



Oral History and Folklife Research, Inc.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MYRTRESS HARRINGTON

CONDUCTED BY
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Keith Ludden - Let me start with a little bit of housekeeping here. We are at Stueben, and it's July 30 [2012], and we are talking to Myrtress, last name is Harrington.

Myrtress Harrington – Yes

KL: And we are talking about the Stinson Sardine Cannery at Prospect Harbor. Do you mind if I ask what year you were born?

MH: I was born 1932

KL: 1932. Ok. So, you saw a little bit of the—and you were born at Stueben?

MH: Gouldsboro

KL: Gouldsboro. At Gouldsboro. So, you saw a few years of those hard times?

MH: Yes. Yes, I, the first year I worked there, it was 1947. But I wasn't steady, so you know.

KL: So you started working at the cannery in 1947?

MH: Yes. It was in the old factory. The one that burnt.

KL: I worked downstairs casing up. I couldn't go up where the machinery was.

KL: Did your family work in the cannery before that?

MH: Yes, my father and my mother, and it was all of us, was just about the only place anyone had to work, was Stinson's, at that time. My father was running the sealing machines.

KL: Your father ran the sealing machine. Ok. And what was your first job there?

MH: Putting the cans in the boxes downstairs. Casing up.

KL: And your mother worked at the cannery too?

MH: Yes, she was, she went around the tables and kept the fish off the floor and stuff.

KL: She kept everybody right in line.

MH: Yea

KL: (laughter)

MH: There was wooden floors around the old factory, so she had to sweep that, and she would go around so many times a day and do that. And then when I was old enough to go upstairs, well old enough to use my scissors, we had to use scissors them days.

KL: How old were you when you started working at the factory?

MH: Sixteen.

KL: sixteen, all right. So, you were sixteen.

MH: Yea, I was fifteen, wasn't quite sixteen when I started working, but when I got sixteen, I went upstairs and used the scissors.

KL: Ok.

MH: The fish were cooked there. It wasn't raw it was cooked. And I don't know when it was, it was the first day, or second day, I think it was, I don't remember what it was, I went up to pack fish. And we had trays and we'd hall them out of the carrier, and the fish was all cooked on them. The flakes, the flakes they called them, and when we got the flake all cleared off, the lady I was packing with, I would forget and set my scissors right on that plate, tray. And um, all we had was chum on there, and we'd have to flip it, and it would go down this chum carrier. And it would

chew right up, chew them chum right up. I lost 3 pairs of scissors that day.

KL: {laughter}

MH: And the boss came up and told me, he says, "your father says, you might just as well go home" (laughter). I lost three pairs of scissors, but they was only a dollar a pair then.

KL: hmm

MH: No, it was quite an experience, I saw quite a lot of changes down there.

KL: Tell me about how, now you packed the fish, or you cased up?

MH: I, well I cased up until I was sixteen, old enough to go upstairs.

KL: I see

MH: And then I packed, put the fish in the cans.

KL: Okay

MH: So, each day long, I'd put them in the cans.

KL: I see. So, you used scissors to cut the fish?

MH: Yes.

KL: Tell me about how it worked.

MH: Well the fish would come down, they was all cooked, they cook them in the steam boxes and then they would bring them out and then they'd come down on, what I said was a flakes, they called them, and they'd come right down and the women would haul them off, and pack it off clean, and then we flip the chum and put it back up on.

KL: Now why would scissors work better than a knife?

MH: Oh no, you couldn't use a knife. Never of got nothing packed. They was cooked, the fish was cooked. You could pick them up and then go like this, cut the head and then cut the tail.

KL: But a knife wouldn't have worked?

MH: Well it would but then it wouldn't have been so fast.

KL: Oh, Oh, it would have taken a lot more time.

MH: It might, uh excuse me, and they had snippers, them was a real small fish. Those was fun to do. They was cooked, you didn't need scissors, you could put your can right here and you pick up two at a time and snip them on the edge of the can, just like that. You take a hold and you would have the heads, one head here and one, and when you laid them in there crisscross them. It was nice, them good fish.

KL: (laughter) What did you like about the job?

MH: Oh, you had your own table and you could do pretty well what you wanted to do. You know you could go out sit down a few minutes then go back in. I liked it. I mean when I first started, we didn't get good pay, but the last of it, you could go down there, I was working 2010, '09.

KL: Were some of them, some people pretty fast at it?

MH: Yes, yep. Pretty fast.

MH: There was one hundred cans to a case.

KL: Pardon me?

MH: One hundred cans to a case.

KL: How fast, how fast could you case up?

MH: Oh, the casing up, oh wasn't, I couldn't do that. I hate, I jam my fingers between the cans, and I was putting them in the boxes, but I'd rather packed. So that's where I went.

KL: How many cans could you pack a day?

MH: Uh, it's going what size they were. Sometimes there'd be fours, sometimes there'd be fives, and then double rows is like you put some in the bottom and that was the real small ones you could use in there. 30-40 cases a day maybe but we wasn't getting that, I just can't remember how much we was putting in a case.

KL: That's quite a bit of fish.

MH: Yes, it is. Especially when they was double rows. And ah, we got paid, when I first started, we got paid cash. In the little brown manila envelopes, it'd be cash.

KL: Now this is piece work?

MH: Yup. There be the guy come on pick up the tray, then we had a card hanging the end of the table, each case we get we punch it so that we'd know how many we had.

KL: You got paid so much per case?

MH: Per case, per case yes. And that was, well there were some real fast packers, Lela was quite a fast packer. She was a fast packer. She done a lot of jumping.

KL: Pardon me?

MH: She was a jumper.

KL: She was a jumper?

MH: Yeah, dancing around when she was cutting the fish.

KL: were there some people that were especially fast?

MH: Oh yeah. I was average I guess, when I first started. Some were faster than others, all had movements are different movements.

KL: Did you have to establish kind of your own rhythm?

MH: Yeah, I'd rock back and forth, when you pick up the fish and back, you know. It was, for everybody. Some people just stood right there and one you know, just moved the hands.

KL: Do you remember the first day you worked at the plant?

MH: I remember the first day I worked down stairs, uh yeah, when Mr. Pendleton, he was my boss.

KL: Pardon me?

MH: Mr. Pendleton he was my boss. Course I got older and then I got to upstairs into packing. I like it up there better.

KL: Can you tell me about that first day? What it was like?

MH: Scary. You was, you know, you didn't know if you was doing it right or not. But didn't take long to figure out how to put them cans in the cartons.

KL: Why was it scary?

MH: Oh, I don't know. Maybe I hadn't worked out anywhere before. I hadn't so, I don't know, I just, was wandering around. But after I got there, I was fine. I mean the bosses were nice.

KL: Now did you live at Gouldsboro when you started?

MH: Yes, I did.

KL: Ok, what was Gouldsboro like then?

MH: It was quiet compared to now. There wasn't there so much traffic go up and down, up and down. And we always walked where we wanted to go. Like we went ice skating we'd have to walk. There wasn't too much going on. I know we had the mail. We used to go up and get the night mail, walk up and the mail would come in at night too. We had two different. Morning and night. We'd walk up. But, I remember one mail carrier, we used to go up and listen to him. He'd

bring a, you'd seen those work, what are they called, hand saws? You'd seen them, and he sat there, and he could make music from that hand saw. Have you seen them do that? We'd sit there and listen to him do that. It was a lot of girls my age and boys, we all went ice skating and we always had a good time. Went to G range . They had a G range.

KL: Now, how did you get to work?

MH: How did I get to work? They had buses on, little buses that would come pick us up. My father used to drive one to—he used to drive one of the buses. And I was gone to work, my ladies, after I was gone working down there in the old factory, we'd go to work, we'd hear the whistle blow and oh, we got to go to work. They'd blow a whistle.

KL: When was that in the forties?

MH: Yeah, it was during the war. I remember they had the curtains down to. Had like black out during the war. The old factory, you could look out onto the water. This new factory, where we packed, you looked out onto the door yard.

KL: That's interesting. So, you had black outs in the factory?

MH: Yeah, it had the curtains pulled. I remember that. That was a certain time they used to do that.

KL: What else do you remember about how the war effected the factory?

MH: I don't know, what is it. Well, I guess you know, they had those, you had to get those stamps for your shoes, stamps for so much food, different foods and stuff. People worked hard for the money. I don't know, it just seemed natural for us I guess. Kids don't realize, you know, when your young you don't. But probably the parents had more responsibility.

KL: Did you pack a lot of sardines for the troops?

MH: They used to have them for the troops and then I imagine they sent them over a lot of them. Yeah. We even, you know, like mustard sardines? The mustard? Now a days it's automatic, the mustard will drop right into the, and when we was packing the last of it, you didn't have to put the mustard in the cans. But when they cooked fish, we had big cans, about this high. They was red, I can seem them now.

KL: About an inch and a half deep?

MH: You ever seen any of those red cans?

KL: I think so, yeah.

MH: Maybe the museum down to Jonesport. Have you ever been down there?

KL: No, I haven't

MH: It's Peabody's I think his name is. He has one. I got a pair of scissors down there.

KL: Yeah.

MH: I think Lela has too. He called, wanted to know, if we had any. We have a bucket and a ladle; stainless steel ladle, and the bucket was wooden I think. Yeah, I know it was a wooden bucket and we had that ladle. We'd put our mustard in, and then we'd put a fish in. In those cans. It was easy enough for me to put the mustard in the cans, then it was to put them in after we got the fish in, because it would squeeze right up.

KL: And did that get kind of sloppy sometimes?

MH: No, not really.

KL: No. Ok.

MH: They was good. I thought they tasted better than cooked fish. I don't know if it was my taste or what. Then they went on to the raw fish.

KL: Now, I think somebody said there were some cans you could take home with you.

MH: The last of it, they let us have a couple cans a day. We could go out and get a couple of cans if we wanted them. Lela and I and my sister in law, the three of us. We packed the last three cans that went down the tray. Probably Lela would have told you that. Did she?

KL: No, I don't remember her mentioning it. But I think I remember seeing an article in the paper about that.

MH: Yup. And they give us each a can from that. We didn't get that can. We packed into the gold can, they went up to I think it's Augusta in the museum.

KL: Yeah.

MH: They put them up there.

KL: Yeah, I live about oh two or three blocks from that museum.

MH: Oh yeah?

KL: Yeah.

MH: Well they took them up there, so that where they are. The three cans.

KL: Now there used to be a lot of canneries in Maine.

MH: Yes, a lot of them. There was two or three over near Milbridge. Three. There was Wymans, Cory Rays, and Vogel's. There was three over there. In over South Gouldsboro there was one. Jonesport. They had all kinds of them.

KL: When do you think was the height of the canning? During the forties or fifties?

MH: Yeah, cause that's forties, fifties, I don't know they canned right up until we got done. But there weren't that many, but the amount down east. I think they had one even in Luebec, maybe to. I've got the piece all cut out. I've saved everything in the paper, I've cut it out. How many factories there used to be in the..., down here.

KL: Why do you think there aren't as many factories anymore?

MH: Why? They've cleaned the oceans out I guess. I don't know what they done, there so strict on the...I have no idea. They just went out of business. It's too bad too. I didn't think I'd ever see Stinson's factory....

KL: You didn't think you'd ever see what?

MH: Stinson's factory, close. Nope. I didn't think I'd live long enough to see that. They been there a good many years.

KL: Tell me about that last day.

MH: It was sad. Knowing we weren't going to be able to go back to work. It was. It was sad. I went down, we worked, well that was the day we packed those three cans there, and then we packed a couple, three hours, and then we was done. Put in all our papers and took off. It was sad though, I mean we couldn't believe it. Now, I worked when my children were small my oldest boy, I think he was about three years old when I went back to work, but my second one, I stayed until he went to school. I stayed home. So, I missed some years in between. Cause, I had thirty-nine and a half years. But, I started in 47, but I didn't stay steady see. But that's the only place I ever worked. I even got the paper where, the superintendent had to sign to give me a permit to go to work.

KL: The school superintendent or?

MH: Yeah

KL: Ok. And you were what, fifteen or sixteen then?

MH: Let's see forty-seven, thirty-two, I was fifteen.

KL: You were fifteen. Ok. So, you had to get permission from the school superintendent.

MH: Yeah. would you like to see it?

KL: Sure.

MH: I got it right here, I'll show you. This is a picture of the old factory.

KL: Oh my.

MH: You must have seen that. Have you seen that?

KL: No, I haven't. I might want to come back with a scanner and make a copy of this.

MH: That burnt. Let's see what'd I say it burnt when?

KL: 1968 yeah.

MH: And I worked, this was like downstairs underneath. And then I worked in here, this was the main factory. And then I ended up packing out here, and we called that Little Russia.

KL: Ok, why did they call it Little Russia?

MH: I don't know. That's what they called Little Russia.

KL: Lela mentioned that too.

MH: Oh, she did?

KL: Yeah, and I was curious about that. Was it just because it was the other end of the factory?

MH: Well, it could have been. I don't know. That's where I ended up packing. And the guy that used to tend the coals, the coal at the fire, was right, we used to come down these stairs and go out and there was a store up here, well it isn't there no more, but he used to tend the coal, that's what kept the boiler, coal boiler. And he'd blow the whistle, or he would do something to scare us when we come out of there. This is the whistle.

KL: I got to ask you about one thing. I heard a story about somebody's tie getting nailed to the floor.

MH: Yes, that was one of our bosses. That was my first boss. Upstairs. Pearly McNaught. My cousin's wife, we had to go to work, quite late in the afternoon, and he had his neck tie on and everything, well, she was related to him somehow anyway, she come down to him and nailed right there, and he say's Kay, you let me out of here. She said all right, she took her scissors and cut his tie. Oh, they done funny tricks. Poor Pearly.

KL: {laughter} Yeah Lela said you got into some devilment sometimes.

MH: I remember one night, my Aunt, she went to where the bus come along, and I got on the bus and there she was sitting with her night cap. They wore them cotton hats in them days, starched cap, hats. She had her night dress on and a chamber mug. She had that, and she took it right down to the factory that night. Just because it was so late and we was going to work. She says, well it's so late I might as well take all my stuff right with me.

KL: A chamber mug.

MH: Yes. Just for joking.

KL: You mean like a chamber pot?

MH: Yes.

KL: Oh. Ok. Ok.

MH: And I thought, I think she had slippers on and her night gown. Then she took them off after she got in the factory.

{laughter}

KL: Did you have to work some odd hours sometimes.

MH: Odd hours yes. Sometimes the sun would be coming up when we'd be going home. You know the tide, the boat would come in right to the back, in here somewhere. Yeah. Charlie Stinson the one that owned it, he used to walk around the tables when he was a young fellow.

KL: Yeah, I got a chance to talk to him.

MH: Yes. He was a nice guy.

KL: I heard about Charlie's father, used to be able to hear him coming down the...

MH: Yeah. He'd hum. He'd be humming. You could hear him humming. He was making some money, that why you could hear him humming probably.

KL: Did he have a particular tune he hummed?

MH: What's that?

KL: Did he have a particular tune that he hummed?

MH: No, it was just hummm hummm humm. You could hear him humming away.

KL: So, Doore was your maiden name?

MH: Yeah.

KL: So that got you in the door huh?

MH: That got me in the door. And that's my last packing book I had, when we got done. Bumblebee. Last day. Yeah, we done pretty good work there.

KL: What did you not like about the job?

MH: What didn't I like? I didn't like it when they worked on Saturdays. I didn't like to work on Saturdays for one thing. If we worked all week. That's in this new factory. Old factory, you didn't know what time you'd be going. But in the new one, we knew that we'd be working eight or ten hours or whatever. Mostly eight hours.

KL: How did you know to go in?

MH: Well they'd call their lady, and then she'd call everyone in her area. And then that was like on the weekend she'd call and then we usually worked every day so when we came home we knew. They'd write it on a board. When we'd have to go to work the next day.

KL: Did they use the whistle sometimes to?

MH: In the old factory. They never did in the new one.

KL: I see.

MH: In the old one they'd whistle. Twelve o'clock, six o'clock. And then when they wanted packers they would blow so many blasts of it.

KL: And you knew you had to get ready for the bus in the morning.

MH: Uh huh (affirmative) Later years, when we just got done, we worked, usually we started work at six thirty. I'd leave here at five. 'cause we used to go down and have coffee before went to work. You know.

KL: I wonder if you ever thought to yourself, my goodness, I can't look at another sardine?

MH: No, I enjoyed worked [there]. And you know, I've missed it. I missed the people when I would work. And I'm going back, this August.

KL: You're going back?

MH: I'm hired, I'm going back. I can't wait. They say maybe next week. Nope, I can't wait to get back, and a lot of the older ones are going back. It'll be like old home week when we go. It's going to be a lot different than packing fish, I would assume. But, we're going to do the claws and knuckles I think.

KL: Now, the fire in 1968, tell me about that.

MH: I wasn't working that year, cause my baby, my youngest boy was born in 1964, and I was home at the time. I went back to work in '70.

KL: I see.

MH: I was working at the, yeah, in 68. So, that was a bad, that was the last of the, but it didn't take long to build the other one right back up.

KL: Now was there a lot of interaction between the businesses in Prospect Harbor and the cannery?

MH: You mean between the other factories or?

KL: Suppliers and other business?

MH: They made their own, they was making their own cans and everything at that time to. I believe they was making their own, yeah, they were. They made there own can so, they was just, I think, I can't remember where they had the cans. They used to get them, maybe down to Eastport. Down there before they built the place on. I think it was right after the factory burned, they made there own canning plant. Right on the back of the factory there. It's still there. I went in, the day I took my application down, the packing area was all empty. You been in there lately?

KL: I was in there the other day. Yesterday.

MH: It looks so strange without the tables, and everything's gone.

KL: I wasn't in the main part. I was just up in the offices. I was looking for Peter Colson and Al West.

MH: I don't know if them pictures must be, this picture here, they've got one down like that, up in the office, one of them offices, looks like that.

KL: Yeah, it must have been something when it burned.

MH: They said it was. I didn't go down to it. It was sad.

KL: Did you see a lot of changes in the technology that was used?

MH: Oh they went along ways. You know, they went to the raw fish, processing the raw fish. You wouldn't think by the looks of that, that hold that up, all them little poles. See all the packing was all along the back by the ocean. And this is where the boats used to come in and bring all the fish into the factory.

KL: Now, the sardine carriers brought the fish in and they were pumped into tanks. Is that right?

MH: Yeah, they were pumped into tanks. And then they was, well the last of it, they was brought in by trucks.

KL: They were what?

MH: They brought them in by trucks, the last of it. And they used to bring them in and they'd put them in tanks, and they'd cut them out in the cutting room, then they'd come to us all cut up.

KL: So, you had one room for cutting and one room for packing.

MH: Yeah, we didn't. Well, in the old days we had packing and cutting all in the same. In the old factory. Packing and cutting. The new factory, they had the fish come in and they was raw, when they'd come in, they'd cut them out there on the cutters, they had cutters. When we got done, that's what they was doing. But the ones at, when we worked in here, they'd come in and they'd put them on trays and when they was cooked. They'd put all these fish on trays and put them in the cookers, steam boxes. And then they bring them out in the great big things. Trays, and then some man would stand there and put them trays on all day, on this carrier and bring them down to the women. And there would be someone up here dumping cans down for us. But, then they went automatic. Everything was automatic.

KL: Must have been pretty tired at the end of the day.

MH: The men must have been, that was doing it. But I didn't seem to.

KL: The people that were packing?

MH: Pulling out the trays is quite a job. Then you'd push them right back in after you emptied them. you'd flip them over. Then you'd go back and they'd go down and load them up and bring them. They'd keep going right round and round and round. They'd take them out of the crates and they had these tall, and the trays would fit right in. They put them right in the steam boxes and cook them. Lela I think was working down there then. She must have told you that bit didn't she? She say about the cooked fish.

KL: Yeah. You must have been pretty tired at the end of the day.

MH: I was young then. But, let's see it was about '68, '70. I went back in '70. But I had packed off and on from, well, let's see, I got married in 1950, and I worked pretty steady from then after I got married. I stayed from 50, right up until, my oldest boy was born in '53 so I stayed home

for a while, and my other boy was eleven years between them. So I worked then. Then I waited until he went to school. I went back in '70, he was born in '64.

KL: Did the packers work together pretty well?

MH: Oh yes, yeah. I thought we did. They might have squabbled over who got the most cases or something. I know one lady, I am not going to give any names, but she'd go up and see if anyone was ahead of her.

KL: There was a lot of cooperation, then.

MH: Then when they went to computer. They went on the computers, everybody knew what everybody got, cause they'd go look on the computer and you could see it. I always said, no one could spend my check. And I can't spend theirs, so. I know we all was a pretty good bunch down there. I remember in the old factory, there could be a hundred and twenty packers in there, tables full. Down there in the new factory, when I first started, there was three on a machine, and they had five on each side, five machines. We had about thirty packers.

KL: And the machines would seal the cans, is that?

MH: No, not in the new, they wouldn't seal. Was you in the factory down there when we was running?

KL: No.

MH: You wasn't.

KL: No.

MH: Everything was automatic. The fish would come down in front of us like this, the fish would come right straight down by everybody. And the can lines would be coming down like that. So, we didn't have to touch the cans, they'd come right down to us, and we'd just go like that, and fill them up. The users was on the nozzle, that's what I called the nozzle, to make it go fast or slow. And we ended up there was about two, the last of it there was two machines so, there was two. Not more than twenty packers though. But we packed a lot of fish in one day, with twenty packers. In that new way.

KL: So you had to keep up with that conveyer belt.

MH – Well, I had to keep it—You know, I could turn it up, once it got going so fast I couldn't keep up with it, I turned it down a little bit. But the girl that was packing with me, she'd had to keep up too, to get her cans. I think it pretty well evened out, who could pack the fastest ones. Lela was quite fast, but Lela hadn't, she hadn't packed for the last couple years. She was quality control. Watching the fish come down, making sure they was in the cans right. We had two or three of those, at the end of the belt. The cans would drop right down, come around, and we didn't even have to touch them. They'd be right in front of us. You must of saw them in the pictures, in the books.

KL: Yeah, I've seen a few photos, yeah.

MH: In the olden factory, we had to wash our tables every night. We had a bucket, and we'd have to go get a bucket of water to wash them, and them was wooden tables. And was the side of the carrier, where we'd dump that fish chum down. The new factory, they just hosed it right down every night. Everything was, there was wooden floors, just varnished wooden floors, and the tables were varnished.

KL: It must have been a chore.

MH: It was, and they'd stick. Sometimes we'd wash them at noon time so that it wouldn't be so, you know, the fish that would drop down. Especially when my apron used to be yellow, right across here where I would lean against the table. I think it was dirtier than the new one. I mean, the new one was cleaned so much. No, I saw a lot of changes.

KL: Why do you think not so many people eat sardines these days?

MH: What's that?

KL: Why do you think not as many people eat sardines these days? Or do they?

MH: Every once in a while, I eat a can. I like those, certain ones I like. They're good for you, you should eat them they say. But I don't know. Some people eat them. But, I like the small fish and they never really put up the ones with the double rows. They couldn't cut them on the machine. I think they like the steaks to eat I guess.

KL: Pardon me?

MH: The little steaks they got. They like the steaks. I pick them all apart anyway, when I eat them. Some people will just take that sardine out of that can and eat them like that. Not me, I take out the bone. I don't want that bone. But they're soft I guess, when you chew them.

KL: Did you have a lot of friends in the plant?

MH: We was all friendly. We'd all talk back and forth to each other all day. Especially in our lunch hours. I see they still have those out there. The tables and things in the lunch room. No everybody was, well everybody was just—we all knew everybody. I mean there was no squabbling that I know of. Once in a while somebody might get tired and squawk or something, but other than that, the supervisors and everything was good.

KL: Now, do you remember your mother coming home from the plant?

MH: Yes, I remember my mother. She would come home sometimes in the middle of the night and sometimes they would come home early. They wouldn't know. If they had one boat in, it wouldn't take that long. I remember her getting up and going. Putting her apron on and her hat, getting her lunch ready the night before. But in the old factory there was a couple that would come over like if we worked after—Six O'clock was our supper hour at night, in the old factory. And there was a couple would bring like hot soup and stuff, we'd buy it. It was good. She'd have pies and everything. Wasn't too bad. And today I wouldn't want to do it caused they'd probably charge for it. Then you could buy a piece of pie for fifty cents, in them days. Now what is it, three dollars?

KL: At least that, yeah.

MH: No, it was a loss when they lost the old factory, and it was a loss when they lost this new one. Everybody depended on that sardine factory.

KL: Pardon me?

MH: I said a lot of people depended on the sardine factory. They never used to work year-round. They used to work just the summer months.¹

KL: What did you do during the winter?

MH: We drew unemployment when they had that, but I don't think they had it in the older days.

KL: You just made do, huh?

MH: We just made do. Well I was married at that time my husband was working. But between '47 and '50 it was only three years, I guess my mother and father fed me. But, he worked until he retired from there. My father did. Then he was janitor over to the school for a few years. He was in his nineties before he died. My mother died quite young.

KL: I know you said you had another place you needed to go this afternoon, so I don't want to keep you.

MH: Ok

KL: But I really do appreciate you taking the time for me.

MH: I don't know if I done any, give you any more information than what Lela has, had told you. She must have told you about everything.

KL: It's always good to get different perspectives.

MH: I think she worked over in the South Gouldsboro, in Snow's factory. Did she tell you that.

KL: I think she did mention that yeah.

MH: See I didn't work over there. I was working down there, instead of over at Snow's.

KL: Did you move around between the factories.

MH: No, I didn't. See I lived over on that Prospect Harbor, over by the factory. That's where I lived. Lived real close.

KL: So, you could walk to work?

MH: Well it was about four miles.

KL: Oh, ok.

¹ During some periods, the sardine plants were unheated.

MH: I don't think I'd want to walk.

KL: Yeah, that would be a bit of a hike.

MH: I know a girl and I, one day we didn't want to pack fish, so we got up and said, well we'll get a ride. We walked out of the factory. Never got a ride. Had to walk clear home. And I said, well, we'll never do this again. {laughter} So, we never got a ride.

KL: Like I said, I best let you go here, but thanks very much for taking time for me.

MH: Ok. I don't know if I've been any help to you or give you any more information.

END OF INTERVIEW