

This is Rose Hearn interviewing Mrs. Beatrice Painter in her home at 33 Riceland Road, Fort Erie, Ontario, and the date is July 8, 1985.

R.H: Hello Mrs. Painter.

B.P: Hi.

R.H: Could you tell me where you were born?

B.P: Where or when?

R.H: Where?

B.P: Sarnia, Ontario.

R.H: When did you settle in Fort Erie?

B.P: 1941, immediatly following my marriage.

R.H: Do you remember the first day when you got here, the first evening, where you stayed?

B.P: Well I came to Fort Erie about three weeks before, and I came to settle here to view my future home and measure windows for curtains and that sorta thing. We stayed in the Fort Erie hotel, which I believe was then called the Mather Arms down here on the corner of Garrison and King, and I was with my parents...my husbands, his parents. I don't remember too much, it was March and Fort Erie doesn't look at its best in March. It was cold and it seemed very desolate around here because there wasn't the buildings of course there is now. It was mostly just dead looking fields till you seen all the leaves, and that sorta thing.

R.H: So this neighbourhood...

B.P: Well I was staying over here you see at the Mather Arms, I was two blocks away from where I now live. So when I came here to live three weeks later I...in an apartment on Bertie Street, and Bertie Street of course was an older street and that was settled. I was in the block between Douglas Street and the hospital, and you know the homes were longer established, and there was more of a sense of settling in the community there. Over here it was just like living in a ...being in a field in this area.

R.H: What was the house like?

B.P: Well it was actually a flat. I came in wartimes you know being 1941, and the accommodation in Fort Erie was a big problem. All the people were coming both men and women to work at Fleet for war work, and the accommodation in town no way suited the number of people that were coming here. So anyone who had a

home what they could convert in to two apartments was very exciting you know, to make an income of course.

R.H: Was the rent expensive?

B.P: Well that makes me laugh you know. We talked it over and we thought that we could afford thirty dollars a month rent. Now the general rule was we'd been told when you were planning to get married was you shouldn't spend more than one weeks pay on one months rent. Well Garnet was working at Fleet, and he was going to make the unheard of sum of thirty dollars a week for a sixty hour week, fifty cents an hour. We thought we could afford the thirty dollars a month. Well it was a two-flat house, a small flat upstairs, and a little larger downstairs, and they had to pay thirty five...they had to pay five dollars more than me.

R.H: Did it have electricity?

B.P: Oh yeah, we had everything. We had use of the driveway, double driveway, and we were really very comfortable. Actually it was a brand new place, and we were the first people in it, and it just had one bedroom upstairs, and when this need came for housing the lady that owned the house had dormers built on the rooms. There were dormers built on each side upstairs, and that created more space, and she was able to put in two bedrooms, and a kitchen and a bathroom in addition to the one bedroom which they changed to a living-room so other than the living-room which had been the original bedroom the rest of the place was new. There was all new cupboards, and all new woodwork, and new toilets so it was really a very attractive little place, but it was very hot I found. It had a nice backyard that we were able to use, and the basement was used by both tenants upstairs and down, and of course it had a washer and a laundry tub, and the whole bit, and clothes dryers in the backyard so that was where my daughter was born, is was when we lived down there. We lived there five years.

R.H: Did you have a car?

B.P: Oh yes, we came down here in a model A Ford, and that did us for quite a while and then we had a succession of used cars, and finally about...we'd been married nearly twenty years before we...

R.H: you don't remember any of the names of any the cars, do you?

B.P: No, we tried to think, but they were all old-fashioned type cars

by today's standards. Each one seemed to a little better than the one we had before. One or two of them proved to be lemons, but by and large we didn't have really any particular problem with cars. We always seemed to be paying on the car in those days like people do, and still. Now a day's the price you pay for a car is the price we paid for a house in those days.

R.H: So where did you do your shopping?

B.P: Well because we lived on Bertie Street, we did most of our shopping on the Southend of town. There was Jamieson's Food Market, Jamieson I think they called it...the man who ran it his name was Jamieson, and they called the store Jamies, and there was Thompson's on the corner of Bertie and North Street which is now where Becker's is located. We used to buy our meat there. They always had very good meat. Sometimes we went up to Jarvis Street and shopped for our meat at Grinham's Butcher Shop...they had a very good shop there, and there was another grocery store in the Southend...Hapgood's they had quite a nice line of groceries. You realize of course this is before we had any supermarkets what so ever. Whether there was supermarkets then in other places...you see this is going back over forty years, and maybe supermarkets weren't in anywhere, but they certainly weren't in Fort Erie. You just went to a small store, and gave your order. The first time it was suggested you pick your own things up off the shelf you know it was quite a big deal. You'd been used to just having a man behind the counter. But of course shopping in war days if anybody remembers wasn't exactly a cup of tea. We had ration coupons for things like sugar, and coffee, and butter, but it wasn't the rationed things that were the problem it was the things that were in short supply that were not rationed. Now soap was very very hard to get, laundry soap especially, and when my daughter was born, and after we'd been married three years, and of course there was no disposable diapers in those days, you washed everything and no detergents...detergents hadn't come in. They didn't appear till after the war. We used to have to go all over the area trying to find soap, any kind of soap, and my mother-in-law who lived in Chatham, she started making soap.

R.H: Do you know how she made it?

B.P: Oh lye and fat...she saved fat from meat I suppose she had, though I don't know exactly where she got it from. She accumulated fat in tins and when she processed it with lye and other things she made soap. I still have a bar of soap of hers around here I found about a year ago...well I think I gave it to somebody for some particular purpose. It was a yellow soap, a hard block yellow soap, and I used to use a grater, a shredder, and I used to shred it like this into my washing machine, and it wasn't exactly like Tide, but it did the trick, and if you rubbed it on dirty spots it really did the trick and that's really how I got by for a while, and then basic things worked. I found it very hard not to have in the house...like potatoes. One year I can remember it was practically impossible to buy a potatoe. I guess they'd all gone to feed the armed services, and we were really going round to all the stores we knew, and asking, but naturally in those days you were customers, you weren't just people who came in, and if you shopped regularly at a store you had a better chance because naturally the man would see that his own customers got first chance at anything that came in. Another time onions we couldn't get anywhere. Well these were things you know, let's face it you can live without them, but when you've always had them...so you really miss them. I can remember little things like that. So shopping was a bit iffy. You did tend to move a little a bit from store to store. The word would go around that Mr. so and so had just got in a lot of something, and everybody would converge on the store. One thing we were asked to do in those days was to save all our waste fat in tins, and turn it into the stores, and I don't think you got anything for it other than thanks, but it was a war effort. I don't know what they did, maybe they made soap out of it, but anyway we were asked to save any fat...not to throw any fat away but to save it. You see it was a different picture from now a days when we didn't have shortages or anything, and the typical statement in any store was...well you know there's a war on...if you asked for anything, and it wasn't available, and that was the excuse in many cases. You know they began to use it as an excuse for things that the war couldn't possible have no effect on.

R.H: Was there any war songs around?

B.P: Oh yes. Roll Out The Barrel, and I don't remember the others too

much, but I know we had an amateur show just before I came to Fort Erie, and that was the song that was featured was Roll Out The Barrel, and The White Cliffs Of Dover, and When The Lights Go On Again All Over The World. I remember people singing that. I don't remember too many of the other songs. I remember Bing Crosby singing his White Christmas, I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas, and we were into snow up to our necks, and wishing he'd quit Dreaming of a White Christmas. I do remember that part of it. I don't remember any other national songs.

R.H: Do you remember the Post Office that was down in the Southend?

B.P: Yes. We had no mail delivery till after the war. We used to have to go down everyday and pick up our mail. The Post Office was in the Southend of town just around the corner from where the Bank Of Montreal now is. I don't know what's in there right now...I intended to go down to look but I forgot, but it had been a beauty shop, and various other things in the building then since it was the Post Office. You had to go up a couple of steps to go in, and the Postmistress at the time...or the girl who worked in the Post Office was Marion Learn. She later married a man by the name of Yarrow, so she's Mrs. Yarrow now, but she was Marion Learn when I first met her. Well just next door to that or almost next door was a dry goods store... Charles, and almost everybody went for material, and yarn, and thread, and that later changed hands and became Youngs, and I think now it's an antique or flea market type store or something. You see in those days too, the way to get to the Northend of town was walking around by the Blvd. The Central Ave. Bridge of course wasn't there, so you tended to shop more in your own end of town, and of course gasoline was rationed too. You only had a certain amount of gasoline, so that put a little bit of a car problem on your motoring. But when the bridge was put in, and you could just sail up Central Avenue and around to Jarvis Street, I think that's when the Southend really began to go downhill.

R.H: Did you walk most of the time?

B.P: Well we used to walk to the Southend a lot, or we drove down, but it was no big deal to go to the Southend of town. I've never done a great deal of walking around town, not as much as I should sometimes.

R.H: Did you walk when you went to collect your mail?

B.P: Well I used to walk down for my mail, because the Post Office was only open at certain hours, and by the time my husband came home with the car...I'd never driven myself or had a car, the Post Office was closed, so we had to go down in the daytime to get it or we didn't get the mail you see, so I had to walk down, and I had a bicycle too after a while.

R.H: How often was the mail delivery?

B.P: Just once every day, I used to go down every day, and for a long time I had the paper from home, since Sarnia sent everyday, so that was one thing I knew would be there. Well I'd post a lot of letters so I used to go down everyday, and they started mail delivery just after the war, and of course we had it twice a day, morning and afternoon. Why we really needed it twice a day I...I know people complain now, but other than business people perhaps that have got important documents they have to have, if they don't get them in the morning they don't like waiting the full 24 hours. I think most of us are quite happy if we get mail once a day. You know if they started it again, I would really consider it a waste of money, but I don't think we need mail twice a day. But that was the norm at that time apparently. Well then of course you had lots of people coming to the house in those days. You had the baker come around, and...

R.H: Do you remember the name of this baker or the bakery?

B.P: I'm trying to remember what bakery it was, Wonder Bread I guess was the bakery.

R.H: What about milk delivery?

B.P: Oh yes we had milk delivery. The Fort Erie dairy used to go around, and we used to get our milk everyday, and I was just thinking the other day we'd put a dollar out, and get ten tickets for ten quarts of milk.

R.H: You'd get tickets?

B.P: Oh yes you got milk tickets in those days. They considered it was safer. You see a lot of people didn't like to put money out in milk bottles even as much as a dime or a quarter, cause in those days a dime or a quarter was a lot more than it is now, so you tried to see your milkman every little while, but you'd buy a few strips of tickets you see, then you just put a ticket in the bottle.

R.H: Each ticket was worth a quart?

B.P: It was like ten tickets for a dollar, and for one ticket ten cents, and you had a quart of milk, and those of course were bottles in those days, and they had the cream on the top, and if you wanted to have cream on your cereal, and didn't want to buy any, you sneaked a bit off the top of the milk before you mixed it. Then your husband complained because the milk wasn't as rich as it should be. That was the one thing I do remember the cost of, I don't remember the cost of groceries as a whole too much. You bought what you needed and you paid for it. But I do remember bread and milk...bread was about ten cents a loaf, and milk was about ten cents a quart and they were both delivered to the house which was nice. One thing I remember about living on Bertie Street you might find interesting, When the races were on, and they seemed to be on during the war just as much as they were any other time...I don't remember there not being races, and of course we lived on Bertie Street from forty one to forty six which was the last years of the war plus another year, and so it had to be during the war when the races were on, and people had no transportation. There were no taxis, most of them didn't have the gasoline, and so one or two farmers had wagons, flat wagons, and they used to go down with horses and meet the ferry...you came home on the ferry then (a lot of people) unless you had a car of course, and you weren't going to walk over the Peace Bridge. So they came over on the ferry which docked at the end of Bertie Street there, and then they'd be met by these fellows with their wagons, and there was a lot of seats put on them...benches or something, and they'd go galloping up Bertie Street past our house till they got to the racetrack.

R.H: So these were like taxis then, taxi service but only with horses?

B.P: A taxi-service with a horse and wagon. We used to get quite a kick out of seeing the people going to the races.

R.H: Did you ever go on the ferry-boats?

B.P: A few times, not too often. They used to go across and dock at the...I'm trying to remember the name of the street. Almost everybody that went over there, you didn't get downtown Buffalo, you just pretty well walked from the ferry up the hill, and went two or three blocks, and shopped on the streets that were over there. People

went more often and would be far more familiar with it than I would but I didn't go over too often. You see once the children were born it was a quite a responsibility trying to take two children over there.

R.H: Where they comfortable, the ferry-boats?

B.P: Oh yes I guess so, you were only on them for a matter of five or ten minutes.

R.H: Did they have benches?

B.P: They probably did, yes. My biggest worry was always that my son who was the adventurous type would climb up on the rail, and look over, and I'd be afraid that...I remember once his grandparents were visiting us, and grandfather nearly had a heart-attack on the way over. Worried about Rick climbing up on the rail, and he couldn't keep his eye on him every minute. But the ferries were rather nice, and I've always liked boats anyway...I'm a boat person, and I'd rather liked the ferries. I've never been to Buffalo a great deal though at any time. My husband worked over there for so long he saw all he wanted of Buffalo in the daytime, and we've never been ones to go back and forth to Buffalo very much. But I rather did miss the ferries after they discontinued them. Where we took the ferries of course was Livingstone's drugstore. Everybody who's lived in Fort Erie remembers that.

R.H: Was that in the Southend?

B.P: Yeah that was on the corner.

R.H: Is that where Louis Ziff is now?

B.P: Well it's right on the corner...Gray Insurance or real estate was in there for a while. I do remember seeing Ziff's sign there...I go to the Southend so rarely any more in fact I rarely go anywhere in Fort Erie but the Mall. I don't really know, it was right on the corner at Livingstone's drugstore, and you went right down on the side of the drugstore to get into the ferry. The customs were right in there behind. That's another interesting thing about Fort Erie during the war...when we first came here it seems everybody we knew either worked at the railway, the customs or immigration, or Horton Steel, or Fleet not of course the people who came to Fleet, but the long established people. Oh ever so many people, all our neighbours nearly worked at the railway, and now of course very few people

do work on the railway, and oh...a lot of people worked on the railway you know.

R.H: Did you ever get to Crystal Beach?

B.P: Yes a few times, but it really wasn't our cup of tea. We took the children because naturally they'd come home from school, and they'd hear the children talk about Crystal Beach so you had to go and take your children. For two or three years they had the company picnic from Buffalo...General Electric where my husband worked...had the company picnic at Crystal Beach, and I went there then, but we tended more...

R.H: Do you remember anything about it, what it was like?

B.P: I don't know if there still is, but at that time there was a childrens section for smaller children at Crystal Beach in the amusement park, and there was a sign over the gate that said "Through these portals go the happiest children in the world" or something like that. I don't know whether it's still there or not, but I can remember that being over the gate, and of course the children naturally wanted to go on everything. They never really coaxed particularly...they liked picnics, and we used to go away every year for a holiday, and take a cottage, and they liked the beach, and things like that. We honestly made our own fun, and we didn't have too much money in those days, nobody did. You know the wages were so low, and things were going up in price but the wages at that time weren't really keeping up with the price of things, and our social life was really very quiet, and home centered.

R.H: So what about the winter-time, what did the kids do like for recreation?

B.P: Well there was no television. It's hard to believe now that people had no television, but they had their own friends and they visited back and forth, and we had a record-player we used earlier on when they were young, and they were in Brownies and Scouts, and choir. Both my children were in the choir at St. Paul's for a while and you know they seemed to be...I don't remember what they did. I think they played games sometimes in the evening, and my daughter has always been a great reader...as long as she had a book she was quite content. I mean they visited back and forth at each others homes, and they had friends the same age. We were fortunate

cause when we moved down to Catherine Street, it was a street with families with children about the same age as ours.

R.H: Did you have your own house then?

B.P: Yes, well we bought our first house after we'd been married five years. I'd had always thought that when I came to Fort Erie, (I was very homesick cause I'd never been away from home) and I told myself...well this is just for during the war, and as soon as the wars over we'll go back you know where I belong. Well my husband, he liked Fort Erie from the time he came. I didn't dislike it, but to me it was still a long way from home, and he decided that eh...before he was even laid off at Fleet he felt he would some how find employment in this area. I don't think he really ever felt that he would be kept on at Fleet permantly because the story about Fleet was that most of those people were strictly there for war work, and probably at the end of the war they'd go back to a very very small work force again so I don't really think he counted on being at Fleet for ever. But somehow or another he felt that Fort Erie was the place he wanted to live, and he felt quite confident he would find employment somewhere here you see, well as it happened he did get laid off, but he worked for a full year after the war. He was kept on at Fleet, and in 1946 in the summer he was in one of the big layoffs and by then they were getting down to you know, very few compared to what they'd had during the war, and he was off work for several...he helped put the roof on the arena, the arena that was just taken down here about four or five years ago.

R.H: When was that?

B.P: 1947. It was two years after the war, I made a mistake. My son was just being born, in fact I was in the hospital and Dick was just a few days old when my husband got his layoff notice, and we had bought the house two years before or one year before rather with the idea that...

R.H: That was the house on Catherine Street?

B.P: No, we bought a very small house on Stanton Street.

R.H: On Stanton?

B.P: Stanton Street between Bertie and Murray so it was just a small house...two small bedrooms, living room, dining room, and kitchen, but it was our first effort, and I think we paid \$4,000 for it.

course we're not social people anyway, and our social life was rather quiet mostly just evenings with friends from the church, and we attended anything...we've always attended anything at church...took part in some plays anything that was going on at the church.

R.H: Could you tell me about the booklets that you did for the church?

B.P: Well at the time of Canada's centennial in 1967 it was suggested that as our church of St. Paul's was one of the oldest churches... well I guess it is the oldest church in Fort Erie, but it was also one of the oldest public buildings you might say in Fort Erie, that it would be nice if we could show a link between the establishment of a parish, and the establishment of the town and eh..so I was asked if I could trace back in the history of the town, and the history of the church and show how the two sorta grew up together. You see the church was originally established by the Rector, by the Chaplain of the garrison at the Old Fort when the garrison was stationed at the Old Fort in the early eighteen hundreds. They had a Chaplain there of course and...

R.H: Do you know his name?

B.P: Yes...oh dear isn't that stupid, I know it as well as I know my own. Well it will come to me in a minute. Anyway he was the Chaplain at the Old Fort, and of course he began visiting people in their homes, and taking services and things like that, and eventually they ended up having a building to have the services. That became our first church in 1821. The church was always basically in the same location as it is now on the hill. It was a wooden structure for a while and then in the eighteen eighties it was replaced by a stone church which burned down in 1892, and was replaced by our present church.

R.H: That was an explosion apparently, wasn't it?

B.P: That was an explosion yes, they said it was an explosion of natural gas. Now one Rector we had here a few years ago said that he had the sneaking feeling that the Rector at that time was burning the palms from the year before to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday, and that he set the place on fire. It was a gas explosion I'm quite sure because it happened I think during the night, and there's no way the Rector would've been there burning palms. It was just a celebrated joke I think.

R.H: Do you know anything about the Crown Theatre, tell us something about that?

B.P: Well the Crown Theatre used to be down on Dufferin Street, and there was the theatre at this end of town, "Bellard".

R.H: Didn't St. Paul's use that?

B.P: Yes St. Paul's had the Crown Theatre. The Crown Theatre was on Dufferin Street, and then it became an extension, before we had our Northend hall. We don't have that of course now, but I think it was just after the war they bought the Crown Theatre, sometime around that era. I don't have the dates at my fingertips at the moment, but they took over the property, and established the Northend sunday school there, and someone gave them this land at the corner of Emerick and Central Ave. where St. Mary's Hall is...it's still there I guess as far as I know. That was going to be another Anglican Church you see. That was the original idea that this was going to be another Anglican Church in the Northend of town. Some of the people apparently thought that we could support two Anglican Churches in this area which didn't make too much sense, but then possibly at that time some of them didn't like the way this church was working, the Rector or something. There's always people who aren't satisfied as you know in a church but anyway for some reason or another they started this fund to establish another Anglican Church down in the Northend of town, so they bought this piece of property, and they built the basement on it and then they ran out of money you see, and they never did build the church so they eventually roofed the basement and made it into a basement hall, but they had sunday school, and scouts, and ladies guild there for many years. We still owned the hall for church until 1960, 1970...somewhere around 1969, 1970 we still owned St. Mary's and by then it was being a liability more than it was an asset to the parish really. It continually needed repairs and the little bit we got for renting it no way supported it and the sunday school had gone down. Right after the war there was a baby boom, and there were children all over the place, and that's when we built all these schools of course that are now closing, public schools, and the same with sunday schools. Every parish was building on to try and accommodate our own children that were turning up on sundays. Then once the baby boom died down, and the pill had came into use there was no longer any need for this accommodation. St. Mary's sunday school began going downhill, and it was decided now too with the ease of getting around with

fast cars, and the Central Ave. bridge there was no problem for anybody living down on Highland or Emerick or Dufferin to put their children in the car, and drive them to St. Paul's sunday school. You really didn't need two sunday schools. When you walked, it was nice to have sunday school within walking distance so they amalgamated the St. Paul's sunday school, and of course we now only have the one. Then we sold the hall to the prebyterians, and now I understand it's supposed to be going to be demolished, but I haven't heard anymore about it, but I did hear about it about a month ago which is why I said "I presume it's still there". I have't really gone up there to see, but I think it undoubtedly is.

R.H: Do you remember who the organist was when you came here?

B.P: The organist was Mrs.Montello...I think it was Mrs. Montello...she was here, then Mrs. Ardello, then Mrs. Ardello's husband was in the choir, and the Rector of course was Archdeacon Burt...he wasn't Archdeacon I don't think when we came here, I think he was Canon Burt, and then he became Archdeacon. He baptized both my children, and he was here for the first eight years that we were. We came in forty one, and in forty nine Archdeacon Burt retired, and then Canon Murray and his wife came to town and they were the ones that married our daughter, and had most to do with our childrens growing up. They served nineteen years in the parish so they were the ones that I remember most. I still remember Archdeacon Burt, but I'd only been in town a very little while, a few months, when the word got around that I'd worked in the sunday school back home so of course I was visited and asked if I would be interested in working in the sunday school here, and I always find it hard to say no to people. So I did go down to the sunday school, and I worked in it and on till two years ago I retired. On and off I took a brief break when my children were small, but basically other than that just a short break...

R.H: So how many years would you say then...?

B.P: Well I think they figured that when I retired I'd been about thirty six years. I became superintendent eventually in 1955, and that's the job I held there until I retired in 82 was it...83...82 I think I retired. You know the years go by so fast it's hard to remember. I think they thought I'd been twenty seven years, estimated I'd been twenty seven years as superintendent, but I'd taught before that. Of course

we only had the small hall when we came here. It was the original hall, and it had been built in 1911. The hall, the rectory on the hill behind you were built at the same time, and that was when Archdeacon Mackintosh was here. He was Rector of the church. The hall and the rectory were built together, and the hall served until 1957 and by that time all these children that had been born after the war were going to sunday school and we had classes on the stairs, and up in the church, and we had some of the classes down the street in the church in the pews, and it was very unhandy so we had a building campaign, and added that big wing on also and that served us until last year of course when we opened the centre, so the native people are...opened the new St. Paul's Centre. So I've seen progress through the three halls. The church really hasn't changed basically too much. The building itself hasn't changed though there was some changes in the inside of the church when we joined the centre on.

R.H: They did get a new organ I believe is that right?

B.P: Well we've had different organs over the years, but I can't remember how long we've had this one. We didn't get one when we put the new centre on. We talked about it, but it was beyond our financial capabilities so we made do with the one we have which is a fine organ. Our present organist is Bob McIntyre of course, and he was organist once before a few years ago, and left, and now he's back with us again.

R.H: What other changes are there inside since you came?

B.P: Well of course the services are quite different. Like all the churches all the denominations, it's undergone changes. Most of us have accepted it a little warily should I say. We like things the way they were. When you're an Anglican you have your prayer book, you're used to your prayer book, and you like to go in any Anglican Church anywhere, and know exactly what they're going to do. It's been quite a shock sometimes to go into the church and find things quite different...so different that you have to tell yourself you know this is...

R.H: You don't use the prayer book anymore then?

B.P: Oh yes, we still use the prayer book. In fact the Rector we have now, Canon Russell, he's quite understanding of this problem that older people have, and their liking for original prayer book so we have the services alternate. In the summertime when we only have

two services a sunday. The first service, the early service is always the prayer book and the 9:30 or 10 oclock service alters. One is with the prayer book and the next is going to be the new rite, and in the winter-time when we have three services every sunday at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 the 9:30 service is always the new rite. The 11:00 is always the prayer book so you see you've got a choice. Now when I say it's the prayer book that's bending it a little. No longer does any church or very very few churches follow the prayer book exactly the way it used to be. They've gradually introduced changes, but you're still going back to basics. The prayers in the prayer book are used pretty well exactly as they are, but they may be pushed around a little differently, and other things in services, but we've grown used to it. The first few times you go to church and you come home and you think, my goodness what am I going to do next? Suddenly you realize you're used to it and you like it. We had a humourous thing here about a year ago. We went to a church in Chatham with my mother-in-law, and the service was exactly as it is in the prayer book, and we didn't like it. We couldn't believe it, we said "we're right back to square one and you know it's funny we don't like it." We were used to the changes that had gradually been worked into the service here. It's the same in anything, not just in churches but I think in any way of life. Anytime anything new is introduced into your life at first, you don't like it too much as a rule then after a while you get used to it...new foods...new ways of dress...You know I never can get used to the new morality, but then that's an accepted thing too.

R.H: Do you know anything about the Erie Beach Community Hall?

B.P: As a matter of fact that's our great love, because my husband and I attend evensong there every sunday night. It's a chapel connected with our church. It was originally started as a community centre sunday school and no denomination particularly, and we used to ask different Ministers, Rectors, Priests, what have you, different denominations to go there on a sunday and take a service.

R.H: Do you know when it was started?

B.P: I think it was 1926 or something like that. It was in the twenties. It was in Archdeacon Burt's time. I don't remember...I should have had my booklet, but it was in the nineteen twenties it was started, and that stayed as a community church then up until the nineteen

fifties, and then when Canon Irwin was here he felt it should become strictly Anglican. Now it had been Anglican in everything but the name for years, and all the people that worked in it were Anglicans and the land that it sat on had been donated by Anglicans, and it was largely the Anglican ...the Rector from the church here that went out there to take the services. I don't think it had been in operation very long before it was solely Anglican as far as the Ministers went. We might've occasionally had one from another denomination, but it was practically always entirely Anglican, and he was behind the curriculum for the teaching in the Sunday school, and everything like that. So Canon Irwin suggested that, why not approach the Bishop and see if it couldn't be made a chapel of St. Paul's, and maybe dedicate it, consecrate it as strictly Anglican, so that's what they did. For a long time it was a real going concern, but like so many places, people move away and a lot of people quit going to Sunday school and it's still by now just a few faithful people keeping it open, largely families.

R.H: Where exactly is it?

B.P: Where it is? It's on Dominion Road.

R.H: On Dominion Road?

B.P: On Dominion Road just west of Albert, where Albert Street comes out onto Dominion Road. It's just west of that. It's within walking distance from here. I have walked it...it's about the same distance for us as it is to St. Paul's. For years once a month the Rector from St. Paul's would go out and have communion there on a Sunday night, then that gradually disappeared, but they had evensong, then that fell by the wayside for a matter of three or four years. I don't think it was used at all except for Sunday school. They still maintained the Sunday school for the children of the people who had always been there. You see it was handy...Then Canon Anthony was here, and he was the Rector before Canon Russell...when he was here in the nineteen seventies he took a great interest in the place. He went out and talked to the people, and he was a great man for history and anything old appealed to him you know, anything that had been around a long time. He got very interested in the place, and he started to have an evensong every Sunday, then it persisted now we've had evensong every Sunday I suppose for nearly ten years. It's been very nice, and it's mostly the people around there, a few

of us got out from St. Paul's, of course it's all one parish you understand. They contribute to St. Paul's, and the Rector of St. Paul's goes out and gives communion once in a while and things like that but it's actually the people who live around there...the Allison's, and the Griffins, and the Learns, and people from that area that keep the church alive but the rest of us went to support when we can. My husband and I like it because we are very fond of a lot of people who support it, and we know it's very dear to them because they're dear to us, and we want to do all we can to keep the church...the chapel functioning. We've been as a family, in fact my husband was the people's warden out there at St. James. When they made it a chapel of St. Paul's, they changed the name to St. James chapel. For a long time up in till St. James chapel was formed the church at St. John's Ridgemount up on Ridgemount Road was part of our parish. The Rector here had a two parish circuit, he had our church in Fort Erie, and he had to go out on a Sunday afternoon and have services at St. John's but it became increasingly difficult for the Rector to do what...the town expanded so much, expanded both north and south, and it was a lot of travelling around to get out to Ridgemount too you know.

R.H: Where exactly is Ridgemount?

B.P: You don't know where it is? You go out Bowen Road and...I don't know how far he said...about four or five miles out, and you come to the junction of Ridgemount Road, (it's well marked) and you turn right there, north, turn right, and it's just around there. You can see it from Ridgemount Road, from Bowen Road looking down Ridgemount Road. They call it St. John's Ridgemount and it's almost as old a parish as ours. Ours was established in 1821...by the way the first Rector was Anderson...and it was established about twenty years later in 1840. It's an old parish, and it's an old style church, and that church out there is almost a replica of our original wooden church. Back when I first saw a picture of our original church I thought it was a picture of St. John's, and I suppose like nowadays they tend to build a lot of the same type of buildings. Schools all look alike that were built in the same era, and the same as churches. That's why the two churches look so much alike, but anyway that's when they decided to put Ridgemount with Ridgeway, and now that's

a two parish circuit. The Rector who has All Saints Anglican Church in Ridgeway also has Ridgemount...St. John's, and that freed our Rector to give more time here and he could concentrate on St. James chapel, and St. Mary's hall which is a going concern.

R.H: Which school did your children go to?

B.P: They went to Douglas school which is now gone too of course. It was within easy walking distance, and of course in those days they didn't have school busses. I don't remember just how long it is since they had school busses, I was thinking about that the other day. Did anybody bring that point out in the conversation to when school busses started? I know they didn't have them when our children went to school. You walked to public school, and you went to high school, and by the time they went to high school we were on Catherine Street but it wasn't really all that far, and I don't think anybody thought anything of walking. You didn't, you walked to school. Everybody walked to school, you just didn't give it a thought. I can see when they started getting a lot of traffic, and the Queen Elizabeth way, and now we've got the overpass it's not so bad, but I can see when children have to cross major highways, that's a worry. That's another big change really in Fort Erie since we came. The Queen Elizabeth Way only went as far as St. Catherine's of course, St.. Catherine's to Toronto, and from Fort Erie you had to go on secondary roads of course like going on No. 3 highway, and along the river. I can remember when the four lane highway came in. I can remember the work being done on it, and how everybody was speculating it would cut the town in half solely because you lived north of the Queen E, or south of the Queen E, and one thing that we did notice...they said it was quite common at the time, I don't know whether it's true or not, but they claimed the television reception was different this side of the Queen E to the other side. Now when we moved from Catherine St. I don't remember whether we noticed any big difference in the television or not, but I know before that, several people who lived over here were saying "we can't get Toronto the way you can" and I couldn't see what difference it made, whether it was the power lines you know at the Queen E there that made a difference or what.

R.H: How long have you lived in this house?

B.P: Twenty two years. We moved here in June of 1963 so we have been in this house for twenty two years.

R.H: And what was it like around here?

B.P: Well the basic houses were here, the ones that were built during the time of the opening of the Peace Bridge. There were five or six houses on the other side of the street, on the north side of Riceland, and the homes back on Queensbury were basically the same but we were the only house on this side of the street. There were no other houses up until Young's. Ray young and his wife lived on the corner house on Mather, the corner of Mather, and there was nothing in between. See, all these lots around here were the backyards of the people on Queensbury. They lived on Queensbury but their lots went right to Riceland, and they nearly all had gardens, and it just happened that the man who had owned the house on Queensbury immediately behind us, he didn't want such a big backyard so he sold the back end of it and that's how this house happens to be built here you see. Since we moved here, nearly every year or two there's been another house put up around here. And now it's houses all the way along.

R.H: Were the motels around here when you came here?

B.P: Yes.

R.H: So they've been there a long time?

B.P: Yes quite a while, quite a while. Of course we had no stores here or anything, not in this area. When I first moved over here the closest store was Thompson's on Bertie Street.

R.H: The butcher?

B.P: Well he carried a few groceries as well, but we thought of him largely as a butcher, but he had a general store, a family store, and it was annoying if you were making a cake or something and you ran out of something, and you had to go all the way to Thompson's. It wasn't the distance, it was the time it took, if you didn't have a car and you had to walk all the way to Thompson's. It seems farther now that they've got the overpass in. Before they had the overpass and it was just the lights at the junction of Central Ave. and the Queen E, it didn't seem as far, but now you have to climb over that way, and down the other side, and it just seems further for some reason.

R.H: Were you able to cut through a bit before?

B.P: You could cut through a bit, yes I could cut through before, but you can't do that anymore.

R.H: Was that dairy there, The Fort Erie dairy?

B.P: Over here on Walden?

R.H: Walden Ave.?

B.P: Oh yes it was there, I suppose the dairy was.

R.H: Who owned that dairy, do you know?

B.P: It was Holmes, the Holmes people, the Holmes family. Vivian Holmes and Everett Holmes whatever his name is. He works up here on Madison. I think it was their family that ran it, that was the name I heard connected with the dairy. Now whether they just worked in it I don't know, but that was the name in my own mind that I connected with the dairy.

R.H: And the veterinarian hospital, was that always there?

B.P: Of course there were no veterinarians when I came here, and Dr. Bill Reid had just come to town, and he was doing veterinary work in a home down in Cozy Dell and not long after we'd been here he married the daughter of Archdeacon Burt, and not too long after that...it was when the Queen Elizabeth Way was put through...The Irish brothers Jack and Doug Irish had a gas station right at the end where the Queen E comes out on to Goderich Street, well that gas station had to go to make way for the entrance to Queen Elizabeth Way so Bill Reid bought it, and he moved it up here to Walden and turned it into a veterinary hospital, and the Irish brothers built a new gas station right across the road right next to where the hardware store now is, and so after a few years they sold the gas station and went into the hardware business instead, and of course the hardware business is still there. Bill Reid made living quarters in part of the gas station, and he had his vet hospital, and he gradually added on to both sides.

R.H: So he was the first veterinarian here?

B.P: He was the first veterinarian I remember being here in town, and of course he died many years ago now. I guess it was Dr. Stone that succeeded him, and then we had that other man who was only here a little while. We've had very nice vets I think. All the vets we've had have been very good. We only had one vet at that time for many many years, and now in recent years a couple

more have started.

R.H: Was there a lot of houses there too?

B.P: On Walden? I don't think there was hardly any houses on Walden. I don't think there was anything from Douglas Street on the north side right up to the dairy. I think there was nothing but the dairy then the vets hospital, and they lived there. Now on this side...I don't really remember...at the time we moved up here (twenty two years ago) into this area I didn't pay that much attention to what was at this side of the Queen E you see. We lived on the other side so we didn't pay that much attention.

R.H: Did you ever hear of Pong's laundry?

B.P: Whose laundry?

R.H: Pong's Chinese laundry.

B.P: Well I knew there was a Chinese laundry, but I couldn't have told you what the name was.

R.H: On Jarvis Street?

B.P: Yes on Jarvis Street. We used to go down on Jarvis Street fairly often...we didn't go down the way we do now because it was less acessable till they put the bridge over Central Avenue you see. We had to go down by the river. It was handier to shop in your own end of town but I basically remember Grinham's, and I remember Cornell's Drugstore. That hasn't been gone too many years, and that's where the town tax offices are now. That was Cornell's Drugstore, and I think Stedman's was here. It was here for quite a long time. It might not have been here when I came here, but it's one of the earliest stores I remember. Dutch Jackson had a men's clothing store that was very very popular with people.

R.H: Was it called Jackson's?

B.P: I guess it probably was, but he was referred to as Dutch, Dutch Jackson, and he had a men's clothing store and Kirkland's (whose son is now a famous photographer)...he had a very nice men's clothing store, very high class men's clothing store down on Jarvis, then Yeo's was a drygoods store for many many years. Nearly everybody shopped at Yeo's drygoods store, and there were no chain stores here at all though I guess Stedman's is a chain after a fashion, but I can remember how excited we were when Woolworth's opened, and that's the bingo hall now of course on Jarvis Street, but that was Woolworth's.

It opened and Loblaws, and the A&P, and oh we were really living then. Loblaw's and the A&P were right next door which was sorta silly really. I could never see any sense in that. I don't know what their thinking was to put two chain stores... We always shopped ourselves in Loblaw's, we never shopped in A&P. We shopped in Loblaw's. I guess our parents had shopped in Loblaw's back home so we shopped in Loblaw's after they opened it. Well then I think Loblaw's closed before A&P did if I remember correctly so we had to shop at A&P, and by then everybody was shopping in chain stores. You didn't go to these small stores any more because it was cheaper and easier to pick your own things off the shelf you know and super-markets were coming in, so we shopped at A&P, and then A&P moved from Jarvis Street down to the Mall, and that was lovely for us cause by then we lived down here and it was just up the street.

R.H: So everything followed you around, did it?

B.P: Everything followed us around, but Jarvis Street was a busy street in those days. You'd have to really look for a place to park. Not like it is now.

R.H: Where the banks there too?

B.P: Well some of the banks. We always did our banking with the Bank of Montreal. It was in the Southend. It wasn't exactly where it is now, it was along a bit, but it's always been in the Southend and we didn't have much to do with banks in those days. Mrs. Lawson ran a second-hand thrift shop or something there on Jarvis Street. I remember that.

R.H: Do you remember when the Peace Bridge opened?

B.P: Oh no, that was in the twenties.

R.H: Oh yeah that's right, I'm sorry.

B.P: That was twenty seven, but I remember when the Central Avenue Bridge opened. In fact my father who was a great walker, walked over the Central Avenue Bridge when it was being constructed. My parents would come and visit me when we lived on Catherine Street, and my dad used to go out for walks, and they were building this bridge over the railway track, and one day he went out for a walk and came back, and he had walked over the bridge, and it wasn't opened yet. They just had the girders and that, but the

workmen were working on it, and I guess they didn't say anything to him I guess he looked like he could take care of himself, but he walked over the bridge, and he was quite pleased cause he was one of the first people to walk over the bridge.

R.H: What was your father's name?

B.P: Pardon?

R.H: What was your father's name?

B.P: Tom Molyneux, Molyneux that was my maiden name. He walked over the Central Avenue Bridge, but the way that you mostly went...we went to the Northend of town if we walked. We used to walk across the tracks you know. They established a sort of a path, and foot passengers...foot people...pedestrians rather than go way round by the blvd. if they wanted to go to the Northend of town, they took a chance, and looked both ways for trains, and scurried across the tracks which wasn't too good an idea. I don't think anybody does it anymore after they put the overpass in. It doesn't seem really that long, but I know the only way to go from the North to the Southend of town you had to by the blvd. or go out to Thompson Road, and go under the tunnel, and that was the only way to get to the Northend of town so it really did divide the town in half. You know when we first came here we were very used to the people referring to the Northend as Bridgeburg. You see it had been Bridgeburg up until then, and this had been Fort Erie, and they amalgamated which I think was about nineteen thirty three or four or somewhere along in there. It wasn't too long before we came here, but it was all Fort Erie of course under one mayor. I think Mayor Hawley was the mayor when we came, I'm not sure about that...I know he had been mayor, and I think he was the mayor when we came here, then it was all one town then but a lot of people going down to shop in Jarvis Street said they were going to shop in Bridgeburg. Of course they had two of everything in those days. They had two libraries and two...of course they've still got two post offices.

R.H: Where was the other library?

B.P: Well when we first came here, the library was down at the foot of Bertie Street. I was trying to remember the other night where it was, and Garnet says that it's no longer there that it's an apartment

place. It's in the last place between Waterloo, and the blvd., and now there's a little store in there, and it's been there always and it was there when we came here...I think some people by the name of Hale ran that store. It was called Hale's store, and the library was right in there somewhere, and Mrs. Cousins was Librarian. She was librarian for many years. I don't suppose she had any library training. In those days you didn't, you just liked books and...you know. She was very dependable, and she was Librarian, and she was very very nice. She made us very welcome when we came here. We had not much to do with our time in the evening so we used to walk down to the library and get books, and so we became quite friendly with her, and she invited us to her house, and introduced us to some of the old St. Paul's people that she thought we should know if we were going to be established in the church. She lived in an apartment on Goderich Street and the building is long since gone, and she invited us to her house. Well the library was there for many years, and that was in the days when libraries were shush, shush places. You know if you brought your children in you had to make sure they didn't say anything. They were very quiet you know. But then the library moved to the legion hall on Queen Street, the Southend library. It was always the library in the Northend... it was in the old town hall. Upstairs in the town hall there was a library there too for the Northend people, but we very rarely went to that. Once in a while when we thought we had read everything interesting this library had to offer at this end, we'd say "let's go and see what's up in the Northend library." We'd go there very rarely. So it was on Queen Street for a long time, and Mrs. Cousins was there for many many years, and she finally went to live in a home in Toronto till eventually she died. I don't remember who took over after her, but then of course in sixty seven I guess it was, your big library was built, and that took the place of both libraries you see. They were amalgamated, and we've only been in it half a dozen times believe or not, yet we were in the old library continually. Well in those days that was cheap entertainment, and nowadays I buy books. Everything is coming out in paperback form, really good books...the good books that you used to have to borrow from the library, you can now go and pay three or four dollars for, and

read them and keep them on your shelf.

R.H: So you have your own library?

B.P: We have two bookcases downstairs full of books, as well as the ones in the front room. I tend to buy books rather than go to the library, and read them. We're probably missing something, but...

R.H: Well it's kind of nice to have your own books too.

B.P: Well I follow a series, and I think if we ever were snowed in we could read our way through all of them. We lend them to all our friends and if anybody's sick I pack a bag full of books and say "would you like to read some of these." I like books that are in a series. I've got several sets and I've got seventy authors nearly complete with all their books. But in those days the library was really a year round interest you see cause you couldn't afford babysitters, but you could take your children to the library if they were quiet. They worked such long hours too when we were first married. A man that would work ten hours a day six days a week doesn't feel like doing anything too exciting in the evenings, you know. They were long hours.

R.H: So you think the Central Avenue Bridge did divide the north and the south?

B.P: Well this definitely brought the town together more than it divided.

R.H: It brought it together, rather than...?

B.P: I think so. Definitely it was separate before, but when they put the bridge there people could go with such ease from one end of town to another. I think it's been the death of Jarvis Street to a large extent. Well now the mall...as long as Jarvis Street was there there was no mall. It still offered more than the business section in the Southend of town. Now we did have Dick Wade's shoe store in the Southend of town which was quite well patronized and the same...we had Charles drygoods store, and Camms used to have a... Merv Camm at one time had two drugstores, one on Jarvis Street, and one on Niagara Blvd.

R.H: What do you find different about the drugstores then, and now, do you find there's quite a bit of difference?

B.P: Well I guess they've always sold a variety of things, but I think they've gone a bit far out in the way they sell things. I don't remember being able to buy groceries, like nowadays you find so many...even groceries...like they're selling groceries in drugstores, and at first

I guess they weren't self-serve I don't really remember. I remember Camm's on Jarvis Street that later became Kib Billing. He worked for Camm's, and then when Camm died he took over the store and eventually it became Kib Billings. Then there was one in the middle of the Southend of town that was also Camm's and I don't know what it is now, but it was also Camm's store. But the Southend of town has never really been on a par with Jarvis Street, but now Jarvis Street isn't an awful lot better than the Southend of town you see since the mall was put in. And then Niagara Square has done an awful lot to kill business in Fort Erie. You know with the ease you can get to Niagara Square, and having more to offer...most of us would shop in town if we could get the things here, but there's no dress place for women in Fort Erie other than Toni Spiers on Princess Street, and she doesn't have too much of what you want. Even a men's store...now we do have two men's stores...we have the one, Exclusively Men's of Jarvis Street and the other one over here.

R.H: So you feel you had a lot more stores then of course?

B.P: Well with the mall we have more stores, but other than that we don't have as many in town I don't think like we used to have, but we've got Niagara Square. It's a pity, I feel sorry about it, I like small towns stores, and I like going into stores and people meeting you and greeting you by name and asking how the family is and...you know this sort of a...

R.H: The personal touch.

B.P: We had an a Avon ladies shop here for years down in the Southend. Down where the Damar Craft Store is you know, and Erie Jewellers down in there. Now it hasn't been gone too many years but that was a nice dress store. Halls Shoe Store really's about the longest that I can remember being there. It's been there a long time you know. I couldn't tell you how long but I know we took our children there for shoes. It must have been there thirty years or more but if it was there any longer than that I couldn't tell you, but then Agnew Surpass came into town you see and they probably...I imagine they made a little dent in Ken Halls business but basically Halls had a good solid following. People have bought shoes, and their parents, before them and the grandchildren and so on.

R.H: Do you, like when we were talking about the drugstores, do you think like some of the cures...like the medications they have now and the medications they had then...do you remember any of the old-fashioned...

B.P: Well I'm the wrong one to ask about drugstores...

R.H: Do you remember any of the old-fashioned cures?

B.P: Yes, well, I've got a book down there that's full of old-fashioned cures.

R.H: Like...what would you use on your own...family?

B.P: Yes that's basically...I'm still a do it yourself when it comes to drugs. I've never been one for taking prescriptions. Yes we used to...of course when I was a child naturally castor oil was the in thing. If you had anything wrong with you, you had castor oil, I can still taste it. If you went out in the evening and there was mosquitos you put citronella on and that was enough to keep everybody away, not only the bugs.. I don't remember...as I say I have never really used drug things to a great extent. If I have to take blood pressure pills I do, but other than that I've never been much for drugstores. It's hard to decide anymore. One time If you had a headache you took an aspirin, now you go and you look and there's aspirin, and anacin, and tylenols, and some other things that have just come out. It makes for a lot of decisions. Well it's like anything in life it's getting so complicated anymore...you know you have so many choices...you think it's easier with so many choices, but it isn't. It's the same as soap and anything else, you have so many soaps...so many different kinds of things to choose from, but I think that's largely... like drugsores to you know...you have band-aids, and iodine, and calamine lotion to put on anything that smarted and that was about it, but now they have come out with all these scientific things, and these types of things. Some of the things, not necessarily drugstore things really have been a boon, and I wonder how we've lived without them are things like scotch-tape, aluminum foil, handy-wrap, and plastic bags. As a child there was nothing like that. Scotch-tape was just a...well you tied everything with string and you can imagine doing a parcel now with no scotch-tape you wouldn't know where to start. You'd have to use mucilage,

and if you wanted something to stick you'd have to use mucilage. I think they've gone a bit too far though with some of the conveniences when they close holes in the can, and all you have to do is pull a label off to shake it and things like that. Now anybody can push a few holes in the top of a can. I think they've made life a little too easy. Of course one big change in drugstores now is the disposable diapers. I mean we had nothing like that. I mean we washed them and hung them on the line and put them back on again, but it seems funny now that washing is so easy and they don't wash. We had to wash in cold basements, and laundry tubs, and we had to use cloth diapers. Of course that's progress.

R.H: As you said that's progress, but what other changes have you seen?

B.P: Well in the old days it was hard when you were sick, but nowadays when you're ill you just treat it with sulphur or penicillin, and that's it. We wouldn't have our son if it wasn't for penicillin. When our son was down with a thing called septicaemia, and there was almost no hope for him they decided to try this experimental drug called penicillin that was just coming in. For it was during the war...it was just after the war and it had been developed during the war for infections and they started giving him massive doses of penicillin, and it saved his life. If there hadn't been penicillin I'm quite sure we wouldn't have Richard.

R.H: Was he in the hospital?

B.P: Yes, he'd just been born you see, he was just two days old.

R.H: Oh I see, was he born in Douglas?

B.P: Oh yes but that's another thing about hospitals. Up until the last few years and OHIP and all this medical insurance...your children weren't in the hospital...they could be very very sick and the doctor came to the house and gave them a shot. I mean our lad had Pneumonia several times when he was a small child and convulsions and the whole bit and you know, you phoned the doctor. There was never any suggestion of taking him to the hospital. I still can't get used to the idea that you can have a temperature of 104 degrees and you phone the doctor or the family phones the doctor, and the doctor says "well get them off to the hospital", and it could be ten below out, but that's the way you do now. To me...you didn't step foot outside. The doctor came to you, and you stayed in

your own bed. But that's all gone.

R.H: Who was the doctors around then when your...?

B.P: Well we had to go to Ridgeway. There was a Dr. Macey of Ridgeway and there was very few doctors in Fort Erie during the war, and most of them of course were serving in the forces. Dr. Derbyshire was down there on Austin just behind the power company there at the bottom of the hill on Queen Street. Dr. Derbyshire was just in that house behind the power company. I think there was a Dr. Street in the Northend if I remember rightly, but there wasn't many doctors around and when we were expecting our first child the men that my husband worked with at Fleet said there was this very good doctor down in Ridgeway (Macey) that had just come to town, and that he was doing very well with pregnancies and babies and so forth, so we started to go to him. I went to him till my son was sixteen years old. He was my doctor for many many years till he quit coming to Fort Erie. He started limiting his practice to Ridgeway, and Dr. Klisowsky had come to town then, and I started to go to him, and I've been with Dr. Klisowsky ever since. It's just like anything else during the war you were short of everything. They were short of nurses, and doctors, and you don't really realize it till you start thinking back. Well everybody said "well the army has to have the first demand on everything" which is quite true. Nobody really complained about that, but it made life a little bit complicated at times, but I do know that people didn't go to the doctor then either, the way they do now. I would never have thought of going to the doctors with a cold a few years ago. I'd wait until I was practically... ready for the undertaker...but now I'm like everybody else if I've got a bad chest cold and it doesn't seem to be getting any better I trot off to the doctor. I guess it's because it's free I guess.

R.H: Getting back to St. Paul's, did you have a lot of social gatherings?

B.P: Some. So many of them would come from other places, and we'd all been church workers where we were...

R.H: Was there a lot of immigrants?

B.P: Pardon?

R.H: Did you have any immigrants?

B.P: Not from other countries, largely just from other areas around. You see we just finished the great depression, and so many had been out of work, well when places like Fleet Aircraft began advertising

and were offering and paying them 50 cents an hour...which it was big pay, why people began coming in from all over you see to get the jobs at Fleet. My husband came of course from Chatham and I came from Sarnia cause that's where I lived, and others came from all other areas. some of them we had known back home but we were all in Fort Erie here and as I say our husbands worked long hours so we didn't have time nor energy for social life, or money. So we sorta banded together and in a way its nice, but in another ways it kept us from getting too well acquainted with local people. The local people were sort of here, and then those of us who came from out of town had our own little group. Well Archdeacon Burt wasn't very happy about this, so he thought some of us were really lonely and limited in our social contact so he got us all together and formed a couples club, and that was a mixture of both. Some of them were local couples that had been in Fort Erie, and others were those of us who had come from other places, so we did get to know a lot of local people through that and we used to get together at the hall and play cards and put on little amateur shows and charge admission and we gave the money to the services or something. Mainly we used to meet in each others homes, play cards and have lunch, and we'd visit back and forth and invite our friends for dinner.

R.H: Do you remember what was in for clothes...were hats popular?

B.P: No, not too much...of course you never went to church without a hat. I can remember how uncomfortable I felt when I finally went to church without a hat. Even yet I still get a feeling sometimes in church...I still put my hand up and feel its wrong sitting there without a hat on because it's so ingrained in you. Of course nobody hardly wears a hat to church now. And weddings, when my daughter was married in 1966 which isn't all that long ago (it will be 20 years next year) you know as the mother of the bride I had a hat and everyone else that had anything to do with it had a hat. Now I don't think any of the people wear hats to weddings or very rarely. Though they've come back a bit the last few years. Dress was much more formal. You had sunday clothes and you put them on to go to church sunday. Gloves we used to wear although...yes I guess I wore those to church a good deal though I haven't wore them now in many years. I still find this extremely unfmrly attire for church a little

hard to get used to. You know kids coming in in ragged jeans, and if that's all they had...yes..but it isn't. It's just that they figure thats what they wear around so its good enough for church. We never could go out in the kind of things that people come to church in now and I don't suppose most people of my generation could. We had church clothes and school clothes and when I was a child we changed our clothes and my children when they came home from school...of course everything had to be starched with my children. All my daughter's dresses were the kind that had to be starched and really ironed. They had to be damped, and ironed, and...One of the changes I really notice in clothes is the fact that people have so many for one thing, and another thing they never wear the same thing twice. Children going to school any more...you know they seem to come home and the thing isn't at all dirty, but they wear it to play in and they throw it in the wash, and the next day they have a completely different outfit on. Well it's largely the laundry facilities being so simple, so easy, that it's created this. When you had to go down and scrub things on a board or boil them on the stove the way my mother did and things like that you were pretty careful about what kind of a washing hamper you filled, but nowadays when you just lift a lid and throw them in and push a button...mothers don't worry about how many clothes their children wear so I don't know whether it's good or not.

R.H: Was Easter Sunday a big event?

B.P: Yes you dressed up. Oh Easter was very big. You didn't like to go to church unless you a had a new...something new anyway. You fussed over the children, and bought all new clothes if you could afford it or if not the older ones got fixed up as best you could and you had a new hat and gloves of course and the whole bit. You sat in church and noticed all the beautiful outfits on the other people but now nobody seems to put anything much different on for Easter than they do any other day. Of course I think the weather used to be a bit better at Easter at one time now it's almost like winter. If you had new clothes you wouldn't feel like you wanted to wear them anyway. Christmas has always been very nice at St. Paul's. I think for us when we were first here St. Paul's at Christmas...now, we were never right in town on Christmas day because we always

went back to see our families at Christmas but just before Christmas they always had a candlelight carol service that was very very nice. Now to us that was Christmas when we were at that service. We came away and we really felt now Christmas is officially started because we've had the carol service, and they used to sing all the old carols that everybody knew, and the church would be lit by candlelight and oh there was a real lot of feeling behind it, not that there isn't now, but it's just a little different. The fire department decided the candles were fire hazards and they were kind of dropped over the years. They've been reintroduced again recently in a limited degree, but not the way that we used to have them when we here. And then other churches in town started to have candlelight services but at that time ours was the only one that had a candlelight service.

R.H: What time was the service?

B.P: They usually were at 7 oclock in the evening, but of course to now with television, people don't want to come out on a sunday evening. You don't get the crowds you used to, not for anything. Before television, evensong was a regular thing people liked to go to church sunday evening, then they started having What's My Line and Ed Sullivan for years was on television. There were some really good sunday evening television programs. I think thats really what got people away from church sunday evening. You know they were cozy and they had the television and why go out sorta thing. We still go to St. James chapel but it's not open in the summer, its only just from September to May, early June, and we enjoy that, but thats only an hour, you still got lots of time for your television. But I'm not hooked on television anyway as far as that goes. I like it but I can do other things. I don't have to watch television, but I think a lot of the changes have been good.

R.H: So Christmas was simpler?

B.P: Yes I think so. Of course children got one or two nice things. I think the one thing that really strikes me about the way of living is the cost of everything. When I first saw a sign about two years ago that said special, stocking stuffers and they were things that cost \$8.95 and \$9.95...well now in my generation stocking stuffers were things like pencils, erasers, suckers, a few nuts, and an orange, and things like that and now you put calculators, and small cameras

and they're stocking stuffers. Another thing is the way wedding showers have snowballed. When I was getting married people would come to showers and they'd bring you a wooden spoon, a set of wooden spoons, or maybe a plastic mixing bowl or...oh not plastic, there was no plastic when I was getting married...you know a couple of dish-towels. Now they bring sheet sets and mixmasters, and things to showers. I find it rather hard to get used to this sort of thing. I think the world's gone rather mad when it comes to spending, but we all do it. I go in stores now and...of course I've got more money now, most of us have when you get to be our age, and our big expenses are behind us. We've got money to spend, and we spend it, and in a way that's good. I think the old idea of never spending anything unless you absolutely had to isn't too healthy. In the first place you've kept the money out of circulation and in the second, what are you holding it for...you know you're just leaving it for somebody else to spend, and it really makes little sense to pass it down from generation to generation and nobody ever spending it. So I think that went a little bit overboard that way, but I think on the other hand the way children nowadays want such magnificent things...you know you ask your grandchildren what they want for their birthdays, and you wished you hadn't asked.

R.H: I think television brought a lot of things into the home.

B.P: Oh yes, you can't buy anything for ten dollars now. Probably the spending money is the same too. When my sister and I were children, if we ever got a dime to spend or fifteen cents, or unbelievably a quarter we just couldn't credit it. Nowadays a child comes to you for a quarter, you don't give him a quarter you give him five dollars, but then of course it takes that much. We could go and have a banana-split for 15 cents, but I've no idea what a banana-split costs nowadays, it must cost a couple of dollars. And milkshakes, you could get a beautiful milkshake for a quarter, now I think they're about a dollar and a quarter so you see it's a whole new world. I often think that if the people that used to be here could rise up out of the ground, and come back they wouldn't know the place. I hate to see places come down, and I'm not much for progress, I know it's good, but I hate it cause I had it happen in my own home because my own family's house was axed, and a shopping mall put there, and I liked

it the way it was, and I feel sorry for these people...

R.H: Wasn't the telephone a luxury?

B.P: Well most people had phones before we did. Strangely enough neither my husband or I had phones at home before we were married, neither one of our parents...oh it was the common thing but for some reason or another we never had one. Now of course both our parents were English and they'd come out from England and they didn't have too many people to talk to on the phone so they didn't bother you see, they figured if anybody wanted them badly enough they'd come, so we didn't have phones and when we were first married we didn't have a phone in the apartment, and we didn't have a phone on Stanton Street. So I'd been married eight years before I'd moved on to Catherine Street, and there was a phone in the house, and I'd never in my life had a phone before so you see I was married eight years before I even got a phone. Now I've got five of them, so I really made up for it.

R.H: So you did like that part of progress?

B.P: Well I will admit I enjoy my phones. I'd feel really lost if anything hapened and the phones were out. That bit of progress I like. Oh there are certainly things that are good I'd hate to go back to defrosting my refridgerator all the time, and leaning over a laundry tub rinsing my clothes, and things like that but I think we're lost in a way more than we've gained after all you don't miss what you have'nt had. I was raised in the country and I like the simple life and I don't really like all this hoopla, but thats the way it is of course, you recognize it as such. And I don't like to see the money wasted at all, the way it is.

R.H: But this is a nice area.

B.P: I like it here. I like where we live it's quiet really. The arena across the road really doesn't bother us, and occasionally we have the excitement of something different over there, circuses, and horses, and things. I wouldn't want that all the time but every little while it's nice to have something break the monotony if you can call it that, though I don't consider it monotonous. But the sameness makes something just a little different. I like it over here yes, and now if I didn't have a car well I suppose I'm close to the mall, I could walk to the mall. It would be a little unhandy for church over here, but then

nobody really lives near St. Paul's Church anyway cause where its located practically everybody comes by car. Its not like Central United, and St. Michaels, and some of these that are in residential areas. Our church sorta sits by itself and very few people live within walking distance of St. Paul's and nearly everybody has to come by car. If I had no car I think I'd find it unhandy and of course the cost of cabs nowadays. I don't know what they used to cost as I have never taken cabs to an extent, but I know I took one the other day from Jarvis Street, and it was four dollars, so you see if you were doing it as a regular thing you'd find pretty expensive to take cabs everywhere. I think the bus service that we have, such as it is has been an improvement. I've never taken it because i've never had need, and some of the people that use it say it isn't too reliable but I don't know that. They say you could wait on a corner for quite a while before the bus comes along but I think we do need some sort of bus service. It isn't an easy town ti get round in if you don't have any kind of transportation, it isn't really. It's very spread out. It seems a long way from Bowen Road, to Lakeshore Road, or what have you or Dominion. There's no real closeness. I suppose if you looked at it from up in the air it would look like a long stretched out...its not big. I mean its not as big as Toronto or places like that, but its unhandy.

R.H: You need a car?

B.P: Yes you need a car, but I like Fort Erie, I like small towns where everybody knows everybody else. One of the things that first struck us was that everybody seemed to be related to everybody else in those days. Now that isn't true now because there's so many people. But when we first came here you didn't dare say a thing about anybody because you might find out that they were a cousin, or niece, or aunt to the person you were speaking to . Then you really felt embarrassed about it. Now a lot of the people at the church are related, interrelated, intermarriages, and things like that, but it's not nearly as prevalant as it was when we first came here because there's s so many newcomers in town these days. But the original old clan that were here when we first got here they all seemed to be related.

R.H: Well Mrs. Painter on behalf of the library I would like to think you for the interview. Thankyou so much.