

## Vienna c. 1968

VH: Do you remember much of what the town was like when you first got here?

JS: Oh yes. We talk about that quite frequently when we all get together. Lawyer's Road was not paved, it was gravel at a certain point past here. And I remember when they finished it. It was dusty. The gravel made it really dusty. And there really wasn't much development beyond the town limits. Not many houses out that direction. The whole atmosphere of the town was different.

CG: We've heard it called a 'country resort'. Do you agree with that?

JS: Sort of. I could let the kids, the boys, get on their bikes in the mornings in the summer, and come home for lunch if you're hungry. That was it. They could ride all over. I remember my one son, he couldn't have been much more than first or second grade and I'd walk him across Lawyers Road and watch and he'd walk down and get a haircut and come back. And I'd watch for him. And would you ever—you can't do that now, but that was the way it was.

CG: Can you describe what Maple Avenue looked like when you first moved here?

JS: Well, certainly not as much traffic. The maple trees were gone—we never saw that. I think we missed that by maybe, I don't know, how many years. It was just kind of an ordinary town, I guess. We had a couple of five-and-dime stores that we don't have now. There were no—there was only one restaurant in town. One drive-in and one restaurant because Virginia did not have liquor. You couldn't buy a drink in a restaurant or something so nobody wanted to open a restaurant. You had to go to Maryland. We were like, 'Really, this is really strange'. The other thing that was kind of a culture shock in reverse I guess, because in Kansas City we had a much more, well we liked Mexican food. We moved here and were like 'nobody's heard of a taco?' It was just like 'Really?' But it's certainly changed by now, but it was just kind of funny. It was very, it stayed, and everything was just so much slower here. You always hear about Southern people being slow, or they talk slow. When we moved here with that humidity, I said 'I know now why' because we didn't have air conditioning when we first moved here. We spent a lot of time in our air-conditioned car just driving around. I understood then why things moved a little slower in the South.

CG: Do you recall the name of that one restaurant—the one restaurant?

JS: Rolling Road was the only restaurant here. And the drive-in...I can't remember what it was called. Sonic? I can't remember what the name of the drive-in was.

VH: So did Vienna feel pretty Southern?

JS: Well, it did. And that appealed to me, actually. Growing up in the Midwest where everything's kind of just—something's really different. I thought 'This is cool'. We're to live in Virginia, that sounded so Scarlett O'Hara type thing. So I was really looking forward to it. And I think the humidity was...and another thing that really surprised me was the greenery. If you've grown up in Kansas, where there's a tree, there's a creek. But they let trees grow right next to the road, and we were like 'Wow! Would you look at this! This is amazing!' And our backyard was just a jungle, you had to use a machete to practically get through it because things, well you know how much rain we've had now. It just grew, and that I think was just a bonus. We were just so excited to grow things we'd never been able to grow before.