

D R. W I L L I A M S. J U S T I C E

Interviewed by Dr. Bruce S. Greenawalt

June 11, 1979

S O U T H E R N H I G H L A N D S R E S E A R C H C E N T E R

University of North Carolina at Asheville

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Interview with Dr. William S. Justice, June 11, 1979, conducted by Dr. Bruce S. Greenawalt, Director of the Southern Highlands Research Center, University of North Carolina at Asheville, at the home of Dr. Justice, 14 White Oak Road.

Dr. Bruce S. Greenawalt: I suppose the first question, Dr. Justice, is where and when you were born.

Dr. William S. Justice: Son of Eliza Shipp Bynum and Butler Alexander Justice; born in Lincolnton, North Carolina, the 21st of May, 1900, at the home of my grandfather, the Rev. William Shipp Bynum.

Greenawalt: Your father's occupation?

Justice: He was a lawyer.

Greenawalt: In North Carolina? What sort of law did he practice?

Justice: He did general law, but he didn't last very long.

Greenawalt: When was your father born?

Justice: I don't have the date in mind; I have the record, but I don't have the date in mind.

Greenawalt: Did he practice in North Carolina?

Justice: He practiced in North Carolina; in Rutherfordton, North Carolina, for a time.

Greenawalt: How was it that you came to be born in your grandparents' home?

Justice: Because, unlike today when Mother takes over daughter's household while daughter goes to the hospital to have her baby, in those days, in the absence of convenient hospitals, it was customary for a daughter to go to her mother's home to have a baby.

Greenawalt: Your father was a lawyer, but did he live in town or in the country?

Justice: He lived in Rutherfordton, North Carolina. He had a very unfortunate career. He was considered very brilliant, and a prospect for higher politics in North Carolina, but ceased practice in 1913 (I think it was) while he was very young. He did not live up to his family's hopes and expectations.

Greenawalt: While we are in that generation, why don't you tell me something about your mother? She was of what family, again?

Justice: Eliza Shipp Bynum.

Greenawalt: Is that the same Bynum family here in town?

Justice: Yes; Curtis Bynum was my uncle. The Bynums must have been slave-owners, since there are several blacks in town of the name.

Greenawalt: Do you know when she was born?

Justice: I have the dates recorded: Born December 22, 1876, in Charlotte; died September 5, 1959, in Asheville.

Greenawalt: When did your father stop practicing law?

Justice: I think it was 1913.

Greenawalt: Then he died?

Justice: At that time, he died. My mother and father were separated in 1907, at which time we went to live in Petersburg, Virginia.

Greenawalt: You, with your mother?

Justice: I, and my sister, who was two years younger, and my little brother, who was just an infant in arms at the time my mother and father were separated.

Greenawalt: So that was the size of the family: three children?

What about your Grandfather Justice?

Justice: He was a cotton planter before the war; read law while he was on guard duty as a Captain in the Confederate army. Incidentally, while he was patrolling in the Swannanoa Valley he met his wife, Margaret Leah Smith.

Greenawalt: Was that in Swannanoa, or was she down East somewhere?

Justice: The meeting took place at what later became the Alexander Inn, which I believe is being preserved.

Greenawalt: Were they married during the war, or after?

Justice: I don't have the dates. I think it was shortly after the war. The only thing I remember definitely: that the turkey served at the wedding feast cost twenty dollars a pound in Confederate money, so it must have been just after the war.

Greenawalt: Your Grandfather Justice, you say . . .

Justice: He became a Superior Court Judge.

Greenawalt: After the war?

Justice: After, yes. He was appointed Superior Court Judge, and later was twice re-elected as Superior Court Judge, and died in Asheville during a court session in 1921.

Greenawalt: So his career as a judge perhaps spanned most of the years after the war until 1921, and was most of that in Asheville?

Justice: He was a Superior Court Judge in this judicial district, and was assigned to various courts, as Superior Court Judges still are.

Greenawalt: But he made Asheville his home?

Justice: No; he still lived in Rutherfordton.

Greenawalt: What happened to the cotton plantation? Was he able to revive it?

Justice: No.

Greenawalt: But he continued to live there, or did he lose it altogether?

Justice: He lost it; at least, I never remember it; I remember only his home in the outskirts of Rutherfordton.

Greenawalt: So you have visited the land where the plantation once was?

Justice: Yes; the site was pointed out to me.

Greenawalt: What did he grow besides cotton?

Justice: Probably peaches and melons. Rutherford County was famous for both.

Greenawalt: Let's move forward to your own early years. Where were you educated?

Justice: I was educated in private schools.

Greenawalt: In Rutherfordton?

Justice: No; you see, we moved to Virginia in 1907, when I was seven years old, and I was educated in private schools; two years in public school; then we had governesses until I outgrew the governesses, after which time I had a tutor. In 1914 to 1917 I attended Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia.

Greenawalt: Were you living right in Petersburg at this time?

Justice: No; we had moved. I told you, I think, we made our first

Justice: (Cont'd.) trip to this area in 1911, to Arden, where my mother had a summer home. Later we stayed there all the year 'round for several years. There was a settlement of South Carolinians out there, among whom were several relatives.

Greenawalt: How did you make that trip in 1911?

Justice: By car.

Greenawalt: By automobile?

Justice: By automobile; yes.

Greenawalt: That must have been an amazing trip.

Justice: It was an adventure.

Greenawalt: How long did it take you?

Justice: Five days, if everything went perfectly. I told you the other day (I don't know whether you made a note of it or not) that on one occasion it took us half a day to drive from Bridgewater to Marion because of the mudholes, and on another occasion we were towed into Durham by a team of oxen, after twisting the universal joint in two when we caught a rear wheel between rocks while fording a creek.

Greenawalt: I recall the story.

Justice: Then we spent three weeks, I think it was, in Durham waiting for parts to be delivered from Atlanta.

Greenawalt: What kind of automobile was it?

Justice: It was a Maxwell, a 1911 Maxwell.

Greenawalt: I'm a bit confused here: your mother was living in Petersburg, but somewhere or other she got what was first a summer cottage in Arden and you made your first trip there in 1911, then

Greenawalt: (Cont'd.) you finally moved to this area permanently. When?

Justice: I think it was probably soon thereafter that we moved. Mother committed a complete folly, being very, very patriotic, and bought a farm down in Virginia to raise wheat.

Greenawalt: To help the war effort.

Justice: To help the war effort, but when the Negroes all left to go to work in the munitions plants in the neighborhood she couldn't farm it any more, and finally sold it.

Greenawalt: That seems to be quite a career your mother was following.

Justice: We were wanderers. You see, my father had accumulated nothing. He didn't practice law long enough to accumulate anything, and we were living on the income from the stocks that my mother had inherited from her grandfather, my great-grandfather, William Preston Bynum, who had freed his slaves and sold his plantation even before the war. He was a Colonel in the Confederate Army and, like my Grandfather Justice, read law during his service. He was very successful, in the end becoming a Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. As a result of his generosity we had enough income for a modest living. We weren't tied down; we just went where the notion struck us.

Greenawalt: Who did the driving for you on this 1911 trip? Your mother wasn't. . .

Justice: My mother was the first woman in either North Carolina or Virginia to drive an automobile, I think.

Greenawalt: On this trip, you were there, your mother, your young brother?

Justice: My mother, sister and brother; yes.

Greenawalt: That was quite an adventure for a woman to take.

Justice: Yes; she had a friend, an old school friend, that lived with us for several years, who was of a prominent Virginia family. Her name was Anna Mercer Dunlop. Her people were tobacco manufacturers.

Greenawalt: This trip was at least twelve years before North Carolina started passing highway bills to improve the roads. Surely the roads you were following must have been lanes, farm roads.

Justice: There were no road maps, or anything of that sort. We had a little "blue book" that gave very indefinite directions. For the most part you found your way by following the deepest ruts.

Greenawalt: A trip that would normally take five days, but which on this occasion took at least ten days since you were tied up in Durham for. . .

Justice: Oh, that was three weeks, I think, we spent on that trip.

Greenawalt: Did your mother ever get out of heart that she'd set out?

Justice: I never knew her to; she didn't show it to us. For several years we did our shopping in Asheville, frequently by horse and buggy if the weather was bad.

Greenawalt: Let's return to your education. You mentioned going to the Episcopal High School. That was in Petersburg?

Justice: Alexandria, Virginia. It is one of the better-known prep schools; certainly one of the finest prep schools in the South, and recognized nationally.

Greenawalt: And then you went on to college?

Justice: I went to the University of North Carolina; I entered in 1917 and graduated in 1920. I saw in the paper the other day a big write-up of some young man that had graduated in something like two years. Of course, they encouraged him, but they put every obstacle they could in my way to keep me from graduating in three years.

Greenawalt: What led you to want to graduate in three years?

Justice: My mother was paying for my education and her income was limited. As a matter of fact, by that time she had three children in college and had moved to Chapel Hill.

Greenawalt: Were you there when Tom Wolfe was a student in Chapel Hill?

Justice: Yes. [He grimaces]

Greenawalt: So apparently you didn't like what you saw.

Justice: He was. . . of course there's no question of his having talent, but he was very retiring. We'd go to a rally before a big football game and all the rest of the boys would be whooping it up and building a big bonfire, and way back in the shadows this . . . never spoke to anyone, never replied when you said "Hello," and in those days, with seven hundred and, I think there were seven hundred and twenty students when I first went to the University. . . there was something queer about you if you didn't have a speaking acquaintance with the people you passed as you went across the campus. It was: "Bill," and "Henry," and "Joe," in addition to your intimate friends.

Greenawalt: Do you think he was merely backward because of his, perhaps, environment, or was he conceited?

Justice: No; he was just extremely shy, I think. But he wasn't a very pleasant or approachable person.

Greenawalt: Do you remember any other classmates that may be worthy of mention? Was Artus Moser one of your classmates?

Justice: I don't remember him.

Greenawalt: After you graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1920, you went on to. . .

Justice: I went to work for the British-American Tobacco Company.

Greenawalt: What had you majored in, in college?

Justice: Actually, I majored in Romance Languages. You see, I knew a good many people in Chapel Hill. In those days we boys would go downtown, down on Main Street (they've been writing a lot about main streets in the papers recently). We'd go down on the main street to a cafe, maybe in our B.V.D.'s, during the warm days of spring and early summer. Ladies didn't go on Main Street in Chapel Hill after dark.

Greenawalt: Is this Franklin Street you're talking about?

Justice: Yes; that was the main North-South street. They just didn't go there. Archibald Henderson, who was at that time head of the Mathematics Department, was my uncle-in-law, and through him I met a great many people; through him and my aunt. I was called upon to escort ladies home from bridge games at the Hendersons along the back streets in Chapel Hill to avoid going out on Franklin Street.

Justice: (Cont'd.) One very good friend of mine was Dr. Dey, D-e-y, who was head of the Romance. . . I don't remember what his name was, but we called him "Billy," behind his back, of course. He was a good friend, but he kept me from making Phi Beta Kappa.

Greenawalt: By giving you a "C" in a course?

Justice: No, he didn't give me a "C," he gave me an "A" or a "B+" (condition) because of absences, and I had to do a penalty. I registered for a class in Spanish at 10:30 and it was shifted to an 8:30 class, and I just didn't get up to go to the 8:30 class, and got a condition on the course, which cut me out of Phi Beta Kappa. From then on I made no effort to keep my grades up.

Greenawalt: Still, a major in Romance Languages seems to be a strange background for someone going to work for the British-American Tobacco Company.

Justice: That was an accident, too. At the beginning of my third year I needed nine courses to graduate. The major required nine to twelve courses. I went up and asked to be allowed to major in Economics, and said that I didn't need but nine to graduate, but I was perfectly willing to take twelve courses if the head of the department saw fit. I was told that I could not take my whole major in one year. I thought it was a good idea to concentrate on one subject for a year, but the powers didn't agree. I had already worked out my minor in Romance Languages, so I said, "Okay, I'll finish out my major in Romance Languages and minor in Economics." I was interested only in getting my Bachelor's degree as quickly as I could to save my mother from additional expenditure.

Greenawalt: When you went to work for the British-American Tobacco Company, you at least had a minor in Economics. How did they employ you?

Justice: I was in training for manufacture. It's incidental, but when they broke up the old American tobacco trust, they didn't do a darn thing but put the British-American Tobacco Company on one side of the street and the American Tobacco Company on the other side of the street; both of them manufacturing exactly the same products Liggett & Myers, W.D. and H.O. Wills, all of the brands each one was manufacturing. But the American Tobacco Company manufactured for domestic use and the British-American for export. We'd go over to American Tobacco to get materials if we needed them for the British-American. I was in training for foreign service. I was barely twenty when I graduated from college. I was twenty on the 21st of May and graduated on the 6th of June; just missed graduating when I was nineteen.

Due to a little family friendship, the manager of the district in Petersburg, knowing that I would not be considered at age twenty, told the headquarters in New York that I was twenty-five; reserving the right to decide whether or not I was capable of handling any job that might be offered. I was offered a job to go to Australia to put up a small branch factory, accompanied by my choice of machinists. All of a sudden, after an operation in Richmond, Virginia which I think may have stimulated my decision, I resigned.

Greenawalt: Is that where you were living at the time, in Richmond?

Justice: We were living in Petersburg. . . oh, we were living between Petersburg and Richmond by that time, on the place that Mother had bought.

Greenawalt: The farm.

Justice: I decided all of a sudden to study medicine.

Greenawalt: After one year? Was this 1921?

Justice: Yes. Then I went back to Chapel Hill to take all of the Chemistry, Zoölogy, Botany, etc., that were pre-medical requirements. I had taken none of them. Then, because of Mother's limited funds, I stayed in Chapel Hill and took my first two years of Medicine in the two-year Medical School at the University of North Carolina, and then transferred to Harvard.

Greenawalt: This brings us to about 1923?

Justice: In 1924 I transferred to Harvard. I was the second man from the two-year Medical School in Chapel Hill that had ever transferred to Harvard.

Greenawalt: And you were at Harvard for how long?

Justice: I graduated at Harvard; got my M.D. in 1926, and worked at various hospitals: Massachusetts General, Boston Lying-In Hospital, Peter Brent Brigham, Boston Children's Hospital, Free Hospital for Women in Brookline, and finally ended up as resident surgeon at the Boston City Hospital.

Greenawalt: When you say resident surgeon, does this, at that time, suggest a training beyond the usual medical school, in surgery?

Justice: I graduated in '26 and came down here in '31. I had

Justice: (Cont'd.) five years' internships and residencies, which was practically unheard of at that time. For some reason or other, I think that my underlying reason probably was that the people down here needed my training more than the people around the Boston area. I had several offers to stay in the Boston area; some very good ones, but I decided that my training, and whatever talents I had, were more needed here, where they didn't have anything.

When I arrived in town, Julian Moore was the only thoroughly trained individual here. They had a picture of his grandson in the paper yesterday, I think, as king of the Rhododendron Festival. Jim Lynch and Bob Ivey had had some training; Julian Moore had had adequate training, and he and I were the only ones that really had adequate training when I arrived in town.

Greenawalt: Out of how many physicians? Would you estimate?

Justice: Oh, lordy, I don't know.

Greenawalt: I'm sure there must have been people around who were still graduates of the apprentice-type training that had been popular at the turn of the century.

Justice: That was everybody, except Jim Lynch, who had had some training, and Bob Ivey, and I think, probably Joe Adams.

Greenawalt: What about some of the doctors who were in town treating tubercular patients?

Justice: I mentioned, the other day, Schoenheit, S-c-h-o-e-n-h-e-i-t. They had the Winyah Sanitarium. Somebody in that group came from Germany; came over here to specialize because this was considered a

Justice: (Cont'd.) center for the treatment of tuberculosis. At that time the treatment of tuberculosis hadn't progressed to the point where you could stay at home (which you can now) and a great deal was attributed to climate.

Greenawalt: I saw a photograph of the office of Dr. Ambler.

Justice: I was coming to that. Ambler also had Ambler Sanitarium for the treatment of tuberculosis. I gave you that name, too; he was Chase Ambler. His son, Arthur Ambler, inherited his father's sanitarium and tuberculosis practice. We had absolutely no anesthesia. Anesthesia consisted of some general practitioner dropping ether on a cone; it was just barbarous.

Greenawalt: We are talking now about 1930, when you arrived in town?

Justice: Nineteen thirty-one, when I arrived in town; yes. Arthur, appreciating the need for anesthesia, started a procedure here. He gave up the Ambler Sanitarium and went to New York, where he spent two years specializing in training in anesthesia, and then came back to town and started anesthesia. He was a pioneer in anesthesia. Dr. John Hoskins can tell you (John and Martha Hoskins still live here-- I don't know whether he's doing anything) . . . but they established the anesthesia department at Mission and took calls to other hospitals also.

Greenawalt: At this time, Asheville had one hospital?

Justice: No; there was also this little Aston Park Hospital. I can't tell you much about the history of the Aston Park Hospital except that Miss Emily Mashburn, affectionately known as "Miss Em,"

Justice: (Cont'd.) was the head nurse and ran the Aston Park Hospital. I have never seen anywhere patients get more tender and more loving care than they did under "Miss Em." She held her nurses in line.

Greenawalt: You mentioned a lack of training for many of the physicians when you came to town, what about the nurses?

Justice: Twarn't none. There were three hospitals in town: the old Mission. . .

Greenawalt: That was physically in what is now the Parkway Building?

Justice: Yes; it was over there, the Parkway Building. I think the old nurses' dormitory was removed by the Baptist Church. The nurses got a poor and sketchy training, or practically none at all, but certainly not adequate training.

Mission Hospital was so named because it was run by the ladies of the Flower Mission, a group of lovely but somewhat impractical ladies who made most of the money by selling flowers. It became Memorial Mission Hospital only after it moved and a memorial plaque was put up. Like many other hospitals, it became "memorial" when they put up plaques to the dead in World War I.

Greenawalt: You began to mention a third hospital.

Justice: Old Biltmore; it was built by George Vanderbilt. He built the village of Biltmore. I'm sure that the Cecil boys, probably more likely Bill, because he is interested; George is interested in agriculture, and Bill is interested in tourism and history and what not; historical preservation. . . so I would try Bill Cecil.

The original hospital later was used as a nurses' residence. The nurses were already graduated, I think. Sometime after the new

Justice: (Cont'd.) hospital was built (and I can't tell you who built the new hospital) a nurses' training school was established in the Biltmore Hospital.

I was Chief of Staff at the Biltmore Hospital in 1951 when it became obvious that it was financially disastrous. There was very superior care, but very limited capacity. Because of this limited capacity, the increasing costs of personnel and equipment, and other necessities, it was impossible to continue operation. The assets were given to the Mission Hospital; old Biltmore was discontinued.

Later on the Mission Hospital moved down to what is now the Memorial Mission Hospital. I think it was '55 and '56 that I was Chief of Staff there and tried to get some rules and regulations established for behavior of physicians. When I came here in '31, there was nothing. There were no rules, regulations, or anything else. A doctor would take out something in the operating room and stick it in his pocket or throw it in the trash; no check whatsoever.

Greenawalt: You're thinking of a check by the pathology department?

Justice: Yes; between Julian Moore and me, we got a pathology department established at old Biltmore. I can't remember his name to save my life . . . he was an excellent internist. . . Craddock. We called him "Nifty." And that's the only damn name I can remember.

Greenawalt: Was that the first pathology department in town?

Justice: Yes; that was established. . . it must have been around '32 that we got that established. We got Annie Lee Blauvelt, B-l-a-u-v-e-l-t, who was a bright little girl. She was the daughter of old man Blauvelt at Adams-Blauvelt Pharmacy, which was up in the

Justice: (Cont'd.) old Flat Iron Building. That was the leading pharmacy in town. It was the predecessor of the Adams Professional Pharmacy now. The present owner is the son of the old Adams that was in Adams-Blauvelt.

Little Annie Lee Blauvelt was a smart little girl, and Craddock trained her; in addition to being a splendid internist, he was also a durned good pathologist. He trained her as a technician to preserve the specimens and to prepare and stain them for examination under the microscope; which Craddock did. That was the first check they'd had. Hair began to fly.

Greenawalt: What do you mean by that?

Justice: People that had been doing unnecessary operations with impunity were checked on, and could know that it was a requirement; they had to send a specimen. They had that regulation passed by the Board of Trustees that the specimens had to go to the laboratory.

Greenawalt: Before operating, or after?

Justice: Oh, the specimens removed at operations had to go to the laboratory. Once the Biltmore Hospital had done it, the Mission had to follow suit.

Greenawalt: Had it much resistance from physicians?

Justice: I was in an unfortunate position many times. When I was Chief of Staff at Biltmore, all the ladies in town worshipped old Alec White. He delivered all the babies. As a matter of fact, I was working at Boston Lying-In when he came up there to take a post-graduate course; and thinking they already knew the basics, we

Justice: (Cont'd.) didn't call the post-graduates for the ordinary deliveries. We'd call them for some abnormal delivery. White got the false idea that we were doing versions and extractions on all the patients, since that is all he saw. Actually we were very emphatic as to letting them deliver normally as far as they could at Boston Lying-In. I started to go into obstetrics and then changed my mind and took my residency in surgery instead of obstetrics.

He came back and was doing versions and extractions on all of his babies, and breaking arms and legs and everything else. In addition to that, he was booking operations, because, as I say, all the ladies worshipped him. He was booking these operations and having his assistant do the operations because he wasn't capable of doing them. I threw him off the staff at Biltmore because of that: he was doing "ghost" surgery. He was well established. . .

Greenawalt: Did he continue his practice elsewhere?

Justice: He went to Mission. Tom Huffines, who was a. . .

[End of Tape I, Side I]

[Side II]

Justice: (Cont'd.) . . . urologist, and developed urology in town, was Chief of Staff over at Mission. Alec White was his very close buddy, and I called Tom and asked him to stop Alec from doing so-called operations. As I say, they were being done, actually, by his assistant; and that was, we called it "ghost" surgery.

Greenawalt: You mentioned the urology department a moment ago.

Was that another development of the early '30's?

Justice: It actually took place in the late '20's, I think. Grantham was the pioneer urologist, and I don't know just when he came here. He was here; he was the grand old man of urology when I came. Tom Huffines worked with him, and then Tom Huffines went on and became a competent urologist.

Greenawalt: Dr. Justice, you're describing what from this perspective seems to be a very primitive medical situation in Asheville. Was it Asheville, or was this the general picture across America?

Justice: It wasn't across America. I think it was probably the general picture in the South, certainly in the Southeast.

Greenawalt: And maybe more so in the mountains than in the lowlands?

Justice: Probably.

Greenawalt: A moment ago you were listing hospitals, and I meant to ask you at that time about the Norburn Hospital over on Montford Avenue. Was that also there in the thirties?

Justice: That was there; yes. It was supported almost entirely by patients from Champion Paper and Fibre Company. The practice was to keep the patient there, no matter how well he got, until there was another patient to fill the bed. Old man Reuben Robertson, who was a smart old fellow, waked up to what was going on. He had been deluded by his wife, who was a nice, sweet lady, but very favoring of her daughter, Hope, who married Russell Norburn.

Greenawalt: He was the founder of the hospital?

Justice: No, Charlie was the big shot; Russell was the book-keeper. He was supposed to be a surgeon, but was completely incompetent. Now Charlie was technically a good surgeon, but he was doing a lot of unnecessary operations. When he lost the support of Champion Paper, he lost his hospital.

Then he went over to old Mission. That's when we established these tissue committees. Following the establishment of the pathology lab we established tissue committees to check the laboratory reports; the pathologist's reports on specimens that were removed at operations. I had the great misfortune of being on the tissue committee; chairman of the tissue committee, at the Mission, and had to tell Charlie Norburn that he was no longer welcome at the Mission because he was doing unnecessary surgery.

He then moved down to Victoria, which later (with additions) became Memorial Mission. He got into trouble down there. I wasn't concerned with that, thank God. But he got into trouble down there about doing unnecessary gallbladder surgery. It was a pity, because technically, I would say he was a good, competent, surgeon; just a little bit too much guided by a desire for gain.

Greenawalt: At this point you had an office somewhere, I suppose?

Justice: My first office was an old building over on College Street. I was taken under the wing of Jim Lynch and Dr. Elias (Lewis Elias), and Dr. Cotton, who had offices in this little old converted

Justice: (Cont'd.) residence on College Street. I had an office there for a while, and then went to various places, as construction development tore down one building and put up another.

The nicest office I had was in the Arcade Building, where I had my own individual office, arranged with a waiting room made to look like a living room, with no evidences of a Doctor's office. It was really a very nice office, but the Government took that over and threw us out.

At that time, Craddock had been joined by Dr. Walter Johnson, a very excellent internist and gastroenterologist, trained at Mayo Clinic. His widow still lives over here, diagonally across the street from the Country Club. They squeezed up a little bit and gave me their extra space for a rather small office.

Dr. Westbrook Murphy, Dr. Klostermyer. . . (I've forgotten which one got here first) were the original X-ray doctors, Klostermyer and Murphy. Westbrook was the moving spirit in building the Doctors' Building, which was a great boon.

Before that I had very inadequate offices for a while in an old, broken-down, remodeled residence on Grove Street.

Greenawalt: So the appearance of the Doctors' Building allowed the concentration of various specialties, I guess, in one place, plus giving you superior physical facilities and security.

Justice: Yes. Now, you asked about the medical care of Negroes. There just wasn't any until Dr. Mary Frances Shuford (she's still living, I think). . . she's the aunt of Fuller Shuford, who is an

Justice: (Cont'd.) internist here in town, with Corcoran.

Corcoran was later taken in by Craddock and Johnson, and he is now associated with Fuller Shuford, and they've just recently taken in another doctor or two. They do internal medicine and gastroenterology.

She established a little hospital in an old, converted residence, with a very excellent nurse, a Mrs. Miller, to help with the care of the patients and to help with the operating room. Most of the doctors thought it was beneath their dignity to go over and operate in this little dump. I was stupid enough to go over there and operate.

Later she ran out of money. Some friend of hers had given her an endowment. That's how she was able to establish this little place in the beginning. Negro doctors were not allowed to practice in the Biltmore or Mission. Later on there was a special section established where Negro patients could be admitted, but the Negro doctors couldn't take care of them in the hospitals. Much later, at Mission Hospital, they could take their patients in and take care of them. But they did give some drop ether for operations in Dr. Polly Shuford's little hospital to save their patients' money for operations.

Greenawalt: You did perform surgery there, more than once?

Justice: Yes, I did; many times. I gave her a certain number of afternoons a week, to do her surgery.

Greenawalt: When was this, Dr. Justice? About what year? Was it in the thirties, still?

Justice: I think so. You could get the records from Dr. John Holt. He is a fine, public-spirited citizen. His father was a very fine, pioneer colored doctor. You can ask Dr. John Holt about his father, and please do, because he was a very fine, outstanding man.

After that little hospital was closed, due to the efforts of various people, the Buncombe County Medical Society was finally prodded into helping to establish the Asheville Colored Hospital, down on the corner of Biltmore Avenue and Southside. It later became a mortuary.

Greenawalt: The Jesse Ray Funeral Home?

Justice: The Jesse Ray Funeral Home; they took it over. There, of course, the Negro doctors could admit their patients, and did, and gave the anesthetics. By that time I had hired for myself a nurse-assistant; she just followed me around and assisted me. . . I don't remember what afternoons. . . but I gave the Asheville Colored Hospital two afternoons a week to operate on patients that had been admitted by their colored doctors.

Greenawalt: I've come across the records of a Torrence Hospital on Hill Street. Do you know anything about it? Again, for Negroes.

Justice: I don't recall.

Greenawalt: You mentioned that many physicians thought practice at Shuford's hospital beneath notice. Did you receive any criticism from them?

Justice: Just incidental criticism for being a damn fool, but nothing that was hurtful.

Greenawalt: Before she established her hospital, what would a Negro with appendicitis do? Where would they go?

Justice: The Lord only knows; I don't know what happened to the poor creatures. I don't remember what the policy of the Norburn Hospital was about Negro patients; just don't remember. But I know that there was a great change when Polly Shuford established her place, and when the Asheville Colored Hospital was established. Later on, when Memorial Mission was established, there was a wing in which Negroes were admitted.

Greenawalt: That was the 1950's?

Justice: The old Victoria wing where Negroes were admitted, and their doctors could take care of them. Gradually, as integration progressed, the Negro doctors were extended privileges.

Greenawalt: Earlier, you mentioned the complete lack of training, or at least the poor training that many physicians had when you arrived here in 1931. When did you begin to notice the change, the improvement?

Justice: Shortly thereafter. Kermit Brown came to town.

Greenawalt: Who was Kermit Brown?

Justice: He was the pioneer obstetrician and gynecologist; pioneer trained obstetrician and gynecologist. He took in Fletcher Sluder. Sluder is still practicing.

Greenawalt: Were some of these people coming in to town trained at Southern schools by now?

Justice: I can't tell you where they were trained; but they were. Most of them were trained in the North. There were very few schools in the South with adequate training, except possibly in Atlanta; very few training places except in Atlanta.

Greenawalt: In the thirties you began to see the arrival of physicians who had been trained in schools. What happened to some of these older physicians who came out of the apprentice system? Was there much tension between the two groups?

Justice: A bit of tension in instances; yes. I told you that Jim Lynch kind of adopted me, and why he did. Pinckney Herbert, who was a gentleman from Virginia, also took me under his wing for no reason at all that I know of, except that one time he did remark that I was the only person that had come to town from whom he had learned anything. He was doing major chest surgery. He was the society doctor.

All of the places in those days: the schools, the manufacturing establishments, everything. . . had their own physicians, and the physicians had consulting surgeons. I inherited the job as consulting surgeon at Biltmore Estate; at the Owens place in Swannanoa; at the Asheville School. . . from Pinckney. From somebody else I inherited the job as consulting surgeon to Christ School and at Warren Wilson College, which was then the Farm School.

Greenawalt: When you talk about surgery in these decades of the thirties and the forties, I suppose each surgeon was still pretty much a general surgeon?

Justice: Yes; they began to specialize. Julian Moore had very extensive training in thoracic surgery. He was doing some general surgery, but was emphasizing thoracic surgery.

Greenawalt: Let's return now, again, to the hospitals and medicine in the thirties. Did you see or hear about any impact that the economic depression might have been having on hospitals, with fewer people going to hospitals?

Justice: Oh, yes; yes.

Greenawalt: Were the hospitals feeling the pinch? Were they having difficulty making it economically?

Justice: Yes.

Greenawalt: What about physicians?

Justice: It was hard to mouth. Fortunately, I had kept my war risk insurance and paid the assessments. I floated myself by borrowing money on my veterans' insurance.

Greenawalt: What did physicians do in that period when they apparently had a patient who could not pay, or who promised to pay and then, because of circumstances, could not?

Justice: Some of them turned them over to collecting agencies.

Greenawalt: What about the social role of the physician? In the time that you've been practicing, have you seen any change?

Justice: You know I, unfortunately, was born in the old South, and brought up in the old South, and the only people that were socially acceptable were the professional men: the physicians, lawyers and ministers. Tradespeople just weren't accepted. I remember when Craddock, whose name I have mentioned several times, married Anne Lockett. Something was said to Mrs. Lockett about inviting a fellow that ran (I have forgotten what his name was; it wasn't Matthews). . . the man that was at that time running Matthews Jewelry. . . it's changed now to Schiffman's Jewelers; they bought it out. There was never a nicer person in this world than the man that was running Matthews Jewelry at that time. He had bought it out from Matthews. Something was said about asking this man; he had ordered all the silver and other stuff. She picked out her pattern and we went by and bought a little bit of silver in her pattern for a wedding present, I think. "One doesn't invite one's jeweler." She was old South. Physicians have always been among the socially elect.

Greenawalt: So that's remained constant, in your experience?

Justice: Oh, yes. Less so, in recent years, due both to the physicians and to the recipients of their care. Some fault on both sides; the criticism that has arisen of the medical profession. They are not quite as socially acceptable as they were before that criticism arose. But you've noticed in the paper recently that the Rhododendron Brigade of Guards had a couple of physicians in there as high knockers, and the grandson of Julian Moore, a physician, was

Justice: (Cont'd.) King of Rhododendron. One of the leaders in society here was Pinckney Herbert. He was very much looked up to.

I told you I inherited from Pinckney the position of Consulting Surgeon to Biltmore Estate, and to Jack Cecil, a fine and generous gentleman, the privilege of whose friendship I enjoyed for years.

Greenawalt: You have mentioned various people who became "the" doctor for this, or that. It sounds that, perhaps you became one yourself.

Justice: I had people that liked me, and some that didn't.

Greenawalt: Today Asheville is something of a medical center.

Justice: With the establishment of all these teaching areas, MAHEC; Asheville has become the teaching center for Western North Carolina. It has always been the center for medical care for the whole of Western North Carolina.

Greenawalt: Even in the thirties, when it was so deplorably un-equipped?

Justice: Yes; because the rest of the places were far less well-equipped. Out in the country there was practically nothing. There were a few scattered doctors out in the country that persuaded their patients, maybe, to come to their offices, or rode out to see them.

Greenawalt: I suppose the growth of Asheville as a medical center was sometimes at the expense of smaller hospitals out in small towns.

Justice: I thoroughly disapproved of the establishment of the

Justice: (Cont'd.) smaller hospitals out in the smaller towns. The quality of medicine practiced there, for the most part, was very inferior. I always felt that what Duke Endowment should have done was to promote a big center in Asheville for this area and, if necessary, endow some of the surrounding areas with an ambulance to haul their patients in to the Center, rather than putting up these little hospitals in which the practice of medicine was far inferior.

Greenawalt: What were some of the hospitals that the Duke Endowment helped set up in this region?

Justice: One over in Waynesville; one down in Bat Cave. I think the one down at Bat Cave was aided by Duke Endowment. But the practice there has markedly improved in recent years.

Greenawalt: What about the hospital in Fletcher? Did the Duke Endowment have anything to do with it?

Justice: I don't think that hospital in Fletcher, I'm not sure whether the Duke Endowment. . . you can find out from Dr. Vollmer. There isn't a better internist in town than Vollmer. I have always had a great admiration for the Seventh Day Adventists.

Greenawalt: Is that V-a-r-m-e-r?

Justice: V-o-double l -m-e-r, Vollmer. Those people are honestly devoted to doing for their fellow man. They not only profess, but they practice what they preach. They are unaffected, unassuming, honest, and upright people.

John and Ethel Brownsberger had a little office down

Justice: (Cont'd.) here in Biltmore. I think that was probably an old converted residence, too. John Brownsberger was, well, the two of them (but chiefly John Brownsberger) were responsible to a large degree for the establishment of that hospital, the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital, out in Fletcher. He was certainly one of the leading spirits in the establishment of that hospital; and you know there's another one, a rest home.

Greenawalt: Pisgah Manor, I believe.

Justice: Pisgah Manor, and those people out there are treated with kindness, respect, and affection. The nurses are very closely supervised, and if one is caught . . . all of the nurses, I believe, aren't Adventists. They didn't have enough Adventist nurses trained at their little training center out there. But I know that if those nurses are unkind to patients and it is discovered, something is done about it very promptly. You couldn't ask for better treatment than you get at the Adventist centers.

Greenawalt: What seemed to be the Brownsberger's motives in wanting to establish the Seventh Day Adventist hospital?

Justice: To help the people.

Greenawalt: Because there wasn't a hospital in that area, or because. . .

Justice: Because he thought that there was a need for the hospital and training center. You know, there's a school out there, too.

Greenawalt: They serve a somewhat different diet at the hospital on their menu. Is that a reason for establishing a hospital, also?

Justice: Of course, that is one of their religious beliefs, that they are not supposed to eat certain things, but they get a perfectly well-balanced, adequate diet. Being a particular meat-lover myself, I didn't get what I would have gotten at home, but I spent some time out there with John, at his invitation, and got perfectly nice and adequate, well-balanced meals. You can get plenty of protein from soy beans and other things. You don't have to have meat to do well and prosper.

Greenawalt: Let's move into the 1960's, which was the decade in which you retired. You retired in 1969, I recall, but you were there when Federal programs like Medicare and Medicaid came on the scene. What was your reaction to those?

Justice: Everything is blamed on the providers. You never hear any criticism of the recipients, and one of the biggest factors in the high cost of Medicaid is abuses on the part of the recipients. It is not only those that are improperly certified as being eligible for Medicaid, but those that are certified and then, instead of using the clinics that are provided for them, wilfully and deliberately make use of more expensive facilities.

In '69 I stopped the private practice of medicine and went to work in the emergency room. As long as I was working under contract with the hospital, I ran a great many of those people out of the emergency room. They got so, if they found me on duty they

Justice: (Cont'd.) wouldn't even come in, they'd go off and come back another day. It costs, maybe three dollars of tax money to take care of them in the clinic, and they'd come in the emergency room where it would cost fifteen to thirty-five dollars, just wilfully and deliberately. And that type of abuse, I'm sure, is widespread and has cost millions of dollars, but nothing is said about it. That poor creature that is head of Health, Education and Welfare. . .

Greenawalt: Joseph Califano is apparently not one of your friends, or someone you admire.

Justice: He is plain stupid. This. . . controversy with the University of North Carolina, that was one of the foremost universities to offer opportunities to the minorities. Right now, there are only eleven medical schools in this country that have a higher percentage of minority students than the University of North Carolina. And in the traditionally colored schools, Colleges for Blacks, there are now ten percent enrollment of others. Eight percent of that ten percent of enrollees are whites. The other two percent are Indians down in the eastern part of the state, I suppose. But ten percent of the enrollment in the traditionally black institutions is not black, and he just starts a feud.

Greenawalt: Was there much local opposition by physicians to these Federal programs, like Medicaid?

Justice: I wasn't aware of it. I didn't like it, because of

Justice: (Cont'd.) the abuses: people going to hospitals that weren't in need of hospital care; people demanding admission and doctors forced to admit them because, however much it may be belittled, the danger of a suit for mal-practice is real, and the doctors know it. If anything might happen by any mischance to a patient that had demanded hospitalization and been refused, the doctor's neck was out and he'd be sued. It has been made light of, but with present attitudes it is a very real and immediate danger.

Greenawalt: You've mentioned some legendary figures in the medical world here in Asheville. Are there any others that you haven't mentioned that you might want to comment on?

Justice: There are some others. Oh, Dr. Millender; he was the doctor for all of the ladies at the Flower Mission. He was the "big shot" doctor over there at the old Mission Hospital; and everybody, the patients and personnel, just scared to death of him.

Greenawalt: Why was that?

Justice: Because he spoke to them in a rough manner, and he was socially prominent, and various other things. He had just inspired them all with fear. He had no training, and his son, Charles, took his training under his daddy. Son Charles, as he was called by his father, was another one I had to throw out of the Mission Hospital for incompetence, after the Mission had moved down to where it is now.

Greenawalt: The father had trained, perhaps, as an apprentice under someone else?

Justice: Oh, yes. I don't know. . . And then there was a Doctor Minor, M-i-n-o-r.

Greenawalt: What was his type of practice?

Justice: I think Dr. Minor was probably a tuberculosis specialist. I remember his name, but remember him only very little. I think I previously mentioned Dr. Cotton, in some other respect.

Greenawalt: Dr. Justice, everyone. . . many people have interests outside their own field of specialty. I wonder what other organizations you belong to in town that you have some interest in?

Justice: The Pen and Plate Club and the Biltmore Forest Country Club, which I first joined because of our daughter, who wished to have a place to play tennis, and so forth. Not being a golfer, I didn't have a particular use for it myself, except on occasions when we had out of town visitors on Thursday when our maid was off. It was a nice place to take our visitors for meals. Other than that, we had no particular use for the country club, but I wish all of my investments had turned out as well as my share of stock in the Biltmore Forest Country Club.

Greenawalt: I'm not too familiar with the Pen and Plate Club. How old an association is it? What kind of papers have you presented to the club?

Justice: One of my early papers was on "The Private Practice vs Governmental Control of Medicine." Another early paper was: "The Problem of the Negro and the South."

[End of Tape I, Side II]

[Beginning of Tape II, Side I]

Justice: (Cont'd.) The Pen and Plate Club was founded in 1904 by Rodney Rush Swope, Charles Launcelot Minor, Robert F. Campbell, Edward J. Harding, Philip R. Moale (that's M-o-a-l-e), Richard J. Tighe (T-i-g-h-e), and Robert Bingham.

My invitation to join the Pen and Plate Club was somewhat delayed because of my Uncle Curtis Bynum's very strong feeling about nepotism. He was violently opposed to any touch of nepotism, and did not ask me to join the club to which he belonged.

Greenawalt: Membership, then, is strictly by invitation?

Justice: Oh, yes.

Greenawalt: You have mentioned two associations that have been important to you: the Pen and Plate Club and the Biltmore Forest Country Club. Have there been any others?

Justice: Not any except those that were concerned with my medical practice, as far as I remember at the moment. Oh, yes, I was a very ardent hunter and fisherman until 1956, when I realized that there were just too many people and too few little animals and fishes, and gave up hunting and fishing. In order to have something to do out of doors, I began to photograph wildflowers with a little camera that had been given to me by my family and been on the shelf for two years before I decided to use it. Later, I traded that camera for a light meter and bought a much more adequate camera.

Justice: (Cont'd.) My little hobby of wildflower photography, by accident, turned out to be quite profitable, and actually, my hobby has brought me more recognition than have my professional accomplishments.

Greenawalt: It seems to be a return to family roots here . . . photographing flowers. You have a botanist in the line up there somewhere, don't you?

Justice: Well, Moses Ashley Curtis was an Episcopal minister, but he was . . . yes, his hobby was botany. He became a world-recognized botanist, but it was completely an accident.

Greenawalt: What sort of recognition has it brought you?

Justice: The use of some of my photographs for publication by the New York Botanical Garden, and others, and by the publication by the University of North Carolina Press of the Wildflowers of North Carolina, for which I took all of the photographs. Dr. C. Ritchie Bell, a Professor of Botany at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, wrote the captions.

Greenawalt: That's interesting. In this conversation we've had, it has become very apparent to me that you have a sense of mission arising from somewhere. Your decision to leave the Boston area because the South needed what you had; your willingness to serve black patients while others scorned that sort of thing. What do you attribute that to?

Justice: I attribute that to family influences in my youth. In my very early youth I was made to feel, through the family, that

Justice: (Cont'd.) a white Southerner was in a position of responsibility and owed something to those around him.

Greenawalt: You certainly have carried it out. One last question: Do you feel that there has been anything different about the practice of medicine in the mountain area as opposed to practicing medicine in an urban situation of this size outside the mountains? Have your patients differed because they have been mountain people?

Justice: In the early years, yes. I did have some interesting relationships with some of my early old mountain people. But when industry invaded this area and took away the feeling of self-reliance and satisfaction with their position in life from our mountaineers, and put silk stockings on the legs of the women, paint on their faces, and discontent in their hearts, there has been a very marked change in the mountain people.

Greenawalt: And clearly a change for the worse, in your opinion, less self-sufficiency?

Justice: Yes; in my opinion.

Greenawalt: Do you think it's useful even to talk about mountain people today? Do you think the differences between these people and others in Rutherford County are so slight that there's no real distinction any more?

Justice: Rutherford County is too near by to make any great distinction, I think. Further down, maybe Charlotte people are more worldly, possibly, than some of the few remaining real mountaineers.

Greenawalt: Dr. Justice, I want to thank you very much for this

Greenawalt: (Cont'd.) interview. I think it will be of great value and use in the years ahead. I certainly do think it has been interesting and will be of increasing importance. Thank you.