

## **Marion Strivers**

### **Side 1:**

[1/1] Marion, her husband and two children came from Bradford, PA to start a new life in 1960. They had previously lived in Washington, DC and wanted a small place with culture and a milder climate. [David Williams]

[1/44] they found an apartment on Lakeshore Drive while looking for a house. They bought the Hewett home in Montford, where they lived in one apartment and rented two. Later they bought the O.D. Revell estate and ran a bed and breakfast. It is now called the Bridle Path Inn (30 Lookout Rd). [Embry Blackard, Margaret Blackard, Olson, Ledbetter, Hewett Home, Joesy Gore, O.D. Revell]

[1/139] She describes Asheville - its people and cultural activities.

[1/170] Because of the appeal of the minister she joined the Unitarian Fellowship. She describes the people and activities. [Daniel Welch, Ruth Melcher, Helen Reed]

[1/198] The next minister stayed about 5 years. His sermons were shallow and consisted mostly of the review of articles. There were few children in the Liberal Religious Youth Group and her children did not get involved. She describes her varied church jobs. She liked being flower chairman and arranging the sharing suppers best. [Dick and Goody Gross, Mrs. Lillian Lindsey, Morgan Williams]

[1/249] Under the new minister, Tracy Pullman, the church blossomed. [Tracy Pullman]

[1/268] Property was given to the congregation on Edwin Place with funds to be matched by the members. [Logan and Mary Jane Robertson, Reuben Robertson, E. D. Duncan]

[1/311] Architectural design for the church was inspired by Wright. Bill Moore was a member of the congregation. He had graduated from the N.C. Architectural School and had 10 years' experience, especially with the park service. [Bill Moore, Frank Lloyd Wright]

[1/401] Public relations with the community and other congregations is discussed. Pullman was popular and respected.

[1/411] Gay rights has become an issue in Asheville over the past 5 years. The group meets, as do other groups in the community in the church and its members are welcome at service.

[1/444] She has served on the church board under two ministers and discusses the differences in roles ministers play in decision making. [Tracy Pullman, Bill Hammond, Jim Brewer]

[1/497] Over the past 30 years the church has grown. Because the church appeals to leaders in the community, its influence is enormous.

[1/523] The role of the church in the community is determined by the Social Concerns Committee [became Social Action Committee] after contacting members for direction.

[1/583] She considers the community would be poorer if there were no Unitarian Church.

## **Side 2:**

[2/1] In 1968, because of a financial crisis, she needed to be gainfully employed. Her marriage was faltering and she had a new baby. There were not many opportunities for women at that time and she decided to go into the school system. Because of the number of county schools the need for counselors in that system was greatest. She thought the city and county schools would soon merge. She needed to become certified, secured a grant and graduated from Western Carolina in under 2 years. She wanted to work with underprivileged children. Erwin High School, under Title 1, took in a second counselor to work with 700 students. When she retired from Enka High in 1989 there was a counselor for every grade level.

[2/96] She describes the city and county high schools. Her daughter started a dance program 3 years ago. [Lee Williams]

[2/108] The merging of the county and city schools is discussed. She feels that the reason they have not gotten together, which would save everyone money, is political. School Board members are powerful and want to keep their positions.

[2/228] The downtown development, which resulted in leveling low cost housing in the center of the city, led to blacks moving to developments in the county. She describes the difference in the air over Asheville now that the cut allows the pollution to blow out.

[2/282] She has always been interested in politics and, during her recent visit to Australia, found the people there either leery about presidential change or enthusiastic. [George Bush, Bill Clinton]

[2/322] She feels that the revitalization of downtown will pay for itself in time and is excited about the prospect of the proposed development of the Arcade. [Larry Holt]

[2/368] Integration caused few problems in her school district. Only 6 or 7 black students from a housing development joined her school and they were accepted as individuals. Church members were involved in "sit ins." [Helen Reed, Marjorie Lockwood]

[2/404] She discusses the methods used in counseling and field trips she planned. She got to know the students well through the school nurse and teachers in the English department.

[2/538] While there is academic improvement in the schools, she feels there is a serious social breakdown and teachers spend more time disciplining. Twenty-five percent of children are living in poverty. She blames the government for part of this. "There is no greater investment than our children." [Ronald Regan, George Bush]

[Her children: Howard Morgan Williams, David Morgan Williams, Lee Thurlby Williams]