

5-1-1989

## Interview no. 816

Mrs. Maurine Basom

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utep.edu/interviews>



Part of the [Oral History Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Interview with Mrs. Maurine Basom by Barbara K. Dent, 1989, "Interview no. 816," Institute of Oral History, University of Texas at El Paso.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Institute of Oral History at ScholarWorks@UTEP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Combined Interviews by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UTEP. For more information, please contact [lweber@utep.edu](mailto:lweber@utep.edu).

## UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

## INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Mrs. Maurine Basom

INTERVIEWER: Barbara K. Dent

PROJECT: El Paso Medical Community

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 27, August 31, 1989

TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted

TAPE NO: 816

TRANSCRIPT NO: 816

TRANSCRIBER: Amy Bene

## BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Wife of William C. Basom, M.D., El Paso orthopedic surgeon; born 1917, St. Paul, Minnesota; graduate of University of Minnesota; married, 1940; moved to El Paso, 1941; former Program Chairman And Secretary of El Paso Girl Scout Counsel, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Press Book Chairman of Woman's Auxiliary of El Paso County Medical Society; Secretary of American Association of University Women, Vice President and Secretary of Young Matrons Auxiliary of El Paso Woman's Club; board member of PTA at Crockett, Bassett, and Austin Schools; Secretary and World Missions Chairman, Manhattan Presbyterian Church.

## SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Recounts childhood in St. Paul, Minnesota; early work experience; discusses membership in Woman's Auxiliary of El Paso County Medical Society; volunteer nurses' aide for Red Cross during WW II; includes enumeration of El Paso hospitals in existence in early 1940s; recalls husband's internship at El Paso City-County Hospital; highlights meetings of Medical Auxiliary; husband's professional career; summer trips to Cloudcroft, New Mexico; distribution of sugar cubes by Medical Auxiliary; acquisition of S.T. Turner home by Medical Society in 1947; husband's role in initiating training program for orthopedic interns at Hotel Dieu in conjunction with Northwestern University; husband's involvement in pioneering El Paso Orthopedic Surgical Group; tragic death of Frank Goodwin, M.D., El Paso's first orthopedic surgeon; Medical Auxiliary's collection of physician log books from 1869-1940s; surgical records and obstetrical records of Masonic Hospital.

Length of Interview: 2 hours      Length of Transcript 57 pages

This is Thursday, July the 27th, 1989,  
and I am interviewing Mrs. Basom; Mrs. Maurine  
Basom.

Q Mrs. Basom, can you tell me how old you are and  
where you were born?

A I'm 72, and I was born in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Q How did someone from Minnesota get all the way  
down to El Paso?

A I married a resident at the hospital where I was  
employed as a medical secretary. And he was born  
and raised in Dallas, Texas, and always wanted to  
practice in El Paso, Texas, after he finished his  
three year fellowship at the Mayo Clinic.

Q Were you originally from Minnesota?

A Yes.

Q Did you live on a farm?

A No. I lived in Saint Paul.

Q Were your parents from Minnesota?

A Yes.

Q And what did they do?

A My father was co-owner of a paper company. My  
mother was a housewife.

Q And when did you get interested in medical  
stenography?

A Well, as I was growing up, I always wanted to be a nurse or a doctor. And I went to a private girls' school, a Catholic school. And the nuns discouraged me from ever going into medicine. They said no one had any confidence in women doctors. And my mother begged me not to go into medicine. But I always enjoyed reading or browsing through medical journals and medical books.

And after I finished at the University of Minnesota, I -- while I was going to the University of Minnesota, I dropped out after the second year due to my father's serious illness. And he asked me, "What are you prepared to do in the event something happens to me?" And I said, "Nothing." He said, "Then I suggest you go to secretarial school, and you can always go to work for my company." So I dropped out and went to secretarial school, and then I went back to the university.

And after I graduated, one of my sorority sisters called and told me that there was an opening at Gillett State Hospital for Crippled Children in the social service department, and why didn't I go down for an interview.

So I went down to the bureau, the chief of the bureau of the crippled children, and he asked me if I had any experience, and I said, "No," and he said, "Well, we wanted somebody with experience," and I said, "Well, how am I going to get experience if nobody's going to give me any experience?" I said "Let me go out there and work for a week, and if my work is satisfactory, then you can keep me on. If it's not, I'll understand." So I went out there, and I stayed there a year and a half.

Q And is this where you met your husband?

A Yes. He was at the Mayo Clinic from 1938 to 1941. And he had to have six months of crippled children's work. So, he came to Gillett in July of 1940.

We were married in November of 1940. We went back to Rochester, and I stayed in Minnesota and commuted back and forth on weekends until June of 1941, and moved to El Paso.

Q Did he have to serve in the army in World War II?

A Yes. He was stationed here at William Beaumont Army Hospital. He practiced here a year with Dr. Breck, and they both went into service in 1942. And my husband stayed at William Beaumont for four years, the whole time.

Q He was not able to maintain a private practice while he was in the service?

A No, but he stayed in the County Medical Society and we attended all the County Medical Society affairs, and I belonged to the Medical Auxiliary.

During World War II, they were looking for Red Cross volunteers nurses' aides, and they tried to get somebody from the Medical Auxiliary and I was the only one that volunteered. So out of their several hundred volunteers locally, I was the only doctor's wife. And I worked here for two and a half years in the hospital as a nurses' aide.

Q Were there very many doctors left here in town?

A When we came in 1941, we had less than 100 doctors. We used to meet in the homes. The Auxiliary met in the homes. I would say that quite a few of them, quite a few of the doctors went into the service, and the few that were disabled or couldn't serve came here and did very well, financially.

Q I bet so.

A And I remember right after the war started, the Auxiliary volunteered to roll bandages for the Red Cross. We used to do that one day a week at a doctor's home.

Q Where did the doctors have their Society during that time?

A They usually met in a room at the Cortez Hotel.

Q And that's downtown?

A Uh-huh. Downtown. It's no longer a hotel, but it was one of our leading hotels.

Q How many hospitals were here in town when you first moved here?

A We had Masonic Hospital at Five Points, which was later torn down and Sears Roebuck store was built there. It's now the police department. We had old Providence Hospital.

Q Where was that?

A That was in back of the El Paso Public Library, downtown. We had Saint Joseph's Hospital, which is now called --

Q That's Sun Valley.

A It's now called Sun Valley. Southwestern Hospital, and Hotel Dieu Hospital.

Q Now, was Hotel Dieu Sisters' Hospital where it is now?

A Yes. They had a --

Q They just built around it?

A No. They tore down the entire old building and built the new building, and it opened, I believe, around 1951, 1952.

Q Well, when they tore it down, what did they do with their patients? Did they build it on on a parking lot, or build around it, or what?

A They had sort of a "T", and they built the new part facing Rio Grande and moved the patients into the new part, and then tore down the old part and expanded that way.

Q Now, when you moved here and you said you were a nurses' aide, volunteer nurses' aide for the Red Cross, did you work in any of the hospitals as a volunteer, or as an an employee?

A No. I worked as a volunteer at Masonic Hospital and Hotel Dieu. I volunteered. I could work any number of hours I wanted to and pick my days. And I always picked a few hours, maybe twice a week.

Q Now what was the old Masonic Hospital like?

A That was originally a nursing school and a very nice three, four-story hospital. And they had a big practice there.

The whole Five Points area has changed. They had the hospital. They had the drugstore. One of our local retired pediatrician's father ran that drugstore.

Q Who?

A The Skimmons. Dr. and Mrs. Skimmons' father own



it; had drugstore that was across the street from the Masonic Hospital. And there were several fine eating places down there.

Q Were the Gillespis there then?

A No. They came afterwards. It was a Red Rooster Bowling Alley. And then the Red Rooster Bowling Alley sold out, and the Gillespis built their establishment. And they had a private dinner club, the Empire Club, that was limited to private membership. And then one part, the Gillespi part, was open to the public.

Q Now, when you moved here, did you have any children?

A No, I didn't have any children. But I can tell you an interesting thing. I came through El Paso on a Greyhound bus in 1939. We came in through Smeltertown, and my travelling companion and I decided we wanted to tour Juarez, so we spent the night. And we stayed at the Knox Hotel, which was next to the Greyhound bus depot.

It was in July, and the temperature was 106°. And we got in here about noontime. So we asked the desk clerk what there was to do, and he said take the Grayline Tour of Juarez. So she and I went on the bus tour of Juarez. And the other passengers were men who tried to be

friendly with us and wanted us to go back on an evening tour.

Well, we got back to our hotel and we were kind of scared, so we stayed in. And I remember writing a letter to my mother. "It'll just be my luck to end up in a place like this."

A year later, I met a doctor who had every intention of making his home in El Paso. And I learned to love it.

You see, when we left the next day on the bus, we went out Alameda. So we saw Smeltertown and we saw Alameda and the downtown, and there was nothing impressive about any of that.

Q Now, where was the Knox Hotel? Where was the bus station at that time?

A The bus station and the Knox Hotel were right across from the current bus depot.

Q The current Greyhound?

A Well, they've torn down that block to make room for the rebuilding of the Weston. And it was right across the street from the current bus depot.

Q And that's where the Knox Hotel was?

A Uh-huh.

Q Have they torn that down, too?

A Oh, yes. That whole block. Oh, El Paso's changed. When I came here there were streetcars and about 96,000 people. Very few stop and go signs. When you went downtown, you always ran into somebody you knew.

Today, there are signs on every corner, and you can go out and eat in most restaurants and never run into anyone you know.

Q Now, you say your husband always wanted to come here. How did you hear about El Paso?

A When my husband graduated from Baylor in Dallas, he served a year's internship there, and he wanted to serve another year. And one of his classmates told him, "Apply for El Paso. They have a large City/County Hospital. You'll get a world of experience."

Well, he wrote out here, and the superintendant, Mr. Butler said, "We've already filled our quota, but come along anyway." So he came out here in June of 1937 and interned until 1938.

In the meantime, he met Dr. Breck, who was one of two orthopedists in El Paso. And he liked working with my husband and suggested he apply for a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic. And

he did, and he was accepted. And he wanted to come back and practice with Dr. Breck. And that's what he did after he finished his three-year college course.

Q Now, where was the City/County Hospital? It wasn't Thomason.

A Yes. And they tore it down. It's on the same location where the current one is, and they tore it down.

Q And it was named Thomason?

A It was called the City/County Hospital. And then they built the new one and called it Thomason.

Q Now, was Judge Thomason here at that time?

A Yes. Yes, because I remember I knew him and I knew his wife.

And my husband interned here with Dr. John Martinville, because Dr. John Feddico and Dr. Vincent Rabble -- all who stayed in El Paso and practiced for many years until they passed on.

And then my husband served on the board of directors in the 1940s, and he's now orthopedic consultant for Texas Tech Medical School, which is now affiliated with Thomason.

Q You said that you got interested in the Medical Auxiliary right after you came here.

A Mrs. Breck took me to the first meeting in October.

Q And how was that?

A Wonderful. Mrs. A. B. Long was president, and she was one of the most charming doctor's wives you'd ever want to meet. And she was very nice to the young doctors' wives. She entertained a lot in her home. Everybody loved Amma Long. She lived to be in her 90s. She died a year or two years ago.

And I enjoyed the auxiliary, because we met in the different homes. And the highlight was going to the Frank Schuster home on Rim Road. That was "the" home in El Paso.

Q I think it still is.

A And we went -- after the meeting, several of us went on a tour of the home. Well, we enjoyed it. We were in lots of different lovely homes.

Q One of the other homes was the Spearman. Where was that?

A Rim Road.

Q Whereabouts?

A Maurice Spearman home?

Q Was it located near --

A I think it was on the same street.

Q Same block?

A Fairly near Virginia Thomson's lovely home on Rim Road.

Q Now, were the Curtises here?

A The Curtises had a lovely home on Rim Road, and she was one of the most charming women you'd ever want to meet. We loved to be entertained in her home.

Q Rick, little Rick cannot bear to part with their home. He still has it. It's been vacant ever since Esther died. But they're torn with the idea that, you know, they love their home in the Upper Valley, but it's so large, and they would like very much to move up here. So they're just going to sit on it for a while.

A Well, you know they had their house all rearranged, so that I think she changed -- had her living room/recreation room to the back, and the front part is the master bedroom that overlooks the city. I remember when they had their house all remodeled.

As the years went by the doctors' incomes went up, and a lot of them bought, or had built, beautiful, luxurious homes. And I remember my husband said several patients told him, "You doctors are all rich. You all live in mansions," and my husband said, "Well, you come

by and look at my house. Chances are you live in a better house."

Well, we were handy to grade school and high school for our three children. And as we got older, we just decided we were going to stay put and not move.

We still have a few doctors living in -- doctors or doctors' widows living this area. But it's an old historical part of town, now.

Q Did you move here directly to this house when you first came?

A Well, no. When my husband and I moved here, we rented a duplex.

Q And whereabouts was that?

A 3612½ Pershing.

Q So you moved into this neighborhood?

A And then we moved into this house in September of 1946. We've been here ever since.

Q You lived in the duplex the time he was in the service?

A While we were in the service we just -- those are the only two places we ever lived.

Q That was really fortunate that you didn't have to move during the war.

A Well, we saw an ad in the paper for a furnished house, and we didn't have any furniture. While

we were in the service, we lived in a furnished duplex. And we came by and looked at this on the Sunday afternoon, and two hours later we agreed to buy it furnished.

Q And it was furnished?

A It still has the original dining room outfit in it.

Q This is beautiful.

A This furniture was made in 1936. This house was built in 1931. It's one of the more recent houses in this area. This is a historical area, and most of the houses in my block were built anywhere from 1918 to 1922. There are three little Spanish-style houses all built by Dr. and Mrs. Skimmon's father-in-law in 1931. And we became a historical area about four or five years ago. There's a school across from us that was built in 1921 or 1922.

Q And that's Crockett School?

A That's Crockett School. Uh-huh.

Q Let's see. Gordon Black grew up in this neighborhood, too, didn't he, over on Federal Silver?

A Now, I'm not sure where Godon Black grew up. At one time, he lived up in one of the old historical two-story homes up here on Arroyo



Street, the corner house of the 3000 block.

Q I know we went to a meeting there not long after I -- I guess Dotti was president that year.

A Well, yeah. She's there over on, what? Thunderbird now?

Q Yeah. They're out there in a little condominium now.

A And Dr. Lee Wilcox and his wife came here in December of 1941 from Rochester. He was also at the Mayo Clinic. He specialized in surgery.

Q Now, did your husband know Dr. Wilcox?

A Yes. They knew each other. And they live over here on the corner of Wheeling, 31 -- over in this pink house on the corner of Wheeling. 3133 Central.

And Dr. Willard Schuessler lives over on Copper Street. He came after the war. He was one of of our first plastic surgeons.

Well, we used to have a lot of doctors in this area. Dr. George Turner; Dr. Barrett, who was one of our old-time anesthesiologists; Dr. Ewall; Dr. Gaddis; Dr. Goodlow; Dr. Martin; John Martin; Dr. John Peddicole; Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Homan; Dr. and Mrs. Vile Homan. This was quite a medical area at one time, back in the 1940s and 1950s. And there's still a number of

widows living in this area, but most of the doctors have moved away. In fact, Dr. Schuessler and my husband are the only two in this area now.

My husband knew Willard Schuessler back in the 1930s. Dr. Schuessler's father was my husband's German teacher at Southern Methodist University.

Q Really?

A So our friendship goes way, way back.

Q Now, your husband wanted to come back here because he had met Dr. Breck when he was interning. And how long was his fellowship in Rochester?

A Three years.

Q Three years. And it was in orthopedic.

A Orthopedic. And he got -- in affiliation with that, he got a masters degree in orthopedic surgery from the University of Minnesota in June of 1941, and we moved to El Paso in June.

Q Was he chief of orthopedics at Beaumont while he was there?

A No. He went into -- when he went into the service, he went in as a lieutenant because of his age. He was young. And by the time he got out of the service he was a major.

Q How long did he stay in?

A Four years. But he was -- he was never chief at Beaumont, but he was head of the annex. They had an annex out on Fred Wilson Road towards Biggs Field during the war, because of the casualties. The trains would bring them in here by carloads. And he'd have hundreds and hundreds of wounded soldiers. So they had to build an annex, and he was head of the annex orthopedic department.

And then after the war he became a consultant to William Beaumont for 25 years. And then for the last ten years he's been an orthopedic consultant at the Veterans Outpatient Clinic. He retired last year.

Q When did he retire from the orthopedic group?

A 1983.

Q And how was it at first to suddenly have your husband at home with you all day?

A Great. Great. We communicate. We talk a mile a minute, the both of us. We like dogs, cats, music, reading, TV. We just -- I enjoy having him home.

Q Was it hard for him, suddenly to stay home?

A No. He enjoys his retirement very much. You know, he practiced for over 50 years, and he's just enjoying it. And he has a chronic ailment, so he needs to rest a lot.

Q Do y'all do any travelling? Did you do any travelling, immediately?

A We used to travel a lot. We went to medical conventions in Mexico City. I've been on two of them, and he's been on two more. And then he went to Venezuela. I didn't -- I couldn't go. He was president of the American Fracture Association for three years, so he went to their foreign meetings, and I couldn't go because I had three children at home.

We took our children to Alaska on the boat. We took them to Disneyland, the Blackhills of South Dakota.

My husband and I have been to many conventions. In fact, there are only two states in the Union that I haven't been in, and that's Maryland and Kentucky. And we went to Hawaii in 1978, but we didn't take our children.

We have three grown children. Our daughter was born in 1946 in Dallas. We were in Dallas for a couple of months when he first got out of the service. And then we were there, we had the baby, and came back.

And he was subject to skin tumors, and the dermatologist wanted him to go to a cloudy place where there was lots of rain. And so when

he got out the service, I was due to have a baby, so we went to Dallas to stay with his mother until we decided what we were going to do.

We missed El Paso and came back after she was born. She was born in March. We came back in June. And we kept up our dues in the County Medical Society, because I just had a feeling we were going to come back.

Then we had a son born in the old Hotel Dieu in 1950, and our second son was born in the new Hotel Dieu in 1953. And we now have ten grandchildren.

Q Do any of these children live in town?

A My daughter lives here. My daughter has a masters degree in reading, and is a reading specialist at the El Paso Community College. And her husband is a high school principal in Anthony, Texas. And they have four children ranging in age from 9 to 15.

My older son was in Lubbock, Texas. And he had a tank building company. And they have four children.

And my younger son is -- he is a mechanic, and he lives at Sandia Park and commutes.

Q To Albuquerque?

A To Albuquerque. His company moved from El Paso to Albuquerque two years ago. They have two little girls. And they're close enough we can see each other.

And then my older son's wife has a lovely home, summer home, at Ruidoso, so we get to see them quite a lot.

Q Now, when your children were growing up, did you go up to Cloudcroft? Was the summertime -- I heard about the Cloudcroft Children's Clinic, or Children's Camp, to get the people out of El Paso because of the polio and things like that.

A Well, we didn't -- when we first came here, there was no paved road all the way to Cloudcroft. You had to go from El Paso to Alamogordo, and then up through -- oh, what's that little Spanish town?

Q La Luz?

A La Luz. And then take a winding dirt road up to the top to get to Cloudcroft. And that was a scary road. It had hair pin turns, and nothing off the sides. And in the summertime, the car motors got overheated. So we didn't go very much until they rerouted the way way up to Cloudcroft, and paved it all the way. And we'd always go up one or two times during the summer.

Now, my daughter owns 16 acres, so they

go up quite often on weekends. They hope to build someday.

Q What was the polio epidemic like here?

A Well, now, I don't know too much about the polio epidemic in El Paso, but it was terrible in Minnesota. I worked with the State Crippled Children's Hospital, and it was filled with polio victims. And this famous woman from Australia, who (tape is interrupted) worked with the polio victims all over the country. And there were far more polio cases in other parts of the United States than in El Paso.

Q Now, you say Sister Kenny. Was she a nun, or Sister was the title given to the Australian nurses?

A Well, that part, I don't know. I don't know. I did not meet her, but she did come there, and taught the nurses how to give physical therapy; and the physical therapists and the doctors. I don't even remember what her treatment was. But I remember my matron of honor was stricken with polio in 1942 and is a paraplegic to this day. She's one of the unfortunate ones that suffered paralysis.

But my husband said the epidemic wasn't too much here. There was a lot of diarrhea and

things like that, and we thought maybe the kids had polio. But we never did see too many polio patients here. But in Minnesota he worked a lot of polio cases.

Q Now, when the Salk vaccine came out, were you involved with the Auxiliary in distributing the sugar cubes?

A The Auxiliary worked in different places that were set up. And I remember some of the doctors' wives working up here at Austin High School around here someplace. I, myself, did not work on that committee. But they did help vaccine. When was that?

Q I think it was in the 1950s, the early 1950s.

A Yeah. There were, back in 1945, 1946, the local Medical Auxiliary mailed out 1,000 Easter Seal envelopes.

And we conducted an essay contest among high school students. They were to write an essay about socialized medicine. And we gave out awards, or a scholarship, to the writer of the winning essay.

And then we became involved in nurse recruitment. And some of the doctors' wives who had been nurses went to the various high schools and gave talks and showed films. And eventually



we set up a nursing scholarship; one for a regular R.N., and one for a vocational nurse.

Q This was when Virginia Thomson was president?

A Well, this was in the late 1940s. I don't know that it all came under her. I don't remember.

(end of side one, tape one)

A And we became interested in the mental health programs. And one of our doctors' wives served on the mental health board.

And in 1954, we had -- the Auxiliary was in charge of the nursing and first aid course offered over KROD TV, called "Nurse, Please." And on each Sunday night at 6:30 for seven weeks we presented a medical program.

Q What was on this program?

A First aid and nursing. And Mrs. Ethel Tubbs was the nurse in charge.

Q That was Dr. William Tubbs' first wife. His second wife, now, is president of the Auxiliary right now.

A Oh, we used to have -- in 1954, we had our first hobby and crafts show at the Turner Home.

Q Tell me about getting the Turner Home. Do you remember any of that?

A Well, I can't remember too much about the Turner Home, but my husband was secretary/treasurer of

the County Medical Society in 1947. And it was about that time that they got the Turner Home. And some of the younger doctors wanted to turn around and sell, because they felt it would be a white elephant, and we would outgrow it. They wanted to buy some land and build larger. But the old-time doctors who knew Dr. Turner, or had been here in the 1930s or so, they didn't want to part with it.

So, eventually, the Auxiliary started having all their meetings there, and also the County Medical Society, and we have overrun the place now.

Q Well, tell me, what did they do with it at first? Did they have a library? Someone mentioned that they invested in a library or something.

A Well, at one time it was a library for the County Medical Society. Do they not still have the books there at all?

Q We have a bunch of little books, but it's not a good reference --

A Well, they had a library there. And they stored a lot of books and journals in the basement. And I don't know what happened to those.

But after Hotel Dieu's school of nursing -- well, they had Hotel Dieu school of nursing

all along when we were here. And I know a lot of doctors turned over their books and journals to the nursing school. And then, eventually, the nursing school library moved up to U.T.E.P. And so that's where most of them are now, the books from -- and I really don't know about the County Medical Society.

We had different programs of remodeling down there. We had to remodel the kitchen. We used to have luncheons down there, and it was just inadequate, so they had to remodel the kitchen. And I don't remember upstairs, whether -- I don't remember when they got the theater seats.

Q Do you remember remodeling the kitchen? Do you remember what year that was?

A No. I surely don't.

Q Y'all took out the old sinks. The big stove that was there, was it there when when (unintelligible).

A Well, now, I don't remember that, but I know that we were having lunches there in 1952. And the doctors' wives -- we had committees. And each month a different group would bring the food in there, or prepare the food. And as time went by, the doctors' wives didn't come to meetings, and

the attendance got very low at one time. They stopped having monthly luncheons. In fact, they didn't have monthly meetings, period. I think they still don't.

Q No. We don't have monthly meetings.

A They don't. They have something different. And we tried having caters, occasionally. But then as the membership grew, the doctors and new people came in, and it was just hard to entertain down there.

But there were so many of us that had been here so long and we just quit going, the old-timers. And of course Virginia Deter used to fuss at us, some of the old-timers, for not coming any more. It's a whole new set of doctors' wives over the last 10 or 15 years. I haven't been to one in so long. Five years, maybe six years. I haven't been since 1983.

Then one time, I don't remember when, but we decided we'd start having rapport with the Dental Auxiliary. So every other year the Medical Auxiliary was responsible for entertaining the Dental wives, and they'd reciprocate.

Q Those are the years (unintelligible).

A Uh-huh. They were very nice. And then after the

war and during the 1950s, there were a lot of social events. The doctors and their wives were always having parties; garden parties. There was a wonderful rapport in the Medical Auxiliary and the County Medical Society. It was kind of a closely-knit group. And there were a lot of lovely parties. We even had dances at the country club and out at Biggs Field.

Well, as they expanded and people became interested in other things, there were fewer and fewer parties. There may be among the newer or younger set; I don't know. But we used to have open house every year for all the doctors and their wives.

Q This was with the group?

A This was Dr. Breck, and Dr. Lenord, and Dr. Baysom, and myself, for years and years. And then we took in different doctors over a period of years. And we did that. We'd send out about 200 invitations. Then it got too (tape damage).

Q When did Dr. Ellis come here? Was he one of the first new ones? Because Anne Norman came in the same time you did.

A Well, let's see. Dr. Lenord came in the late 1940s, around 1949. And then we had a Dr. Cornell. And we had a Dr. Kosiki, and Mario

Palifox.

And my husband's group set up a training program for orthopedic interns created with Northwestern University. We did that for about ten years and had worlds of young orthopedists come here and train. And many of them are prominent today throughout the United States. And they got their training at Hotel Dieu, and at my husband's clinic.

Dr. Ellis. I think Dr. Ellis was probably next to Dr. Lenord.

Q He came sometime in the 1960s, yeah.

(tape turned off)

A Over the years, we've had various orthopedists in the El Paso Orthopedic Organization. And we're very proud of the fact that Dr. Breck's wife, Julia, ran for mayor and only lost by a little over 1,000 votes. We always felt that if she had gone after the south El Paso vote she would have been our first female mayor. She was very active in politics and very interested in government up there, and very knowledgeable.

Q Well, Dr. Hahn went to Vietnam on a civilian-sponsored type tour of duty.

A Did he become ill over there, or pick up a virus, or something?

Q Yes.

A Several doctors went to Vietnam and picked up something. But he left our group and went in with Dr. Palifox, I think. I just don't remember too much about him. And Dr. Palifox went out on his own after about ten years. And we trained Dr. Hallaby, and Dr. Hallaby graduated from -- I think he went to Spain for orthopedic training, came back, and practiced with Dr. Palifox. And they split up. And now, Dr. Hallaby practices on his own.

Q They went back to Spain this summer. They took all the children, and they went back to Spain to visit the man of the family he lived with while he was in school.

A Well, now, we had Dr. Richardson in our group, and he was in a horrible accident. He was thrown off of a horse into the front end of a truck and suffered from double vision and other things, and he had a long period of rehabilitation. And they eventually went in on their own.

Sal Gonzalez trained with us, and he's now retired. I believe he has multiple sclerosis.

Q Yeah. We see him at Luby's quite frequently.

A We went on a wonderful medical meeting with them

to Las Noches, he and his wife. We really enjoyed their company.

Well, the El Paso Orthopedic Surgical Group started out with Dr. Breck and my husband, and they've added over the years. I believe their goal is to have 12 doctors, and they're pretty close to that goal now. In the last couple of years they've taken in quite a few.

Q Have you been down the the new building this year?

A Once, because I went to the dermatologist upstairs. I just -- I haven't been in the new building, other than just walk through it.

They had a lovely -- after they moved off of north Stanton, they went out into Executive Center. Had a beautiful building out there. And my husband never wanted to move out that far. He thought it was way too far. And they had a chance to move back into the Medical Center Group.

Q Now, your husband was still with them when they moved to Executive Center?

A He was just going up and getting his mail. He was semi-retired.

(tape turned off)

A During the 1940s and 1950s, the Medical Auxiliary



and the County Medical Society were more or less under the control of the doctors who centered their practice at Southwestern Hospital.

Q Now, at that time, didn't you also have to belong to the Medical Society to get privileges in the hospitals? When Tom came, that was still the practice, and I was just wondering if --

A I think that you more or less had to be a member of the County Medical Society to be on the staffs of the different hospitals. Because I remember one doctor, they didn't take him into the County Medical Society. And so he had his own little hospital out in northeast El Paso.

Q Was that Dr. Peck, and he had the Diablo Clinic?

A Most of the doctors -- well, Hotel Dieu catered primarily to the Mexican doctors, Catholic patients. They had a lot of Sisters down there who were wonderful. I just loved being a patient in Hotel Dieu. Now, I don't know. A lot of the doctors that are active in the County Medical Society, and wives, I think are created the South -- is it --

Q Sierra?

A Sierra and Providence.

Q Sun Towers, now, with Hotel Dieu.

A Yeah. Well, we needed to see Hotel Dieu close

because that was the old-time hospital, and that's where I did most of my nurses' aide work there. They used to assign me to the railroad ward.

Q What was the railroad ward?

A Well, this was patients who worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad, and they had a big ward. They'd have maybe eight patients in a great big ward room.

And several of our doctors were -- Dr. Holt was one. Dr. Woodlow, Dr. Holt and Dr. -- oh, I can't think of his name. An old, old-time doctor -- were the railroad doctors at Hotel Dieu. And one of our doctors, disease doctors, John Pedicole, was the doctor for the American Airlines.

Dr. Frank Schuster and his bother Steve were more or less in charge of the old Providence Hospital. That was their hospital. And, of course, then they built the new Providence Hospital, which opened up many more specialties. (tape fades) And was under the control of Dr. Sam Young.

Q Dr. Sam Young?

A No. I mean Mr. Sam Young. No. I was thinking of Dr. -- you see, my minister is president of

the board, now, Dr. Bob Young. And Southwestern Hospital originally, I think, was a hospital for tubercular patients.

Q Yeah.

A And there was a Dr. Long Clinic here. There were a lot of people who came to El Paso who had tuberculosis, and they came here to die. Gosh! They lived on, and on, and on. And they closed the Long Clinic, and I think it's now a big apartment house or condominium.

Q Where was that?

A It was -- it's up on a high hill. You can see it. It's got great big windows. It sits up on a high hill. At the top, when you're coming up -- when you're going towards Southwestern Hospital, there's a street that's not a through-street. It's up high, there. I don't know what they call those streets, but it sits up high on a hill. It's fairly near Southwestern Hospital. I don't know how to describe it, just where it is.

Q It's not that one on Alabama that's now a Baptist or literary publishing company?

A Well, no. There were several sanitariums here, but I don't know about that. You mean -- you're talking about the Baptist Publishing?

Q Yeah.

A I don't know if that was there when  
(unintelligible). I don't know. It wasn't when  
I came here in 1931.

Then we had another little small  
hospital off of Mesa, over there in Kern.

Q It was a doctor's office.

A Yeah. What is that now? Is that closed?

Q Well, no. Sun Towers has opened it up again.  
And it's psychiatric facility, especially  
(unintelligible).

A I see. Well, I remember when they were building  
the new Hotel Dieu, Sister Matilda was the  
superintendant. And she had talked to several of  
the women who wanted to organize an auxiliary.  
And we organized -- Louise Schuessler and I were  
on the original committee to organize an  
auxiliary in 1951 for the new Hotel Dieu.

And then they had permanent election of  
offices, and I was pregnant, so I did not accept  
the office. That changed. That auxiliary sort  
of folded, and then it was revitalized, and, you  
know, they come and go.

And they had an auxiliary at  
Southwestern. I remember Dr. Jordan's wife,  
Tollie Jordan, and Dr. Pierce's wife were really  
active in that auxiliary. But Southwestern

Hospital eventually went into bankruptcy. And last year, or this year, a new management has taken over.

But that was a very popular hospital when I came here. My daughter's babies were delivered by Dr. Carpenter and Dr. Jacobs and that group. And that's where they used to deliver their babies, was over there at Southwestern. My daughter's first baby was born at Southwestern.

Q Now, who delivered your baby?

A Dr. Snido, Francis Snido. He came here back in the early 1940s and went into practice with Dr. Jesse Stoe. And, during the war, we rolled bandages at the Snido home. And he was one of our prominent obstetricians, gynecologists. But he became ill, and had to give up his practice. And he spent years in a Veterans' hospital, and then eventually, when his wife retired from teaching, she took care of him at home. He lost his hearing and I think he had a series of strokes.

Dr. Spier was one of our prominent obstetricians.

Q You mean Eric?

A Eric Spier. Jessie Stoe, Dr. Carpenter. Well, over the years we've grown so that we have

representatives of all of the specialties. At one time we had very few, like, one plastic surgeon, one or two dermatologists, and a handful of surgeons, and it's really gone.

We had a tragic plane accident after the war. Our first orthopedist, Frank Goodwin, and one of our internal medical doctors, Dr. Glenogen, were killed in a plane crash near El Capitan. They were on their way home from Carlsbad when their plane went down.

Q Had they been to a meeting?

A They had been to some kind of a meeting. And Frank Goodwin had a beautiful home on Rim Road, too. He was the first orthopedist in El Paso, and doctor, who had practiced in medicine, and then my husband and Dr. David Camaron. David Camaron also was a graduate (unintelligible)

Q Now, how (unintelligible)?

A (unintelligible)

Q Oh, yeah. That's right (unintelligible). When did you get interested in scrapbooks?

A I kept scrapbooks in high school. I kept scrapbooks in high school and in college. And when I came to El Paso, I joined many organizations and I had my name in the paper, and picture a lot, so I started keeping scrapbooks.

Q What other organizations did you belong to?

A Oh, my goodness. When I first came here, one of the -- Julia Breck had a big tea for me, and invited several hundred prominent people here in town. And I met a Mrs. Henry Baldwin, who asked me if I wouldn't be interested in Girl Scout work. So I became program chairman and secretary of the El Paso Girl Scout Counsel, and I had a senior troop at Austin High School.

I had to give that up. I gave that up in 1945, when I became pregnant. I gave up -- I was really active from 1941 until my first baby was born in 1946.

And unless I could get babysitters, when my next two arrived I stayed home a whole lot. I wasn't too active when my children were really small. Not until they got in school.

And, before I had my first child, I was also secretary of the American Association of University Women for two years. In the Medical Auxiliary, I've held -- I was vice president, recording secretary, pressbook chairman. I was vice president and secretary of the Young Matrons Auxiliary of the Women's Club. I was on the Women's Bowling League and won an award for the highest scorer. I bowled.

Q Do you still have your trophy?

A No. I got money.

Q Oh, okay. That's even better.

A I got money. And the highest game I ever bowled was 223. And I've been a -- I'm a life member of the Texas U.T.E.P. Auxiliary. And I've been a member of the Women's Club for over 30 years. And I've served on boards; Crockett, Bassett, and Austin PTA. Those are some of things I've done, been active in. And now I'm on sabbatical leave, now. I only play bridge in several groups.

I belong to a book club group. We've been meeting for almost 40 years the second Thursday of every month, except during the summer. There are 20 of us. Organized in 1950.

Q Do you play with Mrs. Thomson?

A Do I play what?

Q Bridge?

A No.

Q Or book club?

A No. She's in a Tuesday book club. Mine's a Thursday book club. There are several doctors' wives in the book club who we've had since 1950. Margie Martin, and Becky Garrett, and Roberta Wilcox, and myself.

And in my bridge group, we play the



second Monday of every month. Margie Martin and Mary Golding and myself are in that group. There are eight of us. We've been playing for about four or five years.

And then, I've been active in church circles. And I was secretary and world missions chairman in the Manhattan Presbyterian Church. I'm now a member of First Presbyterian Church, and I'm active in the circle number one, but I don't have any offices. Some of those old ones who -- I'm not close to them.

I've kept scrapbooks of people I know in the various organizations, and back in the 1940s and 1950s there were doctors' wives in every one of those organizations, and we always got a lot of publicity on the society page. We had society editors who would come to the parties and describe what each one -- not each one, but the ones they knew, what they were wearing. And it was all very interesting. But about ten years ago, they started a new policy, and organizations get very low publicity.

Q There's no publicity page.

A They cut down on weddings and everything else.

Q Yeah.

A Oh, yes. My goodness! In the state level, we

had to compete on publicity for our ribbon. We had to compete with Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio. And we could never win a ribbon when we first started out. But eventually, we got so much publicity in both papers that we just walked off with ribbons every year for years and years.

So they eliminated that category because the larger cities were no longer getting the publicity that we were.

But the Auxiliary, when I first joined back in the first 10, 15 years, we didn't do as many civic things as other organizations, because so many of us were active in other groups. But, I'd say over the last 20 years, we've had some real gung ho presidents, and we've been very active in many civic things, projects. Health fairs. Well, I remember we set up -- there's a speakers' bureau set up, doctors. I don't know whether we still have it, but they had eight doctors, though.

And I forgot to mention, when we started showing films and giving talks at the various high schools to the entrance girls in nursing -- future nurses' clubs were organized in most of the high schools. And I remember my daughter was

president of the future nurses' group up at Austin High School back in 1963, but she went into teaching.

Q When you were stationed here in the army, or when your husband was stationed here in the army, what kind of parties did they have?

A Well, I remember that we had a Hawaiian luau type of party at Biggs Field Officers' Club. And we were all decked out in leis and Hawaiian dresses. And I remember Ethel Marie Dubbs was one of the chairman.

Several of the doctors were reserve officers, and they had access to the Offices' Club, either at William Beaumont or at Biggs Field. And I can remember one party we had at Biggs Field. We had -- what was the famous player of the Glenn Miller Orchestra? Well, we had a famous group that had formerly played with Glenn Miller Orchestra.

I can remember, we had a dinner at William Beaumont Officers' Club. The nurses honored a group of doctors, local doctors.

And Hotel Dieu had a lovely party at the El Paso Officers' Club.

(end of side two, tape one)

A During the war years we had the Auxiliary, and

the County Medical Society had good rapport with the William Beaumont doctors and their wives. And the William Beaumont army wives were always invited to our County Medical and to the El Paso Auxiliary meetings, and they always entertained us. We entertained them. And at one time the Fort Bliss Women's Group invited all the Medical Auxiliary officers to lovely teas at Fort Bliss.

Q This was the days of the hats and the white gloves?

A Oh, yes. We always dressed to the hilt. You didn't see pantsuits. We all wore gloves and hats. Oh, we even had style shows, and the doctors' wives put on some really fancy style shows.

And I remember, Janavia Pausy was one of our doctors' widows, had a gorgeous home up on Park where the Bornestiens eventually lived, and she changed her house into a tearoom. And she put out a cook book, which I have. And she had hundreds of parties up there. You could arrange to have parties there, and she'd be your caterer.

And I remember we had Southwestern Medical Society back in those days, and they had a convention here. And we entertained doctors' wives over there. And we had one doctor's wife

who was a professional accordion player from the East. And we asked her if she would provide music, and she refused unless we paid her a fee. She was a member of the Auxiliary. So we got somebody else.

And I remember we had a fabulous style show, and also our group organized District I Medical meetings. That included, you know, Martha, and Fort Stanton --

Q Fort Davis.

A Fort Davis. And that was back into 1950s. And different doctors from El Paso had been president of that group, and different doctors' wives had been president.

Q Now, Larry Nickey was involved in that.

A Yes. Yes. And Dr. Schuessler was an officer at one time. And I remember, the Southwestern Medical Group also put out the Southwestern Medical Magazine for a long time. My husband was the (unintelligible) editor.

And in 1957, my husband and I put on the American Fracture Association convention here in El Paso. We had almost 200 doctors and their wives. And the Cortez Hotel was the convention hotel. And, at that time, Dr. Ralph Homan was the president of the County Medical Society.

So in our opening reception we had Dr. Homan and his wife Laura in the receiving line. And we had the group meet at the County Medical Society, the women, for a brunch in the morning. And several of the prominent -- two of the prominent doctors from the Fracture Group came over and were our speakers.

Q When they closed Biggs Field, do you remember all the planes leaving?

A No. I don't remember that part at all. We've got the B -- what are the big bombers that are there right now (unintelligible)?

Q I don't know.

A There's a bunch of them here. No, I don't remember the closing of Biggs Field.

But I can remember when I came here in 1941, there was nothing beyond Laredo Academy. That was sand and desert, except for a little rinky-dink airport way off of Montana.

And when we had our house added onto in 1953, Bob Garland was our -- Bob Garland and Mr. Gillis were our architects. They were just getting started here, and it was later on that they built the beautiful new airport and the convention center. They're big-time architects now.

Q Now, which convention center are you thinking of?

A Downtown. But I remember when my husband and Dr. Petticola, and Dr. Martin, when we'd get together. We got together a lot for dinner and going to Juarez and all that.

Back in 1937, 1938, when they were interning out here, if they had any money, and could have seen what was ahead, they would be rich today, if they could have bought up that land out there. But there was, like I said, when we came in 1941, there was nothing, hardly, beyond Laredo Academy out there on Laredo and Radford.

And when you -- you wouldn't believe the road that took you to Carlsbad and Carlsbad Caverns. It was a winding, narrow, up and down road that took forever to get there.

Q Was it a highway?

A Yeah. But just wide enough for two cars. And it went around, and up, and down. You had to worry about arroyos. If there was going to be a flash flood, you had to worry about arroyos. And they had a very poor road from here to Alamogordo. They finally widened it, and they're still talking about widening it even more. But it was hard to get anyplace.

Q Did y'all go to Juarez a lot?

A Yes. During the war years, we went to Juarez a lot. That's where everybody went. There was no place else to go. Juarez was "the" drawing, the attraction for tourists, or army people here, or armed services. And we went -- we used to go over to the \*Tillia and the Lobby. Those were the two big nightclubs. They were there before we came here. They were back there back in the 1930s and 1920s, probably.

And they had a big market. And a lot of us used to go over there and go to the market.

And when we had the American Fracture meeting here, I took a whole group to a lovely restaurant, a new one. I can't think of the name of it. But I remember that I made reservations for 98, and 127 showed up. And I had about an hour's notice. So I called over there, and and they really had to do something to make the meat course go around.

And when conventions were held here, that was the place to go. Particularly the Lobby, and they had several other nightclubs.

Or the Chinese Palace. We used to go to the Chinese Palace a lot in the 1940s. They had real exciting nightclub acts. And I remember one



famous couple drew crowds primarily because they sang, "Pistol Packing Mama." And they had a fellow dressed in a zoot suit that brought down the house.

Now, the \*Tillia, especially, was quite a social place.

And the Lion's Club members were all invited to a lovely dinner party at one of the nice clubs over there, and we all went. Of course, their parties started about 11:00 and ended around 4:00 in the morning.

A lot of us went to Juarez during the 1940s and 1950s. And today, I don't think hardly anyone goes to Juarez.

Q The teenagers do.

A Well, maybe the teenagers, but I haven't been to Juarez in 12 years. My boss from Minnesota, July Hospital, came through here and she wanted to go, so we took them over there to the \* Pronof. That's the last time I've been to Juarez.

Q What about the old hotel which is now the restaurant?

A I was going to say that a lot of the medical functions, social functions, were held in the old Liza Hotel. That's caddy-corner from -- they still have it. It's caddy-corner from the old

White House. We had luncheons there,  
installation luncheons, dinner dances.

The old Weston was called the Del Norte.  
They had a lovely, large ballroom. We had lots  
of parties there.

And the Auxiliary always had their  
installation luncheons at various hotels or  
motels. They had a huge motel up near the  
Crossroads. I think it was called the Westerner,  
or Westward Ho, or something like that. And that  
was a lovely place for installation luncheons.

We had them at the Coronado Country Club  
after it was built, the El Paso County Club. We  
had something out at the Del Camino one summer.

Well, you know, before we had the Turner  
Home, we had to have all of our parties or  
luncheons, installation luncheons, at some  
outside place.

We were also a very social group. Like  
I said before, some of the doctors that lived on  
Rim Road had big backyards. And during the  
summer, you could have outdoor parties. One of  
the nicest ones I ever went to was up in the  
Upper Valley at Dr. Morton's lovely home.

Q The house on Montoyo or the one further out?

A Westside Drive. Did he ever sell that?

Q No. They carved up the (unintelligible) into rocks, and he saved (unintelligible).

A Well, one of my friends who lived in the side house there on the corner owned that property. And they built the original house on that.

Q Oh, really? And who was that?

A I don't remember. (Tape turned off) Mrs. Gillmore built that lovely home up on Westside Road. And then --

Q Did she have a lot of children?

A No. She, I think, had two daughters. And then she sold her home to the Rodricks, Buddy Rodrick and Nancy Rodrick. And then they sold it to Alene and Morton, Dr. Morton.

I remember we had a lovely craft show up there, because they had a lot of room. And that was one of our first craft shows, hand craft shows.

Q Do you do your own crafts?

A No. All I can do is (unintelligible).

Q Tell me about your lovely picture.

A That was painted by Dr. Frank Golding's wife, Mary. Do you know Mary?

Q No. I don't.

A Well, she's a portrait painter. And she was always begging me and begging me to sit for her.

And I didn't want to, but she talked me into it. And I had to go up there and sit for hours. And she had me smile. The first one, she didn't have you smile, except you changed your mouth. I always felt that she did okay. I think most portrait painters lose something. But, anyway, Mary did that, maybe 10, 15 years ago. We've got a lot of talent, the doctors' wives.

Q We sure do.

A And Jean McGee is one of them. And she had -- I think, maybe, our first arts show and crafts show was at her home, because Mary Golding, I think, was working on my portrait, then. And Dr. Rock's wife was painting. I can't remember who all provided. There were various handcrafts. Mrs. Eric Spier made pottery.

Q Jewelry, too.

A Jewelry. And who else? Oh, that's too far back. I don't remember that far back. And then we had a lovely arts show exhibit at the home of one of our former -- one of the doctors who lived Coronado. We had a lovely show in Betty Schuster's home.

We had a tasting. What do you call them? Everybody brought something.

Q Covered dish supper?

A Well, no. It was a sample, like a tasting day. They had arts and crafts, and things that you could sample, like stuffed mushrooms. Everybody -- not everybody, but they were invited to bring their favorite little recipe and let everybody have a little taste. That was a lot of fun. We used to do things like that.

And at Christmas time, we used to have very elegant parties down at the Turner Home.

Q Did you belong to the Medilarks?

A No. I didn't. I had some -- Mary Beth sent me a photograph of some exhibit we had here, and I don't know whether it -- down at the County Medical Society there are all my scrapbooks, plus a photograph album of pictures taken by different doctors' wives, but they didn't put the names on the back of the pictures, so I don't know who they are. That was never kept up. We had a couple of wives who specialized in photography, and they were gung ho at first and then they kind of gave it up. So I don't have any more. I don't know where those are, where they keep them down there.

Q Sometime, would you go with me, and let's spend a day down at the Turner Home and get these (unintelligible) and put them up. Because, you

know --

A Do they have them where they're not locked up, do you know?

Q Well, we have them locked up in the front room in the pharmacy. You know, we have the one room of the museum is artifacts, and then there's the doctor's office, and then the pharmacy. And we have the old pharmacy from the real store. And it really, really looks nice.

But we have a (unintelligible) room. And the only scrapbook that I really looked through very briefly was Mrs. Turner's.

(unintelligible) But I would like very much to have someone who did the work, and also would know about some of the stories.

Q I'm trying to think who did it. I think Mrs. Radell did it before me. Of course, she's been dead for a long time. But Marion Jones was one of our local artists, and she put copper cover on hers. And what do you do?

Q You rub them?

A You carve them, or you make some kind of design. Those used to be entered. But, like I say, none of mine were entered. The girls would go down to the meetings, but they were never judged.

Q Do you ever hear from Mrs. Jones?

A Every Christmas.

Q Do you really? Where is she living now? I know she moved to --

A They're in San Angelo at this retirement. They have their own -- I believe it's run by the Baptists. And there is a hospital-type of setup, and then there are the individual homes. And she and Aubry have their own home.

And bless his heart, he is well into his 80s, and he still goes around -- oh, they both go around and cheer up the patients and confer with them. And I don't remember whether they give them biblical lessons or not. But I hear from them every year. They're still active. They have a car, and they travel. They've got their four children who they go visit. No, I hear from her every Christmas.

Q When we first moved to town we lived on the same street with her, same block. And then when they left they went to Kerrville because their daughter was living Kerrville.

A Where did they live?

Q They lived on Canterbury Street.

A Oh, Canterbury. I was thinking of \*Mary nearing out on these.

Q And we stopped to see them a number of times.

And every now and then, she leaves a little note in my door when she comes through town, or something. But I haven't heard from her. I lost track of her.

A Well, I have a friend who lives down there. She's from Kermit. And she wrote me, and she said, "I've run into a friend of yours, Marion Jones." I was never a close friend, but she was a long time friend. I'd known her over the years. And he was one of our first neurosurgeons.

Q Yeah.

A He came, I believe, from California. I think he was with the VA.

Q I don't know. But he went to the VA after a while in Kerrville.

A Yes. But I think he came here from the VA. And they live in San Angelo. Wait a minute. They have a girl.

(Tape stops)

This is Barbara Dent in El Paso, Texas, August 31st, 1989. I am continuing the interview with Mrs. Maureen Basom. Today, we are down at the Turner Home at 1301 Montana going through all of the Auxiliary scapbooks.

Q This scrapbook is a personal scrapbook of Mrs.



Basom.

A This is I. B. Homan, who founded the County Medical Auxiliary in 1922.

Q And she just died; didn't she?

A Oh, no. That's her --

Q Daughter-in-law?

A Right. So if you wanted a picture like that, I could cut that out. I didn't bring my scissors.

Q No, that would ruin the scrapbook.

A Well, that's okay, because these are old. So that's a picture of her. So that these -- I had these marked. Well, that one's her. The rest of these are not.

I had a tea up here at the Turner Home. These are -- I took that slip out of there. They would be in 1941, because we were making our home in 1941.

Here's my picture in Mexico City. I was a professor at U.T.E.P. I wasn't, but I said I was.

This is the first thing I have in here. This was a tea in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Beal Stevens.

Q 217 East Bravo Street.

A Yeah. She lived there until she died.

It was discovered, going through these

scrapbooks, that these were basically press books with newspaper clippings. We discovered the oldest press book that was in the collection, not only from Mrs. Basom, but in the Turner Home, the oldest one is in 1929 and it extends through 1945.

At this time, the Medical Auxiliary records and yearly reports were included in the Medical Society state reports and were put in the Medical Society transactions. The Medical Auxiliary did not have their own transactions at that time.

In 1945, Mrs. Virginia Thomson was president of the Medical Auxiliary here in El Paso.

The earliest yearbook we have found is in 1930/1931. And these yearbooks are glued into the first press book. The rest of them are stored in the closet in the Turner Home in the pharmacy.

Going through these press books, it's a very interesting discovery that history has come full circle, talking about socialized medicine, staying out of the sun to keep away from skin cancer, and the advertisements that the El Paso County Medical Society put in the paper for

public interest as far as the library is concerned, and polio. These scrapbooks carry not only the history of the medical community in this area, but also a history of El Paso.

Along with the interesting parts of history in the the Turner Home, we have the county logbooks of the physicians from 1869 up until 1940 something, that the county gave to us, and also the surgical records and the OB records from the Masonic Hospital.

Today, we were joined by two Masonic School of Nursing graduates. They enjoyed thoroughly going through these logbooks and seeing some of the cases that they took part in.

One particular case was a Miss Tessie Hardin, who was struck by a train in 1939, I believe. And Mrs. Spencer discovered that she was in on that particular case by going through this book. This Miss Hardin is a descendant of John Wesley Hardin, the famous gunfighter here in El Paso.

This concludes the interview with Mrs. Basom, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Spier, and Mrs. Mitchell.

Thank you very much.