

NOAA Beaufort Lab Oral Histories
Charles Manooch Oral History
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Joseph Smith: Joe Smith here. We're at the NOAA's Beaufort Lab in the library, May 15th, 2023. We're here today to interview Dr. Chuck Manooch, who was part of the reef fish program here, most of his tenure at the lab. Present is Dr. Don Hoss, former director, Dr. Doug Vaughan, and Dr. Jeff Govoni. So, I believe Don will proceed with the first question.

Don Hoss: Sure. Well, Chuck, one thing that's always kind of fun to do is find out your basic background, you went to school somewhere. Then how you actually got here because there's been some weird reasons people coming here. [laughter]

Charles Manooch: People to come.

DH: So, if you take it from there, and then we'll interrupt you with questions.

CN: Okay. All right. Chuck Manooch. I grew up in Raleigh. I went to Raleigh public schools, and then went to, briefly, the Louisburg Junior College, didn't do well at all there and left and went into the military, into the U.S. Army and served just prior to Vietnam. So, I hit it at a real good time for me. I mean, it really saved me. Then also, when I came out there, I wanted to study. So, after that, my father was a major. Colonel Terrell was a registrar at Campbell University or Campbell College then. They said, "We'll take Chuck in on a provisional basis if he goes to NC State University and takes four three-hour courses and makes eight – B's are better in them." So, I took those four courses, and I made B's. So, I went still as a provisional student at Campbell. So, I finished a BS degree in Campbell. I actually had two majors in social studies and biology. Then after that, I went to NC State University. I studied under Dr. Bill Hassler in zoology. He was my mentor. Bill Hogarth worked with me there, which we know, and was an excellent comrade and good fella. So, I went to NC State and studied striped bass on the Roanoke River and did a food habit studies for my master's looking at food habits of striped bass in the Albemarle Sound and Roanoke River and the Tributary Rivers, which I did nine total around the Albemarle Sound. So, that's what I did for my master's degree. A little bit of my time two years prior to that, I worked with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in Lakeland, Florida, which was a hoot. I was coming from North Carolina, temperate zone into a more tropical area with all the exotic species and all the environmental issues that was going on down there, Cross State Barge Canal, walking catfish, cypress swamp, all kind of things that were going on there. It was just a wonderful learning thing. So, when I came into state, started working on my master's, then it was a new world, and getting into the anadromous fish in the Roanoke River. So, that's a little bit on my background. I can tell you I came to the lab – or you'd rather me wait. How do you want to do that?

DH: Just go ahead.

CM: Okay. So, I finished my master's in the spring of [19]72 on striped bass. I took the master's thesis and submitted it to what was then Chesapeake Science and later became Estuaries for Publication. It was in the review process. That same time, I told Dr. Hassler, I said, "I'm here." Genevieve has got a good job. That was my wife. She's got a good job at North Carolina Department of Transportation and also was a student finishing up here music degree at Meredith College or BS – well, they actually like to say it, a BM degree, Bachelor of Music. So, she finished at Meredith at that time. I said, "Okay. It'd be a good time for me to go on if I wanted

to." Dr. Hassler said, "I think you should. I think it's an excellent opportunity for you." He said, "I want you to talk to Dr. Davis." Dr. David Davis, I think he was out of Berkeley. He was head of the zoology department at NC State University. Everybody's scared of him. He's smart as a tack. So, anyway, I went down to see Dr. Davis. He said, "Okay." He said several things. He said, "Number one," he said, "I see where you've submitted and in the process of getting your master's thesis published." He said, "That's a good thing." He said, "Number two," he said, "what would you like to work on?" I said, "Well, Dr. Hassler and I have talked about striped bass progeny. We do the egg studies on the upper part of the river. We do the recruitment of young-of-year in the Albemarle Sound in the summer and fall. We don't know what happens in the middle. We don't know what happens to the egg survival, egg hatching, larval survival, larval feeding and all of that. So, we really don't know that part of it." "I'd like to work on that." He said, "That's out." He said, "I'm not going to let you work on the same species in the same system." He said, "I'll never forget it."

[laughter]

He said, "I'll tell you what." He said, "I'd rather have you go someplace like Michigan and study bats." He said, "That would really diversify your background." I said, "I think that's out of the question." He said, "Then what do you propose?" I said, "Let me and Dr. Hassler meet and talk about this." So, a couple of days later, it was really fortuitous. He got Dr. Hassler to call me, and he said, "I've got a letter from Ted Rice," who is the director, Dr. Rice, at the NOAA laboratory or the federal laboratory in Beaufort. He said, "They're looking for a PhD student to come down and work with one of two programs." He said, "Why don't you go down and talk to Dr. Rice?" So, I went down. Genevieve was pregnant. So, I went down to Beaufort, walked in the door for the first time and met Dr. Rice, overly impressed with him. His demeanor, where he grew up, went to Berea, then went to Harvard. It was just the neatest story of his life that I learned real quickly. We sat down. We talked. He said, "We got two programs, both in reef fish." One is artificial reefs with Dick Stone and Chet Buchanan. Pete Parker worked with him out of Murrells Inlet. He would study artificial reefs and populations of fish and how they were recruited and whether that increases the production for fisheries or what that might do. He said, "The other one is with Gene Huntsman, who's in natural reef program." That's off the Carolinas. The good thing about Gene, he's a PhD, and he's an adjunct at NC State University. I said, "That sounds good." So, I went to meet with Gene. We had an excellent meeting, left there, went to his home, met Sue. They're the two of the smartest individuals I've ever met, between the two of them. Gene is an interesting character. He's egotistical. He's self-centered. But he's smarter than hell. He's real good with innovation. He was innovative with the reef fish program and started the head boat survey, which continues. It's a long, long database that we have. He was like Hassler's Roanoke River from the 1950s right on up through 1983, 1985, tremendous database. This one on the head boat is a good long-term database. It's like the mandating program here at Beaufort Laboratory.

JS: On a reef fish species then from the PhD?

CM: Yes. I worked with him. Yes. It was misnamed when I first came. It was *Pagrus sedecim*. I actually did a bit of synopsis and a renaming of that, just *Pagrus pagrus*, as part of my doctoral dissertation. But the reef fish team had called it the jolthead porgy all during that

summer when they were sampling head boats, so there were all these JHPs in the database. I was wondering, "What in the world is that?" So, I took a few of these red porgies, which is the Pagrus into the lab. We actually keyed them out. I said, "Gene, we got a species here, but we are not calling it right." So, we got that straight. About the same time, Churchill came on with vermilion snapper so that we had the Pagrus pagrus, the red porgy, and then the vermilion snapper were the two most abundant fish caught at that time that were important to reef fish, fisheries, commercial, and recreational markets and all. So, yes.

DH: You got your PhD what year, Chuck?

CM: [19]75.

DH: [19]75.

CM: Yes. In fact, I finished in [19]75 in December and actually walked through the line in the spring because I had family members that wanted to come see it.

Jeff Govoni: What date was your master's?

CM: My master's was [19]72.

JG: Did you get that, Joe?

JS: Yes.

CM: So, I had a [19]72 and a [19]75, NC State. Campbell was [19]66.

DH: Jeff, do you want to proceed?

JG: Proceed, Don.

DH: Well, I don't want to ask all the questions. But during your time at Beaufort, was there any scientific thing that particularly stands out in your mind or work that you did or any highlights?

CM: Yes. I think just working with that Pagrus species and having the name changed and accepted. It was presented at a meeting. Copeia published it. It was an ichthyologist and herpetologist meeting in Williamsburg. I made the presentation there. It was published in Copeia. That change, it was accepted by AFS. It was very important, I think. That was number one. Ginsburg had separated the species back in 1921, I think. So, we joined it back together as the same. We made a synopsis of the two species. That was one thing. One thing that I did that was sort of off the cuff – and I did some things that were off the cuff – one of the things that I got involved in, which was really neat to me, I think, was that Virginia Beach was trying to withdraw water from Lake Gaston. They were trying to pull out, let's see, sixty million gallons per day. The feds and the state, National Marine Fisheries Service was sitting on the sideline. But Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of North Carolina Fish and Marine Fisheries, and also Wildlife Resources Commission would deadily oppose to that, and naturally the North Carolina Attorney

General's office. So, I stepped in the middle of all that mess –

DH: [laughter]

CM: – which was fortuitous in the fact that I feel like it was very significant. But at the same time, it was very dangerous. Because the City of Virginia Beach, they had an engineer up there, I won't mention the man's name, but he was extremely, extremely aggressive. So, what we were trying to do was take the water flows of the Roanoke River and go pre-impoundment years of that whole system, which was 1912 through 1954. Model flows according to those pre-impoundment flows to mimic what nature had done for those years for striped bass and low-lying resources, fisheries, wildlife, cities, towns, whatever. So, we were able to do that, a committee of twenty-five people. Me and Roger Rulifson at East Carolina co-chaired that committee. We had representatives. Dr. Hassler was on it. Bill Hogarth was on it. There were a lot of people on that committee. City of Virginia Beach despised it. The National Marine Fisheries Service despised it. There was a gentleman who was married to Elizabeth Taylor, who was a congressman from Virginia, the owner. He got involved with it. So, they came after me. They wanted to get rid of me, but they didn't.

JG: They couldn't. You were federal employee.

CM: I would say they couldn't.

JG: [laughter]

CM: Yes. But they were trying. They had a fella come down. His name was Collins. I was married to Ann at the time, who was a librarian here. Collins issued this report. We called it the Collins Report. Ann wouldn't let me see it for a couple of years because she said it's so damning. She said, "It's so mean at you." She said, "I don't want you to see it." So, I've never seen it in its entirety, but I do know that they call me a zealot. [laughter] I readily admit it, but I was, for the resource. But we did control those flows as much as the Corps and the Virginia Power and North Carolina Power can actually do those flows and do the things you're supposed to do than the striped bass have a better survival. We saw a tremendous change the first few years with that new flow regime. So, that to me, those two things, naming the species, and of course, the whole working here at the lab and with Gene on the reef fish program, all those things, I think, were significant and fun. I had excellent employees, people that I worked under and the people that I worked for. I told somebody one day, there were a couple of people at the lab I really didn't want to see early in the morning for a cup of coffee. But other than that, I liked everybody here.

DH: I think there's a lot of that. Yes.

CM: Every day was a pleasure.

DH: Did you have any particular low points?

CM: Oh, yes. I had a few low points. Yes. Oh, gosh. Yes. One time, I said something up front, I think, and Bud got on me about it and called me. You might have actually gotten me in

on something like that, too. There's some low points. Yes. But we lived through them and progressed. I think I actually got a promotion after that, so that was good. But those were scary moments when you don't know what things look like.

DH: But all in all, you consider you had a pretty good run here?

CM: I had a lovely run here.

DH: There's some –

CM: I always said you work as a marine scientist, a marine biologist, or in wildlife fisheries, you'll never be rich. Would you be happy?

DH: No. But it did get better.

CM: Yes.

DH: I ended up making a lot more than \$4,040 a year, which I made when I came here.
[laughter]

CM: That's a lot. I mean, that was not much.

DH: I didn't know any better.

CM: It's like when I started as an E1 at Fort Jackson, I was getting \$81 a month.

DH: [laughter]

CM: Never forget it. Then when I started with Florida, I was \$5,400 total salary. That was in [19]68. Then I came here as part, if I'm not mistaken, of a GS-7. Of course, I didn't have all the benefits and all, but it was more than enough. At that time, we rented a house. I got it from Bill Chalk with Chalk & Gibbs on Evans Street and paid \$105 a month. It was a two-bedroom, screened-in porch fireplace, bath and a half. Everything was reasonable. When I moved here in [19]72, I mean, there's been a remarkable difference in businesses here and the development of the beach and the town. There was Sanitary. There was Rick's Restaurant. There was Sonny's uptown on the water. There were a few places around. Then Harkin's Island and a couple of restaurants. Other than that, there was just not much here. It just exploded after that, it seemed like, in the [19]70s, early [19]80s, and it just came on. So, you've seen a lot of change.

Douglas Vaughan: Grown a lot since [19]82 when I moved here.

CM: Grown a lot. Yes. Yes, sir. So, that's all I'm on.

DH: Joe?

JS: Chuck, there were a lot of graduate students that came through that reef fish program.

CM: Yes. There were.

JS: You being one, you mentioned Churchill Grimes.

CM: That's right.

JS: But I'm thinking Jeff Ross, Rob Matheson.

CM: That's right.

JS: Just a whole host of people –

CM: Oh, yes.

JS: – that worked on the life history of those –

CM: Reef fish. Yes.

JS: – reef fishes.

CM: Ken Brennan.

JS: Kenny.

CM: Jennifer Potts.

JS: Mike Burton.

CM: Mike Burton. Yes. Burton was state. Jennifer, ECU. I was on the committees there.

JG: That's what I was going to ask.

CM: Yes.

JG: You mentored some of these people.

CM: Oh, yes. I had, sir. I think I had thirty master's students at East Carolina.

JG: There you go.

CM: I had two or three Ph.D. students at NC State. Russ Nelson was one.

JS: Russell.

CM: Yes.

DH: I think I was on about half of those ECU committees.

CM: You were on a [inaudible]. ECU is a wonderful connection. Then I had a few of it. Yes. Were you talking about a story? I had a few at UNCW. There was a lady who was a Cuban that came to the United States, a biologist.

JG: Ileana.

CM: Ileana. She was wonderful. I had several students with her down there. One of them, I will never forget, we had a –

JG: (Ileana Clavijo.

CM: Clavijo. Yes. That's her. So, we were on a telephone hookup one day. This young lady was finishing her master's degree. She came in. It was questions by the faculty. There were two or three faculty members there. I was on telephone here. So, everybody was introduced. They asked questions. They asked questions that were phylogenetic and ecological. I mean just really hard questions. That young lady, she clocked right through them. She was working with king mackerel, some aspect of king mackerel. I remember at the end, I said, "Okay. Tell me now how your research can be used by North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission and Division of Marine Fisheries, and Fisheries Management?" It was a straight dive handoff right to the halfback through the hole. She fumbled it. She asked Clavijo if she could leave the room. Dr. Clavijo said, "Yes. That would be fine." So, she gets up and she leaves. So, we sit there making small talk. They are there in conference and me on the telephone, back and forth. After a while I said, "Where is she?" She said, "Let me go check." She comes back in. She said, "Her car is not here anymore." [laughter] That young lady had flung the coop. She ended up going to vet school at State. She did well, but she had a hard time with that, I thought was a straightforward, give me question, fish management on it. So, we had UNCW, the NC State, and then, of course, East Carolina was the big ones with Doug. Yes. That was a fun time.

JG: Well, Chuck – if I may, Don –

DH: Yes.

JG: – Bud Cross has composed a list of questions that are typically asked.

CM: Right.

JG: He's not here today. Don has gone through most of them. This is a good – I hate this term because it's overused – segue. But one of the last questions is comical stories that you may have in your archival mind that involved you or others at the lab. That's typically one of the last questions that we get to.

CM: Well, several of mine pertain to Gene.

JS: Chuck, tell the story about when you're working in Florida.

CM: Yes.

JS: They're filming a segment for a TV show.

CM: Oh, good God. Yes. That was in [inaudible].

JS: You're in the weeds.

CM: Oh, yes.

JS: They're casting a plug over toward your direction.

CM: Oh, yes. That's right.

JS: You've got to do something for the camera, right?

CM: Yes. I got the oddest jobs with the State of Florida. I had several, two of them on Lake Eloise where Esther Williams used to do her stuff. This one was over in the St. Pete, Sarasota area of my region, which were thirteen counties. They wanted us to go over there and film some activity on a golf course where the professional golfer and his companion would come through a series of little ponds and go into this pond. They wanted the Wildlife Commission to provide live largemouth bass that could be used as a demonstration. So, Bob Betts, who was my field technician, Bob Betts and I went to Lake Parker and Lakeland and used the electro fishing machine, the electrodes and shocked up about six or eight bass that were eight or ten pounds, good-sized largemouth bass. We put them in the live well and carried them over to this golf course. So, Bob was a chain smoker. He smoked Camel cigarettes, chain smoker. He was up there. We were parked on this big live oak tree, Spanish moss. The pond was down there. I said, "Bob, get ready, here they come." So, here comes a golf cart. Well, the golf cart was actually a boat, too. You would go in the golf cart, come down to the water. It would then go motorized out into the lake, the pond, and they would cast. My deal was to run down there when that lure hit the shore and put a big bass on it. So, Bob's up there smoking. I'm trying to get his attention. I said, "Get one up. Get the damn thing up." So, Bob gets a dadgum big bass. He's a heavysset fella. When he waddles down to the bait there and the lure, I'll never forget, it was a devil's horse. He went – landing right on the beach, perfect cast. So, our hook got eight, ten-pound largemouth up, and I put it back in the water. They were out there filming and had another little boat that was filming with them. They were talking about how nice it was to be able to play golf and catch bass on the same trip. I told Bob, I said, "That boat is getting low in the water." The dadgum thing was sinking. So, they cut the camera. Of course, they cut that part out. The pond wasn't but about 6 feet deep. So, they all got out of there, but that was quite a trip, too.

[laughter]

DV: No drownings.

CM: No drownings. They filmed what they wanted to. They thanked us, and we got out of there.

JS: Funny.

DH: Sometimes you really don't want to know how these things that looks so good on television [inaudible] [laughter].

CM: I hate to use the term because we're in here with a couple of folks from New Jersey. This guy looked like a New Jersey thug, the guy that had us come down, gold all around his neck, fingers. He was a hot shot buddy, and he could do no wrong. So, I knew then it was going to be an interesting trip. But it was one of those times. Well, that's that one.

DH: I want to mention the fact, I think people know it, that you've done a lot of writing. I guess a lot of it was since you retired. But you did write a fish book and stuff –

CM: Yes, I did.

DH: – while you were working.

CM: Right.

DH: But do you want to mention how you got into these interesting stories about your early life and life in Raleigh?

CM: Yes. I guess the first one I did was a book called *Spring Comes to the Roanoke*, 1979. That one I actually formed an LLC on with the help of an attorney from Raleigh named Gene Hafer. He was not only a good attorney, he was a damn good proofreader. He's like Joe Smith. He was really good, not that everybody else is not. [laughter] Excellent. But Gene Hafer, for an attorney, I thought he was absolutely wonderful. But anyway, I wrote a book about that. It was about the Roanoke River when I first started with Hassler and Bill Hogarth and all those stories and things that went with that. Then after that, I did the fish book in [19]84 with Dwayne Raver, which it sold one heck of a lot of copies of book. It was full color. Dwayne has since passed away. He was ninety-four when he died. But he was one of the best wildlife and fisheries artists in the southeast, really recognized. I've got some of his original artwork in my house on my own now. He was real good. It just came natural to me. What I liked about it was, in scientific writing, everything was so abstract. It was pep, pep, pep, pep, pep, pep. It was an abstract introduction, collusion, methods, all these steps. There was no time to get flippant or get funny or use a lot of adjectives or adverbs. I like to talk like that. So, I like to conversate. I like to talk and then write when I talk. Like if I sit at the Word processor, I talk to it. That's what I tell young people, just start talking. Talk into it, talk into it, work it, type it. You can always come back and form your paragraphs, your sentences, do all your good stuff. But I like using color, like adjectives and adverbs to describe things. That's what I did in the writings. Then I did a book on growing up in Raleigh. God, that thing has been through one heck of a lot of printings. That covers the time from [19]43 to [19]62 when I went in the Army. Then I did a military one

on Fort Jackson, which Don said he could relate to because we went through the same things at Fort Jackson for the Army. Then after that, let' see, I did this marine biology book, growing up like a marine scientist, and got Bob Dixon, who's now gone on. He's on the cover with me. That's a 35-pound female red snapper, among the day we caught it, just like it was yesterday. I will have to say that I have been blessed over time with the ability to hear, to see, smell, and remember things really clear. I might not know what day it is, but who I am. [laughter] But those things, I have been blessed with. I know I can smell, hear, and see things that happened when I was ten years old like it was yesterday. So, those books kind of came out of there. This last book that I did is actually the sixth one. It was about a little kid growing up poor in Bertie County, North Carolina, which is on the Roanoke River. A lot of my writings go back to that area. I was a little underprivileged kid growing up poor in the [19]30s. I like that book. I think it's sweet. Young people kind of like it. But it's got a lot of hunting and fishing. I gave it to my granddaughter one time for a book report. We'd ask her, "How you coming with the book?" She said, "Oh, there's still hunting and fishing in there." That's what it's about. There's a mother and daddy and little boy hunting and fishing. So, that's about what I've done with it. But I thoroughly enjoyed doing that kind of thing. I wish I was doing more of it. I'll be honest with you. I wish I hadn't retired from the lab when I did. I was fifty-nine years old and was sick. I sort of use that as an excuse that I've got to take her to hospitals and do this thing. It was a lie. I just felt like it was time. Jennifer was ready to move up. She was giving me headache every day, "When are you going to leave? When are you going to leave? When are you going to leave?" [laughter] She's retiring this year. I'm going to come to retirement. She's retiring in July. I was fifty-nine when I retired. I wish I'd have waited another three or four years. I never got my high three. So, I lost on that. If I'd have stayed another year or so, I got my high three.

DH: Dr. Hassler was my major advisor on my master's. Not on my PhD, on my master's. I noticed occasionally he had a temper. Did you ever?

CM: Oh, my God.

DH: [laughter]

CM: Jesus. Bill Hogarth actually jumped overboard in Hatteras Inlet one time when they got into an argument. They had to fish him out. I think Dr. Hassler wanted to leave him. The *Early Bird* captain, which is the fishing vessel they were on, says, "I've got to pick him up, Dr. Hassler."

DH: [laughter]

CM: So, they picked him up. Yes. He lost a foot during the Depression. He went to the University of Tennessee. He hopped on a train sometime back in those days, and he lost part of his foot. Donald Hassler was truly – I was thinking about his signature then. He had the most beautiful handwriting. If you ever look at what he signed for you or anything else, Hassler is just absolutely beautiful. Mine looks like a scratching'. But he had one heck of a temper. He came down the hall one time and gave me heck because I'd given a boy some data that we used to collect on our Young-of-Year Index from Albemarle Sound. I gave it to him a little prematurely before Dr. Hassler could actually put it out and have published it and do what he wanted to do

with it. So, he was totally ticking out all night. I thought I was gone that day, but we got over it. But he had a temper.

DH: When the lab sent me back, I got a free ride on my master's. The lab sent me. They said Hassler would be a good person. I went in there. We were registering courses. I figured which course it was. I was writing it down. I misspelled it. But he looked at us and said, "I can see we're going to have fun."

[laughter]

CM: Well, when I went up there, Stan Worland was in my office. He was working with menhaden and (DDT?) in my office. There was also a boy that was here, a young man, that was working with fecundity of Atlantic menhaden. You know who I'm talking about?

DV: I don't know.

CM: But he was in my office. I had those two in there. Prescott was down the hall.

DV: [inaudible]

CM: Hogarth was down the hall. We had some good people back then that were working through State and through zoology. Yes.

DH: I think the arrangement with State and this lab really –

CM: Oh, good.

DH: – made it a distinct lab for a long time.

CM: Yes, it did.

JG: To what extent was Ted Rice involved with that –

DH: Absolutely.

JG: – connection through State?

CM: Tremendous.

JG: That's what I thought.

CM: Yes. He was –

DH: Well, go ahead.

CM: No. He sent, I would assume back then it was not email or anything. It was a letter to Dr.

Hassler. Dr. Hassler got it and relayed it to me that same day. The mail room was right across from Dr. Davis's office in Garden Hall. He said, "Here's a letter from Ted Rice, Dr. Rice." There were already students here. Like Don had been here and then Stan Worland and whoever this unknown person is that I should know is in the office. But he was instrumental in having that done. What I liked about Dr. Rice was coming from his poor Berea background where underprivileged children in Berea, Kentucky and going to Harvard. He really pushed publications for his employees here.

DV: Yes, he did.

DH: [laughter]

CM: Pushed the living hell out of it. That made this place really stand out on the East Coast with the federal government. It shot it up there, buddy, I think.

JG: Yes. I experienced the same in my own career here, which officially started in [19]80. But yes, Ted Rice, it seemed to me, encouraged publication. At that time, we were a National Marine Fisheries Service.

CM: That's right.

JG: Publication was not an emphasis of the fisheries.

CM: Of the fisheries.

JG: They wanted you to get information out, but not as –

CM: Not as a peer-reviewed publication.

JG: Anyways.

CM: Yes, I had them.

DH: Doug, have you got anything special?

DV: No.

CM: Nothing on barbecue chicken.

[laughter]

DV: Barbecue in Greenville.

CM: Oh, Lord, I was mentioning to somebody the other day. I said, "There's a man at my lab who's from New Jersey or somewhere up there."

DV: Well, I went to high school there.

CM: He moved down here. The man knows more about barbecue in North Carolina than anybody alive, more than PBS. I mean, he knows more than anybody.

JG: Yes. But it's not chicken.

DV: Bee's Barbecue.

JG: You said chicken.

CM: No. He's pork.

JG: Yes. He's a pork man.

CM: Bee's Barbecue in Greenville.

DV: Bee's Barbecue. That's one of my all-time favorites.

CM: Have you ever been to Bee's?

DH: I don't think I have.

CM: Yes. I tell you what, when a graduate student would have the faculty over for lunch or something, we'd go to Bee's. You had to be there early because the people from the hospital would be there with their scrubs on.

DV: By noon –

CM: I mean they'd have on their masks, their booties on their feet.

DH: [laughter]

CM: They'd be right out of surgery. You had to bust butt to get in there.

DV: When I was growing up here, we'd go there about 11:15 a.m.

CM: Yes. That's right.

DV: We'd get in line by 11:30 a.m. Because by noontime, when we were finishing up, the line would be –

CM: I was there one day sitting early with Dr. Rolison, with Roger Rolison. We were sitting outside. The smokehouse in the back, the door opened up, and a big plume of smoke came out. Out stepped this man. I told Roger, I said, "The man is cured." I said, "He is like a country ham." He had the skin color, the texture of country ham. He had been in there so long. But I

tell you, what he was doing was right.

DV: Well, I told Jennifer, when she defended –

CM: Yes. That's right. [laughter]

DV: – "Make sure we first have lunch at Bee's."

CM: At Bee's. Yes.

DV: Then I would look very favorably.

CM: Well, anything she did.

DV: She did fine.

CM: She did good. That was good.

DH: We're okay? Well, thanks a lot, Chuck.

JS: Thank you, Chuck.

CM: Yes. I'm sorry, I'm full of it.

JG: Thank you, Chuck.

DH: No. I love it. I love it.

CM: It's just I love men here.

[end of transcript]