

**January – March 2008**

**Interview with Dorothy Miller Martin**

**By Rachel Koeniger**

[Items enclosed in brackets [ ] are not on the audio, but are inserted for clarification.]

Rachel Koeniger: My name is Rachel Koeniger, and I'm here today with Dot Martin to interview her about her memories of Brownsburg for the Brownsburg Museum Oral History Project. Dot, can you tell me your name and your date of birth?

**Dorothy Martin:** I'm Dorothy Miller Martin. I was born August 2, 1932.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay, let's stop and see if we picked that up.

[pause in interview]

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. How long have you lived in the Brownsburg area?

**Dorothy Martin:** All my life. Well, within four or five miles, I guess.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay, where were you living?

**Dorothy Martin:** About, I guess, five miles north of Brownsburg right off of [Route] 252 [Brownsburg Turnpike] near the Rockbridge/Augusta line.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. Were you born at home?

**Dorothy Martin:** Um-hum, yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. And who were your parents? What were your parent's names?

**Dorothy Martin:** William Wayt Miller, and Mother was Mable Gertrude Moran Miller.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. Did you have brothers and sisters?

**Dorothy Martin:** I have an older sister, Elizabeth [Strickler]; an older brother, Milton; and a younger brother, Joe. And thank goodness they're all still living.

Rachel Koeniger: And you were the what child?

**Dorothy Martin:** I was the third child.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. What brought your family to Brownsburg in the first place?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, they were all born and raised in the area, and we just, we lived at my father's home place [4952 Brownsburg Turnpike] where we were born and grew up.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. Is that the house that Milton lives in?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, um-hum, Milton still lives there. We were all born and raised there.

Rachel Koeniger: And who are your grandparents? What were their names?

**Dorothy Martin:** I'm trying to think. Can you stop it a minute?

[pause in interview]

Rachel Koeniger: Okay, we were talking about your grandparents, and you were going to give me the names of your grandparents.

**Dorothy Martin:** As well as I can remember, my grandfather Miller was William Bosserman Miller and grandmother was Elizabeth Jane Swortzel [ph?]. That was on my father's side. And on mother's side, it was Joseph [Davis] and Lena [Bell Whitmore] Moran.

Rachel Koeniger: And you say that the Miller's have always lived--

**Dorothy Martin:** Have always, to my knowledge, have lived up there on that farm. They were raised up there.

Rachel Koeniger: And where did your Moran grandparents live?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, different places in the area. Do you want me to mention those? One time they lived where the Sterretts live now, the old Sterrett place [2249 Sterrett Road]. Granddaddy farmed there. And then they got the Big Eye [Carl] Reese place in Pisgah [137 Pisgah Road]. And a couple of other places he farmed around. And then I guess after my grandfather Moran died, Grandma moved to Brownsburg with two of the girls that were still at home.

Rachel Koeniger: And where did they live in Brownsburg? What do you want to call that house? Just tell me where was located.

**Dorothy Martin:** It's a big house behind the Dick Barnes' Antique Shop now.

Rachel Koeniger: The first house after you turn on--

**Dorothy Martin:** The first house on the road after you turn by the antique shop [8 Hays Creek Road].

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. Hays Creek Road?

**Dorothy Martin:** Hays Creek Road, yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: Were you grandparents farmers? How did they make their living?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: They were all farmers?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, farmers.

Rachel Koeniger: All right. Can you tell me what your first memory of Brownsburg is?

**Dorothy Martin:** I think somebody, I'm not sure, but I think maybe Grandmother Miller had died, and they sent me in there to stay. And I remember being in there a lot. I think that's where I got to be their little favorite granddaughter. And the family was in there a lot, there was a first cousin who they were raising there at the time.

Rachel Koeniger: And this was at the Moran, the grandmother's in Brownsburg?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum.

Rachel Koeniger: And how old were you?

**Dorothy Martin:** Not very old I don't think. Probably three or four maybe, or I'm not sure.

Rachel Koeniger: What kind of things did you do? Do you remember anything about the little town of Brownsburg at that age?

**Dorothy Martin:** Not too much at that age. I think as we got older, you know, the house was, you know, in olden times I remember everybody was using wood heat and wood stoves at that time, and they were very careful with them. And I guess a little later on maybe I remember Miss Pet Berry, who was down behind them. And then--

Rachel Koeniger: Is that the house where the--

**Dorothy Martin:** The post office is [2741 Brownsburg Turnpike]. And then Mrs. Whipple, who would have been Fred and them's mother, lived across the street [2728 Brownsburg Turnpike]. I do remember those. And I think that's about all my earliest memories then.

Rachel Koeniger: And you went to school in Brownsburg?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, I started to school in Brownsburg in 1939. And Mollie Sue Hull then [Whipple], she was my first grade teacher. And I've always been very fond of her, and she and Fred were married the next year in 1940. And I've always thought a lot of her and been very close to her.

Rachel Koeniger: She was your first grade teacher?

**Dorothy Martin:** Um-hum.

Rachel Koeniger: Do you remember anything about your classes or any other teachers at the Brownsburg school?

**Dorothy Martin:** Oh, yes. Not sure about second grade, then in third grade Mrs. Elizabeth Williams was our teacher, and then a Mrs. Lowe came and taught us, Nellie Lowe, who's still living by the way. And Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Frances Buchanan had us in fifth grade. And part of the time our classes was in the building that's been torn down, and then part of them were over in the old stucco building that's still living. There were three classrooms at that time.

Rachel Koeniger: And that was elementary school?

**Dorothy Martin:** Um-hum.

Rachel Koeniger: And then you--

**Dorothy Martin:** The high school classes were upstairs.

Rachel Koeniger: Upstairs?

**Dorothy Martin:** Um-hum. And when we finished seventh grade, then they had started the eighth grade classes, so we had to go to school 12 years then. It was the class or two ahead of me that were the first ones.

Rachel Koeniger: What kind of activities did you all have when you were in school that you participated in?

**Dorothy Martin:** We had basketball, softball, baseball. We didn't, I don't think they played football at that time when I was in high school.

Rachel Koeniger: Did you play any sports?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, I liked, I wasn't very good at it, but I liked basketball and I liked softball, too. And I was always very fond of the, it's called weekday religious education classes now, but it was just a class of Bible. I was very fond of that. We had some really nice teachers. And I

was also very interested in our home economics classes, where I guess I learned to do a lot of things.

Rachel Koeniger: And what kind of things did you do in home economics? What all did they teach you?

**Dorothy Martin:** We learned to cook, we learned to sew, and we made, well, I made a lot of my clothes, learned to make them. And I still like to sew and cook, well, not cook so much.

Rachel Koeniger: Did you learn to cook there, or did your mom--

**Dorothy Martin:** I think I learned to cook more there because at home I was outside more. I was more of an outdoor person.

Rachel Koeniger: That's neat. What about the WRE classes? Did they bring teachers in like they do now, or was there a teacher there?

**Dorothy Martin:** I think they had to bring people from away because this woman didn't live here. I don't know where she boarded, but they brought somebody in to teach them. And it was right in your regular classrooms. There were no problems like there are now.

Rachel Koeniger: So that program has been around for a long time?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum.

Rachel Koeniger: Do you remember when that started?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uh-huh. As far as I know, we had it the whole time we were in there. And I guess it went on, because when my kids were in there, Mrs. Bell, the minister's wife at Old Providence taught. So I know it's been quite a while.

Rachel Koeniger: Were they still teaching them in the classrooms then?

**Dorothy Martin:** Oh, yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: They were still in the classroom?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: What year did you graduate?

**Dorothy Martin:** In 1951.

Rachel Koeniger: And then what did you do?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, we stayed at home. We had to work. They needed help on the farm.

Rachel Koeniger: So you just helped at home?

**Dorothy Martin:** Helped at home, uhm-hum.

Rachel Koeniger: When did you get married?

**Dorothy Martin:** February 18, 1956.

Rachel Koeniger: And who was your husband?

**Dorothy Martin:** Sidney B. [Brown] Martin, who was also born and raised in the area.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay, and then what did you all, what kind of work did-- you all stayed around here?

**Dorothy Martin:** At the time we were married he was living over here at the forks of the Raphine Road and 252 [3475 Brownsburg Turnpike]. His mom owned that place, and he was raising chickens, raising boars. And then he also went into the dairy business right before he sold.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. And do you want to tell me about your children, when they were born?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah. We lived there, and like I said, farmed. And Mary Elizabeth [Beth Yeake], who we call Beth was born June 21, 1957. Do you want to know anything about them?

Rachel Koeniger: Yeah, just whatever you want to tell me.

**Dorothy Martin:** And she is now married and lives in Montana with a husband, Steve, and three children, Kathryn, and Joe, and Sarah. The next one was Kay, Teresa Kay, who became ill in 1973 and died. And then the next one was Mac [Sidney McClure] was born in January 21, 1961. And he is married to Pam Martin and lives in Buena Vista. He has a daughter and son-in-law, Holly and Keith Ferguson, and a son, Phillip, who is now a senior at Radford. And he [Mac Martin] is a broker for Keebler Cracker Co. And then the baby was Joseph Miller Martin who was born in September of 1965 and who was killed in a lawn mower accident in August of 1969.

Rachel Koeniger: And where did your family live after you got married and had children? Where did you live? What house? Where was your house located?

**Dorothy Martin:** We lived over here at the, lived in the house over here at the forks in the road where Ann Beard lives now [3475 Brownsburg Turnpike]. We lived there from 1956 until 1964, and then we sold that and moved up north on 252 to what was originally the Sandy Beard House [4565 Brownsburg Turnpike].

Rachel Koeniger: And whose house was that originally?

**Dorothy Martin:** Sandy Beard lived there. I think that was Joseph Beard House.

Rachel Koeniger: And when you were in the house that Ann [Beard] lives in now [3475 Brownsburg Turnpike], is that when he [Sidney] was in the diary?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, chickens and diary.

Rachel Koeniger: Chickens and diary?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: And after he got out of that--

**Dorothy Martin:** He sold candy for some candy company and then he went to work at plants for a long time.



Rachel Koeniger: Okay. Okay, you were talking a few minutes ago about how when you got out of school you had to help at home and help on the farm, and we've got a question here that they want to know when mechanization first came to the farm and how it affected the farming operations, do you remember anything about that, or was it pretty much mechanized by the time you--

**Dorothy Martin:** No, I remember most of the time while I was still at home, we used horses and milked the cows by hand and things. I think maybe before I left we might have had one tractor, but--

Rachel Koeniger: So you remember the horses?

**Dorothy Martin:** Oh, yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: And was it cattle that you had, dairy cows?

**Dorothy Martin:** No, not dairy. We just had--

Rachel Koeniger: Beef cattle?

**Dorothy Martin:** Beef cattle and we also raised sheep, too, part of the time.

Rachel Koeniger: How many animals?

**Dorothy Martin:** I don't know.

Rachel Koeniger: Where there a bunch of them, or--

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, I guess, probably a good many I would say.

Rachel Koeniger: And you had to help, you milked and--

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah. We raised, of course, then we raised our food. We always had a couple of big gardens or a big garden and another patch somewhere. And, you know, canned. In those days you didn't have freezers, you had to can food.

Rachel Koeniger: I was going to ask you about the cannery. This might be a good time to talk about that a little bit. Can you explain how that worked and where it was located?

**Dorothy Martin:** I don't know when it was opened, and I don't know whether anybody is around now that would know, but there was a school just before you go into Brownsburg where the colored children went to school, and after they took them into Lexington, there was a cannery that opened up in that building.

Rachel Koeniger: And can you tell me now where that was as you're going into Brownsburg?

**Dorothy Martin:** Just after you cross the [Hays Creek] bridge and there on your right going south going into Brownsburg. And I don't know how many years it was in operation, but people from all around would come and can things in tin cans, which was a big help.

Rachel Koeniger: How did that work? They brought all the produce in?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uh-huh.

Rachel Koeniger: And they did their own, or was somebody there?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, you had somebody that kind of oversaw, you had to do your own work, but you had somebody that oversaw it and then would make sure it was put in and cooked and processed like it was supposed to be.

Rachel Koeniger: What kind of equipment did they have?

**Dorothy Martin:** You had big long steam table vats, and then you had sealers, which probably had to be run by hand at first, where they sealed the cans.

Rachel Koeniger: Would it do it one at a time, or?

**Dorothy Martin:** One can.

Rachel Koeniger: One can at a time.

**Dorothy Martin:** Probably had a couple I think. Gosh, I've kind of forgotten about that, but I know they had more than one big vats where you could, I guess, put your things and somebody else could put theirs. And it was, you know, I guess fired by, I don't know how they fired it. It would have to be water going through steam probably to keep it hot. Because it had to reach a certain temperature to-- I remember one of my fondest memories was we made plum puddings, which were mixed up, and I remember you had to put those in the water and let them raise and then seal them and process them.

Rachel Koeniger: And you put those in cans?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum, in a tin can.

Rachel Koeniger: And you don't remember what years this was?

**Dorothy Martin:** It was, evidently the early '50s, because I don't remember after we were, well, I know we did go to the other ones just to do the plum puddings and soup mixtures and stuff. And Spottswood had one and Middlebrook had one, but this one in here I don't think lasted too long. The building wasn't in too good of shape I don't think.

Rachel Koeniger: So it probably just lasted as long as the building?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, probably.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. All right. Can you tell me a little bit about what you remember from church when you were small? Tell me the church that you attended and what sort of activities you all participated in at the church?

**Dorothy Martin:** I remember going to Sunday school at a very, I guess, early age. We were always taken to go. And one of my earliest, fondest memories was of Miss Sallie Reid McClung who taught us, and also Mrs. Trenton Beard was one of the teachers. And then later on the minister's wife, Mrs. Locke White, was very good with us. I remember her, and just different ones. But then when we grew up we had a very active youth group. We used to meet at the church, well, on Sunday nights and a couple of nights a week we met at the church and played ball. The young people and the younger adults played out there also.

Rachel Koeniger: And this is New Providence?

**Dorothy Martin:** New Providence, it was New Providence, yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. Were they still having the Chrysanthemum Festival? Do you remember any of that when you were little?

**Dorothy Martin:** I remember a little bit about being there but not much.

Rachel Koeniger: Not much?

**Dorothy Martin:** No. But then when I come along, then, we had what was the Lawn Party, we used to do those.

Rachel Koeniger: Was that a meal or just--

**Dorothy Martin:** That was a dinner. I think we started like 4 o'clock in the afternoon and we had ham and fried chicken and potato salad and beans and everything that goes with it.

Rachel Koeniger: Was this just once a year?

**Dorothy Martin:** Once a year, and we'd feed, well, lots-- I can look that up, too. We fed a lot of people. People from town would come out to eat.

Rachel Koeniger: So was this a money making deal?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, it was money making for the women of the church.

Rachel Koeniger: And what time period are we talking about?

**Dorothy Martin:** I think like July, July or August in the summertime.

Rachel Koeniger: How long did they do that?

**Dorothy Martin:** I'm not sure. But I know-- I'm not sure. Always one of the things with that, you know, a lot of the families did not have a lot of resources then, but they always could give you some, you know, a chicken or a ham or food or something to help with that.

Rachel Koeniger: Uhm-hum. And they did the ice cream?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, made homemade ice cream and cake.

Rachel Koeniger: In the big freezers?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, the big five-gallon one and then two-gallon ones.

Rachel Koeniger: You mentioned Mrs. White, you enjoyed her as a Sunday School teacher, do you have a favorite minister or somebody you could tell us about?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, no, not really. I guess we felt, you know, some of them I don't remember real well. I guess I was older and remember Dr. White. And then I guess, I'm not sure what timeframe Dr. Walthal was here, but he left and went into the service. And then-- who else, you know, it's just—

Rachel Koeniger: It's hard to remember.

**Dorothy Martin:** Hard, you know, kind of to-- oh, Dr. Hutcheson, he was here, and we were very fond of him and Mrs. Hutcheson both. After I finished school I started going to the Circle with mother, and that's always been one of the highlights of my life being with these older ladies and the tales that they used to tell about things, and I carry some very fond memories of them.

Rachel Koeniger: And was that the White's Hill Circle?

**Dorothy Martin:** No, it was called the Church Circle.

Rachel Koeniger: The Church Circle.

**Dorothy Martin:** It was supposed to have been the Church Circle.

Rachel Koeniger: How many Circles did they have then?

**Dorothy Martin:** At that time we had seven.

Rachel Koeniger: Wow.

**Dorothy Martin:** Newport, and the Church [Circle], and Raphine Road, Fairfield Road, Brownsburg and White's Hill, and then I think Mrs. White may have been the instigator of getting a Night Circle for the women who then were beginning to go to work and couldn't, you know, go in daytime.

Rachel Koeniger: So with seven circles, you could really put on a big deal like the Lawn Party.

**Dorothy Martin:** Oh, yeah. And then all of the women, I mean, you had a lot of women, then, I mean, that could, you know, come and--

Rachel Koeniger: How many people came to church when you were young? Was it still really big?

**Dorothy Martin:** I think it was a very good size church then.

Rachel Koeniger: What about Bible School? Did they have Bible School?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, we had Bible School. Yeah, some of them used to run trucks, and then we'd get, well, my father and Mr. [Tolarce] Wiseman had school buses, and as soon as they got them, they ran them and picked up the kids and brought them. We had big Bible Schools back then. It was two weeks in the summertime in the mornings. It was fun.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. Well, can you tell me a little bit about the town of Brownsburg, like what sort of stores and things that you remember?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, I guess after I, not actually my first memories of Brownsburg, but later on growing up while I was still in school, you had what was the Supinger Store, which later became Swope's Store [2719 Brownsburg Turnpike] and across the street where Dick Barnes is now was the Rockbridge Farmer's Co-op [8 Hays Creek Road]. And I'm not sure, but I think before that the Whipple's had a store there. And I think I've heard Sid talk about the Woody's that went to Lexington had owned it first.

Rachel Koeniger: And that's where Dick lives?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum.

Rachel Koeniger: Where his house is?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, where his bedroom is. That's it, which they have, of course, redone. And then, of course, up the street then was the bank [2711 Brownsburg Turnpike]. And then we used to go up in there, we had a telephone office up over there, we'd go up there and talk to people and visit with the Wade sisters. And then across the street was the Huffman's Store [2712 Brownsburg Turnpike], and I used to go in there a lot.

Rachel Koeniger: What sort of-- did they have different merchandise at different stores, or was it just mostly general merchandise at all the stores?

**Dorothy Martin:** I think, I think you'd say general, but I guess the Co-op had more with farming and feed. The other ones had more, I guess, of course, they had to carry some feed, I guess, too, but mostly groceries I think. And then you'd go on up to the Whitesell's [2664 Brownsburg Turnpike]. I'm not sure exactly when they opened their store, but then Whitesell's had the grocery store. And they had gas and Huffman's had gas.

Rachel Koeniger: Whitesell's had gas, too?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum, yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: So did you do most of your shopping in Brownsburg, or would you go to Staunton or Lexington?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, we didn't go buy a lot. I mean, you'd go get, I remember we took, Daddy took wheat to places and had it ground into flour, of course, mother made all the bread. But I guess we just probably went and got probably coffee and sugar.

Rachel Koeniger: Just what you needed. Where did he, did he go to Wade's Mill or one of the other mills?

**Dorothy Martin:** I'm not sure exactly, but I remember in later years I guess those had closed up, but I was taking flour myself down to Swoope Mill down next to Staunton and getting it ground. The other ones, I'm sure he went to the mills around here to start with.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay, do you have any people who stand out in your memory as more memorable than others? Characters or people that made an impression on you while you were growing up?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, like I said before, I've always been close to Mollie Sue [Whipple], and then some of them in the Church. Like I said, Miss Margaret Wade was always a good one to talk to and everything. Mrs. [Frances] Buchanan, Lib Ward.

Rachel Koeniger: Well, tell me a little bit about Margaret Wade, tell me a little something about her?

**Dorothy Martin:** She worked in the bank, and then she lived at home and took care also of her invalid sisters. And she was a very good person, a very good Bible teacher, I remember, and a church leader.

Rachel Koeniger: Now where did she live? Are you talking about the house out of Brownsburg or on Sterrett Road?

**Dorothy Martin:** That would have been the house on Sterrett Road [2613 Sterrett Road].

Rachel Koeniger: That Phil Lunsford lives in now?

**Dorothy Martin:** No, that's Mrs. Buchanan's [2633 Sterrett Road]. The other one is where--

Rachel Koeniger: Where Margaret and Royce Jones lived?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: Who else did you mention? Mrs. Buchanan, who was she?

**Dorothy Martin:** She taught school. She taught me at school. And she moved in there after her husband died. She had one daughter, Eliza, and she grew up in there, and I guess she lived there most of her life then.

Rachel Koeniger: Where did she live? What house did she live in?



**Dorothy Martin:** Where Phil [Lunsford] lives [2633 Sterrett Road].

Rachel Koeniger: Okay, so, she-- okay, that's—

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, that one. And Ms. Ward lived there in the house that's being redone now [2763 Brownsburg Turnpike].

Rachel Koeniger: Tell me a little bit about her.

**Dorothy Martin:** Miss Ward?

Rachel Koeniger: Uhm-hum.

**Dorothy Martin:** She taught school. She-- how are we doing on time?

<Laughter>

**Dorothy Martin:** Started out, I think, out in Highland and taught around in a lot of places, and then she came to Brownsburg then and taught for many years. She was always very nice to me. We got along.

Rachel Koeniger: What grade did she teach?

**Dorothy Martin:** First grade.

Rachel Koeniger: Just first grade?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum. And then she moved to Sunnyside [Harrisonburg, VA] and lived the rest of her life down there.

Rachel Koeniger: I know that some of her recipes you had given to the church.

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: Was she a good cook?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, she cooked, and I thought, well, she was a good example because [my son] Mac and I would mow her grass and we always had to eat with her. And I thought, well, she always cooked, but I think she got to a place where she didn't, and I haven't followed her as well, I don't cook either.

<Laughter>

**Dorothy Martin:** But she did, she was a good cook.

Rachel Koeniger: Do you remember anything about World War II? You were very young, but--

**Dorothy Martin:** Yes, I remember I had several first cousins who were in the Marines, and I remember the air raids, and we'd go to the Church and watch for planes. And we couldn't burn our lights, you know, we had to cover up the windows.

Rachel Koeniger: So how, did they have an air raid horn or a signal, or how did you know to go to the Church?

**Dorothy Martin:** I don't know. I guess somebody called or something probably. But I just vaguely, you know, not a lot about them, but I can remember some of it.

Rachel Koeniger: Did it effect your life at all? Do you remember any of the rationing or anything?

**Dorothy Martin:** Oh, yeah, gas was rationed, and then during that time, Daddy went up to Washington and drove a taxicab to help make--

Rachel Koeniger: Oh, he did?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: So he left home?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah. And then Mother--

Rachel Koeniger: How often would he come home?

**Dorothy Martin:** Probably not very often because the distance and stuff.

Rachel Koeniger: And how long did he do that?

**Dorothy Martin:** I'm not sure. Probably a year or two years.

Rachel Koeniger: So who took care of the farm, you know the horses?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, I guess we just did the best we could and, you know, I guess anything big somebody came in and helped.

Rachel Koeniger: And I don't guess you remember the Depression? Do you remember anything? What about electricity? Do you always remember electricity?

**Dorothy Martin:** No, no, we were all good-sized kids, I guess, before we ever got electricity in there. I can't tell you the year, but Milton [Dot's brother] could probably. I'm sure it was before we got out of high school, but we were still down and I remember, you know, studying by lamps.

Rachel Koeniger: Just kerosene lamps?

**Dorothy Martin:** Table lamps, yeah, uhm-hum.

Rachel Koeniger: What about phones? Did you always have a phone?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, we always had a phone.

Rachel Koeniger: And was it a party line?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, it was on-- yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: You have to be connected by the operator?

**Dorothy Martin:** You'd have to go through the switchboard. One long and a short, two shorts and a long, something like that. And sometimes when we needed to make calls, we'd go in there [to the switchboard] and make them. But we always had phones, yeah, I remember that.

Rachel Koeniger: What about cars? Did you always have a car?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, well, as I can remember we always had a car.

Rachel Koeniger: Do you remember what you had?

**Dorothy Martin:** I would say Fords, I think, for a long time.

Rachel Koeniger: When did you learn to drive?

**Dorothy Martin:** I was out of high school before I learned to drive. I learned out on the farm driving the truck putting up hay. And I can't think what year I got my permit.

Rachel Koeniger: What about the train? Did you ever ride the train?

**Dorothy Martin:** Oh, yeah, we, like I said, Daddy went to Washington, and he also had three brothers that lived up there. And Mother had a brother and a sister, so when they came down it was a big treat for us to go back with them. And one time I remember riding the train home to Staunton.

Rachel Koeniger: To Staunton?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum.

Rachel Koeniger: What about newspapers, or how did you all keep up with what was going on in the County?

**Dorothy Martin:** We had a radio at one time. I guess, whether that had batteries or whether it was after we got electricity, but I know at one time we did.

Rachel Koeniger: So you could listen to the radio?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah. And I don't remember whether we took the newspaper. I don't remember about newspapers that far.

Rachel Koeniger: Do you remember, did you have favorite radio shows or anything like that that you listened to, or did you just use it mainly for the news?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, we're talking about, what, Amos & Andy and a couple of the other like that. We probably didn't listen, but we had, you know, work to do. You know, we didn't have a lot of free time.

Rachel Koeniger: Too busy?

**Dorothy Martin:** We had to, you know, help in the garden, and in the summertime pick berries, and help momma to can, and always had the cows to milk and the chickens to feed and eggs to gather.

Rachel Koeniger: And did everybody help, all the children help on the farm?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, not out on the farm. My sister, she stayed inside. She never helped outside any. <Inaudible>.

Rachel Koeniger: We'll leave that for another day.

**Dorothy Martin:** And then, of course, when-- I finished school in '51, and my younger brother finished in '52, and he went immediately into the Navy. And then Milton must have gone into the Air Force about 1954, because I know he was in there when Sid and I was married.

Rachel Koeniger: Oh, okay. So he went in in-- and how long did he stay in the Air Force?

**Dorothy Martin:** I'd say probably 8 to 10 years, I'm not sure.

Rachel Koeniger: And your parents were still on the farm?

**Dorothy Martin:** Oh, yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: So when he got out, he came back to the farm?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, he came back.

Rachel Koeniger: So he just took over?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay, let's see, we talked about the-- tell me a little bit about how you got to be such a hostess with your catering and cooking and all of that?

**Dorothy Martin:** I guess it's just something that I got, I always liked to, you know, later I didn't, well, I didn't know too much about cooking when I got married, but I guess then I learned to cook and really liked to cook. And I guess when I really started out was when Beth got married and I did her reception. And then from then on things just kind of progressed.

Rachel Koeniger: So it's just in the last 25 or 30 years?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, Beth was married in '79.

Rachel Koeniger: Almost 30 years?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah. And things just, you know, people say, will you fix this and do that, and then, you know, when Sid wasn't well, then it was something I could do, to fix things and bake things for people and still be with him, watch him.

Rachel Koeniger: Did you teach yourself to cook?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: Just sort of trial and error?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, him, and, you know, just learned to do things.

Rachel Koeniger: If he liked it you cooked it again, huh?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. Okay, what stands out in your memory as the most significant event that's happened in Brownsburg during your lifetime?

**Dorothy Martin:** I'm not, I guess, you know, back then, that was kind of the, you know, people went there, everything was in the school. We had, you know, we had plays and dances in there and, I mean, there was no other place. It was kind of the center of the community. And ballgames, you know, having our ballgames and things like that. You know, I had a lot of, of course, I went to school in there 12 years. I don't know how many of us started when we were, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, for years the kids from Rockbridge Baths came in there for the high school. They just had the grade school up there.

Rachel Koeniger: So it was Rockbridge Baths and Brownsburg in this area?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: And how many people were in your graduating class? Do you remember?

**Dorothy Martin:** Twenty-seven.

Rachel Koeniger: Were you in school when the new school was dedicated?

**Dorothy Martin:** It was opened the year before I started.

Rachel Koeniger: The year before?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum, it was '38 I think.

Rachel Koeniger: That was quite an event, I would think, for the community to have the Governor here and--

**Dorothy Martin:** Well <inaudible>--

Rachel Koeniger: -- Senator Byrd was here?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah. Another thing some of the people might, when I talk about my teachers, Mag, she was Margaret, well, she was Margaret Buchanan and she married [Fred] Bates, and

then later she married Sid's uncle Jim Martin, but she taught me in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Fred was in the service I think and she taught us in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. And I was always very close to her and I always kept up with her down through the years.

Rachel Koeniger: That's Buck [Bates] and Roberta's [Fauber] mother?

**Dorothy Martin:** That's Buck and Roberta's mother, uhm-hum.

Rachel Koeniger: And did the 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, was it all one class, or did you change classes?

**Dorothy Martin:** It all stayed. It was all through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade we stayed in, I think, one class, and then the high school changed.

Rachel Koeniger: And so she was one of your favorite teachers?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, she was one of my favorite teachers. And also one time I, I don't know what grade I was in, I don't think I was too old, but somehow or another I think I was at the wrong place at the wrong time and got caught throwing a snowball and I had to go to the principal's office, and that was very--

Rachel Koeniger: Who was the principal?

**Dorothy Martin:** At the time it was Miss [Ocie] Trimmer.

Rachel Koeniger: Miss Trimmer, I've heard stories about Miss Trimmer.

<Laughter>

Rachel Koeniger: What do you remember about her?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, I think if we had a few more of her around kids might not be, but she's very strict, very disciplined, but I think she was a well-liked person as well as I remember. I've forgotten what grade she left in, what grade I was in.

Rachel Koeniger: So she wasn't there the entire time you were in school?



**Dorothy Martin:** No, uh-huh.

Rachel Koeniger: She must have been quite a character because I think everybody that's been interviewed has mentioned her.

**Dorothy Martin:** Remembers something about her.

[audio pauses]

**Dorothy Martin:** -- well, the Saturday night fights and the Saturday night shootings and the stuff.

Rachel Koeniger: Do you remember any of those?

**Dorothy Martin:** No, not enough to comment on. You know, to get somebody else would bring back some of it.

Rachel Koeniger: Do you ever remember going to Brownsburg on Saturday nights?

**Dorothy Martin:** Oh, yeah. And I guess when I was probably in high school, maybe after I finished, we didn't have TV, and Daddy would go in, he would always go into Huffman's and watch the street lights and things <inaudible>.

Rachel Koeniger: So you had a ride?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah. He was always willing to go in there so he could do that.

Rachel Koeniger: So he went in the store?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: We were talking about the Barber Shop, did you get your hair cut at the Barber Shop, or did you go to a Beauty Shop, or did your mom cut it, or how did you--

**Dorothy Martin:** I'm not exactly sure who did, because one time I wanted it cut, and I wouldn't take me to get it cut forever or do it and I cut it myself, and I ended up wearing a hat or scarf to school for weeks.

<Laughter>

Rachel Koeniger: You didn't do a very good job?

**Dorothy Martin:** By the time they straightened it up, it was pretty short.

Rachel Koeniger: Not much left.

<Laughter>

Rachel Koeniger: Do you know if you had any Revolutionary War or Civil War soldiers in your family? Do you remember hearing your family history in that regard?

**Dorothy Martin:** I'm not sure, but I don't know. I don't think I better go there.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. Okay, what about, were there many blacks that lived in Brownsburg, do you remember?

**Dorothy Martin:** Oh, yeah. Willie Howard Pleasants, which is Betty Brown's dad that lived out on Ervine's Hill, but then there was some of them down, the Craneys, and that was Frances Porterfield's mother and daddy, the Craneys. And then the Franklins lived over here [3569 Brownsburg Turnpike] and worked for Sid's mother. Dan Franklin and them, Sid grew up with them, and the ones over on the hill [on Sterrett Road], the Browns and all those.

Rachel Koeniger: Where is Ervine's Hill?

**Dorothy Martin:** That's out there where Lou Doyle [Sterrett] lives [1913 Sterrett Road]. That was Ervine's Hill, her mother was an Ervine [Adelaide Ervine Martin] and that's what they called it, just like--

Rachel Koeniger: So he worked for them?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, he drove, I'm not sure, he drove the school bus, and I think cleaned the schools or something like that. Like the Strains lived over here, and that was Strain's Hill over by Rocky Lane. You knew sections and all by names of people who lived there.

Rachel Koeniger: Right. So did you all have much to do with them, or just knew that they were around?

**Dorothy Martin:** As far as-- I think we got along very well with them. Of course, this wasn't in Brownsburg, but we several times had colored men that helped at home, helped daddy and momma with the farming and stuff. And one of them, Riley Price, I'd sit on his lap and twist his mustache.

<Laughter>

**Dorothy Martin:** They were all good to us, you know, we could--

Rachel Koeniger: Yeah.

**Dorothy Martin:** I mean, I grew up with colored children more or less. And then there was another family, the Johnsons, I think, that helped us. And my aunt had a colored man that lived out and worked for them for years. So I more or less grew up with them, you know?

Rachel Koeniger: So you had nice, you had friendly relations?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: What about doctors? Do you remember anything about the doctors in Brownsburg?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah. Dr. Bailey I remember very vaguely. And then Dr. [Jospeh] Williams, I guess, came, and then Dr. Taylor.

Rachel Koeniger: And where were their offices?

**Dorothy Martin:** As well as I remember, Dr. Bailey and Dr. Williams had their offices in the basement there were the Ag Patterson [2744 Brownsburg Turnpike] lives now. And then Dr. Taylor was up where Dick Barnes lives, had them up over there [9 Hays Creek Road].

Rachel Koeniger: Upstairs?

**Dorothy Martin:** Where you go in up, well, with the porch and then go up in that upstairs part, in the back part.

Rachel Koeniger: And do you remember seeing the doctor very often, or did you just know he was there?

**Dorothy Martin:** I guess we went maybe for, I remember back, and I don't know how old I was, but there was one across there from Virginia Whitesell's [2664 Brownsburg Turnpike], and what was--, as well as I can remember, going into the basement of where the Anderson's live now [2671 Brownsburg Turnpike], and was vaccinated by Mrs. Morris, and we went there, I think, several times for things like that. And in later years, then, I guess that must have been for another doctor, although Dr. Bailey was in there early. But Dr. Bailey came, and then Dr. Williams and then Dr. Taylor was the last one that was in there.

Rachel Koeniger: And you said you had stepped on a pitchfork?

**Dorothy Martin:** No, I ran a pitchfork down on the side of my foot.

Rachel Koeniger: Oh, my goodness. So, what did they do, give you a--

**Dorothy Martin:** He had to take a knife and split it so it would bleed because it never bled that much, then he gave me a shot.

Rachel Koeniger: Goodness. How old were you?

**Dorothy Martin:** I was old enough to know better I guess. I was a pretty good size, because we was putting up, I mean, that's when you had to pitch your hay up on the wagons with a pitchfork. And I was probably a good size with that.

Rachel Koeniger: And you said you were vaccinated, what were they vaccinating you for, was that Smallpox?

**Dorothy Martin:** I imagine, probably what they call now, well, you had to be vaccinated to go to school.

Rachel Koeniger: Yeah, and polio, I guess they didn't have that then.

**Dorothy Martin:** No, not then, but then, yeah, it [polio] got bad several times when we were in school with outbreaks.

Rachel Koeniger: Of polio?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: You said you were born at home, did your mom have a midwife, or did a doctor attend her, or do you remember anything about--

**Dorothy Martin:** I don't remember. Although, she may have had the doctor, because I think the doctor was in there then, because I remember them talking about Bud [W. Lowrie Martin] was born like at the end of September and Lib [Dot's sister, Elizabeth] was born the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, and I think that the doctor--

Rachel Koeniger: Was just making the rounds?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: What about the animals, did your dad doctor the animals, or was there a vet around, how did they take care of their--

**Dorothy Martin:** I imagine pretty much back then they did, although I remember in later years it was Dr. Plummer in Stanton was the veterinarian, I guess we <inaudible>. But I think they pretty much had to take care of everything.

Rachel Koeniger: What about Christmas when you were growing up? How did you all celebrate Christmas?

**Dorothy Martin:** I don't have too many memories of, of course, I guess we didn't have a whole lot. I mean, I guess we always, you know, celebrated in some way, but--

Rachel Koeniger: You don't remember a tree or anything like that?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, later years I remember we had trees, we had lights, but we were a pretty good size then I think.

Rachel Koeniger: Did you cut it off the farm?

**Dorothy Martin:** Oh, I'm sure we did. Oh, yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: What about at Church, did they have like a Christmas Eve Service or anything like that that you can remember?

**Dorothy Martin:** I don't think we ever did, you know, it's been later years that we did those. I guess, you know, some of the main things at the Church, you know, was the Chrysanthemum shows and then the lawn parties.

Rachel Koeniger: What did the women do with the money that they made?

**Dorothy Martin:** I guess it was just probably missions and things, just general purposes probably.

Rachel Koeniger: They didn't really have any big projects at the Church that they--

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, they moved the kitchen, I guess they did do some fixing up with the kitchen and things, you know, taking care of things like that would be one of their projects.

Rachel Koeniger: Okay. Is there anything else that you can think of that you haven't told me that you might want to share with us?

**Dorothy Martin:** Not right off. By the time you get down the road I can probably think of something.

Rachel Koeniger: This has been fun. I've enjoyed it. And can you think of anybody else we can talk to that might have something to tell about Brownsburg? Any of your friends or relatives?

**Dorothy Martin:** Not right off because there's not a lot of people around anymore that really actually, you know, grew up that would remember, that lived that close all their lives. You know they kind of came and went.

Rachel Koeniger: What about your mail? Did you have mail delivery at home?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, we had mail.

Rachel Koeniger: Was it Raphine, then, too?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum.

Rachel Koeniger: So it's always been [the Post Office serves the people that live in Brownsburg] just in Brownsburg, the people that live in Brownsburg?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum. And, well, one thing we used to-- different ones hauled cream to Staunton a couple of times a week and sometimes we needed to go to town, of course, we were older then and we'd catch a ride with them and go to Staunton.

Rachel Koeniger: And how did you get home?

**Dorothy Martin:** Come back with them I guess. We'd go down there and we'd come back with them.

Rachel Koeniger: They'd just take you and let you--

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum, I guess. And we had, I think, caught the mailman and would ride with him places maybe. Back then you could do things like that.

Rachel Koeniger: Did they just deliver in their own car?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: Just the way they do now.

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum.

Rachel Koeniger: Tell me about who some of your classmates were at Brownsburg? Are any of them still around?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah. Curtis Carroll lives in Roanoke. Leonard Cash lives over at Greenville. Herman Ritchie, he's at Fairfield. Tommy Anderson lives up at the Baths, of course, he came from Rockridge Baths. Virginia Smiley lives beyond Greenville now; she grew up back in the Pisgah section.

Rachel Koeniger: And is that Virginia [Smiley] from [New Providence] Church?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum. And I think Charles Sweet is still living. And Odie and Betty McCray. Odie, I guess he went, he probably went to the Baths [Rockbridge Baths school] and came to Brownsburg, and then Betty's family moved here in later years and finished with us. Mack McCrowell, I think he's moved away from Lexington now. There was the Norcross girl, but she's deceased now.

Rachel Koeniger: So really you're one of the only ones still around here?

**Dorothy Martin:** I remember also growing up the New Providence Church had chapels in the area, and then there was one back in Pisgah. And Daddy for a number of years was the Superintendent, and we used to get to go back there with him.

Rachel Koeniger: And where was that? Where was the chapel?

**Dorothy Martin:** Where the studio is now [11 Chapel Road].

Rachel Koeniger: Where the chapel is? That was the chapel?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum, yeah, that's it.

Rachel Koeniger: And they had that for the people who couldn't get to--

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, who lived back in that area.



Rachel Koeniger: How many people would they have?

**Dorothy Martin:** It was a good many because there were big families. A lot of them had big families. And you're talking about food now, you go back there when they had a picnic and you look--

<Laughter>

Rachel Koeniger: So how long was it around?

**Dorothy Martin:** They probably closed it out in probably the late '50s, early '60s.

Rachel Koeniger: And how would they, did they have Sunday School?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, we'd have Sunday School, and then they had, I guess they'd have, I know he went back there and had, they may not have had a preacher, but I know they had Sunday School.

Rachel Koeniger: They had Sunday School. I was wondering how the preacher worked, if he went back there during Sunday School, or--

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, I was wondering if whether they just went and had Sunday School, because this was in the afternoon.

Rachel Koeniger: Oh, it was in the afternoon?

**Dorothy Martin:** And then there were, you know, that was the last one. There used to be one that was called McNutt's Chapel down here on the other Dutch Hollow Road.

Rachel Koeniger: Where was that?

**Dorothy Martin:** Before you get to where Mack Lotts lived, Mack and Ora lived [1557 Newport Road ].

Rachel Koeniger: Oh, okay, that Dutch Hollow.

**Dorothy Martin:** Up that, yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: I was thinking about my Dutch Hollow.

**Dorothy Martin:** I said the other Dutch Hollow.

Rachel Koeniger: And that was a New Providence outpost?

**Dorothy Martin:** Uhm-hum.

Rachel Koeniger: When did you start driving the school bus?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, after I got my permit, I drove for Daddy because he had a school bus, and then I substituted for Big Eye [Carl] Reese, and then Janet [MoneyMaker], after she started driving, I substituted for them. I think I started around 1970 or 1971 driving.

Rachel Koeniger: So how long did your dad drive the school bus?

**Dorothy Martin:** He was driving before I finished [school]. He had the bus then. I'm not sure. Because I think Milton [Dot's brother] drove a couple of years before the County bought them out then.

Rachel Koeniger: So he had his own bus?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, they were private owned, yeah.

Rachel Koeniger: Oh, really?

**Dorothy Martin:** Oh, yeah. They were all private owned buses.

Rachel Koeniger: So where did he go to get it? I mean, where did you buy a school bus?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well, you just, I think Indiana, there were some made in Indiana and maybe North Carolina.

Rachel Koeniger: And the school just contracted with them to drive the buses?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, they paid them.

Rachel Koeniger: Well, that's interesting.

**Dorothy Martin:** And then I remember when I started driving, which was a number of years after they had given the bus up. The County had taken them over. They were I think paying me more then to drive than what they were paying him to keep the bus up and expenses and everything. So I know they didn't make that much.

Rachel Koeniger: What was his route? Where did he go?

**Dorothy Martin:** He went to Pisgah one time, and I'm not sure where else with that route, and then one time he ran up Goose Creek around and come out through Raphine, one time he ran Bustleburg. It was just different ways. And then who gave up a route or what.

Rachel Koeniger: You don't know how many they had?

**Dorothy Martin:** Probably at least I think five.

Rachel Koeniger: Five?

**Dorothy Martin:** Mr. Wiseman, Lewis Swisher, and Uncle Ott, which is, I mean, Uncle Kite [Wade], Virginia's [Whitesell] daddy, and Janis's [Ayres] daddy and mother both drove.

Rachel Koeniger: Really?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah. Not Kite, Kite carried the mail. It was the other one, the other-- Tuck Wade drove a bus.

Rachel Koeniger: A lot of Wades driving the bus.

**Dorothy Martin:** Yes.

Rachel Koeniger: Well, that's interesting. Well, let me see if there's anything else. I guess not. Thank you, Dot. I appreciate this.

**Dorothy Martin:** You're very welcome.

Rachel Koeniger: This was fun.

**Dorothy Martin:** I hope it made sense.

Rachel Koeniger: It did.

[End of first interview]

**Rachel Koeniger:** Today is March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008, my name is Rachel Koeniger and I'm here today at the home of Dot Martin for a follow up interview for the Brownsburg Oral History Project. Okay you wanna tell me your name?

**Dorothy Martin:** Dorothy Martin.

**Rachel Koeniger:** And you had some more thoughts about some of your memories of Brownsburg that you wanted to share with me today and one of them was some thoughts about Camp Briar Hills.

**Dorothy Martin:** I remember as a child staying in Brownsburg with my grandmother and a boys camp that was called Camp Briar Hills, ran by the McLaughlins, being on a hill east of Brownsburg [2508 Sterrett Road] you could hear them over there and to me it was to believe that kids were going to camp or something like that back in those days it was different. But I can remember hearing all their hollering and playing and then the bugle in the morning, getting them up and the camp is still being run today by some of the McLaughlin's, although it's called Camp Maxwelton on Walker's Creek [address].

**Rachel Koeniger:** Did you ever see any of the kids; did they come to church like they do now?

**Dorothy Martin:** I don't remember whether they-- probably not because they probably didn't have any way to get them there. I know in later years, they would get people that had school buses to haul them places.

**Rachel Koeniger:** And your grandmother lived in the white house behind the antique store [28 Hays Creek Road]?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah which would be right across from that, it was one of the memories I have of Brownsburg.

**Rachel Koeniger:** You thought some more about the stores that were in Brownsburg?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well I can remember well of course I'm not sure what was in there then but it had been one time in later years there were four stores in there and then of course they all gradually went away and, you know, we have none of them in there, which today would be a big help to run to for milk or bread. But it used to be a lively town and they said on Saturday nights people would come in there, of course for the pool hall.

**Rachel Koeniger:** And where is that?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well around in the back of the old Swope's store [2719 Brownsburg Turnpike] that where the antique shop is now and then up in the building beside the bank [2707 Brownsburg Turnpike]. I guess and the post office was in it at one time before it went to Whitesell's Store [2664 Brownsburg Turnpike].

**Rachel Koeniger:** Like in recent years when all the stores were still open, did you do a lot of your shopping there like in the late '70s and '80s while they were still there?

**Dorothy Martin:** A good bit yeah, a good bit yeah, I would say, you know, with anyway was convenient to run in there for things with the kids were always needing things. I did a good bit of shopping in there. And then they took the school away, I was very upset about that because I'd gone to-- well Sid and I both had done all our schooling in there and then the kids started in there and I think it's, you know, you kinda lose something of the community because it was a place we could have things. If we had it now it could be used to for a lot of things-- tore the building down that we could use that to have things in and I think it's always sad we don't have any place to go back for reunions or get together that's close to the school.

**Rachel Koeniger:** During middle school your kids went there through middle school?

**Dorothy Martin:** I imagine it was elementary because we didn't have a middle school, I don't think a middle school had started yet.

**Rachel Koeniger:** So they had 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the high school or how did they do that?

**Dorothy Martin:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade I guess would start over there [Rockbridge High School was then located at 1200 Sterrett Road].

**Rachel Koeniger:** And then <inaudible> 7?

**Dorothy Martin:** And it would be through 7, and then they started the elementary in Fairfield and the middle school in there.

**Rachel Koeniger:** But they went through elementary school up there?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

**Rachel Koeniger:** What about you mentioned the bank?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well it was also very upsetting to lose our bank, because it was a small, I guess you'd say hometown bank where people knew you and it was very easy to take care of your bank transactions and things, it just felt more I guess you felt more at ease in things there, people knew you and respected you and you could do your banking with-- just have to go off where people don't know you.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Didn't take all day either.

**Dorothy Martin:** No and another thing I think of what many people remember, we had a doctor in Brownsburg for years.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Who was the last doctor?

**Dorothy Martin:** Taylor, Dr. Taylor.

**Rachel Koeniger:** When did he leave?

**Dorothy Martin:** I would say probably in the '50s, I think he left in there not long after Madeline, his nurse, was killed in that car wreck. I think he must have left not long after because they were gone.

**Rachel Koeniger:** That was his nurse?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, Madeline Humphreys.

**Rachel Koeniger:** And when did that happen?

**Dorothy Martin:** '54.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Was that around here?

**Dorothy Martin:** She was going to the West Virginia Fair and then because I think he left here not long after-- Doctor <inaudible> come to Fairfield and that's where I had to go to because Doctor <inaudible> was gone I guess. I don't know, maybe you have to check with somebody on that.

**Rachel Koeniger:** And was his office the one up above the farm store?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah. When Doctor [Joseph] Williams and Doctor Bailey were in there, theirs was in the house where Ag [Patterson] lived, down in the basement [2744 Brownsburg Turnpike].

**Rachel Koeniger:** And they lived in the house?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Where did Doctor Taylor live?

**Dorothy Martin:** I don't know where he started out, but he ended up living out here at Castle Carberry, he rented that house from Wades.

<crew talk>

**Rachel Koeniger:** Let me ask you this, Betsy had talked about-- talking to you and Milton about the shooting or whatever happened at the school. Do you know enough about that that you could tell us?

**Dorothy Martin:** I think Milton would be the better one on it because all I-- is what I've got in later years that, you know, bits and pieces because it was never talked about at home.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Was that your great grandfather?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah my great and then the uncle, Henry [Miller] that was in it.

**Rachel Koeniger:** But you don't know enough about that?

**Dorothy Martin:** Probably not but of course.

<crew talk>

**Dorothy Martin:** The last it was in the paper Milton said it wasn't right, you know, that article several years ago, Milton said it wasn't right and I think he's probably gotten stuff from-- see my aunt kept a lot, she kept a lot of-- had books with stuff in them and all and I'm guessing that's where he's gotten some of his.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Who was your aunt?

**Dorothy Martin:** Cornelia Plummer, my daddy's sister.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Your dad's sister.

**Dorothy Martin:** But she dead and I wish now, well I saved some things but I wished now, she'd cut out deaths and births and just things of interest in the community and Milton I think.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Does he have it?

**Dorothy Martin:** I think he kept one of them, I think he kept one of the books.

**Rachel Koeniger:** That'll be great.

**Dorothy Martin:** But of course it would be more of interest to the community. When you think back at what, you know, what used to be in the village and of course all way have in there now



other than homes is the post office and well we do have the antique shop, don't forget about that.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Did you ever go up there [to Whitesell's Store] and just visit, I mean I've heard talk about when she needed milk or bread or something and she'd go down there and just visit for a while?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well I mean you'd go in there, people-- was always people. That was one of the worst things of going in there sometimes with her who had nothing to do. But, you know, the Burns had, you know, he fixed up the Huffman's store and of course the antique shop in the Swope's store and Dick lives in the old feed store. I mean I think the village is beginning to get fixed up and it has a lot of history in it.

**Rachel Koeniger:** It does. Well can we think of anything else we need to talk about?

**Dorothy Martin:** I'm trying to think.

<crew talk>

**Rachel Koeniger:** Okay we were talking about some of the things that happened out at New Providence when you were young and you were telling me about a sunrise service.

**Dorothy Martin:** We had a very active youth group because actually that was all we had to do in those days was meet on Sunday night and then since Easter's come we have a sunrise service on Beard's Hill and take a piano up there and we were.

**Rachel Koeniger:** And that hill is where?

**Dorothy Martin:** Behind Kenny Beard's house [3911 Brownsburg Turnpike].

**Rachel Koeniger:** And they would haul a piano?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah and sometimes we'd have somebody to come and sing, a guest, I mean we went all out for guests. I remember one night Nancy McCormack sang so pretty, she'd come several years and sang for us and then we played softball at the church a couple of nights a week. I mean that was all we had to do, I remember as an earlier child, they used to have prayer meetings and that would be around during the week and then we'd get together then.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Was it a big youth group?

**Dorothy Martin:** At times there were yeah, at times there would be yeah.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Were there more members then than there are now?

**Dorothy Martin:** Oh yeah I think so, yeah.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Who were some of the friends that you had in the youth group, who were some of the other people that belonged to the youth group when you were in it?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well it'd be Beards and who all would have been in there?

**Rachel Koeniger:** All your brothers and sisters.

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah and Sandridges and yeah it would be Lunsfords, in Brownsburg it would Eliza Buchanan and I guess the McManamas but they were younger than me though.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Who were your leaders?

**Dorothy Martin:** You know back early, I'm not real-- Mack Lotts helped at one time and I guess our ministers who did a lot of it then. Of course they had a lot to do too because they didn't have <inaudible> and then the Woody's came here with, you know, of course that was later, I guess some of these were later but then we worked with them. The Richards from Newport, there was two of them and Mary Katherine Blackwell and there at one time we had a club up in Newport called the "Oak Hill Kids" we'd meet once a week and then.

**Rachel Koeniger:** In Newport?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah.

**Rachel Koeniger:** What was that, just sort of an activity, just to get together?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah, have parties and stuff like that and then after-- well when my kids were in youth group then, Milton and I had them several times and Donnie Beard helped me with them and then one year I think Doris Lunsford and I had the young people and whatnot and, you

know, we'd work, we'd do sales, serve lunch and oh the horse show out at Maxwellton, we'd do lunch out there.

**Rachel Koeniger:** What did you have?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well they had always done hamburgers and hotdogs and I told them I <inaudible> so we made barbecue, we got the church to make barbecue the day before and we'd have barbecue and hotdogs and we'd make money and then we'd take them to the beach in Williamsburg, I mean Virginia Beach.

**Rachel Koeniger:** That was fun.

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah the kids, a lot of them didn't get out like they do nowadays. Jimmy and Blair Wade had them one time and Connie and Chuck Huffman had them, worked with them when they was out during one time. I think I remember, you know, we had I expect with them we had the Gordons and had probably 20, 25 kids at one time working with them. Nowadays they give them money; they don't work to make it. But we did, well it's just like, you know, they go from a lot times the circle would want to do things or we'd get the young people to do it and, you know we'd feed the Ruritans, the parents would help for money making projects.

**Rachel Koeniger:** It hasn't been that long since, well I don't guess the Easter bit if it's a band that the middle school <inaudible>. I guess they don't do that anymore.

**Dorothy Martin:** Well it got to where <inaudible> I don't know who was advisors the last time, you know, <inaudible> we met every week with them, every Sunday night and then like I said, you know, we played ball at the church and we had the Young Adult Group that played ball out there, a night or two a week too.

**Rachel Koeniger:** How old were they?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well then nobody's left downstairs but Mc [Sterrett] and Bud [Martin] and Jimmy Wade that was of course that's been 25, 30 years ago when they were Young Adults probably, and there were a good many of them.

**Rachel Koeniger:** And they played over there?

**Dorothy Martin:** Yeah at the ball diamond. See that was one thing with parking out there, for a number of years <inaudible>, we worked hard. When I was in youth group we worked hard and picked up rocks and stuff and made a ball diamond then but now I realize we do need parking.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Gotta park somewhere.

**Dorothy Martin:** We gotta park-- well and then I think that we need-- it's gotten so it's and taken care of and stuff and we need some parking.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Did you all ever play tennis on the tennis courts?

**Dorothy Martin:** Well my kids did, you know, I didn't.

**Rachel Koeniger:** They were there when you were?

**Dorothy Martin:** No. My kids would play tennis, they went out and played tennis a lot and <inaudible> and they could, they liked to play. But I mean your church and schools are kinda, you know, hub of your community for gatherings and things, I mean some of them had cars but a lot of times you didn't have ways to go anywhere to get to church.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Well so many people have talked about the school, about how much it meant to them and how much they enjoyed it and the impression that so many of the teachers made. Virginia [Whitesell] was talking this afternoon about Miss Trimmer, you know, how she was hard but she was fair and people respected her.

**Rachel Koeniger:** Yeah I mean and kids, you know, you didn't-- but you know, now you'd have a place where you could have things but there's no community place to get together and have except the other schools.

<crew talk>

[end of interview]

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