

Aurelia Plumly Spaugh and Tippy Galloway Ruffin
Interviewed August 6, 1980
Reynolda House, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Reynolda House Oral History Project
Interviewed by Lu Ann Jones
Transcribed by Allison Blount DuBuisson
Begin Tape I, Side 1

COPY

Lu Ann Jones: I usually start out with some biographical information about the people themselves, to give the interviews some context. I can't just limit it to Reynolda--I have to sort of get people to Reynolda and get away from Reynolda, too. So if each of you could give me some biographical information, such as where you were born, when you were born, what your parents did and that type of thing, that would be helpful. Do you want to start it off, Mrs. Ruffin?

Tippy Galloway Ruffin: Well, I was born in Winston-Salem.

My father was from Rockingham County, and my mother was from Winston-Salem. I went to school at West End Public School for two years, and then to Reynolda School all the way through--seventh grade, wasn't that as far as it went? Then I went to Reynolds High School for two years, and then I went to Oldfield School in Glencoe, Maryland, and Gunston Hall in Washington.

LAJ: What had your father done?

TR: He owned a lumber company, Smith Phillips Lumber Company. It's still in existence.

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

LAJ: Did you have brothers and sisters?

TR: I had a brother who died at a very young age, and a sister who is living.

LAJ: Now it's your turn.

Aurelia Plumly Spaugh: Well, I was born in Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. My father was from Philadelphia, and my mother was from Winston-Salem. Then they were separated, and Mother moved back to Winston-Salem when I was about a year old. So I feel I'm a native of Winston-Salem.

LAJ: How had your parents gotten together?

AS: At a house party that Mrs. Lindsay Patterson, who lived in Winston-Salem . . . Some house party that she chaperoned. My father was there, but they were mainly people from this area. And then Mother and my father fell in love, so they married and lived up North, until Mother moved back.

I had a brother who died in infancy, and then another brother who lived to adulthood, and he has died. Then I have a sister who lives in Winston-Salem. I went to West End School, but somehow, Tippy, I don't think I came out to Reynolda until a year after you all did.

TR: I know I came in the third grade to the little house over here near the church. And I think there were three grades in one room, as best I remember. Third,

Spaugh/Ruffin

(TR) fourth and fifth I suppose, or maybe it was first, second and third. But I believe there were three grades in one room.

AS: Anyway, I went to West End, then I came to Reynolda. And then I went also to Reynolds High School. But I finished there, and went to the National Cathedral School in Washington for a year, and then went to Smith College in Northampton, where I graduated.

LAJ: Had your mother remarried?

AS: No, she never remarried.

LAJ: That's kind of unusual for a woman, particularly with children, back in those days.

AS: No, she was a very independent, very special person. Very much loved.

TR: She was.

AS: And you may be interested in this--that Tippy and I, for years, lived next door to each other.

LAJ: You've been together for a long time then.

TR: And although we're no kin, we called each other's mothers Aunt So-and-So.

AS: Yeah, Aunt Bess and Aunt Ida. And Uncle Rob. So, I mean, we're very close.

LAJ: Why was it decided that you would come to Reynolda School. Do you know?

TR: I think Mrs. Reynolds started it for her children with

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

(TR) friends of people she knew. I think that's the main reason.

AS: And then she wanted some of her friends' children to come. Of course, we'd all been friends before--Nancy and Mary and all of us had been friends.

LAJ: Had you come out here to visit before that? Were you familiar with Reynolda?

AS: Yes, because we knew them when they lived on Fifth Street.

TR: I think we'd probably been out here as soon as they moved.

AS: . . . because we knew them on Fifth Street, then you see when they built out here . . . So it's been a long period of time, hasn't it?

LAJ: How did you all get to school? Did you ride the bus that picked children up?

TR: Seems to me we did. It may not have been there in the beginning, but it was later on, when the third grade . . . The first year I don't remember how we came, but I know it was the bus later.

LAJ: How was Reynolda School different from the public school that you had been accustomed to?

AS: One thing I remember is the size of the classes. And then we started French when we first came, which was one thing. And I believe we had more art here

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

(AS) than they did in the public schools at that time.

Tippy, can you think of anything else?

TR: More imagination in the teaching. Freedom in the teaching.

LAJ: Who were your teachers?

AS: Miss Hayes?

TR: She was our French teacher. Miss Hadley was the room teacher, but what did she teach us?

AS: Did Miss Hadley--Mrs. Cash tell you what she taught?

LAJ: I think it was one of the grades.

AS: That's it, she was our room teacher.

TR: She taught us everything, I guess, that year. And then when we moved up was when we had Miss Hayes, probably the sixth grade. Miss Hayes came to teach us French.

AS: There was Miss Hadley, and Miss Brock, Miss Hayes, . .

TR: Miss Brock was the one who taught us the Palmer method of writing. And Miss Beatty was a wonderful music teacher.

AS: She moved to Boston, but the others are here. Miss Hayes . . .

TR: She came from Southern Pines.

AS: I was going to say, did she move back? But anyway, several of them met people here and they married.

TR: What was the name of that place? It wasn't Southern Pines.

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

AS: Summercamp.

LAJ: What did you all do during recess? Did you go out here and walk the grounds, or was it a more normal kind of recess when you played games on the school grounds?

TR: We used to learn foreign dancing--folk dancing. We learned different country's ways of dancing. And then the boys used to steal handkerchiefs and chase us.

AS: I didn't remember any, we'll say organized activities.

TR: We had organized calisthenics. Remember that?

AS: Yeah, that I do. To keep us in shape. It's too bad we don't still do it.

TR: We had to produce little pageants, and outdoor things in the garden and behind the church. And all my friends fainted practicing behind the church for something except me. Took them in, stretched them out on the pews, and I tried so hard to faint and I couldn't.

AS: Now Tippy, I didn't know I'd ever fainted in my life. But I must have. I did one time later in college, I think.

We had a good time, but we studied. And we learned.

TR: I remember one thing we did--we went out and sat on the hillside near the barn, where the daffodils cover

COPY

(TR) the hill, and we all had to write poems about daffodils. It was that kind of teaching.

AS: And when the weather was nice, we'd go outside and sit under a tree and have the lesson. Tippy, your mention about daffodils--don't you remember when we were a little bit older--of course the daffodils are just beautiful out here, have been for years, but Mrs. Reynolds would not let us pick one daffodil. You left them, because I can remember wandering around, especially on an Easter morning after we'd been to the early service, and had spent the night out here. Do you remember that? Anyway, I just happened to think about all those beautiful daffodils. But you just didn't pick them. They may have picked some for the house, but I guess they were afraid we'd just devastate them.

LAJ: What would go into a production, like Hiawatha? How far in advance would you start preparing for something like that, and when would you start rehearsing?

TR: It seemed like that went on forever.

AS: I think we rehearsed for a year, don't you? The details of it . . . over a period of time you forget . . .but I do know we practiced.

TR: Oh, we did. For ages.

AS: The lake was muddy then. It never was a very clear lake. But we had a lot of good times on it.

TR: We practiced and practiced on the other side of the

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

(TR) lake while people stayed on this side to see how much they could see and hear. It went on a long time.

AS: It did.

LAJ: It looks like you must have had a photographer out in the middle of the lake, from the angles that some of the pictures are taken.

AS: Probably in a boat. Some of it was in a boat. We were across the water, the performance was across the water, and the people sat in the area where the boat-house is now.

TR: On the hillside.

LAJ: Did you all visit here at the house, spend the night with the girls, things like that?

AS: All the time. One thing I can think about that--when we put the beds together, there were twin beds, and turned the mattresses across so we could sleep about four--we didn't sleep very much. ^{TR:} That's one of the first places that any of us smoked, on the sleeping porch up above here. And blew the smoke out the screens so people couldn't smell it in the house.

AS: At least we thought they couldn't.

LAJ: How old were you then?

TR: I'm not sure. Probably about twelve, eleven. Don't you think?

AS: Yeah. I guess we were.

COPY

TR: That was great fun.

AS: We also used to spend the night in the playhouse, quite a lot.

LAJ: Would an adult spend the night with you?

AS: Oh yes. You were always well chaperoned, at least to a point. What I mean is you always could sneak out. Remember the books we read? And we'd put an Elsie Dinsmore cover on the Sheik of Araby, something like that, so that . . .

TR: Kept it in a bookcase in the playhouse under false pretenses.

LAJ: So you would read risque books?

AS: Yes. But that was getting a little later, toward high school. We also had our Scout troop, so that was high school time. The cabin up here was our Scout meeting place. We'd go do out hiking out from there.

TR: It's what they really called Dick's cabin. It was supposed to be his.

AS: I didn't remember that. Oh Tippy, you've been thinking.

TR: I just jotted down a few things, which I've already said, I think. Oh, there's one thing I remember so vividly--I don't guess you do because you never said anything about it--but it was the most exciting thing to me when Mrs. Reynolds called us all in to tell her

COPY

(TR) good morning, when we were spending the night. We went in her room, and the bed was covered with these gorgeous sketches from the fashion designers in New York, the most famous ones. And the most beautiful sketches--I adored that. And you don't remember.

AS: Isn't that funny, I don't. I probably was running down to the kitchen to get a snack.

TR: Bet you were. Bet you were getting hungry. You were always hungry. But that was a real treat for me, I just loved it, going to see those beautiful sketches.

LAJ: If you were spending the night here, then you along with the children were expected to go in and say good morning to her?

TR: Mm-hm.

LAJ: Would she still be in bed with her nightgown on?

TR: She was in bed with these sketches around her, I can remember that vividly.

LAJ: What was your general impression of Katharine Reynolds? I've become real interested in her and what she meant to Reynolda. Could you characterize her from your childhood impressions of her?

TR: I was fascinated with her. I just thought she was so tremendously interesting and smart.

AS: And she was. She was attractive, and there was a warmth to her. But if you were told something, like don't pick the daffodils--I mean, there were rules,

11
COPY

(AS) and you abided by them, because we knew she wouldn't like it.

She was smart. You had the feeling that she was very knowledgeable, had a keen mind. She was a good business person--of course that I wasn't aware of at that time. But she worked.

TR: I don't think I was either, the business angle--but just the feeling that she was a good person.

AS: And a good manager. And of course both Nancy and Mary got a lot of that business . . . a lot of her ability.

LAJ: Did you have much dealings with Miss Van Den Berg, the nurse. Do you remember her?

Both: Oh yes.

AS: We called her Bum. She was the one, in some respects--particularly when we were younger--who was in charge of us. If Bum said don't do something, why you didn't. Or we did, but that would be behind her back somehow or other.

TR: We were a little bit in awe of her.

LAJ: Why so?

TR: Because she was strict in her ideas of what we should do. Don't you agree?

AS: Yes, I do.

TR: But that was so many years ago, we ought not to be too positive about what we say about her. We were so

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

(TR) little then.

AS: Well that's the thing . . . really, when somebody asks something . . . that was a pretty long time ago. I hate to say it, but it is.

LAJ: Did you all have much contact with R.J. Reynolds? Do you remember him very much at all before he died?

TR: Very little.

AS: No, because he died the year after they built Reynolda. He was an impressive-looking person, but I don't feel that I knew him.

TR: He was very kind to us when we saw him, but we didn't see him very often. I can't remember any particular conversation I had with him, can you?

AS: No.

LAJ: You mentioned the chaperonage. What activities had to be chaperoned--and I'm thinking of the time you were up into high school. Could you, for instance, go to football games in Greensboro, just a group of you girls, or did someone else have to go along?

TR: I remember one time when we went to Charlotte, but that was to spend the night. Mrs. McAllister was our chaperone then. Because I dated her son, they made me ride in the car with the chaperone. The others didn't have chaperones, we just had one on that trip. They were in other car. But I don't remember when we

COPY

(TR) went to a game and came back the same day. I don't believe we had a chaperone then.

AS: Because there weren't as many out-of-town games. Of course we had a chauffeur if we took one of the cars, either the yellow Rolls or the black Rolls.

TR: I don't remember the black one.

AS: Well, maybe the yellow that we decorated with black.

TR: We had crepe paper streamers all over, black and gold.

LAJ: Would you ride that in parades?

AS: Yes, we'd ride in parades. The trip to Charlotte may have been one of the overnight things. Of course, from Reynolda School we took a trip to Raleigh to see the capitol and see the penitentiary. And I sat in the electric chair.

TR: Then we went to Dix Hill^{*}; that was a most vivid memory.

AS: One of the queer people fell in love with Tippy.

TR: And we went to a play put on by these people in Dix Hill--just weird things. I felt that I was half nuts myself when I left there. I was scared of them.

LAJ: So this was part of a field trip?

AS: Yes, that's right. We went there on the train . . . you see, you just didn't drive that far very much; but maybe part of it was to have the train experience. We spent the night on the train, I think.

TR: I think we spent the night in a hotel one night.

*a state mental hospital in Raleigh, N.C.

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY
on the train . . .

AS: I think we went on the train and spent the night /
well, that detail I'm not sure. Somehow that seems a
little ridiculous to have spent the night, so maybe
we just took the train down there and--I know we
spent the night in a hotel. And we probably took the
train back the next day. / ^{Maybe we} spent two nights, I can
look it up in my dairy. I kept a diary back then.

TR: I enjoyed the trip except for Dix Hill.

LAJ: Who were the members of your little group? Nancy and
Lib both mentioned that there was a pretty close-knit
group of girls that stayed together through high school.

AS: It was a sixsome--Tippy and Virginia, and Lib Hanes,
and Lib Lybrook Wyeth, and me and Nancy. So we paired
off, in other words--two, two and two. Nancy and I were
the youngest ones. But we all went right through school
together.

TR: And we've stuck together ever since.

LAJ: Mrs. Reynolds was telling me that she had wanted to
remain at Reynolds High School, but her Uncle Will had
pretty much forced her to leave when a girl there got
pregnant--was that the incident?

TR: That's it.

LAJ: Was that when you left too?

TR: No, I think I'd already left. I went through two years
and then left. I think that happened after I left.

COPY

AS: Actually, am I the only one who finished? Ginny was away, and then Lib Wyeth went away, and Tippy was already away, and Lib was already away. She went to Oldfield School, Lib Hanes. So I guess I was the only one who went through Reynolds.

TR: She was the top scholar when she graduated, won the Montague Medal. A great honor.

AS: I don't know how it happened, because I haven't got bat brains now. You have to use your mind, and I haven't used it.

LAJ: Had you intended to go away to school? Did you want to go away to school?

TR: I'm not sure how to answer that. I think I wanted to go in a way, but I didn't want to go where I went.

LAJ: Why not?

TR: Because it was way out in the sticks, in dead country. And I didn't like hockey, and that was featured. And I didn't like horseback riding. But I loved basketball, that was the sport I was crazy about.

AS: We were all pretty good in basketball.

TR: I just mainly didn't want to be out in the country. But I was. It was a wonderful school, wonderful scholastically. I learned a lot, but I just didn't like being stuck out there.

LAJ: Did you know people up there?

Spaugh/Puffin

COPY

TR: Not when I went.

LAJ: Were girls schools then real strict?

TR: Oh, that was so strict it was just terrible. I loaned a friend a hat to wear to the Woodberry mid-winter dance--people don't wear hats anymore--but I loaned her my cute little red hat. And it was against the rules to lend or borrow, and I had to walk ten miles around the track to pay for lending somebody my hat.

LAJ: What was wrong with that in their eyes?

TR: I don't know. I guess they thought you might lose it, or damage it.

AS: Or the idea of managing what you had.

TR: I just never got over that.

AS: At National Cathedral, I was always happy, and whistling and carrying on. The headmistress heard me one day, and I was penalized for whistling. No lady whistled. So they were strict.

TR: At ~~Oldfield~~^{Oldfields}, we had to wear big baggy green serge bloomers and black cotton stockings and high-topped tennis shoes, middy blouse and green satin tie. And with that outfit on, every morning in the dining room we had to curtsy to the headmistress. Can't you see us curtsying in that? Isn't that ridiculous?

AS: That's more the type of thing you wore when you went to camp, bloomers. I remember green serge bloomers and

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

(AS) the gray flannel shirt and the tie and all. But to curtsy . . .

LAJ: I guess they thought if you could be graceful in that, you could be graceful in any kind of outfit.

AS: That's an idea.

TR: I never had analyzed it.

LAJ: When you were a teenager, what was your vision of what your future would be like? I'm a daydreamer, so I automatically assume that other people daydream too. Maybe you're not daydreamers . . .

TR: I was.

LAJ: What was your daydream?

TR: I wanted to be in advertising, and I wanted to go to New York, on my own, and study commercial art. And my parents wouldn't let me. I've never gotten over it.

AS: Well now Tippy, you ought to start now.

LAJ: And what did you . . . ?

AS: I don't remember, in particular. I wanted to go to school, and I wanted to go to college. Just why, I don't know.

TR: Nancy and I one time thought we were going to write the greatest novel that had ever been written in the world. But we never finished it.

LAJ: Did you start it?

TR: Mm-hm.

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

LAJ: What was the plot?

TR: It was about a little farm girl named Mattie.

I don't remember much else about it.

AS: We used to try to write poetry. I loved it. Don't you remember some of the poems we wrote, which were really quite good. I loved to go sit under the trees--I love nature, always did--and read poetry. Of course I don't do any of that now. But I did like that.

LAJ: How old were you when you got married? Was that part of your future as you saw it as a teenager?

TR: I always thought I would sometimes. But I thought I was going to do a few other things before (laughing). I was twenty-one when I married.

AS: I was an old lady. I didn't marry until during World War II. I was in the WAVES during the war. So I was late, I was thirty-four.

LAJ: What had you done between the time you graduated from college and the time you joined the WAVES?

AS: The first year or two I just visited my friends. I was very fortunate in being able to. And I traveled a great deal--Europe, and around the world, and so forth. I was one of the founders of Summit School, that was pretty soon after college. But going around the world--I had been at Summit for two years, and then I took this trip. Everybody said they wished they had a

COPY

(AS) school back home, because I was getting materials and artifacts and all that kind of thing, for the school.

LAJ: What did you do at Summit?

AS: I taught the fifth and sixth grades. We didn't have an organized athletic program, but what we did have I did that--just some simple games. So I taught social science and English. I guess that was about it. Then I was busy with Scouts and Junior League and garden club.

TR: We were all working hard for the Junior League at that time, married or single.

AS: I was later going into it because I didn't join until after I got out of college. But then I was very active in it until I went into service.

LAJ: Why did you decide to go into the service?

AS: Because our country was at war, and I felt I wanted to serve in some way. And I had no real commitments at home. But also, I thought if I could be a nurse's aide or do something like that, I would be making a great contribution. But I wasn't geared to that, so I thought I'll just offer my services if I can get in, so I did.

LAJ: Was that a real big switch for you, to have to go into a very regulated . . .

AS: It wasn't as difficult as you would anticipate. It's like an office job--it turned out I was located in Washington. So I had an eight to five job, that type of thing. But you're much more restricted, of course.

(AS) You couldn't get home to see people unless you had leave, and whatnot.

LAJ: Had you met Mr. Spaugh here in Winston-Salem? He was in the service also?

AS: He was in the Army, I was in the Navy. I had met him, I had met him when I was teaching at Summit. I guess I'd met him before, but I'd never been out with him. In the old days, in school, people would have the teachers for supper. They would usually entertain their child's teacher. So the Arthur Spaughs, who had a child at Summit, invited me for supper. And Ralph was a date. So it wasn't until then that I ever had a date with him.

Then I did see him in Washington during the war, and we decided to get married and got married.

LAJ: Had there been any worry on your part, or maybe on your friends' parts, that you would wind up an old maid? Was that a fear?

AS: I don't know. What do you think, Tippy?

TR: Well, I don't think anybody worried about her. She was very active and busy.

AS: I had a good time. And everybody--I won't say they were nice to me--they included me in everything. But I'm sure people thought . . . I'm sure I thought, I wonder when the right person will come along, or will they? But I got plenty I can do.

COPY

TR: I was in Nancy's wedding here--you were not here, were you?

AS: No. Where was I? I guess I was in college.

LAJ: Probably so, because that was 1930.

AS: The only one I came home for was yours.

TR: Nancy's was before mine. And that was a beautiful wedding, we had the pretties dresses. We came across from each side of the mezzanine,^{down the steps,} to the altar where the fireplace is. Nancy gave us all our dresses.

AS: That was lovely too.

LAJ: I guess it was Mrs. Wyeth who was telling me that her dress, at least, didn't make it through the party that night. Or made it through, but it was pretty . . .

AS: Lib must have been cutting up.^{TR:} We all were. I can tell a story about one of our friends that night--I won't call a name. We had more than our fill of champagne, and everybody was having a beautiful time. And when one of our friends got home that night, and her mother said, Now tell me about the wedding. And she said, Mother, it was in the shape of a horseshoe. The table for the wedding party was in the library, in the shape of a horseshoe. That was her description to her mother.

LAJ: And then she probably toddled off to bed. It was Lib who was talking about how these beautiful dresses, and

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

(LAJ) apparently hers got one evening's use, and . . .

TR: Probably got drowned in champagne.

AS: I was going to say, it probably got spots all over it.

LAJ: I've seen Mrs. Reynolds' wedding dresses upstairs in the costume collection. Then beside it are the sketches of the bridesmaids dresses. They look very flapper-ish.

TR: They were white chiffon skirts, and the bodice was silver lace, real delicate silver lace.

AS: And Tippy, I guess they were long?

TR: No, they were short.

LAJ: I think they were short in the front and then trailed off in the back.

AS: Oh that's right, that's the way so many of those things . . .

TR: Sorry you weren't there.

AS: Oh, I am too. I remember how I hated missing it. But then, to get from Northampton to Winston-Salem, it was only by train, and you had to either go . . . if I was coming back from college, I either took a day trip from Northampton to New York, and then an overnight trip from New York, or vice versa. There was time in between--I mean, I had so many hours in New York. And that was fine, I could do things.

And also, it was the expense of it. So I

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

(AS) didn't. But I did come home for Tippy's wedding. I think I was about a junior then.

TR: It was 1930.

AS: I graduated in '32, so I guess I was just a sophomore.

TR: Hers was in the wintertime, do you remember the date?

LAJ: January sixth, I think.

TR: So it was almost a year's difference in hers and mine.

BEGIN TAPE I, SIDE 2

AS: We used to play golf on the golf course, and they had sand greens. It was just fun, we didn't play much. And swimming--of course there was no indoor pool; we swam in the outdoor pool there.

LAJ: What kind of suits did you wear?

TR: What they call tank suits now. They were Annette Kellerman suits--she was the famous swimmer in those days. They were just tight-fitting--they did come down to about here, I think.

AS: Yeah, they weren't cut up high here. Thin strap . . .

TR: Unbecoming. Very.

LAJ: Were you old enough that you had to wear stockings down to the pool?

TR: No. Our parents did, but we didn't. We wore these things that stopped about here.

LAJ: Were your parents guests out here too.

Spaugh/Puffin

AS: Oh, sure they were. They were friends of . . . it was because they were friends of Mrs. Reynolds that we were asked to come to the school. And maybe it was because they were friends way back that we as children were friends together.

LAJ: This is something I tried to get with Mrs. Wyeth--and did get at, I think--how the Reynolds children dealt with being members of a very very well-to-do family. Were there problems with that? Did you as friends, also of well-off families but not of the wealth they commanded--was that a problem? Did it ever cause a strain?

AS: I don't remember, as a child, feeling that we were dealing with anything. It was just nice there were certain things we could do.

TR: As far as we were concerned, it was an easy relationship. But in their lives, I think they were different from us, because they had to be more protected when they went on trips and things like that.

AS: But I wasn't aware of their feeling like the poor little rich girl or anything. Now whether they did at times . . . And in the same way, I didn't feel even when we were in high school, that Nancy was any different from anybody else.

TR: I didn't either. She was the only one, I guess, that went to high school.

AS: As you say, they may have had a feeling about it. But

- (AS) whether they felt there was any obligation / ^{because of} their prominence . . . But that's another thing--in a smaller community, everybody had grown up together, and done things together.
- TR: There really weren't the things to be afraid of then that there are now.
- AS: Oh no. I mean, you think about wandering around out here now. Nobody locked doors, they didn't do that anywhere. If you were in town, you could walk six blocks after dark. The family would know when you left, and if you didn't get there . . . but you always did, fortunately. But I didn't feel there was any strain among us, was there?
- TR: No. It was just normal and natural growing-up.
- AS: With some special things, such as . . .
- TR: Oh, special treats.
- LAJ: You all were active in Scouts, and would go on trips. Can you remember Scout conventions?
- AS: Oh yes, Nancy and I went to Savannah, Georgia, to represent--there were two other girls and a chaperone. But that was . . . Somebody down there knew who Nancy was, and tried to put her in the least fancy home--you stayed in people's homes. We were all really quite active in Scouts. I continued it on through.
- LAJ: Grew up to be a big Scout?
- AS: Yeah. Tippy, you remember what fun we used to have

(AS) when it was icy and whatnot, and we'd slide down to the lake on our sleds.

TR: And circle around the boathouse, and go right to the lake before you stopped.

AS: It was just so pretty, with the icicles hanging off, or the snow. We were out here spring, summer, winter, fall, night and day. A lot of happy times.

LAJ: Mary has been described as a real shy person. Can you remember very much about her?

TR: Oh yes. She was a wonderful person, as is Nancy--full of talent. She could do anything that she wanted to.

AS: She was very artistic. Actually, I feel I knew Mary better after we got older.

TR: Oh yes, we spent more time together when we were older than when we were growing up, because she was a little bit older than we were.

AS: As we were growing up, she was older sister, and probably didn't want to put up with us. But we were very close friends later on because she was in Winston-Salem. And Nancy was in Greenwich. This was before the war.

TR: You remember we visited Mary for the ice skating house party?

AS: Oh yeah. And of course, I saw her and Charlie during the war, because Charlie was in Washington and Mary would come up to Washington for weekends, and I'd go

(AS) spend weekends with them. And then afterward when they came back here, we saw a lot of them. Tippy and Ginny and Mary and I would get together at least once a week. But as Tippy said, she was very capable, very artistic. She was shy.

TR: She loved to cook.

AS: Yeah, she was a gourmet cook.

LAJ: What was her specialty?

TR: She was proud of her omelets. She tried to teach me, but I didn't do very well.

LAJ: Would she come back here to the kitchen and cook things up?

TR: Yes. This was at Roaring Gap when she tried to teach me. She invited my husband and me to come over to Sunday night supper. And she would cook / ^{an omelet for} Charlie and herself, and I would cook ours. Well ours wasn't as good as theirs. I think we ate it, though.

LAJ: What was her secret?

TR: Just don't know. It was probably an artistic touch with that spatula.

LAJ: What would you all do when you got together once a week?

AS: When it was pretty, we'd play canasta. That was the ^{too hot} canasta era. I mean, if it was rainy or / or something

COPY

(AS) like that we'd play cards. If not, we would play golf.
We'd do something energetic.

LAJ: Was this out here you would play golf?

TR: No, Oldtown.

AS: They closed up this golf course way back.

LAJ: Would you come to parties out here? Barbara Millhouse keeps telling me I bet those people can remember some good parties out here.

TR: Oh, many.

AS: Remember when they fixed the basement? Of course you didn't see it, but they had all the murals on the wall.

LAJ: What did they look like?

AS: They were caricatures.

TR: We were on the walls also. Close friends. I was sorry they did away with those. It was more fun to come and pick out people on the walls.

LAJ: Who did the drawings?

TR: Ben Shepherd, with the help of someone else. I forget who the other person was. There were two that worked on them. But they ^{ran around} / the whole room.

AS: Beyond the bar, where that window goes out.

TR: I never liked to fly--I have flown but I don't like it--and so I was on one side of the fireplace coming down in a balloon, and the airplane was up above the mantel. ^{Mary} / and Charlie, I think, were in the airplane,

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

(TR) and I was coming down on the side. Somebody else was on the other side.

Then way over on one wall they had a poker table. My husband was at the poker table, and Charlie Babcock, Dr. Butler, J.T. Barnes. I've forgotten, about six or seven. Where were you?

AS: I wasn't there.

TR: You weren't on the wall?

AS: No. I guess Buddy--this is Ben Shepherd, that did all of them . . . anyway, I just looked at all my friends. Or maybe I wasn't partying enough at some point. Some times you party more, or . . .

TR: You weren't here very much at that time.

And on the long wall on this side was a circus wagon, with people riding on the top and riding on the back and hanging on, all of them portraits of friends.

AS: It was fascinating, and you enjoyed it whether you were looking at yourself up there or not. And this is something funny--I remember a party, once or twice when Mary had a luncheon or something, and we were down there. Fried chicken--everybody loves fried chicken--but another friend and I said let's get up there and get some wings, because the wings were my favorite piece and Martha Galloway's favorite piece--and it was the first party I'd ever been to where they didn't

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

(AS) serve wings. I said, Mary you let us down, don't do that again. So the next time we had some wings ready.

But they had a lot of fun parties, luncheon parties and nighttime parties when we bowled and played ping-pong, skated.

LAJ: Where would you skate?

TR: In the basement, from one end to the other.

LAJ: Roller skating?

TR: Mm-hm.

AS: When you think about it, you could go from here to on down past the squash court--handball court--and on down, almost to the pool. Good long trek. And we bowled, and what else?

TR: Shooting.

AS: Yeah, shooting.

LAJ: What kind of shooting was done in that gallery? Just target?

TR: Mm-hm.

LAJ: So did you all take target practice?

AS: I tried all of it. But of course, you used to do a lot of shooting, skeet shooting. I tried all those things, whether it be bowling or shooting or skating.

LAJ: How could you roller skate through there if there were a lot of people?

AS: Barged the crowd. A whole lot of people would probably

COPY

(AS) be in the bar, wouldn't they? You'd just shout.

LAJ: Who set up the bowling pins?

AS: They were automatic, weren't they?

LAJ: They're not now.

TR: I don't believe they were then. I think they had somebody who worked here doing it for them.

AS: Goodness knows, Harvey might have put up the pins. As you said, there were various people roundabout who could've done that.

LAJ: I've been bowling down there, and it gets awfully tiresome setting up the pins, or even having someone scrambling to get out of the way of the ball to set them up. That was a good place to have a party down there, all that space . . .

AS: Oh, it was.

LAJ: Would they usually be real big gatherings?

AS: Various sizes. Sometimes it would be just a small group for supper, or sometimes it would be great big parties, a cocktail party or a dinner party.

LAJ: Why did the Babcocks come back to Winston-Salem? Why do you think they chose to settle here after being in Connecticut for a good while?

TR: The war was the main reason. They came in the beginning. Mary thought it would be safer for their family. And they didn't stay in this house. They stayed in the

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

- (TR) little house^{above} where I was in the third grade. Catherine deBraganza Bahnson / lives there now. You go to the church and turn right, and it's on the next little corner. Don't the ~~Millens~~^{Mannas} live there now? Jane and Amory?
- AS: That was where Miss Blanche Gunn lived. Weren't they in the one where later Smith bought, and then the Manns. Okay, it's the second house where they moved during the war.
- AS: And Mary would come up for weekends to Washington.
- TR: And then I guess they moved in here right after the war, didn't they?
- AS: Mm-hm. Then it was Winifred and Charlie that built the house out on Indiana, wasn't it?
- TR: Mm-hm. But you better ask the family about this.
- LAJ: Did you continue to be guests here after Charlie Babcock married Winifred?
- TR: Yes.
- LAJ: Had you known her before?
- AS: I hadn't. Had you?
- TR: I think I had met her once, but that's all.
- AS: She and her husband were friends of Mary and Charlie's.
- TR: I can't remember what her first husband's name was, but I think I met her then.
- LAJ: Knies, I think. Did she live in Winston-Salem?
- AS: No. She is a very attractive person. I have not seen her

Spaugh/Ruffin

COPY

(AS) in recent years, though. We saw her the first few times she came back from California, but we haven't seen her recently.

TR: Will you interview her?

LAJ: I'm not going to California, but I think if she comes back in the fall, Mr. Bragg is going to be on the lookout, and I would come back and do the interview then.

AS: She's a very attractive person.

LAJ: I saw a picture of her in the newspaper when I went down there to look at some clippings, and she had her hair piled up . . . really a nice-looking woman.

END OF INTERVIEW