Interview with Virginia and Timothy Waters
conducted by Sue Kovack Shuman for the
Providence District History Project Providence Perspective

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Sue: It's October 13th 2010 and I am Sue Shuman and I am talking with Jenny Waters and Tim Waters of Fairfax for the Providence District Supervisor's office history project – welcome and let me ask you a little bit about background. We are trying to find out how you feel Providence District has changed and the good and the bad and how long you've lived here and the changes you've seen. Can you tell me Jenny how long you've lived in Fairfax County, what brought you here and then Tim the same thing?

Jenny: I have lived in Fairfax County since 1962, which would be what – 48 years. And I came here with my family when I was a pre-teen and um we came here because my father worked for the government and he was transferred to this area. And actually they came out here because they didn't want to live in Alexandria City any more they wanted to live out in the Country.

Sue: So it was country.

Jenny: Yes, it was country.

Sue: Was it a farm?

Jenny: Ah, it was a farm; we rented a home that had 25 acres around it, which backs up to what is now route 66; but they didn't start building route 66 until the summer of 1962. We moved here in 62 and that's when they started building

Sue: Was that a surprise to your parents? That they built so soon?

Jenny: Ah, they probably knew, but I was twelve at the time so I didn't pay any attention. Actually we thought it was a big thrill because when they did 66 they graded it all along there and we had a big huge barn and my sister boarded horses and we could ride down 66.

Sue: Wow.

Jenny: Way, way down across Nutley and way down to probably Jermantown road.

Sue: You couldn't do that today.

Jenny: No.

Sue: Tell me what brought you to the area Tim.

Tim: Well, my parents, we moved from Washington, D.C. in 1960. So they bought a house in Vienna, Virginia and ah it was moving to the country. My mom is from Chantilly, Virginia and my dad was from Washington, D.C. And he didn't want to cross the river, but my mom loved it and Vienna was beautiful, Vienna had the maple trees all the way down 123. It was only two lanes; Tyson's Corner wasn't there. And you could go all the way from Chain Bridge road all the way through Fairfax and it was just a 2 lane road with trees and it had a canopy. It was called Maple Avenue because they were maple trees all the way through there.

Sue: Which no one probably knows today even though

Tim: That was 1960, cause the Giant shopping center wasn't built until the mid 60's. But we loved it; my parents – we were in sports from 1960 on. My Dad was the coach of one of the Babe Ruthling teams. He stayed in it until the late 70's; he was a coach, then he was director of the Babe Ruth league. He was director of all of northern Virginia. They named the field in Vienna Waters Field.

Sue: Oh, okay.

Jenny: In honor of him.

Sue: Yes

Tim: He had built or he was part of and he started everything, the dugouts at Madison High School. The dugouts and everything at Oakton High School. He was active in all of the ah sporting facilities at all the local schools.

Sue: Well that's kind of a thrill to have a Park named after you.

Tim: Oh yeah, well he had designed the lighting system and they use that lighting system today. All through all the schools in Fairfax County; all the athletic fields.

Sue: Well you both have deep roots here. Tell me a little bit about the house we were talking about before I turned the tape recorder on; the house that you live in, the history of that.

Jenny: Well, it's a frame farmhouse that was built around 1900 and um it ah like I said there was 25 acres around that we had a big huge barn which was probably for horses, it didn't look like it was a cattle barn. Um the house is you know just a regular frame farmhouse.

Sue: But inside are the rooms small?

Jenny: Ah, well no, actually inside most of the rooms are large but it's a relatively small house. It has high ceilings and ah the doorways, you know, had the nice moldings around them and um and we didn't have, I think they had originally only had oil stoves to heat the house but we had radiator systems in there and my sister and I were thrilled because it was like being in the country. My mother's family is from Hillsboro, Virginia which is on the other side of Leesburg and that was always a thrill to be in the country.

Sue: Now this house you first moved into in 1962 and you said that this barn that was attached to it had been taken down in the 1970's because it was deteriorated, yes?

Tim: We thought it was deteriorated. The back it's a solid concrete, a solid block wall on the back side and the gutters, it actually had gutters on it, but the owner who we bought the house from – he just let the gutters fall and water was eroding the back wall so we thought it was coming down. But it took, it was – I don't know what – post and beam and everything had pegs going through it and we took three trucks after we got it down to the skeletal position – we couldn't even pull it over – it wasn't anywhere near coming down.

Sue: It was really well built.

Jenny: But unfortunately houses had been built around us in the 60's and um and the barn was close enough it could have been considered an attractive nuisance or something anyhow we were afraid if anything did fall or if kids got in there or something and got hurt then we could be sued – so

Sue: So the 25 acres surrounding it your parents sold off parcels.

Jenny: Actually my parents never owned the house. Mr. Roberts sold; when we moved there he had already sold the property for the right of way for 66 and for the housing development, the Hideaway Park

Tim: section 1.

Jenny: section 1 which is behind us, um and so we knew that was sold and um he sold, he sold everything except 2and a half acres. We had a fenced in yard which we still own the 2 and a half acres.

Tim: But what he did was he sold section 1 first to Ditmar builders and then the second section and the second section he sold to Ditmar and they wanted to buy our 2 and a half but as long as we rented it he would not sell it. So he sold just that one section.

Jenny: He didn't want to sell it to my parents. They wanted to buy it and as I grew older – my mother died when I was 17 and my sister married – so it was just my father and I that were living there and my father retired from the government and he, you know, he was happy just renting it. He didn't want to really buy it. But when Tim and I got married

Sue: What year?

Jenny: 1973. No 70 – I'm sorry.

Tim: Our daughter was born in 72.

Jenny: We bought the house in 73 but we got married in 1970 and

Tim: Well it counted then.

Jenny: And Mrs. And we would go and visit Mrs. Roberts. Her husband died in 1972 and she was interested in selling. We told her Tim and I were looking for a home and we had been living with my father. And so we just mentioned to her that we were looking for a home and that's when she offered to sell it to us. And we bought it for $34,000.

Sue: And what's the approximate value now?

Jenny: Probably about a million and a half I guess.

Tim: If we sold our house. Right now we could sell the land for a million not including the house so if we incorporated that house probably a million and a half.

Sue: Wow, what a huge appreciation.

Jenny: What an investment.

Sue: Let me ask you a little bit about the jobs that you had. Are you retired?

Tim: Yes

Jenny: Yes

Sue: You said you worked in the schools and you said you were an electrician. Tell me a little bit about first of all what it was – which schools you taught in and what you taught.

Jenny: Actually, I didn't teach, I worked in the um – all of our children attended Fairhill Elementary and I did not start working until my children were in school and it just happened that I had done a lot of volunteering at the school and I sort of got myself in the door that way. And um I worked as an instructional assistant first and then there was an office position for the registrar as a records secretary and so I applied for that and that's what I did for, well I worked there for a total of almost 20 years but I worked in the office for 14.

Sue: What kind of changes did you see in the student population?

Jenny: Gosh, I saw a lot of changes, um. We have, by the time I retired we had become very multicultural. There were many, I think at one point there were sixteen different languages spoken in the school and ah – I think the white population had gone from about maybe Caucasian or whatever had gone from about 80% when I started working there down to about 40 something. Yeah – so a lot of changes as far as the ethnic populations. And also the fact Fairhill had originally been a center school and an elementary school. They had a physically disabled center in there and ah by the time that I left they had pretty much, well they had gotten rid of the Center. We still had some disabled students and some special education students there but um

Sue: What year did you leave?

Jenny: Ah 2006.

Sue: Okay.

Jenny: yeah, I think October, 2006. This will be the 4th year.

Sue: At that time Mantua had the Center.

Jenny: Yeah the Gifted Center and they have since um I think tried to ah main stream or integrate or whatever to bring all the kids back to their schools.

Sue: so that was one of the big changes that you say.

Jenny: um hum. Plus when I first started working there the English second language population went to Pine Springs Elementary. And then we got more and more students or the County got more and more students that spoke languages other than English. So they had pretty much gone back to having um an English second language teacher at each school.

Sue: You said you have children, you raised your children and they all went to Fairhill – how many children do you have?

Jenny: We have four children, three daughters and a son.

Sue: Are they in this area?

Jenny: Ah, three of them are; our youngest daughter lives in Portland Oregon. Um, our son is a Fairfax City fire fighter EMT. Our daughter that lives in Springfield, Maryland, ah is a physician's assistant.

Tim: Silver Spring

Jenny: Yeah, Kimberly lives in Springfield, Virginia and Anise is in Silver Spring.

Tim: Silver Spring.

Jenny: She's a physician's assistant in a dermatology office and our daughter Kimberly is an oncology nurse here at Prosperity. And we have five grandchildren.

Sue: This keeps you busy

Jenny: Yes.

Sue: Tell me a little bit about what it was like with your career here; being an electrician in this area – there was so much growth, did you work on new developments as well as others.

Tim: I worked for primarily just one contractor. I've been in the electrical business for 43 years. And ah, I went to school five years. We had to go to school two nights a week for five years and once I came out of my apprenticeship I stayed with the same contractor, which most times that never happens but I stayed game fully employed for those 43 years and it was I want to call it heavy commercial work. We did Union Station the renovation of that to which it is today. And

Sue: Metro?

Tim: A lot of the metro stations and then the best – the best time that I had – the best job that I had was at the Capital Hilton Hotel. I was there for almost twelve years because we renovated and it took us almost three years and I worked there actually 8 years. And those years and I was the chief electrician, the only electrician, so I was in charge of the sixteen stories and ah taking care of all of that and then all the conventions which I really enjoyed cause you sat in the room with the residents, with anybody that was say in power, you got to listen to them and it was just incredible events to go to.

Sue: What was one of the fondest memories of that kind of event that you attended.

Tim: The Grid Iron Dinner when they would roast the President. And things that were said were never allowed to leave that room. And you got to hear all of that. Or the Alphalfa dinner which – rich people are probably not any better than anybody else but that's the most wealthy people where incorporated into this club all the Presidents, Supreme Court people – people like that and it was just fascinating to sit there cause I was in charge so I would be in my tuxedo as the electrician in charge of the event and then actually running all the events at the hotel; including those in the ballroom.

Sue: So you can't share any of those off the

Tim: Oh, I can write a book on the stuff that I -- and the most fascinating was the Clinton administration. You were mesmerized by Bill Clinton, President Clinton for what he had to say. And I wish everybody could hear what he had to say cause he had your undivided attention.

Jenny: Didn't he and Hillary do a skit or something?

Tim: Oh, they did a skit that will never be shone and I wish it could be shown. They did the Forrest Gump take off with them sitting on a park bench and but he was eating McDonald's fries and it was just fas and it and there were different parts to this skit and her hair would change cause at that time it was a big joke – the style of her hair would change in each one of those little skits.

Sue: Laughing.

Tim: But they had something underlying important to say, it was not just a joke, and it was really good and I wish that the country could have seen this.

Sue: And there weren't any cell phones – you could sit there and capture that at the time?

Tim: Oh no, at that time the

Jenny: No the secret service would probably go around and take everything.

Sue: Yeah, of course.

Tim: But the renovation Union Station – if you go in there and to know that I was part of that and I'm running these jobs – in charge – so I enjoyed that immensely.

Sue: Did you – you didn't get to go to any of these with him Jenny?

Jenny: Not anything at the Capital Hilton because you know those were the, those were private things for the political people. But um, after they finished doing the renovation of Union Station they had um, there was a Rattlesnake Club or something – was a restaurant that was in there and they wanted to do a ah a sort of a run thru for their staff so they invited all the people who had worked on the project, you know with their wives and what they had tables set all up in the Union Station the big station area and ah they had waiters come out – I mean it

was, it was they had the whole nine yards. They did the- had the five course meal or whatever it was and each table had their own waiter and it was

Tim: Well this particular room was one the President went to at the time – he that was the room

Jenny: Rogers St. Clara? No

Tim: That was just a restaurant in Denver. There's only two Rattlesnake Clubs in the United States; but that just happened to be one of them. But this room is where the President when they brought him in

Jenny: I thought we were in a big

Tim: No, we were in the Rattlesnake Club so.

Sue: Those are fun memories though.

Jenny: Yeah

Sue: Tell me a little bit now about this area as you just did about how things have changed – but what about more not Washington but you know more in your home and in this District. What kind of changes have you seen the good and bad.

Jenny: When we first moved out here um both sides of Lee Highway was treed, was wooded and the first place, well I mean you go through Falls Church but a the first little place you come to would be Merrifield and they had a little IGA store there that had the Post Office in it. And that's where we had since we lived where we did we had to have a Post Office Box because there was no um mail route. Ah and so, my father when he would go back and forth to work – on the way home he would always stop at the IGA store and get his mail from the Post Office Box. Oh, you know I wish really – I mean that was another nice little historic thing and you know they tore it down when

Sue: Is that where the big Merrifield is now – was it on that site.

Jenny: No, actually it's, it's right – I think it's a mattress or was a mattress store.

Tim: It's the ah tire dealership.

Sue: Oh, okay.

Jenny: It's almost at the intersection of Gallows and Lee Highway.

Tim: But it was a great – it was the IGA – it was the grocery store. But back in the back relegated to a corner was the Post Office

Jenny: The little Post Office

Tim: with beautiful oak woodwork. And it's a shame that they let this get away and it wasn't restored somewhere else as – especially now - hindsight's great . That with all these new shopping centers going in they could have incorporated that into a store front or something and it would have been fantastic.

Sue: Have you been in the tire store to see if there is an old counter?

Jenny: No, no, well we went in it when it was a mattress and they pretty much got

Tim: But somebody let that get by and they shouldn't have.

Jenny: And they had the Lee Highway Drive In Theatre.

Sue: I remember that.

Jenny: Yes, they had that. And that was there.

Sue: Did you take the kids there?

Jenny: Um, actually I went – the first time I went to the Drive In Theatre I went with my sister and her boyfriend.

Sue: Oh good.

(laughing)

Jenny: I guess I was chaperoning I don't know. Um, but that was probably in 1963.

Sue: Do you remember what kind of movies there were?

Jenny: Certainly not the kind they have today. Um no I can't even remember what – I was too fascinated with what was going on around us.

Tim: I think it was the Debbie Reynolds type era.

Jenny: Yeah.

Tim: I'm trying to think of the name of that show – we saw that in the late 50's.

Jenny: I don't know. Um – but there was nothing I think from Merrifield probably, Fairfax Circle was there wasn't it – probably from Merrifield to Fairfax Circle. And Nutley Street was still Nutley Street but it was just two lanes and instead of going over where 66 is Nutley Street use to go down – there's an Old Nutley – I don't know if you know where Swanee Lane is right across – where the traffic light is um at Lee Highway and the first metro entrance. There's a little street there called Swanee Lane and old Nutley Street goes down there and

Tim: It's in front of the stone house that they saved. Christopher Construction saved the stone house to become low income housing – one of the low income housing

Sue: On Swanee Lane?

Tim: No, it's on Old Nutley.

Sue: Old Lee Highway – Old Nutley.

Jenny: You know well you know you can see it though – it's because ah

Tim: No, you have to turn into Swanee Lane and make a left and immediately left – that is Old Nutley Street and then it carried across where 66 is now and went in front of Town and Country Estates.

Sue: Okay.

Jenny: Where Marshall Road School is .

Tim: And they moved the bridge – that's not the original bridge over 66. They moved the bridge west and um that's ah

Sue: It's not called Old Nutley Street though?

Tim: No, I don't believe it is.

Sue: Okay.

Jenny: I don't know.

Sue: That whole area is changing so much – metro will be different in 10 years.

Tim: Oh, I hate it.

Sue: You hate it?

Tim: I'm not happy with it at all.

Sue: Why?

Tim: Um

Sue: What would you rather see there?

Tim: Well, the metro's great. We needed the metro and as a matter of fact it's good but there was supposed to be a 31 story building on the Vienna side but that – at the time the market was bad so that went away. But to see them recently take Fairlee Drive – which I've been to every meeting that they have had here and ah I wasn't opposed to it at the time cause you didn't really get a feel but once they took 100% of the trees down from Lee Highway to the metro station – it is one ugly mess. And there is going to be 4400 units in there meaning, I mean there is going to be 2200 units there meaning 4400 cars. They've all got to get out on the street and it's going to be a nightmare and I hate to say it – I didn't go against it – I did attend the meetings and the same with the Pan Am Shopping Center when they put the gas station in there it just – everything is just

Jenny: Well it's bad, it's gridlocked there

Tim: It's gridlocked on the

Jenny: in the afternoon.

Tim: On the new Nutley Street you can't get into the parking lot and now we're putting another small commercial place on the other side of it. It's just

Jenny: I just think this area has gotten too congested.

Tim: Well the streets can't handle it; the streets are not adequate and they never will be for the amount of traffic 11 miles from Washington.

Sue: Have you expressed this view at meetings – like the ones you have attended or is that the general consensus. You go to these meetings and there are many people that are opposed to it even though

Tim: Well it doesn't sound this bad when the developer's there and the guy from the Safeway was there. Instead of giving a mock up and letting you see the traffic pattern and how small it actually is – Pan Am Shopping Center cut the left turn lane out so you can't go into that shopping center. So I wished I had known that – I would have been more opposed to it but I'm thinking more of cheap gas you know – thinking about yourself and I shouldn't have been.

Sue: The twenty two thousand units that you say are going into that

Tim: Twenty two hundred units

Sue: Twenty two hundred units

Tim: Means forty four hundred cars, I'm sorry.

Sue: Okay and what is the time frame on that?

Tim: Well they've ah they're putting the road structures in right now so next spring I would say they are going to start um with the townhouses; they are going to start selling those.

Sue: Will you avoid this area because of the traffic gridlock?

Tim: Well, we have a place at Rehoboth Beach and we have been there full time since I retired in April. So we just came back um and we think we – we think we're happy in Rehoboth and we are but then when I get back to my house that I have replaced.

Jenny: We love, we love our old farmhouse. I mean if I could take this and transport it to a quieter area. That's my biggest dislike this area has become too congested and 66 behind us is so noisy. I mean it's – you can't sit it out - yeah

Sue: So in your farmhouse which has a front porch on it

Jenny: Yeah, like sitting on this porch I can't sit out anymore and even my cat – my cat use to be an indoor outdoor cat and she is getting older but every time I open the door when she thinks she wants to go out she'll put her head out and just turn around and come back in. And I really think it's the noise.

Sue: Are there barriers in back of the house?

Jenny: There is, yes there's a sound wall. The sound pretty much travels up and over it.

Sue: Do your neighbors in that area complain also a little bit about that?

Jenny: Yeah, they yeah.

Tim: Not really. We don't talk to – they are new neighbors.

Jenny: Audrey?

Tim: Audrey didn't say a word about it. Most people are in their houses 100% of the time. They have a porch on the back of their house they just put out there hot tub they've never used it. So you don't go out, I mean today's society both people are working; it takes two people to run a house hold

Sue: and to afford a Fairfax County house

Tim: and to afford a household so yes, so you are working and you're getting home late, you stay in your house. So the outside to me is not a big thing and as far as I'm concerned I mean cause I don't like to sit in anywhere. And I can be outside and it doesn't bother me. To know that I restored that house inside and out myself from the plumbing, electric, drywall, I mean I did 100% of it. It took me forever; now I could have paid somebody but ah I did not want to pay anybody. So I have been remodeling this house for over 30 years.

Sue: And you're not about to leave this house right?

Jenny: No, we're looking into - we had the property rezoned we're looking into maybe selling off some of the property but no we want to keep our house.

Tim: The sad part is

Jenny: And our kids want us to keep it even though they aren't not paying out taxes so

Sue: Well yeah, taxes on that kind of a property would be significant.

Tim: Well it sounds kind of silly but you can't eat equity. And the opportunity has come up that we have people interested in the property and they want to put houses on it.

Jenny: Plus my husband is getting older and cutting two and a half acres of grass and painting a house every five years or so which he insists on doing himself.

Sue: Is the house right in the center of the two and a half acres?

Jenny and Tim: No

Sue: Such that you could

Jenny: No

Tim: We have, sorry to say we have a restriction of 200 feet off of 66. We can't build within that; but Fairfax County has worked with us um the Supervisor's office has worked with us and we have been rezoned and we do have 5 lots now – so we are, we can do it but it's definitely going to take away from the looks of the house. We'll no longer be the beautiful estate that it is today. But again that's what price you pay if you

Sue: Stay in this County, yes.

Jenny and Tim: Yes

Sue: Okay, tell me a little bit about the organizations that you have belonged to that you have been part of over the years.

Jenny: Well, my husband works all the time so he, he's part of the Briarwood. He goes to all the Briarwood Community meetings. But, um we really are not very community oriented I'm sorry to say.

Sue: With four children and five grandchildren

Jenny: Yeah, I mean well I obviously did things through the schools with my children and you know our children participated in Fairfax County sports and stuff; we would do that and Tim I think you helped coach the - was it soccer?

Tim: Well my son he was in soccer first and I helped coach that and then he was in lacrosse and I helped coach that.

Jenny: And I did Girl Scouts, you know, I was the Girl Scout leader and cookie

Sue: okay

Jenny: person and that's pretty much – it was pretty much having to do with our kids.

Tim: But as Jenny said I spent too much time working on the house, remodeling the house

Sue: And it's a large house.

Tim: And today kids would complain about the vacuum running at 11 o'clock at night after you finish up and you're were cleaning up. But after working 8 to 10 hours a day at work and then coming home I would work on that and not that we neglected the children but

Sue: It was a lot of work to juggle family and a house that needed work.

Tim: Yeah, it didn't hurt them at all.

Sue: Does your family come over for holidays? Do you celebrate holidays in the house together.

Jenny: Oh yeah. Oh yes.

Sue: What's that like?

Jenny: Yes, I have to, you know we've been going to the beach but now I get Grandma when are you coming home? Grandma when are you coming home? You know and I said I'll be home for Thanksgiving and I'll be home for Christmas so

Sue: And you take them to the beach sometimes too?

Jenny: Yes, they come to the beach in the summer.

Sue: Do you spend the summers at the beach and not here?

Jenny: This year we've spent more time. Tim was still working part time last year so he didn't spend as much time as he has this year but um yeah this year we've pretty much been there since April. You know we come home

Sue: You think the summers here are hotter than they use to be?

Jenny: Yes, I do definitely

Tim: Well last summer it was hot everywhere we had 90 degree days this past summer that's the most we've ever had.

Sue: Have you seen any vegetation changes or anything that

Tim: Dead grass.

Sue: But I meant as a result of the climate change or invasive weeds or something

Jenny: Well, our grass is pretty much lush in the springtime when it rains and then it's nothing but weeds the rest of the year.

Sue: So that changed?

Tim: We don't fertilize

Jenny: I think it's

Tim: we had been but

Jenny: well you know I've noticed some of our trees dying, that's what it is and I think it's probably 50% because of the lack of rain and 50% because of the pollution from 66.

Sue: Oh, okay, do you see the pollution results on your house with paint

Jenny: Yes

Sue: You do?

Jenny: Yes, it's, we have a film of course we have a wood stove too so it's kind of hard to tell but I have noticed progressively over the years that every year we

have to wash the walls on the porch because there's just a thin layer of soot, pollution I guess.

Tim: Well I think it definitely comes from 66 too. You get, you're getting the rubber from the tires, you're getting the oil. It's coming off of the cars. And that's what we all know

Jenny: Well it's not just 66 I mean it's the whole Lee Highway, it's Nutley.

Tim: We're getting the residual the residue stuff in the air from the cars.

Sue: Your home is your haven still.

Jenny: um hum.

Sue: But the one thing you would change would be the traffic.

Jenny: um hum.

Tim: And then getting back to the house and the children. We always had parties. We, every child every birthday ah was always a party.

Jenny: Families, you know we would have the family. And every Christmas the kids come over for breakfast. I fix Christmas breakfast and they all come.

Tim: And then we had my mom's 70th birthday party. All the big occasions, the whole family; aunts, uncles they would all be there.

Sue: So it's a large enough house to have everyone; as well as a large yard if you have a summer birthday's and things.

Jenny: Yeah.

Tim: Primary it was out in the yard if it was summer time if it was big parties.

Sue: Sure. Tell me your fondest memory of this house. I mean these holidays – what's the best thing when you go back – is it sitting on that porch?

Jenny: I enjoyed, well I don't know – to me it's just the total feeling – I don't know – the oldness – I like the oldness of our house. I feel it has more character I guess.

Sue: Are the cabinets old in the kitchen?

Jenny: huh

Sue: Are the cabinets old in the kitchen?

Jenny: Well, we redid out kitchen, we did, actually Tim has pretty much redone most of the house. The original floors are still there which um, you know the wood floor which the red pine and oak so.

Sue: that's beautiful

Jenny: um

Tim: Each room is special. Each room has a story. For me it does. What I've done in that room as Jenny said is alluding to the floors and of course I have redone the whole entire house. But in the kitchen surprisingly that was – it had a tin roof on it originally and the well was under the existing kitchen and is still there today. It's hand dug, it's rock lined and it goes down maybe only 15 feet. And that's where our water well was.

Jenny: I thought it was 40 feet?

Tim: No, I have actually climbed down it. I could actually put my hands on both sides and work my way down inside there.

Sue: It's under the kitchen?

Tim: It's under the kitchen.

Sue: So how do you get to it?

Tim: Well, you don't anymore; cause we closed it off, but there were four tiles in the kitchen under where the kitchen table is. You would lift up the four tiles – a big piece of wood somebody had put four tiles on to match the existing linoleum that was there – you'd look down into the well.

Sue: Wow, that's kind of scary.

Tim: Yes, yeah – but again – Mr. Roberts bought it in 1941 um, he finished off the kitchen. It was kind of I don't want to say crude but it was, it was just enough to get by. But they did use plaster board this time.

Our house has the original wood lath through the whole entire house – which has the horse hair and then it has the plaster on it. And um, but I've since covered that up and reworked everything off – every door jam in the house, every window in the house has been reworked. And replaced the windows.

Jenny: That's probably his fondest memories is all the work he's done on the house.

Tim: It's crazy

Sue: No, that's not crazy.

Jenny: My fondest memories I think is when we first moved out here; my sister and I were young and we cleaned the whole inside of the barn and um you know it was just so wonderful to have so much wide open space. So, and um being in the old house, I loved the old house.

Sue: Is there anything else that you want to tell me that I didn't ask about? About this area or memories or

Jenny: Some of the changes that I have noticed too are the changing of the school boundaries; that's kind of bothered me because Tim and I went to Madison High School and I wanted my children to go to Madison High School. But by the time my kids got to high school it had been changed to Falls Church which, you know, I never could figure out.

Tim: Well it's no secret; that area deteriorated and the school was dropping as far as the scholastics go – so I – there's no question

Jenny: I know they were pulling from this area but um, I had gone to Cedar Lane Elementary for my 6th grade and then I went to Thoreau for seventh and eighth and Madison for High School and my children went to Luther Jackson and two of my kids went to Falls Church and the other two went to Fairfax because I pupil placed them there because I worked in the school and I could have them in the school closest to where I worked. So, um you know that was – we sort of felt more um a part of the Vienna community than we really did the Fairfax community you know but.

Sue: So that changed with

Jenny: yeah

Sue: with something you didn't have control over.

Tim: My sister too, when I moved here you could go – when my parents lived in Vienna little did I know I would be moving over to off of Hideaway road. But you could, there were houses on the property attached to Vienna – when 66 went through they literally – I mean they went through 3 of the houses. They actually moved all three of them. The one house they moved that would be more favoring the Vienna side – they moved it over to Hideaway road which the house is there today. But the mover um he obviously picked it up and rolled it before and set it over there. But it was just nice to think that you could ride your bike from Vienna – and this man would let me do it because I had the paper route. I had the Washington Star paper route for four years, from 63 to like well 62 to 66. So I went up and down Nutley Street, Lee Highway, Hideaway. That was my paper route and I got to see all – I know everybody because I delivered the paper to them. And just to see these people who were, have now are deceased, which they were really nice people on Hideaway Road, all throughout. To know that I had been there before all the new houses and everything – it was pretty fascinating.

Jenny: Did anybody ever talk about the little Tavern that use to be up here? It's across from Pan Am – it's where that little Taylor Shop is.

Tim: I don't think they want to.

Jenny: That was a Tavern.

Sue: Oh, please do.

Jenny: That was a Tavern and Tim you use to go in there to get hamburgers after you rode you bike about or

Tim: That was the half-way point in my bike, my newspaper route.

Sue: You said it was a Tavern – where was it located.

Jenny: Right across from Pan Am Shopping Center on Lee Highway – it's that little Taylor Shop.

Sue: Oh, okay.

Tim: That was an old – when we say Tavern – it's not the kind of Tavern that your going to Williamsburg to see.

Jenny: It's a little beer joint.

Tim: It's a beer joint.

Sue: um hum

Tim: But I got to know the owner. It was not a seedy place – it actually was fine. We had two of the teachers I would see every day from Thoreau Intermediate School. They would be over there by the time I got to there to deliver papers. So it wasn't that bad of a place when you have teachers. That doesn't mean a teacher's the best person.

Sue: But it was a beer joint.

Tim: It was definitely a beer joint. And ah

Sue: Neighborhood hangout place?

Tim: Not really – I'd say more construction people would go there and I don't want to put a bad light

Jenny: And teachers

Tim: and teachers

Laughing

Tim: That's why I mentioned teachers cause when you say construction you think oh a bunch of drunks. Now it wasn't it – as a matter of fact one of the boys I was in school with his mother worked there. It wasn't that bad.

Sue: Thank you both very much.