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### Pauline Noznick '68-Betty Bibbins '73

Pauline Noznick

Betty Bibbins

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**Pauline Noznick:** Right, this is June 2, 2012. I'm Pauline ...

**Betty Bibbins:** '18.

**PN:** 1918? Oh, excuse me. 19-, 20- I'm starting again. Okay, this is June 2, 2018. I'm Pauline Noznick, class of 20- 1968 and I am going to start the interview. Okay.

**BB:** And my name is Betty Brown Bibbins, MD. I'm the class of 1973. And I'm from, at this time, Cape Charles, Virginia.

**PN:** Okay. Now, my first question is why did you decide to come to Conn College?

**BB:** It was a very long history leading up to it. But I was born and raised in Portsmouth, Virginia. Never heard of Connecticut College in my life. When we took the PSATs and started receiving, after results were out, a number of information, folders, from schools all over the country. I didn't know where I wanted to go, other than my father had wanted me to go to Howard University. That's where he had attended. And so that was where my plan was, in my junior year. In my senior year of high school, my father passed, and so my mother was unable to afford Howard. I had a mentor who had said, "Well, while you're thinking of Howard, let's apply to some of these other schools, also." I hadn't heard back, positive or negative, from most of the schools. A few negatives, a few nothing. So I then went to Virginia Commonwealth University and Norfolk State University, each semester of my freshman year. Unbeknownst to me, Connecticut College had called and offered me a position. But my mother did not want me to leave home. So she never told me about it. So when I came home for a break, a holiday, I met-ran into my mentor, who said, "Aren't you so happy? Congratulations, I'm happy for you." That's it. Happy for what? And that's when he informed me that I had been admitted to Conn and I totally blew a gasket, a gasket, needless to say. And so I went and had a very in-depth conversation, one-way conversation with my mother. And she let me know that she just wanted me home, but at that time of my life, I really wanted to just get away. You know, Howard was in Washington, DC. To me, that was great. Anywhere other than Portsmouth, Virginia, was great for me. So I called school and basically asked, "Would you allow me to reapply for next year?" And that's when they informed me, "You don't have to reapply just come in September."

**PN:** So did they make you repeat the freshman year or? They gave you credit?

**BB:** So I transferred in.

**PN:** Fabulous.

**BB:** I transferred in.

**PN:** Okay, so you know, was there any reason why, you know, did you know anything about Connecticut College before that?

**BB:** Not a thing, other than, it was- it had offered me mostly scholarship. My mother had to pay some and she really fretted over and I planned on working every time- as much as I could, especially in summertime, to pay for it. But to continue the saga, the second semester of my sophomore year, my mother passed.

**PN:** Oh, no.

**BB:** And so I just was thinking this is just not meant to be. And I just, I left. Didn't take final exams or anything. So I was home in Virginia, and I was I was just trying to decide where am I going to work. Because I knew I couldn't afford school. I didn't have either parent. I was, at that point. 19 years old. And I knew I just need to get a job somewhere. What do I do? Where do I go? So before long, I got a call, you see I never did call Conn. I was just disappear- I was going to just disappear. I mean, there was nothing for me to call to discuss as far as I was concerned, I could not afford it. And partial scholarship I felt was all I was going to get, and plus my first semester here we will say my grades were not totally outstanding. And so I just said this was a loser all the way around. And I know I'm not going to- it was never meant to be a happy experience, but I'll move on. I received a call from Dean Jewell Plummer Cobb.

**PN:** Oh, I know.

**BB:** And she said she was calling to see how I was doing. And I said, essentially, okay, thank you for caring because she had always been a caring person when I was here. And long story short, she said, "Well, when are you coming back?" And I said, "It's not going to happen. We know it's not going to happen." So she said, "Everything's taken care of. When are you coming back?"

**PN:** Oh, that's wonderful.

**BB:** It was. And not only that, but they found me in Portsmouth, Virginia, really was Norfolk, Virginia, work for the summer, so ...

**PN:** They really wanted you.

**BB:** They want ...

**PN:** They believed in you.

**BB:** She found potential that really was not coming out an awful lot.

**PN:** Well, that's it. That's very important that someone believes that you can- can- you- you can do well. And at your age, it's- I think that's incredibly important.

**BB:** Right. And so that's why I wanted to participate in this oral history, because, to me, Conn College literally saved my life. And it gave me a future. And it is so much more than just an

education. It was and to this day, it is- it moves you as a human being. And so I came back. I had work study. So I lived in the library here and worked to make- kitchen in the cafeteria.

**PN:** Did you have any family members back in Virginia? They're- that you could live with?

**BB:** You're asking these questions.

**PN:** I'm just kind of curious.

**BB:** The saga continues again. In the three years I was here my father had passed my senior year of high school, my mother passed my sophomore year in college and then within the next three years, my mother's brother, my mother's sister, my mother's mother also passed.

**PN:** So you really didn't have anybody to kind of look over you or any fam- close family members- oftentimes, you know, family members will take someone like you in but you didn't have anything. So Conn became your family and ...

**BB:** You became my family. My home. That was my parents' home was where I went when I didn't have classes. And I had a boyfriend that- at this day he's my husband, and we've been married 45 years also. So we worked this together, even from a few

**PN:** You were lucky you had him.

**BB:** He was so perfect. We met just before I left Norfolk State to come here and it was just kind of, you know, well, maybe I'll date him now and then when I come home. But he was there through all of that.

**PN:** Now was Norfolk State a traditional black college?

**BB:** HBCU.

**PN:** Okay.

**BB:** Yes, okay.

**PN:** I kind of thought it might have been but oh, okay. So that's very interesting that was that a hard transition to make for you? I mean, Virginia Commonwealth wasn't?

**BB:** No, well ...

**PN:** I mean, when you transitioned ...

**BB:** To Conn?

**PN:** From a traditional Black school to here, because I understand sometimes traditional Black schools give you a little bit more help, and a little bit more nurturing, and that kind of thing.

**BB:** They would not have been prepared for me. I would have not been able to afford even the minimal tuition there.

**PN:** Okay.

**BB:** And so, because a majority, significant majority of the students there receive financial aid, so the resources are not there. HBCUs have whole budgets that are less than foundation here at Conn College.

**PN:** Okay, I just wondered because

**BB:** They- they try- we- HBCUs do as much as they can and there's a significant impact on the community. I just went- because I've- my parents may have prepared me for life in ways that they never anticipated by them, not knowing that we're going to be there. Both my mother and my father were civil rights activists in Portsmouth, Virginia. And so if when integration occurred in '63 '64, I was the first Black to go to all-white junior high school in the city. So I had more or less been alone and never had true friends in school. Because where I sat it was- no one would sit anywhere near me, no one would eat with me. And so I had been alone and I learned that it's not- it's nothing wrong with that. You- you- you have people who mean something to you- you have the rest of the world and you don't have to- it doesn't have to be an anger. But there needs to be a justice. Well, because you know, we had the Little Rock Nine. Certain people- the the one that I really admired was Elizabeth Beckford. The woman in the white dress who put- brought a beautiful new dress to wear in the first day of school and then because her parents didn't have a phone, didn't know that she wasn't supposed to go to school and she's standing there. Oh, she turned out just fine, however. You know what I mean? Still prepared for life. But the Black community was a very close community that really had a- on a daily basis engaged- took them home and educated them in our home. So, okay, sorry, this is all this is the era, this is the era we were living ...

**PN:** I'm glad I got you because Black history is big- well, not. Black history is American history. It's always been a very strong interest of mine. So, and the kids will say, Why are we having more Black history today? Well, every day I teach you Black history, every day is Black History Day. And every month is Black History Month, so. So no separate. Anyway. Sorry, I want to get back to you. Anyway. So you said your parents were civil rights act- I think this is going to go longer than half hour. Your your parents were civil rights activists, were they involved with Dr. King or the March on Washington, or any of that kind of thing?

**BB:** Not. No. They were focused on home. They believed in home. And so their focus was, do everything we can to help make Portsmouth, Virginia a better place to live for all.

**PN:** For all.

**BB:** For all, yeah, for all. And so it has allowed me to see what true politics were about. I mean, they would meet at various people's homes, including our home, to get the first Black member of the city council by how they discuss one shot voting, you could vote for three or four people, but

everybody would organize and make sure everyone knew just to vote for one person. And to make sure he got on that council. And so he got on, he ended up being mayor. And so, but long story, it learned- I learned politics and it is so sad in my pain today that the word politician means so negative, because I saw the beauty of truly working together for positive government that works with and for ...

**PN:** On the grass-

**BB:** on the grassroots level, getting up and going out, being sure to vote, be sure to get things organized, and- and be there no matter what.

**PN:** And to watch over the kids in the community and to make sure that they are taken care of.

**BB:** And it doesn't mean everything's going to be flowers, and- and birds flying and butterflies. Life is life. But thing is to have a good support system. And the world is never gonna love you. They don't have to. You just need a few people you can depend on and believe what you feel is right and then work towards it. And so, Conn helped me. It made me believe that even more just the way they welcomed me. Kept- they gave me the education I needed. Like that at times I was a challenge. I was a challenging student, I'm sure. But I mean, Dean Cobb especially was there. Dean Johnson was there. I know that in some classes, I didn't perform the way that I could and I know there's some faculty were saying you, kind of, were- why are they letting students like this there because they didn't try, some not a lot, but a couple, didn't try to hide it. Needless to say, I don't think they stayed too long. But you get the feeling. You know. You know.

**PN:** I've read- I've read a little bit about Dr. Cobb and her background. She's in Black history books. I've come across that a number of times.

**BB:** Highly intelligent, scientific woman, but with a heart of gold. She could be hard. Firm on you. Like I bet I did a few challenging things that, oh, I got called on her carpet. She didn't bite her tongue. But she was- it was tough love.

**PN:** But she was sort of like maybe even taking the part of your of your parents, right?

**BB:** She was there for me. She was there. I'm not gonna say just for me for any student, especially minority students, but any student that wanted or felt they needed her. She was there morning, noon or night. I mean, she had gotten word to me crack of dawn a couple of mornings that she had heard what I was doing the night before, and she wanted to talk to me first thing in the morning. She hadn't even left home yet. I went over had to go to her house to get reamed out, before she even went to the office. She did it very subtly, though. It was never ...

**PN:** And nobody knew about it.

**BB:** Yeah, no. And don't do it again.

**PN:** We had people in our community in Evanston, Illinois who were like that, who, you know, I mean, like our superintendent of schools, protective of certain people who are teaching that until they had it, until he had it. Then they were gone.

**BB:** So, but that's why I wanted to participate because Conn College not only provides an education, an outstanding education, but it develops the whole person. And with what I'm seeing going on today, it's just evolved even more to include the whole person in the process and not just book studies, but not only to learn something and be able to utilize it in your day to day life. And it's awesome.

**PN:** You couldn't say anything better about the College than that. That's fabulous. And you didn't have any idea. Okay, anything that surprised you, when you got here. And during your, you know, your your three or four years,

**BB:** I didn't know what to expect. I had a piece of paper that my mentor said, this is a good school for you to apply to. Apply to it. I went, "Okay." That was the totality of my interaction with Conn College. I had an interview in Northern Virginia by a graduate who was doing alumni interviews, and so I went to her place and was interviewed there and that's the only contact I had with anyone, anything related to Conn College before I contacted them back after I heard I was accepted and they said, "Come on."

**PN:** Okay, so you walked up here you've never seen the place before.

**BB:** Came up.

**PN:** Oh, my goodness.

**BB:** Greyhound bus. Got here.

**PN:** Isn't that something? Isn't that something? Okay, now what? I think where did you live? I think they want to talk to you about the dorm you were in.

**BB:** My first two years, Burdick House and then my last year Jane Addams. And so from those dorms, I have two friends that to this day ... we lost touch with each other for at least 25 years. And then we happen to bounce into each other and it picked up just like not a second had passed. And to this day one is here on campus and she's retiring soon. She had graduated, gone away, done other things, and then she's working here. And then one finished here, went to law school, MBA school, we lost track of each other forever. And then we reconnected and we're still talking at least once a week and everything.

**PN:** Okay, what was your residential experience or house community like? Was it ...

**BB:** Again I don't consider myself typical, but I don't consider myself that much atypical also because other minorities had other challenges also. But the dorms were welcoming. I mean, it's a group of young ladies we all second- (Yeah, yeah, some guys on the floor but didn't pay attention to them) but it was at that mode because I thought it was all women's and so my heart was

broken when I found that it had gone coed, because I just needed peace in my life at that time when I first came here, and it was you can tell that it was just a the difference. It's just a difference in the air literally out with the guys around but if just like okay, you know, those that are okay, okay, those that aren't ignore. But in the dorms, it was ... Okay, I had lived in dorms at Virginia Commonwealth, not at Norfolk State that was a commuter school, so it was dorm life. I connected with Cynthia who's currently my closest friend of all the people I've met throughout life. And we just hung together. Not not, you know, joined at the hip. She's a year behind me since I matriculated with '74, class of '74. I have more acquaintances in class of '74.

**PN:** I think that's typical. When people come as transfers.

**BB:** Yes. And- and so- and then my other friend, Debbie, is in the class of '75. So just, she came to the dorm. So we just kind of hung together.

**PN:** So then when you moved from- to it, that you all came together ...

**BB:** We all came together.

**PN:** You had a really good set of friends.

**BB:** Yes, yes. And we just hung. So it was it was life. Like I said, there were things going on in all of our lives that we didn't, we didn't have to be joined at the hip. When we were together, we were together. When we weren't, we weren't. I was kind of mentally in and out of it. Provided counseling to talk, to let me work my way through all of everything that was going on while I was here. And just help take care of me.

**PN:** So they really had a whole package for the minorities students

**BB:** Yeah, at that time, anyone who needs it, not just minorities.

**PN:** Yeah, yeah, but you- you were not- but you were not like out there on your own.

**BB:** No, no, no.

**PN:** Was your boyfriend in the area also?

**BB:** He was in Virginia so he could come up and visit maybe whenever he had break. He was in graduate school. So ...

**PN:** Oh, wow, so that was nice. You weren't completely ...

**BB:** No.

**PN:** Okay, now. What did you study in ...

**BB:** Zoology.



**PN:** Zoology? Okay.

**BB:** I was a biology major. I'd always wanted to be a biology major. I wanted something in healthcare, I just didn't know what. So when I left Conn, I was guessing I could do with this BA in zoology, but started working, collecting blood in a hospital. And the phlebotomist is they're called phlebotomists ... because one of the summer jobs I had was learning- was being a lab assistant. And they taught me how to collect blood. So I became a phlebotomist. And then I said, well, with the courses I have it at Conn, I could just take the nursing program, and they had an associate degree back at Norfolk State. And I already had credits there, plus a degree so I've got an associate degree nursing program, became an RN.

**PN:** So you didn't have to take a whole ...

**BB:** I didn't. I could work full time and just take nursing courses, one nursing course a semester.

**PN:** Were you working like as a nurse's aide or something like that I

**BB:** I still continued to be a phlebotomist, because the pay rate is about the same for nurses' aides, a phlebotomist. And I worked full time, took the one course a semester in nursing, because it's usually a six to eight hour credit course. And- and nursing. Then when I got the associate degree, I became a staff nurse, and then started working at Hampton University on my bachelor's degree.

**PN:** Your second bachelor's.

**BB:** My second, but yeah, BA in zoology then BSN,

**PN:** A degreed nurse.

**BB:** Correct. Yeah.

**PN:** Which is a bigger I think on a much higher level.

**BB:** Yeah. And so once I became- got- received my BSN, then since I had two years of nursing experience while working on the BSN, I started teaching at Norfolk General Hospital School of Nursing and then went back to Norfolk State on the faculty.

**PN:** Oh, for heaven's sake, and how old were you then?

**BB:** I'd never stopped school. How- it had to be, let's see, the two late 20s.

**PN:** That's a pretty big accomplishment to have two bachelor's degrees and a master's degree in that amount of time.

**BB:** Associate's. Well, two bachelors and an associate degree. But I was working on a master's in nursing because I wanted to do more. And honestly, I went to Hampton Institute. They had started a masters in gerontology nursing. I didn't like gerontology, but it was the only master's in nursing around. So I figured I'd at least start there and I wanted to go maybe back to Medical College of Virginia, but that was all the way on the other side of the state. And then they opened up a medical school in practically our backyard, Eastern Virginia Medical School. So out of frustration, I applied expecting not to be admitted and lo and behold, here we are, and I did it out of pure frustration.

**PN:** So were you married at this point?

**BB:** I was married. My husband was working there. He had his master's in genetics. And he was working with Howard and Georgeanna Seager Jones, when they developed- did in-vitro fertilization. The first in-vitro baby in the country was at Eastern Virginia Medical School and my husband worked on that. And so he had his master's and so he- while I went back to medical school, he started working on his doctorate in biomedical sciences, in genetics and anthropology.

**PN:** So you didn't have any children yet?

**BB:** Yeah. Not then. A child nine years later.

**PN:** Because you were taking care of all of this. Now, they kind of want to know if you had any memories of classes, professors here at Conn that kind of stood out in your major or whatever,

**BB:** Dr. Fell in Zoology, and there's an anthropologist. I am sorry, I didn't look up names before I came. But Dr. Fell, I remember he was unique. He was special and that was- and he's only when I think of other than Dr. Cobb, who- she- she to me is Conn College personified. And Dr. Johnson, Dean Johnson helped a lot.

**PN:** Yeah, I've heard that a lot of people have spoken, you know, over the years about Dr. Johnson and how important she was to them.

**BB:** Those were the two and there were a few other people, but those were the two that always coordinated to make sure that I survived. That's basically what it boiled down.

**PN:** Okay, so let's see now where do you live now?

**BB:** Cape Charles, Virginia. After medical school, went to Texas for residency.

**PN:** Where were you in Texas?

**BB:** Galveston, University of Texas Galveston. And then ...

**PN:** Did you have to airlift people into Memorial Hermann from there? I've seen ...

**BB:** It goes by, right? We didn't have, because you took care of any ...

**PN:** You were a level one trauma center?

**BB:** That we took care of everything we had to. So, and my husband completed his doctorate. Then ...

**PN:** In Virginia?

**BB:** Well, he completed it at UTMB, also.

**PN:** In Texas.

**BB:** When I went to do residency, he was still working on it. So he did his research at Texas but still got a degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School in Old Dominion. So then we before I finished residency, I matched with US Public Health Service. They paid for my medical school. And so I matched with a community health center in Louisville, Kentucky. I worked at that health center for four years. My husband got a postgraduate at University of Louisville, and then started working on the faculty at Kentucky State University. We stayed- ended up staying in Louisville for 18 years. And the two years that Louisville, 16 years at Kentucky State where he rose up to be interim president of the university and then when he stepped down from that he received an offer from Ohio University to come be dean of the campus.

**PN:** At Ohio University?

**BB:** At Ohio University.

**PN:** That's pretty cool.

**BB:** We moved to Ohio. So my husband has retired about 10 years ago now. So the past few years I, well, 20 years ago, I've been starting a consulting firm to help with documentation, fraud and abuse in healthcare and physicians documenting. That kind of got my attention and it was something that I just felt very comfortable with.

**PN:** So you've mentioned, you know, you've been in the public health ...

**BB:** Well I was in public health for a number- for about four years and then I opened a private practice. I know I skipped over and then. And in Louisville ...

**PN:** Louisville. Okay.

**BB:** And then I stayed there the whole 16, well, really, by that time, it was 14 years in private practice. And then fraud and abuse started come along in the mid 90s, 1990s. And I had done some work with that and I had some questions about it, so I ended up starting working with an organization that was just starting then to work with physicians in documentation of health care. So I started one day a week just working with them and it evolved into being- growing with that company and becoming a senior vice president with them, a national company.

**PN:** Now what- what- what- what kind of a practice in internal medicine?

**BB:** OBGYN.

**PN:** Oh, that's right. Oh, so you're catching the baby.

**BB:** Yeah, I'm catching the babies. And so then the more I did consulting, the more I just phased in the gynecology, also, only so that I wouldn't have the erratic hours of OB. And so then I phased out of the practice of medicine into consulting. And then after a few years, I opened my own consulting company. And that's what I did for the last, like, 19 years. And so finally, one year ago, I retired.

**PN:** Now I have one question I kind of forgot about it. Were you involved with any groups or activities that were important to you while you were still at Conn?

**BB:** There are a couple. One of the ones that really sticks in my mind the Connchords?

**PN:** Were you in the Connchords? Oh, cool.

**BB:** I was in the Connchords. And that was- that was the main thing other than- because I would have work-study. I worked in the library and in the cafeteria. And so that took up most of my free time other than Connchords.

**PN:** Well, yeah. And then studying.

**BB:** And studying, detailed studying. Right.

**PN:** Right. Right. And then I think you kind of already answered what was the campus climate like, while you were here,

**BB:** Transition, we had the- the year where students- we, I'm not going to say strike, but where we didn't have exams, we had honors-, take honor tests. And it was a year where we just quietly shut down the campus for a short period of time. And so it was ...

**PN:** What was the reason for that?

**BB:** Oh, it was just change. This- that's a bit hard for me because I was not an active participant in a lot of things. I was in survival mode. So honestly, I mean, if I think about it, I'm sure I can remember it, but this is the first time I'm thinking about that and that we- it was students just across the country were standing up and sitting down.

**PN:** Yeah, I noticed. You know, when I was here in the six- in the 60s, it was- it's very different now. It's very, very different. And there was- there were only a few minorities here and- and- so that was the transition from that old Conn College to more of what it is today. And Dr. Cobb obviously was instrumental in that transition.

**BB:** The whole campus was in change, in flux

**PN:** OK, now, I think you've all talked about your life after Conn. Do you have anything more you want to tell me about that? How did you get into- how did you, like, change from delivering babies to getting into the fraud. Did you experience any fraudulent behaviors in your practice, or ...

**BB:** Not in the practice. The hospitals were trying- the hospitals were telling us what to document and being an OBGYN every single time you go in and check in at the doctor's lounge and let them know that you are in the hospital by flicking the light on, but they wouldn't let you see your patients until they had medical records people there saying "Sign this ..."

**PN:** I remember that

**BB:** "Write this. Write that. Write this." Everything. Why? And no one ever would say, other than "Oh, you just need to complete the form." So then, long story short, after a while I started to ask them "Why?" and so major, after being kicked around, no answer, I said, "No, this is not- not going to do this, okay?" So I just kind of did my own little sit-in in the hospital administrator's office, so finally he said that when you put a post, the administrator needless to say didn't tell me, but someone else heard me asking questions came and put a little ditty in my ear, when you just put the H and H, hemoglobin and hematocrit, of a patient after delivering, if it drops a certain amount, the government would just start to delineate what needed to be in charts and they had broad definitions. And a drop of hemoglobin of more than a gram or two would just signify anemia, and anemia was- is considered a condition that needs extra care, takes resources, takes extra time, so you get greater compensation for it. But 100% of women who have babies drop their H and H, so the hospital was getting double, if not triple the reimbursement just by me putting in my H and H post-delivery. I guess the laws were very general then, okay? Anemia didn't happen, anemia post-partum, just anemia did. And a post-op anemia, which was a major complication, was a drop in the H and H. So they didn't delineate that and 100% of women, just about, who have babies drop their H and H.

**PN:** That was income for them.

**BB:** That was significant income for them. And so I sort of said, "Why are you doing this?" At that time they would allow the physician to just put lab results and then the hospital coders would put the diagnosis.

**PN:** Okay.

**BB:** And so they would be the ones, see- I would never say "post-op acute blood anemia." But they would. Just because I put the H and H, pre-delivery H and H and post-delivery H and H. They could put the title on. So then they started making the physicians put the diagnosis on explicitly, but then they started defining, not by the way of medicine but by the way of other criteria, what a diagnosis was. So physicians are learning how to diagnose one way in medical school but were required to document in a completely different way in order to receive

appropriate recognition of care provided. And the two just didn't jib. So the government said, "Anything you didn't do that we paid you to do is called fraud or abuse: fraud when you do it intentionally, abuse when you don't take the time to do it right. You have to learn our way. I don't care what you learned in medical school." So that's where some of the beginning- I know some say that's not it, but that's the gist of it. In ten seconds, that's the gist of it. You've got to do what they say you have to do, no matter what you've been taught. So as that started totally annoying me more than anything and I just love the detail. And this was what started coming- I love history and I never knew this. I love the detail and so it started clicking with me. I could visualize what they were saying and I could see what they were saying and why. And I could also see how we were not being taught in medical school. So my business was to work with attending physicians to help them to document appropriately and to help them to understand why they have to do something that they've never been taught in their lives to do and feel comfortable doing it because it's the way of the world.

**PN:** But you probably ran into, you know, the hospital administrators who weren't too interested in having you ...

**BB:** When they didn't understand, they weren't interested. When they understood, they were interested, but until I had more physicians telling me I was causing them to do things that weren't right because they didn't understand, "This is what I've been doing my whole life. Why do I have to change?" Because this is what the government says has to ...

**PN:** Yeah, but wouldn't the hospital get unhappy because they weren't going to be able to get as much money?

**BB:** Right, the administrators wanted ...

**PN:** Yeah, to keep it the way it was

**BB:** Well, they changed those rules. They started taking money back. One thing that the government can do, they can say "This is the way you do it" or "This is what should be done." But then they may come back days, weeks, months, years later with a clarification of what they meant and if their clarification is not what your interpretation was, then they can say you were fraudulent and they're going to take back all the money that they gave you.

**PN:** Wow.

**BB:** So that's what's been going on now quietly and that they keep saying the physician's been doing this and they are overprescribing or ... They're doing what we've been taught in medical school. It does not go along with the definition of what Medicare, Medicaid, the government feels healthcare should be doing.

**PN:** So healthcare's driven by basically more the administra-, you know, the Medicare, Medicaid, and insurance than it is by actual medical practice.

**BB:** There we are.

**PN:** Okay.

**BB:** That's how we have the conflict we have today between Medicare, Medicaid expansion, etc.

**PN:** Obamacare.

**BB:** Who's paying for it? I mean, everyone's going to need it. There's no ifs, ands, or buts. You may not need it today, but as soon as you trip, soon as you fall, soon as you get old. And the average person will be living into their 80s and 90s. And they're talking about if we steal some meds we can all live to 100, 120 years old in this, you know, generation. There's more chronic diseases evolved: high blood pressure, diabetes. It's just the different body systems start slowly aging out and slowing down and becoming dysfunctional. These chronic diseases are going to happen. And think about it. HIV used to be an acute killer and now that's just a chronic disease. Diabetes, when you look back in the 1920s, that was an acute killer. Now it's a chronic disease. All these diseases that used to kill in a short period of time, now people can live 5, 10, 15, 20 ... How long has Magic Johnson been alive now?

**PN:** Oh, since he was diagnosed? Oh God, that's a long time.

**BB:** 30 years? Okay? It's a chronic disease and he still doesn't have- not positive- but if he stops taking his meds, guess what's going to happen? Okay? So these types of things is the conflict between expenses and who's going to pay for it. That's what the big discussion is about. Everybody's going to need it, but who's going to pay for it is the discussion. It's things like that that are happening.

**PN:** Okay, yeah, okay. So your love of history kind of popped ...

**BB:** And I didn't even know I had a love of history ...

**PN:** That didn't seem here ...

**BB:** And the detail, a lot of detail.

**PN:** Okay, we talked about keeping in touch, with your classmates, which you have done with a few of them. Okay, have you come back to Conn to share any of your insights about healthcare or any of those things ...

**BB:** No.

**PN:** talk about healthcare professions?

**BB:** Now that I'm retired, I have time. One year ago, I was on the road three to five days a week. My- my clients, I had no clients in Virginia. My clients were everywhere else in the country and so I've traveled everywhere from Hawaii to Alaska, throughout at least twenty of the states and had clients all over the country. So, now I actually have time.

**PN:** To maybe do that ...

**BB:** to start giving back more.

**PN:** More. Probably a lot of places, a lot of ways, to give back more. Okay, thinking about the College today, is there anything from your experience that you wish students today could have? That sounds like a big question.

**BB:** It is a big question. From what I see

**PN:** Before we get into this, about your own children ...

**BB:** I have a son, one son.

**PN:** One son? And is he ...

**BB:** 36 years old.

**PN:** Okay, a couple of years older than mine. Is he in the medical field as well?

**BB:** No, when he was a young child, I kept him with me a lot, okay? And so, in fact, he would get a ride, the school bus to my office and have a snack in my office, but he saw me going and coming quite a bit. he said, "Mom, you work too hard." And so he made it clear quite early that medicine was not for him, but he fell in love with cars, so he went and got his associate degree at Nashville Auto Diesel College. He works on cars and he is now a manager of parts and service and he's thinking about going into IT because he loves cars and he loves computers and working with cars puts both of them together. Now he's ready to do some things in IT.

**PN:** When you have a job you love you will never work a day in your life. That's obviously for him.

**BB:** That's it. And he's going off in a couple new areas. He's identified the evolution of what's going on in automotive industry along with IT. He has some thoughts.

**PN:** Do you have any grandchild?

**BB:** Not yet, he's getting married ...

**PN:** O wow.

**BB:** next year.

**PN:** Oh, you're going to have a big celebration. Oh, how wonderful. Oh, that's wonderful, okay. And, okay, but what- what do you think that, is missing, or could be added to education because people say these kids aren't the same, they don't have the same values. What do you think about



that, with, you know, some of these students and some of these issues, maybe here, on the news, that you might have some opinion or some suggestions about, these kind of lost kids who could have been you.

**BB:** It could have been ...

**PN:** It could have been you. You know, these children who felt like they were isolated or whatever, young people they go out and they do something horrible. I mean

**BB:** Taking a gun to oneself or something like that

**PN:** Or even taking your gun on other people, hurting somebody else. I mean, what do you say about that, because you kind of walked those steps yourself.

**BB:** It hurts my heart whenever I hear because that's the first thing that goes through my mind because that could have been me. And I- I'm- I feel so badly that there are no resources or minimal resources because everything is stretched so thin. I mean, everyone's arguing about, oh, less taxes, less taxes. I wonder if people really understand what taxes go to. They go to the resources. Everybody doesn't have everything and no- everyone can't afford everything, but if you have enough to share, at least part of income, i.e. through taxes to help make life a little better, it would be better for everybody, not just for the ones directly impacted, but for the whole community, and [END]