

Buckhead Heritage Society

Oral History Project

Interview with Fran Crossett Rosenthal

December 13, 2011

Interviewer: Erica Danylchak

ERICA DANYLCHAK: This is an interview with Fran Crossett Rosenthal, currently of Smyrna, Georgia. Mrs. Rosenthal is a longtime resident of Buckhead. The interview is being conducted on December 13, 2011, at the Mathieson Exchange Lofts. The interviewer is Erica Danylchak representing the Buckhead Heritage Society of Atlanta, Georgia. Mrs. Rosenthal, thank you so much for joining us today.

FRAN CROSSETT ROSENTHAL: It's my pleasure.

DANYLCHAK: We'll start off with something fairly easy. When and where were you born?

ROSENTHAL: I was born at old Piedmont Hospital . . . [in] 1938.

DANYLCHAK: And in what area of town did your family live in at the time?

ROSENTHAL: They were living on Club Drive, out near Capital City Club.

DANYLCHAK: And who were your parents?

ROSENTHAL: Mary Lee Buchanan Crossett, my mother, was a native Atlantan, and my father, Jerome Hugh Crossett, was an oral surgeon and he was from Midland, Texas. Came to Atlanta to go to dental school.

DANYLCHAK: And how long did your family remain on Club Drive?

ROSENTHAL: They were living there when I was born. And I think—and my grandmother came to live with us. She was an invalid, and they had to have somebody look after her. And we needed a little more room as I grew up, so they bought the corner of Peachtree and Piedmont in the early '40s. Seven acres on the northeast corner, containing a beautiful Georgian home with a formal rose garden in the backyard and a fish pond and a playhouse for me out back one side of the driveway, and then about three and a half of the seven acres were heavily wooded.

DANYLCHAK: And that's where the Container Store is today, is that correct?

ROSENTHAL: That's right.

DANYLCHAK: And do you know what motivated your parents to move from Club Drive to the corner of Peachtree and Piedmont?

ROSENTHAL: Well, I expect they fell in love with the beautiful Georgian house. And it was much more roomy than the little house on Club Drive had been.

DANYLCHAK: And how long did your family stay in that home?

ROSENTHAL: Until my paternal grandmother passed way in the early '50s, so ten years give or take, whatever.

DANYLCHAK: And do you know how long the home remained at the corner?

ROSENTHAL: I don't think it lasted very long after we left because Daddy sold it to Hugh Richardson, who took it down and put up a strip shopping center, which contained an Henri's Bakery, among other things.

DANYLCHAK: So that would have been in the 1950s.

ROSENTHAL: Early '50s.

DANYLCHAK: Early '50s. What's your earliest childhood memory of Buckhead?

ROSENTHAL: Of Buckhead?

DANYLCHAK: Of being in Buckhead.

ROSENTHAL: Well, it was a fabulous place to grow up. It was almost utopia. It was safe and clean and beautiful and you never knew fear. I think the first thing I remember about the middle of Buckhead, other than my father's dental office, which was at the Buckhead Theater, was a bear on a chain in front of a grocery store on East Paces Ferry, over near where the Capital Grille is now. And it was just a little dancing bear somebody had there at the grocery store. That's all I can tell.

DANYLCHAK: I imagine you have a number of memories from school. What schools did you attend?

ROSENTHAL: I went first to Miss Bell Meadors' nursery school, which was across the street from Peachtree Road Methodist Church. And then kindergarten, I went to Mrs. Bloodworth's Kindergarten down at E. Rivers School on Peachtree Battle.

DANYLCHAK: And what was that like?

ROSENTHAL: Oh, that was where we all, all of our gang got to know each other in kindergarten. She had a great group of children, and we all had our pictures taken on the jungle gym. And Linda Lay was in the class, and Mike Rich, and just lots of folks we still see all the time. And we, most of us went to E. Rivers, where my mother taught for twenty-five years. I went to R. L. Hope for three years when my mother stopped teaching, and made some other wonderful Buckhead friends that I still get together with.

DANYLCHAK: What was a typical school day like at E. Rivers?

ROSENTHAL: Well, Miss Sower ran the cafeteria. And she just made wonderful sandwiches and cookies. There were no hot lunches in the old E. Rivers School before it burned, that I remember. Mostly sandwiches and drinks and snacks that Miss Sower would present for us to choose from.

DANYLCHAK: Do you have any other memories of E. Rivers that you want to share with us?

ROSENTHAL: Oh, my goodness. I had the most unusual faculty at E. Rivers. Miss Hines was my first grade teacher, and she was wonderful. They were all strictly school teachers. That was their life. The second grade teacher was Miss Camp. And the third grade teacher was Miss Clemmie Boyd. And she rode the train from Covington, Georgia, to Brookwood Station every day and got on the bus and went to E. Rivers, and then did the reverse trip in the afternoon. And she was a pistol. I was rattling my lunch box one time, and Mason Lowance and I were making a little noise, and she said, "Fran, if you don't stop rattling that lunch box I'm going to throw it out the window." That's the best I can remember about Miss Boyd. Mrs. Osterhout was the principal, and she was a formidable lady. I think I was sent to her office once, but I don't know what for. I can't remember. But, of course, E. Rivers burned and they had to build a new one.

DANYLCHAK: So after that, is that when you went to R. L. Hope?

ROSENTHAL: I went in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades to R. L. Hope. I had Miss [Miriam] Riley, who was eventually the principal of R. L. Hope. She was my fourth grade teacher. I had Miss Yates, and she was so sweet. She helped me with my math that I struggled with. And then in the sixth grade I had Mrs. Bowden, and she was the sister of Senator Richard Russell. And she was a tough customer. She was a strict, no foolishness, no nonsense school teacher.

DANYLCHAK: Can you describe the school for me a little bit? Where was R. L. Hope and what did it look like, the school building itself?

ROSENTHAL: It looks very much like the old part of North Fulton School that's now the Atlanta International School. It was red brick, traditional, great big windows. We had a nice auditorium. It sat right across Piedmont Road from what we call the "Disco Kroger."

DANYLCHAK: So, not far from where you lived.

ROSENTHAL: No, it was just a stone's throw from my house, yeah. And we had a carnival and all sorts of fun things that went on. We played kickball a lot.

DANYLCHAK: And then did you go to North Fulton High School?

ROSENTHAL: No, I went to Northside, which was new. It opened, I guess in '52, right around in there. And my class, that graduated in '56, was the class, the second class to go all the way through the new school. And we picked up some teachers from North Fulton, one of whom we called Jolly Molly Jackson. Her husband was Warren Jackson, who had been principal of North Fulton High School, and we now have an elementary school on Mount Paran named after Jolly Molly Jackson's husband. And she was a cute lady. She taught history.

DANYLCHAK: So before you were at Northside, everyone from this area would have gone to North Fulton, correct?

ROSENTHAL: That's right.

DANYLCHAK: So, was the population of this area just growing so much in the early '50s that there had to be a new school?

ROSENTHAL: It was. Buckhead just, after the “Plan of Improvement” that Mayor Hartsfield sold us on, it—Buckhead started to boom after the war. After World War II was over.

DANYLCHAK: What other changes did the Plan of Improvement bring? Do you remember?

ROSENTHAL: What other changes?

DANYLCHAK: In the early 1950s, after the Plan of Improvement, when Buckhead was annexed into the city, what other changes did that bring about? I mean, there was a population boom, people started moving here, new businesses, what did you notice?

ROSENTHAL: I think a lot of new homes were built, a lot of new neighborhoods were developed. Buckhead began to spread out. It used to just be from Peachtree and Piedmont to Garden Hills. And now I think it goes from Brookhaven to the airport. But it did grow. And the private schools started in the ‘50s. Westminster was started at old Fritz Orr Camp, where we had all gone to day camp. Of course, Lovett had had little Lovett, but they expanded. Pace Academy later on, and Woodward. Bob went to GMA when Woodward was GMA. And it just got real busy around here. Lenox Square was part of it. It opened in ‘59, and, wow, things really broke loose. All those stores and all those pretty clothes and things out there. We had someplace to go.

DANYLCHAK: Well, let’s go back a little bit to when you were growing up. You mentioned Fritz Orr, the Fritz Orr Camp. What was that like?

ROSENTHAL: Yes. Oh, it was the dearest place. Fritz was wonderful. I guess you could go if you were four years old, but I think I started about five. Mr. Langston would come in a big green bus and pick us up. And we would leave with our little lunch sack, our towel and our bathing suit, and we would go out to Nancy Creek and spend the day at Fritz Orr Camp. Then Mr. Langston would bring us back. We had archery and swimming and horseback riding. Oh, we always had a festival sort of a day where we dressed up. And I remember we walked around the big field out by the swimming pool and paraded around where they could take pictures of us. We just had a wonderful time out there. Ross Allen came from Florida and brought his collection of snakes and put on a show for us at rest hour one afternoon. We got to go up and touch the snakes. And some of ‘em were, you know, fifteen feet long. But he was a friend of Fritz’s and he did this for Fritz’s campers to see. He was a great guy too.

DANYLCHAK: So how many kids would have gone to Fritz Orr’s Camp in the summer?

ROSENTHAL: Oh, Lord. Charlie Loudermilk’s mother was affiliated with Fritz Orr Camp. And I don’t know how many years it went on, but Fritz had several children and we all got to know them, and it was just a family kind of a thing. We’d go on hayrides and go out to Sope Creek and slide down the rocks. Sew washcloths on the seat of our bathing suits. And just have a wonderful time. It was a treat to go to camp at Fritz Orr.

DANYLCHAK: You showed me some pictures earlier of your horse. When did you start riding horses?

ROSENTHAL: At Fritz Orr Camp. They had these little Shetland ponies. And, you know, they don’t have real good dispositions. But I fell in love with those little ponies. And then as I grew up I rode the horses that Fritz had out there in the stables. My dad, I just couldn’t get through life

without a horse, so my dad bought a beautiful gelding, Genius Jackpot. He was seventeen two. Big horse. And I showed him. He was five-gaited. And I also showed him under harness. We traveled and went all over the southeast to the horse shows. Just more fun. A great way to grow up.

DANYLCHAK: And did you use the Chastain Horse Park?

ROSENTHAL: Oh, yes, we did. It was called North Fulton Park back in those days. And the Shriners had a fabulous horse show out there. The horses and trainers came from all over the country in these big fancy trucks. The horse show went on for five days, I believe. And Saturday night was stakes night. And that's when they gave away the big money, I don't know, five thousand dollars, to the finest show horse and the finest hunter-jumper. And there were all sorts of characters, Buckhead characters, who rode horses. There was one man that jumped up until his '70s. After stakes night on Saturday night, there was a restaurant right across the street and it was called Bill Daley's Red Barn. And they served steaks. And so after the stakes for the horses, all the people went across the street and had a steak at Bill Daley's restaurant. They gave ribbons and trophies, and all the horseback riders around Buckhead participated and we got to meet a lot of real interesting people and see some gorgeous horses that came in here.

DANYLCHAK: How has the Chastain Horse Park changed over time?

ROSENTHAL: Oh, my goodness. Amy Cates, that's her maiden name, did a fabulous job on it. Lance, Amy Lance. She took down all the old rickety stalls that were just deteriorating terribly and built new ones, and redid the riding ring, and built that wonderful facility where you can have a party and overlook the horseshow while you're up there. It's just all new and beautiful now. It was a little rickety and rundown for a long time.

DANYLCHAK: What other kinds of activities did you and your friends take part in, growing up?

ROSENTHAL: Well, the Brownie troop my mother started with Mrs. Haygood Clarke, Caroline Clarke's grandmother, and we met at, one of the first meetings was at Eleanor Smith's house, right there where Mount Paran deadends into Paces Ferry. They had a gorgeous house, a Neel Reid house, up on the hill. And we had a May Day day there, where we did the maypoles and wound all around. Cute as it could be. Mrs. Smith was real sweet to let us come and use her pretty yard. So the Brownie troop, we have all pretty much stuck together, and we still get together. Of course, we went on into scouting. And Mrs. Clarke would take us in the spring to Lakemont, the Brownie troop, for a house party, for the end of the year. And we got to water ski if we knew how or go swimming off the Witham's beach. And sometimes she'd let us go skinny-dipping. Nobody was looking. That was, I guess, what brought a lot of us together. And then we had the Junior Cotillion, when we got dressed up and put on our formals and tried to act grown-up. We all went to Margaret Bryan's dancing school up over where the Waterworks store is now, on the corner of Paces Ferry and Peachtree, where Roswell and all that comes together. Margaret Bryan had a dancing school up there. My friend Marian Jones's mother helped out. Catherine Jones always wore a hoop skirt to dancing class. And these poor long-suffering boys had to steer us around in a circle in the room of Miss Margaret's—what did I say her name was? Anyway, dancing school. We had a good time up there. I always got the shortest boy.

DANYLCHAK: What other activities in Buckhead, or other places right at Peachtree and Roswell and Paces Ferry there, did you go to? There was a drugstore there—

ROSENTHAL: Well, we went swimming at Chastain Park. Had a pool. It was the North Fulton Park swimming pool. We went to the Garden Hills swimming pool. I had a music recital, piano recital, at the little clubhouse at Garden Hills, at the swimming pool. And then there was the Brookwood pool. Some people joined and we would all go play in the Brookwood pool. And then the country clubs. So we managed to stay pretty busy.

DANYLCHAK: And did you attend the Buckhead Theater?

ROSENTHAL: Oh, yes. One of my favorite memories—my dad's office was adjacent to the Buckhead Theater on one side. The Buckhead Theater was owned by Ruth and John Carter. And they were friends of my parents and used to play bridge on Sunday night across the street over here. But Ruth had a wonderful snack bar in the lobby of the theater. And there were two doors. It was locked on her side and locked on my dad's side. Well, I could get the door open on Daddy's side. I did my best to get in and get to that snack bar. But I never could get past that locked door. But we would go spend the day on Saturday at the movie and watch the cowboy movies and all the serial cartoons, and eat—one of my friends ate Jujubes. I ate Mason Mints. And we'd drink Coca-Cola and eat popcorn and in general be obnoxious. But it was air-conditioned in the summertime and it was a great place to be.

DANYLCHAK: Tell me a little bit more about your dad's practice, which you said was adjacent to the Buckhead Theater. When did he establish that and how long was he there?

ROSENTHAL: He was there for a pretty good while. When he came out of dental school he went to work for old Dr. Huff, who had a dental practice. And after he worked with Dr. Huff a couple of years he opened his own practice right next to the theater. He had, I think, four rooms where he operated. He was an oral surgeon. He did an enormous amount of cleft palate surgery and was a 32nd Degree Mason when he died. His assistant was Mrs. Collins, and she was with him the whole time. She was just a darling little lady. Everybody loved her. But Daddy worked on all my friends' teeth and their parents, and he kept us all sort of together. He was an early user of fluoride and he really believed in it. And when Mayor Hartsfield wanted to put fluoride in the Atlanta water system, my father was very much in favor of it. But most people were afraid of it. But eventually we got fluoride in the city water. So that helped with tooth decay and all of us that ate all of that junk on Saturday.

DANYLCHAK: Tell me a little bit about the church that you attended growing up.

ROSENTHAL: Peachtree Road [Methodist]. The first Peachtree Road building was on Sardis Way, where the Bank of America sits. It was a little wooden building with a tiny little chapel, and that's the first place I remember going to church. Then not very long after I started to Sunday School there, they bought 3180 Peachtree, where they are now. They bought it in parcels over the years. They had to wait until somebody was ready to give up their tire store or their filling station or whatever it was so they could buy that 50 next feet. But they've assembled a beautiful property now and it's huge. We were there Sunday night for the "Many Moods of Christmas" that Scott Atchison put on. And the Hallelujah Chorus and all the Christmas carols. It was just gorgeous. Our new, what we call the Methodist cathedral, that Don Harp oversaw for us,

it's just gorgeous. It is just beautiful. But when I was a little girl there was just one building. And a mud puddle. And a Boy Scout hut in the back. And we had folding chairs in what we called the great hall back then. It had linoleum on the floor. We had a piano. Dr. Long preached out of a wooden pulpit that you could pick up. And Dr. Long was our minister for two different sessions. He was there when I was really young and then was away for several years and then came back for several more. And Olive and Nat Long were good friends of my parents. And their son Nat, Jr., was a classmate and a friend of mine. Nat, Jr., also became a Methodist preacher, like his daddy. Their daughter, Olive, is still alive and lives not too far from Buckhead now. Kellum is her last name now. But Dr. Long was behind the push to build the first big sanctuary, which is where I was married. It's now called the chapel.

DANYLCHAK: When would that have been built?

ROSENTHAL: Early '50s. There was an associate minister named Tom, anyway we just had some wonderful people on the staff. Peggy Hughes was the pianist, and she led the little choir of eight or ten people. And we just had a wonderful little church service in the great hall. And then we got to be uptown in the early '50s when we moved into our new sanctuary. We built an education building that sits perpendicular to Peachtree. And then the first big sanctuary was also perpendicular. Now the new cathedral part with the gorgeous vaulted ceilings and all is parallel to Peachtree. And it is enormous. But it has beautiful stained glass windows, and Don Harp just did everything first class in that new church.

DANYLCHAK: How big was the congregation when you were small, when you first started going there?

ROSENTHAL: A hundred or so. A hundred and fifty, maybe two hundred. I'm not sure.

DANYLCHAK: Do you have any sense of how big it is today?

ROSENTHAL: Pardon?

DANYLCHAK: Do you have any sense of how big the congregation is today?

ROSENTHAL: Oh, I think we're around 7,000 now. My father headed up the ushers for 25 years and he served on the finance committee and the Board of Stewards and was named Outstanding Steward of 1953-54 and was given a silver cup. And he tithed before taxes which was an unusual thing. My mother started the Gleaners Sunday School Class in our house at 3259 Peachtree Road in 1948 and it still meets every Sunday.

DANYLCHAK: Let's move on a little bit to the other home that you lived in growing up. You moved from the one at the corner of Peachtree and Piedmont in the early '50s. And where did you move after that?

ROSENTHAL: We moved to Blackland Road, 329 Blackland Road. Marcus Clayton had just finished building what at the time we called the Buckhead Colonial. It was, had little columns and a little porch on the front and it was a little ranch house. But it sat way up on a big pretty hill. And there were several acres there also, and a rose garden with that house. As a teenager I had spend the night parties there. And at the time the teenage boys couldn't resist scratching off on the front yard, which did my father in. One Sunday morning, Daddy would get up and go down

there and pick up the beer cans that the guys had thrown in the front yard. He found a cement marker from Chattahoochee Avenue that the guys had taken out of the ground out there. How they got it over in somebody's car—it had to weight fifteen hundred pounds—and planted it right in the middle of the front yard. So the county had to come take that back to where it belonged. But the guys would get a little rambunctious. Teenagers.

DANYLCHAK: Can you tell me a little about dating, when you were a teenager? Where would the young gentlemen take the ladies out in Buckhead?

ROSENTHAL: Well, gentlemen is stretching it a bit, I think. We would go to the movies. We would go to Rusty's, which was a drive-in up Peachtree Road. And there was a Pig & Whistle over on Ponce de Leon that people liked to go to. I never went there with a date. But we did go to Rusty's. And the guys would sneak and drink beer, and the girls, of course, all smoked. Which was the worst thing we did, I think. When I had my spend-the-night parties on Blackland Road, you could just cut the smoke with a knife. Everybody was just puffin' away. And my dad just thought it was funny, because we were so young and we looked so silly.

DANYLCHAK: Can you talk to me a little about the debutante balls that you attended when you were young?

ROSENTHAL: Oh, my, yes. Mrs. Haygood Clarke, that started the Brownie troop with my mother, when we were invited to be debutantes, there were about fourteen of us that had been in the Brownie troop that were making our debuts. So Mrs. Clarke and her daughter took the ballroom at the Driving Club and had a band and had a huge dinner party-dance for all of her Brownie troops. And I have a clipping of that from the newspaper. We just had a good time. We went to parties all summer, and then we came home and we were presented at Thanksgiving, right around Thanksgiving, for the first presentation. We all had white dresses. I have all those pictures. And we carried a little bouquet. Our dads were in tails and escorted us the length of the ballroom at the Driving Club. And our parents and grandparents and their guests sat in the ballroom and then the debutantes and their dates sat in an adjoining room. We had a good time, danced and sang and just had a wonderful time. My daughter also made her debut, Mary Lee, and my son served as a marshal for the debutante club, the girls that graduated from Lovett and Westminster.

DANYLCHAK: Did you ever leave Buckhead? Did you ever move somewhere else?

ROSENTHAL: Yes, I lived for a year in Massachusetts while my husband was going to school in Ayer, Massachusetts. And that was a real experience. We did get to go to Cape Cod for the Fourth of July and visit some folks from Peachtree Road Methodist Church, and that was fun. We were there about a year and then he was sent to Europe. And we lived in southern Germany in Bavaria at the foot of the Alps for three years. And while we were there, toward the end of the time, the U-2 went down and the Berlin Wall went up. And his tour of duty was extended. And, he was not an officer, so we lived with a German family in their home. No heat and no hot water for this Buckhead girl. However, we had a Volkswagen. And I was told that I had to be ready to leave on fifteen minutes' notice, take three people in my car with me, have food and water and blankets and gas and be ready to drive into Switzerland, and from there we would have gone into southern France and been evacuated, because there were three Russian armies moving our way, very slowly. It was near Rosenheim, a little town in southern Germany. And the Army post was a

former Luftwaffe base. And I ran a little coffee shop there. We worked shift work. The guys, we can talk about it now, they eavesdropped on the Russians. And they had language specialists and code specialists. My husband was a sergeant at the time. And they listened, eavesdropped on the codes that the Russians were sending. And the airfield where the planes had landed had enormous antennas, similar to the cell tower right outside this window, covered, there were, I don't know, forty of those out in the field. And they all faced east to pick up all those radio signals. And while we were there two men from Washington, D.C., who had been in secret positions defected to Cuba. And that messed up the work that the men were doing. But it got pretty testy over there. And my mother was back in Buckhead just turning flips. She was ready for her baby chick to come home and get safe! And I was about ready to come home anyway.

DANYLCHAK: So what brought you home?

ROSENTHAL: My good friend—his tour of duty was finished. My good friend Judy Brantley Weston, who was president of the debutante club when we made our debuts, she was getting married. And so I was going to be in her wedding at Saint Mark Methodist Church. That was the main reason I got home in a hurry.

DANYLCHAK: And you stayed?

ROSENTHAL: And we, my mother had a party for her. And we are godmothers to each other children now. She is my daughter Mary Lee's godmother, and I am Gil Weston's godmother. So we still get together. I talked to her the day before yesterday.

DANYLCHAK: So you moved back here? Where did you live at that point?

ROSENTHAL: Oh, yes. My mother—my father had been diagnosed with prostate cancer in the mid-'50s. And we were way out on Blackland Road. Mother wanted to get closer to Piedmont Hospital, where Daddy's doctors were. So they sold the house up there and moved to 35 Muscogee Avenue. And that's where they were living when they died. And that's where Jim and I lived when we first got back from Germany. And Mary Lee was born while we were living at 35 Muscogee. And then we bought a little house out off Roswell Road, our first little house on Pine Forest.

DANYLCHAK: Can you describe what Buckhead looked like then, that would have been the early '60s?

ROSENTHAL: I was so shocked when I got home. I had never seen as many neon signs in my life. You know, they don't have many neon, well, they didn't then, in Europe. We did a lot of traveling while we were over there and you just don't, didn't see that many neon signs. And Buckhead was just covered with 'em. And they had run Pharr Road through from Andrews to Piedmont. Before we left it didn't run all the way through. When we got back it had run all the way through. So everything was different. Everything looked different. It had gotten so much bigger and busier.

DANYLCHAK: And that would have been the early '60s at that point?

ROSENTHAL: Hm-hmm.

DANYLCHAK: Which stores did you shop in at that time, when you came back?

ROSENTHAL: Oh, gosh. Well, J. P. Allen's was a ladies' clothing store and one of our friends' family owned it, so we shopped at J. P. Allen. We shopped at Lenox mostly. It was fun on Fridays, we would go out and have lunch and go shopping at Lenox, and make a day of it. Rich's, of course, was out there. The reason that Rich's ended up out there is because Dick Rich, when they were planning MARTA, they said, "Dick, will you go along with this, using the train tracks for MARTA?" And he said, "Yes, as long as you run 'em to my store." So he was the first tenant, Rich's was, at Lenox. And, of course, we all shopped at Lenox. And when I was a little bitty girl, I modeled at [Rich's] downtown, when I was just five and six and seven years old. But Rich's was an old standby, and Mike Rich was in our kindergarten group at Mrs. Bloodworth's.

DANYLCHAK: What changes have you seen in the downtown area of Buckhead, right where the Buckhead Theater is?

ROSENTHAL: Well, I am delighted that Charlie Loudermilk saved my father's office. And I took him a book and a thank-you note for it. The renovation of the Buckhead Theater is just awesome. They put up that gorgeous new sign, and it is just elegantly done on the inside. And much bigger than it used to be. It's just about tripled in size, I think. Of course, they have all the fancy new seats and it's just wonderful. I haven't been to an event there but when they were remodeling it I would go by there on Sunday afternoon after church to see how they were coming along. And ran into him there one time. But there used to be a Jacob's drugstore on the point of that little triangular part right in the middle of Buckhead. And there were other little stores. George Minhinnet had his butcher shop. His father's butcher shop was there. And I think there was a Masonic lodge somewhere close to that triangle right there. There was, D. E. Pinkard's dry cleaners. Let's see what else was there. Maybe a beauty parlor. And a bar. There was a bar. And the taxi station. That, you know, was during World War II, and people weren't using their cars so much. A lot of people used a taxi and there was a Buckhead Taxi, and they would come get you and take you wherever you needed to go. And there was no fear because there were just one or two Buckhead taxis, and everybody knew 'em. It was like Mr. Carter that used to see us across Peachtree Road going to R. L. Hope. We had two policemen and Mr. Carter was one, and I forget who the other was. But everybody knew them. And they knew everybody.

DANYLCHAK: How else did World War II impact Buckhead? You mentioned that most people didn't use their cars by that point.

ROSENTHAL: Well, we had gas rationing, and tires were hard to get. Everybody had a Victory garden. And Willie Cartwright, who worked for my parents, had a wonderful garden back behind the rose garden, a Victory garden with tomatoes and corn and okra and peppers and strawberries in the summertime. So we had fresh vegetables during the war. We had blackouts. And I remember the headlights on the cars had funny little, like shades, on half of 'em, because you couldn't ride at night with the whole light showing. They would just let you use half of the headlights. And you had, the windshield, most of 'em were divided in the middle where the rearview mirror was, and that was where you put your stickers for your gas rationing. So you had an A or a B or whatever it was. And my dad, because he was a dentist, well, he had gone to Washington to try to join the Navy. And he was forty, I think, right around then. And they would not take him because most of his patients came from what was called the Bell Bomber plant out in Marietta. Now it's Dobbins. But he had a lot of patients from out there. And the Navy told

him, said, “Dr. Crossett, you stay home and look after your patients, so they can keep building those bombers out there.” So he did. And I guess that’s pretty much—we saved tin foil and made it into balls. Have you heard about that? Off of chewing gum paper. You stripped the silver tin foil away from the waxed paper on the chewing gum wrappers, and you saved the aluminum foil. And it was a race to see who could get the biggest ball of aluminum foil. And then you gave it to the government. I don’t know how we did it. But you turned it over to the government so they could use it for the war effort.

DANYLCHAK: Are there any other changes that kind of stand out to you in terms of how Buckhead has changed since you were a young girl?

ROSENTHAL: Don’t get me started. The reason I don’t live in Buckhead now is because eleven or twelve years ago, when we were looking for a house, the day-trader killing happened at Piedmont Center. And when I was growing up and lived on the corner of Peachtree and Piedmont, we never locked a door. I don’t think there was even a key to the door. And we had two beautiful front doors. And I guess they did lock ‘em sometimes. But I never saw a door key. And we never knew fear. And I don’t know if it was because my dad was a great big Texan and walked around Buckhead or what. But I was never afraid. And now that has all changed. Everybody has an alarm system and an alarm on their car, and it’s just all scary. Different. When the Falcons came here, Atlanta really started to change. Because there were bookies and all kinds of, kind of underworld things that went on, things that Atlanta wasn’t used to. There were never, other than the Refoule murder, I don’t ever remember a murder in Atlanta when I was growing up. And the most trouble that people got in was having too much to drink or something. And we did have a lot of wrecks at the corner of Peachtree and Piedmont, of the Navy people that were out near Oglethorpe at the Naval Air Station. Those guys would come to Buckhead and have a real good time on Saturday night. And then if they were driving they would have a wreck at this corner, trying to run that traffic light. And they would bring the injured people into my parents’ house because it said Dr. J. H. Crossett on the mailbox. And they thought, there’s a doctor. We’ll just go in there. So on Mama’s fine Oriental rugs they brought in the wounded. And Daddy would kind of patch ‘em up. One thing I do remember about Buckhead, and I’m not too sure when this was, I think it was probably in the early ‘50s, there was a Greyhound Bus wreck on the corner of Paces Ferry and Peachtree, right at the point in Buckhead. And all these passengers were injured. And they brought some of those into my dad’s office for him to patch up. I’m not sure what year that was, but there were a whole lot of people hurt in that Greyhound Bus wreck. Other than the soldiers getting into trouble, and the sailors, with their beer, I think that was the extent of the disgraceful things that happened in Buckhead. That I knew of.

DANYLCHAK: Are there any other stories that you wanted to share with me today that we haven’t gotten to? I’m sure there are many, but—

ROSENTHAL: Well, I guess my favorite one is about my godmother, Frances Gray Yenkey, who lived in her family’s, well, her summer home, where the Peach shopping center is now. Aunt Frances’ family was from Savannah, and her father owned WSB-Radio and the *Atlanta Journal* at one point. They had a big house in downtown Atlanta. But when she was a little girl, Peachtree Road wasn’t paved. A lot of people, Governor Slaton was one of ‘em, had summer houses in Buckhead, up and down Paces Ferry and Peachtree. And Aunt Frances’ house was built out of Stone Mountain granite. And it had a granite wall about this high around it in the front. And there was a statue of a little black boy in red pants holding her mailbox, that sat out in

the front. Aunt Frances had a parrot in her kitchen. Aunt Frances was brought up very delicately. She was a beautiful little old lady, and I'm sure she was pretty when she was young. But she told me when I was a senior in high school that she remembered sitting on the front porch of Greystone, that was the name of that house, and she could hear the horse and buggies coming across the wooden bridge at Peachtree Creek. She and her governess would sit out on the front porch. And she had traveled extensively and collected jade and ivory, and she had an emerald that must have been fifteen carats that she wore. It was just gorgeous. Her granddaughter inherited that. But I definitely had my eye on it. But she was so sweet. She had two sons. One of whom was named Dick Gallogly. And he went to Oglethorpe University. And I don't know exactly what they were after, but I think some drugs. There was a drugstore out Brookhaven way, and I think they tried to rob the druggist and get drugs from him. He and his fraternity brother roommate. And the druggist was killed. And nobody ever found out which one of these two people were involved in, actually pulled the trigger. But Dick Gallogly was sent to the Federal pen. And Aunt Frances' family had been very prosperous. And she at that point was a widow. She had a chauffeur and a big, dark blue Lincoln limousine. And she would go to the Federal pen and pick up Dick Gallogly and take him to play in golf tournaments on the weekend, and then she'd take him back home to the Federal pen on Sunday night. And her chauffeur would be driving. How she worked all that out I'll never know. But Dick died about three years ago. He came out of prison and got his act together and lived in Dacula, Georgia. And I have talked with his daughter since. That's one of my favorite Buckhead stories.

DANYLCHAK: That's quite a good one. Well, I think we've chatted quite a while, and I thank you so much for coming in today and talking to me.

ROSENTHAL: Oh, it has been a pleasure. I've just loved it.

DANYLCHAK: This has been such a pleasure for me as well.

ROSENTHAL: Thank you for having me.