

**NCSU
Creative Services
Maddocks**

Q: Interviewer
A: Maddocks

A: The reason why I did, to be honest with you, was because my cousin was here. Believe it or not, I was going to go to Duke; I was a Methodist. I spent a lot of time on the Duke campus when I was in high school and my cousin was over here who was a big man on campus, he was head of the drill team, and I came over and spent a few weekends and said, "Might as well come up." Boys in particular are immature at that age, and I ended up here almost by accident.

We went to Reynolds Coliseum for orientation. They said, "When you were in the high school you came from you were a big fish in a little pond; now you're a little fish in a big pond. Look to your left, look to your right: one of the three of you will graduate." And I hoped I was sitting between two dumb people so I can get my degree. I was in Alexander dorm to start off with, which was right next to the coliseum. The first day I went I remember looking at all the signs, and one said, "No alcohol." And a guy across the hall said, "Come over and have a drink," and he opened up a thing and he had more liquor than you could shake a stick at. Had his own bar there almost! I said, "Wait a minute, what're the rules here?" I brought a case of soup with me. I'd go home and get a case of soup and I hate soup. I got so tired of soup, but we had a little plate in the dorm so for lunch—and then we ate a good meal.

We went down to the S&W cafeteria, next to the Sir Walter Hotel. Had a good meal. A lot of that was fun. That the type of thing—eating—we had one guy that always got strawberry shortcake and whipped cream on it. And one time while he was going to the men's room somebody had taken a can of shaving cream and put shaving cream on it and he came back. And I was ___ and everybody said, "Oh, yeah, we know, we gotta save your seat." That was pretty much our routine for eating.

And it's funny I think about this. There were a lot of veterans that were here when I was here, I guess from the Korean War. And I knew I was going to get married. And I was really wet behind the ears and naïve, so I took a course in marriage and family living. Turned out I was the only single person in there. And I just learned a lot from those guys; they were all married. [LAUGHS] And I'd go call my girlfriend at that time and say, "Carol, guess what I learned about today?" and I'd tell her about so-and-so. But that was just an elective.

I had a job parking cars because I was in Alexander Dorm right next to the coliseum, and in those days Reynolds Coliseum had the best entertainment in North Carolina. They had—I'm going to say some names that probably don't mean anything to y'all—but Ray Anthony's big band, Count Basie, and the Ice Capades, the biggest entertainment was there. And we parked cars and 30 minutes after the program started I could go inside and watch it. So I was fortunate enough to see a lot of good entertainment I didn't have to pay for. But my job was to make sure they didn't park in the parking lots of the dorms so the students could get in and out.

And we had such crazy things as they had those old creosote posts at that time, and if one of them did illegally park, back in those days the bumpers were separated from the car, you had the bumper and the car there, and if they'd park illegally, then the students would just take the car, I saw them one time, lift it up and put the car down over the cross ties, so when they came back here they had—they couldn't drive their car; they had to go find someone to lift it up to get it off. So students would usually take care of it.

I ended up getting I think a 1953 Chevrolet, and guys would ride back to school with me, and they paid me \$2 plus they had to agree to fix the flats, because I had a trunk full of recapped tires, and you knew you were going to have a flat tire, but that was part of the deal, \$2 and help me change tires. You knew you were going to have a flat tire.

Just the feeling of, it's us, and if you're Wolf Pack or you're NC State, it's like you're part of a family, and we're different. We're different than Carolina. We don't have to brag and talk about all the things we've accomplished and all this, okay? In fact my thinking about NC State and having been very familiar with Chapel Hill and State too, I say, you go to Carolina and get an education; you go to State and get a job. And I know people come out of Carolina, get an education but can't get a job.

And what I'm so proud of NC State about is I think we have a lot of niche degrees, a lot of specialist degrees, just at the right time for the way the world's moving right now. I guess the main thing I like to say is, I got a slow start at NC

State but it's sped up ever since then. The older I get, and the longer I am
associated with NC State, the more it means to me.

[END RECORDING]