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OH-VOA S54 KA
INTERVIEW TWO

Interviewee: Katharine Bynum Shepard

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Interviewer: Dorothy Joynes

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Begin Tape 1, Side A

DJ: This is September the 18th, 1992 and I'm delighted to be with you. This is Katharine Shepard being interviewed by Dorothy Joynes. This is a special day for you, Katharine. This is your anniversary.

KS: Well, my announcement of my engagement.

DJ: And that was?

KS: 1938.

DJ: And we have your picture. I just Xeroxed the picture of that.

Katharine Bynum Shepard
OH-VOA S54 Ka
Interview Two

You've been interviewed very well by a member of AAUW. And the purpose of that was to find out about your experience not only as a volunteer in the community and a worker for the Girl Scouts, but also your involvement with the AAUW. So throughout this tape, the emphasis is on AAUW. And today I'd like to pick up on some of the things that you mentioned there that I feel are extremely important and should be fleshed out a bit. One is the baby home that the Red Cross—the um, Junior League had, and I wondered if you could tell me a little bit more about that.

KS: I graduated from college in 1931 and was asked to belong to the Junior League in the fall of '31 and each one of us had to do a six-month provisional period. My assignment was to work with the new baby home. They had a capacity of nineteen children, all under four years old. From a day old, they brought them right straight from the hospital because no one wanted them. And we took care of them for the county orphanage, which was next door. And then when these children came to their fourth birthday, then they were transferred to the big orphanage next door. But our purpose was to help the county take care of these children until they could be adopted. And two of us would work out there two or three times a week. And I did it not just for six months, I kept on doing it all the time that I was living in Asheville. And we enjoyed it—it was hard work because the nurse that was responsible took her time off and we were left alone there with these tiny babies and sometimes we didn't really know what to do with them. We really learned a lot of things about taking care of children. But the way that baby home came into being—this was the depths of the Depression—and they had decided that they would help the county by separating these babies. So, they found out about a person, a lady, in New York who had died and left her money, Mrs. James. And so this bank was able to get us fifteen thousand dollars to build this. But before we could start building on the property of the orphanage, there where the Presbyterian Church is there on the corner of Gracelyn and Merrimon, the bank failed and our money was gone. So somebody said, can't you write to New York and ask them for some more? So, nobody knew any better, so they wrote up there and they sent us another fifteen thousand. So, we got busy and built the place.

The first child that was ever adopted, we named Jesse James for the lady who had left us the money. Well, in one week, the lady brought Jesse James back because she didn't know that babies had to wear diapers. That was the beginning. That baby was taken away and brought back five different times. And finally, baby Jesse James did stay with the parents but each time that we had an adoption, there would be these people coming back and returning them. And the poor county people had been having to take care of all this by themselves before. But with our help, it made life a lot easier for them.

The one thing that we had a feeling was going on—the same couple would come up here from Miami, and each time that this woman would come, she would come with a different man. And it just so happened that in the Spring of 1932, I went to visit my uncle and I got the name—he lived in Miami part of the year—and we got the name of these people who had taken these twin children down to Miami. And I went around to the house where the children were supposed to be, and they thought that I was coming to buy those children. They were getting the children from us and selling those babies in Florida! So it was a lucky thing that we found out about it. From then on we decided that

we would change our system a little. We put children in there just for boarding as well as adoption. That helped a lot more than just having the children there, year after year, waiting to be adopted. The mothers would be in trouble—a husband would be in prison temporarily—and she would have to get a job to support these children. But they were allowed to come to see their children every Sunday. You had to have special people there to take care of that because everybody was so emotional that you had to be alerted to that.

DJ: You had the baby home and then you had the orphanage next door?

KS: We didn't have anything to do with the orphanage. We took the babies under four years old, you see.

DJ: And the orphanage was in a building—

KS: The great big building, it was there up on the hill, and it had been there for years and years. It was four stories high. And the thing that—well, I was not here when that arrangement was made, I was still in school. But, there was a little girl there who loved to take care of the little babies, but she was deaf. And she was about ten or eleven years old. And she took this baby up to the fourth floor, in this room. locked the door, and the orphanage caught fire. They knew this little girl was up there, and they hammered on the door, and they could not get her to hear them. And here those two children were, in that locked room with the fire coming up the stairs, so finally they broke down the door and got them out of there. But that, I think—I've always thought—was the determining factor in our building our home. And of course—

DJ: The fire took place before the home that you're talking about—

KS: Before we had—It was in the orphanage but didn't destroy the building. Until the Navy—there's a big Naval building up the hill now. I think they tore down this orphanage, but the reason why the orphanage went out of business was—it was all this business of putting children in foster homes, they thought that was better for the children than being placed in orphanages, that they could get adjusted to a regular life much more quickly than they would if they had to stay in an orphanage until they were eighteen years old.

DJ: So that was the end of the Junior League contact with that. Did you work in any other capacity with the Junior League?

KS: Yes, well, we had to do some other things, too. I remember we worked some of the time in a gift shop, which was in the Arcade Building, which was brand new then.

DJ: Describe the Arcade Building when it was brand new.

KS: Oh, it was just a dream. It was just a beautiful, beautiful—it looked as if it was made of cream-colored marble and you can go in and out of it today and feel the same

way. There are four entrances, one on each side and at the ends of the building and you look up three stories high and here are all these beautiful wrought iron balustrades and circular stairways and balconies where all the offices are and then way up on the top is a flat roof and there's a terrace where we used to go to watch the fireworks and we had dances up there. But they also built an enclosed room with windows all the way around and that, you see, would take care of our unpredictable weather that we have in the mountains. But when I got home from college, I not only joined the Junior League and AAUW but I got girl scouting started a second time. I had started it when I was a child, and then when I went away to boarding school and college it fell apart, so we got it started again. And that is today's council. But the first thing I did in relation to the Arcade Building was I decided that would be a wonderful place to have a pet show.

DJ: I'm just delighted with this story.

KS: Is that right?

DJ: Oh, it's wonderful.

KS: Okay. Anyway, the first camp that I had was out at Mill's River. We were not allowed to open the camp unless it was right up to minimum standards. But we had only fifteen dollars to open the camp for twenty-five people. So we got everybody—all the counselors—everybody came for nothing. Some of the girls came from Mississippi, from Georgia, from Charleston. We all paid our own expenses.

DJ: How did you recruit these people?

KS: We all went to camp down here at Camp Juliette Lowe in Georgia. It was the camp that the founder of Girl Scouts started to train leaders. And we'd been down there. We decided—everybody was helping everybody—to make the thing go. So, at this camp that I started the first time, this lady said that she would come. She was a nurse and a dietician and her husband had been a doctor—he was dead—but and his wife had been a doctor and nurse team in France during World War I and so she was left with this little boy who was ten years old. And his name was Marcellus. But the children at the camp couldn't—she said she would come to help us if we would allow Marcellus to come, too. So we had jobs for him, he had to go for the mail and all this stuff. Well, the children couldn't think of his name so they just decided to call him Narcissus. So, after camp was over, we decided we would have this pet show, up on top of the Arcade Building. At one end is a ramp that goes all the way up three floors to the top of the building. And this dietician nurse, Marcellus' mother, called and she said, "Marcellus wants to come to the pet show and he is going to bring his cow." Well he lived out in Arden, ten miles from the middle of town and he was going to walk all the way and I said, well perhaps he might aught to bring a goat, it might work better. I got all the children to come up that outside ramp so they didn't have to go through this beautiful building full of offices. So one little girl arrived and I had put out the rules for the thing. The small animals all had to be enclosed in cages of some sort. And this little girl arrived with her rabbit in a paper

bag, you see, it was enclosed alright. The dogs were too big to go in cages, so this whole building up there was heated but there was no furniture in there, but every window had a great big radiator under it so we tied a dog at each end of each radiator, all the way around this big building.

DJ: What did you do with the rabbit?

KS: Well, we had to find a box to put it in. That took some doing because we didn't want to disappoint the little girl. But that was so funny, she said, "but that's what you said!" She enclosed it. It was wonderful. But Narcissus didn't come with his cow. That was the only disappointment.

DJ: You said there was a ramp. Did the ramp have anything to do with taking cars up to the roof?

KS: I never did know. It was big enough. I imagine maybe that was the idea. It's still there. It's up at the upper end right in front of the Battery Park Hotel.

DJ: Can you describe the interior?

KS: Downstairs you can walk in four directions and look up three stories through this arcade—it really is an arcade. Each floor has wrought iron railings and then the staircases are not regular staircases, they are metal wrought iron staircases at about four places at each end of the long part of the building. And then the side doors—that's the short way across. It is—it's still—just beautiful. I was in there not long ago and—

DJ: What kind of shops were in there?

KS: Well they had offices, doctor's offices. And lawyer's offices, all sorts of things on the second floor and down on the street floor they had all sorts of the kind of shops that they have on Haywood Street now: craft shops and some dress shops but they were special. Really what you call specialist shops. But it was a lovely part of town and they always had it convenient so you could park your car right by the door and run in and there were a lot of different kinds of jewelry shops that were not craft shops.

DJ: Was it a hardship when they decided not to build it all the way to the top? The original building—

KS: Well, they had a lot of—we've had so many buildings get halfway up and all the bathtubs will be still sitting out on the street. They had a lot of fixtures that had to be taken away before they could really open the place for business. It was a sad time for everybody. But by the time I got back there, the shops that were in there were just lovely and they were kept up in good shape.

DJ: Was it hard for the city when it was taken over by the government for the weather?
KS: Yes, I didn't ever—well of course I wasn't here—but it seemed an unnecessary sort of thing. With all the buildings they had in town that they could have used instead. But I suppose they probably didn't have enough rent coming in from the local stores and when the government offered them something for the whole building, you can see why they would like to have it.

DJ: What do you think about the new plans?

KS: I don't know what they're going to do. I haven't seen anything that sounds satisfactory yet. But with people being interested in it I think that they'll work out something. Nobody wants to tear it down. Now, somebody asked me the other day about how that arcade building happened to be put there. And the old Battery Park hill started at Haywood Street and went up and it was a long, curving drive up there and here was this beautiful rambling hotel up on the top, you could see for miles in every direction. There was a porch all the way around and people took their promenades just the way you would on a ship, you know. People would come and spend a whole summer there. Now my mother and father, they would let the servants go and they'd go up and stay in the Battery Park hotel just as if they were tourists from somewhere else, and they got a wonderful vacation.

DJ: Where were they living then?

KS: Right there on Macon Avenue, in Asheville.

DJ: And they would leave their place on Macon Avenue and—lovely!

KS: They started after this new hotel was built and then they went out to Maggie Valley and stayed out there. It was—lots of people did that. The house right now that is a TB station right next to our house on Macon Avenue, Dr. and Mrs. Battle while they were building that house, he was a retired, very famous, doctor, TB doctor in this part of the world. They decided they had to have that house and location next door to us, so they bought Mrs. Watson's house and tore it down and built this new big house and before they got it built, Dr. Battle died. But they loved staying up there at the hotel. We all thought he didn't want to live in that house. He liked it up there at the hotel where he had plenty of freedom.

DJ: Why did they lower the hill?

KS: Well, that is a thing that everyone seems not to understand. Dr. Grove was getting to be an old man by that time, and we all thought—of course we don't know—but we think that these people wanted him help financially so they flattered this old man into thinking that he must have a memorial to him. And so he had this lovely picture of

building a new hotel that would be a skyscraper which was the coming thing at that period, and then they would have this beautiful white building out in front of it.

DJ: Which would kill the view.

KS: Well, it was going to be low. So that he wouldn't spoil the view, he said. So that part was alright, but that's the reason for the shape of it. If it had been another skyscraper then you couldn't have seen it. So they had to lower the hill. Now, people who have come here recently don't realize what they did with all the dirt that they took off that hill. They dragged it down the street and filled in a great big valley on the other side of Patton Avenue which is now Coxe Avenue. I had a friend who lived on Grove Street at that time and the dust from those mules pulling that dirt, scoop by scoop, down that hill and on into that hole—the dust was going as high as the sky for a year before they got it down. But when we were building our house on Macon Avenue, we lived in an apartment out on Montford Avenue and this man who owned the apartment had a drug store up on the square. I don't know whether I should say his name or not. Is it alright?

DJ: Sure.

KS: Alright. His name was Mr. Scruggs. A very nice man. He called his drug store, he had the advertisement "Scruggs for Drugs." So Mr. Scruggs walked back and forth from his apartment to the square every day and as he was coming back one day, a little before suppertime, he was looking at the progress they had made tearing down Battery Park Hotel. And you see, they would tear it down and they would pile the lumber up all around the hill, there. This was before they started taking the hill away. And there was a fire that had been started. When he got to the house he said there's a fire down there at the Battery Park hotel and he said it's about as big as a dining room table. So he went and called the fire department and by the time they got there, it had spread through these dried piles of lumber, you see they were a hundred years old. And the place was just, the whole hill was a fire. And I was in the bathtub at the time that this happened so it took me a little while to get out. But everybody started running up to the middle of town. My brother was a little fellow that always was running to everything that he could. And we couldn't find him. So my father and mother and I walked on up there and we looked over the basement of this hotel, which was very deep, and over on the other side, there were two or three chimneys and the foundations were pretty high, and silhouetted against them—by that time it was pitch-black dark but the whole sky was lighted up and this man and this little boy were standing up on top of this foundation. This chimney was on fire. A flaming brick flew off the top of that chimney and hit this man—at least it looked like it to us, we were standing on the side toward the street—and he fell down. And the little boy ran off. Well, the little boy turned out to be my brother and the man died. But he didn't realize of course what had happened. And we didn't know what we were looking at. But that's where my brother was. But everybody had some different experience abut seeing that fire. Well, then you see they had intended to sell all that lumber to people to make new houses look old, but most of it was destroyed and then they went on and made Coxe

Avenue and then started the Arcade Building. But before they got through, you see, all the banks failed and there wasn't any money to finish it.

DJ: I heard that one of the problems that they had with filling up Coxe Avenue was that they did not compact the earth and therefore the pipes did not settle properly. The water pipes are still causing trouble. Have you heard—

KS: No, but that sounds like the history of this whole region. People don't know how to combat the weather and of course the winter freezes the land and then it changes and the pipes drop. One time when I was coming back from living up North, I was going across that McDowell Street viaduct into Biltmore Village and here they had all these great big pipes sitting along the sidewalk on top of that bridge and I said, you can't do that! You've got to bury them. You see, I'd been in Illinois and they'd been buried fifteen feet below the surface. And so after a while somebody said, we've taken care of it, we've hung them under the bridge. I don't know where they are now, but they've always had trouble with their water system.

DJ: They new hotel that went up was quite a social gathering place, wasn't it?

KS: Well, not at first. Because you see, the George Vanderbilt was built at the same time. And that was more of a commercial hotel. And then a lot of people, well it was an entirely new group of people because during that time the building, those older people who used to come here had either died or had found other places to go in other places like Virginia and South Carolina. But, it was built to so it did have a ballroom. It's a lovely place still, they have a roof garden and we've had meetings up there. It's a nice place. But I think they are making good use of it now. They made small apartments for older people and it's a great joy to them because they don't have so much room to take care of as they get older and yet they are near enough to be able to get fed and taken care of. But it's hard to know what to do with these old buildings.

DJ: You had mentioned Macon Avenue a number of times and the picture that you showed me of the Longchamps with the open porches should be put on tape because you were so right and you argued with people about that.

KS: Well, when people come to Asheville who have lived other places, unless they pay attention closely, they don't realize the difference in the architecture of just ordinary houses as you go about town. I tell my new friends, I say watch for sleeping porches. Everybody had sleeping porches. There's a house across the street from me now that has got a sleeping porch, a downstairs porch and an upstairs porch. People think, they just like to have a screen porch. But they were definitely built for these recovering TB patients. So, at the time that I was in boarding school away from here, some people wanted to build up near Grove Park Inn, they wanted to build an apartment house in that neighborhood. And there had never been an apartment house anywhere in that end of town. And it wasn't to be anything where TB people would come. It was not a sanatorium. It was to be just a plain apartment house. And so, as is quite typical in this

town—it's happened so many times—people signed a petition. They finally got the idea that if they could make it match our house, which was a new house, but it was a Norman French architecture, our architect was Ronald Green, and if he could design a building, an apartment building, that would fit in with our house, it wouldn't upset the neighborhood. So he and Stewart Rogers, who was still very young and just going in as a new architect, he was in that group, they designed this new building. Well, it was filled up with newlyweds almost immediately and lots of these people who are in their seventies and eighties now, they spent their honeymoon years there in that house. But all along, people would say, well, Mr. Green was pretty forward-looking about this apartment house, having these indoor porches because they didn't have any heat in them, but they were filled in with windows. And then there was a terrace, well there was two terraces which were not covered. But I said, no that was not the way that was built to start with. I said, I know, I was there! I can tell you every inch of that place. I said those were sleeping porches. Oh, no. So I was doing a little research out at the college one time and this nice historian out there said that he thought he had a picture of the Longchamps when it was first built. So he got that for me and it's a beautiful picture. It shows all of these open porches, it's five stories tall and every single apartment has its own open porch. But people still said, oh no, they've put the screens in. I said, you see that woman? She's shaking a rug out that one. That's perfect proof that those were sleeping porches. And there was no screen in. When I was there, some of them were still not filled in. But, that is the way that most of the houses here, even after people could get out of the sanatoriums, then they didn't dare go to lower altitudes, but they kept the routine going of sleeping outdoors and drinking lots of milk and of course taking whatever exercise their doctors recommended.

DJ: And the school was the same basis?

KS: Yeah, well now, one of the schools.

DJ: That's now the Jewish Center.

KS: Yes. Well that was a little school that this lady had in her house down on Montford Avenue right where all of the historic section is. Montford drug store is right where that is right now. On the corner of Soco and Cullowhee and Montford Avenue, it's right there in that point. And now he had this school in her house and then she bought this place over here on Charlotte Street, 236 Charlotte Street and I swim there every day. It's very nice to be able to get back to the place. Well then when she got this new building she put a great big wide porch all the way around the house and it was called the Fresh Air School. But she had traveled a lot, so she called it L'air y a Fresca. So we went to L'air y a Fresca. But I had been to a darling little school that was on Bearden Aveune over there in the Montford School before I went to L'air y a Fresca and that one was in a duplex which is still standing today. These two maiden ladies were taking are of their ninety year old mother and they had the duplex with mama living on one side and the little school on the other. And we sat on these high stools just the way that the Dickens' Christmas Carol looks, you know with the high, slanted desks and we had all the grades

in one room. I started when I was five years old. My mother walked up the street with me and she let me carry my little white kitty to school and then she took it home. There's a picture of me in a book somewhere with a big white hair ribbon on my top, holding the little kitty. But the L'air y a Fresca, we were indoors for the first two years. This next school on Charlotte Street, this lady's name was Arabella Ketcham. K-E-T-C-H-A-M. Arabella Ketcham. She had straight chairs with high backs and arms, the kind that you see in pictures, the country chairs. And they were lining the porch. And every time I go there I can see that same porch. It's still there. We had a board to put across the arms of these chairs and those were our desks. But now this didn't just go on on nice days in the summer. We were out there every single day of the year. Rain, shine, snow, sleet. And in order to survive the winter, you had to have what looks like a sleeping bag in today's world and in the bottom of it, you had to have a stone jar that was filled with hot water. That was called a pig. You put the pig in the bottom of the bag and then your feet sat on top of the pig. So, one year I think on that other tape I said that I was very lucky. Somebody gave me a little hand warmer. Oh, I though it was just lovely, it was velvet. And it was heated by Japanese charcoal. And I could hold that in my hand. You see, we had to learn to write, do everything with our mittens on and this bag had a hood that went over our heads. But you were not allowed to go into the house for anything. None of us were ever sick. It was the most amazing—but you see, she was following the rules that they had for all the TB people. And of course, when these TB patients came here, everybody in the family didn't have it. There would be one person, the rest of the family were all well. And so they all were following the rules for the TB.

DJ: Was there any quarantine?

KS: Well yes, the sanatoriums had to be outside of the city limits. You see in North Asheville, you go up Kimberly Avenue and there's a big white apartment house up there. That was the Ottery Sanatorium and you see, that was outside of the city limits. And then there was another one off of Charlotte Street, going up the mountain and that, I believe, was called Fairview.

DJ: What are they called now?

KS: I don't know.

DJ: Are the buildings still there?

KS: They may be, I haven't been up there, so I don't know. After they got streptomycin which would take care of TB without all of this special care then they didn't need the sanatoriums anymore. And that's the reason they had to turn Oteen into a general hospital, because they didn't need any room anymore for TB patients. They could just come in like any patient.

DJ: If a person was diagnosed as having TB, were they taken out of their homes?

KS: Yes. Well, not necessarily. But when I was growing up, we were not allowed to go into any house where there was anyone who had TB because you could get it just by breathing the air that a TB patient had been breathing. If they sneeze or anything, you see, you could pick it up. So we were never allowed to go. But around the corner from where we lived on Biltmore Avenue around on Forest Hill Drive, there was a little girl that we used to play with on roller skates all the time. And this little girl had an older sister who had TB and her name was Rose. Mother never did know it but this little girl would take us in to see her sister. She died. But the thing about the TB patients is that they were always so cheerful and they had beautiful rosy cheeks. They were optimistic and they never complained so everybody just loved them. But that was part of the disease. The people that you knew, we said, well, maybe she's got TB! You know, if she was over-optimistic about things when she shouldn't have been.

DJ: This really affected your life, didn't it?

KS: Well, we just had to be careful. Now this town, I don't know if it was actually the first town in the world, but we were not allowed in drug stores to drink out of glasses. You had to use paper cups because of the TB.

DJ: What about water fountains?

KS: Well, you're drinking out of it, so there wasn't much danger there. But the streetcars had all kinds of rules about not spitting on the floor and that kind of thing. You had to be sure about where you got your food.

DJ: What about restaurants?

KS: Well, people usually who came to a restaurant would be cured so that they wouldn't be contagious to other people. I think that's the way they handled that.

DJ: So it was really rather pervasive in your growing-up period.

KS: Well, we didn't pay any attention to it. We knew that there were certain things that we weren't supposed to do. But the streets were kept cleaner than most towns because they knew that it had something to with cleanliness. Of course nobody knew really where it came from, but we had so many people coming here to be cured and then they'd stay. That was a great joke, the reason we had so many doctors was that they came here on stretchers and then they got well and couldn't go anywhere else. So we had all these wonderful people here to take care of us.

DJ: And now it's become a medical center. It's just incredible.

KS: Well, yes.

Katharine Bynum Shepard
OH-VOA S54 Ka
Interview Two

DJ: I want to turn this tape over and then I want to ask you about the experience that your mother had while your father was overseas during World War I that was really responsible for our having Oteen in our area. It really was a very instrumental and important shift in our culture here. Just one second.

Begin Tape 1, Side B

DJ: This is side two. Katharine, I've told you many times how impressed I was with your parents. Particularly this story about your mother and her being influential in finding the cows.

KS: Well, I think one thing that we have not said was who my parents are. They were Mrs. and Mr. Curtis Bynum. They lived in Asheville or in Fletcher all of their married life here. When World War I started, my father decided he should volunteer for the army in France. So, we rented our house on Bltmore Avenue and Mother and my brother and I followed Dad to Fort Oglethorpe in Tennessee and then to Columbia, South Carolina. Finally I was catching every disease known to humanity, so they brought the two children up here. This nice minister and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Cosgrove, who were connected with the normal school which is now Warren Wilson College, the Cosgroves took us in and they had started a little school there in Asheville. So, after they moved to another place, my mother and my father had gone on the Europe and so mother came back and the three of us were in this boardinghouse where the school had been the year before but the lady who owned it wanted it back. Mrs. Scott ran a boardinghouse. So one day, Dad—before he left—had started a little creamery because he had had bad luck right after he was married. He was starting his law practice—he had just finished his graduate work at the University of Chicago—and when my mother and father were married, Dad said he didn't mind where he practiced. They started in Appleton, Wisconsin. So then, within a few months, Dad started to go blind and the doctor said, you will have to stop reading law and go on a farm. So he said, well, he didn't want to stay up there where it was so cold and his father had been a minister in an Episcopal Church there in Fletcher, North Carolina when he was a little boy, five years old—that was at the time of the Charleston earthquake. So he said, I'll go down there and see if I can buy some land and we'll go down there and have a farm. So he came ahead and put electricity and water in the house and we stayed out there for a few years. What he bought was a farm that went from the railroad track—it was on the road right behind the Episcopal Church where his father had been a minister. It went from the railroad track all the way over to this little creek, Cane Creek. It was the only flat land, it's what they called the bottom-land—the farmers, that's what they always—because they could make things grow where the creeks had overflowed, you see. That was like the Nile, you get the rich soil. We came to town and mother caught my father sitting there pretending to milk a cow—he didn't know anything about what he was doing—he was reading a law book by lantern-light, so she said, if you're going to do that, let's go into town where we can have some real lights. So we rented a house in town and this was when I was still not four years old. When Dad went off to war, I was in the third grade or something. So, this man that dad had left in charge of our creamery, which had developed from our farm, he decided that if he could sell—he

didn't want to take care of the cows—but if he could sell the milk. So he bought a little dairy that was defunct. He got that fixed so he could pasteurize the milk and he set up what he called the barter system—which was not the correct name for it—but that's what we always called it. Each one of these farmers would have a few cows, and they would milk the cows and put the milk in cans out on this platform in front of the farm. Then a truck from the dairy in Asheville; it's right where the Lincoln-Mercury agency is—that was our building, it's still exactly the same as it was way back. That was named Brown's Dairy, that he bought. What he put in that place, you see, he didn't have any animals there, he just pasteurized the milk and then it was delivered in bottles to people in town. But pasteurizing the milk, each farmer could do his part. This had been going on for a good many years—but Dad had to get somebody to be a manager of this creamery while he went overseas. So he got a man named Hans Pandapodan. He was a young man from Denmark and Dad knew that nobody could remember that name, so he had his name translated to Hans Broby. So one day, Mr. Broby called my mother up and said, "Mrs. Bynum, the government is here looking for a place to build a sanatorium, but they need milk. So, do you think we could furnish enough milk?" She said, "well, would we have enough to take out it" and they said, "well, I don't think so, because they don't know how many people they'll have. They're still in the trenches over there in France now and then they'll bring them back when they develop TB." So, mother said, "well, what would you need to make it possible?" And he said, "we need more cows." And she said, "well, do you know where there are any cows?" And Mr. Broby said, "yes, there are some up in New Jersey." So she said, "go get on the train and get them." So, Mr. Broby went up there and put the herd of cows on the train and came back. If it had been a different kind of dairy, you see, he couldn't have done this. But because of this plan that Daddy had worked out, he put two or three cows at each farmer's place and spread the whole herd all over the territory. So one or two more cows didn't make a bit of difference in the collection of the cows, they just put one or two more cans out on the platform. By the time they got the Oteen Sanatorium built, and were in need of the milk, the system was going just beautifully and they took care of it. Until Dad sold the creamery in 1927 to National Dairies, they still were using the same system. That was interesting because Mr. McClure, Jim McClure, was a person that Dad knew—and his father—up there at the University of Chicago before any of them were married. He came down here and bought this old Sherrill's Inn and he started the same thing that Dad did with the dairy business. He started something he called the Farmer's Federation. They had all of the same collection systems that we did, so everybody worked together and it was a marvelous system because people lived so far apart so if nobody had all those people bringing their milk into Asheville, it would have been impossible. But with one truck going around to collect it all, it was pretty—that made a lot of difference in the city of Asheville. Because we did bring all those government people here and as they got well, they build homes here and during World War II, they had another hospital built for amputees but not TB people. That was called Moore General. I don't know what they've done with that now. But Oteen is still used as a general hospital because with the discovery of new medicines, they don't have to use that same treatment that they did—it took years and years for people to get well, you see, without the treatment.

DJ: You had a fast-thinking Mama.

KS: Well, I think so. She had great courage to even chance it. Now, Dad was so grateful to Mr. Broby when he got back because of course this made a big business instead of a little mountain dairy. We had put in butter factory and bought another creamery down in Winston-Salem called the Forsyth Dairy. When Dad got back, Mr. Broby—his law partner, you see, had died, his name was Thomas Seller, and he was supposed to keep the law business going, but he died in the flu epidemic. So Dad had to be president of this business. Mr. Broby had done so well that Dad said that he thought it would be nice to build what they called a certified dairy where you don't pasteurize, the milk, you pasteurize the people. They had to have their clothes all sterilized, their shoes, everything, before they could go into this barn to milk the cows. So, he let Mr. Broby build this Valkyrie Dairy to match a Danish farm. When they first built it, it was white stucco with a red tile roof with towers at one end and there were silos, you see. It was the perfect thing! And then, as the thing grew, all they did was to build another silo right next to it. You had two or three towers there at the end. Oh, we loved that place!

DJ: Where was it?

KS: It was out on Leicester Highway and you can't even find it now. But, there's a picture of it. There's somebody in Candler who had taken a picture of it and it's in that Buncombe County book that they did for the memorial… Centennial, yes. We would go out there on Sundays because the man that ran the farm, he had all these cows, special cows, were there. They had to eat special things in this field. They planted certain—I don't know if it was alfalfa or what, but they had all these different kinds of animals. They had horses we could ride, but the thing that I liked the best were the goats. I got in there one day in the pen with the new little baby goats and pretty soon, I shot right up against the fence. The mama goat had butted me! She was afraid I was going to hurt her babies. My father was the gentlest person in the world, but we had a great big bull out there—that was an experimental thing. He would talk so big about how he was going to have a bull fight and he was going to have it right out there on this Valkyrie Farm. Of course, nothing ever happened. Mr. Broby died quite early in life and he is buried in our Bynum plot out in Fletcher. There are forty places in there. My great-grandfather bought that land for us, for his son, when he died. So all of us have our spots there.

DJ: We were talking about your great-grandfather and his position—since this is an election year, perhaps you can tell me about the two party-state? I thought all states were two-party states.

KS: Well, when I was eleven years old, I was allowed to go to a public school for the first time in my life. I had been going to all these L'air y a Frescas and so forth. The Civics teacher said that this man, who was Vice-President, was going to come to town, but he was a Republican and he was going to make a talk at the auditorium. She said that if we would attend, that she would give up some extra credit for our Civics mark. So the whole class, all of us went, and went up in the balcony of the auditorium and here came

this little skinny man. He made a nice talk, but of course we didn't know what he was talking about. But the next day, my father and mother were sitting there at the table and they said, well what did Mr. Coolidge say? I said, well, he did pretty well, for a Republican. Mother and Dad started to laugh. I was embarrassed because I thought I had said something wrong and I probably was going to be sent from the table, which happened sometimes in that age when people did get punished. So, finally they quit laughing and said, "what makes you think that it's wrong to be a Republican?" And I said, "well everybody's a Democrat!" Here I was, eleven years old. Mother said, "no, we're Republicans." So Dad finally took the trouble to explain that his grand-father, my great-grandfather, was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina and one thing that he was determined to do was to have North Carolina become a two-party state. The first thing we had to do was have the whole Bynum family all become Republicans. And so we've all been Republicans ever since.

DJ: I heard that it was a Republican city and then I heard that it was a Democratic city. It's very difficult.

KS: Well, in this day in time, so many people have moved here that you don't have to apologize for being a Republican. One thing—I don't know whether to say this or not—I went, right after I was out of college, we had to go and vote. It was at what is now Ira B. Jones School. This old man couldn't see but they had him sitting on a stool out in the front to check people off as they came in. Mother and I went through and signed in and I looked back and there was Dad having a terrible time with this man and so I went back and I had gone and taken all these fancy courses in college in government and all that. So, I'll go find out what's going on. Well, Dad had told this old fellow, "I am a red!" And Dad did all this with a straight face and all. So the man looked in his book and he turned back and he looked all around for it, and finally the poor man was almost on the verge of tears, he didn't know what to do. And finally Dad said, "just put down a big 'R' and we'll go on in." So, the poor man, I guess no one else had ever wanted to register Republican before, but that was 1932.

DJ: It's changed a lot, hasn't it? Do you find that the change has been brought about by the time or by the people coming in?

KS: Both, both.

DJ: Because we've seen such dramatic changes in our lifetime.

KS: Oh, yes.

DJ: When the Civil Rights Ruling came through, all cities and all states were affected.

KS: Oh, yes.

DJ: But I wondered what the effect was in Asheville. Were you in—

KS: No, I was in Illinois. We used to sit up there without integrating our schools. But you see, it wasn't a real problem in the small towns because there would be only a few colored people and of course, you'd just take them along and nobody paid any attention to it. But where you had as many colored people as you had white people, then you did need to think about it. As I remember, it would irritate me because those people up there would look down on the Southerners because they were having a problem, as if it was their fault. I kept trying to explain to people that I had lived in the North and I had lived in New England and I had lived in the South and nowhere in the world did people love the colored people they way they did in the South. It's still true. But the Northerners had hardly ever seen a colored person and were scared to death of them. I had to combat it all the time until you could convince them that you were not that kind of person. They still haven't got their schools in Chicago integrated. They're all colored. The people that live in that neighborhood, they're all colored. I think that is the way they should be, so that they're with their neighbors and their friends and families and this business of taking people fifteen, twenty miles so they can… It seems to be working alright here in Asheville since they've picked up one whole section of schools, the Montford school, the Randolph School and put them over there at Jones and mixing them, they seem to be getting along just fine and we never have had any trouble here in Asheville.

DJ: What's happened to the big houses where there used to be two or three blacks helping around the house and now it's almost impossible to get help.

KS: Well, you see, we had three servants and we had to close our house during the Depression because we couldn't afford to pay to heat the house, to start with, but we couldn't afford to pay the salaries. We went to what is now the Asheville-Biltmore Hotel and Mother was talking to the man who used to be the manager of the old Battery Park Hotel and he was then running the Asheville-Biltmore Hotel, he said, I haven't got anybody living here at all. Mother said, we can't afford to live in our house, why don't we come down here and live with you! So, each one of us, we had four rooms, and each one of paid a dollar a day and then we paid for our breakfast and our supper and we stayed there until spring when it was warm enough to live in the house without the heat.

DJ: What did you do with your house?

KS: We closed it up. We could go out there and get what we forgot. It was just sitting there. Nobody broke into it. Anytime we wanted anything we could just go out there.

DJ: Did other people do this?

KS: Yeah. Lots of people.

DJ: Give me some examples.

KS: Well, I don't… People closed their houses and went and lived maybe in Florida because they couldn't afford to... The poor colored people didn't have any money because they didn't have any jobs. But some of them were able to live with families and then as quick as we could take them back, we did. But nowadays I notice the difference in when I was growing up, none of my friends ever did any—from the time my brother and I were able to walk, we had to make our own beds. We were not going to ask a maid to do that. We cleaned up our own bathrooms. But as far as sitting with your hands folded and somebody waiting on you, of course that is fairy tale stuff. But with all the modern machinery, people are able to do their own laundry, things that were unheard of. We sent our laundry out and that made another whole area where people could make their own money. We just loved our laundress, she was…

DJ: And yet we all feared getting ill and being home and trying to get help to take care of us because it's prohibitively expensive.

KS: I think now, I live in an apartment house, and every day these perfectly darling nurses come with their little clipboards and go in first one door and then the other, and they're going in there to give those older people baths and the Meals on Wheels people come. That kind of thing was unheard of in the old days. People are being able to stay in their own homes now. Two different people, both in the last twenty-four hours, on either side, have moved out to nursing homes. They have been sticking it out all these years, but there's a girl on the other side, she's had to give it up. Actually there are three of them. But as long as you can keep somebody coming there every day, and they are all superior people, they've all had good training.

DJ: Do they come through an agency?

KS: Yeah. But several different kinds. I thought I'd better get some sort of new kind of insurance that I had not had in case I needed to go to a nursing home to stay there the rest of my life but it took be six months to get it. Finally, it went through, it had to go through some place in California. This girl came to my house with her little clipboard and she asked all kinds of questions and I had just gotten through an emergency business of having to have a tooth pulled, and somebody told be that I aught to eat yogurt and ew! The thought! So I showed her this yogurt, it was the last day of it, and she said, "you couldn't have picked a worse flavor than that!" You should have gotten the kind with fruit. Well I couldn't even go to the grocery store, somebody had brought it to me. But it's now in force. I got that insurance through the Illinois Women's Club. I'm a life member of the Illinois Women's Club and a life member of AAUW and of another little club that's not a national club in Aurora and I found that that was a better group insurance than anything I… you see when you don't belong to a group you have to hunt around until you find something that will give you a more reasonable thing. This sounds as a group will take care of you in a good way.

DJ: There are a lot of nursing homes and retirement homes going up in the area now, because of so many people coming here to retire.

KS: What I've noticed too, is that some of them are… so many of my friends are in these places. But if they're not managed financially right, they're likely to go on the rocks. Some of them, where you can have an apartment, or a little house, you can buy your own house or you can rent an apartment or you can have a room in a lodge. Or if you get sick, they have a nursing center, a clinic. Two or three of them have that arrangement so that you can go in well and take care of yourself as long as you can. But, if you get a splinter in your finger you can run up to the nurse and she'll pull it out. You go on just as if you were at home. But where you have to go into a nursing home and immediately lie down in a bed, I think you might just as well give up.

DJ: You had said something about being in membership of various organizations to give you the background on it. I one day asked you about the National Education Fund. This was given in your name in Aurora for graduate women?

KS: Well that's an international agreement for AAUW. All the local organizations send in money every year but they are our women going to foreign countries on these scholarships and also foreigners coming to go to school on a graduate level in this country because most of the scholarships that we hear about in this country are for young high school kids that are going to college here but there is nothing for women who had graduated respectably and wanted to do graduate work. So this group has become quite a thing. When I first came back down here, they were not paying too much attention to this fellowship thing but now they're doing some wonderful things to make a lot of money for it. And they'll give money in somebody's name here occasionally but it's not a system the way we were and we did this in our town of Aurora. Each past president had a fellowship for that year given in her name. So that's how it happened. Because I was a president for two years.

DJ: Just like your mom.

KS: Well, she was in PTA. Well, I always understood that she was the first president of AAUW, but it says in the book she was the second president. See, it was a college club first and then AAUW became a national organization. She did that.

DJ: Was it Claxton School?

KS: Claxton.

DJ: They wanted to name this school…

KS: Yes and now I understand they're getting ready to tear it down. Newtown School got torn down, and all these schools that they built while she was on the school board. She was the first woman in North Carolina to be on a school board. We have pictures of her with all these men. She said that the most embarrassing thing that happened when she went to these meetings with all these men, people were still chewing tobacco, and they'd

spit, trying to hit a spittoon, spitting right over her, and here she was always wearing these white suits. She finally told them that maybe they could restrain themselves for the time being.

DJ: You've said two things that are so interesting historically, this business of a woman in a man's environment where they didn't stop doing what they were doing. I hope they changed their language a little. And the white gloves. I have a picture that you gave me.

KS: Oh, that's right.

DJ: With a hat a white gloves right in front of the S&W.

KS: Well you weren't allowed to go out of the house unless you had your hat on, your coat buttoned—it wasn't just held together—and your gloves on before you turned the doorknob. I went to a convent here for four years and they were so strict, you got marks for neatness. Bedroom and neatness of person.

DJ: And you had courtesy classes, didn't you?

KS: No, they just expected you to know. One thing they did there at St. Genevieve's which I thought was very clever of them, was one of the nuns that we just adored, her name was Mother Monk, Madame Monk to start with, she had a sister who was a nun in England and a brother who was a monk in Africa. By the way—she decided that they shouldn't stop teaching people spelling and geography when they got to high school level. So every Monday and Thursday before classes started, we had the whole high school meet and we had twenty minutes of spelling on one day and twenty minutes of Geography on the other day. We had regular little books and everything. Those spellers were hard but I think it helped all of us keep straight because certainly today nobody knows how to spell anything.

DJ: And the grammar has changed quite a bit.

KS: Well yeah.

DJ: Do you think this is because of the television?

KS: I think a lot of it is because you get it phonetically. Of course, that's a good thing too because all of these illiterate people are able to learn to spell because they can hear something and then if it looks the same on paper, they'll get it.

DJ: Maybe they'll revise the dictionary.

KS: Never that.

DJ: That would help.

KS: Well, I don't think so. There are all sorts of dictionaries for children and you can use those for help. I tried to teach our cook to read on time when we were building our house and I thought, well this will be easy, you know. I had my little first grade primer there, and of course Mary had already raised her family and she wanted to learn to read. All she was doing was looking at the picture and then she'd say the word, she wasn't reading. I realized I was not up to teaching reading.

DJ: We didn't get a chance to talk very much about your father, but he is in all the books. I think what he did for this city after the Depression was spectacular. Can you talk about that?

KS: Yes. I was up north and see, he was forty-five years old when he sold that creamery to the National Dairies and then he had nothing to do except have a nervous breakdown and that came because of an earthquake that happened at our house. It shook the house and this wind came down the chimney.

DJ: Here?

KS: Right here in Asheville.

DJ: An earthquake?

KS: Not only one earthquake, two earthquakes. And he grabbed Mother out of bed, it was two o'clock in the morning, I was up in Massachusetts. He ran outdoors with her. He was absolutely terrified and he could not come back in the house. My uncle and his sister lived right down on Edwin Place, right where the playground for the Unitarian Church is, and so he'd have to go down there to the Sunder's house and spend the night and then he could come back up and eat lunch and dinner with us, but something apparently struck a nerve somewhere. Well, it took ten years for us to find out what had caused this and it turned out, I finally asked. It was in 1928 when that happened, and in 1938 I asked his older sister when I was showing her my hope chest. We were upstairs and all the sisters were downstairs, gathered around visiting and I said "now, Aunt Lizzie, it seems to be that somebody in your family aught to know why Dad was afraid of earthquakes and thunderstorms." She said, "well of course I know! He was in the Charleston earthquake. He was thrown out of bed, he was five years old." The house they were in was the brand new stone house that was build as a rectory for my grandfather when he was a minister there at Calvary Church. It split that house from the flat roof clear to the ground. That crack is still there. Dad, of course, was a little boy and nobody paid any attention to him. And that thing came out in him fifty years later. He got so he could come back and live in the house. But it took a long time. Some of the people belonged to this rod and gun club and they'd go out there and they'd all pretend they were going for fun, they were just getting him away from this. But after Aunt Lizzie told everybody what she knew—any of them could have told him, any of this time—but he got better after that. But he still would

pull the plug out on the radio and the TV every night before he's come upstairs. That was a strange thing. Well, he started writing books and when I came home in the fall of 1931, he was working on a book that he was doing about bonds—marriage bonds—in the county, Lincoln County, near Charlotte, Lincolnton is the little town there. That's where he was born and brought up until he went to Charlotte. These marriage bonds were just on every kind of deteriorating paper and they didn't have the name of the bride or the groom. Some of the people didn't know how to write. But he did this book and libraries all over the country bought that from him. I think I might have one. But they were more in demand. People doing genealogy you see. Well, then these other little things that you've looked at, the papers that he did for the Pen and Plate Club, some of those are in little booklet form. Those took a great deal of research because each person was supposed to take a whole year to do that, but people knew that Dad was an unusual person. When he had this fifty-five million dollar debt for the county and the city, they would pay these people to come from Boston or from somewhere else and they'd stand around and make out all these things that they could do and then they'd go away and not do anything. So finally, in 1937, somebody said, let's ask Curtis Bynum to see what he could do. So Dad took everything that had been looked at before and he came up with this idea and he said that they could pay the debt by 1976 and they did. But Dad had died in 1964. They had a celebration at the auditorium and they gave him all the credit for all that. And now of course, they spend and spend and spend with all these bond issues and everything and nobody thinks anything about how to pay that. But they got every single cent. And he said he would never go anywhere and spend any of the city money. All these other people had been trotting on the train and the plane and going to New York and… Is that the end?

DJ: It's almost. And there are so many stories that you've told me parts of, and there are parts on the tapes and a whole life can't go into a tape.

KS: No.

DJ: But I'm glad you mentioned this about your father because he is in all the books, and such a handsome man! The book that he wrote was called *My Destiny*, isn't it?

KS: Just *Destiny*. He also wrote one very nice little book about the Episcopal Church. His youngest baby sister thought she'd like to go to another church and so he wrote this and at the time, my cousin that lived there on Edwin Place, he lived in Charlotte and was getting married and I had two ministers—I was sitting at the head table—between two young ministers and Bill got up and went in the other room and brought one of these booklets that Daddy had. And gave each one of these ministers one of them and oh, they just treasured them. One of the boys was a roommate of one of the boys that was at Grace Church he's long gone now.

DJ: You are connected in so many ways. With this city and a lot of other cities. I've looked forward to this for a long time, so let me say thank you.

KS: Well, it was lots of fun and we'll have a lot more things to do together.

DJ: Thank you.