

**BAYSHORE DISCOVERY PROJECT
DELAWARE BAY MUSEUM**

ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTION

INTERVIEW DATE: March 12, 1989
TIME: Unknown
SUBJECT: DANIEL HENDERSON
NARRATOR(S): Mrs. Bienkovitz
LOCATION: Her home in Howell, NJ
INTERVIEWER: Roger Allen, BDP Board Member
**TRANSCRIPTION
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BEGIN: TAPE 1 OF 1. SIDE A.

Meter: 002

Mrs. B: My Uncle Johnny he was a seaman to.

Roger Allen: Got a sailor suit on there already.

Mrs. B: Yea he was in the Navy as a Chief Petty Officer during the war.

Roger Allen: And that's his mother? (Looking at a photo)

Mrs. B: Yea, that was my, that was his oldest sister Aunt Leon, she's dead too.
Everybody here's dead.

Roger Allen: Well he's the youngest so...

Mrs. B: He was the youngest at that point but after him was another girl.

Roger Allen: Oh

Mrs. B: Then there is another boy that is not even in here. Uncle Harry, I don't know why he wasn't in it. (Pointing to people in a photo) There's Aunt and Uncle Harry, that's Uncle Wilbert, he was an iron worker. This one here was a, he was in the service, first he had a shrimp boat, Catch-a-wog or Mig-a-wog or sompin it was. He was out of Atlantic City he used to take out, I don't know it was a big big boat I know and he used take out people fishen' or whatever on it I don't remember cause I was real little then. And then he had it turned into a shrimp boat and my father went with him, they went to Florida and _____ went down and almost starved to death. I was a little kid then, I was like it was my first year in school.

Roger Allen: How old was he?

Mrs. B: Well daddy was, I was five, so that meant my father had to be eh, daddy is 30 years older than me so he was 35 when he went to Florida.

Roger Allen: You have many brothers and sisters?

Mrs. B: Just one sister.

Roger Allen: He waited a long time to have kids didn't he?

Mrs. B: Yuh, he didn't get married until he was 26.

Roger Allen: Uh, too busy? Out on the boats, you don't meet people.

Mrs. B: Learnen everything, he was a person that he loved to read.

Roger Allen: My kind of guy.

Mrs. B: He was a real reader, daddy until after when he got older his site wasn't good but as a young person daddy was a reader. He like to, he used to try, he would send away and get directions on how to tan hides, and he would tan hides and _____ he would make sardines out of fish with the mustard and he was always wanted to do things or learn things very inquisitive person my father. And grow things, he had a garden back the house. It a...

Roger Allen: Yea?

Mrs. B: It a you were never in Bivalve, this the first you ever been to Bivalve?

Roger Allen: Oh god, I been to Bivalve many many many times.

Mrs. B: You don't remember the garden back a the house there?

Roger Allen: No I don't.

Mrs. B: Everybody was....

Roger Allen: Is that where the Garvey is now?

Mrs. B: Oh that whole area, well you see, there was, Bivalve was a town that boundaries meant nothing. As a kid, I mean if you, if you, I mean like him with the garden the people that owned the store used to love because he had this garden they couldn't believe that you could grow things like this in Bivalve. He grew pole beans, lima beans, pole beans you know.

Roger Allen: Yea

Mrs. B: And a tomatoes, and onions uh, he grew it all in that little bit of a thing.

Everybody would marvel at how how nice the garden was. And how much you could get out of a small garden. But that soil down there is like gold really.

Roger Allen: It is amazing, you wouldn't think, you would think that it have too much salt in it or something.

Mrs. B: No in the Springtime come, like if he tried to put peas in the Springtime would come, and away the peas would go and he'd start all over again and it was like and he tried to grow white cucumbers one year and it was like and he his string beans about yeah long, he just loved doing things, he was a very eh.

Roger Allen: Al Huber is is probably two inches taller than I am so Al was probably about 6 feet somewhere around 6 feet tall you father was a short man.

Mrs. B: Daddy was 5 ft. 7".

Roger Allen: Oh, he's not much shorter than I am, I'm around 5' 9".

Mrs. B: Yea, 5' 7"

Roger Allen: And he seemed to be sort of slender.

Mrs. B: He was.

Roger Allen: Never had a lot of extra weight on him.

Mrs. B: No, when he got older he did cause he used to spend a lot of time, he like to eh, any doughy things he loved. He could have lived without meat. He was a fish, forget about it, he could eat fish seven days a week. Any size, shape or form. It was like eh steak meant nothing to him. Eh, eh, he loved lobster. Him and mom used to go to

Wildwood and buy a 100 lb lobster bring it back and freeze it put in the freezer. And take em out and split em and would have lobster and mother was great cook.

Roger Allen: Yea, they get along well your mother and father?

Mrs. B: Well, they were a like she used to follow him to the trap line

Roger Allen: Yea

Mrs. B: As a young person she was like a eh a very healthy strong woman, she was 5' 7" she was the same height as him. And ah and did a lot of things together.

Roger Allen: When did they get married? Do you remember?

Mrs. B: Eh, 1926.

Roger Allen: And he was about 30?

Mrs. B: He was 26.

Roger Allen: He was 26.

Mrs. B: Uh huh. She was 16.

Roger Allen: Was she form the town did you say? Oh, she's

Mrs. B: She was from Newport.

Roger Allen: Right up the road, yea. How did they meet, do you know?

Mrs. B: Ah, it was fine, cause he wasn't a romantic person, I mean like if you, if he heard me tellen you this right now he say ahhhh, I never said that or somthen like that but like with him when he got sick, he used to say to me, I can't tell you how many times he told me, he say to me, you know I can't, I could never realized why your mother eh fell in love with me cause your mother was such a beautiful woman. And he says and me, I was never noth'n to look at he says but here she was the, she could have any boy in Newport and here she picked me. And this is when he got sentimental when he was gotten ready to go really.

Roger Allen: Yea, on the odd moment.

Mrs. B: Cause he lived 5 months once he, he had lung cancer.

Roger Allen: Oh yea,

Mrs. B: And once he found it out he went for the... it's another thing here. He was a gung ho person when they told him about goin for radiation eh, very sharp and the week before he died he started like he used to say to me can we get off the boat I've had enough, I want to get off the boat. He seemed to think he was on a boat for what reason I don't even know but up to that I say one week before he died he was just as sharp he could tell you anything, dates and all. My mother was just the opposite. She was a like 9 years younger than him and yet he was way sharper than her. Mentally, cause she had hardening of arteries advanced hardening of the arteries even though she was younger she was more advanced in age really. And eh but he used to a so we talked about that he could go for radiation or what they chemo therapy they didn't think would help. But he could and then again eh it wasn't in other words he talked to the doctor cause he said, the doctor said to me do you think we should tell him? I said well to me I would like for you to tell him, I just want to be there when you tell him. But I will need to know because my father's not a person you don't play jokes with you know he wants he smart enough and he's not senile in any way. I want him to know just what's what and what his chances are and the whole bit. So Dr. Sacks (sp?) from Millville we I made sure I was going to be there when he came in and he told him you have lung cancer. Well daddy was a smoker, years ago he quit eh 15 years before he died he quit. And the first thing he said to me you

know I quit smoking so this wouldn't happen so the Doctor says, well Dan if you hadn't of quit smoking maybe you wouldn't have been here this 15 years.

Roger Allen: Could've died 15 years ago.

Mrs. B: You could have died 15 years ago. Daddy says well I guess your right so he says now what do I do? And the Doctor says well it's inoperable because it was too near the esophagus so he said that the only thing would be radiation. And he says I'm not saying it's...

Roger: a sure thing....

Mrs. B: I can't say it's a 100%, I can't say its 50% or whatever just but if you take it you will you do have a chance. Or if you don't take it, that's it. So ah, he thought about it a little, about five minutes I think it was and he says to me, "well what do you think Marilyn"? I said "well Daddy whatever you want to do, we'll do". So he says well I think I'm going to do it. And I says, well we'll do it then. And he went for the whole 33 treatments and do you ever hear of anybody going through radiation, he went...

Roger: Do they glow in the dark afterwards?

Mrs. B: Not really but, they gave him this (holding up something, possibly photo?). He finished 33 treatments.

Roger: Amazing

Mrs. B: That was the nurse. (laughter) But that's the kind of person he was. He ah, 33 times, trips we made up to the hospital and he went through this. We had to stop for a little bit because he was burning so bad that and he was upset that they weren't going to finish it. He saying, well you going to give up on me he says to the doctor and the doctor says no, I'm not going to give up on you but we got to give you a rest then you come back. So he went back and he finished 33 treatments.

Roger: When did he die?

Mrs. B: December of 1984. He's been dead four years, well it will be five years in December.

Roger: When was he born?

Mrs. B: He was born April the 30th, 1900.

Roger: And he died in August of 1984?

Mrs. B: December 23, of 1984. It will be five years this December.

Roger: And your mother?

Mrs. B: My mother eh, was born in 1909, July the 9th and she died September the 8th, 1987.

Roger: 87 or 88? Last year was 88.

Mrs. B: 87, it was just a year in 1988. It's on its second year. Doesn't seem possible, does it? When daddy passed away she came with me and we kept the house and we used to, her and I used to go down once a month. We'd leave here, my son would get on the school bus 8:00 o'clock in the morning and we'd head for South Jersey, spend the day, play house for day. And then I used to have to take her to the doctor in Millville. And we'd spend the day in Bivalve, visit Alley?, Harold go up to Newport and see people she knew in Newport and we'd shop in the store in Port Norris and cook meals in Bivalve and spend the night and the next day I'd have her doctor's appointment for about 1:00 o'clock so then we'd leave Bivalve around twelve, go to Millville and the doctor and then come back here (here unknown location).

Roger: Did she ever work?

Meter:144

Mrs. B: She was the post mistress.

Roger: Oh she really was the post mistress, okay.

Mrs. B: Yea, she was the post mistress in Bivalve, she's gotta, I got a thing for her somewhere. I don't know whether I put it the book yet or not. Yes, she got a 27 years in the post office.

Roger: And the post office was the two story building in the back that still has the gate on it. The front part of it was the store?

Mrs. B: Well when I was a kid, it was a pool room.

Roger: Oh was it?

Meter: 151

Mrs. B: And then when, my Uncle Harry Henderson was the one that started a Union for the Oystermen in Bivalve years ago and they so they took that building and used it for a union hall where they used to have their meetings.

Roger: I never knew that.

Mrs. B: And then ah, when daddy, when we moved there ah, daddy used to have to hang all his nets to hang nets in there. That's why that if you look, when you walk in you see that heater he had that all hooked up we had it with a blower and we used to hang nets in there during the winter.

Roger: When did you move to the house?

Mrs. B: I was 12, so it would be ah..

Roger: Twelve was big year in your family, twelve was when your father moved on

_____.

Mrs. B: ah, I was born in 1930, so that would probably be 1942? 1941, I guess we moved there.

Roger: And where did you live before that?

Mrs. B: Well, we used to live at the hotel with my grand mom and then right across from the hotel, where I was born, was a, we had a 3 room house right across from the hotel. And that's where we lived and then...

Roger: That house isn't still there?

Mrs. B: No, and ah

Roger: It does seem that they burned a lot of houses in Port Norris.

Mrs. B: Yea, well what happened to was like with our little house, daddy rented it out, my Mom didn't want him to, it was cute when I was a kid. They used to have it used to have a big high fence goin around it and my mother was one of these kind that liked to grow anything and everything, she had rambling roses all around this fence, pinks all over the yard, ah it was like a ferry land there. And ah, so then when they, we went to Camden for a couple of years so live. We used to go, daddy worked, that's when he was iron worken and my sister and I went to school in Camden. We used to stay there from Sunday night until Friday night and back to Bivalve. We never spent a weekend in Camden, ever that I remember. And ah, so that was during the War II, and that's when he first became an iron worker. Then we used to stay, we lived at my grand mom's hotel, cause by then we didn't have the little house anymore. But he rented that house out, I was tellen ya and when you go down the road the house looked alright, the guy never paid rent. I think daddy got \$4.00 or something for rent and eh, so this one day, daddy

goes to look at the house, because somebody said something to him about the back of the house that they were taking boards off. So daddy goes and looks and he walks around there to the back of the house and every things off and you can see the plaster for they were burning it for heat, for heat they took the whole back of the house off.

Roger: laughter

Mrs. B: burning the boards. So eh, that ended that, so he had it torn down that was it. That was the end of his rentals.

Roger: Yea. So then you moved into the house down there in Bivalve. So was that when your mom, that must have been around the time your mom started...

Mrs. B: Yea, well she had the post office on the wharf to start with. Cause the post

Meter: 194

office used to be on the wharf, Mr. Lambert used to be the post master.

Roger: Which building was it in?

Mrs. B: Ah, down towards, see they've changed that wharf a lot. _____ when I was a kid and the mail the post office was like in front of the ferry boat wharf.

Roger: So the building is probably not there that it was in.

Mrs. B: No, it's there.

Roger: So, it's one of the, so it's in the row.

Mrs. B: I think it would still be there. All the boxes and stuff my mother had to take from there and bring to the, the same boxes that was on the wharf. Those boxes are old.

Roger: So that was, they moved in after 1930 then, after 1934 was it?

Mrs. B: We moved into the house in 1942.

Meter: 205

Roger: Oh, okay, 1942 that's why I have the tape recorder on. So in 1942 so they moved the post office in Bivalve from off the pier onto the

Mrs. B: the house, yea

Roger: onto the end of that store. Then she was the post mistress. So eh....

Mrs. B: There was a weather bureau in Bivalve. They used to put the flag up, we had a tower. A big weather, it was government, they used to get 50 cents a day they used to get the phone calls from Philadelphia to raise the flag for small craft, hurricanes and whatever. And eh, put the lights on at night on the, we used to walk over and do all that. What they used to get a day 35 cents or 50 cents a day (referring her question to???)

Unknown: Oh, I don't know.

Mrs. B: And when they retired they gave them each a gold pin I remember that. That was, daddy thought that was great. They used to send him a check I think every three months. I forget what it was.

Roger: Probably cost more to write the check than he got.

Mrs. B: Daddy used, but well he did eh, he used to keep the tower up to like he used to paint the tower, go all the way to the top.

Roger: Where was the tower?

Mrs. B: Eh,

Roger: Is that what the big foundation is that's in the back?

Mrs. B: No, they were for oil tanks. You got to look down the wharf, you got to go down like in the middle of the wharf but it was back off you could probably find the foundation for it. It's probably still there.

Roger: It's down, it's down....

Mrs. B: Going towards Port Norris.

Roger: Going towards Port Norris, down near the machine shop.

Mrs. B: Yes, going towards Port Norris. When you say machine shop, when I was a kid we used to have one right _____??

Unknown: Right up from Bivalve factory.

Mrs. B: Yea, they took that down.

Roger: There was something next to the house?

Mrs. B: No, what do you mean?

Roger: On the other side of the house?

Mrs. B: No, like if you were in our house down there and you walked down right across from Harold it would be I think, there used to be a blacksmith's shop right there when I was a kid, where they used to make the dredges and stuff.

Roger: On the corner?

Mrs. B: No, across the street towards the wharf on the water.

Roger: Oh, okay down further.

Mrs. B: Yea, on the wharf.

Roger: Well there are still two building there, there's a small white house and then there is a bigger white building.

Mrs. B: Yea, the machine shops gone. You know the realtor I have, Louise, her husband worked in that machine shop, that's where he got his eh, he was like an apprentice in there.

Roger: Well what was the building that is now, that they call the machine shop now?

Mrs. B: That was a machine shop to but that, I forget how owned that when I was a kid. They didn't actually have the fire things like, like they used to have years ago like they used to put horse shoes on it, that's what the blacksmith shop used to be by the river. They had the big iron things and the bellows and get the thing hot and make those chain things for the dredges. When I was a kid.

Roger: Didn't there used to be a blacksmith's shop up in town though? Wasn't there one up in town?

Mrs. B: Not that I remember. Probably, before my time. Could have been before my, Archie Jackson used to have the one by the river. And Herbie Moore used to work in there as an apprentice.

Roger: Do you remember Don Ross? He was the Methodist minister down there? This is 15 years ago.

Mrs. B: I wouldn't know him, cause I been married 37 Danny, or will it be 38 this September. I lived, I seen my mother and father from the day I been married. I don't think I ever seen, ever more than two weeks ever went by that I wasn't down there. My kids grew up down there. We lived in Bloomfield then and every time they had off school that's where we went.

Roger: I can see why.

Mrs. B: Yea, cause they loved Bivalve. They all loved the fishen and crabbing and whatever and we used to go to the shore from there to Stone Harbor.

Roger: So tell me about you, started living in the house when you were 12 and ah, how long was it before your father went off to Camden to become a fisherman, I mean an iron worker? He was a fisherman there full time there for a while, and then he went to Camden? So....

Mrs. B: Yea, well he went to Camden before we ever moved into that house.

Roger: Oh is that the way it went?

Mrs. B: For two years we went to Camden.

Roger: Then he moved down to the house.

Meter: 271

Mrs. B: He made the money shad fishing that spring to buy that house. That was the best year he ever had during the war (WWII). I fished with him that spring because nobody would go on the boat. He had already been, that FBI thing where they check you out,

Roger: Yes, check you out to make sure you weren't a spy or something.

Mrs. B: He had all his papers and he a he had already been through all that so then the, back then when we used to shad fish, he took the big boat, which not rally a big big boat.

Roger: How big was it?

Mrs. B: I'm trying to think, I don't even, the Green Hornet, Danny do you remember how it would be the....

Danny: About 28 feet.

Mrs. B: About 28?

Roger: Open boat?

Mrs. B: Well he had a small cabin in the front.

Danny: It would hold 125 boxes at least.

Mrs. B: We used take that boat out, we used to stake the nets, like in a row and then we'd take the big boat out and anchor her off and then take a row boat and row up to the net and whoever was tending, which he was the one that tended, he sounded on the stern of the boat and you had to keep the boat steady for him while he picked the shad out and put in the boat. We have a boat full and he rowed back to the big boat and dumped em out and keeps going back and forth. Now they don't shad fish that way anymore.

Roger: No, they just have a big net.

Mrs. B: Yea, they don't....

Roger: Away from the boat....

Mrs. B: But ah,

Roger: How many nets did he run when you did that?

Mrs. B: Oh, we had like 30 to 50 nets. But they were like 30 fathom pieces and we used to buy the cedar poles and put em in the bay and ah.

Roger: Where did he fish? Did he have a particular place he always went to?

Mrs. B: Well, different, well most of the time, when I fished with him I know it was off of ah, oh what's that eh, _____ Danny, what is it?

Danny: Egg Island?

Mrs. B: No

Danny: East Pointe?

Mrs. B: Below East Pointe, left of East Point.

Danny: Moore's beach?

Mrs. B: Moore's Beach! He was off the, he was mostly off the Moore's Beach I think.

(looking through papers/photos)

Mrs. B: I want to get all this stuff together one of these days. But so far...

Roger: Yea, you have the book set up for it, I saw that.

Mrs. B: Yea, this was mom's (pointing to photos?) I'm trying to think when she got this. 1943, that must have been the year that ah

Roger: She was pretty, wasn't she.

Mrs. B: Once she got hers then I went back to school, this is in April. I got the biggest case of sun poison you ever seen freezing to death in my, but my face from the sun and ah the water I guess I ended up with sun poisoning. That was his biggest year of shad fishing I think.

Roger: Don't you wish you could go back in time?

Mrs. B: Oh, here's the house when it was on the ground (pointing to a photo). You know that foundation is only like twenty years old.

Roger: Oh, Mr. Perry thought it was only 10.

Mrs. B: No, it's about 20. See, you know what it is....

Roger: So it's been that long without a pole under there?

Mrs. B: That must be well built out there because I hang out there and there is hardly any drop in it all and that is just amazing. I thought that the, I figured that probably had a post out there and that they just didn't put in back in when they raised the house up but it's been like that for a long time.

Mrs. B: I can remember the post on the side there though. Don't you remember down on the side?

Danny: ah hum. I remember some concrete blocks and _____ for flower pots.

Roger: Oh they are still there.

Mrs. B: That roof is new, that is like seven years old and the wells no more than 7.

Roger: Is it?

Mrs. B: It's got in the ground pump, that's what I have here. It's a better well than I have. My water's terrible here.

Meter: 340

Roger: Think you couldn't find your father's?

Mrs. B: No I got, I have em all, and I got to get all this stuff together.

Roger: _____ writing a book or anything else (laughter).

Mrs. B: Daddy's, I can't remember where I put it. I have a lot of stuff I got to get together. Keep.... (looking at pictures) that was when they were trying to stop net fishing in the bay and I think it will eventually will come to that too.

Roger: I don't know, because the shad are starting to come back so strongly _____ it isn't going to be right, but we'll keep it in here for now.

Roger: Uh, there have been such good runs of late, I don't think they will.

Mrs. B: They uh, I know they don't really want em, they'd like to get rid of the, but it's a shame. There's not that many guys that do it any more but the ones that do do it, that's all they have. That's Louis Perry's (?) life. I don't what would ever happen with Louis.

Roger: That's the same with Raymond Sheppard he's the same way. That is what his father did and that is all he does. He traps and he farms a little bit but most of the time he's..

Mrs. B: Daddy helped Louis build, what's that thing, I think he fished with that this winter. Up the river. But he is

Roger: Is that the thing that's on the dock right there (pointing). The big wheel?

Mrs. B: No, that's Scott's my nephew or cousin. That's got to come off of there to. No there's some kind of like a some kind of a net I don't what it is it's got a bag in it some kind of a something. Daddy helped Louis build that. He used it during the winter catching perch and catfish up the river.

Roger: _____

Mrs. B: No it's ah, the name is not nothing new they use it in a lot of places.

Roger: Like a _____ net?

Mrs. B: No, I'd of found that cause it cause this you don't use I don't think you leave this, I think you do leave it out overnight but I think it has some kind of a bag in it or something I forget. I know Daddy helped him build it a couple of years ago. Well, more than that, Daddy's been dead four, and I don't know if he is still using that or has something different. I know he has been perch fishing and cat fishing up the river.

Roger: So tell me what fishing season was like with your father.

Mrs. B: What shad fishing?

Roger: Whatever he did shad, weakies....

Mrs. B: Well he used to weak fish with him.

Danny: He used bunker fish.

Roger: Really, he went for bunker?

Danny: We would get like 3.25 a bushel then we got 4.00 dollars we used catch 50 – 60 bushel a day. And we had a big wooden barrel on a boat and we would put in chunks of ice to set it in there for food fish came in we put them in a barrel and added a little water somebody come in and they weren't sloppy at all. Real nice ones. We would put the bunker in the bushel baskets and load up in front of the boat, come back, leave five in the morning come back five at night. Used to work my tail off. (laughter)

Mrs. B: He was a worker, I'll tell ya.

Danny: He knew where the fish were. He knew where they were.

Roger: its part of the instinct cause you can't help go to the water I guess you have to get some kind of a trade off.

Mrs. B: Yea

Roger: So when he went for shad fishing what was it like.

Mrs. B: Cold! (laughter) Cause it was like in the end of March, very cold and that's no easy work either. But he uh....

Roger: Why, why isn't it easy?

Mrs. B: Well, first of all your you can't, he never wore gloves during shad fishing season and he was trying to be careful ya didn't wreck you net and when I was a kid they used to have rock hit the net that would make holes in em like a boat went through it. And he had to bring em in and sit and mend and fishing is not no easy life, I mean let's face it. It's a hard life that like you say if you're the...

Roger: Well tell me why, why is it hard? People don't know they don't have any idea.

Mrs. B: Well lot of times you go out there and you work like this and ah you come in and you get nothing for your fish in number one. And the more fish you have the less money they want to give you for em. That was always the thing. It's not a thing where you can say well I'm not going to sell em today and I'll keep and sell em tomorrow when the price goes up. You have to sell em and take whatever they give you, you are at their mercy.

Roger: When you say you have to sell them who did you sell them to?

Mrs. B: Well, when I was a kid he went he went into Cape May he used to sell it to Jeff Silverman (?) the lawyer.

Roger: That's what he would do, he would go out and take his fish to market....

Mrs. B: If he was in that era, if not he'd bring em into Bivalve and truck em and pack em all up, ice em up and then drive em

Roger: His own truck?

Mrs. B: Yea. He used to do his own.

Roger: And then he'd take them where from Bivalve?

Mrs. B: To Cape May, to Laudermans or years later he was selling em in Sea Isle, Wildwood, he was on the phone a lot too trying to get a place where he could get rid of these fish.

Roger: So you basically had 5 or 6 different people he tried to sell them to?

Mrs. B: Right

Roger: And he wasn't guaranteed sale.

Mrs. B: No. And just like this one time he came into Wildwood, he almost sunk the boat a couple of times. How many did he have on that time, when he went into Cape May? They were all saying it was lucky he didn't drown his self?

Danny: What, was that the skiff?

Mrs. B: He was loaded, like 50 some boxes or something I remember. And when he got to the dock, I think they wanted to give him 2 cents a pound or something for em. You're talking 2 dollars a box, cause they were 100 pound boxes back then. You were just at their mercy. Whatever they wanted to give you.

Roger: When you said skiff, tell me about the boat that you call a skiff.

Mrs. B: Klinker Built, he had a Klinker Built skiff he bought up in Atlantic Highlands.

Danny: It had a little oven on their like a little coal _____.

Roger: How big was it?

Danny: It was a 28 foot.

Roger: It was a 28 foot, _____ Green Hornet.

Mrs. B. That was Klinker built.

Danny: That sat up in the dock a lot years.

Mrs. B: Yea, he didn't want to part with it and then it ended up going to pieces right up there in the wharf. Well he took it out.

Roger: So it's gone?

Mrs. B: Yea. But it was

Roger: Was that the boat he used most of the time? When did he get it, do you remember?

Mrs. B: I was a kid then, I remember going to Atlantic Highlands and getting the St. Lucy, the name of that boat was the St. Lucy. That wasn't the Green Hornet that was the...

Danny: Did he do his thing in that boat?

Mrs. B: What?

Danny: Da rum?

Mrs. B: He was a rum runner, I was really a baby then. The whole gang of em down there, they used to run they were rum runners during prohibition.

Roger: Out of Bivalve?

Mrs. B: I don't know where they went out of. I guess.

Roger: Ah, that ties in with what Mr. Perry was telling me.

Mrs. B: He even went out, they were they would go up into Canada and he could have tell ya some stories. They were shooten at him one day and one night my Uncle Johnny had a mustache and bullet went a cut the whole side of his mustache off. (laughter)

That's how close he came to gotten killed. They, they with Uncle Johnny, they destroyed, well they didn't destroy it but they claimed that's how he got into the service and got to be an officer in the service. He knew the bay, he knew the water.

Roger: Oh, that makes sense.

Mrs. B: Even, he had that thing of being a rum runner but yet that didn't stop him.

Usually like if you've done something where you've been arrested.

Roger: You don't get to be an officer.

Mrs. B: You don't get to be no officer but they, I don't know what it was, I did know at one time whether because it the law had been changed about prohibition or whatever it was I don't know but it didn't affect him being in the service. And yet they knew but yet it didn't hurt him none.

Roger: I guess in time what he'd done was something a lot of people were doing and it was sort of a temporary crime I guess.

Mrs. B: I don't know what it was. That was bad times I think to.

Roger: So you'd get up ah did you have to fish the tide? Did you have to fish the slack tide?

Mrs. B: Ah, I don't think it made a difference.

Roger: Well that's the advantage of using stake nets rather than waking using the regular drift nets.

Mrs. B: The only thing is you had to get there early before the, like if the tide was low during your early morning like the birds and stuff would ruin a lot of your fish. Cause like the nets would be bare.

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Roger: I never realized that.

Mrs. B: As when the tide went low.

Roger: So you wouldn't put them down at all? They weren't down at all?

Mrs. B: They were down but they the only thing is when the tide oh I see what you mean. You couldn't do that because you corks they used to float, you had corks on the top. The top of the net had to float so they weren't down on the poles that far. So when the tide dropped out like if it was early morning. Like the birds didn't bother like it was dark yet. But once daylight broke you had to be there if the tide was going to be there that early in the morning to get your fish. Otherwise they (meaning the birds) destroyed a lot of fish to.

Roger: So you try to get there just at sun rise and then when would you come back in?

After you...

Mrs. B: After you clean, you have to tend all the nets. You got to tend em all.

Roger: Then you got to take them (fish) to market.

Mrs. B: Well when he shad fished ah, they could I don't know whether he did take them then or not cause your talking a lot of boxes of fish. You know what I mean. I don't remember eh what happened when he was shad fishing cause I know like he get 50 boxes. 45 boxes then sometimes you go out and tend twice. Depended.

Roger: Well you have to go when the fish are running.

Mrs. B: Right

Roger: And if you have a good run you are sure to fill the nets twice.

Mrs. B: We used to eat a lot of roe back then.

Roger: Laughter... did he ever get sturgeon?

Mrs. B: Life was good. Yea

Roger: What did you do with them?

Mrs. B: Daddy used to skin them and we'd stake em a fry em. We used to eat sand shark meat when I was a kid.

Roger: Did you ever make your own caviar?

Mrs. B: No

Roger: Did he ever sell any did he ever catch any?

Mrs. B: I don't think we ever, I don't know whether daddy ever eat roe from the sturgeon? I don't remember that part. But he ah used to smoke fish, he used to salt fish and he loved (laughter) he was a fisherman right from the inside out! He loved fishing or eating them or whatever. But we used can, daddy used to we used to can fish. Not when I was real little, like when the pressure cooker like he used to can it. He used to do a lot of canning of all things really. But anything you could do with a fish, I think he did it.

Roger: Did he have a regular fisher for anything else did he go for perch or? Weakies?

Mrs. B: Yep, he used to go for perch for what?

Roger: For commercial for selling.

Danny: Perch was one of his bags. He was good at that.

Mrs. B: Yea but they weren't paid no money for perch until when I was a kid is when, later years now perch are work a little money but not they were like a throw away fish. You know rock was it was funny but as a kid a can remember rock having this sweet, like a real good perch similar to a perch but maybe even a little better but now the last how many years, ten years, maybe a little bit longer we don't we wouldn't even eat one because when you cooked them they had they left like a bitter taste in your mouth. It wasn't anything... that's what I'm saying but we didn't even realize it then like daddy used to say no matter what's wrong with my taste why rock don't taste like rock any more. Cause we didn't call them _____ bass, we called em rock and he and I bet you we haven't had one to eat in a good ten years or better. Cause they weren't any good just like eels, another thing.

Roger: Oh yea, I didn't know that.

Mrs. B: Eels have a, to me, I used love em, oh...

Danny: We used to eel to.

Mrs. B: Daddy did that too.

Roger: _____

Danny: Salt the eels and ship them to New York.

Mrs. B: But they're bitter too.

Roger: I never realized that.

Mrs. B: I mean we weren't even thinking about pollution then cause it's a long time back but all of sudden all these different things they changed.

Roger: How about oysters?

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Mrs. B: Well,

Roger: Did you ever go oystering?

Mrs. B: Yea

Roger: Did you ever go out in the big boats?

Mrs. B: Daddy had oyster grounds for a while and he planted and they died.

Roger: Did he have his own boat?

Mrs. B: He had no I think he done it with a hand scraper and daddy was a tonger a good tonger.

Roger: Is that his garvey that's in the back?

Mrs. B: He had that built.

Roger: Who built it for him?

Mrs. B: Harry Luffton (sp) Lupton (sp).

Danny: He was a good boat builder

Mrs. B? Yea Harry Lufton (sp)? Beaver Dam he lived in Beaver Dam between I guess it could be Newport its over the bridge in fact Harry Lufton (sp) was my father's cousin.

He was a relation to the Luptons (sp).

Danny: Didn't he have sugar diabetes, he used to build...

Mrs. B: No that's that was ah they used to own that crab remember when they could go crabbing in Hollywood beach they were the same Luptons that had that and Uncle Harry Redden that's who your thinking, no it was Uncle Harry that had the he was a diabetic kids used to see him give himself insulin. Yea that was uncle Harry.

Roger: So he didn't do oystering very long?

Mrs. B: Who daddy, no he did quite a bit of oyster when I was kid too.

Roger: Did he ever work on anybody else's boat?

Mrs. B: Yea, he went up to bay on oyster boats.

Roger: Do you remember anybody he went with?

Mrs. B: Uh,

Danny: You should talk to Herby Phillips.

Mrs. B: Harold, well Herby Phillips don't remember daddy as a young person. Herby's not that old either. Harold would know the boats that daddy worked on. I don't remember. He worked on the WPA too when I was a kid. He used to come with these hunting coat on I couldn't wait for him to come home to see what he had in his coat. He come with frogs, it was winter time and where they were digging whatever they were doing he be digging and frogs would be dug in you know and he would bring home frogs and we'd eat frogs legs or whatever he had.

Roger: Did he ever go for turtles?

Danny: Yea, diamond backs.

Mrs. B: Snappers

Danny: Downstairs underneath the cellar underneath the house we used to throw them in there and keep them there and take one out for soup.

Roger: Yea! How old are you?

Danny: 36

Mrs. B: They used go snappering with pop that was he didn't sell them then, years back he did that and sold them. Years back he did. But not later years he used to get the snappers we would get snappers on that ditch on the way to Bivalve that big (demonstrating with her hands).

Danny: Take a string with a hook take a piece of eel throw it in the middle and tie it onto a bush. Next day

Roger: He'd swallow it, absolutely.

Mrs. B: They used to take them spearing frogs at night.

Danny: Until the mosquitoes won. We would be sitting in the boat perch fishing you know, we got the net in the ditch all of a sudden he said I think we're in the net and he net going across the bow and he's in the back smoking cigarettes mosquitoes in my nose and in my ears, yelling can't you _____ them things any faster.

Roger: He is _____ smoke.

Danny: I can't even see where we have to go we had to, perch are hard to pick out, compared to bunkers and weak fish, perch

Mrs. B: They hurt, boy when they

Danny: Your hands get all scarred and bloody and got to come home and put the vinegar on them.

Mrs. B: Ammonia not vinegar, man you got to be a man when you do that and it hurts and it hurts but there not sore after. Takes ever bit of that soreness out.

Danny: We used to, when we used bunker fish we used to have every bunker down to how much it was. Like one fell out of the net and I didn't get em he say that's 3 cents. I sitten on one side of the stern and pulling the net and weak fish were coming up and it just hooked on the thing bout a 9 pounder and I seen it was going to fall out oil skins and all I just dove right over board and grand dad said there's your fish go get it. (laughter) Made a lot of money with him though. Soon as something started he start thinking again what we going to do now. We just started crabbing that's just when I started crabbing I just started we just started getting some pots this was after he was crabbing years ago. We were just mainly fishing but he seen a lot of crabs coming up in our nets you know when you see a lot of and they are monofilament nets and if you see crabs in there usually they just fall out. Cotton net they will stay in there and twist themselves up in it and hang up and if you see crabs in a monofilament net you know there are some crabs there. So every night each port we had only 40 pots I think we were crabbing at that time. We were catching 8 to 9 bushel. Putting the pots out, checking the pots and then going out fishing and coming back in maybe you know just taking the crabs back forth. We were doing everything. But that's how things he'd pick up. Just little things come on we'll get the pots and move the pots down here, and you say why and he'd say didn't you see them crabs in that net? Well little things, he knew everything. Somebody had problems down there a young kid crabbing or fishing or where to fish. They'd come ask him questions all over they come to see him. Guy knew his business.

Roger: Who were some of his other friends?

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Danny: You should have been down here 10 years ago

Mrs. B: Kenny, Kenny Gibbs I don't know if you remember him or not. He built a house on the river going up towards Shell pile. They bought DuBois property. And they built a house sits right on the water.

Roger: Going up towards Port Norris? I don't know where that is?

Mrs. B: Ah,

Roger: Out in Shell pile you mean?

Mrs. B: No, if you go, you're in Bivalve you know where the church is you coming down from Port Norris you make a left into the church down that road Chester Ave that is, go all the way down the oyster lab or close to it. That road that goes to left off of there go on that road and go over the bridge there's like a small bridge and you look and you'll see a big iron gate across there's reeds everywhere I mean it's like a forest of reeds you'll see this iron gate and go through that iron gate and go back you have to call em before you ever went there cause they got dogs, what are they?

Danny: I don't know but they are big.

Roger: They bite that's all

Mrs. B: I don't think they ever bite anybody but I wouldn't trust em. They are too big.

Danny: _____

Mrs. B: That's his domain so I wouldn't, so whenever I'm down there I call them if I'm going over that way they can get everybody hooked up somewhere so I can come.

Roger: How old is he?

Mrs. B: Kenny is a 62 I think.

Meter 746 – END OF SIDE A

Meter 000 – BEGIN SIDE B

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Danny: He's a busy guy. He's not going to be able to..... _____

Mrs. B: He's doing a lot of work over there the DuBois when he is doing all kinds of things. Their property is worth a little money down there now. They own, they must own 300 feet or more of waterfront property more I think.

Roger: This is Gibbs? You mean? Back over there?

Mrs. B: Over in that area, where DuBois shucking, they used to grind shells down there for the chickens.

Roger: That's the one that they caught? Is that the shucking house you're talking about.

Mrs. B: No it's not a shucking house. When I was a kid they used to grind oyster shells there and sell them to chicken farmers and stuff. For lime. And they used to sell gasoline out they had a gasoline wharf that's where Kenny built this house right on the wharf it's right on pilings.

Roger: Oh, yea I know where it is now.

Mrs. B: And you can look drive right by and see it. You can go there by boat even.

Roger: It's probably safer than by dog.

Mrs. B: But they are nice people. Done a beautiful job building that house.

Roger: I haven't met many people down there that weren't nice that's why I like the area so much.

Mrs. B: Yea, they're nice people.

Roger: I shouldn't say that there are some people down there that I met that I don't think very much of.

Mrs. B: Well, take em or leave em. It's a lot different now.

Roger: Unfortunately.

Mrs. B: But Bivalve used to be something when I was a kid. I try to tell my kids about it and they just I myself can't believe it when I go down there to tell you the truth.

Roger: What has changed?

Mrs. B: Well, there was so many houses and so many people.

Roger: Where were all the houses?

Mrs. B: Well...

Roger: Say you have Mr. Perry's, let's say working from Mr. Perry's back towards Port Norris.

Mrs. B: Well, Hal's(?) house wasn't there, when I was a kid. Where Hal's house is was another big restaurant. There used to be a big restaurant that took that whole corner.

Roger: With the porch all the way around it?

Mrs. B: Mrs. G, yea I think it did. I used to tap dance in there when I was a kid. And so that just gives you an idea there was two big restaurants in Bivalve when I was a kid.

Mrs. G's, they were Jewish people that had it on the Main Road and my grandmother had a big restaurant on Chester Avenue. It had 20 something bedrooms in it, the house.

Roger: Where was it?

Mrs. B: On Chester, you know where the church you make the left, you could see from her house you could look and see the wharf from the hotel.

Roger: It was on the other side of Chester or on this side of Chester?

Mrs. B: No, when you going down to Bivalve when you see the church and make a left go down towards as if you're going to the wharf, which is the lab, and it's like a, well the hotel set like here and the church is back here like you make the left. In other words there was another road that crosses you go past that going towards the wharf, there used to be another road that went through there.

Roger: Yea, there are you can't, there grading in there or something and there's something at the end of all the shucking houses in Bivalve that you can't get through there.

Mrs. B: Yea cause that was road that went through there, and you could make a left or right on this road.

Roger: Yea, it went behind all the buildings.

Mrs. B: Yea, and you can go straight this way to the wharf, well grand mom's the hotel set to the right on Chester Ave looking at the wharf. There was nothing between her and the wharf except a big pond with ducks all in it.

Roger: Oh, you meant by that little creek that's actually ends up at the Bivalve house.

Mrs. B: No, I don't think that had nothing to do with Dickey's Ditch, that's Dickey's Ditch, yea that's even on the title of the property is the all those properties go to the middle of Dickeys Ditch. Like my mother's like for the house would her property starts in the middle of Dickeys Ditch and goes to the middle of the Shell Road. That's the road

in the front, that's called the Shell Road. The properties extended from the middle of, I mean this is old time stuff, from the middle of Shell Road to the middle of Dickey's Ditch.

Roger: That's funny. So what other buildings were there? Where there any houses next to, there was never anything there on the corner.

Mrs. B: Where?

Roger: Right next to, as you walk out the front door...

Mrs. B: My at the house....

Roger: Yea.

Mrs. B: Next door to my mother going to the left if you're in the house, looking towards the front room on the left of the house was a little house, there is a small piece of property over there and there used to be mad lived there and we used to call him Uncle Kaney. Lived in this little tiny house. His name was Uncle Kaney and next to him was our Government Office, next to Uncle Kaney was Mildred ah what was her last name, well it doesn't make any difference she worked she had the customs office, we had a Custom House there and Mildred used to run the custom house and next to Mildred's that was like a little house too it was the cutest thing you ever seen. But it was a Customs office. Right next to that was a fish market, Harold Perry the one you talked to you down there, his uncle owned that it was a fish market out to that whole area there. They had there, Nick Roden (sp?) was the man that owned it and he was married to Harold's cousin or something, Bessie Perry.

Roger: Now there was a big place right where Mr. Perry's house is. Was there anything out, going out of town more, like going out towards the mouth of the bay?

Mrs. B: Yep, there was a, well on the river still, like when you are at Harold's and you go and on the river there used to be a big grocery store, Newcombs. They used to have a big grocery store, butcher shop the whole bit down in that end. And then they had wharfs, and docks he owned oyster boats, I know you've heard of the Joe Newcomb, he was like the king. He owned a lot of property there, he had a store, you could go there and get meat and groceries or all that stuff down there and he had his offices all there and on the land side was ah after Mrs. G's was a Taylor had a house there back of him another man had a house. That's how it was, it was like a house here, a house here, a house here with wooden sidewalks. Like you'd see in a boat you know how like they have where you can see through it like the pieces of wood and you could walk, that's how they instead of having sidewalks that's what they used to have. They used to float when the tide come up the things floated, they used to keep them tied. And it was like down that road was a there's a kid, the kids still in Port Norris, Bill Biggs. His uncle and aunt lived down there on the right towards the land not towards the river.

Roger: What happened to all those houses? They just sort of went to pieces?

Mrs. B: I don't know. I guess so.

Roger: And then they hauled them out of there?

Mrs. B: Every time I would home I would just see less, and less and less. Well like when I was a kid there was no black people in Bivalve. They used to come in the spring of the year to go on the boats but mostly was polish, and Irish used to come, some blacks but not that many. And they was none lived in Bivalve. I didn't even know of a family, they lived on the pile, shell pile. That's where they all lived. And then a lot of them, most of them used to go back to Maryland or Virginia or wherever they came from. They

came seasonal for the oyster business for the Spring and to shuck oysters in the winter when they were bringing them in and ah. But it was all white people, I mean we had some beautiful homes. They moved, like when you're coming into Bivalve the first house you see was Dukes Abbott but when I was a kid that used to belong to Roy and Flo Yates. They were people with

Roger: I'm a Yates.

Mrs. B: Oh are you a Yates? They had money. In fact there's a house

Roger: As you come in the house..

Mrs. B: As your coming in Bivalve,

Roger: They are on the right?

Mrs. B: That first house that used to Flo and Roy Yates used to live there when I was a kid. And then next to them was ah Walter Sharp had the next house. You're talking parquet floors, your talking some beautiful homes. And big, I remember that Roy Yates house I practically live at there because like everybody used to bake on certain days and whoever was baking on certain days, if I didn't have nothing planned I go and help clean the bowls and stuff when they finished. Cause Roy and Flo had no children and so I used to spend a lot of time with them. And then the Sharp's I used to go there and next to them was another house with another man in it and next to them was that green house is still there, Alley Hore (sp?) lived in that house. You should have seen that house when I was a kid how beautiful that house was inside.

Roger: Well it's hard looking but its not really in bad shape if I remember correctly.

Mrs. B: That house was beautiful. They used to have those trumpet vines along the whole porch in the front, used to screen the porch in the summer. It was a beautiful house. Then next to them was a oh what was her name, she used to know everybody's business when I was kid, she used to always be sitting at the window. She was an older person and alone. And they used to call her nosey. The woman lived there cause her husband had died and then next to here my aunt had a house and next to that was a that house is still there and in good shape too is a fishing club came to Bivalve. Elmer Eastburn (sp?) was they were all tool and die makers and stuff. So what they done they bought a beautiful boat it was called the VIKING. And they bought that house or they built that maybe I don't remember that part but I remember that the house used to have a Viking on the house in the front. And this group of men, they would either come together at times or like if your I think each, I guess each put in so much money. Then bought this property that bought the boat and they used to and then it was set up in such a way that whoever was the last man alive would end up with it.

Roger: Huh. Properly civilized isn't it.

Mrs. B: That's how they did it. It was beautiful, they had such a friendship you wouldn't believe.

Roger: Now you have to have six thousand lawyers and you could never get it straightened out.

Mrs. B: That's how it happened it ended up that Elmer Eastburn(sp?) was the last man to live. And when he retired he came down there and lived. Well he lost his wife young. Elmer Eastburn his name was.

Roger: When?

Mrs. B: Oh, a lot of years ago, maybe Hal can even tell you that. Because his wife died young they took her into operate on her gall bladder or something then she died. And

from what I understood it was a senseless thing. It was something that they did wrong or she was pregnant or something and they done the operation and she died. It was something foolish, well back then I guess you know they didn't know what they know today about stuff like that but she died very young. And he had a son, and a the boy, like he used to bring him here he used to be here for the summer and he had a sail boat. He grew up down there practically. Like he went to school, he lived in Philadelphia somewhere or the outer part of Philadelphia somewhere and ah he had money, they all did. That group did to form this. I mean they probably weren't millionaires they probably weren't millionaires, but they lived comfortable. They were educated all of them, very nice people.

Roger: Yea, you got to know a lot to do that.

Mrs. B: They were really nice.

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Mrs. B: Elmer ended up with it all so he had, well he finally died and I guess his son got it. But now they sold that property, that's Harold and Alley the people you talked to that his mother lived in that house after Elmer Eastburn died. She bought that house and now she has passed away now these other people that live there now. And then next to that house was a were other people who lived there was a two story house on the corner right across from mom was another two story house with a family in it. Going back the alley way there was Uncle Ike had a house, I mean it was I don't even know how many rooms it was such a big house. Porch all the way around it and a fence all the way around it.

Roger: I knew there was a lot of _____ there. I did not realize it was that extensive.

Mrs. B: Really was.

Roger: Where they new houses that you are talking about, back then?

Mrs. B: When I was a kid I wouldn't say new but well kept.

Roger: Probably put in say in 1910 to 1920 or ...

Mrs. B. See Hal could probably tell you that too. I don't remember any of that. But I know ah my grandmother's hotel was built up from she started with one room. One room and a pot of soup. That's how she started.

Roger: The old way, wow that's old.

Mrs. B: She brought this lady with her, Ada Ryan her name was. She was from someplace in I was trying to tell the kids the other day it's a funny name in Pennsylvania and she used to sing a song all the time when I was a kid, she used to sing it to me. And it's you put upon the horse and something, I don't know, and then the name was in this song was where she was where she came from. I just can't remember it. But she was funny, and she was a cook. And she started out with my grand mom. My grand mom brought her here from Wildwood, I guess and they started out with one room and a big pot of soup and that's how she started and ended of with a 27 bedroom hotel. The kitchen and the porch, it was a closed in porch, and I remember the tables all the length of the porch and around the front and a big big double dining room. They used to have billboards all the way to Philadelphia _____ this restaurant. Oysters that was a big thing and fried fish. Can you believe that. But my grandmother passed away my aunt was the executrix of the will they were seven of them. And I think if they had left her alone I think she would have done alright, but it was like bickering. It wasn't moving

fast enough and I want out and this whole bit. Not my father. Daddy was never like that. But ah his older brother was and ah my two aunts and it was just like so like they went into court and the judge gave a certain length of time to sell the house and that was it. They probably gave it away. So, that ended that. But it is was ah, you'd have to see Bivalve ha ha, I just can't just can't tell you about it, I just wish I had some way of taking pictures and keeping things you know to cause its like unbelievable how many people.

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Both sides of that road going back right across from Mom was houses.

Roger: All the way out to Port Norris?

Mrs. B: No, back of Mom

Roger: Oh, oh the other road.

Mrs. B: If your on the porch standing on the porch and looking at the road that goes down, Harold lived back there. That's, Harold's house is only, that's rather new.

Roger: He said something, the ah, ah, he pointed that a tractor and trailer you know the back part and he said I grew up in a house right there, didn't even have any running water.

Mrs. B: Yea in the back. I remember his father, his father used to have a on the wharf, that wharf was something when I was a kid. We had butcher shops, grocery stores, post office.

Roger: A whole row of buildings.

Mrs. B: Yea, His father had.....

Roger: I always thought that was shucking.

Mrs. B: No, they didn't shuck on the wharf.

Roger: The only shucking house was that one next to it.

Mrs. B: Clyde Phillips put, built the only one that was in Bivalve, I think really. When I was a kid.

Roger: Clyde Phillips did?

Mrs. B: Yea, down on the end, going towards Port Norris, where the lab is. I worked for him when I was pregnant for my oldest son.

Roger: Really, I'm going to bring his boat back. (laughter)

Mrs. B: Yea, he had a shucking house down there. I worked, well when I worked for them they were opening clams. I was pregnant with my older son and my husband was in the service and I lived with my mom and dad and ah so I went down and went to work for him I lasted one day. Laughter.... What a smell, it was squeezing the guts out of the clams forget it!! I think I lasted one day that was it! Yea, Clyde was around when I was a kid. I used to know.... He was a nice person. Big guy, big brawly, his wife was nice and they raised a nice family. They used to live next to my Aunt Hattie in Port Norris. They had rabbits in the house and ah, (laughter), they had a good time. Then they moved from that house, they lived over near the school. That back road, I don't if it was Brown Street or I don't know the streets in Port Norris to good. I just know they bought a house back near the school. That's where ah, I think that's where he lived when he died. I think she is still working in the hospital, don't she, the mother? Last I heard there' ah, I never knew their younger kids to good I just knew the older ones, the in fact the two girls I knew Jean and the one that had infantile paralysis. She was the younger girl. Then his sons came after that so I don't know them that good.

Roger: One of them is the one that's well he is basically giving the schooner to this non-profit that's been set up to turn it back into a sailing oyster boat. I think that's fantastic.

Mrs. B: Yea, I didn't know the boys. I just knew the three girls. Cause the boys are a lot younger I think.

Roger: Good, I think that's good.

Mrs. B: I'm surprised you didn't know that. That was ah I mean that wasn't back when I was no kid, when that was built, I was older then. But we never, I don't, that other shucking house down the road was put into to do clams to. The one going down to the bar that was....

Roger: Yea, that looks newer too, its all cinder blocks and all that kind of stuff. Well what was in the red building right there behind the house?

Mrs. B: That was a store. That was _____ and ah well the first wasn't Gibb High??? It was...

Roger: Orville

Mrs. B: No, Orville was last. Ah, Thurston owned that store when I was real little and he used to sell, that's where all the boats used to go to get ah, their groceries, their oil skins, their ah boots anything that was to do with the....

Roger: Like _____ (chandler??)

Mrs. B: Yea,

Roger: They sold fuel there?

Mrs. B: Yea, out on the wharf but ah all the state boats used to come there, I done some bookkeeping for Oral but that was years and years later I was in high school then. But Thurston had it and then Gibb High, Gibb High was a cousin to my father not close but somewhere there he was relation to him. And ah, and then after Gibb High, Orville Rhumboldt (sp) bought it. And then Orville left there, he was the last one to have a store there he went...

Roger: When was that?

Mrs. B: Well, in the 50's, sometime in the 1950's.

Roger: Yea that building then you had the whole row, what was in the first one of those?

Mrs. B: Hal Perry's brother, Hal Perry's father had an ice cream parlor there and you could go in and have soup, sandwich and ice cream. And up on top of him used to be a stairs that went up over top and over top of him was Grant Bacon, he used to write up boat papers and stuff you could go up there for ah and for oyster grounds if you wanted to rent grounds you'd go to Grant Bacon.

Roger: There was a walkway on the waterside over the piers over the water?

Mrs. B: No, like when you got to the wharf when you went up those steps it was like say the red store is here right well right here used to be real wide steps used to walk up these steps then you came to the wharf you could down the alley way towards where the gasoline used to be sold out on that pier used to be all gasoline or right here next to the alley way was these stairs that went up on the side of that building that your talking about went up to the top. And then Grant Bacon had his office right over top of the ice cream parlor.

Roger: Okay, so you had that one and that one and what was in your building?

Mrs. B: Ah, I don't remember.

Roger: Okay, how about the next couple, you remember them?

Mrs. B: No,

Roger: But they were stores?

Mrs. B: Yea, I remember we had Bru_____ts had a butcher shop that one I told who had a real nice house when you went into Bivalve, they owned a butcher shop over there. And we had ah, grocery stores, over top of that red store when I was a kid they used to make sails.

Roger: That was DuBois Sail.....

Mrs. B: A Sail Loft ah no it was not DuBois, see Hal could tell you that too I could to if I could remember it. (Laughter) But Hal will probably cause he just sits around and thinks about this stuff all the time. Ah, Cobby, Mr. Cobb used to be sail maker.

Roger: Ah, yea I knew that I heard that before, in fact I think I have some of his sail maker's tools. Al Huber has the sail books. Okay so then it was just basically a bunch of stores one right after the other.

Mrs. B: And then back of that store going on the river side was another store, Jack ah,

Roger: You mean this side towards the house?

Mrs. B: No, going down the wharf. It was Jack ah can't think of his last name either but he used to sell a lot of things for boats in there but not groceries or nothing like that.

Roger: Just gear like.

Mrs. B: Or parts ah, different

Roger: Engine parts or cleats or a

Mrs. B: Something yea like it was a marine store of some sort I remember. I never went there much because he didn't sell candy. (laughter) I didn't know too much about that one. But Newcomb's had candy, and ah Gibb High across the street he had candy, ice cream and all that stuff so, but Jack, I can't think of his last name either, you could buy things to do with boats. I wish that sail loft was still down there I go down and get him to make something to cover my window on the top here. (laughter) He could do anything with canvas.

Roger: Yea

Mrs. B: I don't remember which wharf had what but the ferry boat wharf was the one that a ferry used to run back and forth across the river and then in front of that on the front side that's where the post office and the telegraph office.

Roger: That was down farther.

Mrs. B: Yea, down like when you went on the wharf you had to walk down it was more like the stores center of the wharf I would say towards the center of all the.

Roger: And what was across the river?

Mrs. B: Well there was shucking house and a lot of people a lot of houses.

Roger: That wasn't called Bivalve that was called something else.

Mrs. B: No, Maurice River I think or Downe Township or we just said across the river that's all. I used to swim that river when I was a kid me and my dad and mom. We used to swim. Swim over and come back on the ferry boat.

Roger: Swimming is not one of my strong

Mrs. B: Oh I love swimming.

Roger: But I love the water though, I don't like swimming more than anything.

Mrs. B: Oh well were all different I guess thank God for that.

Roger: How did you get up to the town if you didn't go by ferry? Was there a road back to there?

Mrs. B: To Bivalve?

Roger: On the other side.

Mrs. B: Oh there is a road, yea.

Roger: Is there still a road there?

Mrs. B: Yea, there's a road that goes all the way down. End of there used to be a lot of black people that lived over there too. They used to work in the shucking house. They had a grocery store over there too. I used to go over there that was

Roger: What was the ferry boat like?

Mrs. B: Ah,

Roger: It was a boat, it wasn't really didn't carry cars or anything like that?

Mrs. B: No, just people.

Roger: Just a power boat of some sort.

Mrs. B: Yea, open, I think it could have had a cabin on it or think across the top I forget that's been I must have been four years old then.

Roger: That was the last it ran?

Mrs. B: It didn't run after that, but I think when ah you know what happened was I don't know whether that boat burned or not. I think it could have burned. I forget. See Hal would know that. But I think what really could have happened too was ah like there wasn't that many people that was concerned about over there you know what I'm saying like when the oyster business was flourishing it was

Roger: When was the business flourishing that you can remember?

Mrs. B: Well I was real little, I wouldn't know dates I know remember as a kid the railroad trains back of the house was like three or four sets of tracks, train tracks.

Roger: Remember that sand road, the Shell Road is.

Mrs. B: No, back of the house. Between the wharf and the yea. That was all tracks. When I was a kid.

Roger: They ran all the way back to Shell Pile?

Mrs. B: No, it went to well down pass Newcombs cause they used to bag oysters down there too.

Roger: Then it went back into town.

Mrs. B: Then it went back up to Port Norris. Yea, But they had, I can remember the scow (sp) all being near the wharf being floated with oysters and they used to have people that would count oysters and cull oysters different sizes bag em up guy sewed the bags and tied bags and oh train loads of oysters going out of there, but I was really little, real little.

Roger: So say 10? When you were 10 it was gone?

Mrs. B: I think it was over before that. Really. The trains and stuff I don't remember them when we lived in our house I don't remember no trains. So it had to be before that. I don't know exactly when but I know it had to be before then. And every one of those wharfs was owned by different oystermen. You know that had boats and would bring the oyster in. Scall (sp) used to fit up into the wharf. They'd sink the scows and put water in them with oysters and drain em my grandfather used to sink his scow and that's how we used to learn to swim.

Roger: In the scow?

Mrs. B: yea, (laughter) because they were big, big square thing. They had the plugs up in the front and let the water out and put fresh water in the tide come in and nice fresh water and we could swim on low tide we could still swim we had the scow so it was

good. Yea as soon as you could walk they wanted you swimming down there when I was a kid cause I had a cousin drown. So they wanted you to as soon as you walked to you learned to swim or else.

Mrs. B: Good ole days gone for ever. I used catch soft-shell crabs off that wharf like you wouldn't believe when I was a kid now you don't even see one. The mud even smells. But they say that down here isn't nearly as polluted as the rest of the world. The rest of the they're saying it's a

Roger: I have a book here that says that a in spite of all the crap that Philadelphia has dumped into there it never really managed to get much into the bay except for in the silt. The heavy metal stuffs all the scary stuff.

Mrs. B: I guess we'll all survive it. I hope it does. I hope somebody cares. I'll tell you this whole world is in such a mess that every time you turn around you're not supposed to eat this you shouldn't eat that and I don't know after a while what you're going to eat they're telling you now that the insecticides we raised we had the two gardens in my son-in-law and all of us, we work we do a lot of planting and canning and freezing and we've been here four years and so the gardens are just starting to get, ah, my sons built this house.

Roger: Yea, you said that.

Mrs. B: Yea, almost two years doing this. A lot of work. So now we have the garden and I don't use any chemicals not since we hit here. Even the lawn and stuff I don't let my 17 year old he's into lawns he thinks lawns are beautiful, I do too, its nice to have it but to me it not enough to have chemicals he was wanting me to call Chemlawn or Lawnchem or somebody. They said they can make this grass green, I said well, not this grass your not going to make green. We can't do it organically, then forget it. So that's what we do. A lot of trees we had to take down because of the gypsy moths had killed them and the poison ivy was really bad, we had ropes like this wrapped around or else its poison oak. Ropes like this that strangled trees out and it was. This property was..

Roger: Anybody get it?

Mrs. B: Uh, did we! I still do.

Roger: Burn it?

Mrs. B: No we didn't burn it, no but what it is even now like we go out and bring wood, you have to wear gloves because it's still on the wood.

Roger: Even the smoke is supposed to get to you.

Mrs. B: My husband gets it every once in a while on his hands and ends up on his eyes and his face.

Meter 485

Roger: This is a taped interview with Mrs. Bienkovitz who is the daughter of Daniel Henderson who resided in Bivalve New Jersey. Daniel Henderson was a commercial fisherman. The interview was taped on March 11, 1989. In Mrs. Bienkovitz's home in Howell, New Jersey. The interviewer was Roger Allen and Mrs. Bienkovitz's youngest son was also present and I don't think I got his name, although I'll get it later.

END OF SIDE B – END OF INTERVIEW – METER READING 508