

Interview with Arlene Hartford  
Interviewer: Patricia Pinto da Silva

Transcribed by Amy Wilson Sanger  
Duration of recording: 01:32:45

START track 1001

PPDS All right! I'm testing this out. Today is October twenty-first. And I'm just going to see if this thing is picking up both of our voices.

AH OK.

END track 1001

START Track 1002

PPDS I turn it on, and again, it was the...today's the twenty-first of October. It's a Saturday at around one o'clock.

AH All right.

PPDS And your full name is...Arlene Hartford?

AH Well, it's Alice Arlene, but everyone—I got by Arlene.

PPDS OK.

AH I don't know why they called me Alice. I never went by it, so.

PPDS Not from the beginning.

AH Not from the beginning. Not even when I was little.

PPDS Huh. Was it a family name, Alice, or was it just name you mom liked.

AH Just picked it up somewhere.[laughter] I don't know. But I always asked my mother why they called me Alice if they wasn't going to call me Alice.

PPDS Yeah.

AH And she said I don't know.

PPDS Is Arlene a family name?

AH Nope.

PPDS No. And so, will you tell me a little bit about... your life here? Like, were you born in the area?

AH I was born in Harrington. 1938. I had one sister, three brothers, older. I have one sister, one brother still living.

PPDS You're the youngest.

AH I'm the baby.

PPDS three brothers.

AH Yuh. I had three brothers. Two of them passed away.

PPDS Okay.

AH My mother passed away when she was 52 years old.

PPDS That's pretty young.

AH She's been dead forty six years.

PPDS That's a long time.

AH My....oh, my husband came from Glumare Farms, [? 00:01:35] right next town, to Harrington. And met in '53. Got married in '55.

PPDS Did you go to high school together?

AH I went to high school for a year, but...uh...my mother and father were divorced and I had no ways and means of... it was, um...probably three to four miles to walk to high school. And in the winter time I just....couldn't do it. There was just no way.

PPDS There was no school bus.

AH And a couple of years later they had a bus. But I couldn't make it, so. This is where I ended up. I mean, I'm—I'm happy with my life.

PPDS So, you went to a...grade school in the town where you lived.

AH Yes. Right in Harrington.

PPDS And your brothers and sisters went to the same school?

AH Yes. They all went to—when we went to school, it sounds kind of corny right now, but we had a one room school house.

PPDS Right.

AH We had nine grades. And we all was born and brought up that way. And none of them really went on to school. My brother served in the service. My, next to my oldest...

PPDS Did he go to...did he serve abroad?

AH Did he what?

PPDS Did he serve abroad? Did he go...uh--

AH He was in WWII.

PPDS He was in Korea? Or in...

AH He was in the Phillipines. I do remember that.

PPDS All right. Okay.

AH I was all of about probably, five years old--

PPDS Oh, OK.

AH --something like that, so, kind of hard to—

PPDS Keep track of all that.

AH Yeah.

PPDS So, he was quite a lot older than you.

AH Ah....yeah. He...

PPDS Maybe fifteen years....

AH Yeah, he was in his seventies when he passed away, so, and he's been quite a few years, so. Yeah, he was about... Well, of course as I said I had younger brother and a sister, and they're both older than I am, so.

PPDS Right... and the...did they also have the same trouble getting to school as you did?

AH Yuh. Yes.

PPDS So, their schooling probably stopped after eleven...after they left that one room school house?

AH well, yes. Both of my brothers, my brother when he went in the service, they was both on the railroad. They worked for the railroad. So, basically they had really good jobs. Because they were retired from the railroad, so they had a –

PPDS A retirement, and a pension...

AH Yes. They really had good pensions.

PPDS And what does that mean, working for the railroad? It was a company? What railroad is that around here.

AH Maine Central.

PPDS Maine Central. Okay. And it goes to...

AH Well, it used to.

PPDS Right...

AH It used to go all the way from Bristol County right through to Callas. [X? 00:04:44]

PPDS Okay....

AH But just disintegrated in the last few years, you know. And I lived on the side of a railroad track and the train went by and burnt coal, you know. You could see all the black smoke, and I missed it once I moved out. I really missed listening and hearing it.

PPDS 'Cause it had a whistle?

AH Oh, wow. Loud. But you get used to it.

PPDS Yeah, I just was at the Cog Railroad in New Hampshire? They have an old one that still stands. And I just saw what you were talking about. That billow of black smoke. And the sound of the whistle, and the sound of the engine.

AH Yeah. I used to like to ride the train.

PPDS Yeah... that's good...

AH The old fashioned ones.

PPDS And um...you said your parents were divorced. Were they...how old were you when they were divorced?

AH Five.

PPDS Five.

AH Right around five. But he—my father was on the rail—sorry, my father was on the lakes.

PPDS What does that mean?

AH It means he was on a big boat somewhere in the, on the water somewhere.

PPDS Like, on the Great Lakes?

AH Like, well, yeah. Down in Florida, or off Florida.

PPDS Oh, all right.

AH And , so, I never really saw him.

PPDS But he was a long shore man, or a...fisherman?

AH No, it was a....

PPDS Commercial...

AH Some kind of a maybe like a, not a service type but.. I really don't know what he did.

PPDS So he wasn't really around.

AH No! My mother brought up.. the last three of us. She brought us up by working in the sardine factory.

PPDS Which sardine factory was that?

AH Milbridge.

PPDS Milbridge, which is no longer around?

AH No. Nope. It was Addison, and then Milbridge.

PPDS And did, did a lot of people you knew, did their parents also work at that factory?

AH Well...most of them had fathers. And the mothers didn't work.

PPDS Oh....

AH Some did, some didn't. But most of them didn't, you know, because they had fathers that provided for them. But we had—down there you have a blueberry industry. And a lot of people work in the blueberry factories and they buy blueberries and different things like that. And that's what my friends' fathers did.

PPDS What the fathers did. And the mothers were stay-at-home moms?

AH Yeah. Yeah...the nature of the...and working... and like I say, my mother and my father was divorced, and she just went on, and took care of us, and we ate well. And we was clothed well. And I don't know how she did it. I really and truly—

PPDS 'Cause that's a lot of kids. She had five children.

AH Working in a sardine factory.

PPDS Right.

AH And she'd come home at night, have a cup of tea, go to bed and probably sleep a couple hours and have to go right back. 'Cause back then they had cooked fish.

PPDS What does that mean?

AH That means that they cooked them before they processed them.

PPSD So they cut them?

AH I did work in Addison Factory, cooked fish, when I was seventeen.

PPDS And...the way that you just did that with your hands it looked like you were using a scissors. Did they used to do it with a scissors?

OVERLAPPING of voices. Laughter.

AH You had to...

PPDS I could tell just by the way you

AH head off... you had to stay there until they were all done. You couldn't leave those overnight like you can down here.

PPDS Oh, right...

AH You couldn't leave them overnight.

PPDS 'Cause they would start to soften, or....

AH I don't really know, but they just

PPDS Just couldn't do it.

AH We did 'em and sometimes it might be one o'clock in the morning. So, she had a hard life, and I know why she passed away so young, because she worked herself to death, I think.

PPDS Was there time to go to church? Was it a religious family?

AH She didn't have no way. She did when she young, before—when she was at home with her parents, yes, they were very...they had to go to church. That was Biel's Island.

PPDS Oh, that was on Biel's Island.

AH Very, very religious.

PPDS Wow. Do you remember your grandparents?

AH yes, I do. I remember my grandmother and my step-grandfather, but I don't remember my real grandfather.

PPDS He passed away?

AH I guess he did when my mother was younger. So, her stepfather, stepfather brought 'em up.

AH And were they involved in fishing or... at all? Processing, or....are far you can remember?

AH Mostly probably clamming. That's about what they used to do down on Beil's Island. Lobsterfish and clam.

PPDS And then they moved off the island?

AH No, they—they.... Her parents were-- died on the island.

PPDS OK

AH We used to go down and visit them, but there was no bridge. We used to have to go over on the ferry. And they didn't build that bridge until... since I think it was in the '50's. That they built that bridge cross there, so it's not an island anymore. It's just Beil's.

PPDS It's just Beil's. They should change the name on the map.

AH Well, it was ...Beil's.

PPSD So, I guess that means your mother moved from the island.

AH Yes, well, she married a guy from Harrington. So that's where I was born and brought up.

PPDS Right. And what was there to do for fun when you were growing up?

AH Fun?

PPDS Yeah.

AH Well, we didn't have TV. We had radio. And we liked to go outdoor and play. Which you don't see too much of that anymore.

PPDS Of people going outside to play?

AH Yeah. Kids. Too much computer, and TV. Satellite.

PPDS So people seem to stay indoors?

AH I think they do. I really do. I think it's a shame that the kids don't get outdoors, and I think that's why there's so much sickness.

PPDS And is that affecting, sort of, the culture around here?

AH Well, I – I don't know. Probably does. But, I—I speak of this a lot, with-- to my husband, not seeing children outdoor playing like we used to. My mother used to have to almost make us come in at night, because we liked to stay outdoor and play.

PPDS Is it because, do you think its because there's less kids around?

AH No, I think it's too much computer. Too much computer, too much TV. Too many couch potatoes.

PPDS Too many couch potatoes. And when you mean too many people are getting sick—

AH I think because you gotta go out and get fresh air.

PPDS Yeah. And you know, I mean are there, is that something you see a lot around here? People not feeling well?



AH Well, it's just the idea that people do, but—I mean yeah, a lot of people get colds and everything. I never had a cold when I was child.

PPDS It's such a beautiful area, I was driving....

AH And if you did, you went out just the same.

PPDS Right.

AH Now they snuffle.

PPDS And they're inside. Do you...do you have kids?

AH I have one child. She's in Massachusetts.

PPDS Oh....you mentioned that. that's right. All right.

AH Yeah. I have one child, two grand-children and I have., well, Ryan—he's twenty-six. He's married. Been married a couple of years.

PPDS That's your grand-child.

AH Yuh. And he, they live with us. He's Grampy's boy. And my grand-daughter, she lives in Middlebury with her parents. My son-in-law is a computer IT. My daughter works for Bank of America as a loan...originator. My grand-daughter goes to college in Worcester. State. And she works for a lawyer.

PPDS And your...does the grandson that lives here, does he...

AH He's a lobster fisherman.

PPDS A lobster fisherman.

AH And so's his wife. A sternman, I should say.

PPDS She's the—they work together?

AH Nope. No. They prefer to--

PPDS Oh, OK.

AH This is her first year.

PPDS All right.

AH My grand-son, well—he worked Stintson’s for a while and then he...it’s too hot for him. He don’t like inside work, anyway. And then he went and worked for a place called.... Called Broom, ah, Brooms....Broomsticks. Broomsticks? In Franklin. They make...ah...this is a cake tester.

PPDS All right. That’s a cake tester?

AH Ah, you break’em off.

PPDS Oh. Ok.

AH One at a time.

PPDS I see.

AH It has a ribbon. It’s s’posed to have a ribbon around it.

PPDS That’s pretty. It looks like an old style broom.

AH Yuh. Well they do like, they do make brooms to sweep the cobwebs and different things like that. They make a lot of stuff which is all brooms, broomsticks.

PPDS So that’s a local company.

AH It’s over in Franklin. But they had to lay him off ‘cause he wasn’t getting any orders.

PPDS OK...

AH So, he got laid off so he decided to go sternman.

PPDS OK, so they’re both sternmen.

AH Yuh.

PPDS Ok. Um...so does that mean that at some point he’ll be able to be a...his own—

AH Nah, I doubt that it ever comes to that. I think he’ll always be a sternman. I don’t think he’ll ever do it himself. It’s hard to get into lobsterfishing now.

PPDS Because of the rules?

AH Well, yes, that and they don’t give out that many licenses.

PPDS Right...

AH You have to go through quite a lot, I think, to get into it.

PPDS Right....

AH And it's expensive.

PPDS It's expensive to get in.

AH Yeah. Well, it's expensive to be one. Unless you been there. You know. A while ago, or years ago, if you got all the you know, had everything, passed down to you or something else, you know what I mean?

PPDS Yeah...

AH A lot of people, the man pass their boat gearing along to their sons, you know. So, he would never be able—what I mean, do you realize what a lobster boat costs? Too much!

PPDS Too much

AH Too much.

PPDS And the, the traps, and the—

AH Oh, yes.

PPDS ...if you're starting from scratch.

AH Oh, yes.

PPDS So the regulations or whatever the...you know, the permits is one part of the story—

AH Mmm...

PPDS But the other part of the story—

AH Yeah. The other part is too expensive.

PPDS But in a lot of you—do you—is your sense that a lot of people take out loans? Bank loans, for that sort of thing?

AH Yeah, they—yeah. That's what they usually do around here. Yeah. But you've... you got to be in the right...category or whatever you want to, you know, which like, you got to have good—good credit. And you've got to be stabilized enough so that they know that you're going to pay it back.

PPDS Right. You have know that you're going to be able to make those payments.

AH I don't think my grandson would ever want to get into it anyway, no. Not right in deep.

PPDS This gives him a little more...flexibility.

AH When you come home you can leave the worries to your boss.

PPDS That's right. So, it has its advantages. And um... there's this perception, where I am that people who lobster-fish make a lot of money.

AH They can. Yes, they can. They can, they can have a year that they make real good money. And they can have a year that they break the bank, you know.

PPDS Right...

AH I mean, it's just like any business.

PPDS Right...

AH I... I don't really... I don't really know of anyone around here that's really...well, probably do know someone's gone bankrupt, but...I think it's what you put into it, that's what you get.

PPDS Right...

AH And you have to put a lot into it.

PPDS And what about the canneries? Your cannery work started in Milbridge when you were seventeen?

AH No, I worked in Addison when I was seventeen, and I worked in Milbridge for a little while—

PPDS Oh, right....Addison, I know where Addison is. There's a pumping station in Addison. I mean, there's a drop off point for herrings, sardines in Addison. I think. I didn't bring my map. But, there was a cannery there?

AH Um-hm.

PPDS But not anymore.

AH Addison, Addison Packing. I think that's what it was. No, that hasn't been there for years.

PPDS So, a lot of these canneries closed down.

AH Ah, yeah. In fact Brayes and Millbridge closed up just a few years back. And there was a Wyman's that was in Millbridge That's the one that I worked in. I didn't—course, I could... when we left Plummy Falls, we went to Ellsworth. Pete's worked at Marston's Chevrolet. My husband. He was a Carbert specialist. They sent him to school in Massachusetts.

PPDS All right...

AH And—

PPDS Is that what he meant when I saw him at the door and he said “ I used to work at Stenson's in the '70's, but I left and now I'm back.”?

AH No, he, we—he worked for Morrison's, 1961.

PPDS Morrison's is a ...another...

AH Chevrolet. Morrison's Chevrolet.

PPDS OK.

AH And they used to have Carberts. Chevrolet Carberts.

PPDS What's a Carbert?

AH It's a little small....ah, car.

PPDS Oh, Ok.

AH Compact. But they don't make them anymore. So, back—that's what he did, we worked on Carberts. And he went to school in....Oh, I can't think of the name of it now....but anyway, that's where he went to school. Then we kind of moved down this way, and we settled in Prospect Harbor for... in 1967.

PPDS So that's....

AH And that started—the Stintsons had a store. A little store. It isn't there now. But it was.

PPDS What did it sell?

AH It sold groceries, beer, cigarettes, sardines.

PPDS Sardines to eat? Like, canned sardines?

AH Oh yeah. Yeah. And um... oh, I don't know, um, bolts and screws...

PPDS Like a little general store...

AH You name it, they had everything. It was a variety store. So, I went to work for that woman that was running that for a couple of years, and...we lived right up there on the hill. And we watched the factory, the old factory when it burned.

PPDS Oh, it burned down. When was that?

AH That was May. Of...May of sixty--...[long pause]

PPDS Oh wow, how neat! What an amazing photograph. "Prospect Harbor, Stinson's Canning Company. Destroyed by fire, May 8, 1968." This one looks like the one in Rockland. I mean, not that I've seen so many, but the bell fast and also Bath. Because the cannery now, I guess it's a modern building—

AH Yeah. They're--

PPDS It doesn't look like this. I should have known it was burned down.

AH And they're doing something else to it.

PPDS And then What was the smokestack for? That was where it was all—

AH Well, that's what they have as a boiler now. But. Back then, they had that smokestack. I don't know what they burned in it. I really couldn't tell you.

PPDS Yeah.

AH I really never thought about it, to tell you the truth. It was just an everyday thing to me.

PPDS Yeah. Al said something yesterday; he either said it was coal or wood fired. He was talking about how much water it took, to cook stuff.

AH If my husband was here he could answer a lot of your questions. He took off on me. [laughter]

PPDS That was nice. That was nice for us to be on our own.

AH but when they built the new one, is one I started. I went back. I went to work. There. And that was in, well that was May, and I think they had that up. I can't remember when they started there, but I went back, I went to work there—

PPDS And it was pretty much...

AH And I packed. For a long...many years.

PPDS That's what I saw the ladies doing yesterday, which was taking the already sardines and putting them in the cans.

AH Well, we used to have to cut 'em by hand!

PPDS With scissors.

AH With scissors!

PPDS I don't believe it.

AH I haven't got too many fingers that's got feelings.

PPDS Oh, really?

AH Because my fingers would get—

PPDS Ohhh, no.

AH Well anyway, we had not anything like that. The table that I had down by my station, right now, is what we used to have. And fish come up on a belt, stood like this.

PPDS You stood, right?

AH Yeah. Well, you could sit if you wanted...

PPDS You could?

AH ...but I couldn't. And the belt on the bottom belt, fish came in. All cut. And on the, I mean that-- whole fish. And then on the second belt up, all the cans. So you had to pull the fish out on the table, and you had a tray here, and you take the cans. And there's a hundred cans to a case. And you had pickup boys. They'd come along and they'd pick'em up. Take'em down to the steam boxes.

PPDS And you would take that fish that you—that would come off that top, um...

AH Off the belt?

PPDS Off the belt. And—

AH And cut the tails off.

PPDS and then put it in the can.

AH Put it in the can.

PPDS And how many fish would fit in a can?

AH You—anywhere from—[DOG BARKING] Yes, yes. Where's your father? Ah, anyway, HEY! Shh. Anywhere from eight—four to, well, I packed sixteen. Double rows. What they call double rows.

PPDS In can like the size we saw yesterday?

AH Yeah.

PPDS There would be sixteen in there.

AH Yeah.

PPDS But now they only fit four?

AH See, they-- you know, they can't cut anything different than a five, on their machines.

PPDS What's a five? Five inches?

AH No, five fish.

PPDS Oh, five fish. So the fish that you were getting before were a lot smaller?

AH We could, we could—see they brought the boats right into the loft down there. And we, what they call double rows, it was only about that long, I mean—

PPDS Tiny little fish, like flanges? Like that?

AH Yeah.

PPDS So you would fit a whole bunch of them in a can....

AH Yeah.

PPDS ... and now—

AH Yeah. Up to sixteen.

PPDS ...totally different. And did, um, did the work that you were doing then, was it quite different from what you're doing now?



AH Yeah. It was. It was quite different. Everything was....quite different. [laughter]

PPDS How was it different?

Ah I loved it then. Well, I don't know. You could, ah, back when those smokers, I mean, you could smoke right in the factory, just anyway you wanted to go.

PPDS Smoke, like cigarettes?

AH Oh, yeah. Yeah. In fact we've had bosses, one of them you could smell him coming, cause he smoked a pipe and you always knew when he was coming up behind you, 'cause you could smell his pipe.

PPDS That's good. So he couldn't sneak up on you.

AH we could take a break anytime we wanted. You didn't have to wait for breaks like we do now.

PPDS Now the breaks are timed?

AH Yes.

PPDS And everybody has to—

AH Yeah. Eight o'clock. Ten minutes of ten. Lunch, usually at 11:30. This is usually. One, one-thirty.

PPDS And that's because if you walked away the stuff wouldn't keep moving through and there'd be nobody to fill it.

AH Now.

PPDS Right. You can't—

AH Back then—

PPDS It won't wait for you.

AH ...you was on your own table.

PPDS You were on your own table?

AH Um-hm.

PPDS So, was it a lot less automated? A lot less machinery.

AH Yes.

PPDS 'Cause, yesterday when I walked, I must say one thing that I noticed was how loud it was.

AH Well, it—it used to be louder.

PPDS Oh, it used to be louder.

AH The ceilings machines used to be awful loud. You couldn't stand outside of—it'd thump [clap], thump [clap], thump [clap]. All the time. And course we had—it was in a different room but you could still hear it all the time, so. And they had people, you know, standing there feeding the cans into the machines. Course they do now too. But it's a lot different.

PPDS So, you couldn't sort of talk to the person you were standing next to back then.

AH No. Not out in the ceiling room.

PPDS No.

AH You could in the packing room.

PPDS In the packing room? Now, you can't in the packing room?

AH Oh yeah. You can.

PPDS You can.

AH Yeah.

PPDS Ok. Yeah. I was wondering, 'cause I saw the ladies there and I thought, I wonder if they...talk to each other—

AH Oh, yes.

PPDS ...while they're doing that.

AH Oh, yes. Oh yes.

PPDS All right. Ok.

AH So, I, as I say, I went from packing, and then I went to a place that they call the can rectifier. You loaded the cans and they come down over a , um, well you dumped 'em in here and they come up over a rise, like that? And they went into tracks and made, and another woman used to have make sure they kept, straightened out, you know. So they wouldn't get hung up. And they went over the hill, and up over the top of the building and come out way out in the packing room that you was in yesterday.

PPDS All right. And that's to—so...

AH So the ladies could get the cans.

PPDS yup.

AH But they traveled all the way from way out—probably you was out in the casing room?

PPDS Yup, we were.

AH Well, that used to be the can shop. We used to make our own cans.

PPDS And now you buy 'em—

AH And they don't do that anymore. They come from Black's Harbor.

PPDS So, does that mean that um...um, the number of people that work there has changed a lot over the years?

Has it more or less been pretty steady, or...

AH um...I would say that an average of probably the same.

PPDS It's like a hun—I counted, just looking around I was kind of thinking a hundred? A hundred and fifty?

AH We didn't have to have as many in the packing room as we do now because of the take-offs. Where they take off the fish down below then, they've got a lot of the Mexicans. We never used to have so many people there. But.

PPDS And so that's a new phenomenon.

AH Yes.

PPDS And how long is—have temporary Mexican workers been coming up here?

AH Let's see... I wouldn't say more than...probably four or five years that we had to rely on 'em. 'Cause we always had local people. But. They just wasn't—when you don't

get a steady, a steady, um, work day, you know, well I mean, we had a lot of times that we didn't work. Well, if you had a family, you have to rely on that work.

PPDS Right.

AH You can't do it.

PPDS So, any year, let's say last year, um.... Was work pretty steady or, how many—how, like, when work's not steady, what is it like, is it a couple days a week you work, or mornings....

AH It's—it's mostly short days, more or less. I would say. Short days. But, sometimes we used to have lay-offs in the—oh, maybe May. When they take the boats in to uh, you know, repair 'em and stuff? So, they bring 'em in and that's what they do, so from May to-- used to be May to July. Sometime in the first of July that we would have quite a big lay-off.

PPDS So, does that mean—you were saying—

AH We don't now, so much.

PPDS You don't now so much.

AH No. Because they have the big boats and they track 'em and—

PPDS They get them from someplace.

AH Yeah. Yeah.

PPDS Right. And does that mean that if you work at the cannery, you really need to have someone else at home who works someplace else—

AH Yeah, see my husband was always on full-time. Ah, he used—when he first started he drove the fish truck. They was getting them out of Canada. And there would be...ah, five or six of them.

PPDS From Black's Harbor?

AH No... ah, over on...oh, across the bridge there. They'd have to go down there sometime and sat for maybe a week or more, or two weeks and wait for the truck—for the boats to catch 'em so they could load 'em.

PPDSA Wow...

AH Ah, but he did that for quite a few years, and then he went on to something else. Got tired of traveling. He didn't want to be away from home. Our daughter was young, and he had to come home one time just for—watch her open her presents and hurry back. Christmas, and he didn't care for that. He wanted to be around her.

PPDS So, family's important.

AH So, he—but this time, he's been back there, he's been on, he's on full-time. He's maintenance. But, even though he don't do a lot of maintenance, he still is full-time. So.

PPDS And he is from a fishing family, or...

AH No.

PPDS Farming, or...

AH Nope.

PPDS logging, or...

AH Ah, his father was in—mostly boss of a like blueberry'n—blueberry fields? And his brother was the same way. He had his own, he bought XX [? 00:33:44] and had people raking for him.

PPDS Are blueberries still important around here?

AH What?

PPDS Are blueberries still, like, important around here, do—

AH Oh, yeah. We have blueberry fields right across the road.

PPDS Oh! That's what that is.

AH Yeah.

PPDS I thought it might be. Kind of looks like, well. We have cranberry fields, where I live.

AH We used to blueberry for a living in the summer. Then we used to go to Bristol County, and pick up potatoes.

PPDS So, is that what you used to do during sort of the low season of the cannery?

AH no, it as before I came here. That's what we did before.

PPDS You said, so, you said blueberries and you said potatoes?

AH You heard of picking up potatoes, Bristol County?

PPDS no. Pick...pick it up?

AH Pickin' up.

PPDS Picking up potatoes. Ok. So, you're gathering potatoes for--- right.

AH Well, they...

PPDS They would pay by the bushel, or...

AH Well, they had potato fields. And a digger, what they called a digger, tractor, would go, and they would....uh, roll them up, you know?

PPDS right.

AH So, you had to...straddle like this and bend over all day long, from probably six o'clock 'til five at night you was working continually. And you'd get a big basket full and you'd have to put it in the barrel. Hard work. Very, very hard work. But I did it.

PPDS And was that at an hourly pay, or daily...

AH No. You got paid by the barrel.

PPDS By the barrel.

AH Twenty-five cents a barrel.

PPDS Twenty-five cents a barrel.

AH if you made fifteen dollars you thought you was rich. For a day. Back then.

PPDS And that was in...

AH That was in the '50's... '50's and '60's.

PPDS SO, that was a good source of income in that period of time.

AH Yeah. Yeah. Thirty dollars a day was good, we thought was pretty rich.

PPDS For two, the both of you would do it.

AH For both of us. He drove a tractor and I picked up potatoes.

PPDS Right.

AH I've done a lot of hard work.

PPDS Sounds like it.

AH And still goin'.

PPDS And still going.

AH Yuh.

PPDS So, do the other people that work at the cannery, do you think, um, do they also work—sounds like you worked with the same people at the cannery for a long time.

AH A lot of 'em, yes. A lot of the packers are, have been there longer, you know, like, some of them been there longer and some been there shorter but we're all like a big happy family. But we have new ones come in and they seem to tend to...you know, work great with us, but...we get along good.

PPDS That's good.

AH Not too much problem at all.

PPDS That's good. And um...let me see. Um...so, it sounds like there's a mixture of sort of fishing and farming and...

AH A little bit of everything. Logging. Yeah.

PPDS Logging, too?

AH Oh yeah. Cut wood. My husband used to cut wood. He's done probably everything.

PPDS And your kids, did your daughter go to college? It sounds like....

AH My daughter went—got her GED.

PPDS Oh. Ok.

AH And she worked her way up. She's been in real estate. She's been into a lot of stuff. Lot of things. Like, cleaning cabins? Then she went through CAN but she didn't care for it. And then she went, worked for Al D'Macco's real estate down here. And she worked there quite a while and then she decided she wanted to get ahead a little bit more. So she went into Fleet Bank, in Bangor, and they, she got transferred from there to

Massachusetts, because her husband got a job in Massachusetts. And he works in Springfield, and she works in Worcester. And they have a boat in Rhode Island.

PPDS That sounds nice.

AH They're doing really great.

PPDS It sounds like it. You must be really, really happy.

AH I am so proud of her. Yes, I am.

PPDS It sounds like the women in your family have worked awful hard—

AH Yes.

PPDS -- to get where they are.

AH yup. We have really done that. She didn't have to work like I did but. I think I'm better for it. I appreciate life more. And...I get I am really proud of all my, my grandkids, my granddaughter of course. She's pretty...pretty precious. She's a character, that one is.

PPDS She's a cutie.

AH She's beautiful.

PPDS Yeah... pretty girl.

AH Everyone says she looks just like Lee-Anne Rimes.

PPDS She's...yeah. Very pretty girl.

DOG BARKS. ENTER A MALE VOICE IN BACKGROUND.

AH Hey, Dear.

PPDS Hey there. How are you.

Man: Good. And you.

OVERLAPPING OF VOICES 00:39:19

PPDS ....Almost! Almost blew my car over, coming down that hill.

AH So?



PPDS So, it sounds like you've worked with herring a lot, through your life. Do people eat herring a lot here?

AH Uh, I think just about everybody likes fish. I know I do.

PPDS We eat a lot of herring. A lot of people don't eat it. Well, some people eat canned herring, but do people eat fresh herring?

AH Well, I—can't say I would eat herring. I like sardines, but they've got to be—

PPDS Nice and small?

AH Well, I like small ones, yeah. In mustard. I don't eat Stintson's because I worked there so many years. It just don't appeal to me, the big fish. Doesn't appeal to me.

PPDS Yeah, they are big fish.

AH Yes, I like the—now, I... the Norwegian? Saithe.

PPDS 'Cause they can get the smaller ones?

AH They're just little teeny ones.

PPDS Mmmm...

AH I think that there's probably twenty-four to thirty six in Norwegian sardines.

PPDS So that's the real difference, isn't it. The size? Cause Al was saying yesterday, "we do a medium grade product." And it looked like a very high--- it looks like a very high quality product. But I guess what he meant was because he can't get the small ones. They're not as...tasty or something, as—

MAN'S VOICE IN BACK GROUND

PPDS No way! My husband and I don't believe that moose actually exist. Because, we've been driving—we've come up here like three times looking for moose. Just to see one.

Man : Yeah, we got a moose...up the..

PPDS get out!

Man XX

PPDS Amazing. Did you eat it?

Man Oh, we eat...packages of it.

PPDS Oh, I bet you still have a lot of it left. No way. Unbelievable. Where is it strung up?

AH Oh, we have it packaged. Cut up and packaged, by a—

PPDS Oh, that's unbelievable!

AH .---meat cutter down...

PPDS I heard there were a lot of them this year.

Man XXXX 00:41:33

PPDS Wow.

Man Everyone I know of got one, so. XXX

PPDS That's crazy. Um, what was I going to say...so, if something were to happen and there weren't fish coming into the cannery, where do you think—what do you think people who work there would do? Economically. Where would they work, or how would they...

AH Well, you know it would be hard to , to tell what they would do until the blueberry season, when they could either go blueberrying or go into the factory. Ah, and then we have wreathing season, which is next month.

PPDS Is that like the wreaths we have on this—

AH No. Those are cloth. These are made out of trees.

PPDS Out of trees.

AH Out of limbs.

PPDS And that's an industry that employs?

Ah oh, yes. In fact, Calco, down in Milbridge would be a nice place if you wanted to interview some of those.

PPDS Yeah, that's interesting.

AH There are people that's worked there for years and years.

PPDS Wow. I didn't realize that that industry—

AH And Wistereed's in Harrington.

PPDS Huh.

AH Wistereeds is the one that takes the wreaths to Arlington? Cemetery? Every year?

PPDS Ok.

AH in fact, he's...Pete's sister-in-law's brother. He was married to—she was married to his brother. That's her brother. Yeah. His sister. And he goes every year, and they take a truckload to Arlington. And that would be a nice interview.

PPDS It seems like it would be. Where else might people work? So, blueberrying, wreathing, anything else you can think of?

AH Well, besides going to Aristol County, which I'm not going to.

PPDS What's that all about, Aristol County.

AH That's where we picked up potatoes.

PPDS Oh, right. Ok. So, that's still going on.

AH Oh, yes!

PPDS It is.

AH Oh, yes. People always eat potatoes.

PPDS And the people still work there as day laborers. As—

AH Fall.

PPDS In the fall?

AH Not just—you know, they still work year—most of them, some of them, work year round, because they process--- they call it potato house?

PPDS yeah?

AH Potato house? And they have to pick them all over, you know, keep [shuckling? 00:44:25] the potatoes around and make sure they're not rotten. Pick out the rocks, and stuff like that.

PPDS So, some people work there year-round and then some people are hired during—seasonally.

AH Yeah. Most of the time, now, it's machinery that does the picking up potatoes but people stand on the machinery and pick up the rocks. Potatoes are coming up over a belt on a tractor. And that's mostly what it amounts to now, instead of manual.

PPDS And do anybody—does anybody do, like, people who work at the processing plant, do a lot of them have jobs on top of those jobs? Like, to work another job or...

AH No...because you can't really have a job that you can go to after, you know, because you don't know when you're going to be in Stintson's and... like, like when you, ah, you're on unemployment. They used to have it so that when you'd go and look for a job?

PPDS Right.

AH Well, what we always said was how you going to go and look for a job and say well, they say "Well can you work full time?" "Well, no I can't. Because Stintson's might call me, and I have to go into work." So, who's going to hire me?

PPDS Well, I didn't understand. So, why would you be calling---uh, drawing unemployment when you're employed—oh! Because you might be under-employed.

AH Yeah. If you're not—you know, if you're not getting any fish.

PPDS If you're not getting any fish.

AH If you're laid off, like, you know, or have a day off. You're not going to tell this person "Probably, well I don't know if I'll be able to come in tomorrow or not because they might call me in Stintson's to work."

PPDS Right.

AH Well, who's going to hire you?

PPDS Right.

AH On that kind of a basis?

PPDS Right. If you work—

AH So, we got that cut out anyway.

PPDS So, if you work under a certain amount of hours at Stintson's can you get unemployment.

AH you can draw unemployment.

PPDS You can draw.

AH I don't draw much, cause I'm on social security and they take it off.

PPDS Oh. But, and, what's the threshold, like, how many hours can you—do you—

AH It's, uh, earnings.

PPDS Oh, it's earnings. It's not hours, its earnings. Ok

AH Ah, they go by how much you make during the year, and it's a—I don't know how they, uh, it's—I don't know exactly to explain this.

PPDS right.

AH But, they take so much of that for unemployment.

PPDS yup.

AH And then you have to open what they call a claim.

PPDS right.

AH And, uh, you can draw—well see, I can't draw much cause, as I said, I'm on social security.

PPDS right.

AH And they won't let me.

PPDS Right.

AH So.

PPDS but there are other folks down there.

AH Oh. Lot of them get, uh, if they was off a week, some of those packers can draw the limit. Two hundred and some odd dollars a week?

PPDS Right.

AH And they can stay at home and do nothing and still get good pay.

PPDS right, right, right, right.

AH But I can't.

PPDS Ok. You can't, but if there's no fish, you'll have social security.

AH Yeah, I get social security.

PPDS But it won't be as much as unemployment.

AH But it cuts into my unemployment.

PPDS Ok.

AH Ad I get that once a month, where unemployment comes once a week.

PPDS Ok. That's helpful for me, cause when I—when I'm thinking, so what happens when less fish gets to Stintson's, what are people going to do, if there—

AH Oh, I know. And I think in years to come, it's not going to be too many years, before there's not going to be any fish. Because you can't process fish that's full of spawn. And I probably shouldn't say this. But. It's the truth.

PPDS You can't process fish that's thi—

AH Babies.

PPDS Right.

AH Where you going to get your fish?

PPDS right. And you're saying that the sizes are getting smaller?

AH No. I'm saying there's not going to be any.

PPDS Any. Right.

[laughter]

AH Because you're processing fish that have eggs.

PPDS Oh, right. That have eggs. Yeah.

AH So, down the road, if you keep doing that, catching the fish that's spawning—

PPDS Then what are you going to can later on?

AH Won't have any fish.

PPDS And do you feel sort of, that's the biggest threat to the cannery?

AH Um-hm.

PPDS Is that? And what about any other-- I mean, it looks like lobstermen used to use cuttings for bait. And now, they use the whole fish for bait.

AH Well, they use—no, they still use the—

PPDS Right.

AH Well, they can take the whole fish but they cut 'em. Like, put them in the bait bags.

PPDS yeah. But do you feel that you're, or the cannery, is in competition?

AH Well... It's probably be a long way down. The road, before that—I, I don't know, probably they'll come up with some other sort of bait for—uh, I mean there's a lot of ground fish out there, I guess. But, not as much as there used to be. Like, you know, uh haddock and cod and all that stuff.

PPDS Did you know anybody that used to fish the ground fish? Around here?

AH no, they—ground fish usually is up around Portland.

PPDS Any when you were younger?

AH Nope. Well—

PPDS Not really?

AH They used to. And I've seen 'em fillet fish, right there at Stintson's.

PPDS Oh, so somebody was bringing them—was that a while ago?

AH Yeah, it was quite a while ago. And I can't even remember what the boat was or who it was. Or anything. But I've seen 'em. I've seen 'em do it. I've seen 'em fillet and I really, it's a spectacular sight. I love to watch them. And they're so slick.

PPDS They're fast, huh? And they were probably doing a lot—

AH Oh, they was doing it—I think they just le 'em come in there and do it. It wasn't, it wasn't buyin 'em and they wasn't sellin' them.

PPDS oh...

AH It was just some of the men that was out in the—what they call, well, the tank room now. And they sued to do that out there. Not very often. Once in a while they'd, if they got a lot of groundfishing, the fish, they'd fillet them

PPDS Did they ever give anyway? They're so good.

AH Yeah...

PPDS Sometimes? And, Al told me yesterday about this, um, sea cucumber factory?

AH Yeah. Ah...

PPDS What is that?

AH Sea cucumbers?

PPDS Where is the factory?

AH They—I don't know if they have any more any-- right now. I haven't heard of any. These used to have it down Millbridge. And you know, most of the Mexicans run that.

PPDS Right. And why wouldn't—not, the people from around here work there.

AH They did. A lot of them worked in sea cucumbers. Uh, we have one girl that works down to the, on the packing line. On the manual packing line. That used to work at the sea cucumber place. I wouldn't, cause I can't stand the looks of the things.

PPDS 'Cause they're funny looking.

AH Well, no. Slimy.

PPDS They're slimy.

AH And they're...nasty inside.

PPDS Yeah? You think maybe that's why the Mexican's are doing it?

AH Well, it's a delicacy in...

PPDS In Japan.

AH Yeah.

PPDS Yeah, I heard they're...I've never eaten them.



AH I wouldn't.

PPDS I've seen 'em under water. When I snorkel, but.

AH No, I don't think that'd---XX (00:52:24) my appetite too much.

PPDS So, it was something that people around here just didn't want to do?

AH They did that for quite a few years. And they had one right up here on Route 1.

PPDS Oh, they had more than one.

AH There was one that was a big, it's a maroon colored place here on route one. It's not even in business any more. But they did. They did a lot of sea cucumbers there.

PPDS And um, any other fisheries? Like, urchin? Was urchin big around here? Sea urchin? The spiny ones? No?

AH They have a...

PPDS Seaweed?

AH What's the name of that one. Um... they do...pick out crab meat. Clams.

PPDS Oh, that's right. Clams.

AH Yeah.

PPDS And do people—you need a permit for clamming? Did you always need a permit?

AH Yeah, you can, I think in Queensboro you can dig, uh, uh...what can you dig in Queensboro, a bushel?

[MAN] Yeah.

AH Without a permit?

MAN Peck. XXX [ 00:53:25]

PPDS See, you can't make—

AH You can't make money.

PPDS No. Clamming. You can have dinner with some friends.

AH You got to have a license.

PPDS A license to do that. And can anybody get one?

AH Ah, yeah.

PPDS Yeah. Like, would be that be something that somebody might turn to...

AH There's no clams!

PPDS There's no clams. There's no clams.

AH Awful hard to get clams. There's still a few clammers, and wormers.

PPDS Right.

AH But it's—

PPDS What's a wormer?

AH That's digging in the...um, what do they call them?

Man: XX [00:54:08]

PPDS Blood worms. Is that a sea creature?

AH No, well, it's right in mud like you dig clams.

PPDS And what are they used for?

Man XX

PPDS You eat 'em. Ok. So, it's like an exported thing?

AH What do they do with bl—with worms?

Man: Eat 'em. In China.

AH What?

PPDS They eat 'em in China.

AH Oh.

Man: XX

AH I'm not up on this.

PPDS Have you ever eaten one?

Man No.

PPDS Do you know anyone who's ever one?

AH it's a wonder he hadn't. Fish eat. He likes all that stuff.

Man Probably do the same thing with those glass eels.

AH Glass eels. Eeling is another thing they do around here. Glass eels.

PPDS Is that in the winter time?

AH Ah, no. When is that? In the spring.

Man: yeah, it is spring.

PPDS Spring.

Man Same time as smelting.

PPDS As smelting....and I mean are those ways that people...like can you carve together, a life, I mean, a livelihood, between the blueberries and the potatoes and clamming and eeling and this sort of thing and survive on that?

AH Well, a lot of people do. Yeah.

PPDS A lot of people do.

AH Yeah.

PPDS Ok.

AH But they don't, they don't have, they're not riding around in Mercedes Benz—

PPDS No.

AH --or anything like that. And I'm not either! I mean, I could probably, if I wanted to pay the payment. But I don't want to pay the payment. But most people that, you know, do that—jump here, there and somewhere else, I mean, they just do it to probably buy a six pack or whatever.

PPDS Right. They need-- they're not going to be making house payments on that. They're going to need to live with someone else, or—

AH Well ,no. They, they're lucky if they have a place to live, you know, or—

PPDS And how would you describe somebody around here who is poor.

AH Poor?

PPDS Yeah.

AH Uh...

PPDS Like, who's—

AH Probably welfare recipients.

PPDS Ok.

AH [laughter] That's the only thing I can give you a word for. I mean, yeah. If you're poor, you go on welfare.

PPDS Yeah. And do you go to school or like, what do you, so you don't work, basically.

AH No.

PPDS You don't work.

AH Or else you fake a back injury or something.

PPDS Ok.

AH Whichever, and get disability. Which we have a lot of that, which should be cleaned up.

PPDS Right. So, there are a lot of people on like, government—

AH Food stamps.

PPDS Food stamps.

AH Fuel assistance.

PPDS Fuel assistance.

AH I've never been on it. But I know a lot of 'em that have.

PPDS SO, those are important sort of...survival mechanisms around here for people to get through the--and the winter, is the winter the worst time of year?

AH Probably for most people, it could be.

PPDS Yeah. Fuel costs high, and....

AH Ah, it was last year, I mean, we had, you know, well, just like Massachusetts, I mean the gas prices. Fuel's—

PPDS Yeah. And electricity. Doubled last year for us. I don't know about for you.

AH Ah, not last year, but they say it's going to be this year.

PPDS And what about wood? I mean, I keep seeing wood on people's, I mean, are there cheap sources of, of wood? I mean there seems to be so much wood around here.

AH There is now.

VOICES OVERLAP [00:57:32]

AH In fact, wood has gone up quite a bit. We had a wood stove in the kitchen. The old fashioned wood stove, a couple of years ago, because once you—I love it. I love it. And I love to cook in'em.

PPDS Oh really?

AH Baked beans, and biscuits.

PPDS Yeah.

AH But the only trouble was, when I had my woodstove going it wouldn't heat the re—the furnace wouldn't come on so to heat the rest of the house. You know. It would keep you warm, but it would still not go into the other rooms.

PPDS It wouldn't go into the other rooms. Even if you open the doors and stuff.

AH My husband, he gets cold, so we have this gas heater, put on the wall. And gas went.

PPDS So, any thoughts on retirement? Or when you might retire.

AH We haven't thought about it. Not as long as we can keep going, I guess.

PPDS And you enjoy the work that you do?

AH Uh... I enjoy it. But I'd like to have some time off, too. If I could work two or three days a week I'd be happy, you know?

PPDS Me too. I'd love to do that. So, you work six days.

AH Well, we have been.

PPDS Wow. And you get paid by the, the—

AH I get paid by hourly.

PPDS You get paid hourly.

AH Yeah. I'm hourly.

PPDS Ok. Cause I saw that there was that, um, it was like, a little computer screen with ten—

AH Those are the packers.

PPDS Those are the packers. And is that some—

AH They make big bucks.

PPDS They make big bucks.

AH But they work for it.

PPDS But they work for it. And I saw they work in, in teams.

AH Yes.

PPDS Does that mean you want to be paired up with someone—

AH They have two people working on a—

PPDS Right.

AH --a track.

PPDS SO you want to be paired up with a person—

AH Well, you know, we used—when I worked, when I packed, we had three packers. We had divided by three. But I, as I've said, I haven't packed since... I left and went to a

store and worked for a year. And then I came back. I went back to Stetson's. '92, I think it was. That's when I went out on the rectifier.

PPDS What's that?

AH That's the can rectifier I was telling you that we brought the cans in to package. And, they wanted me to go back into packing, but I said no, I guess not.

PPDS Why not?

AH Uh, I'm tired.

PPDS Yeah. It seems like—

AH Yeah.

PPDS ---a job where you really had to be focused and rushing to—

AH Well, I mean, you know, it's hard work. And I said, no, I got out of it, so I just didn't want to get back into it. That's all. And so I went on what they call a—well, I broke my arm. I broke this humorous bone. I fell down there coming from Beano one night—

PPDS What's Beano?

AH ---and I broke this humorous bone which I didn't think humerous, but. And when I went back they had to go a—I couldn't do the rectifier so I went on um, what they call, um, spillover. Throwing away the bad fish?

PPDS , All right, I saw—

AH But it was different back then. So, something else there. And I went from there to, um, QC Inspector. And then here a while ago, Peter put the one that was on my job as a assistant supervisor, so I'm on what they call switch X [? Game? Bait? 01:60:22] A little bit more money.

PPDS But not quite as demanding....

AH It isn't too bad.

PPDS And, do people get hurt at the cannery?

AH Oh, yeah.

PPDS Yeah? Like, sort of accidents? Or more like long term things like from standing so many hours or—what are the sort of physical things...

AH Well, I'll tell you, the worst one—there's been a couple of really bad ones. The assistant supervisor we have, Loretta, she got her arm caught in what they call the wrapping machine that they used to have in the casing room. And her arm, is just like, all the fats chopped right off in here, and this is small here. That was a bad one. Then another man got his hand caught in a sealing machine. So.

PPDS And what about from just sort of the every day work?

AH Not really.

PPDS Not really?

AH Nah.

PPDS Um, when you were cutting with scissors...

AH When we was cutting we used to cut our fingers.

PPDS You used to cut your fingers a bit. But now with the way it's done—

AH I made some good ones, but. But I lived through it. You know. Have to be tough to work...every day life. That's all it is.

PPDS Let me take some peeks and see if there's other things... When you think that people that would be part of your community, do you think of people that you work with, or you're saying that—did you say that you go to church a lot? Is your family religious? I'm trying to think of like, who your networks are. And when, if something were to happen and you needed to call someone, outside of your family, who would those people be?

AH Anyone.

PPDS Neighbors?

AH Yup.

PPDS Close neighbors?

AH Yup. We're all, we're all one big happy family. We, we watch out for each other.

PPDS Ok. Ok, and is that just on—

AH Neighbors.

PPDS The neighbors. And is that just like, would you say, like somebody that lives—



AH Oh, anywhere . even somebody down in Prospect Harbor. Birch Harbor. Anywhere in Gouldsboro

PPDS Ok.

AH Probably even Milbridge.

PPDS Probably even Milbridge. It's a close community.

AH Yup.

PPDS And where do you see each other? You know, where do you interact with people? Like, I'm thinking, like, I see people on our main street, or at the library, or shops and—

AH Well, there's Beano. We like—

PPDS What is Beano? Is that a bar, or a restaurant?

AH No, it's a game. You go...

PPDS Oh, Ok. Right.

AH You know...bingo.

PPDS Bingo!

AH Bingo.

PPDS Oh, oh Bingo! I didn't understand what you were saying. Sorry. So there's Bingo...

AH Used to be called Beano, that's why.

PPDS Oh, that's why.

AH Now, it's Bingo.

PPDS So, there's Bingo here.

AH Oh, yeah.

PPDS And a lot of people are into it.

AH Ah, not so much since they got the slot machines.

PPDS Ohhh, where are there slot machines?

AH In Bangor.

PPDS No way. So, they'd drive to Bangor.

AH I wouldn't, no.

PPDS You wouldn't. But other people would drive to Bangor, to use, do the slot machines.

AH Oh, yes. They're right into it.

PPDS So, you were saying, when you said that you feel that kids don't play outside so much, so would you also think that um, the slot machines are also keeping people from interacting together, like at Bingo Night, or...

AH No, not really. It's just the idea that, to me, why they don't is because everybody works for a living. And they don't get time to like, years ago the old people they used to play cards all the time. You know?

PPDS Like, at each other's houses?

AH Yeah. Get together and play cards. And we did. I mean, years ago. Pete and I used to have, you know, every weekend we'd always go somewhere, have a few drinks, play cards.

PPDS Yeah. And would you have dinner together with friends? Or would you have dinner and then go to their house—

AH Oh, we did, yes. Yeah. But now, it's such a busy—I'll tell you, the world too busy for people to stop and smell the coffee.

PPDS I honestly cannot even—if you are saying this here in Prospect Harbor? Cause that is something that I definitely complain about, or complained about, living in the city and then moving out to the Cape I thought things were going to slow down, and they didn't. And I feel like Prospect Harbor is a bit even farther away, from the Cape, and you're telling me it's fast here.

AH Everybody works!

PPDS Yeah.

AH Most everybody. I'm not saying everybody does. I've got a few neighbors.

Man: XX. 01:06:13

PPDS Yeah. But most in family—like, they both work. You and your husband both work. Is it around here, basically the man and the wife are both working?

AH Yeah.

PPDS And, when you were younger, apart from the fact that you said your mom had to work full time because she was raising you guys, a lot of families had that stay at home person.

AH I did when I first, when I was first married, except for blueberries and going to Aristol County and picking up potatoes. I was a stay at home. I didn't have children then, but I still—there wasn't anything to do.

PPDS There weren't jobs.

AH No.

PPDS And is that because you think they have to? To make ends meet, or because—

AH Now they do. Because they have to have so much.

PPDS How about, what's going on with housing prices and other costs around here?

AH Well, it varies. It varies. And where, where it is situated. You know. If you're on the water, it's going to be a lot more than if you was like me, right here.

PPDS But you're so close to the water.

AH Oh, I'm right on Jones' Pond, but you can't see it, so.

PPDS You can't see it.

AH No, so it doesn't—that doesn't count.

PPDS All right. You can probably see it if you chopped some trees down.

AH [laughter] There's a lot of things I'd like to do next door. XX [01:07:52]

PPDS Cause, when I was driving down here, God, that view is unbelievable. That's what you call John—Jones Pond?

AH Yeah, right up here, under the hill, you turn left and go down into—it's called recreation, but it's Jones' Pond.

PPDS And is that, is that a town pier there?

AH Ah, yup. And it's got a picnic area. We have a picnic every summer from Stintson's? We go up there and we have our company picnic. And we have lobster, steak, and we play Bingo. And horse shoes. And we have a great time.

PPDS And everybody comes?

AH Almost everybody does. And we, they have big prizes. They draw off tickets for prizes.

PPDS All right. And have they always done that, as far as you know?

Ah They—no. Um, They started that when Mr. Clingerman took over. Before Connor Brothers.

PPDS Before Conner Brothers. So, Stintson's went to—

AH Went to Clingerman, then to Connor Brothers, then to Bumblebee

PPDS And how have things changed for you, as an employee, since the changeover to Bumblebee? Do you notice the difference? Or...

AH I really don't. I don't. I just—I go to work. And it's basically, the work area—the work area they changed a lot of things, yes. They have, really. I'm not going to say whether it's for the better or worse, but. It's different. But I'm used—I'm used good by everybody. And I've never, they've never changed as far as I'm concerned. I get along with all of them, the bosses and all upstairs. I'm friends with all of them upstairs. They don't act like they're any different than I am. Cause they're not! Just cause they're upstairs and I'm down. Doesn't mean anything. They don't act a bit different.

PPDS And some of the things have stayed the same in terms of —like, it sounds like Al's been there for a really long time too.

AH Yeah. Al's been there quite a while, yeah. His wife used to be the boss in the casing—the old casing room. Dianne. Yeah. Al's been there quite a while. In fact, he was...floor boss at one time. That's where he started.

PPDS Oh, so he started—

AH He started on the floor.

PPDS Ok. And he worked his way up through the company?

AH Walking [working? 01:10:26] you know, as a boss.

PPDS And um, so there was that period—you had also mentioned that there was, um, a lot of canneries around here.

AH Yeah.

PPDS Um...

AH How many was it? [counting under her breath] One, two...

PPDS Oh, that was the other thing you mentioned. Something about crabpicking. You also said something about crab—

AH Picking out crab meat.

PPDS Picking out crab meat. People do that still?

AH Um-hm.

PPDS And is that, um, a cottage industry? Is that something you would do at your house, or you do it—

AH Ah, they used to but the, ah, state regulations got so tough on 'em that they had to give that up, too. So, mostly it's process in a place like, uh, there's a place in Ellesworth—What's the name of that place they pick out crabmeat in Ellesworth? You remember?

Another Woman, in distance: Maine Seafood.

AH Yeah, Maine—Maine Shellfish.

PPDS Maine Shellfish. And that's a crab picking place. And, um was—when they did it at the house or even now, that they do that there, was that mainly a job that women would do? Or...

AH Oh, yes! Yes. That was a big thing. Picking out crab meat at your home. And then you packaged it, you know, and you had a license--

Woman: Maine Shellfish, Nan.

PPDS Maine Shellfish.

AH That's what I said.

PPDS Yeah.

Woman: I had it close.

AH And they sold it in store. And they still do. Some people – I don't know, maybe they still do. Somewhere. But they have quite a lot of rules and regulations. And it's good— good thing to do. You know.

PPDS Um-hm. Good work, too. So there was, it liked in the cannery, most of the people are women.

AH Yeah.

PPDS And, the crab pickers were, or are, mainly women.

AH Most of them are.

PPDS And, any other kind of jobs around here that you think are...divided like that? By, By—

AH I can't think of any. We've gone through... sea urchins and crab meat and clams, and shocking clams. Shucking, or whatever way you want to call it.

PPDS Shocking clams, out of their shells. [laughter]

AH Oh, dear...

PPDS That is so funny. Um... but you think that the work on the water, the lobstermen, um, are mainly men?

AH Well, in the last two, three years, there's been a few stern women but not very many.

PPDS Not very many. And you think they're accepted?

AH Oh, yeah. Yeah. She was, anyway. They love her right to pieces.

PPDS Oh, cool.

AH Cause she's crazy! XX [She gets along with them, anyway/she gets along with anyone. 01:13:42]

PPDS That's great. Yeah. I saw, in Vinyl Haven I saw a couple stern women. And um, I wondered if that was something that was catching on.

AH Yeah. It is.

PPDS Yeah.

AH I couldn't believe it, but. In the last couple of years I've seen it.

PPDS Yeah. And...let's see. You mentioned the annual party at Stenson's. Are there any festivals around here? Prospect Harbor, any sort of cultural, I don't know, clam festivals, lobster... anything—

AH We have a lobster festival every year in Winter Harbor, in August.

PPDS And has that been going on for a long time?

AH Yes. Oh. For years.

PPDS All right. Any sort of like, um, or—what do they do at that festival? Is there anything in particular—

AH Well, they, uh, they have the lobster bake, you know, the lobster—

PPDS Like a clam bake?

AH --and everything, but they have a lot of yard sales.

PPDS Yard sales. Ok. And um...

AH I've lived right here all, forever, it seems like. And I've never been to the lobster festival.

PPDS All right, well that means a lot. That actually tells me a lot in terms of how fun it is.

AH It just doesn't... [laughter] it just never interested me. Probably had something else to do.

PPDS So, who goes, I wonder. You think it's for tourists?

AH Uh, no.

PPDS No?

AH No, locals. They love it. Oh—I know what it is. I was going to tell you about it is lobster, er—boat racing.

PPDS Oh, that sounds like fun.

AH That's mostly what a lot of people go for is that.

PPDS And, is that once a year or is that—

AH Once a year. It's in August. It's one day. It comes on Saturday, most of the time.

PPDS And now, with people, I mean are people sort of upgrading their boats a lot?

AH Oh, yeah.

PPDS They getting faster and faster?

AH They can, well, in fact they have a big—big, big prize. For one of them. I don't know what you call it. But. They have a “hall” of a boat? Lobster boat?

PPDS Yeah. Oh wow. You win that?

AH Yeah. That's a big—that's a big prize.

PPDS And have you gone to that? Those races?

AH Never been to the lobster fest.

PPDS But you've never been to the boat races, either?

AH No.

PPDS No. All right.

AH Most of the time it's foggy over there.

PPDS So, you can't see who's finished first? What about you know, with all of the—everything we've said so far, tourism really hasn't gotten brought up. Is that not a big part of economics here?

AH Tourists?

PPDS Tourists. Do they not really come around very often?

AH Winter Harbor, well, it might be—you can't crowd Winter Harbor because it's not big enough. But. But a lot of them come down there—you see, they have a ferry now, from Winter Harbor to Bar Harbor.

PPDS Oh, Ok...

AH And I think that's XX [gathering? 01:16:57] more or less, in the last couple or three years, they've only had that. But Bar Harbor is your main tourist attraction. Camden.

PPDS Yeah. And how about seasonal? Like, the Cape gets a lot of tourists but it's different than Bar Harbor. At least for me and my community it seems different. Like, the



tourists that come are really people that own homes there and they spend the summer. The whole summer there. So they don't just come for the weekend and stay--

AH No. Mostly Bar Harbor is tourists that come and just....shop. I don't know. I don't know what there is about Bar-- I don't....I don't like Bar Harbor. I won't go there. Too much traffic! I don't like crowds.

PPDS Well, you're living in the right place, for someone who doesn't like crowds.

AH But they do have a—like Winter Harbor, as they say, they--and Bar Harbor, of course, they have the Cat that they go to Canada on, so. I think that a lot of them might do that.

PPDS Can you drive to Canada from here/

AH Oh, yes. Yeah.

PPDS Nice up there?

AH Ohhh, it's beautiful. It's gorgeous.

PPDS Every time I get here, I just want to keep driving.

AH Yeah. Oh, Canada's—

PPDS Today I was like—

AH You know, a lot of people, to us there's a place, what they call...what do I want to say, it's...you go right out of—I call it God's Country. There's nothing. There. 'Cept roads and—

PPDS Trees and moose---

AH Wild animals, if you're lucky enough to see them. There's no houses.

PPDS Wow...

AH Nothing. No houses.

PPDS Wow...

AH If you get up in one place, you might find some camps. Set back in the woods there.

PPDS What's a camp?

AH Just a place where people like to go and relax.

PPDS Ok---

AH It's a house, but. It's a camp.

PPDS Like, it does, it has facilities?

AH Yup. They got wells. They can have chemicals--

PPDS Oh....

AH ---and outdoor... toilets, chemical toilets.

PPDS Oh, Ok.

AH Generators, nowadays? I mean, you can have everything.

PPDS Oh. And have you ever been to Black's Harbor Cannery?

AH Yes. I was very—we was fortunate not to—when they took over, down here, the Connor Brothers—

PPDS Yeah.

AH A bunch of us girls got together. We asked whoever wanted to go and we got a woman's husband, and he got Wes Bus, and we went over. I think there was...eight of us? And then there was two that drove. Over. And oh, we had a marvelous time. We just had a good time, together. We laughed and we talked and we went through the cannery.

PPDS And who works there?

AH I don't know.

PPDS I mean, did it look like Stintson's at all? Was it really different?

AH A lot more.

PPDS Bigger.

AH More.

PPDS More. More of everything.

AH There was auto—automatic—well, like I was. Uh, packing. Then they had people packing by... scissors. They did fillets. Which we don't. So. They did a lot more.

PPDS I got...kippered fillets. Where are they from?

AH Ah...I think they used to do them in Rockland but I'm not sure. They might come from Canada.

PPDS And-- but it was fun just going there with your colleagues—

AH Yes it was. We had a marvelous time. We went into the restaurant, on the way back, uh...King..? Can't remember the name of it now. But uh—we had the most delicious seafood you ever had.

PPDS and that was in Canada still?

AH Um-hm. It- yup.

PPDS And is it rare—

AH In fact Connor Brothers owned, I think, the...

PPDS The restaurant?

AH ...little store out back there. But it was really fun. I enjoyed it. Tremendously.

PPDS And it was—it that a rarity? To, to sort of get a gaggle of girls together and take a road trip?

AH No, we just asked different ones they wanted to go, and a lot of them didn't want to go. And I'm always ready to do stuff like that.

PPDS Take little road trips? And why did you want to go to the cannery? Just to see?

AH We wanted to see the cannery. That's the reason we went. We wanted to go through Black's Harbor Cannery.

PPDS And do you think a lot more people work there, than at Stintson's?

AH Oh, yes. They have a lot of—lot more people.

PPDS Um-hm.

AH Cause they have a lot more going on. There was one—couple of...ones that wasn't working. Like, there was one place we really wanted to see work but they wasn't working in it that day. And I can't remember if it was, it was something to do with the processing, and then they wasn't working by cutting either. But, over there they stand in—just like you and I, all I can think of is [laughter] stalls for cows! Cause they was lined up. They was up on this bed—uh, up on the stool there. And they was lined up. And it didn't have

nothing to do with stalls but that's the only thing I could think of. And they put these fish on—lay these fish here... and they hit a lever, and that cuts the tail and the head off, and it landed right in the can. Below it.

PPDS So, they didn't have to put it in the can.

AH They didn't—yuh. They hit that lever.

PPDS And it would go right in. But it wasn't all cut up—at your cannery it's cut automatically.

AH Yeah they cut them—

PPDS you put them in...at this one you have to cut it yourself but then it pops into the can automatically.

AH no, they—well, they, it comes right along like that, and it just lays there and you just hit this lever and there's two blades come down one hits the head one hits the tail.

PPDS Hits the tail.

AH And I don't know—I watched it, but I still don't know how—

PPDS And their fish look the same?

AH Oh, beautiful.

PPDS Nice.

AH They do a good job over there.

PPDS Yeah.

AH Those fillets. I, I enjoyed going out where they was putting the fillets in the can because I don't know, they put—they come in, this woman just scrapes the excess off, and she did it so slick, and it smells so good. Did that smell good.

PPDS It smelled good because they were using different sauces? Or...

AH No, it was just the, just the smell of the cooked fish.

PPDS Cooked fish.

AH that's all it was.

PPDS Yeah...I want to go there one day, too.

AH I loved it over there.

PPDS Yeah. How far is it?

AH Hm?

PPDS How far is it?

AH Too far.

PPDS Too far. It was a long trip.

AH Too far to walk! [laughter] I don't know, really. My husband could tell you that. But it's—

PPDS Too far to walk.

AH It's quite a ways. It's quite a ways from here to Lubac, I mean, so probably ninety some odd miles from here to Lubac. And it's...farther than that. Probably it's way over a hundred miles. One way.

PPDS So it is pretty far. And, does your daughter get up here very often?

AH Yeah. It's only five miles—five miles. Only five and a half hours away.

PPDS Five and a half hours.

AH Um-hm.

PPDS And do you ever go down there?

AH We go down there a lot during the summer. Two or three times during the summer. And go down on the boat with them

PPDS Oh, that's nice.

AH And they come up here—their birthdays are about, just two days apart. So they come up on their birthdays. They come up—I can't remember but I think they come up in July or something. No. We go down there in July. Well anyway. They come up Thanksgiving, we go down there Christmas. Yeah, they come up two or three times a year.

PPDS Hm. Sounds like a pretty close family.

AH Most of the time they spend weekends, they spend in Rhode Island.

PPDS Yeah.

AH They got their own boat.

PPDS Right. That's really nice.

AH Love it.

PPDS Oh, I bet. I would like to have--

AH That's where she gets her relaxation. From working.

PPDS And they go, sort of joy-fishing.

AH They go-- well, yeah. And they go to Block Island.

PPDS Oh, I hear that's gorgeous.

AH All that good stuff.

PPDS Yeah. Huh. That's good.

AH We been out there with them.

PPDS But she misses it a little bit up here? Or she's glad to—

AH I don't think so.

PPDS Yeah. Is that—

AH ...got to do, there's no decent jobs. I mean, you could never make, I don't think, I the state of Maine that she makes.

PPDS Um-hm. But things are more expensive down there, too.

AH She makes—

PPPDS She makes good money. Good.

AH Because she's...she's...into it. The boss just loves her to pieces.

PPDS And it, it sounds like a job where you make more the harder you work?

AH Um-hm.

PPDS She has some control over her—

AH And she can work from home.

PPDS That's good.

AH And she's got so many people that just—bombard her, you know, for loans. Holy mackerel.

PPDS Yeah. Yeah. Well, things have been—

AH Yeah!

PPDS --people have been borrowing like crazy.

AH She said things have been slow, the last few weeks, but that they're picking up now.

PPDS Good. Good. People are worried about the housing market in Massachusetts—

AH But her husband makes good money, so. They have a townhouse. They bought, they have their own town house. And they have a boat. So they've done really well. And they've been there since...ninety-six.

PPDS Hm. Ok. Like I said, it sounds like the Hartford women are hard workers.

AH Yeah, well, if you don't you're not going to get—you know. We're not—Pete and I never made an over abundance of money. We live low-key. We're not into all this fan-dangled stuff. We like, we like living just like ordinary people.

PPDS And the less you feel like you need to buy, the more—the less you need to earn, too.

AH I mean, you want something that's going to make your life comfortable, but you're not, I'm not, I don't want to overdo it.

PPDS I see.

AH I mean, I'm not a—I'm not a person that needs a lot of money. Long as I have plenty to eat, and I'm warm, and I can go to Bingo.

PPDS That suits you just fine. Let me just check here and since if there's something that I've forgotten. Which I'm sure when I go home I'll remember a million things. Um...

AH Hit just about every subject there is—

PPDS I feel like we've totally covered—I think we've done really, really well.

AH ...can give you more info, or Nancy can give you a lot of information that I can't because my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

PPDS Mine's terrible, but it's never been very good, unfortunately.

AH Just call it old age, I guess.

PPDS I was just here, so...healthy, and...

AH Well, I was married fifty one years in July.

PPDS That's a long time.

AH my daughter gave us a beautiful anniversary pre-party. At the Holiday Inn in Ellesworth.

PPDS Oh, wow...

AH Last year. She—my daughter, my granddaughter-in-law. Oh, it was gorgeous. We had a marvelous time.

PPDS Sounds like you, you have a very rich life.

AH I think so. My husband has had a lot of sickness.

PPDS He has?

AH Yeah. He had cancer. Colon cancer. And he's had bladder cancer.

PPDS Oh, no.

AH Right now he's got a hip that's...can't count how many times he's gone, he's got to the doctor again Tuesday. He went to Ellesworth and they said he has bursitis in his hip and they gave him cortisone shot and it doesn't do anything good. He's not sleeping and—

PPDS He's in a lot of pain?

AH Hm?

PPDS He's in a lot of pain?

AH Oh, yes. Wicked.

PPDS Oh, that's terrible.



AH Five weeks of it.

PPDS So, he—he's had health problems over the last few years, or...

AH Ah, he's had—he's had a lot of problems. Yeah. But boy, he's—he's still going.

PPDS He's a trooper

AH He's had his throat cut cause he had a clogged artery. He had a stroke. Slight stroke. Doesn't have too many parts left. [laughter] he's got kidneys, liver, and appendix. That's it!

PPDS [laughter] That's what's holding him together.

AH The rest of him-- he does still have his prostate. He has had a lot of operations.

PPDS Yeah. Yeah. Hm.

AH But he's... he's tough.

PPDS And he's working down at the cannery, like you said?

AH Um-hm. I guess you have to be tough to live in the state of Maine.

PPDS Well, it's special state.

AH Yeah, it is.

PPDS It's not like the other ones, is it?

AH Yeah, my daughter asked us to come out there. They wanted to buy a house with—well, what they call an in-law apartment.

PPDS Right.

AH Which would be, you know, but we're not—no. Just like her son. He won't live in Massachusetts.

PPDS He doesn't like it? He just—

AH He wants to be in—you can't ice fish. Go ice fishing.

PPDS You could try, but you might break through the ice. Land in the water. It's too thin.

AH No, he's got to be in the state of Maine with his grandfather so he can go ice fishing with Grampy and go hunting with Grampy.

PPDS So, he's a Mainer.

AH Yeah. He's Grampy's Boy.

PPDS Grampy's Boy.

AH Yeah, he's an outdoors person. He loves to hunt and fish.

PPDS Well, I've learned a lot about Maine from this conversation that I didn't know before. So, I really want to thank you cause, like I said, I think these are very, very valuable stories and information and stuff.

AH Well, I hope I've been some help and uh, you know.

PPDS I have your number. I might dare to call you one day if I, I'm missing something—

AH Sure.

PPDS --or something happens to the cannery...

AH Oh, any time.

PPDS or something.

AH Yup. I have yours too.

PPDS Oh, you do. Excellent. I'm just going to turn this off. Is there anything else you want to say?

AH No, I think, I think we've covered most of it.

PPDS All right. Let me—just give me a call if you think we need to—let me just stop it.

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