Sullivan:** She worked, I think, first at Penney's selling clothes. Then she worked at the Hub dress store which was owned by my Uncle Karl Ulman, her sister's husband. It was a little dress shop down on Caroline Street, probably where Newberry's was. That is the Court of Shoppes now, across from Goolrick's. My mother's sister Louise was married to Karl Ulman.

**Interviewer:** Is she related to the Ulman's of today?

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Oh my goodness, you really do know or are related to everyone.



*Kathryn Jones (mother)*

**Janet Sullivan:** She worked there and when he closed the Hub, she went up to Kishpaugh's and was there for many years and then he sold it.

**Interviewer:** What is the address for Kishpaugh's?

**Janet Sullivan:** Kishpaugh's is on William Street right next door to Jones Grocery store.

**Interviewer:** He was a stationer?

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes and books. Upstairs they had a printing business and it came to be the Fredericksburg Press. I am trying to think of the man's name who bought it from Mr. Kishpaugh.

**Interviewer:** Kishpaugh's was still here when I came in the 70's.

**Janet Sullivan:** He married an older lady; she worked there too. There were a lot of people that worked in that stationery store. Anyway, Mr. Gwaltney who bought it moved it down Caroline Street up near where the Lewis Store is – that is just like a little antique shop there. That is where the Fredericksburg Press was and my mother continued to work there. Let's see, she was a hostess at the Hot Shoppe when Jim Lewis was there. Do you remember Vikki and Jim Lewis? Do you know them?

**Interviewer:** Your mother was the hostess, you were talking about? When did Hot Shoppe start?

**Janet Sullivan:** In the 50's. There was another lady there also. The two of them were hostesses. The other lady had been there longer than Mother. After there, she went up to Haber's dress shop. That was up in Park and Shop. That is where she was when she got sick. Haber's was right next to Giant. There was Gentlemen's Jim's.

**Interviewer:** Why did all those dress shops leave?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't know.



**Interviewer:** Everybody knew your mother then?

**Janet Sullivan:** Kitty Jones. Let me show you this. The kids did this for Christmas. My oldest daughter did this for me. It is me in the kitchen because everybody used to come here. I think she has a picture of my mom in here. *(Janet is showing a cookbook with pictures of the family in it as well as recipes.)*

**Interviewer:** Your mother died when?

**Janet Sullivan:** I am trying to think. Kathryn was little. I think she must have died in the 70's. She died young. I inherited my father's long life. I had to have a private investigator to find him after my mother died. He disappeared. This is a picture of my mother and father. That is when Warren and I got married and that is his mother. We were married in Dr. Caverlee's living room. Warren was very close to Dr. Caverlee. Warren was a student minister growing up. I'd go down there for Bible School, just so I could see him. This is my grandmother and grandfather and this is the house on William Street. This is my Aunt Louise and this is my brother and Judy Johnson and her daughter.

**Interviewer:** Now is that the Ulman's of the jewelry store or Joe Ulman who just died?

**Janet Sullivan:** They were cousins. Her name is Judy and she owns the family home on Mortimer Avenue. This is the old house up on William Street. It is my brother's birthday. This is the Garret children that lived across the street and Judy, Stuart and I. This is Kathryn, my youngest daughter and this is Kim and this is Chris. Chris is not married. Poor Chris, he has to take care of everybody. We had a chick trip to Atlanta and we had a great time. This is me. Kim, Kathryn, and Ellen who is like a sister to me even though she is Warren's sister. There is Warren. These were family recipes that were very hard to keep. But you know what has changed which I did not know? The fact that the containers have changed in size – where you can mess up a recipe like one of my candy recipes.

**Interviewer:** Tell me a little more about your mom then.

**Janet Sullivan:** She loved life. She never complained even when she came down with cancer. She had breast cancer first. Dr. Low, who had gone to school with her, and Dr. Scott were so good to her. She had a complete radical mastectomy which was very difficult. I had just gotten out of nursing school when she came down with this. So, I had read about radiation. We sent her down to Richmond. I drove her down every day to MCV. At that time they just did the radiation. It just burned them. She was like a raw piece of meat. Warren and I had just gotten married and she stayed with us. She never complained. I just could not believe that woman, because she had been through so much. We had to really work her arm because there were huge adhesions that had developed. I set up a pulley system, over the bathroom shower rod, so she could get arm up above her head to comb her hair and everything. Then, she went through radiation and she went back to live on William Street. Maybe she was at her apartment by then. She did real well for about five years and then she got out of the car one day and she stepped down and her leg came away.

**Interviewer:** She had bone cancer.

**Janet Sullivan:** It was. She had two different types of cancer breast and bone. Dr. Low suggested we go see Dr. Aldridge up at UVA which we did. Dr. Aldridge was from here in Fredericksburg and had lived where Montfort Academy was. That was their old family home up there. They did what we would call an adrenalectomy. They thought that would stop the cancer. Previously, they did a hysterectomy thinking it would stop that cancer then. We were back in the early stages. We didn't know how cancer metastasizes. I stayed with her and the Aldridges would let me stay with her by letting me stay in their home. I brought her back home and I got a call from Dr. Aldridge and he said I would really like her to take this new drug called 5FU, a cancer drug. At that time we did not have a National Cancer Institute; it was just NIH. I said how is it administered? He said by IV. He said, "Have you got anybody there who could administer this?" I said, "No, we do not have an oncologist here." Dr. Miller at Mary Washington Hospital was head of the lab and he said, "Janet if they will ship the medicine to me here at the hospital I will get her medicine mixed up and all you will have to pay for is the IV set and the fluid." You will have to stay with her. He mixed it all up for me. She lay on a stretcher in the hall of the old hospital and I sat there with her. She was testing it: it was under a research grant which is why we did not have to pay for the medicine. She was controlled for about three years. From the beginning to the end it was about eight years. She was one of the original ones that tested 5FU, which is a chemotherapy drug that we use all the time. It is an old standby. I was so anxious for us to have a hospice here. I had read about it, I thought, wouldn't it have been wonderful if we had had that facility here. We were very open and honest with each other. I don't believe in covering things up, so I said this is what we have to do and these are the symptoms we have to look for. I said I will be with you all the way down the line. After she died, it took me a while - then I went to work for Dr. Lee Essig and was his chemotherapy nurse and worked with him for a long time. You have to have a grieving period. I realized then that I could help patients and their families because I had been there. My biggest problem was how to give them up. Once I had committed myself to being there for that patient I would have to go to the hospital to tell them good-bye and sometimes I would have to go to funerals before I could let them go. Then Dr. Essig said you have to give them up sooner. Then I went back to school. Pratt Clinic had asked me to stay after Essig left, but I said I was going back to school. I got my degree.

**Interviewer:** When did Dr. Essig arrive?

**Janet Sullivan:** He was the first oncologist. I had worked with other doctors prior to that, but when I left the hospital and went to Pratt, I started working with him and Marge Arnold who was his first chemotherapist nurse.

**Interviewer:** I remember Marge Arnold.

**Janet Sullivan:** She was a love; I loved working with her. We worked together for many years. I feel I really learned under them. They taught me so much. I am one of those nurses that like to learn new things. I don't want to be stuck in one area. I think when I first I got out of school I worked in internal medicine

**Interviewer:** Where did you go to school for nursing?



**Janet Sullivan:** I took the LPN course here at James Monroe High School. They had an LPN course.

**Interviewer:** They did not have Germanna College then?

**Janet Sullivan:** They didn't have Germanna then. Dale Featherstone was head of it. At that time there wasn't much money in the family and Miss Mildred Chick who was the guidance counselor at the high school said she didn't think I was college material and of course didn't look for any means to help me. I don't think I was the only child she did that too. As we talk over the years, we find she didn't have much interest in looking for us to go to school to further our education. She didn't think

women needed it. I don't know for whatever reason. She didn't have children of her own. She was the guidance counselor at James Monroe There were certain girls she did encourage but usually their families had money, so she was always trying to incur their good wishes. I got my LPN in school and graduated and started to work at Mary Washington Hospital right away in 1961.

**Interviewer:** How long does that program take?

**Janet Sullivan:** It was 18 months; it wasn't a full two years. I think it was 18 months; I may be wrong on that. Anyway, I took the state boards, you know you have to go to Richmond to pass the state boards.

**Interviewer:** Tell me about taking those tests.

**Janet Sullivan:** Oh heavens, I had to do it twice. The first time we were in a hotel in downtown Richmond. I believe, it was the John Marshall. We sit for a whole day at a table and do nothing but take tests. You are timed and it was quite difficult. I passed. I started working at Mary Washington. My first paycheck was \$34.80 for two weeks. I worked on One South – first floor. Thelma Niles was the head nurse there.

**Interviewer:** Were there many nurses in the hospital at that time?

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes, there was – a lot of Mary Washington graduates. See Mary Washington had its own nursing program. They staffed a lot of the key positions at the hospital. I worked on One South. I had certain people that were very nice to me, some doctors because they knew my family. Dr. Jim Willis was wonderful, Dr. Bill Scott, and Dr. Moss, they were great to me. Dr. Jim Willis scared me to death. I remember being on the floor the first day. We used to pull charts for the doctors to make rounds and write all their orders, so we had each doctor's charts stacked up on the desk. I can remember Mrs. Niles saying, "Janet, you make all the rounds with Dr. Willis today." He was real quiet, dry, never said very much. I picked up his charts and was all ready to go down the hall when he said, "Miss Jones, I want you to explain the circulatory system from beginning to end. I said, "I don't think I can do it; Dr. Willis, can you ask me tomorrow?" He said, "Yes. Let's go." I was totally floored. It wasn't that I couldn't do it. We made rounds and I wrote all of his orders and he checked them and signed off on them. The next day he says, "Are you ready to go?"

“Yes sir.” The whole entire time I waited for him to ask me. When he left the floor, he said,” Miss Jones, I think that is enough for the day. You don’t have to say a word; I know you know it.” So I never got a chance. He walked off the floor. I never got a chance. I was so upset. (Laughter) I had that thing down pat. He always kind of looked out for me, him and Dr. Lloyd Moss.

**Interviewer:** I didn’t even know there was a Dr. James Willis. Obviously, he is long gone.

**Janet Sullivan:** He lived in a house right behind Kenmore. What is that street? Lewis. He lived in that beautiful brick house, down there on the corner. Kenmore now owns the whole block. He and his wife were very nice. I remember one day being so sick and he said, “Come to my house, say 4, when you get off.” I said, “Okay.” “I want you to meet Mrs. Willis.” He came in and introduced me to his wife and he said, “You sound terrible. I am writing you a prescription for some medicine. Or better yet get yourself an antibiotic.” I said, “thank you.” I found out later that his daughter had died at an early age. For some reason he was very good to me. He taught me how to read EKG’s along with Dr. Scott. At that time we had built a new wing, which was called One East. I had been asked to move over there as one of the nurses that would get to work on the new One East, the new wing of the hospital. That was a big thing to be asked to go over there. You had to be chosen. Mrs. Gaynell Shelton was going to be the head nurse over there. I can remember, Hannah Wright, who was supervisor of nurses, came around to me and told Mrs. Niles that I was going to be one of the nurses that would work on One East. I was so embarrassed. I didn’t know what to do. I didn’t want to hurt her feelings. She had been good to me also. Anyway, Hannah Wright told me, “You will report to work. What hours do you want?” I said I wanted the 3 – 11. She told me what day I had to report over there. That was really high class because it had low beds. We had drapes at the windows. They had electronic beds that went up and down. That was hot stuff. We had 13 private rooms and 30 semi-private rooms with a center nurses station. Miss Ella Charters’ worked the private side of the hall. I worked the semi-private side. Kathryn Sullivan passed meds. Can you believe that three women worked 33 patients? That meant you put them all to bed, gave them their medicines, gave all the treatments, and took care of everything. That was back in the dark ages. That was when you were still sharpening needles.

**Interviewer:** It took a long time to do all of those duties. Now, is Kathryn Sullivan any relation?

**Janet Sullivan:** She was no relation. She lived over in Stafford. She is retired now. I don’t know exactly where she is. The three of us had One East, 3 – 11 shifts for many years

**Interviewer:** You retired how long ago?

**Janet Sullivan:** May 2001.

**Interviewer:** And you started when?

**Janet Sullivan:** In 1961. Forty years.

**Interviewer:** Really! I bet a whole lot of people missed you.



**Janet Sullivan:** I loved patient care. I really did like taking care of patients. It has changed. I said I came from the dark ages to modern day. If we had a nuclear disaster, call on me. I could set up Wagenstein suction with some bottles and tubes in a heartbeat. You see so many changes over the years. From sharpening needles to central supply. Many people would come and stay for a month at a time because their family had gone out of town.

**Interviewer:** Oh my goodness.

**Janet Sullivan:** We kept grandmother, grandfather, and the aunts. They would just stay with us. Some of them had their cocktails at night, their little toddies.

**Interviewer:** What do you think were the major changes during your time? One, of course, would be prescription drugs.

**Janet Sullivan:** The big thing, I think, was that we became part of a team. When I first started in nursing, we wore the white uniforms and the different hats. You stood up when the doctor came on the floor. You stood up. You did not sit. They sat in the chair. You wrote all the orders for them, you made rounds with them, you knew their patients, and you told them what was going on. At that time, you really weren't accepted, except your information and your progress notes were important. But really, it was a good old boy's club. They were impeccably dressed. You could almost set your watch when they took the floor to make rounds. But you really were not part of a team. You were there to take care of their patients and you were subservient to the physicians. They were gods. Nobody ever questioned them; you never asked a question of them, as to why you are doing such and such. Certainly not a nurse would ask those questions. When it changed for me, was after I left Pratt Medical Center. That seemed to be evolving when the nurses became a part of a team. They were helping to care for the patient with the doctor. I am sure all of that led up to my knowledge base, so I could do this job that Blue Cross of Virginia hired me for. It was not a popular position. I almost don't know how to explain it. We were having a terrible time in medicine; prices had gone out of sight. We realized that peer review wasn't taking care of things. None of the doctors would say anything about costs, so cost had gotten so far out of sight that the insurance companies decided that they would put an on-site nurse in the hospital to try and move patients to a different level of care. This was not popular as you would expect. Doctors did not even want to talk to a nurse; nor did they feel that the insurance companies had a right to question their care. They sent me for assertive training. That was the best thing that ever happened to me. I don't know how I stood it to tell you the truth. That first year was the worst year I ever had in nursing. Because I had to confront the doctors and say, "Dr. so and so, what is your plan of care for this patient?" They did not want to be questioned. Many times I was screamed at, hollered at, charts thrown at me. I was called every name in the book. I also had the right to deny: they gave me the right to give a letter of denial, if I could not get the information I needed.

**Interviewer:** You had clout!

**Janet Sullivan:** You had to make sure they had the right level of care. I could send a letter of denial where the insurance would not pay for the level of care they were receiving. It was a tough time. I was onsite contracted by Blue Cross, Blue Shield. It took awhile but we finally worked out a nice working arrangement. It was never always pleasant. But the continuity of care was

important to me and sometimes I could facilitate things by saying, “I don’t think I will be able to cover this patient for acute care in the hospital much longer. Can we work out another way to get this patient discharged?” It was a new concept, one we weren’t use to. Some of them were very interesting, for instance we would get a hysterectomy patient in, they would stay for five days whether they could go home or not. We finally got it down to three days. A stroke patient would lay there sometimes for weeks and I finally got it to the point where we would bring the nurses up from Sheltering Arms or some of the other rehab facilities and working with them, we could move the patients quickly into rehab. We found the sooner we got them down there the better they had the chance to improve. I wasn’t always the favorite person at Mary Washington.

**Interviewer:** I imagine not.

**Janet Sullivan:** They had a name for me and I probably deserved it at times. Mary Washington had their own discharge nurses on board, social workers and so forth when I left to go to Richmond. I stayed a month at Mary Washington and helped them get it together and have the information they needed to help to move this patient. Insurance companies were asking questions about why is this patient still there? I tried to make it a good transition. At the beginning, you had to do a preauthorization if you were at the hospital. You were required to call the insurance companies and let them know. I would do all that for the Blue Cross patients at the hospital. I then transferred to Chippenham, where I worked in the morning, and Johnston-Willis Hospital where I worked in the afternoon. When I retired, I retired from Chippenham and Johnson Willis Hospital for Blue Cross in Richmond.

**Interviewer:** Now you are also saying there are other patients beside Blue Cross/ Blue Shield? I didn’t realize that.

**Janet Sullivan:** Blue Cross has always been the big insurance in the state of Virginia. I was there for about seven years doing that at Mary Washington, and then started in Richmond.

**Interviewer:** Did every doctor use the hospital?

**Janet Sullivan:** Any doctor that had admitting privileges to the hospital. I would work with them if their patient was Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

**Interviewer:** What determines if some do not have admitting? Is that still the case today? You can’t answer that question, can you?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don’t know all the criteria to obtain privileges at Mary Washington Hospital. Things have changed over the years. We now have hospitalists who are contracted by the hospital and they care for the patients that are admitted. There are still a few doctors that come to the hospital and make rounds and take care of their own patients, but the great majority of them are with the hospitalists and at the time of their discharge, they are referred back to their family doctor. It is just a trend that comes about.

**Interviewer:** When did that kind of change happen?

**Janet Sullivan:** I think it was in the nineties that came about. Don't know when Mary Washington started. When I was there, they still had their own doctors making rounds. So I would come in, read the patient's chart, go over all the lab work, look at all the x-rays and read the doctor's progress notes but I didn't make the decision; I had to call Richmond.

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**Interviewer:** Today is Monday, October 13. I am interviewing Janet Sullivan. This is our second interview. We need to finish a part of your nursing career, the part when you were at a nursing home. Could you tell me a little more about that?

**Janet Sullivan:** Dr. Tom Payne owned Riverside Nursing Home down on Caroline Street at the location where the previous Mary Washington Hospital had been. He came to the house and asked me if I would come to work for him down there at Riverside with Lucille Merritt, who was the nursing supervisor down there. I agreed to do that. I could work a 3 to 11 shift which meant I could make sure that I had people to take care of the children. Warren would also be home at 5 and that way it wouldn't be such burden for everybody. I worked for him for many years, at least five years and then went to work at Pratt Medical Center.

**Interviewer:** So this is between Mary Washington Hospital, the home, and then Pratt. Now, I don't know if we should do Warren or your grandfather's history first? Let's talk about your husband. We haven't talked about how you met, when you were married, etc.

**Janet Sullivan:** We met in high school and I believe he was a senior or a junior when I met him. I was a little eighth grader. He was a football player and I was a junior varsity cheerleader. We dated in the eighth and ninth grade. He went off to college to Randolph Macon in Ashland, We actually did not get back together until I had gone through a divorce from my first husband, Bascom Pribble III with whom I had my oldest daughter Kimberly. After my divorce from Bascom, Warren and I started dating again and we were married for forty years.

**Interviewer:** Oh, congratulations

**Janet Sullivan:** Thank you. He died in 2005, March 15, 2005. During that time we had a son, Christopher Lee Sullivan and another daughter, Kathryn Ann Sullivan.

**Interviewer:** Now, I did not get the marriage date though. You said you were married for 40 years.

**Janet Sullivan:** The marriage date – we were married on May 29 – I have to look it up since it is inside my ring. Oh terrible, I don't remember dates; I am awful on dates.

**Interviewer:** Well it was in May. We can figure out the year by subtracting 40 but we will catch that later.

**Janet Sullivan:** I can get it for you. It is on my list of things that I have to look up.

**Interviewer:** When you started back with him was that a long time before you got married.

**Janet Sullivan:** No, it was a very short time. My mother has always loved him. She always made statements saying that, “cute little Warren Sullivan had come by to check on you to see what you are doing – where you are living and all those cute things.” He would stop by and talk to Mother. My mother adored him and he adored her. We got married and Chris was born about a year later. He was so proud of Chris. He adored Kim. Kim and Warren had a great affinity for each other. I always said he married me because he loved my daughter. They had quite a wonderful relationship together. He adopted her when she was five years old. We went through all of the proceedings that you have to go through. You are investigated by the health department, social services and all the things like that. He was so pleased that he could adopt her and give her his name. Chris came along and they were best buddies. You know they just enjoyed doing everything together Chris played Little League and sports you know and of course Warren was right there. Warren used to referee. He was always there for the kids sports activities Chris went on to play football in high school. Kathryn was into gymnastics. All of them rode horses at Hazelwild. Hazelwild was like a second home to all three of them. They had been to kindergarten there and then to city schools.

**Interviewer:** People went to kindergarten there? Did many people do that?

**Janet Sullivan:** Oh yes, Aunt Sissy would come by in an old station wagon and put them in the back. Never had seatbelts or anything else. Out to the farm they would go and the kindergarten was in the barn, in this big old dairy farm. I can’t remember the name right now, but it has continued. I think Barbara Langford heads the foundation and they still have day care and kindergarten. The public school did not have kindergarten at that time. Private kindergartens were very popular.

**Interviewer:** Aunt Sissy’s full name really is?

**Janet Sullivan:** Elizabeth Morrison. She was an institution and that was her family farm. She taught physical education, I believe, in Spotsylvania County prior to opening up her farm for children. In the summer she had camp. The children went out there to camp and of course the children were still riding the horses and doing all the other stuff. The girls just adored it. They were full time campers; they spent overnight there for about eight weeks. Chris only went to day camp. They all showed horses and as Kim got older she was a counselor there. Now, my grandchildren come, my two little six year olds, Cole and Matthew, were day campers for a week in the summer.

**Interviewer:** Sissy isn’t there any more. Is the farm pretty much the same or have they lost some of that to development?

**Interviewer:** She is long gone. They really have increased their services out there. They have a beautiful indoor arena and they include children with disabilities. They have volunteers to do the therapeutic riding out there. They still have the college’s equestrian program out there. I think it does have a foundation and a board that covers it now. It is a wonderful play for children to go. They have tennis courts, swimming pools, and then also get to ride horses.

**Interviewer:** Did your children go to horse shows?

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes, they did. They rode on the circuit, so they were showing the horses every weekend for a long time.

**Interviewer:** Did you do any riding?

**Janet Sullivan:** I did many years ago. I did so at Oak Hill. Mr. Russell Walters had the college program out at Oak Hill stables.

**Interviewer:** Are you saying that you were doing that when you were in college?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, I was in elementary school, but we still used that facility. Mr. Walters had us out there and he taught the local kids on Saturday. We would stand on the corner of College Heights and Sunken Road and he would come by in his old pickup truck – had benches in the back of it. He taught the Mary Washington College students out there on the weekdays.

**Interviewer:** Where did you say it was located?

**Janet Sullivan:** Behind Shoney's. Do you know where Shoney's is on Route 3 - if you turn right there and go back up in there? (Now it is all houses.) The biggest time is when we would go on a trail ride from Oak Hill. We could go from Oak Hill Stables down the power line to Snowden, where the Benoit's lived by Mary Washington Hospital. We would go down there because little George Benoit had a ring on the lower level. They let us ride down there and jump the horses as well. That was a big deal to ride the power lines.

**Interviewer:** When did Mary Washington stopped having horseback riding there?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't know when that stopped. They did come out to Hazelwild when my children were riding there. It had to have been in the 70's. I don't know when the college sold that property.

**Interviewer:** Now back when you said you were riding down there; was George the same age as you?

**Janet Sullivan:** George was a little bit older than we were. They owned Snowden. It was a beautiful facility. They had a greenhouse and stables. The big house is there today. Now down in the lower area where CVS and some of the doctors' offices are, there was a big ring – a great big riding ring.

**Interviewer:** Now that must have been gone for a long time now?

**Janet Sullivan:** Well, probably in the 60's. I nursed little George when he was in the hospital back in the 60's. They were still living there. I don't know when they sold the house and the property. She always said she sold it to an "A-Rab." She didn't say an Arab; she said an A rab. Mrs. Benoit always wore a camellia in her hair. She always wore a flower in her hair. Bev King and a bunch of them still remember her. She was such a beautiful lady – always so gracious.

**Interviewer:** Now we have all the sports activities so back to when we were talking about Warren.

**Janet Sullivan:** There was a group of children who rode at Hazelwild. Bernie Kenneweg's daughter, Bronwyn and Katie Olichney, Dr. Olichney's daughter was in that group. I don't want to leave out anybody. They were really the show group. They did the drills; they put on performances with the horses at well as the competitions. Nice place for them to grow up. Now, we will go back to Warren.

**Interviewer:** This is after you are married. Was he in the war before or after you were married?

**Janet Sullivan:** After. I was nursing. He was working at Washington Woolen Mills which was owned by Frank and Sadie Levinson. It was located on Caroline Street right where the Cat's Closet is now. He was also in the National Guard. He was a second lieutenant then. When he joined the regular Army at Fort Belvoir, he was a first lieutenant. He was a captain at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO and then he went to Vietnam as the war started to escalate.

**Interviewer:** And you went?

**Janet Sullivan:** Kathryn was born at Ft. Leonard Wood at the hospital out there. After a year there he was sent to Vietnam. I was alone with the three children. We had a townhouse. His brother had started Olde Greenwich Townhouses.

**Interviewer:** You came back to Fredericksburg then?

**Janet Sullivan:** I came back to Fredericksburg so I could have a support system. I also would have the availability of Fort Belvoir and Quantico which would provide the essentials I needed. Kathryn was about a month old when Warren went to Vietnam. I lived in Olde Greenwich up on 15 Farrell Street.

**Interviewer:** Was that new then?

**Janet Sullivan:** It was new. Ducky was just building those then, Ducky and Crit, Warren's brothers were just building Olde Greenwich then.

**Interviewer:** I think I know the name Ducky.

**Janet Sullivan:** His real name is Gerald. Crit was short for Crittenden; it is a family name. They had been part of the builders here in the area.

**Interviewer:** Warren did not do this?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, Warren was in service then.

**Interviewer:** He wasn't part of the building even after?

**Janet Sullivan:** He sold real estate and had his own office. There were quite a few other military families at Olde Greenwich at the time. They were just starting down into the Bentley court area and the circle. That was the progression. The office was right up there on Farrell Lane. It was a nice time. I had the family, Ellen was there, and his two brothers, Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan and my mother were there, so I had a support system to help me in that year. It was a tough year. It was the year that the man walked on the moon. Warren was in Vietnam in '68 and '69. I can remember getting all of the children out of their beds in the middle of the night and putting them down in front of the TV saying, "I want you to be awake and see this." It was such a momentous occasion. I wanted them to be a part of it. They weren't any bigger than a minute. They were there when they walked on the moon.

**Interviewer:** Where did Warren grow up?

**Janet Sullivan:** He grew up in Fredericksburg. He always thought he grew up on Doswell Field but somebody told me the other day that Virginia Avenue wasn't part of Doswell Field, so I don't know. His father worked for Farmers Creamery. His mother worked a lot of different jobs but mostly was a housewife.

**Interviewer:** The Farmers Creamery was closed when I came here; it was a beautiful building

**Janet Sullivan:** Beautiful building. Nice family, the Claude Parcell family owned it. They lived on Cornell Street. It was really devastating. They had really been a mainstay of Fredericksburg for a long time. During the war, they made baby formula.

**Interviewer:** So what happened?

**Janet Sullivan:** They didn't get any retirement out of it-- the men that had worked a long time. It was a hard time, I remember. They lived on Virginia Avenue. Of course the boys all went to James Monroe. They were all a support system when Warren was in Vietnam. When he came back, he was stationed at Fort Belvoir again. He was an engineer; the engineer's bases are Fort Belvoir and Fort Leonard Wood. We didn't go far like to Germany or nice little places like that. We didn't do that. He decided he was going to get out, when the Vietnam War was winding down. He probably would have been the oldest captain in the US Army. He worked at Fort A.P. Hill before he was mustered out. They were still doing training from Fort Belvoir at A.P. Hill. That is when my mother rode in the tank.

**Interviewer:** He was in the National Guard to begin with. When he goes to Vietnam is that through the National Guard?

**Janet Sullivan:** No. At that time you went back in on active duty. He was in the army. It wasn't like it is now because the young man next door is a National Guard officer on active duty. It wasn't that way. When you went on duty, you were in the army.

**Interviewer:** He was probably there five years or so?



**Janet Sullivan:** His National Guard experience counted also. He had almost 20 years in by the time he got out. So, he came back from Vietnam, highly decorated. He was an engineer, company commander. We have all that in the other room. If you want we can go back in there for you and see all Warren's paraphernalia. He was part of the 26<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers, B Company Americal Division and this division is never activated except on foreign soil.



He had a very hard area. At that time, Lt. Calley had just been sent back for going into what was called My Lai. It was actually called Pinkville. He went in after Calley. It was a very difficult time when he took over the company. He had tunnel rats and mine sweepers. They went in before the infantry. The company was stationed at the end of the Ho Chi Mihn trail. He had a regular Vietnamese Unit that was attached to his company also. He had two bronze stars with oak leaf clusters. I have everything in that room. It was tough. I had all his letters;

I kept every one of them. Maybe one day, he always said, he was going to do a book and he started it and it is on the computer and my oldest daughter, Kim, has a copy of it. I didn't realize anything about post-traumatic stress disorder.

**Interviewer:** We didn't.

**Janet Sullivan:** I had no inkling and he was very good about covering. I know when he got back it was a very difficult time for him. We used to say when he sat down to eat dinner that he inhaled his food because by the time we sat down, he was finished. He always said because the helicopters would be coming in and there would be sand and gravel, so you would eat quickly. It was almost like he would check the area when we would go down the road. His head was constantly moving back and forward. He was making sure it was a safe area. I can remember one night a helicopter came over the house at Olde Greenwich and he hit the floor and was under the bed – very quickly. I couldn't move that fast. He hid everything really well – for about 30 years-- then it started to come out. It was like a wall that has a loose piece of brick and the mortar starts to crumble and the wall comes down. He did suffer greatly in the last years of his life.

**Interviewer:** Did that release help?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, it was just too much. When he came back from Vietnam, he got into real estate and he got his license and he worked for Holly Waring who is a local lady here in town. Worked for her quite a few years and then he opened up his own real estate office and managed that.

**Interviewer:** Where was that located?

**Janet Sullivan:** Over in Chatham – near where the Temple Baptist Church is. He had a little house on the corner

**Interviewer:** Was it called the Sullivan Real Estate office?

**Janet Sullivan:** I think so. I might have a picture of it. He was the real estate broker. He had other people that worked for him. Then he opened a hardware store. He opened up General Hardware on Lafayette Boulevard across from Hillcrest there. It is a bridal shop and a kitchen place now.

**Interviewer:** Anywhere near that Spotswood Baptist Church?

**Janet Sullivan:** No. Past that going down into town. It will be past that down near Paul's Bakery. It was a filling station and he remodeled it and opened up a Tru-Value store. It was quite an undertaking. It was about that time that interest rates went sky high and we had a hole that had no end. We just kept pouring money into it. He sold it to his brother, Ducky, and that was when he went in as a real estate appraiser. He also taught at Germanna.

**Interviewer:** Appraising must have been interesting.

**Janet Sullivan:** At that time it really was, you went to every house and measured the square footage and checked everything out. Now they do it on the computer. You don't even have to go by the property now. He enjoyed it. He worked for the different mortgage companies and did the appraisals for them. I would go with him periodically. He was the photographer in the family, certainly not me. He has a great sense of humor and he always told great stories. People at his funeral came up and remembered some of the stories that he had told them. He had the Irish wit. I always said if I ever got him to Ireland he was going to have to kiss the Blarney Stone. I think I miss that most of all in the house – it is the laughter. He could always see things as funny. I said he should send his jokes off to Leno or Letterman. Dr. Frank Turnage had asked him to teach the real estate course out there at Germanna when they first started offering the course. He told stories about Kim and all of us. I have had people come back and say, "I remember your husband's class because he always told Kim stories." "How she didn't do her very best in college." That he always told her she could get a job at Nichols Department Store if she didn't do better in school. Of course, Kim graduated college with honors. I am sure there were lots of Janet stories too. He always said if you tell a little story, people will remember the piece of information also.

**Interviewer:** There wasn't as many real estate agents then as there are today?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, no indeed. He loved people and he loved talking and being with them and encouraging them. At that time there was a real down turn in the market also, almost but not quite as bad as it is now. He said, "This is where the good real estate people step forward. The others will be jumping off the ship."

**Interviewer:** I understand now there are so many people that you don't sell as many houses. But I guess you only have to sell one at these prices!

**Interviewer:** They were bidding then. They were making huge commissions. In other words, you would put your house up for \$364,000 and someone would offer you \$365,000, and then they would continue. Warren always said this is ridiculous because the homes were so over inflated.

**Interviewer:** Did he retire from that?

**Janet Sullivan:** Actually, Warren had a nervous breakdown. I feel real guilty at times that I did not pick up on it. I think a lot of times I covered for him. I was working out of town at Chippenham and Johnson -Willis Hospital for Blue Cross. I would get up early in the morning and I wouldn't get back until sometimes 8 o'clock at night. I think he had really started to deteriorate and I did not realize it until he just finally broke down. We got him in to get help. For a while he was totally disabled as far as being able to work.

**Interviewer:** Did it turn out to be that post-traumatic stress?

**Janet Sullivan:** It came out that it was post-traumatic stress. He had had an heart attack in '96 and at the time Dr. Rob Wheeler said to me, "Janet, you realize that Warren's heart disease can very well be connected to his Vietnam experience." At the time I didn't even think of that. Evidently, Warren had shared with him some of the stress he had over there. The doctor said they were just starting to see a connection. He had known Warren was in the military and they had talked. Warren had never really shared what went on in Vietnam – never. Maybe once, we would get a little snippet of something but really never had discussed what went on over there. He had gotten a phone call from a lawyer in California. This is when I was working out of the area. He got a phone call and they asked him if he was Capt. Warren Sullivan. He said I am Warren Sullivan and I used to be a captain when I was in the service. They asked him if he knew the name of this individual that this lawyer was representing. Warren said he couldn't quite remember the young man. The lawyer went on to say that this man was on death row and that he had murdered two people. Was there anything that Warren could tell them about this young man, because he said that Capt. Warren Sullivan had given him a commendation while he was in the military? He too had suffered some post-traumatic stress disorder. Warren said to me, "We need to go to the Archives because I need to pull all the company records, so I can see what I did for this young man. Hopefully, they will let him stay on death row instead of the death sentence." This is what sort of knocked that brick out of the wall that he had. As we went up to the Archives, they were wonderful and pulled up a lot of stuff. I was the recorder and that wall he put up to protect himself started to break down. Each time one of those bricks fell, it opened up more and more. He was not sleeping at night, he was over eating, and he was eating 24 hours a day and he was up and not resting. He was really having problems and by then he was going to a psychiatrist. I was driving him to Richmond every week to see the psychiatrist. I was afraid to leave him alone; I was afraid he would kill himself. Finally, we had to get some disabilities help here and maybe we could get him into the VA system, which is what we did. We got him into the VA system and he was going to Richmond. I was still working in Richmond, so it was easy for me to take him right into McGuire to see the counselors. He was even having problems with memory. He couldn't figure out how to get to places and do things. He was having a difficult time even though he was trying to keep up with the appraisals - to bring in some extra money. Finally, that was just not going to be something he could continue. Fortunately enough, as time went on, they opened up the VA facility here at Twin Lakes, right off of Highway 1. He had his physician and counselor there. He was going three times a week there. It was a safe haven for him. It helped me to keep him at home rather than sending him away. We stayed under that system until his death. It was a tough time from '96 to 2005 and the last two years were really difficult.

**Interviewer:** And you were the caretaker?

**Janet Sullivan:** I was the caretaker and that is why I quit work in 2001. I needed to be here and I don't regret it at all. I mean there were days when I would have loved to be working – sometimes you can use that as an escape. I am glad that I was here. I had Chris who also was helping me at the house. We made it all right. I had those special years with him. It was not an easy death. We had been down at the VA. We had been through multiple tests. We knew something was wrong. (He had had a right coronary artery stint done in 1996.) Now, they told us we would have a four CABG done, coronary artery bypass graph, and really no one here wanted to do it. The doctor at the VA and of course my son-in-law, who was at Fairfax Hospital, wanted him up there to have this done but Warren had met this physician at McGuire and felt very comfortable with him and wanted to stay with the VA system. The doctor who met with him had agreed to do the four vessels; actually it ended up being five before it took. He got through the surgery. They finally got him off the ventilator and he had a fall. They got him up in the chair and for some reason or another he tried to get up by himself and he fell. He was a big man and they had a difficult time getting him back in the bed but they did. I had been staying with him day and night utilizing the hospice house. It is up on Marshall Street. Chris was coming down at night time, so I could rest and I would stay during the day. I kept questioning the nurses on the floor and also the resident that I had a run-in with because I thought she was not on top of the case the way she should have been. Finally I was able to talk with her for a long period of time and with the physician and voiced my concerns and they agreed that we had something else going on. As it turned out the sternum was starting to separate and they would have to go back in and do a latissimus muscle wrap because the sternum was deteriorating and fluid was building up in the chest cavity. I had said to Kim if you want to see your dad before he goes back into surgery, you're going to have to come down. I also told his sister Ellen. Ellen and Kim were down that night and Chris was there. I had left to go to the hospitality house. Warren said he did not think he could go through another surgery. I said we don't have that option. And so I left and I got into the shower. When I came out the phone was ringing. Chris had called and told me to come back to the hospital. Warren had fallen on top of Chris. The doctor and Chris helped him get him back in bed, but when they turned him over and the doctor opened his chest, the sternum had punctured the heart. So... that was it.... The children had a very difficult time – needless to say. He was only 67.

**Interviewer:** Is he buried locally?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, at Arlington. It is interesting; you talk about it off- hand. You think you never need to do these things. He said he wanted to be cremated. He knew he was going to be buried at Arlington. First he wanted to be shoved out of a plane and then in the Rappahannock River, and with my luck he would come to shore. We called Mullins (funeral home). Mr. Mullins and Warren had always been very close friends. Mr. had given Warren work in appraising. Fortunately when I called, David McGuire was on. They transported him back. I guess, in my mind, he would be cremated and buried at Arlington. I did not know my children really needed a closure. We went ahead and had the memorial service here which was really beautiful. I don't remember a word of it but everybody always tells me it was really great. We had to wait three months. The hardest part was the waiting period to have his allotment for when he could be buried at Arlington. That day there was a wreck on the highway and I was a wreck. I was not in my right

mind I don't think. I didn't probably handle anything the way you are supposed to. I don't think I did mentally. We walked behind a caisson. We had to walk quite a distance. That was what the family had decided to do. From what I remember of the service it was beautiful. I had people who have taped it, but I have yet to be able to watch it. It is so ...difficult. I think when you have a death, God gives you this protective little cape and it says okay we are going to let you do everything you need to do and you are going to hold up real well and you are going to get through this. I was really great for a long time. But then it dragged on and on. There are so many things you need to do and you can't do them, so you have to wait, just have to wait. I have a great sympathy for people who have to wait for their closure.

**Interviewer:** I know when I see the women receiving the flag. It is so moving.

**Janet Sullivan:** And they do the salute and the full nine yards and at Arlington, of course, they are doing them back to back. There are so many. So many of the World War II veterans are dying. There are back to back services up there now. Jack Markham who is in the reserves was very nice. He went to school with me. He goes to a lot of the services up there and he was there for us. He conducted the memorial at Covenant also. Helped Chris. Chris always felt like he didn't know CPR and what he could have done to save his dad. Warren was about 300 pounds, so when he landed on Chris it was tough to get him up in the bed. The resident who I had had a hard time with; she too had had a hard time with his death. She wrote me a letter and she also met with me that night to say that she would never forget the things that I had brought up to her. That it was a teaching, learning experience for her. She didn't realize that Warren was really deteriorating because she didn't get the signs and symptoms that I was picking up with the few minutes that she spent in the room in the morning. My husband never had pain. He did not have Beta pain receptors and I tried to explain this to her. There are people, diabetics mostly, who don't have the pain sensory mechanism that most people have, so anytime the nurses would come in and ask how he was feeling, he would say fine, but he was not. He was very restless; he was very agitated. You could tell that things were going on with him, although he did not have the severe pain that most people would have experienced with this increasing build up of fluid in the cardiac area.

**Interviewer:** The time has certainly been long for you.

**Janet Sullivan:** It has been three years. I miss that laughter. We were great friends.

**Interviewer:** Well, you said you had been married 40 years.

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes, he died in March and we would have been married 40 years in May.

**Interviewer:** You must have been married when you were 10; you are so young-looking.

**Janet Sullivan:** Oh, of course, I love all of that. Warren believed in women. He told his girls there was nothing they couldn't do. He truly believed that they had great value. He told them the best people he ever had working for him were women. He knew if you gave them a job; they would get that job done. He instilled the confidence in me as well as my daughters. I am so thankful to him for that. They are both very successful and very self-assured. He believed that there wasn't anything a woman couldn't do, if she wanted to. He was unique. He told this story

about Kim. She went to work for Graphic Scanning; the first company she ever worked for. Anna Harrington, Dr. Harrington's daughter, was a great friend and they went up to Alexandria after they graduated from college. They got this little apartment. Warren said what are you doing? She said, "Well I am a secretary." Warren said, "Well I didn't send you to school to be a secretary." Well, a year later, he got this call that said they were making her a manager. We have a lot of people in this office and I don't know if I can handle all this. I really want to be a good manager. He talked to her. About a week later, she called and she said, "We have a lot of dead wood in this office that we have to get rid of." (Laughter)

**Interviewer:** You have to be the manager; you can't be their friend.

**Janet Sullivan:** She learned that very quickly. Even her husband, Michael, worked for her, before he was her husband. They had dated in high school and he and his family had moved away to Rhode Island. He came back to school at American University. He was looking for a job after he graduated and Kim hired him. They got back together again.

**Interviewer:** Today, Kim does what?

**Janet Sullivan:** She lives in Occoquan with her husband Mike and they have one son Matthew who is the love of her life and there is Mosby, the dog. She works for Server Vault. It is a subcontractor for the government that does all the security for the computers. If you go online I think you can see some of the things that they do. She works for a government contractor and she is very successful.

**Interviewer:** And her husband?

**Janet Sullivan:** He is a house husband. He takes care of the family business from the house and takes care of Matthew.

**Interviewer:** How about the others?

**Janet Sullivan:** Kathryn is married to Dr. Ronald Bank who is an anesthesiologist at Fairfax Hospital. Kathryn is a speech pathologist. She got her Masters degree from the University of Maryland. She works with children and adults with speech problems. She also has a private practice where she works with autistic children.



*Ronald Bank, Kathryn Ann Bank, Cole Bank, and baby Jordon Warren Bank.*

**Interviewer:** They live where?

**Janet Sullivan:** They live in Vienna. Chris lives here with me and he works for

DynCorp International which is also a government contractor. It is off of 495 going towards Tyson's-- backs up into the Fairfax Hospital.

**Interviewer:** We have your three children all covered then.

**Janet Sullivan:** Chris is not married. Looking but not married. The problem is that he is out of the house before 6 and many times does not get home before 7:30 or 8 at night. Weekends he does his normal errands and helps here around the house. We are pretty compatible and it is nice that I have somebody to rely on. It has been nice for me to have him here for however long he will stay. I am very fortunate in my children – Kathryn, Kim, and Chris. The loves of my lives are my grandchildren now. I try to help anyway I can.

**Interviewer:** How many do you have?

**Janet Sullivan:** I have Cole who is Kathryn's oldest son and he is six and a half. I have Matthew who is Kim's son and he has just turned six. Then we have Jordon, who is Kathryn's baby who is a year old and he is named Jordon Warren. He has his granddaddy's name. Warren would have adored him; he is a little bruiser. He is one of those bustling ones that has lots of things to do and smiles all the time. I told Kathryn he looks very much like Warren because when he is really concentrating, he sticks his tongue out and Warren used to do that. They are fun. I love having them all home. Did I tell you of the story when we went down to Pope's Creek and they became Junior Rangers? We went down to Westmoreland to fossil beach to find fossils. I love doing things like that with them. They stay with me in the summer for a week.

**Interviewer:** Sounds wonderful

**Janet Sullivan:** I've had a wonderful life.

**Interviewer:** Let's revert to the past and talk of your historical roots.

**Janet Sullivan:** My grandfather, Lee Roy Brauer did. He lived on Hanover Street right below Marye Heights. His father John Brauer married Louise Littrel. She was from Fredericksburg. Her father had fought in the Civil War – James Wesley Littrel. He was with Lee at Appomattox at the surrender. My grandfather always told stories about his grandfather. Their house on Hanover Street had been owned by a free black. (He was James Wilkins, emancipated by his owner James Young in 1824. A short history of James Wilkins can be found in an article by Richard Amrhine in the *Free Lance-Star* June 9, 2006 issue.) Barbara Willis said he was a barber. I have no idea what his job was. Great grandfather bought the house and enlarged it to accommodate those 10 children. We had it open one year on the HFFI Candlelight Tour, many years before this huge log addition had been placed on the back of the house. From the stories I heard, the mother and the father's bedroom was what the living room is now. All the children lived upstairs – five boys and five girls. They lived in the dormer area. My grandfather told stories of Granny Stevens and she was still living when he lived there. There were bullet holes and cannon balls stuck in the door frames. Something had happened to the back step and they found this old piece of stone and they put it at the back step and it turned out to be a tombstone. It was a tough time here in Fredericksburg after the Civil War.





They had a grocery store on William Street where Renato's is now - that was the Brauer Grocery Store. All the brothers would go into the rural area and bring back the produce and chickens and whatever for the store. It did not last very long. I don't think they were very successful. My grandfather had a great variety of jobs in the area, but he loved history and he loved Fredericksburg and he wanted me to love Fredericksburg. He always told me about things in the area. He introduced me as his granddaughter. Even after he was dead and gone, people would ask me, are you Lee Brauer's granddaughter? I was not Woodrow Jones daughter. I was Lee Brauer's granddaughter and then they would work their way forward. Fredericksburg was a different town then. We would see people come to town with horses and wagons. There was still poverty in the area. You knew everybody. You would see the same people. It was still pretty much a small town. People would go to town on Friday night and park down on Caroline Street to greet and see people. Friday was the big day you would go to the grocery store, to the A&P which was on William Street. I used to love to go to the livestock auctions on Thursday with my grandfather. The Hardistys had it. It is in the same general area as now. Richard Hardisty's family owned it.

**Interviewer:** Now, why did you go to the stock yards?

**Janet Sullivan:** Remember our land was farm. We had chicken and goats. I thought it was great to go over there because you got a good meal in the middle of the day and I was with my granddaddy which was wonderful. We were great buddies.

**Interviewer:** You really were from the sound of it.

**Janet Sullivan:** He taught me how to shoot a gun. I had a BB gun. I would go with him when he would go out to check on the animals. It was my job to gather the eggs.

**Interviewer:** So in a way, you might have been a tomboy.

**Janet Sullivan:** I was a tomboy. I was very upset that my brother got a tepee one year for Christmas and a Red Ryder BB gun. I really thought I should have one. I had to use his. My grandfather taught me to walk on stilts. He first started me out on big tomato cans. You had to walk on tomato cans and then he built me a pair of wooden stilts I could walk all over on those stilts. I bet even today I could get on them and walk. When Chris and I went to Hawaii back in the 90's in one of the villages they brought out this pair of stilts and wanted to know if anybody could walk on them. I raised my hand and Chris was mortified. I got up on them and walked all around. Grandfather taught me what it was to enjoy life and have a great appreciation for nature and also for the history of Fredericksburg.

**Interviewer:** Did that bring you to your love of history?

**Janet Sullivan:** I think so. You have to love where you live and I have always loved Fredericksburg. I've always known this is where I belong. It started in the fifth grade when we were trying to save Matthew Fontaine Maury's house. Saved a penny out of my milk money every day just so I would have a nickel to turn in to Mrs. McRae to try to save Maury's house. Now, Scott Walker says it wasn't there, so I don't know.

**Interviewer:** They say it is not the same house?

**Janet Sullivan:** Where they tore it down, they say he didn't really live there. But that started it. I was a Girl Scout for many years and as one of my projects I did all the historic attractions in town. I really enjoyed doing it. I took pictures all over Fredericksburg. I think it was Ann Schwartz Garnett who did it with me. And we got our very special Senior Girl Scout photography badge for that.

**Interviewer:** Do you have them yet?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't have them. Ann may have them. I don't keep stuff like that. Mrs. Frances Hewetson was head of the Girl Scout troop and we met at St. George's Church in that little building off of the graveyard. Quite a few of us made it to Senior Girl Scouts. We always knew that we lived in a historic area. Back in the early 70's, HFFI had a Junior Board. I am not real sure of the date of it; you may be able to check that out. Anyway I was asked to be a member of the Junior Board of Fredericksburg. We started what is now known as the Christmas Candlelight Tours. This year I am on the committee along with Barbara Willis and Sara Fartro and we are going to have it back in the same area where we first had the Christmas Candlelight Tour which will encompass the Sentry Box and houses on lower Caroline. There has always been an effort to being able to present Fredericksburg in a positive way. I think I did the old Wells' house at that time. HFFI had the Wells' house which was down on Sophia Street across from the Silversmith's house.

**Interviewer:** Didn't HFFI have their office there at one at the Wells' house?

**Janet Sullivan:** We did. Right after we redid that we had a flood, so I don't know when exactly when that was. It came up in that building and we had to clean it all out again. That year I held an open house in the Wells' house. We had some people from the college – one was playing a harp or things like that.

**Interviewer:** Maybe Anne Hammrick?

**Janet Sullivan:** It probably was her now that I think about it. We just had some punch and cookies trying to raise money to help in fixing the Wells' house. We ended up moving to the Chimneys after that. At that time, Betsy Houston asked me – she and Levin were such wonderful people- she said something about wouldn't you like to join the APVA? I said yes and joined the APVA (Association for the Preservation for Virginia Antiquities.) I had the Tavern but I was just doing the gift shop down there and making sure the grass was cut – that kind of thing. Nancy Payne had always cut the grass with a hand mower which is not my kind of thing. Nancy Payne, Ruth Gibson, and Cassie Butzner and Betsy were just wonderful to me. They just encouraged me. I was their driver because they were getting a little older and not able to get around. After we had an APVA meeting, I always had some kind of big vehicle and we would pile in and go and have lunch.

**Interviewer:** Now was that when the APVA branch was started here?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, no, no it had been here for a while. Betsy and Levin had done a wonderful job keeping that branch together. The membership was getting very old. Since the Junior Board was so active, there was a group of us – Bernie Kenneweg was one, Gail Braxton. I was trying to think if there were any others – the three of us then, oh, and Sheila Baker came in.

**Interviewer:** Now, you are referring back to the Junior Board.

**Janet Sullivan:** No, no this was the group that came into the Junior Board and moved over to APVA. You could only stay in the Junior Board until you were 40.

**Interviewer:** Junior Board lasted until recently, didn't it?

**Janet Sullivan:** It did. At that time, I think you had to get out before 40 and I don't think I wanted them to know how old I was, so I got out early.

**Interviewer:** They were the ones that always did the Candlelight Tour?

**Janet Sullivan:** In fact the first Candlelight Tour, we had to find all those little lanterns that you put outside at night time. We took tuna fish cans and spray painted them. I made Warren put dowels in the bottom and he got the man in the blacksmith's shop to give him a thing so he could put a hole in the ground and then stick them in. We went to Williamsburg and we got the lantern things as well. But they were tuna fish cans with plumber candles in them. We didn't have any money. It was so funny. I can remember when we all had our little costumes on and I was at Mary Wynn McDaniel's house. I was in a back parlor where there with a gorgeous Oriental rug and I looked down and oh my - at that time Richmond and Charles W. (sons of Charles and Mary

McDaniel) had a goat - and they had let the goat in the house, and the goat had vomited on the Oriental rug and about that time we opened the doors for the public. I had this beautiful red satin dress and I just stood over the top of it, so nobody ever knew. I gave my little talk and they moved on out of the room. Finally, we had a little break and we could clean it up. We were doing everything on a shoestring; we didn't have any money. Fortunately, for us, Mary Wynn McDaniel had a gorgeous home and just had it redone. Charlie McDaniel, he had that beautiful gun collection. He would tell about the guns. We did everything we could to try to raise money to keep HFFI going. At that time we had a revolving fund that Mrs. Smoot had started for us. We had some covenants that had been put on houses and we had some things that we had to address to be able to access that revolving fund. We were really able to save a lot of buildings and to get that area put on the registry. Like I said, I moved over to the APVA and Betsy sort of groomed me and convinced me that she really needed me at the Rising Sun Tavern

**Interviewer:** Was that her charge at the time?

**Janet Sullivan:** Oh yes, she had the Rising Sun Tavern and the Mary Washington House. We didn't have the Apothecary Shop nor did we have the St. James Cottage. We only had the two. Nancy Payne and Ruth Gibson were down at the Rising Sun Tavern also and they told me what I needed to do. I would have to drive down to Williamsburg and get the salt glaze pottery and bring it up here and unload it. I was young. They needed that young person. It started with Buster Venable down at the Williamsburg Pottery. I'd call Buster and say I am coming down. He would have it all ready for me and I would load it up and come home. At that time, we were probably the only people in town selling that old salt glaze pottery, in that little Welch cupboard that we had there.

**Interviewer:** Was there a gift shop in both?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, Mary Washington didn't. Gertrude Sawyer lived there. She was running Mary Washington House and she lived upstairs and that area of the gift shop was her home.

**Interviewer:** I never heard of Gertrude Sawyer.

**Janet Sullivan:** She ran things for the Mary Washington House and made sure we had hostesses on duty. The Tavern was sort of, "This is the Chippendale chair, this is the Sheraton desk, and this is such and such." I decided much to everyone's chagrin that I would like to have a first person tour at the Tavern. I took Betsy and we went down to Yorktown and there was a house down there that was giving a first person tour. You started in the basement and you went clear up to the bedroom. You saw the family there in the house. There was a little scullery maid that was taking us through the house and she did it all in first person. I came back and told Betsy that I wanted to redo the tours of the Tavern. All the hostesses were irate and they all decided they were going to go. They just couldn't make the adjustments; they couldn't make the change. I said okay. So they left. I hired new people. I hired Beth Durnier who had come here to Fredericksburg. She had been at a place in southwest Virginia, Belle Grove. She was a beautiful lady that had worked for the Smithsonian at one time. She had a beautiful presence. We decided they needed to be in costume. She was willing to help me with the first person tour. She was my first head hostess after the others had left. She was with me for a long time. In the meantime, we decided that we had to replace the

Tavern's foundation sills. They were rotting. We jacked it up off the foundation and took all the siding off and took it to Richmond because it wouldn't hold paint anymore. We had all the wood cleaned. We rebuilt the Aquia limestone foundation and put the new sills back in. We also did an archaeological dig at that time to see if we could find the footings for the front porch. We found the original foundation. It was common brick with oyster shell mortar. The footprints were there for the original porch.

**Interviewer:** When did this happen?

**Janet Sullivan:** The 70's. Because in '72 I started with the renovations on the Tavern. At that time Angus Murdock was the head of the APVA in Richmond. I had said something about that I did not believe that the porch is right on the Tavern. He said all the pictures that we have show a Federal porch or no porch. I said, "Why did they tongue and groove the wood in?" You know my grandfather, who was a handyman, always said they overlapped boards on the outside of the building, so the water would run off. But if you tongue and grooved it, it would have had to have protection over it to keep it from rotting away. We were having problems with the plumbing at the Tavern. I was having problems with the sewage backing up and all kinds of things. We couldn't find the pipes. I used a roto rooter for a couple of years it seemed like. Anyhow, Angus Murdock said we are going to do an excavation and we are going to find the footprints for this porch. They had pulled boards off on the eaves and they could see where a porch had come in. We did the excavations, we sold the little federal porch that was up there, and we took the limestone steps and put them at the back door, like we did at the Mary Washington House. At the time that I took the Tavern, it had a little federal porch on it and it had steps leading down to the street with a little wall or fence on it.

**Interviewer:** Was the federal porch right in the middle?



*Old Postcard – No date*

**Janet Sullivan:** Right in the middle – you know two columns. When we started the excavation, we dug all the way down to below the street level and we found the oyster shell mortar and the hand made bricks. So we knew then. We knew the dimensions of it and how far it had come out. We had Girl Scouts down there sifting and we had some local ladies

here in town. I think Dr. David Rice is one that helped fix it. We show in the taproom the different layers that we found. We did just a small little cut out there, so you could see lots of rose head nails and lots of bird bones. You could just see they probably just swept it out of the front door. We went ahead and at that time we took all the siding off the Tavern – front and back because it

wouldn't keep paint on anymore. I continued to run tours through. They went in the back door even though it was covered in tar paper and up on jacks. We had to rebuild the sill areas that had deteriorated. They said you are going to leave this porch open. I said, Oh no, they will throw everything underneath the porch. We can't leave it open. I am sure it probably was open - probably pigs, chickens, dogs and everything else. They would come up from the river. So, I said no, it had to be closed in. We went up to the Alexandria Visitor Center and it had this beautiful porch on the back of it. We used that as a model: we had those weep holes.

**Interviewer:** I don't know what weep holes are.

**Janet Sullivan:** Holes in the brick- air holes so it wouldn't stay moist underneath. Angus, I said, "We have to close it in because people will throw things in here." I said a cigarette gets thrown in there and it would smolder and catch on fire. So we ended up putting screen behind it. He did leave me a crawl space. Tom Boswell did all the work on it. I said I wanted drains - gutters. No, you can't have gutters; they didn't have gutters in those days. So, I have had to build this porch many times. It continues to rot. Water comes in and deteriorates the wood. The roofline was not steep enough for the water to come off of it, so the water pooled up on top of it. Angus had gotten all of this cypress wood and had them cut it in this fish scale shape and he wanted to put that on the Tavern. We never found but one shingle and it was not a fish scale, it was a straight wood shingle when we took the roof off. It had an old asbestos roof on it. We found it had had a slate roof at one time, a tin roof and this old wooden straight shingle. Angus had decided he would like us to put this fish scale cypress shingle on it. We put it out on bid and Steve Spratt was just starting his business

**Interviewer:** Young Steve Spratt?

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes, who now has gotten a little bit older with me. I was young at the beginning too. Steve did the roof; it was one of his first jobs. He had kept pictures of all of it, so when I had to do it last year I had all the pictures from Steve, where he had hand cut everyone of the shingles for that roof.

**Interviewer:** But the cypress can take more water?

**Janet Sullivan:** That is what we thought. It didn't. Where the roof for the porch came in to the main part of the Tavern, water would stay right there leaking onto the porch and rotting the boards. Last year when we had to go back and redo the roof again, we asked if we could put a standing seam roof on the front porch of the Tavern as well as on the dependency on the back which has always had a standing seam roof.

**Interviewer:** Standing seam – what is that?

**Janet Sullivan:** I always called it a tin roof. They now refer to it as a standing seam. Finally, the Architectural Review Board agreed. They also agreed we could put a straight wooden shake roof on. Cost was unbelievable for someone to even do the hand cutting of the shingles. The shingles aren't like they used to be. They aren't thick like they used to be. Nothing is made the same. When we jacked up the foundation in the '70's, it bowed the roof of the Tavern because shots had



come through there. Shells had come through there during the Civil War and had weakened one of the beams. In fact, part of our Living Legacy that Glen Hyatt did this year was showing how that weakened the roof. When we jacked it up, it just put a lot of stress in different areas. It also caused the walls of the upstairs inside to buckle. The heavy trucks going by on Caroline Street caused movement and separation within the house. We put a jerry pole down in the basement. I never wanted to own an old home. We realized that the fireplaces had been built after the house had been built. The corner cabinet was the back wall of the Tavern; when we took the siding off, you could see inside that corner cabinet. There was no insulation, of course. While we were doing this, we just had tar paper on it and it was on jacks and I am still running tours in the back door. I had to keep the place open to take in money; I didn't know what else to do. We did a lot of work inside like hiding some vents. We did put in air-conditioning. As you know; I have just redone that again.

**Interviewer:** Do you have any pictures.

**Janet Sullivan:** I do. They are all down at the Tavern and we can get them for you.

**Interviewer:** Why is the Rising Sun important?

**Janet Sullivan:** The Rising Sun was built by Charles Washington, George's brother. He was going to open it as a Tavern. It is my understanding that Mrs. Washington did not think it befitted a Washington to own a Tavern. So he lived in it. It was a home. The house has been continuously occupied. George Weedon also ran a Tavern and John Frazier worked for him and then he ran it. It was called quite a few names. I think Golden Eagle was one. Somebody asked me how it got the name Rising Sun. The only thing I can tell you is what Betsy Houston told me. When the coach was leaving in the morning, they would say, "the sun is rising, the sun is rising." Everybody get up so you can go on to your next destination. It was named the Rising Sun from that.

**Interviewer:** One more question about George Weedon, what time period are we talking about?

**Janet Sullivan:** After Washington left and moved to Charlestown, WV.

**Interviewer:** Are we talking about the late 1700's?

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes, George Weedon came in and took over the Tavern. Behind the Tavern was a billiard room where the grape arbor is now and the stable was on Princess Anne Street. The kitchen was where the neighbor's yard is. I don't know if any excavation has been done in either one of those places. For many years the stable was a filling station that faced Princess Anne. The Tavern has never been vacant which is nice. I think that is what kept it the way it is. It is a beautiful little place. Everything had to be symmetrical in that day and time. So when you walk in the front door, you will be facing a center archway. On the left the doorway leads to the great room and to the right is a door that is a false door which gives the entry way balance. I do have an old picture of the back of the Tavern before the porch was put on it and the Wallace family lived there. They had a doorway that was cut from the tap room for access to the kitchen and bathroom. The porch was added at a later date. I think it is a 1920's picture, so it must have been right about the time that the APVA acquired the property from the Wallace family.



Betsy and Levin Houston had the old insurance policy. They traveled all over Europe and they furnished the Tavern as it would have looked from the inventory. I do have a piece that has caused me lots of heartache. I can tell you everything about the Tavern from beginning to end because I have taken it apart and put it back together twice. Not just once!

The Garden Club of Virginia did the garden at Mary Washington House. They also did the Tavern. They moved an old smoke house, from Stafford County over in the Falmouth area, to the Rising Sun Tavern property to be used as a tool shed. We have just had the roof done also. The well is where the old well would have been but it has been capped and sealed for many years. It fact when I took it over the sewer system was a problem for me. That backed up all the time and the city of Fredericksburg had no idea where the sewer ran. We did all kinds of things to find the sewer system. The roots from the tree kept getting in the line. Finally, we found there was a sewer line that came down from Fauquier. It came down beside the Tavern and attached somewhere into the sewer system in the City. I don't think it ever attached, but we finally got it straightened out. It took about 15 years of my life.



**Interviewer:** You have been in charge of that for how long?

**Janet Sullivan:** Since the '70's. Thirty, forty year's maybe,

**Interviewer:** Now how did you do that when you were a full time nurse?

**Janet Sullivan:** Well, there you go.

**Interviewer:** You were busy.

**Janet Sullivan:** I did not have to be there on a day by day basis. I would hire a head hostess and I was very fortunate that Mrs. Durnier was with me for many years. Her daughter, Janice Sullivan, and Kenneth do all the travel stuff. She did all these trips for local people. She was a school teacher for many years and Kenneth was an appraiser, so you can imagine the

confusion people had when she would say my daughter Janice Sullivan and her husband the appraiser. For years, they thought I was her daughter. They were a delightful family. Kenneth and I had been to school together. I loved Janice; she was just a delight. Her mother called her "Miss Sunshine" because she was always smiling. Mrs. Durnier was so beautifully dressed and had such a dry wit about her. She could really put the Tavern over and loved doing the tour in first person. She always loved Thomas Jefferson and had an affinity with him. She wanted to make the Tavern come across as well as Monticello.

**Interviewer:** I thought I heard that Thomas Jefferson was there to work on the religious freedom bill.

**Janet Sullivan:** We can't prove anything. Much of it is hearsay. It is just like I am supposed to have the Thomas Jefferson desk at the Rising Sun Tavern – that tall desk in the hallway. That was supposed to have been made at Monticello and was bought at the auction after his death. It was bought by a local individual, I want to say Mr. Smith, and I will have to check that for you, and given to the Tavern. Believe it or not, I got an individual from Monticello last year who wanted to come down and look at the desk and verify if it was a piece that had been made on the property of Thomas Jefferson. Evidently, Sally Hemings' brother was a carpenter and they thought maybe he had made this desk. I invited him to come down - the curator of furniture up there and another gentleman. In the meantime I went back through all of my files for the Rising Sun Tavern. I found a hand written little notebook that Betsy and Levin Houston had done and in it, it had the name of the person that had given the desk. The name, Monticello reported, was not the name of the person who purchased the desk at the sale. But we are talking about someone who gave the desk in 1920. So how do you know it wasn't in that family? Now, I haven't done the lineage, so I can't tell you. You know after I took over the Tavern, we had a break-in, someone swung in off the back porch into the great hall and landed on a table and took the money box out of the Jefferson desk and set it on fire. In the *Free Lance-Star* there are pictures of it being dragged out of the Tavern – smoking! We sent it away to have it restored in Pennsylvania. The value of it is very much decreased because of the amount of work that had to be done. For years you could pull out the drawers and smell the smoke. I still feel that in my heart that it came from the sale. It was my understanding that Monticello was going to do more work on the family name that had purchased the desk and see if they can then track it down to the one who gave it to us in Fredericksburg. They could not justify that it was a piece from Monticello, but they had known about it for many years. I haven't heard from them and I haven't done anything on my end to check. I had a feeling that the Smith that gave the desk may have been from Annie Fleming Smith's family because Miss Annie did give some pieces to the Tavern but they had to be returned because evidently after her death there was some discrepancy on whether she had the right to give these pieces away. So we did have to return some pieces. I don't know her family history to see who she is related to who could have been at the sale. By the way, did I tell you that I was one of Miss Annie's children? We were called the Children of Kenmore. We dressed up in colonial costume. I guess you would say we were promoting Kenmore. But to go back, as far as I was concerned, I had the Jefferson desk! I didn't have to do the verification on it; Monticello did. Maybe one day when I have nothing else to do, I'll do it. But it was such a joy to find this little notebook with the different things that people had donated. She and Levin of course had acquired an awful lot when they went on trips to England. They had the old wills so they knew what furnishings had been on the property.

**Interviewer:** How about some of the other furniture? When I was on a tour there, there was this till.

**Janet Sullivan:** The money till – that was picked up in England by Betsy and Levin also. There was some discrepancy on having a tavern table and that supposedly was at Kenmore. Miss Annie said, this was in the basement at Kenmore, but she said that was a table that had been at the Rising Sun Tavern, so she was giving it back to the Tavern. So we still have the table. The wonderful pewter collection came from the Van Valzah family here in town. Supposedly some of the pieces had even been found in the river, had been thrown in the river during the Civil War. We are very fortunate in having that. Some other things people shared with us – quilts, linens, textiles. A lot of it came from the old inventory, as far as the furnishings went. We did have a beautiful rug there

and we sold it. It probably really didn't need to be there but it was a beautiful Aubusson rug. We tried to keep it much as to what they had done. They did a huge amount of work. There haven't been many changes. Not in my time period anyway. I don't like change too much. I am still very protective of the Tavern. I don't like any of the furnishing to leave; I tend to hold on to them

**Interviewer:** Do you have a provenance on each piece of furniture?

**Janet Sullivan:** We have tried. We have inventory numbers on everything and Jo Atkins, the head hostess, has done a notebook of all of our pieces, with accession numbers. There have been things stolen over the years. I had a group at the Tavern that I didn't quite trust. Little things would turn up missing, so I would go in early in the morning and sort of check the Tavern over and try to keep an eye on things. One day I went up the steps, I had on a plaid skirt and turned around real quickly. Each of the doors has a gate. Many times I would just hop over the gate rather than getting the keys and unlocking them all. I could just hop over the top with my long legs. This day I hadn't done that. I just sort of turned around and I got this tug. I thought I had caught my skirt on the gate. When I turned around, it was standing out in midair. I went flying down those steps with my heart pounding out to the back porch. The ghost would constantly do little things like that. He liked my hair.

**Interviewer:** You really do believe in this?

**Janet Sullivan:** I really do. There are things that I can not explain that happened over the years at the Tavern. Whether it is just energy or who knows what.

**Interviewer:** What's the story as to who that person can be?

**Janet Sullivan:** I call him John Frazier but I have no idea who it is.

**Interviewer:** You don't have a guess?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, there was a psychic that came one time and said there was a body buried in the back yard. That could be true. There could very well be a body out there. We have the old insurance policy that shows that one of the stables actually faced Princess Anne Street, so they could come through that way. Even my hostesses down there will tell you that there are things going on down there that they can not explain. They can come in the morning and all the mop caps will be up against the wall. They were hanging on hooks on the opposite side of the wall. You could say a burst of air from somewhere.

**Interviewer:** They have a ghost tour. Are you on that tour?

**Janet Sullivan:** We started it with them. I was the first ghost on the steps. Covered up with a sheet.

**Interviewer:** Oh, you actually acted as a ghost!

**Janet Sullivan:** I did. I did. I knew most of the people on the tour and I loved the children. Oh they were so funny. We did it with the college. We had been a supporter of that from the beginning.

**Interviewer:** That hadn't been started too long ago?

**Janet Sullivan:** Maybe the '80's. I think Brown Morton was there. Anyway, we have been there. We started it with them. They wanted to do a ghost tour. At that time there weren't very many people that wanted to open up at night. I was one of those who thought if we could make a few extra dollars, we'll do it. I'll open up at night. We marketed it to the motels. If they had a bus load that came in and would like wine and cheese or whatever, we would open up at night time if we needed to. So, we said sure we'll help you. You know Historic Preservation was a new curriculum at the college. I am trying to think – Carter Hudgins wife worked at the Tavern. I think it was just the opportune time. But this year they didn't ask us to do it.

**Interviewer:** They are not having a ghost tour?

**Janet Sullivan:** They are having a tour but they didn't include ours.

**Interviewer:** Are they getting ready to try someone new? They probably do.

**Janet Sullivan:** I think so. I guess they decided to go into a different direction. I don't know. Even if they didn't want to come in the Tavern, we would let them have their cider and treat them on the patio in the back. I don't know. I wasn't involved. I only found out about it when I was over in Falmouth for the Yankee event. A girl said to me, we do not need the Tavern this year. I said, "Oh is that right."

**Interviewer:** Was that one lady who portrays the lady in the Civil War, the one that wrote the diary – Jane Beale--does she still reenact?

**Janet Sullivan:** I think she does. I have never seen her. She does it at night time. I think there is another company who is also doing a ghost tour.

**Interviewer:** Oh, really.

**Janet Sullivan:** You know, Cil King was my head hostess for many years also before Jo Atkins. Cil is now the wench that walks up and down the street for the Visitor's Center. She greets tours and tells them all about Fredericksburg. She is a delight and really does help move people down the streets. I think it is really funny; they get to the Apothecary Shop and they stop. It is difficult to get them to come that last couple of blocks. Oh, it would be so neat to brick the sidewalk all the way up to us.

**Interviewer:** It certainly would make a difference.

**Janet Sullivan:** Either that or send someone down on the corner and say come on.

**Interviewer:** Hawk the Rising Sun. I think it is one of the most interesting places.

**Janet Sullivan:** I love the children. I fight for the children all the time. Every board meeting they know I am going to say, keep the children's admission down. I always feel if the children love the Tavern they will bring the adults. Fortunately, we are able to offer our APVA properties in Fredericksburg in February to all the fourth graders which is when they study Virginia history. We open it free of charge to them. I realize many people want us to continue to charge but I fight for that every year because I think it is so important. If you don't go anywhere else in Fredericksburg, what I'm hoping is, if you come to the Rising Sun Tavern you will get an idea of what it was like to live in Fredericksburg in the colonial times. I just want them to get a feel for it. This year I was just so excited to do the History Camp. Gail Braxton and I each had a group of children that we spent a week with. We did it in collaboration with Ferry Farm. We took them to Ferry Farms, Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop, The Rising Sun Tavern, Kenmore and the Mary Washington House. It was a wonderful week with these children. I leaned so much and just enjoyed being with them. It was hot. We had lots of bug bites. Their parents and grandparents brought them to each attraction every day. When they came to the Tavern; we gave them a tricorn hat and a mob cap. We talked about the Rules of Civility of George Washington's and how to greet people. Each day we would go over them again, so each day it was great fun. I hope we can enlarge on that idea. The kids all want to come back next year.

**Interviewer:** I like the idea that you have the children. You might not see the benefits now, but it will come. They do tell people.

**Janet Sullivan:** I hope. I opened up the Tavern many years ago starting with Miss Durnier and we did the first Christmas Open House after the garden club had decorated the house. We opened it up free on that Friday night, so that people who had never been in the Tavern could come through. We had the carolers on the staircase and at that time it was the Fredericksburg Singers. They have been with me every year.

**Interviewer:** They are good.

**Janet Sullivan:** The James Monroe High School Chorus with Mandy Carr started it. Those kids came year after year. We gave them a little tea and a little gingerbread cookie and some cheese and they came every year. It was absolutely glorious to hear them up on the staircase. It put you in the Christmas mood. It has been different throughout the years, but the Fredericksburg Singers are still with us. After Mandy retired, the James Monroe Singers no longer participated, nor did the Stafford group.

**Interviewer:** I haven't been there for awhile. Do you have a hostess in each room?

**Interviewer:** We have one person give the tour. They go in the great room first, and you are allowed to look at the ladies room. You go upstairs on your own and then they come down and go to the office and then to the tap room. Now, if you come in and we already have a group going on we just let you join right in and bring you back around because it is a revolving tour. With bus groups you have to be able to move them along. I like young people at the Tavern, so I have quite a few students from Mary Washington College and I also have young men from the high school as

tour guides. We had one that drove down from Culpeper for years. We have people who started in high school and even when they came home for summer vacation; they would come and work a few days for us.

**Interviewer:** Do you interview and hire them?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't. You see I am fortunate; I am one of those managers. My head hostess does that whoever it may be. My title is vice-directress, Gail is the directress and then we have first, second, and third vice-directress

**Interviewer:** Is there one for each home?

**Janet Sullivan:** There is one for each home. Sheila Baker is at the Mary Washington House, so she is the first vice-directress. and I am the second. When the Apothecary Shop came on board, we added a third vice-directress.

**Interviewer:** Is that Genevieve Bugay?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, Genevieve is head hostess. We are going to be looking for somebody for the Apothecary Shop. The St. James house has the fourth vice-directress and that is Cornelia Bryant. It has to be someone that loves it. It is not that it is a whole lot of work. The big thing now is I have been doing it for so long that I am very fortunate and I have very little I have to do other than be there to back up and support the head hostess. She knows if she has a problem, she comes to me. I do not tell them how to run the Tavern. If I see something out of the ordinary or I bring some people through and I see something wrong, of course I will speak to them. But it is up to the head hostess to run the Tavern and take care of the day to day things.

**Interviewer:** Another segue.

**Janet Sullivan:** I went to school at James Monroe High School and it was not integrated, but there were little pockets of black in different areas of Fredericksburg. Off of Littlepage, there were three or four little homes of black's right there. I am sure they were built to serve some of the people that lived in that area. I used to have a friend, when I went to visit my cousin, Judy Ulman Johnson, who lived on Mortimer Avenue. Her name was Ginger Jones, just like mine. Her dad was a barber and may have worked at Warner's Barber Shop on Caroline Street. Ginger lived in one of those houses. Judy, Ginger and I enjoyed playing together. We all had the same little snow suits. We all went snow riding down the hill on Mortimer Avenue or over on Cornell Street. I never knew that there was a problem. There was a separate high school, Walker-Grant for the blacks. I knew that Maxine's family owned rental properties and I would go with her to collect rents at different places. As far as there being a real problem in town, I don't remember. Sox Richardson had his cab and if my grandfather could not take me to school, he would call Sox Richardson to come take me or pick me up. I remember as a nurse working at Mary Washington Hospital, Delilah Grimes and Willie Mae Minor worked on One East at that time and we integrated the hospital in the 60's. We integrated One East without any problems whatsoever. There had always been a floor, the fourth floor, at Mary Washington Hospital that Peaches Olive was the nursing supervisor of. But the night we integrated, I don't recall there being a problem. I think that was due

to the Rev. Lawrence Davies. He was elected as the first black mayor in Fredericksburg. They were such a wonderful family. Made things easier here in town.

**Interviewer:** What did you mean by the fourth floor? What was so different about the fourth floor?

**Janet Sullivan:** At the time I went to work at the hospital in 1961, the fourth floor of the hospital was the black floor. All of the black patients were kept on that floor; they had their own nurses and orderlies and Peaches Olive was the head of that floor. She was an old Mary Washington Hospital graduate. Many of the floors at the hospital on Fall Hill Avenue were run by old Mary Washington graduates. They had their own nursing school for many years.

**Interviewer:** I didn't know they even had their own nursing school.

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes, they did down at the old hospital on Sophia. They stayed in the hospital and many were still working when I went to work in the 60's. Hannah Wright was nursing supervisor. May Harlan had the nursery, Gaynell Shelton had One East. Miss Bea Craft had another floor; Miss Edna Cloe was another one of them. They were all still working at the hospital when I went to work. They were wonderful to me, they were wonderful mentors, and they really taught me to be a bedside nurse and how to take care of patients. I am very thankful that I had their mentorship. They were all patient oriented.

**Interviewer:** I had some other questions that I wanted to ask you about Fredericksburg in general. One of the first times I met you and I don't know how this came up but we were talking about cemeteries and you said you remembered walking to school and picking up bones.

**Janet Sullivan:** You know what it was. Maxine Calamous and I were always together. We had been at Maury School and I guess we were going downtown; right where, I think it is a parking lot now. What is the real estate place right across from Fredericksburg Hardware? Was it Coldwell Banker, anyhow Lewis Graves, I think, owns that one. There was a cemetery on that corner and I believe Danny Mitchell was instrumental in moving those graves. At the time, Sears & Roebuck wanted to come in there, so they had to move the graves. It had a stone wall around it – similar to the one around the Masonic Cemetery.

**Interviewer:** What kind of cemetery was this?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't know. Because Potter's Field was there at Maury's school, you know?

**Interviewer:** Which was different from this cemetery?

**Janet Sullivan:** Potter's Field was where Maury School was and those you sometimes could see in the sides of the hills- the bones- when it would rain real hard and wash the dirt away. This was where the sliding boards were. But the cemetery was right across from Fredericksburg Hardware. We actually saw the coffins being taken up out of the ground. One of them that we never got over, we still talk about it to this day, was this huge coffin that had a window in the top of it, padlocked all along the side and this red hair. I didn't know that hair grew after you were dead, did you?



Well I am assuming it did because I don't know why else it was there. But there were scratch marks; I've never forgotten it, on the inside of this glass thing, the hands were there, long fingernails and this red hair. Couldn't see a face or anything, if there was a face. Danny Mitchell knew we were looking and of course he said all these things, like she was buried alive. Told us these terrible stories and I dreamed about it for years afterwards. To this day Maxine and I still talk about it. Wondered if that poor old lady had been buried alive? But they moved those graves and some of them I thought went to the Masonic Cemetery. But I may be wrong on that.

**Interviewer:** May I ask you a couple of questions about that? Is this Mitchell the father?

**Janet Sullivan:** Danny Mitchell. You know that house on Caroline Street right up from the Rising Sun Tavern – that great huge house? It is on the same side as the library – the great big white house – that was their home. I don't know what has happened to that house but that is where he lived anyway. Anyhow, he did a lot of excavation – heavy equipment.

**Interviewer:** The second thing for some reason or rumor I was told that that was another black cemetery.

**Janet Sullivan:** It could have been. I don't know the answer to that. It could very well have been but the only black cemetery I remember was the one on Littlepage and Monument Avenue. I don't know about any other.

**Interviewer:** I had also heard that some of those bones were put in the back of the Masonic Cemetery.

**Janet Sullivan:** That was my understanding that that is where some went according to Phoebe Willis. She is so sharp. She is one of the nicest ladies. When my children would do something and there was a picture of them in the paper or a thing about something they had done, she would always send a copy with a little note. That was so sweet of her to acknowledge my children.

**Interviewer:** She is thoughtful. I think everybody feels the same way about her.

**Janet Sullivan:** Maxine and I were all over town. You know the other thing I remembered when you talked about integration? I remembered the movie theater and maybe no one else remembers, but the upstairs balcony was for the blacks

**Interviewer:** This is when you were growing up?

**Janet Sullivan:** When I was growing up, the whites sat downstairs and the blacks sat upstairs. They had their own separate entrance, their own water fountain, and their own bathrooms.

**Interviewer:** Now was that all the theaters or just that theater?

**Janet Sullivan:** I am talking about the one that the church owns now – the Baptist Church right next to the Apothecary. Which one was that? I don't remember the name of it.

**Interviewer:** The Colonial?

**Janet Sullivan:** They were all owned by Benny Pitts. In town, when they would have a parade Bennie would always have a Cadillac convertible and he would throw out silver dollars. My gosh, that was wonderful. We couldn't wait for a parade, so Benny Pitts could throw us silver dollars. Now, Warren had great stories about Benny because he had people he took baskets of food to every year. He hired Warren to deliver the baskets. I think John Goolrick got talked into delivering some of those baskets.

**Interviewer:** Are he and John Goolrick the same age?

**Janet Sullivan:** Warren and John Goolrick were good buddies. They became friends when they worked together in the National Guard. But Benny Pitts was very magnanimous; in many ways; he did a lot of good things.

**Interviewer:** I have heard people talk about the movie theater he owned, but did he live in town?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't know exactly where he lived. Lannie Payne worked for him and he lived over in Falmouth and his daughter Brenda was a good friend of mine. Lannie worked for Benny Pitts. Walter Lowery worked for him. In fact, I think Walter must have married Benny's daughter. I don't know much about this. You know who could probably answer these questions is Mary Jane Pitts O'Neill. You know her? Her daddy was Tommy Pitts, part of the Pitts family

**Interviewer:** Yes, I do know her. Anyhow, are there any other personalities that you remember?

**Janet Sullivan:** I remember Robert "Hotsie" Moore. He was wonderful. He had been raised by the Sweetser people that had the Purina Tower building. He knew everybody; he knew famous stars. His wife married Freeman Funk after he died. He wanted to start this majorette group at the American Legion. Maxine, Linda Ware and a bunch of us said okay. They bought us outfits and we practiced and we had a leader who was somebody who formerly had been a famous majorette. They paid for us to go to these parades. We represented the American Legion. Bowen Franklin Knox was the name of the American Legion. Anyway they took us to all these places.



*Vickie Marcom, Linda Ware, Janet, Maxine Calamous, Lynn Davis*

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes, we were in high school. I have a picture. “Hotsie” was just a neat person. He must have met a lot of people when he was in the military. He had contacts with all these famous people. If you needed a job done, you gave it to “Hotsie” and he could find somebody that could get it up and going. All the men of the American Legion were so supportive of us because we represented them. I think we must have done that for two or three years. I was a cheerleader in high school, so I couldn’t be a majorette for the band. I played a clarinet in the band for a few years. I did do the majorette part by doing it on the side on the weekends with the American Legion. We had a wonderful life growing up in Fredericksburg. You know people talk about happy days, we lived the happy days. We had the R&S Snack Bar, we had Joe’s, and we had Eddy Mac’s. My brother gave me a picture of Eddy Mac’s that I still have.

**Interviewer:** Tell me about them.

**Janet Sullivan:** They were all restaurants. Let’s see Eddy Mac’s was on Canal Street, on the other side from the Community Center but further down. They did curb service. You would be going in the driveway and they would be taking your order. Charlie Hart and his wife Virginia and Eddy Mac, their son, who went to school with us. I have a picture of it upstairs that my cousin did, John Edwards the painter here in town. He is a cousin.

**Interviewer:** Of course!

**Janet Sullivan:** I will have to go up and get my picture of Eddy Mac’s for you. R&S Snack Bar is where the Pizza Hut is now on Highway 1. They were our hang-outs. Maxine had a car – a couple of people had a car – Judy Johnson had a car. That was the big thing we always had a place we could go – get a vanilla coke or a hamburger, hotdog. Elvis Presley was just coming in. We really did have juke boxes in the places that we played the music. We had dances. The American Legion actually had a room upstairs where we danced after every football game

**Interviewer:** The only American Legion place I know is the one in Stafford.

**Janet Sullivan:** Do you know where the Grapevine Cafe is? There was a laundry right there. Upstairs was where the American Legion was on Kenmore Avenue.

**Interviewer:** Was that near the 10 pin bowling?

**Janet Sullivan:** No – that was behind. This was an upstairs room and we would pack in there on Saturday or Friday nights. I think it was called Dragnet. No, that was the St. George’s dances.

**Interviewer:** Was that just James Monroe High School that went to these places?

**Janet Sullivan:** Once in awhile someone would be dating someone from Stafford or Spotsylvania but most of the time it would be James Monroe people there. We did the jitterbug and the shag as they are called now. We would meet there and then we would get in our cars and go and eat. It wasn’t a drinking crowd like today. That crowd would go someplace else. That crowd would go to Mitchell’s or to Popular Tavern. They could get beer. The majority of us didn’t grow up drinking. The ones that did went to totally different places.

**Interviewer:** How about smoking?

**Janet Sullivan:** Smoking was a part of it. I smoked at 13. I stole my daddy's Camel cigarettes. Maxine and I would go up in her attic, put on our red lipstick and smoke out of the attic windows, and hope and pray that nobody would catch us. We thought we were such big things. We would hide the cigarettes between the bricks in her attic, so we would have them when we came back. Just about everybody we knew had tried cigarettes. It was in the movies. It was the thing to do. I am not so sure I liked it that much but I did it. But, I really didn't drink. My family had wine because my granddaddy made wine for the church. But I don't remember having a mixed drink until after I was married. I am sorry I smoked. It was one of the hardest things I ever had to do was to quit smoking. It was hard. I smoked 29 years. Even while I had the children, I continued to smoke. At that time we didn't know about smoking and the problems. The first time I quit I quit for 10 years. And then I went back to smoking. The last time Warren had a heart attack and they told him he had to quit smoking I quit at the same time, so it has been 10 years since I quit smoking.

**Interviewer:** Congratulations.

**Janet Sullivan:** I am not saying I won't come back to it.

**Interviewer:** That reminded me of something else – All the time you were in nursing were there any specific diseases that we were trying to conquer? Polio was before your time, right?

**Janet Sullivan:** No. Polio was a big scare every summer. There were people that came down with polio. I had an aunt who had polio and who was always on crutches.

**Interviewer:** This was when you were younger.

**Janet Sullivan:** In high school. When you would go to Richmond on the side street beside Miller & Rhoads and Thalheimer's, there would be this big van and you would go inside and there were people in iron lungs laying in these vans. You would give a donation. I never understood why we went through there but when I first went through nursing school at UVA, they were just phasing out the iron lungs. The Bird Respirator had come into play. We thought the bird respirator was going to be the thing and it was for many years for patients that needed to be intubated. So nursing has changed. When I went into nursing, we had what was called Central Supply and Miss Litteck ran Central Supply at Mary Washington Hospital. We all had to rotate through Central Supply. You sharpened needles, you did the packs for the surgical and OB packs, you dusted gloves and you autoclaved all the instruments.

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

**Janet Sullivan:** It is a big sterilizer. We were still using glass syringes, so all of that stuff had to be done. I told you, we did not have suction machines. We had what was called Wagenstein suction and that was two bottles hanging on a pole with a bottle on the floor. We could milk that and make a suction machine, so we could drain different orifices. We all had to rotate through

Central Supply. In fact at Mary Washington Hospital when I rotated through the nursery, they were still doing their own formulas. We were still doing our own tube feedings to feed patients that were on nasal gastric tubes. The diet kitchen you had to rotate through because we were still doing our own tube feeding and we had to know how to do that. We didn't have IV pumps like you have now; we did everything by the drip method, so you would count your drips, mix your medications, and put it in your IV bottles. We didn't have oxygen in the walls of each unit. We had oxygen tanks that had to be rolled up to the room. The orderlies would bring them up and we would put the patients in a plastic tent and tuck the tent in around the mattress, so that these people could breathe.

**Interviewer:** Like people today, people with emphysema have small oxygen tanks.

**Janet Sullivan:** No, these were huge tanks. Almost as tall as you are, these were metal canisters and they were set by the patient's bed. They had to bring them up on a dolly from the basement. These tents would be set up with a metal frame with the plastic over it. We would tuck the plastic under the mattress and pull it over the patient's head and chest which was under the metal frame. The sheets were placed under the patients and secured under the mattress. There were no meters. We didn't know how much we were giving them. The same way with the IV drips method. You know we were counting the drips. We were watching it constantly. Children got clysis; they didn't get drips; we did the needles directly into the subcutaneous skin. We were very primitive I guess. So, if you have a nuclear disaster, come and get me. I can still put up Wagenstein suction and probably still give you an injection. I thought disposable needles were the best thing that ever came along. We had wards at that time too. We didn't have private rooms. We had a ward on each floor at Mary Washington Hospital. We could put five beds in there, four was wonderful, but we could do five and if we had to we could put a sixth in. The emergency room was tiny, one room at that time. I was trying to think if there were six beds in it or not. Just a little small room for the nurse and a telephone and meds in it and the rest was an open big ward. The biggest thing in the world that came to us was when we opened One East which was a deluxe suite with the low beds. It had flowered curtains at the windows and yellow sheets and blankets. On my heavens it was such a big thing. Then we opened up the Amy Guest Wing that was set up so it wasn't even like a hospital; it was like a motel. You had room keys and guests staying with you. Raymond Guest did that in memory of his mother. I had a wonderful career. I did do research. Nursing has been a big part of my life.

**Interviewer:** Another item I just thought to ask but you mentioned the Jockey Club somewhere. How about those clubs like Mount Vernon, etc.?

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes. They are all gone now. They were big there for a while. The Jockey Club was at the old Princess Anne Hotel. It jumped around just as the Mount Vernon Club moved around. They were social clubs that were here in the area. Some people older than I and their family belonged to them. They would probably know all about that. They could give you a better history. Beverly Graves King or someone like that could help. Those were the only two clubs I really remember. I think the last place the Mount Vernon Club was at was in the back of where Kybecca's is now. At one time, it had been where Renato's is – the back section of Renato's. We did fashion shows there over the years.

**Interviewer:** You modeled there? You did mention that.

**Janet Sullivan:** There was a group of us who did a lot of modeling locally. I didn't get paid for those. I got paid for the ones in Northern Virginia. It does make a difference. I did talk to school groups. Invariably there would be a guidance counselor at the schools who would ask me to talk to a group of young girls or a group of kids who were interested in being models. I would go down and tell them what would be involved, but I encouraged them to continue to stay in school to get a career or to get a degree because they really would need to know how to support themselves. There was only one little girl here in town that went very far and her name was Ann Woodard. She was my daughter's good friend. She was probably the most successful, as far as modeling in the area. Norma Woodard is her mother. They live in Braehead.

**Interviewer:** Is that the Norma that was at the high school for a long time?



**Janet Sullivan:** I think she was. I did put on a couple of fashion shows at Walker-Grant. I don't remember who asked me to do that, but another guidance counselor. It was a group of kids that probably needed to have a strong sense of self-esteem. Leggett's at the time was very good about allowing us to use their clothes. I found a bag upstairs of thank you notes that they had sent. Every once in awhile I run into one of those kids; they always remember what fun it was to learn how to walk and turn and show their clothes. To me the most important thing was for them to get an education. I think it is a very hard industry. I was very lucky I wasn't in it except to make a

little money. I was not going to go to New York and I did not want to go to Atlanta. Many of them asked if I would go to Atlanta. I usually did it in the Washington area and Northern Virginia and to me that was all I wanted to do. I feel real sorry for those young girls that have to leave their homes, sometimes they get taken in by the photographers who want to do their portfolios. Mine was very low level. I was happy to do the trunk shows when they came into Woodies or different places like that. I had no intentions of walking that runway. They always shot me looking up and so they would see the long legs. I always wondered if there ever would be a photographer that would shoot you at a face level. All of the pictures of me modeling the kids have, I don't have any left around here at my home.

**Interviewer:** I thought that one would do. It is a little one.

**Janet Sullivan:** I had others that were pretty nice. I did a robot thing one time in a local department store window. I played the mannequin and just stood there and just as they would get ready to leave I would move. I had somebody come inside the store and grab my leg to see if I was real. I could stand for a long time. It is not about you; it is the product you are selling. I always knew that. To this day, I don't have a big thing about what I look like or what I have on. I don't worry about things like that. Put it on and go. My big thing is get out the door. I like to go and do

fun things. Love to be with my friends and family. That is pretty much my life. I like being active. I go to ElderStudy three days a week.

**Interviewer:** Do you? Three days a week.

**Janet Sullivan:** I adore it. I knew that I was going to have to retire because Warren was sick. I had read about ElderStudy and ElderHostel. I thought that was something I wanted to do because all I knew was medicine. I have had the opportunity to learn about sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. I have learned so many things that I would never had thought about. I am in a book group which makes me read books that I might not ever think about, even though I am a big reader. After my book group, the book is much more interesting because I have listened to what they perceived that I did not get. Right now we are doing the movie *Singing in the Rain*. It is so much fun. Debbie Reynolds was only 18 years old when she did that. She had won Miss Pasadena or something.

**Interviewer:** She was quite a lady. Just look at her lifetime.

**Janet Sullivan:** Wasn't she neat? Those dances- she wasn't a dancer but she learned how to do all that.

**Interviewer:** The old actors they had to know to do it all – singing, dancing, acting.

**Janet Sullivan:** What people to teach you! Gene Kelly, Fred Astair, and Donald O'Connor. We have had wonderful guest speakers come in. I did a mosaic that is going to be hung in Melchers' hall. I was with my grandchildren this summer and I put all their little things that they picked up - a shark's tooth and sand dollars – they will be in that mosaic. Even the things I don't think I am going to like, I found something in them that was of interest.

**Interviewer:** I have thought about joining it.

**Janet Sullivan:** I personally made a commitment. If I make a contract and I pay my money, there are very few things that I am not going to go to. This year we have had John Hennessy talk. He is great; he could talk every week. We have had Janet Wishner speaking on ethics. We have had Janet Murkowski from the hospital do a thing on pain control without using opiates, some of the time. Chronic pain needs to be addressed. As we get older, we have all those things. I encourage everybody that if you want a lifelong learning experience this is the way to go. I play mahjong every week. I play poker every Saturday night.

**Interviewer:** Is there any time you are actually in this home?

**Janet Sullivan:** Not very often. I am on the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation (HFFI) board. I also serve on the local Health Care Advisory Board for Medicorp. I am on the Rappahannock Health Agency Advisory Board and I serve on the state board as well. When they have a COPN (Certificate of Public Need) before it goes to the state commissioner, we hold hearings to have the people voice their views and listen to what they say. I represent Spotsylvania County. So when we were discussing the new hospital, which was a big thing in the area, we had the meeting at Dodd Auditorium at Mary Washington College. People could come and express their views on the new

hospital to be built in this area. Anytime, requests come up the, the Stafford one as well, they have to come before this board.

### *Long Interruption*

Many years ago, when I was working for Dr. Essig, I had the opportunity to meet Elizabeth Kubler-Ross. When I walked in the room, she handed me a piece of paper with a tombstone on it and she said she would pick them up at the end of the session. I wrote on my tombstone that I had lived my life to serve others. And I hope I could leave this world knowing that I have given to others and have been of service to them in some way. I would like to know that there are no hard feelings and that I have always tried to do my best. When I gave it to her, she looked at me and said, "You are an old soul and you have been here many times." I only hope this time I don't have to come back again because I don't know if I can handle it another time. I have always believed that I lived before, so I understood exactly what she was saying that I have been here many times. I hope this time that I have given more to others rather than thinking about myself.

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**Interviewer:** Today is October 28, 2008. We are talking to Janet Sullivan again. Earlier she gave me a wonderful tour of the house, but there are a few items I would especially like to talk about. One of them is the wonderful picture over there. Can you tell me about that?

**Janet Sullivan:** That is Gari Melchers' picture of *The Hunters* which is my great uncle Mason Dillon, who worked for Gari Melchers and his wife. He took care of the grounds. The other gentleman is my great grandfather Alexander Gibbs. That was my grandmother, Annie Brauer's, father. My uncle Mason Dillon was married to Annie Brauer's sister, Myrtle. That was the relationship. They are the two men depicted in the Gari Melchers painting of *The Hunters*. Supposedly that is the landscape of Falmouth. Whether it is or not, I do not know.

**Interviewer:** Now, how did they have the connection with the Melchers again?



**Janet Sullivan:** My uncle Mason was hired by Mr. Melchers and continued to work after his death and take care of Mrs. Melchers as did my aunt Myrtle. She was a care giver for her in her last years of life. My uncle continued to take care of the estate even after her death. Then, it was taken in by the state of Virginia.

**Interviewer:** Now I know everybody in this area knows who Gari Melchers is but maybe a brief story about why he is so famous well help people in the future..

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't know if I know the whole answer. I don't think he won the acclaim that many other of his generation did. He was a wonderful painter and he lived for many years in



Holland. His contemporaries probably got more acclaim than he did. He is coming into his own now. The last time I heard, *The Hunters* was sold to a big corporation and all I have is the print of it. I did take my family down to the Virginia Museum when *The Hunters* came back for a showing.

**Interviewer:** Another area in the house is devoted to her husband Warren. Much of his service story is told in there. I hope to take a picture of all his awards. I know we talked about him, but which war was he in again?

**Janet Sullivan:** The Vietnam War. He was a company commander. He was a combat engineer in Company B and was part of the Americal Division. He received two bronze stars with an Oakleaf Cluster and he is buried at Arlington.

**Interviewer:** Thank you. You have many beautiful pieces of furniture. One in particular caught my eye when I entered here. It is a huge table.

**Janet Sullivan:** It is called an Irish Wake table. It is only 18 inches wide and is quite long. Supposedly the Irish always had a great gift of gab and Warren always wanted people to be happy if anything happened to him. He always saw the funny side of life. He always made jokes and told great stories. He always said this table was where he was going to be laid out just like they did in the old country. That did not happen. We still have the table and use it all the time.

**Interviewer:** Thank you. Another thing we did not have a chance to talk about. The Sullivan name is every where around this area. Does that mean that you are related to all of them?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't know if we are related to all of them. Warren had two brothers; Crittenden Sullivan called Crit and Gerald called Ducky Sullivan, and his sister, Ellen Price Jarrell. I should say Ellen Sullivan Jarrell. She is now married to Jimmy Jarrell. Warren's father was Crittenden Sullivan and he worked at the Old Farmers Creamery in town for many years. That was a going company during the war years because of the baby formula produced in the Old Farmers Creamery. They made ice cream and everything else. The baby formula was the big thing.

**Interviewer:** Did that close when you were in high school or when?

**Janet Sullivan:** You know I think it was after that. I think it was up in the 60's. It was owned by the Claude Parcell family, maybe Ellen would know more. That is where his Warren's father worked. His mother was a homemaker. I think she had a few little jobs during the years.

**Interviewer:** What about this brother or cousin, we hear of in the community?

**Janet Sullivan:** Well, Ducky and Crit. They built Woodlawn subdivision over on Deacon Road that was Ducky's farm property. He built the first townhouses off of Lafayette Boulevard and they were called Olde Greenwich. Those townhouses were the first, after that Yeager built some further out and then there were many others. It had its little shopping center and Gallahans Furniture Store and all of that was part of that development. It is still a viable development today. I think it has been redone and it still has commercial properties in it. Franklin, Ducky, Crit and Warren were all close friends and grew up together. Franklin Gallahan worked for my father at the old Bell

Brothers Furniture Store on Caroline Street. His father drove the delivery truck. It was only about 17,000 people that lived here in Fredericksburg

**Interviewer:** One more Sullivan I have heard about is Rabbit Sullivan.

**Janet Sullivan:** Rabbit Sullivan may be a distant cousin and he built Grafton Village. It was a nickname. Growing up in the summer, the boys would make good money laying brick and starting out in construction and they helped each other build their homes. It certainly was a good field and they made good money.

**Interviewer:** Fredericksburg grew and grew. We did not talk about what you did after high school and some little bird told me that there was a big modeling factor in your life. Maybe being a Queen?



**Janet Sullivan:** I won a little contest in high school. I won the Junior Miss Fredericksburg Fair Contest. Out of that, Alice Heflin who had a dress shop on William Street, asked me to model for her when she had a little fashion show. Prior to that I modeled shoes when I was a young child for the Bean Company that made shoes. I think that factory was on Sophia Street near the power company.

**Interviewer:** Where was the power company?

**Janet Sullivan:** You know behind what they call Inn at the Olde Silk Mill, back there next to Dowling Signs. There was a factory there. They had a showplace on William Street, right where Renato's is today. I would go to the factory when I was a little girl and model shoes. That

way I got a new pair of dress shoes and school shoes. I remember I had some green shoes that I really loved.

**Interviewer:** Where do your really model shoes though?

**Janet Sullivan:** In the factory, we had these distributors and so twice a year; I went down with my mother. We had a little runway and we walked up and down and showed our little shoes – Mary Janes. Later on, Alice Heflin asked me if I would model for her and if you modeled for her, she would give you an outfit, which was really nice. She carried Villager and Lanz clothes. I

don't even know if they are even in business anymore. I loved her outfits and they were quite expensive. Julian Levy asked me if I would model for him at Carley's. I did Carley's and I did Haber's, which was a dress shop in the Park and Shop area. I had an agent in Alexandria and she got me hooked up with Frankie Welch who was a designer back in the 60's and the early 70's. I did boat shows, and car shows, and modeling – mostly in Northern Virginia for Hecht's and Woodies.

**Interviewer:** Now was there some modeling in Richmond too?

**Janet Sullivan:** I worked in Richmond only for a short period of time when I was in nursing school at Stuart Circle. In '60 and '61, I worked at the Miller & Rhoads Tea Room and that helped pay my tuition. I ran away and got married and got kicked out of nursing school.

**Interviewer:** Why did you get kicked out of nursing school?

**Janet Sullivan:** You couldn't be married and go to school back then. I mean we were walked from the hospital to the nursing dorm and locked in. It was a very different time than it is now. I could have hidden it if someone hadn't told. But someone told on me and they called me in. Yes, I had to admit that I had run away and gotten married in LaPlata, MD. My mother was very disappointed in me. She always wanted me to be a nurse. I think she wanted to be a nurse. She encouraged me to do it.

**Interviewer:** But you did continue?

**Janet Sullivan:** I did. I worked. I had already gotten my LPN from James Monroe and I had already taken state boards, so I continued to work as a nurse as a LPN until I was 40 years old and then I went back to school and got my RN.

**Interviewer:** I think we have that part on tape.

**Janet Sullivan:** My daughter and I went to school at the same time. We both graduated the same year – 1984.

**Interviewer:** She was graduating from?

**Janet Sullivan:** Kim was graduating from Lynchburg College.

**Interviewer:** You were talking about Ellen Jarrell before and I did not catch all the information about her family, so can you include that?

**Janet Sullivan:** Ellen is Warren's sister, the youngest of the Sullivan children. She is married to Jimmy Jarrell, a local lawyer. She has a daughter, Courtney, who is a very special niece, and a son, Christopher Price. We are delighted that they are in the family; she is more like a sister to me than a sister-in-law. We continue to share holidays together and special events. Courtney will be 35 years old this year. Each of my children adores her. She is a very special individual to my family. Each of my children has taken care of her at one time or another. She has a little cottage

by Ellen's house in Esther Jarrell's back yard, along with her caregiver. She really can't walk. It made my children aware that this was someone that they needed to learn to take care of. They all knew she was different, but they all knew they were responsible for making her laugh and enjoy life. She has always lived in the house with Ellen and the children, but has always had her own caregivers. I have always said if she ever talks, watch out. She doesn't forget a thing. She used to love to ride in Warren's yellow truck and even now if you mention it, she just howls or laughs. My Chris who always wears a hat; she pulls it off his head. Kim would say, "Show me your million dollar legs" and she stretches out her legs. She loves football. She loves Barney. She loves Itsy Bitty Spider and never forgets it. She is special to me. Ellen gave her a party when she was 30 and Warren and I were there and all the kids from her school were there. It was just a joy.

**Interviewer:** Well I don't have a segue this time to go into something completely different.

**Janet Sullivan:** Do you want to talk about some other historical things?

**Interviewer:** I was going to say, maybe some major events that you remember that happened in Fredericksburg.

**Janet Sullivan:** I told you my grandfather was instrumental in giving me my love of history. He loved Fredericksburg and he wanted me to have an appreciation for it. In elementary school in a fifth grade class we saved our milk money and we gave nickels to save the Matthew Fountaine Maury house. That was my first time of saving money or trying to raise money to save a house. We had people in town, like Betsy and Levin Houston who cultivated me and certainly taught me an awful lot about Fredericksburg. They had worked real hard with the APVA saving the Mary Washington House and the Rising Sun Tavern. At the time I joined APVA (Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities); we only had those two properties. As time went on we acquired the Apothecary Shop, the St. James Cottage and Gaymont. Jim Patton had a lifetime interest in it and at his death it reverted to APVA headquarters in Richmond. They really manage that property. We periodically held socials down there and it was quite charming. We had a party to promote a book that was being written. Jim Patton was a wonderful asset to Fredericksburg. Betsy Houston and Nancy Payne and Cassie Butzner and Ruth Graves convinced me that I could take over the Rising Sun Tavern.

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**Interviewer:** Today is Sunday, November 9, 2008. We are interviewing Janet Sullivan for her oral history. There are a few things that were quite important in her life that we still need to mention, one of which is your church life.

**Janet Sullivan:** The congregation of Trinity separated from St. George's Episcopal Church and they purchased property on the old Federal Hill property. That was their first church building and I think they bought that land from Hurkamp for a sum of \$1000.00. I don't recall, is it Robert Murdock who was the first rector? They finally opened their doors on December 25, 1881. At that time they purchased the bell and my grandfather always told the story that they paid \$436 and they had gotten it from a foundry out of the area. They were very active, my great grandfather, John Brauer and my grandfather, Lee Roy Brauer. My great grandfather served on the vestry. At one time in the 1900's, they were on the vestry at the same time. My mother taught Sunday school with Ida Beck and she taught Sunday school at least 20 years. Part of being in Sunday school is that we

had a leper colony, probably off the coast of Hawaii. We would go to Bessie Broun's house right on Hanover Street, right across from Federal Hill – a great big old tall brick Tudor home. She rented rooms to ladies in town and so there were little rooms in this three story home. There was an apartment in the basement. She had the second floor and there was a third floor apartment. She had strips of linens all ready for us and we would sit down and we would roll these bandages and the tighter they were the better they were and we would fill up a shoebox and then she would ship them off to the leper colony. All the local children who went to Sunday School at Trinity did this. She would have about 12 of us there every Saturday. She had a man there who helped her in the kitchen and who helped her with the meals. He worked for Miss Ashby for awhile and the Wares for a while. I just can't think of his name. I can see him to this day. Maybe it will come to me down the road. He was a very light skinned black man. When we were really good and did a great job of filling these shoe boxes with bandages, we would have a taffy pull. He would cook up the sugar and we would have a big taffy pull. He would color it. Then after the taffy pull, we got to cut it into little pieces and we would put it into bags and we would go up the street and get people to buy the bags of candy so we could collect the money to send to the lepers that went with rolling the linen. It was really interesting because Jane Cloe Sthreshley wanted to make sure that we were called Bessie Broun's little children. I think about it so often and how important it was to roll those bandages very tight to put in the box.

**Interviewer:** Now who is Mrs. Broun?

**Janet Sullivan:** Miss Bessie Broun and she never married as far as I know. John Jamison was her lawyer and he was my godfather and he inherited the house after she passed away. I don't know who lives in it now. John's sister may have inherited the house. We would have ice cream socials where everybody would bring their ice cream makers and my mother loved to make custards and she had all these recipes for peach, chocolate and vanilla.

**Interviewer:** These socials were all with the church?

**Janet Sullivan:** For the church. We would have people tuning and cranking. You know they were not electric then. You salt them down with ice with the rock salt on top. The best thing in the world was they would let the children lick the dashers. I thought that was great. Many times we would go to Fairview Beach. Ida Beck has a wonderful little beach cabin down there. She would invite us down and we would have hamburgers and hot dogs and go swimming at Fairview Beach. We had a wonderful life. Our church family was very close. We had pancake suppers. I made up my mind I did not want to be a waitress doing that. The children had to help with those suppers. It made me very nervous to have to serve things to people. I always thought I would drop it on their laps or on their heads. We had lots of church picnics.

**Interviewer:** It was your social life.

**Janet Sullivan:** My grandmother was arthritic and could not do a whole lot, but my mother and I were very active in the church. My brother was a Crucifer, carried the cross in, and as he got older he got to be a Server for the communion. It was part of our life. The church was small and we were poor. St. George was the big church and we only had these few people. They ended up selling the church building on Hanover Street and Prince Edward Street right in front of Federal

Hill. It was a little Tudor church. The church was laid out in the sign of the cross. The aisles were laid out that way and every person had their own pew.

**Interviewer:** It isn't where it is today?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, it is on College Avenue and William now. The Women's Auxiliary was very active too. I don't remember the year, but it is probably in this book that Pattie Pavlansky did. (The book is *Trinity Episcopal Church 1877 – 2001*.) They decided to move up to College Avenue and the big thing was to get the bell up higher. It had been down so low, that you really couldn't hear it when it was rung. My grandfather was adamant that they would have a big tower fund to raise the tower up to hear the bell. We started the tower fund when he passed away. He was adamant to preserve every thing that we could. He personally removed all the light fixtures from the old Trinity Church, brought them up, cleaned them up, and rewired them, all ready to go back in the new church. The stained glass windows were brought into the new church as well as this bell which meant everything to him. Then we needed a new organ and when my grandmother died we started an organ fund. That is how we paid for things at Trinity. My mom until her death and my aunt until her death were very active in the church.

**Interviewer:** How old were you then when the church moved?

**Janet Sullivan:** I must have been in high school because all my children were christened there and my mother was still teaching Sunday School at the time with Ida Beck. Her husband owned Beck Furniture Company. Her family still lives in the area – the Heubi family is still here. You know we talk about fans, because I need a fan now that I have these hot flashes all the time and we used to have fans in church. We had hand fans and they were donated by the Beck Furniture Company or by the funeral homes. We didn't have air-conditioning, so you had to have a fan.

**Interviewer:** People say everybody moved to the South, but it didn't happen until you had air-conditioning. Do you remember getting air-conditioning when you were younger?

**Janet Sullivan:** Oh no. I tell you what we had that was wonderful. The house on William Street which was an old farm house, my father worked at Bell Brothers Furniture Store and he bought a fan. We put it in the window on the landing up the steps to draw out the hot air. Well that was wonderful. It helped to cool things down. They would make a pallet on the living room floor because I suffered from the heat even then. Didn't want to sleep in my bed. Then my grandfather put one of those huge fans in the attic and if we pulled down all the shades, that fan would draw out all the hot air. It would keep the downstairs cool and comfortable. It was even comfortable at night time to sleep upstairs. You would hit a switch and it sounded like it was going to suck you straight up to heaven.

**Interviewer:** You are probably not old enough, but I was wondering if there were other things like air-conditioning that you didn't have.

**Janet Sullivan:** We had electricity but it was not wired like the electricity today. You know you had fuse boxes. In bad storms, people had and used lightning rods on their house.

**Interviewer:** Where are they today? You get terrific storms here.

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't understand it. I guess it is grounded another way now. I got hit by lightning July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 do you remember? It hit the tree and came through my waste line. – took my microwave, my hot water heater, my computer, my TV. You can see where it came right down that tree.

**Interviewer:** Now, do you have a lightning rod?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, I don't but I did get an electrician to come and make sure everything is grounded. It will follow water they say. When I was young, we had lightning rods and they would sell you lightning rods, just like the man who would come around and sell you spices, and the Jewel Tea man. The insurance company would come around and collect your little dollar, so you would have enough money to bury yourself. We would have to get in the living room and sit on chairs and get our feet up off the floor because the wires ran under the floor. Our grandmother always thought we would get electrocuted, so we would sit on the chairs with our feet up during a storm. I think it made me afraid of storms. We didn't have a full basement under the house, only a little cellar and it was dirt the rest of the way, so you didn't go down there in a storm. That was where she put all her canned goods because she canned all summer. We had a big garden. She did worry about the wire though. My grandfather built the house in the 1920's. Took me many years to not be afraid of storm. I lectured to the children that there is nothing to be frightened of. We would sit at the sliding glass door and watch the rain and lightning and hear the thunder. We'd tell all these great stories so no one would be afraid and I was scared to death. I remember just trembling inside. The tree was in the back yard at Olde Greenwich. I am sitting on this concrete pad with the kids -lightning hit the tree in the back yard. I couldn't stay any longer. I was at the front door ready to leave. I had three children and I remembered I had to go back and pretend there was nothing to it. It took me years to get over this fear.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2008, I was at Ellen's house waiting for Chris to come and he called on the phone saying the house was hit by lightning. "You won't believe this, Mom, but the tree exploded and our house looks like there is kindling all over the front yard." The yard was peppered with kindling, even on the roof of Mr. Gross's house across the street. They were driven into the ground. I would have been scared to death if I had been home.

**Interviewer:** Is there anything else you can think of?

**Janet Sullivan:** My grandfather was so proud of his '49 Chrysler. It was a New Yorker. You knew all he names of the cars then. We put on plays in somebody's garage. I knew how to play outside; I had an imagination. My grandfather loved interesting things. When I was in New York, I bought him some corncobs which were all different colors with silver knobs on them. We didn't have central water or sewer until I went to high school. We had a well and a Johnny house which is why I brought him those corncobs. He loved them and showed them to everyone. He never used them.

**Interviewer:** He sounds like a wonderful grandfather.



**Janet Sullivan:** Now, my brother, Stuart, played music, he played drums. When he got older Joe Ulman, who played with the big band and recently died, gave him lessons. He bought a beautiful drum set that had been in the window. It was a complete drum set but had faded on one side. He was able to buy it by paying a little bit at a time. My grandfather had a big old garage/barn like thing in the back and he would allow Stuart and his friends to practice back there. They were part of the Prophet Band .It was something else. Malone Schooner and Key Howard and all. There was a whole bunch of them and they played music. People would come in their lawn chairs and they would sit around in the field to listen. It was a different time. You had very little for entertainment. We had a drive-in theater with that speaker you hung in the window. We had curb service at Eddy Mac's and I think R&S Snack Bar

had curb service.

**Interviewer:** I think you mentioned that.

**Janet Sullivan:** I got the picture. That was down on Canal Street. Now I think it is apartments. What is the service station on the corner there on Canal and Princess Anne? Is it Spur?

**Interviewer:** There is a gas station.

**Janet Sullivan:** And right next to it is a field with a chain link fence and then there is this little brick thing. I will show you a picture of Eddy Mac's. Now by the time you got in and parked they would have your order ready for you.

**Interviewer:** This is a wonderful picture.

**Janet Sullivan:** John Edwards is my cousin and he has does lots of them. He has done R&S Snack Bar.

**Interviewer:** Where was the R&S Snack Bar that you mentioned?

**Janet Sullivan:** Where the Pizza Hut is by McDonalds across from the Giant.

**Interviewer:** What happened to it?

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't know. There were two men that ran it.

**Interviewer:** What happened to Eddy Mac's?



**Janet Sullivan:** They died. Both of them died. The children don't live here in town. Whoever bought this building turned it into an apartment of some kind. Virginia and Charlie Hart owned it. Their son was named Eddy and they named it Eddy Mac.

**Interviewer:** When the library has that Uniquely Fredericksburg Art Show, that Eddy Mac picture has been in that show.

**Janet Sullivan:** I am sure it has. He has done Allman's, Anne's Grill; he has done Dinty Moore's. He has done a lot of them. He lives over in Chatham.

**Interviewer:** Is he a young man then?

**Janet Sullivan:** Well, he is younger than I am.

**Interviewer:** Well, then he is a young man.

**Janet Sullivan:** He does local places. He did Colonial Beach where Reno was and the old slot machines. It is really nice because that is how you remember these places. I think Allman's Barbecue has all of them over there. Periodically, he sends me an email. Growing up here in that time was really like Happy Days on TV. There wasn't a lot of drinking. There was smoking maybe. There were the sock hops. St. George's had the Dragnet where you could go and the American Legion had a hall where you could dance.

**Interviewer:** Where is the American Legion place in Fredericksburg?

**Janet Sullivan:** That is down on Kenmore Avenue where the Grapevine is, then there was a laundry and a cinder block building which the American Legion was in

**Interviewer:** Is that gone now?

**Janet Sullivan:** It may be gone or it may be something else. I haven't been down there in a long time. Oh, they have moved it. They are building is in Normandy Village, I think the American Legion moved.

**Interviewer:** You mean you think it still exists.

**Janet Sullivan:** I don't know if the American Legion is still here in town. It might be out there on Bragg or Fall Hill Avenue. They moved. Franklin Brown Knots was the name of their American Legion Post, I believe. It was right there on Kenmore Avenue. They treated us wonderful, they opened that place up, must have been their upstairs meeting hall because it had a kitchen area behind... . That is where we went for dances. Dancing was big. We learned how to jitterbug and the shag, the whole nine yards. We used to have pep rallies. I was a cheerleader at James Monroe and so you had pep rallies the night before and march through town. I don't know how long they haven't had pep rallies. I know when my daughters were cheerleaders, both of them; they did not have pep rallies that marched through town. They only had them at the school.

**Interviewer:** So the whole town was involved in the old days?

**Janet Sullivan:** Yes indeed. We had our white duck pants and we'd roll them up and we'd have our saddle oxfords on and oh my goodness, down the street we would go hollering and carrying on. We always marched in all the parades. James Monroe band was always there. We even marched in the Apple Festival in Winchester. I think I played in a lot of them but I didn't have a reed in my clarinet, so I pretended to play.

**Interviewer:** It was like lip sync but on a clarinet

**Janet Sullivan:** You know if you got a new reed, it always squeaks. You just sort of played along, so you could go on the bus trips. I would just take the reed out and go along. I wasn't that good. James Monroe was great. We always had a senior class trip and we went to New York.

**Interviewer:** Did you have to make the money to do that?

**Janet Sullivan:** I think we did. Mother was a chaperone.

**Interviewer:** Oh that was too bad for you.

**Janet Sullivan:** It was terrible for me, but they loved her. The boys and girls loved her and she had a great time.

**Interviewer:** Was that the first time you had been to New York?

**Janet Sullivan:** No, I had been there earlier. My father was in furniture, so he would go up on buying trips and my uncle; Karl Ulman had the ladies apparel shop, the Hub, so we would go up with him to the garment district as well. Lots of time we would find our coats for the winter. It was a neat place and the hustle and bustle was fun. We would go to the factories and they would throw out those big bolts of material. He would pick what he would want. I can remember the first time I went to the Empire State building and losing my stomach in the elevator and looking out on New York City and taking the boat ride around New York and visiting Chinatown.

On our senior class trip we went to Coney Island. I had never been to Coney Island. I am not much on roller coasters and everybody was going and my mother had already gone on it. I told you what a daredevil she was. I went on with Jimmy Govenides and he served on the City Council as he got older and he has now passed away. Jimmy had on a varsity club jacket. This was a jacket they put their varsity letters on and the sleeves were made of leather. I rode with Jimmy on this rollercoaster and I thought it was the most frightening thing in my life and when we finally got back in to the station, I had bitten a hole clear through his leather jacket. (Wild laughter)

**Interviewer:** Did he even speak to you after that?

**Janet Sullivan:** He never said too much to me. I was terrified. I was rigid with fear. It took many years for me to go on another rollercoaster.

**Interviewer:** Is there anything else you want to include?

**Janet Sullivan:** I just want to make sure that my children know I love them dearly and they were my whole life. I think they made me a better person – by having these three wonderful children. I am so delighted to have these three grandchildren. The grandchildren are Matthew, Cole and Jordon, the baby. Warren would have loved to have been here. He adored those children and they adored him.

Did I tell you the story about Cole? He talks to Warren. It can be sort of eerie. They were in the car one day and Ron was driving. Ron is Kathryn's husband, and Cole is in the back seat. He said, "Mom, Mom granddaddy is waving at you, wave to him." Periodically, he says, "Granddaddy says for you to do such and such." They had given Warren a hug-me pillow after surgery and it was a big red heart. Cole sleeps with it all the time. I went up there to baby-sit and the next thing I know – Cole came into the room and he said, "Meme, Granddaddy says for you to have this heart to sleep with tonight." Doesn't it make you tear up? You could just believe that he had talked to Warren. Matthew does not remember Warren, but he loved to stay with his granddaddy. I have to say that they are the best accomplishment of my life - my three children.

**Interviewer:** I thank you.

**Janet Sullivan:** I have had an enjoyable time.



Mrs. Samuel Perry was the homeroom teacher for this class of sixth graders at Maury Elementary School during the 1953-54 school year. These students represented about a third of Fredericksburg's sixth graders at the time. Most of them remained together throughout their school years to graduate from James Monroe High School in 1960, and next Saturday the class will get together for its 20th anniversary reunion at the Fredericksburg Country Club. Those in the photograph, starting with row one at front center, Barry McGhee, Patricia Gallahan McGhee, Nancy Quann Apperson, Charles Hall, Tommy Pyle, Barbara Hall; row two, Janet Jones Sullivan, Janice Lakey Hall,

Beatrice Lee Brooks, Henry Dickinson, John Richards, Neale Tyler Smith, Gladys Wilkerson Saunders; row three, Robert Myers, Charlie Pettit, Minnette Galyen Campbell, Jerry Hopkins, Harry Crisp, Billy Kesel, Ann Schwartz Garnett; row four, Nancy Hewetson Cooke, Edward Steckler, Bobby Young, Sandra Estes, Patty O'Bryhim Miller, Gloria Swango, Edna Mae Perry; standing, Jimmy Adams, Mary Dickerson, Phyllis Reynolds Silva, Charles Green, Patsy Hart Hill, Wilhelmina Hicks McCleskey, Diane Jones Graves, Melissa Sue Lindsay, Jack Marcom. The photograph was provided by class member Ann Schwartz Garnett.

*1953 -1954 Maury Elementary School Sixth Graders*



*Janet at 1423 William Street*



*High School Graduation 1960*





*Janet High School Graduation*



*Christmas Debutante Ball 1959  
Janet is third from the left.*



*Kathryn*

*Janet*

*Kim*



*Janet and Christopher - Wedding Dance*



*Christopher and Warren*



*Christopher's Prom*





*Kathryn, Margaret (Stuart's wife), Janet, Chris, Stuart Jones (Janet's brother)*



*Warren, Janet, Margaret, Stuart*





*Courtney Price*



*Christopher Price*



*Ellen & Jimmy Jarrell*



*Front: Neale Tyler Smith, Maxine Calamous, Ann Renninger Stone  
Second row: Patricia McKann Mancini, Janet, Nancy Hewetson Cooke, Linda Correll Ware  
Left to right*



*Jamie James, Jimmie Prescott, Jessica Deutsch, Janet, Susan Ingalls, Ann Deutsch*





*Kenmore Children's Brigade Janet & Judy wearing hats facing backwards*



*Judith Ulman Johnson & Janet Jones Sullivan*