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Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

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1894 CHARTWELL TRACE, STONE MOUNTAIN, GA. 30087

on the date(s) of 31 MARCH 1996

for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

John E. McLane Date: April 8, 1996
Interviewee's Signature

Address 1894 CHARTWELL TRACE

STONE MOUNTAIN, GA. 30087

Phone 770-934-7191

John P. McLane Date April 8, 1996
Interviewer's Signature

Address 112 1/2 80 Oaks St.

Jacksonville Al. 36265

Phone 782-0128

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4/1996

Name: JOHN EDWARD McLANE M F: MALE

Address: 1894 CHARTWELL TRACE, STONE MOUNTAIN, GA 30087

Phone number(s): (404) 292-4441 (BUSINESS); (404) 934-7891 (HOME)

Approximate age or date of birth: 11-29-34

Mothers name: LILLIE ORA (BENSLEY) McLANE

Father's name: HENRY EARL McLANE

Places lived and when: ALEXANDRIA, VA. 1934-41; WAGNER, S.C. 1941-1947; ALEXANDRIA, VA. 1947-1954; ARLINGTON, VA. 1955-1959; CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. 1959-63; AKRON, OHIO 1963-1968; DECATUR, GA. 1968-1971; STONE MOUNTAIN, GA. 1971-PRESENT TIME

Education: GEORGE WASHINGTON U.S. Diploma; GEORGE WASH

Religion: CHRISTIAN - SOUTHERN BAPTIST -

Business, political and social memberships (past and present): OFFICE FOR TREATMENT OF GYNECOLOGY PATIENTS; REPUBLICAN PARTY; DUND HILLS GOLF CLUB; SMOKE RISE BIRTH AND RAG.

Present occupation: SPECIALIST IN GYNECOLOGY.

Former occupations: CLERK AND BOOKKEEPER FOR PAINT COMPANY; RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN NEUROCHEMISTRY, 1958-59 - GEORGETOWN MEDICAL CENTER

Special Skills: SURGICAL

Major Accomplishments: HELPED DELIVER 7, 000+ BABIES OVER 22 YEARS. HELPED DEVELOP A CHEMICAL TEST FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS 1958-59.

National Events in which interviewee has participated: NOT APPLICABLE

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: ROWING CHAMPIONSHIP RACES FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

National born U.S. citizen? Yes No Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No

Country from which he/she emigrated: NOT APPLICABLE

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: DIPLOMA FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL; COLLEGE AND MEDICAL CERTIFICATES FOR INTERNSHIP, RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP IN GA. STATE

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: JOHN RUTLAND MEDICAL LIBRARY FOR GA. STATE UNIV. OF GA.

Additional information: CHAIRMAN OF DEPT. OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY AT DEKALB GENERAL HOSPITAL, DECATUR, GA. FOR 2 YEARS - OHIO UNIV. OF OHIO

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

DR. SUZANNE MARSHALL

BY

JOHN McLANE

APRIL 9, 1996

Good interview
& info!
Need to work on
writing grammar
pieces

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Dr. John Edward McLane was born on November 29, 1934 in Washington, D.C.. His parents are Henry Earl and Lillie Ora McLane. The McLanes also had a two-year-old son, Earl, at the time of John's birth. John spent the early part of his childhood in Alexandria, Virginia, which is a suburb of Washington, D.C.. The McLane families' home was near the estate of George Washington and was also close to the Potomac River. During this time in the United States, the crime rate was much lower than it is today, so it was safe for John and his brother to take a bus into the city without adult supervision. The boys spent much of their time exploring the city and the bus fare was only a nickle at this time so they were able to make the trip quite often. Dr. McLane's family remained in Alexandria until his third grade year of school.

The family moved from life in the city of Alexandria to the farm in Wagener, South Carolina. Wagener was close to John's father's birthplace, and his father bought a 200 acre farm there. Although it was a major change from the city, the family grew very fond of the farm life, especially during the time of World War II. Life on a farm meant rising before the sun and completing such chores as milking cows, feeding livestock, and slopping the hogs all before having breakfast and leaving for school. Dr. McLane adjusted quickly to this new lifestyle.

During the time the McLane's lived on the farm the second world war broke out and John remembered traveling to town and watching the newsreels that told of the wars progress. These news reels were the main source of many Americans because televisions had not yet been invented. John learned a lot from these newsreels, and was able to keep up with events in both Germany and Japan. Dr. McLane also recalls the rationing that took place during this war. Although the farm was very self sufficient they did travel into town for necessities like sugar, ice and clothing. They didn't suffer that much as a result of the rationing because sugar was the only thing they had to do without.

Dr. McLane and his family moved back to Alexandria, Virginia in 1947 when his father took a job that caused him to have to sell the farm. He was not happy with leaving the farm but soon re-adjusted to life in the city. He now had to ride his bike five miles to school everyday. Dr. McLane attended George Washington High School in Alexandria. Following His graduation, John did not have the money to attend college, so he went to work for a paint supply company and joined the Navy Reserves. Because the paint company was in Arlington, Virginia he needed a way to get to work, and this was the reason for purchasing his first automobile. The car was a late modle Chevy Coupe that he bought from one of his cousins. He payed for the car with his earnings at the paint company. He kept this job throughout college and served eight years in the Naval Reserves.

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While in the Reserves Dr. McLane was required to serve one month out of the year on active duty, he had several interesting experiences while in this branch of service. For example, while serving on active duty his ship was assigned to lead a battleship through a channel. There was a hurricane approaching during this maneuver. The winds were so strong that they battered the ship in all directions. Suddenly the ship's radar failed in very dangerous waters. It was the job of Dr. McLane and a crewmate to enter the ship's radar tower and repair the equipment. This was one of his most exciting experiences while in the Navy. This was also the only time he experienced motion sickness while on board the ship.

Dr. McLane has had the privilege of meeting three United States Presidents. While in high school he was the vice-president of the student council, and it was this position that allowed him to meet his first president. During his senior year of high school, then Senator Richard Nixon was to give a speech to the senior class. As the class's vice-president, it was Dr. McLane's job to make the Senator comfortable and to make sure he was ready to give the speech, he felt this was a great honor for such a young man. Dr. McLane met his next president while attending medical school at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. While in med-school Dr. McLane joined the U.S. Public Health Service. As a member of this group, he was invited to a party

on the White House lawn by President John F. Kennedy. Dr. McLane said, "It was quite an experience to be that close to President Kennedy". Finally, he had the honor of marching with his high school band at the inaugural parade of President Dwight Eisenhower.

Dr. McLane chose to attend George Washington University of his undergraduate studies because his brother had attended that same university. Fortunately, he had been an honor graduate in high school and easily gained acceptance to the university. While at George Washington he majored in pre-medicine and took several theology classes as well. It was a result of those theology classes that he decided to pursue a medical career. While in college he read a book about the life of Albert Schweitzer, who was a famous European Doctor that went to Lamarene, Africa as a missionary. Dr. McLane attended a speech in college given by a colleague of Dr. Schweitzer, and to him this was a great honor. Dr. McLane was on the university's Pastoral Council and was asked to show a visiting councilor around the university, it was this man that persuaded him to attend medical school following his graduation from George Washington.

After graduation, Dr. McLane went to work for the lab at Georgetown University while at the same time attending the University of Virginia Medical School. Medical school was very difficult at

this time because the students were given a group of patients to care for, and in addition to that care, they were also responsible for all of those patients' lab workings. This required students to arrive early in the morning to collect samples from patients and studying those samples under the microscope in the lab on that patients' floor. All this had to be done in addition to the lectures and conferences that students were required to attend. However, as the later years of med-school progressed the work became both more exciting and more rewarding. It was during this training that he was able to assist in several Gyneocological surgeries and this helped steer him towards that type of practice.

Dr. McLane applied for his residency during his third year of med-school and was sent to Akron, Ohio to work at Case-Western Reserve Hospital. Dr. McLane and his family remained in Akron for the next five years. He left Akron after being awarded a Fellowship to study Gyneological Cancer at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. After a short stay in Atlanta, he knew that this was the place he wished to continue raising his family. During his work at Emory Hospital, he worked alongside Dr. Dan Thompson who was the head of the Gyneogology department for the University. At this time, 1969, they were attempting to study the causes of cervical cancers in women. As part of the study, they often had

to travel to the womens homes and persuade them to seek further treatment for their abnormalities. This was often very difficult especially for a white doctor traveling into the ghetto during the later part of the civil rights movement. However the study was a great success and in Dr. McLane's opinion helped to save the lives of many of those women. At the end of the fellowship Dr. McLane was offered a fulltime position by Dr. Thompson, although it was an honor to be offered the job, Dr. McLane declined the position and went into private practice at Dekalb General Hospital.

Dr. McLane has experienced many changes in the medical field during the last twenty years. Many of these changes have been in the areas of patient insurance and breakthroughs in technology. For example the cost of health care was considerably lower in the early seventies than it is today. At that time organizations such as HMO's (Health Maintenance organization). The development of the laser also had a tremendous effect on the way many treatments were conducted. This device made long term stays in hospitals a thing of the past, once gall-bladder patients would have to spend several days in the hospital now only have to spend the night. Dr. McLane was first introduced to laser surgery at a conference in New Orleans, upon his return to Atlanta

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Dr. McLane approached the board about purchasing a laser, the board declined and he purchased his own laser and instructed many other doctors on the use of that tool. Dr. McLane said, "There have been tremendous advances in medicine in the last ten to twelve years".

Aside from having a ^{fulfilling} fulfilling medical career, he has also enjoyed a wonderful family life. He married Ruby Lee Cowan during his second year of college and they have spent the last forty years happily married. Dr. McLane also has two children, ~~4~~ Lisa born in 1966 and a son, John Phillip, who he and his wife adopted in 1976. I feel that Dr. John McLane was a great source of information and that his experiences should be shared as a part of history.