

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS WITH JACK HUGHES  
Duke University Libraries and Archives  
Submitted November 15, 2019  
Researcher: Joseph O'Connell

#### COLLECTION SUMMARY

This collection features an oral history I conducted with Jack Hughes on October 3 and 4, 2019. Hughes grew up in southeastern North Carolina and worked as a private practice urologist in Durham from 1950 to 1988. Our conversations moved more or less chronologically through Hughes's upbringing and education, his military service during World War II, his residency training in Minnesota, and his experiences at the intersection of academic and private practice medical communities in Durham.

Dr. Hughes came to the archives' attention through Duke professor and RNA researcher Jack Keene. Keene socializes with Hughes in the context of an investment club. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landing, where Hughes served, and the approach of Hughes's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday prompted Keene to pursue oral history interviews with Hughes. Keene was present at the interviews and participated in posing questions to Hughes.

This document contains the following:

- Short biography of Jack Hughes (pg. 2)
- Timecoded topic logs of the interview recordings (pgs. 3-4)
- Transcripts of the interviews (pgs. 5-46)

The materials I am submitting also include the following separate files:

- Combined audio file of both interviews
- Portrait photo
- Scan of a signed consent form

## BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Jack Hughes served the Durham, North Carolina community in private urological practice from 1950 until his retirement in 1988. His work bridged his specialty in urological surgery with an interest in the medical science of stone disease. His clinical practice, research, and service to medical societies often involved collaborating with colleagues in academic medicine, especially at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Hughes grew up in Tabor City, a small community thirty miles from the southeastern North Carolina coast. After a difficult season growing strawberries on an acre of his father's land, a teenage Hughes turned his ambitions toward practicing medicine. At 15, he enrolled in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He subsequently completed MD training at the University of Pennsylvania and an internship at the Medical College of Virginia.

In 1943, Hughes decided to forego further educational deferment and join the war effort. He enlisted in the Navy and served as the executive officer of a medical unit. During the D-Day landing at Normandy, Hughes and his unit cared for the wounded at Fox Red, one of the most embattled sites of the invasion. Hughes remained with the unit for six months, making a total of 28 round trips across the English Channel hauling troops and supplies.

For the remainder of the war, Hughes served the Dispensary for the Marine Corp Training Station at Parris Island, South Carolina, where he developed an interest in urological medicine. Acting as the hospital's venereal disease control officer, he fought the spread of diseases such as gonorrhea by means of education, routine checks, and treatment. After the war, Hughes followed this interests to Miller-Ancker Hospitals in Minnesota, where he completed a urology residency under Frederic Foley, one of the field's major figures.

In 1950, Hughes and his family returned to North Carolina, where he entered private practice in Durham serving patients at Watts and Lincoln Hospitals. In this racially segregated hospital system, Hughes frequently saw African-American patients who traveled from eastern North Carolina to receive care. During his career, Hughes also took part in a transformation of Duke University's relationship to local private physicians and to the Durham community in general. Hughes helped span the town-gown gap by collaborating with Duke faculty on research projects and procuring university support for public health fairs. His work for community organizations and medical societies includes serving as secretary and president of the North Carolina Medical Society and a board member of the Durham anti-poverty program Operation Breakthrough.

Dr. Hughes celebrates his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in November, 2019. He credits his long life and many successes to good fortune and the support of his family.

## INTERVIEW TOPIC LOGS

Interview 1 (October 3, 2019)

File: Hughes\_Interviews.WAV

00:00	Parents' sayings
02:19	Interview ID
03:00	Early life
	Description of hometown, family, and family business
04:37	Date of birth
04:56	Memories of youth activities
07:52	Early jobs
12:33	Visiting the coast
14:09	Starting ice business
18:12	Educational status of family
25:28	Religious and moral orientation of family
28:23	Trying farming and turning toward medicine
33:19	Early travel and cultural exposure
35:38	Significance of father's business
39:43	Relationship to siblings and peers
44:32	Reflections on death of father
48:54	Story about college Latin course
53:20	Wartime experience
	Entering medical school
57:36	Pearl Harbor attack and subsequent enlistment in Navy reserves
1:03:30	Considering and deciding against application for residency deferment
1:09:44	Initial interest in obstetrics
1:12:58	Comments on later medical practice
1:13:34	Commitment to civic engagement
1:16:17	Comments on father's alcoholism
1:20:08	Story about being motivated by memory of farm labor

Interview 2 (October 4, 2019)

File: Hughes\_Interviews.WAV

1:23:04	Interview ID
1:23:50	Wartime experience (continued)
	Training at Lido Beach
1:26:52	Deployment to southern England
1:30:48	Discussion of preparing for D-Day invasion
1:34:31	Invasion experience
1:42:11	Deployment experience after D-Day
1:46:00	Assignment at hospital dispensary in Beaufort, SC
1:50:37	Description of work as VD control officer
1:51:58	Reflection on impact of service
1:55:09	Discussion of family's experience of the Civil War
1:57:13	Reflections on willingness to share wartime experience
1:59:03	Post-war family and career developments
	Meeting wife

2:03:09	Urology residency training in Minnesota
2:06:58	Life and career in Durham
2:11:14	First job at Watts and Lincoln Hospitals
2:20:52	Comments on segregation in medical services and societies
2:26:30	Comments on family
2:33:48	Relationship between practice and local academic medicine
2:37:16	Research interests and activities
2:40:12	Relationships with local figures in academic medicine
	Jim Weingarten
2:44:49	Bill Anlyan
2:45:07	David Sabiston
2:48:18	Mary Siemens
2:50:47	Drawing on Duke support for health fair
2:54:06	Daryl Hart
2:55:22	Self-introduction (for production)
2:56:19	Room tone (for production)
2:58:18	Limericks
2:59:30	Reflections on marriages
3:00:54	Reflections on town and gown relations

TRANSCRIPTION, INTERVIEW 1

DATE: October 3, 2019

LOCATION: The Forest at Duke Continuing Care Retirement Community

CITY, STATE: Durham, North Carolina

AUDIO FILE: Hughes\_Interviews.wav

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00:00:00

**JO: I'll go ahead and start recording. If you want to conclude your thought, then we'll do the intro after that.**

JH: Okay. And one particular thing was that--I would listen to a conversation. I went with him a lot of places and he would--one that I remember particularly was that there were--he said there were talkers and there are doers, and he said doers don't talk much and talkers usually don't do much. Words to that effect. And a number of those expressions that I think sorta would affect me. I've always been very reluctant to do a lot of talking. Of course, in my declining years I was not limited. My tongue became a lot looser and I started talking a lot more, but it's--and there were a number of others that had a lot of effect on me.

**JO: And you said both of your parents would repeat some of these things?**

JH: Yeah, a lot of things.

**JO: And where did they get them?**

JH: Hmm?

**JO: Where did your parents get the sayings from?**

JH: Well, my mother was from Poor Richard's Almanac, Ben Franklin's. And I later--I got a book in which--of the copies of poor Richard's Almanac, and I was reading through them, and here I find all of these things that my mother used to say to me.

00:01:59

**JO: Yeah. Can you remember any other ones?**

JH: Not right off the bat. Maybe some will come to me. I'll tell you, I'm not unusual. My memory is not as good as it used to be.

00:02:19

**JO: Okay. Now I'll go ahead and identify who we are and the date.**

JH: I'm ready.

**JO: Okay. So this is Joe O'Connell. I'm interviewing Dr. Jack Hughes, and it's October 3, 2019. The recording is for the Duke University Medical Center**

**Library and Archives. And also we have with us Jack Keane today. So you might hear Jack's voice--the other Jack's voice as well on this recording. So yeah, we just recorded a reflection of yours about some of the sayings you heard growing up. Where did you grow up?**

00:03:00 JH: I grew up in a small country town in southeastern North Carolina, right on the South Carolina line, about 30 miles from the coast. Town of 900 people. It was a farming community. My father had a small box factory. He made shipping containers for strawberries and other farm products and also other types of shipping things from little quart cups to tobacco (?) and things of that form. But it was a small operation.

00:03:51 **JO: Okay. So he was kind of an entrepreneur?**

JH: Sort of, but he died very young. He was 46 when he died. And that of course had some influence, I'm sure, all my life.

00:04:09 **JO: Yeah. What was--what were the members of your family like?**

JH: I had two brothers and two sisters. I was the second. I had an older sister. Then I had two younger brothers, one, two years younger and four years younger. And another sister who was six years younger.

00:04:37 **JO: And what year were you born? What was your birthdate?**

JH: November the 24th, 1919.

**JO: Yeah. And what do you remember about your childhood and just what life in this town and in your family was like?**

00:04:56 JH: Well everybody knew everybody else. If you misbehaved in any part of town your parents knew about it before you got home. You went to school with everybody, associated with everybody from the poorest to the, well, there were no really wealthy people, but to--we all went, and I, one thing about it, you, growing up in a small town, you get a lot of street smarts. You associate with people who are younger and older because there aren't enough people to have crowds your own age. And so I learned to shoot craps at a very young age. I would take my pocket knife, which at that time every southern boy had to carry a pocket knife for all sorts of things, for peeling sugarcane or cutting or--but I would take my, take a piece of chalk from school and cut it up and make a set a dice.

00:06:25 And, and on the way home, if I had saved a few pennies, I'd stop by the filling station. And shoot craps for a little while till I lost my pennies. Or occasionally I would win a few. And there was all sorts. And we had a mill pond. We would go swimming in the summertime. It was a mile away, but it was all right. We walked that way. We were pretty well--we were disciplined. I mean, we didn't

do, didn't get into too much mischief, not because we didn't want to, but because we knew the punishment was going to be there, appropriate for the misadventure that had been done. So it was an--early on, all my life, I've always had a job of some sort. When I was in high school, I worked many different jobs.

00:07:52

My uncle had a hardware store. On Saturday afternoon I would go, the farmers would come into town on Saturday. I would work in the hardware store, sold everything from sewing machine needles to international trucks. And I would work in the record department selling records. And I heard country music til it was running out my ears. And I mean, this was raw country, but I would, I had a lot of jobs when I was still in grammar school. My next door neighbor had what we called a dry goods store, and he let me work on Saturdays. And I think he paid me about 10 cents a day or something. But I--that was a lot of money for, I couldn't have been more than 10 or 11 years old.

00:09:11

So I always, always had jobs growing up.

**JK: Did you get to keep your money?**

JH: Yes. Yeah. I kept it. Shot craps and shot pool. There was a pool hall, and I learned to shoot pool at a very young age. I never was very good at it. But later on when I had a pool table in the basement, my boys got so all of them could beat me. And so I never was really good. I don't shoot pool here cause I'm not as good as most of the ones here.

**JO: So you had a lot of different kinds of jobs.**

JH: Yes. All my life. Later on when I was in college in the summertime, a couple of years, my brother and cousin and I had an ice business and a little beer joint that we ran, and we made a clear few hundred dollars in the summertime, so I always, I did a lot of other things. Made dog houses.

**JO: And when you were selling records you said there was a lot of country music coming though?**

JH: Yeah, it was raw. I mean, it was raw country. My father was sort of a country musician, but he was not raw Roy Acuff nasal country. He was more blues country.

00:11:05

**JO: And this would have been in the late thirties, early forties?**

JH: Well, all this was in the early--well all of these--I finished high school in 1935 when I was 15. So it was in the 30s. And then of course I was in college from '35, in 1935 to 1939. Medical school from 1939 to 43. So in those I had all kinds of jobs. I didn't in college. I didn't have any jobs 'cause I went to the, to the Self Help, and this was in the middle of the depression of course. And he said there's just too many other people here who are worse off than you are, so I can't give

you a job. So I said, okay, I'll make the best I can. So, fortunately, I--my family's business was still in operation, and so they could afford to send me, of course my first year in college was, cost me \$485.

00:12:33

Of course, that was a lot of money in 1935--but anyway, I always had jobs. I've always been involved in things.

**JO: Yeah. And how big of a part of your life was the coast itself and the beach and going to the coast and, you know, the experience of the ocean?**

JH: We had a little house down on Ocean Drive Beach. Before--we had no electricity, but there was a big, had a windmill and a big tank. So we had that, and we used Aladdin lamps, which were gas fired mantle lamps, to see by. We took mostly cold showers, but we did have a wood stove that when we wanted to take a hot shower, we'd fire up the wood stove and heat enough water to have a hot shower. But most of the time--this was summertime—and most of the time I lived at the beach, I was doing something. Ran a Bowling alley one summer. I was doing something all the time.

00:14:09

**JO: So when the summer came around, your family would kind of relocate to the house at the beach?**

JH: Well, off and on. We were only 30 miles away, so it was not--we would go down, stay a week or two at the time. But mostly--I don't think we ever stayed a month straight.

**JO: And can you tell us a little bit more about the business that you had with your brother?**

JH: Oh, the ice business. Well, early in the summer we were having problems getting ice--ice delivered. There was one refrigerator on a whole eight miles of beach. So people were--I heard people complaining. So I thought about it, and I noticed there was an old--there was an ice house, a storage ice house sitting on the back of the pavilion, and I knew the man that owned it. So I went to him and I told him that we were interested in setting up an ice business. And he said, fine, we need it. I'll just let you use the ice house free of charge, just to provide it.

00:15:45

Because he owned the--had a lot of business interests down on the beach. He wanted to see it profit. So we said, okay, well, we got to have a delivery truck. So I went back to Tabor City and went to--found an old Model A Ford Touring car for sale for, I don't remember, cheap. And so we went down to my father's plant that I had worked around with since I was 10 years old. The feds, the state inspectors didn't come down--So anyway, we went, and we cut the back off and built a body, a little ice fancy thing so that it would hold three blocks of ice and put some extra springs in the back to hold it up. And then the ice house, there was an ice house, a manufacturing plant in a Tabor City.



00:16:58 So I went and talked to them, made arrangements for them to bring down a load of 12 blocks of ice every morning. They'd get there six, six-thirty. So we got that going, and it did very well. As I said, we would, at the end of the summer we would have a couple of hundred dollars, two or \$300. One summer I made enough to buy a 1928 Ford Touring car with leather upholstery and white sidewall tires and--really fancy. I'd take that back to Chapel Hill one year. It was--

**JO: That's pretty good for a college student.**

JH: So we did--we had a lot of things.

**JO: Right. And did you know that you were gonna go to college all the time? Or, how did you decide to go college?**

00:18:12 JH: Well I think that was understood. My father did not; he was self-educated. He was a genius. But he worked, slept about four or five hours a night, burned the candle at both ends, and drank too much. But he was--he, I say he was self-educated. He became an expert in stationary steam engines, which he used to run the machinery in the factory. Also, early on they didn't have electricity in the town. So he took a correspondence course from Chicago, some institute in Chicago, and learned enough that he got hold of a second-hand generator and put it in next to the steam engine that ran the saw mill. So when they would close down the plant at six o'clock, then he would switch over, switch the steam engine from the saw mill over to the generator, and they'd have lights.

00:19:39 He and some, a couple of friends of his, strung a few lights around town and had that for a year or two till the town built a big generator for the whole town. And that was in the early twenties, 1920s. And so it--I don't know what else you would--

**JO: It sounds like your family was very inventive.**

JH: Yeah.

**JK: But then your father set a model for everyone else.**

JH: Yeah. Well, he was. He had three brothers and three sisters. None of them went to college. And my father went to seven grades in a country school. And then he went to (Orem?) Academy, which was in Robeson County, for one term. And then he left the farm. His father had a farm about 10 miles from Tabor City, and he had a country store and a water mill.

00:21:04 And that was pretty much what most of my ancestors were. They were not highly educated. They were literate and musical. But they were not judges. My great grandfather was a country doctor in the county that I grew up in and--but he didn't go to medical school. He got it by apprenticeship--he worked with an

older doctor for your preceptorship whatever you call them. But we were not a family, either side of my family of--and they were both pretty--my other grandfather had a big farm and a country store and a cotton gin and a lot of children. In fact, we had both sides. My mother was one of 12 children, and my father was one of seven. I had 34 first cousins, in World War II.

00:22:32

There were 42 first and second cousins in the armed forces. I mean, we were a big family, fortunately all of us came back alive, but we had--

**JO: That's amazing. A big family.**

JH: Yeah.

**JO: We haven't talked much about your mom yet. What was she like?**

JH: My mother was raised in Robeson County. As I said, she was one of 12. She was the fourth. She was highly motivated. She went to East Carolina teachers' school at that time. ECTC, and you could go two years and get a teacher's degree and get your teacher's certificate. And she did that and taught school for a couple of years in a town, Bladenboro, near about 15 miles from Tabor City. And my father was rooming with her uncle and somehow or other she met him, and they were married a couple years later.

00:24:05

She was teaching school at 18, and was married at 20. And so she—it was an interesting family. And in the town there were Baptist and Methodist and a few Presbyterians. And some fundamentalists. They call themselves Holiness. But it was pretty much a town of no--we finally got a movie house, a movie theater, but there was no Sunday movies. And you weren't supposed to--they were strong Baptists. And my mother was sort of a Baptist, so she and a few of her friends would close the drapes and play bridge. She was a great bridge player. We weren't supposed to dance, but we would get a small group and come to somebody's house and didn't make a lot of noise. But we managed to dance.

00:25:28

So we weren't--didn't exactly—weren't exactly the typical family.

**JK: You were selling beer one time.**

JH: Well, when I had the ice house, I also had a little--I called it a beer joint. We sold Cokes and beers and sandwiches and ice cream and chewing gum and candy and all sorts of things along with it. It was right next to the ice house.

**JO: And so your family was Baptist, but you weren't very strict. Is that correct?**

JH: That is correct.

**JO: And was this only on Sunday that you would dance and play bridge and those things?**

JH: We were careful not to do it on Sunday. On Sunday we could play baseball, and that's about all we did. And that wasn't all that bad for us cause we didn't have much else to do. So we, I read a lot. I think I was--I wasn't very old when I stumbled across a book of one of Shakespeare's, I think it was Shylock, the Merchant of Venice, was that it? Anyway, and I read that, and I was fascinated with that, and that got me interested, and I started reading more. And when I was about 12 years old, they had what they call a revival at the Baptist church. And I sorta of got religion and got baptized.

00:27:16 One of the things I did, I heard that you could read through the Bible if you read two chapters a day and five on Sunday. So I did that, took it a year, took a year to do it, little over a year, because there were sometimes I couldn't do it. Of course there was a lot of it I didn't understand--a whole lot of it. And I do remember when I got to Sodom and Gomorrah and Lot and how his daughter seduced him and he got pregnant. I had a little problem with that as well as some of the others, but that particular part, I remember. So after as soon as I got away, as soon as I went to Chapel Hill at the ripe age of 15 I didn't have much to do with the baptist church. I started going to Episcopal church.

00:28:23 **JO: And was there anything in the first part of your life that started you thinking about being a physician?**

JH: Yeah--it was very distinct. I told him--I was in the eighth grade, and in the country schools you had two programs, you could have the agricultural program or you could just have the usual academics. So I told my father I wanted to be a farmer. He said, okay. He had a little plot of ground there in town and we had a little farm on the edge of town. And so my cousin and I, who was three years older, my father said he'd give me an acre of strawberries. He would get the plants and get the ground broken up for me. But my cousin and I had to lay out the row and get the straw and do the plants.

00:29:30 So anyway, we got the old mule from the farm and a wagon and a plow. And we did that for one year. And at that I came back and told him, I don't believe I want to be a farmer. There's gotta be a better way of making a living. So he said fine, but I didn't, I just wasn't sure that I wanted to. But by the time I finished high school, I was pretty sure I wanted to be that, to do, be a doctor. But again, I was only 15, and I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. So when I went to Chapel Hill, I signed up to major in chemistry to be a-- get a BS in chemistry, which was really very, mostly science. And after a couple of years, well, after a year, I realized that was too much science that I needed.

00:30:47 So I switched over to an AB in chemistry where I could get a lot of non-scientific (?). And there was a possibility I wouldn't get into medical school, so I better have plan B. And so I took a—I decided I would want to be an accountant. I liked math and that was one of my best subjects. So I took my, a lot of my

electives in economics of various sorts and accounting just in case, but I still had a lot of science and--but when I was a junior, I took the--at that time you had to take a comprehensive exam in your major so they--we could take it your junior year. So I took it and passed it in that--then that gave me an opportunity to take some more electives which I--which I did, and I think that helped. But anyway, I was accepted into medical school.

00:32:13

**JO: And that was your goal?**

JH: That was my goal.

**JO: So you tried a little bit of farming for a year, you didn't like it, you'd done all these other jobs sort of as an entrepreneur and working in stores, and what gave you the idea that medicine might be a good fit?**

00:32:40

It's hard to believe, but I said I've got to make a living and I was sort of idealistic at one point and I said, well, I'd like to do something that maybe I can help people. I know I gotta work, I gotta do something and I--and plus the fact that we had a doctor in town that I liked very much, and I think that had some influence on me.

00:33:19

But there was--other than as I said, my great grandfather, there were no other doctors in my family on either side for as long as I could have any history.

**JK: When you went to Chapel Hill, was that the first time you, the farthest you'd gone or had you traveled other places beyond?**

JH: I hadn't. I went to Charleston, South Carolina with my family one time to see my uncle. We drove in a Model T ford from Tabor City to Charleston, which was, well, what is it, a hundred miles, a little over. And I, my senior year, I went to the state fair in Raleigh. And also we had a bus trip. The high school had a bus trip to Washington D.C. for three days, or three or four days. And that was the extent of my travel. Of course, we and--

00:34:39

But I read a lot. The state had a library, North Carolina had a lending library, and you could get books. And so I got books. Most of them--they were not Shakespeare. Most of them were Zane Grey and--but they were, it gave you some idea of what was going on. And then--I mean, I traveled around North Carolina, my father's business, particularly eastern North Carolina. I didn't go west, but I was pretty much, as I say, I'd been to Raleigh to the state fair. And, well, I went to Wilmington, now my father did a lot of business in Wilmington, so I went up to there, took to Wilmington many times.

**JK: Did you consider your father to be a farmer also?**

00:35:38

**JO: He was, he had all sorts of things. No, he had a farm, but he had a tenant that lived on the farm. He was a stock holder. And on the board of the local**

**bank. He and a couple of friends operated a tobacco warehouse for a few years.**

**JK: So he was entrepreneurial as you said.**

**JO: Yeah. It sounds like he kinda had to be.**

JH: Yeah.

**JO: And he had one main business that was kind of a manufacturing—**

JH: Yeah. Yeah. The plant. It wasn't—it employed about 65 people.

00:36:29

**JO: Oh, wow.**

JH: And he had on his stationery that they manufactured 250,000 strawberry crates a year, which was a lot. And it was the biggest business in town. Of course tobacco was the king at that time, but there was some cotton too. In fact there was a cotton gin just one block from my house. And I used to go up there, and at that time--hell. When I was 12, 13 years old, 14 years old. And I'd go up and watch those. I got fascinated by watching the saws take that and how they would, how they would take the boll of the cotton off the seed. I'd sit there and watch that. And another thing I remember, I couldn't wait till I got big enough and strong enough that I could turn over a bale of cotton. So that was, I was always doing something.

**JO: So watching the cotton processing was kind of fascinating to you?**

JH: Yeah, it was. Yeah. Well, of course the machinery down in my father's plant, I was fascinated by that. As I said, they didn't--child labor laws, if there were any they weren't enforced it. And of course I learned, I was very careful not to get involved cause my father, I guess one of the reasons he (?) World War II, he was working on one of his planers, and somebody shifted the (?) on it and started it and took off two of his fingers. I don't know that that was, but anyway, he was also married and had one child.

00:38:40

But that was, I got into. I was meddling in things all the time. And on Sunday, some Sunday afternoons, of course we'd play if the weather was good. We played baseball. They would find enough--I had a uncle who, let's say, ran the store, and he was my mother's, one of her younger brothers, and he would bring us a baseball, or if we couldn't get a baseball, we made one. We'd take a rubber innertube and cut it up in little pieces. And we'd take tobacco twine and we'd wrap that, make a ball of rubber inner tube and then sew it with a needle to get it hard and it made a good baseball. We could knock it out across the field.

**JK: So were you close to your brothers?**

00:39:43

JH: They were younger. We were not. Yeah, we were, we didn't go--we didn't--there wasn't that much socializing, but they, I was--in the town, there was nobody, there was not a boy my age. In my class, of course I was--having skipped a grade, people in my class were always a little older and some of them had been held back. But the school was the whole high school, the whole school, the whole high school, high school, grammar school all together. But the high school didn't have but a hundred, about a hundred people. I had 18 in my class in high school and didn't have that many. I started school when I was almost six. I was five. And then when I, the--in the second grade we had too many, so they put me, put two or three of us up in the third grade. So we had our second grade courses, but we were in listening to the third grade too. So I was in the third grade essentially for two years. Anyway, we had a group that were--

00:41:34

I was the youngest of a group of about three or four years. My sister was two years older and she--there were several in her age group, and I had a cousin who was three years older and there were two or three people in his group. So we had about a dozen people that we could socialize with. So my brothers were younger and they went with a much younger group. So that's-- we were not that close.

**JK: You must have set an example for them though, throughout your life, right?**

JH: I don't know that I did. They all did all right. But they didn't--

**JK: It wasn't a favorite in the family. Your mother's favorite?**

JH: She didn't have time to have a favorite. My father died when, as I say, at 46, and she was left with five children and a business to run.

00:42:46

Although my uncle who had married my, one of my father's sisters had been the manager for 20 years when my father died. In fact the last three or four years of his life, my father did nothing--he was an alcoholic, and he did not run the business. So the last two or three years, so--

**JO: What was the name of your father's business?**

It was called the DJ Hughes company. Manufacturers of lumber and wooden box--of packages--I forgot. Anyway, it was the DJ Hughes company and then it had a subtitle.

**JO: Yeah. Okay. And DJ Hughes was your dad?**

JH: Yeah. David James Hughes.

**JO: And you said early on in our conversation today, you said that when your father passed away, that made a big impression on you that really affected--**

JH: Very, very much. It had--it was, it--I don't know that I've ever said it, but it--if in order--I didn't think about or discover this 'til many years later, but if--and philosophers have talked about this,

00:44:32 if you seal yourself against sorrow and unfortunate things so that they don't affect you, then it also lessens your ability to enjoy, to appreciate things. And I--I often thought that that had some effect on me. There were a lot of things that affected me, made my skepticism about things. I don't know how old I was. I was still in high school, but one of my jobs was I had to build the fires in the morning in the fireplaces in the wintertime. But I had also, another job was to chop wood for the stove, where I would get the slabs from the saw mill and cut them into the lengths for the stove. We had a wood stove, my father would not allow the electric stove. He said we'll burn this wood. So we didn't have wood. Of course they didn't have gas.

00:46:01 So you either had fireplaces or little heaters. But anyway, my job, and I was sitting there chopping wood. I was, I'm sure I was in high school cause I wouldn't have thought of this before. And I was trying to straightened out infinity and eternity and I couldn't, and I just, it just kept bothering me. And so finally I just said, my mind is not capable of doing it. And up to this date I haven't changed my mind. I still can't straighten out, still am not clear about the expanding universe. And there are just certain things that my mind is not capable of dealing with. And so I just don't let it worry me. I still read about it and I enjoy reading about neutron stars and all of the emanations that come from them. And all that. But I just, I just can't, I just don't, I really don't understand it. My mind is not capable of doing it, and I'm not going to dwell on it and go crazy.

00:47:36 **JK: So you had an epiphany and then you decided that you would just adjust to it and move on. That's really insightful. That is really interesting. And so did you feel in that a new responsibility for the family when your father died?**

00:47:54 JH: Some. I felt--my mother just in so many ways told us, you're going to have to do a lot of things on your own. As long as you behave yourself and do the right things, I'm going to let you alone. That in effect. And so my sister and I particularly, because my younger brothers were, I guess they were not as mature as we were.

But we sort of--and I made my own decisions from the time I decided what school I wanted to go to, what I was gonna major in--

00:48:54 And fortunately--I made mistakes, naturally, but didn't get caught on a lot of them and recovered from most of them. They weren't major. But I made some mistakes. And I decided what courses I was gonna take and made my own decisions. I had one interesting experience when I was a sophomore. I was a--

like sophomores, the wise fools that they are—I didn't have Latin, they didn't teach it at my high school. And I say, well, I'm going into medicine. You're supposed to know Latin. So I looked in the book, and there was a course in Latin that you could take in one year. It was the equivalent of four years of high school Latin. So I would go five days a week, 50 minutes or whatever it was a day for one year, and then I would be a Latin scholar. So I signed up for the course, and before classes started, the head of the department, he called me in. And at

00:50:28

That time they called you mister. They didn't call you by your first name. And he said, Mister Hughes. I'm sorry, but you're the only one that signed up for this course and I can't have it. Well, in my smarty smart, I had my fist, well I didn't, I just saw her put my hand on his desk and I said, Dr. Hara, I need this course. I demand that I have it or words to that effect. He looked me straight in the eye and they said, all right Mr. Hughes, you'll get it. And I did.

**JK: So one on one.**

JH: One on one for 13 weeks, and at that time I was interested in girls and played a lot of poker.

00:51:17

Well at the end of the 13 weeks by gentleman's agreement he, the instructor, agreed if I wouldn't sign up for the next course he'd give me a gentleman's C, so that was the end of my Latin.

**JK: So he didn't become your mentor then.**

JH: No, no.

**JO: So you struck a deal with him.**

JH: Well it wasn't exactly that. It was just sort of understood. I mean, we didn't put it in writing, or he didn't come to me and say, all right, if you don't sign up for this, I'll give you a C.

00:52:00

**JO: So you got credit for the whole course even though you only took part of it.**

JH: It was just sort of understood. We got around to that, that he would give me a passing grade or that I would pass the course if, or maybe he said, are you-- expect to sign up for this next quarter. And I said no, and in his own way he was very pleased, and he said well you'll get a passing grade. So--

**JK: Did he know at the time what your ambitions were for your career?**

JH: I doubt.



**JO: Is Latin important for being a physician? Do you need it to know the nomenclature?**

JH: It's not essential, but there are so many Greek and Latin terms in medicine that it's helpful to know, but it isn't--I don't know if you had Latin.

**JK: I did. I had Latin, French, and German. So for my degrees we had to take, to get your PhD, you had to test in two foreign languages.**

00:53:20

**JO: Were you out of college by the time the war started?**

JH: I was in medical school. My first year at medical school in September is when the Germans invaded Poland.

**JO: Okay. Well before we talk much about that, maybe we can go back and talk about sort of your application to medical school and what you, what schools you were aiming to attend and what the outcome was.**

JH: Well, it was, I just applied and as I said--oh, I took the Med Cats too. It was one of the first years that they had given them, and I guess I must have done all right. And when, all my stuff went in, and I got back, and I was accepted.

**JK: So was that at UNC?**

JH: Yes. So, you know--

**JK: Did you have any mentors that helped guide you in that direction or did you just on your own?**

00:54:43

JH: I was on my own.

**JO: So still by the time you finished your undergraduate degree, you still didn't have any close relationships with other doctors or—**

JH: No. I didn't have any that encouraged me or discouraged me or--I just did it pretty much on my own.

**JK: You must have had some friends that were going that same way.**

JH: Oh yeah, I knew people, a lot of people that were going in. In fact there were I don't know how many, I think out of the 500 in my class, I expect 10% of them went into medicine. That's a guess. But there were a lot, and you, we took courses, well, let's see. Two of the people in my class went to--that I had taken courses with, chemistry courses and zoology courses and comparative anatomy. I took this course in that, in embryology in undergraduate school and people in my class, there were about 25 in those classes. And two of them went to

Harvard and eventually came back on the faculty at Chapel Hill medical school there.

00:56:35

So yeah, but I--

**JK: Do you keep track of any of those folks?**

JH: I did. Yeah. None of them--they're all gone today. I don't think. As far as I know, there is nobody in my graduating class at Chapel Hill still alive. There was one man from Smithfield that I didn't know as-- in college who was alive, but all the others, I went to all the reunions and I'm very active in that, so--

00:57:11

**JO: Okay. So entering medical school was really a direct transition from your undergrad at UNC. It was just one year you finished your undergrad and next you at the same institution, and then that's when things got interrupted by the American involvement in the war?**

JH: Do what?

**JO: And that's when your courses got interrupted by military service?**

00:57:36

JH: Well, the war started my freshman year, but we weren't involved. My junior year was when the, Pearl Harbor, and I was, on that Sunday afternoon, I was listening to Sammy Kaye's had a Sunday afternoon program, and I was listening to that and reading Cecil's textbook of medicine. When the radio came on and Franklin Roosevelt made his announcement, I heard him make that announcement. Well, of course I had registered for the draft, I had to register for the draft board, but I got a student deferment. But shortly after Pearl Harbor, I got a little postcard from my draft board saying in effect, if you haven't signed up for our reserve program by, it was a relatively short period of time, you will report to camp Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina for basic army training.

00:59:00

I got that on Thursday or Friday, on Friday. On Monday morning I did not attend classes, but I went down to the navel recruiting office and applied for a commission as an ensign. They called them ensign HVP hospital. Anyway, in the Naval reserve, and was given the number one- three-seven-eight-five-eight. And that's what I had the rest of the war. That was my serial number, and so I stayed in the reserve until I finished medical school and my internship of nine months.

**JO: So at the point that you got the postcard, your options were either to just enlist or to go into the reserves. Is that correct?**

JH: Yeah, there wasn't any question about what I was going to do, so I applied to the Navy. I figured that in the Navy you mostly--if you don't make it, you live, have clean sheets and showers and stuff--

01:00:26

So I decided that was much better for me because by that time, you know, we knew about fox holes and Navy and the Naval ship blowing up and all that. And so you come to a pretty quick end in the Navy and you live a good clean life. You don't lie around in a fox hole with some guy shooting at you all the time. I said it just seemed perfect. And my roommate went down, but the Navy wouldn't take him, said he had a clawfoot or something. I don't know what it was, they obviously just had all the recruits they wanted. But I did get it. I was very happy, of course, to do that.

**JH: What was the mood like among you and your peers around that time? When it became more and more clear that you might have to actually go---**

JH: Oh, it--everybody supported our effort that we knew we had to do it. It became clear what Hitler's plan was, that it was what Studs Terkel later called the good war. There was no resistance in any--oh yeah, there were a few people, but there were a few Quakers that opposed the war and wouldn't sign up, but no, everybody supported the war. I mean, we bought war bonds and did all,

01:02:20

when we could, those who could, and had all our victory gardens and did all those things to support the war effort. There was very little opposition to it.

**JH: Okay. So the prevailing feeling was one of responsibility?**

JH: Responsibility and support, I mean, unqualified. Absolutely.

**JK: Life changing time, right?**

JH: Ooh, boy, was it ever.

**JH: And so you had a few more years in school then before, well, you had a couple more years of school and then a residency?**

JH: No. Nine months of internship. And then I finished my internship on December the 31st of 1943.

01:03:30

And before that time I had gotten preliminary orders, and I knew I was going in, and they sent me vouchers to get my uniforms and got all ready. And then on the 12th of January I got orders to report to the amphibious base in Bainbridge, Maryland. In about two weeks, they gave me two weeks leave. So a friend of mine, an intern and I, he was from Norfolk. He had his brother's car, so we decided we'd have one last hurrah. So we took his car and we managed to get some stamps, some gas stamps and we decided we'd go to Florida. So we had enough gasoline to get to from Richmond to Tabor City. And I got to Tabor City and my uncle and some friends and managed to get some more green stamps.

01:04:54 And we got to Florida, South Carolina, my uncle, we had enough to get the Florida. But we didn't have enough to get back.

**JK: Was that just recreation?**

JH: Yeah, just, just one last fling. And so we got enough gas stamps, went down to Florida, went to Miami, and we went into this fancy hotel. And of course they didn't have a room, but then one of the guys, I mean we were in uniform and, so he said, we don't have a room, but he said, if we did, I doubt that you could afford it.

01:05:50 So he sent us down to a little cheap dive where we stayed for five days, and made friends with a couple of interesting young ladies, and had a great time, and I ran into one of my brothers, who was in the Air--both of them were in the Air Force, but the second one later got transferred to the Army Air Corps. And I just ran into him as he was marching down the street. Got and contacted him later. And then we went, of course I had to report back to Maryland, Bainbridge, Maryland training station. And I was only there a couple of weeks before I got my overseas orders to report to Lido Beach Long Island for further training and--

**JO: Okay. I want to make sure I understand why you went into service when you did. Was it that the educational deferment option ended after the internship or what changed at that point?**

01:07:17 JH: I had the option of applying for a 27-month residency second year. I wanted to go into obstetrics and I had gotten to know the head of the department at, this was at the medical college of Virginia where I had my internship, and I knew his secretary very well. So I got an appointment with him to go up and tell him that I would, I thought he was going to offer it to me and I would accept it, and he couldn't see me right at, I had to wait. And his I don't know how many floors, but it overlooked broad street in Richmond. And I had thought about it before, but there was a parade of, I don't know, some of the armed forces. I don't remember what it was. Anyway. And I got to thinking and both of my brothers were already in and going on and so many of my friends and as I said, relatives by the dozens in, and I said, it's time for me to go.

01:08:49 So I told the secretary that, thank you and tell him that I was going into the service. So that's when I notified the, or responded to the Navy's orders anyway and then not to exercise my option of applying for 27 months of residency and then serving and so, that's why I went in.

I was feeling very patriotic, and well I was feeling like a slacker. Then there was people, you know, sort of looked at you, when are you going in? And I'd had that about all I could take of that.

01:09:44 **JK: So you weren't married?**

JH: No, I was not married.

**JK: And this was January of '44 about.**

JH: January of '44.

**JO: Yeah. And it sounds like it kind of hit you in that one moment.**

JH: Yeah. Well I had been thinking about it before, but I really did want to go into obstetrics.

**JK: Why did you choose that? Why was that your interest?**

JH: I don't know. I don't know why. I guess I had spent three months on the obstetrical service and I delivered a lot of babies. I delivered three babies in 12 minutes one time. I was in, I had, I caught one, did the episiotomy and caught one and handed it to the nurse. I clamped the cord and handed it to the nurse, and they said we got one over here, so I went in the next room and there was one and I got that one. And just as I finished that one up, I heard the elevator open and this woman scream and I ran out in the hall, and I said, and I got it

01:11:14

off of, they had a tray, right. They said, well I got a tray and then, I don't think I did a episiotomy, anyway, I caught the baby on the stretcher, and then we took her into the room and clamped the cord and did that, but it was a matter of 12, I think it was 12 minutes. Anyway it was a very short time. I got, I liked it.

**JK: That was exciting.**

JH: I liked the head of the department, and I hit it off with him pretty well. But then when I got running the dispensary in the Marine Corps and was a venereal disease control officer. And saw other urological problems and then there was a, had a friend over the Naval hospital and I got to know him and that sort of steered me towards urology. The way it was I would have wound up in orthopedics I think.

01:12:27

**JO: Well we've been talking for about an hour and 15 minutes, so I think this might be a good place to pause and pick up tomorrow.**

JH: Okay. Yeah. It's 10:35. Yeah.

**JO: I think tomorrow we can talk more about your military service, and I have a lot of questions about your medical practice. You know, Jack and I were comparing notes about what we knew about your actual medical career and actually we have a lot to learn in that area.**

01:12:58

JH: Well, medically, in practice, I was involved with a lot of things. I was one of these people that, I guess, I was sort of a joiner, but I couldn't-- when I'd see

things that I thought were wrong, I'd open my mouth and then the next thing I knew, they said, all right, you do it. And so I was involved in a lot of,

01:13:34

A lot of organizations and another thing that I, I felt a great responsibility to that, first of all, that you were a responsible member of society and that you had to, it was your obligation to participate in the affairs. And there was a little quote by Plato. The punishment of those who refuse to participate in the affairs of the public affairs are well, hmm. Can't even remember the saying. Those who fail to participate, oh, who participate in good government will suffer under the rule of unwise government--those who fail to participate. Yeah. If you don't participate in good government, you're gonna suffer under bad government. Words to that effect.

**JK: Freedom isn't free.**

01:14:55

JH: And so that, that was another thing. And so that, that's why I was active in the chamber of commerce and those sort of things. Rotary. Yeah. And I was on the Human Relations Committee, and I was on the board of Operation Breakthrough and that sort of stuff. I felt, I always felt the civic responsibilities, everybody has a civic responsibility to participate.

**JK: Sounds like your family was that kind of family too. Everybody had that, your dad and your mom, and maybe honoring your father.**

JH: Well, and unfortunately my father died when I was 13, but in those--I picked up a lot of things from him. I learned a lot from him even though he was gone. Well, he was at home, but he was working.

01:16:17

**JK: Do you know why he became an alcoholic other than the addiction?**

JH: No. Nobody else in his family. I don't know. He was just one of those. I mean, when you look at the smart people who are alcoholics, I knew a number of very bright people who were alcoholics. I mean, you look at the writers, some of the most famous writers. I mean, Edgar Allen Poe--

**JK: My father also had the same thing. He became an alcoholic later in his life.**

JH: Well, I don't know what reason. I think it's a mental--and I had one son, one of my five sons, alcoholic. Fortunately he spent a night in jail, he got picked up and spent the night in jail with all the other alcoholics and boy, the next, very shortly thereafter he joined AA and far as I know he hadn't had a drink in 40 years, but he's definitely an alcoholic and he won't drink.

01:17:32

Even to this day. He'll go, I mean he goes to parties where--but he was working in Washington with the--but he, I think, it's a disease. It's an inheritable disease. I never had a problem with it, but I didn't drink for years. It was after I got out of medical school before I would drink socially.

**JK: But you liked that scotch once you did.**

JH: Ooh, once I found out about scotch, I like that scotch. I never drank it to get drunk. Well, I think I've been drunk two or three times in my life.

01:18:17

I passed out one time when I was a senior medical student. They all knew that I didn't drink. I would party with them, go to parties with them and dance. I liked to dance, so I would go to the dances. So the nurses were having their annual dance right at the end of school after we had finished school and were waiting. So one of them invited me to go. Well they framed up on me and each, there were about 6 of them, but they would say let's go dance. And each time we danced we'd go by the bar and they'd say let's have a drink. So the next thing I knew I was--

**JK: So you were sensitive to it?**

JH: Yeah, cause I didn't drink. Yeah. My liver was not, had not--

01:19:19

**JK: Okay. Can I tell a little story before we go?**

**JO: Oh yeah, you don't want to record it?**

**JK: No it's fine if it's recorded.**

**JO: Okay.**

**JK: So I was born in a Naval hospital in Jacksonville in 1947. And my father was in the Navy of course. And he had been injured badly and broke his back. So he was in the hospital down the hall from where my mother born me when she had me so they could yell at each other down the hall and she said, it's a boy, it's a boy. And he was in traction for 14 months. He was in a whole body cast and--but we think that had something to do with his drinking later in life too. So he had a really hard life.**

01:20:08

**JO: That's quite a birth story.**

JH: Well--there's a lot of things that motivates you. One other thing that—don't record.

**JO: Okay. Well let me go ahead and turn this off. Do you want it on tape or not?**

JH: Well, I, it's all right. It's alright on tape. And I've told my boys and told other people this too. When I was taking a very difficult chemistry course on statistics, teacher, and I was sitting at my desk one night studying, it was gravimetric analysis, chemistry, and there was something in there that I was having a hard time understanding. I started and I just said, I was getting ready to say to hell

with this. I'm just tired of it. I'm not going to do it. And then I felt those plow lines rubbing behind my back and thought about following that plow and that mule with those plowlines rubbing behind my back. And I said, buddy, stick with it. Stick with it, open that book back up and get to it. And that, I felt that several times when I would get sorta sick about it.

01:21:46

**JK: My family were all farmers and I many a time had those straps over, and you know, those days are gone. There's nobody that's really doing, me a little bit. But you know, that hard work. Now my son, he's 43. He wants to be a farmer now. He did real well in Chicago at the board of trade and all that sort of thing. But--**

01:22:12

JH: Well, farming's different now. I mean, it's big. It's big time. I mean, you've got your combines, you gotta have a degree. You gotta be computer scientists, and you've got to read all the weather reports and also you have to pay attention to the economic aspects of it in particular. It's just, it ain't, it's a big business and you gotta be educated one way or the other to do it.

01:22:54

**JO: Okay. Well, I'm going to go ahead and turn off the recorder.**



## TRANSCRIPTION, INTERVIEW 2

DATE: October 4, 2019

LOCATION: The Forest at Duke Continuing Care Retirement Community

CITY, STATE: Durham, North Carolina

AUDIO FILE: Hughes\_Interviews.wav

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01:23:04            **JO: It's October fourth, 2019. I'm Joe O'Connell and I'm interviewing Dr. Jack Hughes. And Dr. Jack Keene is also present with us. Okay. Professor Jack Keene. Different kind of doctor. We're recording this, the second of two oral history interviews for the Duke University Medical Center Library and Archives.**

**And when we were speaking yesterday, we left off talking about your enlisting in the military. And the first question that came to mind for me is what your training was like. What kinds of experiences did you go through when you were being trained before your deployment?**

01:23:50            JH: My training consisted of half a dozen close order drills given by a captain in the air force on the parade ground at Lido Beach, Long Island where we were waiting to be shipped out. I, the only other orientation I had had was a few lectures at the base to which I originally reported. So basically I had no training. I was reminded of the rules and regulations, the Navy rules and regulations that there was a book that I was supposed to live by, and I was told other things, that you didn't put your hands in your trousers pocket and that you kept your hat on every time you were outside. And that was about the extent of the training I had during the 12 days that I was at the base where I reported at Lido Beach. We were a group of about a hundred young doctors and 200 corpsmen.

01:25:17            And for some reason I was made the executive officer of that group. So I spent my time saying yes, sir, and no, sir. To the commander of the troupe. And getting work details to try to keep the commander of the base happy. So I was self taught. Whatever I learned, I learned through, by making a lot of mistakes and found that that was not in keeping with Navy regulations. But I tried not to make the same mistake twice, but basically we were, the larger group was a basis of about 200 doctors and 2000 corpsmen, and we were divided into smaller units, and we started shipping out those units soon after I arrived at Lido Beach, and I was one of the last groups. Why, I don't know. I don't think I was that valuable as the executive officer of this small group.

01:26:52            But anyway, that's the way it was (?). That's when I shipped out. But basically we had no real training. When we got to southern England to a base there, we, after some talks by various land-based sailors, we were assigned to another LST and that for about a month we rehearsed loadings and unloading and going from one port to another and also making fake passes at the French beaches. We didn't go all the way over of course, but we did that and we lost four or five LSTs from German e-boats. A Couple of my friends were killed, well, they were

acquaintances. They weren't close friends. They were acquaintances. One of my close friends was, his LST hit a mine going into Utah beach, and he was killed. But overall of the 200 doctors, I think we lost five or six casualties or otherwise we survived despite the fact that we had had no training and the work actually, it really didn't matter because our job was medical. And as long as we didn't violate too many of the laws and do things we shouldn't and didn't ask too many questions about things like whether we could have alcohol aboard or not. If you asked the question then it was no, but if you brought some in nobody said anything. But there wasn't much of that done

**JO: You kind of had to rely on your medical education.**

JH: Yeah, I mean that was, our medical trade.

**JO: I want to make sure that I document what an LST is since you've used that acronym a couple times. What is an LST?**

JH: An LST is a landing ship tank. It is a vessel of 320 feet in length and 50 feet breadth. It has, on the bow you have bow doors that open up and a ramp that settles down, drops down so that your vehicles or, of whatever type, tanks, can--when the LST would come up on the beach at full speed at high tide and slide up as far on the beach as it could. And then when the tide went out, then you would unload, and then when the tide came back in, you pulled up your ramp and close the doors and had a stern anchor and you would crank hold that and back the engines down full speed and get off the beach and then head back to whatever port in southern England--Southampton, you name it--and then reload and go back. After the, for the invasion, if you want to talk about that.

01:30:48

For the invasion we had 155-millimeter heavy moor big guns. We did not have tanks, but we had the big guns. But fortunately we also had a small hospital, forward hospital unit, sort of a mash unit. They didn't call them mash units then, but it was that type of unit on board. So they were very helpful on that first day when we took all of a hundred plus casualties.

**JO: Yeah. I want to back up a little bit. So at what point did you know what your mission was going to be?**

JH: Exactly what, the afternoon of June the fourth, the captain of the ship called all the officers into the war room and sat us down, and he had a big thick book, and it was called operation overlord. And he went through that. And that was when we learned that we were going to take the troops that we had already loaded on, the troops and the guns and so forth. That was when we learned where we were going. And it actually, we went through everything, they told us how the operation would be sustained, how they would be running gas lines, how they would be building artificial harbors and all of this sort of thing that we went through. Then we got down to specifics, and we were to go in at oh-eight-

hundred hours on--at that time we were told it would be June the fifth. That was, so, the next morning.

We were going in, it would be the next morning. Well, actually it turned out it was so rough. We got out into the channel about midnight the fourth, and they said, it's too rough. So they pulled us back in and we went out the next night, June the fifth.

01:33:18 And we were supposed to hit the beach with at eight o'clock that morning, and they said, told us, the briefing was very positive about the fact that there would be no trouble on the beach. It would be after they got off the beach, cause they said the air force and the Navy were going to knock out all these urban fortifications. Well, that held true for all the beaches except Omaha and particularly the segment that we were going to, which was Fox Red, which was right just east of those high hills, high cliffs at Pointe du Hoc, and so that's where we went in. But it, as we started in, we started in at eight o'clock and I was standing up on the bow, there was an LST, there were 11 of us lined up to go in and there was one ahead of us.

01:34:31 And I was standing up there. I was supposed to be at general quarters back in the stern, but I wanted to see what was going on, and so I was up on the bow ship watching all hell break loose.

**JO: What was all hell breaking loose? What did that look like?**

JH: I don't know. I've blocked out a lot of it. There was vehicles burning and small boats crashing. But anyway as we got out, well it seemed to me like we were right on the beach, but of course we weren't. We were probably a thousand yards off. The ship in front of us got hit in the bow and blew the bow doors off and that's when they said it's too hot on the beach, back out. So we didn't hit the beach then. They put her reverse flight speed and we backed off.

01:35:39 And the two cruisers, the army, the headquarters, the generals were stationed in two cruisers, the Augusta and the Tuscaloosa. And we had an old-time sailor on board. And he said, see those two cruisers over there. He said, why don't we just go over and drop the hook between those two cruisers and secure the guns and let them take care of us while we see. So we did that and then we could see what was going on on the beach. But I watched it for awhile and then I came back. Then when it got dark, which was about midnight double British summertime. They signaled that they had some casualties for us. So we pulled in as close to shore as we could go. And a smaller landing craft that was, well, they call it a landing craft tank.

01:36:54 LCT, which was pretty big, came alongside, had about a hundred, twenty of whom were seriously wounded. The others were walking wounded. So we pulled--the seas were six, eight feet and every time the-- of course, the LCT would bounce up and up and down. So we had rigged up some devices for

getting those, getting them up and had practiced sending stretchers down and ferry pulling them up. We had a system of pulleys and ropes that we had rehearsed. And so the idea was two corpsmen would go down and get the wounded on the stretcher. Well the walking wounded were able to climb up the net that we had put over the side and come in topside with some help, some of them, but we got all those, but we still had those 20 some wounded.

01:38:12 So I sent the corpsmen down two at the time. Well they wouldn't be down there two minutes before they were sick as dogs throwing up and just couldn't function. They got a few up, but it finally got down to where there was one corpsman and I were the only two left. So we went down to finish up the job. But it wasn't long before we were both throwing up and we'd heave a while and then get another one on and get it up and we'd, you'd hook the stretcher onto the lines. And then when they, when the

01:38:58 LCT would come up on top of a wave, it'd tighten the line that they were pulling them up with and all of a sudden this, the LCT would drop back down and the stretcher would stay up and they'd pull them up. So we finally, throwing up and loading up, and we finally got 'em all on board. Fortunately, I had a partner and we had an army surgeon who were supposed to take care of all of these. Fortunately, we had this little hospital, forward hospital unit with about 20 doctors and they were just anxious to get in. We had a little operating room on the

01:39:54 end of the tank deck that was about eight by 12. But it worked. And so they took over and took care of most of the seriously wounded. They operated and they had a few amputations and chest wounds and things like that, but it was still rough. But they managed to take care of them. And the next day it calmed down just a little bit. And we, I think about 10 or 12 of the most seriously injured, we were able to send over to a hospital ship, which was in the vicinity but it was still rough, but it got a lot rougher and they had the worst storm that they'd had in 50 years in the channel. So we pulled out in the channel and dropped an anchor. And at times we were dragging the wind and the tide was so strong we were dragging

01:40:59 anchor even though we were running the engines full speed ahead, that fortunately didn't last very long until the tide changed. So it wasn't quite so bad with just the wind. Anyway, so it was the next day before we could unload. So we had all these wounded on board that we were taking care of and we got in and were able to unload and head back to Southampton and the hospital there. And that was, that was the main thing that we did. The rest of the time, well a couple of times we took some wounded, but within two days, the army had built a landing strip. They had these metal mats. They had built a landing strip right up on the top of the cliffs and C-47s were coming in and out, bringing in supplies and new troops and taking wounded back.

01:42:11 So we didn't have many wounded after that. We, for the next six months we went back and forth, crossed the channel hauling troops at time and more

supplies. And one time we were very unhappy. They loaded our tank deck and our top deck with five-gallon tins of aviation fuel, and we weren't very happy with that. And so we got into, they had just liberated Cherbourg, so we got into Cherbourg about midnight. We had those cans off of that ship as soon as we could get, but other than that it was mostly just dry runs, duck soup. It was no problem. A few times, we had some, the German e-boats would slip out and get in and would knock off a ship, but we didn't lose many. And yeah. So we stayed, I made 28 round trips across the channel during the next six months from southern England, different ports from the Thames estuary all the way down to Cornwall, almost to land's end. These LSTs could go into any place at high tide because they'd pump

01:43:52

The ballast tanks out and we'd start riding high and they'd go anywhere. And then when the tide would go out, we'd be sitting on dry land so we couldn't get out until the tide came in and we would go back out. And that's sort of the way we did. And we went from Cherbourg to up into one Belgium right next, almost into the Netherlands. We got close enough I could see the big sea walls that they had built, you know, to reclaim to the land. So that was pretty much it. When I got--we were up the Seine River from Le Havre up to Rouen on where Joan of Arc was cremated, burned at the stake. And so late, some time after Thanksgiving I got my orders to come back, but it took a week or so to get back. And I got back to New York a day after Christmas. Stayed there a couple of weeks and then,

01:45:35

was very nice. We were in the Waldorf, put us up in the Waldorf. Of course there were four of us in the room that would normally accommodate two, but it was pretty nice. We had a big time. I lost about 10 or 12 pounds trying to make up for all I'd missed. And then I went to the Marine Corps where I stayed the rest of the war.

**JO: Okay. Are there things that you learned during your time as a military medic that you think were different than what you learned in medical school? Were there skills that you developed?**

JH: I was faced with many things that I'd never heard of. So I read a lot of books. I looked at a lot of x-Rays. I learned, yeah. You know, in medical school you learn how to learn and yes, I did. I learned a lot. I learned more about venereal disease than I ever cared to. But it came in handy later on. And I had the surgical dispensary.

**JO: What was the surgical dispensary exactly?**

JH: I was assigned to a dispensary. The hospital, Navy hospital was over in Beaufort, across Port Royal Sound. And we would send patients, but the patients would come into the dispensary emergencies or whatever. And we'd see a lot of heat exhaustion from the troops in basic training and some injuries. We didn't have any major injuries, but we treated a lot of malaria. Almost all of

those who came back from the South Pacific, and there were, I don't know, several thousand that came to Parris Island.

01:47:59

Most of them had malaria and they would get attacks. They would stop taking their Atabrine. Of course, they were all yellow from the Atabrine, but they would stop taking that, and the dispensary was right across the street from the big parade ground, and there was a small hospital, the other side of the parade ground. But most of them would go to Beaufort, anyway, the barracks where the regular old time Marines were was across the parade ground. And I was, I could spot one of the Marines coming, and I could see him shaking with the chills from the malaria. And I'd pick up the phone, call the ambulance, and it would be there almost by the time the Marine was, and sent him over to the hospital, you know, they would treat him.

**JO: So there were certain conditions that people in the service were more prone to because--**

JH: Yeah. Well they caught, yeah, all of them had, almost all of them had malaria. And we had some units that had been in the--in India and Southeast Asia.

01:49:42

And we had to deal--and then of course there were the old China Marines, a lot of whom had contracted syphilis and still getting treated for it, or getting checked out for it and getting their spinal taps. We had that sorta thing. Of course, I had as venereal disease control officer, I had to give all the troops a little talk about venereal disease and how to protect yourself.

**JO: This is after the war, right?**

JH: Yeah. Well, no, this was during the war.

**JO: Okay. So while you were still stationed overseas?**

JH: Yeah. Well, yeah, I was still at--

**JO: So what was your talk about venereal disease like. What did you say to people?**

01:50:37

JH: Oh, I don't remember. We had a little movie with a very seductive blonde talking and teasing them and learning about prostitutes and all of that sort of thing. And then of course telling them about how they got checked and how to take prophylaxis. But every, I don't know if it was ever, but we used to, when they'd come back from liberty into, from Savannah or Charleston, they would have to come in and be checked, what was called a short arm inspection, which was checking them to see if they had caught it. Well, you couldn't tell that soon, but that was one of the rules. And so the Navy doctor who was on call for the night would be spending the night in the dispensary and he would get up all

hours of the night to check these guys in to make sure that they had taken their, done their prophylaxis to prevent gonorrhea. In spite of that, we still had a lot of gonorrhea.

01:51:58

**JO: In general, what do you think do you think the effect of your war experience was on the course that you chose for your life and the person you became? Have you thought about that?**

JH: I've thought about it a lot, and I don't know. The attitude, the feeling that we all had was this was something we had to do. I mean, we had no choice. And I remember thinking one time we had, a bomb had dropped. I thought it was practically on us, but it wasn't, it was enough to shook me, knocked me down, and I thought, well when my number comes up, that'll be it. And there may be one with my name on it, but until it comes, then forget about it. And I didn't, and I don't think most of us, we didn't worry. Of course we were in different situation from the troops that were getting shot at all the time. I mean, we were shot at from a distance and a plane would, a German plane, most of them had been pretty well knocked out, but they would fly over way up out of range and just drop a bomb indiscriminately before they left. But we did, I didn't worry. Of course, I learned a lot, and the experience. I don't, it's hard to say. I don't know how it affected--I didn't get any post traumatic distress.

01:53:57

I was not in situations like that. And it was a different type of warfare. And of course you're affected. There's a little verse from Tennyson's Ulysses, I am a part of all that I have met. So every experience that you have has some effect on you, some adverse, some good. But I don't know. I didn't, I just didn't think about it. I kept it out of my mind. I don't really think I thought about it or ever talked about it for years. I think that's the way most people were. When you get old, you're more apt to loosen up and talk about things. You can talk about distant things. But we just were sort of fatalistic, resigned about it. I mean, when your time comes, it'll happen, until it does.

01:55:09

**JK: So, I'm going to ask a question. When you were in this town where you grew up, you must've had a lot of relatives that were in the civil war.**

JH: No. Not many. North Carolina was one of the last to secede. And in southeastern North Carolina there were no big plantations, no big--my great grandfather was a doctor in the civil war. He was a major, and I had a couple of great uncles but there were not, I didn't have a lot of people. They were in the age that we didn't have much, in that section of the country there was the Yankee troops, the closest they got to my part of the country was Wilmington and they didn't, they came up through central North Carolina, came up through Fayetteville of course, close by Durham, they'd been at place where the armistice was signed, or the surrender--it wasn't an armistice.

01:56:48

**JK: So that had no effect on your later experience?**

JH: No.

**JO: I'm also interested to know when you started talking more about the experiences that you had in the war. What changed that made you think that you wanted to share it more?**

01:57:13 I think that's part of growing old. And here you're willing to talk of things getting in the distance and they get farther away. And less, not only with those experiences, but other experiences, you know, mistakes that you've made, and it's just a part of getting older, I guess. Or maybe it just depends on how you're wired in your brain what you are. We're all a little different, but I think, well, I can't say most people, but I know a lot of people who loosened up later on.

01:58:06 **JO: Did you have a follow up question?**

**Where were you when the war ended? What was that experience like?**

JH: I was rejoicing with exceeding great joy. I was at Parris Island at both VE and VJ day, and I was discharged after that. I was married. We haven't talked to anything about my family. I was married in 1945. I came back and--did I say, well it was actually, it was January of '45 before I went to Parris Island. And then I was married about eight months later.

01:59:03 **JO: Yeah. Do you want to tell us a little bit more about your wife and how you met her?**

Well I was transferred to Parris Island, a Marine Corps base, and I had an uncle who lived in Savannah, Georgia. And I also had a college friend who lived there who had had polio that affected his leg and he was four-F in the draft. And so I called him and went down. And he introduced me to this friend of his and one thing led to another and eight months later we were married. And then, let's see, we were married in October, and then a year later, well maybe eight months, eight or nine months later, we were discharged and about eleven, not quite a year later, we had a son, but I had been discharged and had started a residency in Philadelphia at the graduate hospital. And so I wasn't in Savannah when my first child was born. I was in my, starting my residency in Philadelphia, and I stayed, and I finally got an apartment in Ridley Park right outside of Philadelphia, moved, my wife and son came up, and I was able to get out there when I was off call and the weekends when I was off call. And we lived out there for two or three months. Then I was lucky enough to get an apartment close to the hospital.

02:01:36 And so we moved into town. I was not real happy with the state of urology in the city of Philadelphia at that time, particularly with regard to endoscopic surgery, cystoscopic surgery. So I had, I knew the head of the urology at Charlottesville, University of Virginia. So on my way south one time I went by to see him, to see if he had anything he knew. And he said, well, no. Right at the



time. He was very nice to me. You know, everybody was good to the veterans. They treated us well. Anyway, and he was just a nice guy. He was from Reedsville, North Carolina. And so about a month later, I got this call from Dr. Frederic Foley that I was talking about and said he had an opening for a resident. And so I—

**JO: Where was Dr. Foley?**

JH: He was in Saint Paul, Minnesota in the Twin Cities.

02:03:09 So he called me, and he had talked to Sam (Frisch?) at Charlottesville in Virginia. And Sam had told him, given him my name. And so he called me and wanted me to come out and see him and sent me the money for the train ticket. I was living on the GI bill, \$200 a month, which I don't know how I would have managed without it, but anyway, I went out to see him. And so he offered me the job at my--the chief of the service at graduate hospital. He had a--there was a man waiting, a young man who was, wanted to start a urology--and so he was standing in line waiting. And so he released me and gave me, the other new fellow took over, and I went on out to, we moved out to Minnesota, and I was there for three years, and it was a great experience.

02:04:33 Everything but the weather. One of the Scandihoovians, he was a patient, and I was talking to him, and he said it was--I don't know how much below zero it was, anyway. And he said, yeah, we've got two season. He said we got July, and we got winter. Anyway, they, they were great. They were great folks, but I just, and I got a, what would have been a marvelous offer from North Dakota, but there wasn't any way I was going up there. So anyway, after I finished my residency I came down to North Carolina. I had previously looked around, and I had gotten to meet some—

**JO: I've got a couple of questions, maybe to back us up a little bit.**

02:05:34 **I want to make sure that I gather your wife's name.**

JH: I think that we should talk about that. She was from Savannah, Georgia. Her name was Helen Schley, S-C-H-L-E-Y. She came from a long line of Georgia Schleys. There's a County in Georgia, Schley County. One of her great, great uncles, I guess was governor of Georgia. General Schley was one of the commanders in the Spanish American War and one of her great, great something uncles was Admiral Schley who defeated the Spanish fleet at Santiago. But they had, they had a great history, but financially they hadn't done too well since the civil war. The Yankees burned their cotton.

02:06:58 And they joked about one of her uncles buying slaves two months before Appomattox, and that would say that it was kind of foolish, but one of my sons said, well, I don't know, he said, he paid for it with confederate money. So that wasn't, that didn't make a lot, but they were, they were good, good, solid folks.

As one of my friends used to say, poor folks but good folks. And they had not a large family, but they were good. And everybody in Savannah of course was cousin this and cousin that. And it was great. And then when we were in Minnesota we had another child, a son, a second son. And then after I finished my residency there and, well, I had contacted, had gotten in touch with, first I was going to Greensboro, but then I came, I had talked to Dr. (?) on one of my previous trips. He was a urologist. It was well known in the country, I don't know internationally, but well known in the country because of his, particularly his work with kidney stones, stones disease. And so I came and my family went down with her mother and stayed with her mother in Savannah 'til I could find a place here. And then, so we moved to Durham, found a, finally found a little house on Dacian Street, which is across town, north, and brought my family.

**JK: What year would that have been?**

JH: That was 1950, in 1950. And then, and I had my uncle in the, who had a furniture, had a big hardware and furniture store. He got a house full of furniture for me, and practically at wholesale price and let me pay him the equivalent of 50 cents down 50 cents a week 'til I got it paid off. And we lived there for, I rented a house there. And then I finally found a house farther out where our third son was born. That was in 1951. And then about two years later, not quite two years later, we had a daughter. So then we decided we'd better hold off for awhile. So soon after that I bought a place out on coal mill road out in the country, 25 acres, it had a pond. Then I had a big garden. I had a big pasture, and the fourth child was a daughter. By that time she was getting, growing up and she decided at a very young age she was interested in horses.

02:11:14

I had this eight acre pasture I was developing, but I found a man that would buy my hay and he would take care of it. He would keep the pasture growing properly and cut the hay and gave me 25 cents a bale for it, which just about covered the expenses. So that went on for--we lived, and of course I was practicing at Watts Hospital at that time. And fortunately building up a pretty good practice. I spent a lot of time at Lincoln Hospital. When I came, Lincoln Hospital was a colored hospital. We were not integrated at that time. I spent a lot of time over there. My partners told me they, we, our financial (?) but, they say, you know, we guarantee you so much and a percentage and, but don't worry about trying to build a practice. It'll come. You just take care of the clinics, Lincoln Hospital, and at Watts Hospital, and your practice will gradually build up. And that's what I did. So I spent a lot of time over there, and I got fabulous amount of experience. I saw stuff that I had seen very little of in my residency, and I thought I'd seen everything.

02:12:55

I was in a 3000-bed hospital, (anchor?) hospital, and I, at that time, I didn't hesitate to go out in the middle of the night. I'd drive over to Lincoln Hospital at one or two o'clock in the morning and I got, they sent patients up from eastern North Carolina. They were, it was hardly a--there wasn't really a well-trained urologist east of Raleigh except down in Wilmington. And we got a lot of patients. Well, most of them were non-paying patients. So they would call us up

and say, I got a patient who's sick. And they were really sick. And so we told them, okay, you get arrangements to get them admitted, and we can take care of them. And so I took care of them, and we had a resident at that time, and they were, not as, shall we say, as motivated as I was about taking care of these patients.

02:14:12

But I saw patients, and it was a fantastic experience for four or five years before, well it was longer than that, but particularly those first years. And that's where I met Ralph Conrad and Bill Anlyan, got to know them. They were coming over and working over there. And it was a great experience. And I think we made a contribution. It was helpful to others, but it was also very rewarding for me. It was worth the time and effort and the irregular hours that I kept for doing, by doing it. So it was worth, and by that time, and my family was growing. And then of course, when my daughter was eight years old, we had a little surprise, and my wife was pregnant, and my fourth son was born.

02:15:31

And by that time, we were, it got too complicated to live in the country. We were trying to live in the country and the town, the children were going to school in Durham because the school out there was a four room school house with seven grades. And it was not a, not a good school. So they were going, and we were trying to live in the country, and it was great living in the country. We were just a mile from the Eno River and we just, it was good. And I had a little tractor and a trailer and I'd have children out on Saturday for a hay ride and we'd go down to the, take them down to the Eno, I mean it was, it was really good living, but it was just, we were putting on two cars.

02:16:30

We were putting 15-, 18-hundred miles a month. And of course, I was taking calls, a lot of calls. I was, go in to, taking calls at Lincoln and at Watts too, taking my turn it. So it got to be complicated. And so I saw a big lot out in Hope Valley that, at a good price. So I had been saving up some money, and I bought it and actually it was a huge lot. And for one reason or another, we finally sold that one and bought another one farther over. And we built a house out there in 1962. And of course during all that time, my wife was involved with a lot of activities and as well as looking after six children.

**JK: What street was that on?**

JH: Francis street. It's right near St. Stephens church, that short block. And we were, went to St. Phillip's church when we first came, and I was on the vestry at, in the late fifties. And the, we decided, the church decided, the bishop needed a new church in Hope Valley. So we switched over that when we moved out. Built a house on that, on Kimberly Drive. What did I say? Is that what I said? Francis Street was where I lived over in south Durham.

**JK: So where did your children go to school then?**

JH: When we lived in the country, they went to Watts school, and then to the school on Leon Street, the junior high. Then when we moved out to Hope Valley, they went to Hope Valley elementary school, and then they went to, first to Southern, my oldest son went to Southern. And by that time, Jordan high school was built, and all the other ones went to Jordan. Well, the older ones went to Jordan. Then, when we, they integrated the schools, the (Person?) County just, it was, it just became awful and unacceptable, so then finally, I put the two youngest--one went to the, started up a little school, private school. Saint Mary's, where the fourth son went, and my fifth son went to Durham Academy.

**JO: So I want to make sure I understand the beginnings of your practice here in Durham. So the first job that brought you to Durham, you were seeing patients at Watts Hospital and at--**

JH: Lincoln.

**JO: And those were segregated hospitals?**

JH: Yes. Yes.

**JO: What was it like to be a urologist working in a medically segregated system?**

02:20:52

JH: It was no problem. I had grown up in a segregated society. And I never, I was not, at least I said I wasn't a racist, and I worked on many committees, the Human Relations Committee and Operation Breakthrough. I was on a committee that finally got the North Carolina Medical Society integrated. That was another story, a long battle, but we got that done, not because of us but because it was the right thing. It was not only illegal, but it was the right thing to do.

**JO: When was that?**

JH: It must have been in the '70s. We had--the hotel at Pinehurst where we met every year told us if we integrated, we couldn't meet there anymore. So we stopped meeting there and moved the first few years to the, they'd just built Grandover in, outside of Greensboro. So we met over there and finally the Carolina Hotel up, changed their policy, and the society started meeting there and now they meet in Raleigh, but it's different now. Things have changed a lot.

**JK: You were the president of the society.**

JH: Yeah.

**JK: When was that?**

JH: '83, 1983, and I was involved with a lot of, with urology, various urology societies on a national level as well as a state level and--

02:23:18

**JK: So in '83 it was segregated?**

JH: '83 we were integrated. Well, we finally got the bylaws changed and got everything going, but then we couldn't get any of the, we had difficulty getting the African American doctors to join. We had a few that joined, and some of them, eventually. I got a couple of people, two here who were active. Charlie Watts and John Williams. John Williams particularly, I got him interested, and he got on the board of medical examiners and was, did a great job. Unfortunately, he died three or four years ago. He wasn't that old. And Charlie Watts died too. There might've been one or two others that joined then. Now later on they did, after I was out of it. Pretty well out of it.

**JO: So you were the head of the organization at the time when those two systems were,**

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**they were working out some of the kinks about how to--**

JH: Yeah. By the time I was president, we were pretty well over the problems. I was just on the committee simply, again, because I had opened my mouth and told them this is illegal. I said morally, you could look at it any way you want to, but it's illegal .

**JO: Were there experiences that led you to that conclusion, specific experiences?**

02:25:24

JH: Oh, I started when I was a child. I saw that it was not right. I say child--in high school. I noticed and I saw the way they were treated, and I worked with them. I worked a couple of seasons on the tobacco market. And one year I kept books for an (American?) buyer and the next year I ran the, what you call the prize room, the packing room where I was in charge of half a dozen big, strong blacks who did the packing. And I had a neighbor who was mean, and I saw the way he treated them. And I said, and plus the fact, I watched it, I saw the school buses, and I said, this is wrong. Of course, when they started driving school buses across the county to integrate them, I said, this is wrong too.

02:26:30

We ought to have, it ought to be neighborhood schools. But I didn't, a couple of people tried to get me to run for school board, but I already had enough on my plate without getting involved in school board. I was involved with the chamber of commerce and the—

Well, we talked about these other things, but they, one of the things we haven't talked about was my, the part of my family, particularly my wife. She was very supporting. I--she kept many of my dinners warming in the oven until after she had already fed the children. And she was a great support. And of course we

would get away occasionally and give her times away from the children. But when you've got six children and then later on when they were all in college, I had four in college and one in medical school at one time. That was-- fortunately, my senior partner had suggested to me that I would face that issue someday. So he suggested that I make some investments, which I followed and it worked out very well. And--IBM and Coca-Cola and Union Carbide, and AT&T paid a lot of tuition for me. So that helped out. But it was, I had a great family, and I still have a great family. I got six children. My oldest has been on the faculty medical school at Yale. For what, 40 years? He's getting ready to retire.

02:28:53

**JO: What branch of medicine is he in?**

JH: He's an internist, in internal medicine. I have a son in Raleigh. He's a PR man. A son in Charlottesville, Virginia. A daughter near Charlottesville. Gordonsville, but she lived in Durham and raised her family in Durham. Her husband was on the otolaryngology faculty, the department over at Chapel Hill. And I have, my fourth son is a vice president of, oh hell, the postage maker. What is the one that used to make the postage machines? Begins with a P, I can't say it. Anyway. And then another one who's a--is a management information director for an international building company and lives in Atlanta. So they're all, nobody's been in jail except one night by, as I said, my son who was an alcoholic. He certainly recovered. He spent one night in jail and that, that did it for it. So I've been, I've been blessed, I've had my family and got nine grandchildren who are just all lovely. One who is a lawyer with Pinterest, which is, he was with Google for several years, but he said there are too many lawyers. He said that was too big a company. So he got with a smaller--he's done well. And another one was one of them who--grandson who is with Air B and B. He and a couple of his friends who were computer majors at the University of Virginia started a little company that was similar to B and B, except looked at it from a different way, and they bought him out. So he's done very well, and he's still one of their head--he doesn't do much programming. He is, he says he does things to try to keep them out of trouble. And well, I mean, he still, he's still working with, in the computer department. In the management information business, but he is the computer expert.

**JO: Sounds like you've got a great family.**

JH: I have been so fortunate. One of my statements that I make frequently so that I don't forget it is that people say, well, how are you doing? And I say, I am doing much better than I deserve. And I really mean it. I mean, it's--how do you live to be a hundred? There's a lot of luck in it. Of course your genes help. But there is a lot of luck in it, and I have been very fortunate. I've had it better than 99% of the people that ever lived. Wealth, no. But everything else. I mean, I've got, I can, I obviously have enough that I can live here, but I'm just, it's just, just lucky. I mean, it's just fortunate, and I don't deserve it, but I'm not, I'm not complaining.

**JO: Yeah. I want to make sure that I understand sort of the arc of your career as a physician, too. Were you in private practice—?**

JH: I was in, came in private practice in 1950 with Dr. William Copperidge. At that time, relations between the town physicians and Duke University was not what we would like it to be.

02:33:48

At that time, a number of younger people were coming onto the faculty at Duke. And some of our older physicians, some of those who were not very tolerant of Duke, anyway, they were phasing out. Now there were a of physicians in Durham at that time who had trained at Duke. So they, that helped in the transition. So some of us got with the group at Duke, with the, as far as urology's concerned. I had had some common interests with John Dees who was on the urology faculty, Doctor (?) was head and he was very nice to me, but he was sort of the Hopkins group. He still wasn't quite sure that anybody that hadn't trained at Hopkins could muster. I came over and worked in the clinic a few times, but I began to tell the residents, give the residents some of the midwestern philosophy on treatment, on urological conditions, that he didn't agree with, and he sorta discouraged me for coming to the clinic. So that lasted until Jim Glenn and, oh hell, the chief of surgery. Sabiston. David Sabiston came in and Glen Young, who was in the cardiovascular surgery, Jim Weingarten and some of those that we began to work together. And I was interested in stone. I was doing some clinical research on stone. It was not, I tried to get into some of the deeper stuff, but--and I was doing some protein analysis the hard way. And then about that time I found out a friend of mine got a machine to check out the proteins and she could do them in about five minutes where it was taking me two or three days, and I'd go to the office at night and change the thing.

02:37:16

But anyway, and I started working with Jim. He was interested in metabolic diseases, particularly oxalate metabolism, which is a big-- that's where most of the stones in the stone belt are composed of. And he would run, check concentrations of oxalate in the urine. There was a number of urologists in the country who were trying to treat--one of the ways of treating stone is to limit the oxalate intake. Well, after reading Jim's book and then getting to working with him, I found out most of the oxalates that are in the urine are formed in the body. Endogenous. And very few of them are absorbed from the gut. So Jim, Jim and I, we did a study, we were going to do a hundred, but after we got to about 50, we found there wasn't any difference between non-stored formers and formers.

So we quit, and I worked with Collie Gunnels who was a nephrologist. I was interested, I did a lot of biopsies of the kidney, needle biopsy of the kidney. And he helped me with those. And I also had a very cooperative pathologist at Watts Hospital, and he would save the kidneys for me, and I would look for little stone plaques on the papilla of the kidney, and cut those off and decalcify them and make sections and stain them and do stuff.

02:38:40 And also I worked with a chemist and—I can't even say what I'm trying to say-- anyway over at Chapel Hill, to learn how to analyze crystals with, using a polarized light microscope and identifying the crystals by the indexes, indices of refraction. And so I've had a lot, and I also--there was a biochemist over at Chapel Hill that helped with some, when somebody came out with a new treatment with aspirin and--so it was a friend of mine, well, an acquaintance of mine in Chicago who said he spent a lot of his lab money that, in a year's time, proving the guy wrong. And about the same time we had come to the same (?), I had come to the same conclusion.

02:40:12 So I just, I've just had the best of two worlds, and that's just, that's part of my good fortune. I couldn't been in a better situation where I had the clinical experience. I did not have to put up with, I won't say it, but what goes on in the ivory towers. I will, yeah, the politics and the--I just didn't have to put up with that. And we were maybe a little selfish about some things, but it worked out for me.

**JK: You mentioned Jim Weingarten. So was he chair at the time or--?**

JH: No, that was before he was chair. He left here, went to Pennsylvania, and then came back as chair.

**JK: But you and he were pretty good friends.**

JH: Yeah. It's just, yeah, we were--I mean, we were not close friends. We would socialize more with his wife than we did with him.

02:41:19 He was not as sociable as she was, you know, there was a saying around was everybody loves Ethel. She was great. And, but he was, he worked, he was very helpful and very receptive to me with my ideas and encouragement.

**JO: Okay. So, the whole time you were in private practice, but you were collaborating with people in the academic setting.**

JH: Yes, that's what I'm saying, is that why I had it both worlds. Yeah, both universities.

**JO: So I imagine that a lot of people in private practice might just focus on the clinical side of things, but it sounds like you really wanted to do research, too. Is that, is that accurate?**

JH: Yeah, well, I thought about going into academic medicine, but nobody ever offered me, nobody that I thought was worthy of my talents ever offered me a job. That's not, that's not really true. But I did not actively seek, I really wanted to be in, I guess at one time I wished somebody had offered me an opportunity. I would have taken it. But I'm glad they didn't. I'm glad. I also considered there was a famous, what am I saying, famous, a well known



02:43:15 Well, I guess he was a--anyway, he did a lot of kidney research and kidney function. He was not a surgeon. He was not a clinician, he was a researcher, named Homer Smith. And he had written a little book that appealed to me, and I considered going and applying after I finished my residency of spending a year. But I was getting short of money, and I had to look, and I'm glad I lucked out the way I did. So again, everything is just, it's luck. Of course I had some tragedies, but with all the support I had and the good luck that I had, I managed to survive, and still reasonably well oriented. Not that, I'm not to argue, talk about that.

02:44:29 **JO: You have an amazing memory, I think. It's been a pleasure to get to hear some of these stories.**

**Yeah. We've covered a lot of ground so we could probably start winding down and--please—**

**JK: So you mentioned Bill Anlyan at one time. Do you want to say a little bit more about him?**

02:44:49 JH: Yeah, he would come over to Lincoln and he was a go-getter. He was sharp. Don't--

**JO: You don't want me to record this. Okay. I can stop it here.**

PAUSE IN RECORDING

02:45:07 JH: --that for the most part we worked together, we didn't work closely, but our paths crossed frequently and they were always satisfactory. And I had, admired his abilities, his motivations, the things that he could do. He was, I think he deserved all the honor that was given to him. I could never, I don't think I've been a close friend but I certainly respected his, what, the things that he did. It was some of the things that I might have wished would gone another way, but by and large I think he is to be highly complimented.

**JK: How about David Sabiston? Can you tell me more about him?**

JH: Yeah, Dave, of course, David Sabiston was from eastern North Carolina, and I knew his wife, and we had a lot of things in common. And although, again, we were not close friends, but we had some mutual friends that we, when he--he was very supportive of the program and he would, they had a surgical, the surgical conference on Saturday morning, occasionally would have urological cases that we would either, sometimes we would present cases, but most of the time we would comment on them. And he was very supportive. And of course, Jim Glenn was really, Jim was a hustler, you know, he really did keep our program going, but we had other very good relations with Duke. The professor of anatomy for year--

**JK: Robertson?**

JH: No. Anyway, he would, he would come over to our Saturday morning. We had Saturday morning conferences at Watts Hospital. He would come over, and he went through his whole anatomy, gave us a course, a whole anatomy course. And he would bring his projector over with his films, and he did that for about three months. And then somebody in the chemistry department, again, I can't-- I'm sure you would know who he was.

02:48:18

I can't remember his name. Anyway, he came over, gave us a series of lectures. I remember one thing. He finally straightened out for me the Krebs cycle, which it took me a long time. I don't know that I ever did, it just satisfied my curiosity, I remember, but he went through the basic--it was biochemistry, just and, which was very--and there was a lot cooperation at that time that started things going, and we got to work in back. But then I don't know, the town doctors somehow I guess didn't feel the same way or maybe did, anyway, they sort of fell apart. And then of course Duke got on their expansion plans and took over and made some situations that, some of the doctors were put in situations that they couldn't operate without joining.

**JK: Was that during the time that Mary Siemens was trying to bring the community together with Duke?**

JH: That was part of it. Mary was great. She was a friend of mine, was very good to me, and she and Jim, I knew Jim of course was a urologist. I knew him pretty well. And we would, our journal club would meet at his house occasionally. And she was another fantastic person. And she was, she and my wife were friends of course, Mary was a friend to a lot of people and good to a lot of people.

**JK: And she went on the city council, right?**

JH: Yeah, she was. She was very active in community affairs. And particularly in the black community. She was very supportive of them. She was a fantastic person.

**JO: So it sounds like you crossed paths with a lot of the leadership at Duke.**

02:50:47

**Is that kind of what I'm gathering, that a lot of these people were--?**

JH: Well, don't misunderstand me. I was not their best friends and I did not--I don't think I influenced the things that they did. But I did know them, a lot of them socially. I mean people like with Dr. Davidson, I knew him and he knew me, but again, we were not at the same level and that sorta thing. But he knew who I was and I knew who he was. And another thing that we did, which Duke was very helpful was we wanted to have a health fair and the County medical society wanted to put on a health fair, I guess the year I was president. And so two or three of us started working it out.

02:52:12 And we--Duke let us use Cameron Stadium to house it. The Doris Duke foundation gave us \$5,000. And the, some of the faculty helped us out--and we were very fortunate. We got the pharmaceutical industry gave us some money and helped us display. One company, I've forgotten who it was, gave us a about eight foot makeup of DNA, model of DNA. The double helix. And we just had, it was a great success. And we couldn't have done it without. It was not only just the medical, but--and I think Davidson, Dr. Davidson probably got Cameron stadium for it, and we put it on for two or three days, and high schools from around came in and people in town. It was, it worked out very well. But again, we couldn't have done it without Duke's help. There's no way.

**JK: Did you know Daryl Hart?**

JH: Oh yeah. He was president of the county medical society. He was, I didn't, he didn't know me, you know, he couldn't remember. I knew his wife and his wife and my wife, of course, she never forgot anybody's name, and she and my wife saw each other socially and so forth.

02:54:06 And I knew his, he had a son that went into urology, and he rotated through, but he was, Dr. Hart would try to tell a joke. He just couldn't tell one. It was--he was worse than I was, but he was a great guy. Again. We were not, I was not on the same level with him. You know, I knew him, and he knew who I was. I don't think he could remember, but he knew I was somebody that he had seen somewhere.

02:54:45 **JO: Well, there's a couple things that I want to record because I'm going to make an edit of the interview that will be kind of like a radio story. So there's a couple of production things that I usually get for that purpose. And one would be you giving us an introduction of who you are. And so if you say a couple of sentences with your name and who you are, however you want to describe that, I'll use that in the edit.**

JH: Well an introduction as to who I am? How far to go beyond that?

02:55:22 **JO: Just a sentence about, you know, how you describe yourself.**

02:55:30 JH: My name is Jack Hughes. I am a retired urologist. I'm a native of southeastern North Carolina, graduate of the University of North Carolina and the University of Pennsylvania. I've lived in Durham since 1950, and my—and practiced urology for about 40 years before retiring. I now live in a retirement community and will soon be a hundred years old.

02:56:19 **JO: That was great. Thank you. And then the other recording that I needed to make, which is a little bit strange, but I actually just need to record the sound of the room so that I can use that to edit between clips. So if we can sit here quietly for about 30 seconds, then I'll use that for that purpose. So we're just going to sit quietly for about 30 seconds.**

- 02:57:41            **JO: Okay. That'll do for that.**
- JK: Thirty seconds is a long time.**
- JO: And we never asked you to recite any limericks for us either. Maybe we could end with a limerick. Is there one that you feel like would be appropriate? Or inappropriate? Oh yeah, we're recording. Do you want me to turn it off?**
- PAUSE IN RECORDING
- JO: A fairly respectable limerick, here we go.**
- 02:58:18            JH: There was a fat little lady named (crow?), who had an idea quite droll. To a costume ball dressed in nothing at all she backed in as a Parker House roll.
- 02:58:32            **JO: I'm not familiar with a Parker House roll.**
- JK: Look it up.**
- JO: All right.**
- 02:58:52            JH: Well there was a young man named Willie, who often did things that were silly. To an all nations ball dressed in nothing at all, he claimed that his costume was Chile.
- 02:59:09            **JO: That is a good one, that's very respectable.** Yeah. Wow. There's a lot of these limericks about people going to balls nude.
- JH: Well there are a lot, a lot of them. Are we off mic now?
- 02:59:30            **JO: Oh, we can be, but is there anything else that either of you wants to cover before we turn the mic off for good?**
- JH: I don't think so, except the only thing I would like to, I'd say, pay tribute and give thanks for two wonderful wives. A lot of people don't even have one good one. And I've had two fantastic ones. Again, that's just one example of the good fortune that I've had.
- 03:00:13            **JK: I'd like to make a point, it's just a point for you. That one of the things that I thought was really, really interesting was that the crown—the, how do they say it?**
- JO: Town and gown?**
- JK: Town and gown, because the distance between downtown Durham and Duke has long been a problem in my 40 years here. It has sort of finally come**

**to a point where they completely, Duke has completely come downtown. They have labs down there, they have people down there, they have apartments and all that.**

03:00:54

JH: And the relationship. I don't know how much Phail Wynn had to do with, but I think he contributed a lot. He was a fantastic guy. I don't know if you knew him.

**JK: Tell us a little more about him.**

JH: Phail Wynn? Well, he was an Afro-American. He went to the University of, I think it was Oklahoma, where he played football. He was in the Vietnam War, officer in the Vietnam War, and he, I don't know his, any further educational background, but he was president of Durham Tech for many years and really built it up--

**JK: Durham Tech or Durham Central?**

JH: Durham Tech. And really started it from just where it was, came in when it was really very small and basic, and built it up to what it is today, which is a fantastic institution. That was before he came to Duke when he retired from there and then came to Duke.

03:02:14

**JK: I'll look him up. Yeah.**

**JO: And do you think that he had a role in sort of bridging Duke--?**

03:02:20

JH: Yes. I think so. He died last year or the year before.

03:02:25

**JK: Interesting. And also, Central, there're people at Central that also helped in this, but over the years, since 1950 you have seen this whole thing developed, and it's a great place. And what we have happening now, a lot of our former chairs and former deans are coming back here now to live and they left. They went other places. They've come back to Durham to live. And there's something about it that draws people now. It's a great place to live.**

**JO: So there's a sense of community there.**

**JK: That didn't exist before. And about that Johns Hopkins transition, which Duke believes the medical center was really born from, you mentioned that.**

03:03:31

JH: Well, yeah, they just took the best talent in just, most ever department. Davidson was the one that did it. Well, he had a lot of help, but I mean he was primary--

- 03:03:58 JK: But I wonder if that had anything to do with the sort of, the northerners coming down, and it took a while before they really got in, you know, with the people that lived here.
- 03:04:11 JH: Yeah, I think--I think that's true. But I think Mary Siemens helped a lot with doing that when she--
- 03:04:25 **JO: Was she a president of the medical center?**
- JK: No. She's an heir of the Duke family.**
- 03:04:33 JH: And she married, her first husband was a surgeon, and he died young with a, I think one of the, leukemia of some sort, and then she married--but that, she married him, and that, from the beginning, she worked to bring the medical faculty in to the community. And she did. She was a fabulous person.
- 03:05:27 **JK: Yeah. I could say a few things about it, but that's not the point. I'm not being interviewed here. You might want to look into that.**
- JO: Okay, well, let's leave things there.**
- JK: This was fantastic.**
- JO: Yeah.**