

**BAYSHORE DISCOVERY PROJECT  
DELAWARE BAY MUSEUM**

**ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTION**

**INTERVIEW DATE:** September 12, 2006  
**TIME:** unknown  
**SUBJECT:** Riggin family, oyster and clamming industries, schooners and boats,  
Schooner Race of 1929  
**NARRATOR(S):** Don and Rosalie McDaniels  
**LOCATION:** Cape May, New Jersey  
**INTERVIEWER:** Sally Vander Water and Deb Slating BDP Staff  
**TRANSCRIPTION  
COMPLETED:** July 22, 2011  
**TRANSCRIBED BY:** Meredith Koenig

**ACCESSION #:** 2007.08.01  
**CATALOGUE #:**

DON MCDANIELS born December 3, 1935

Don's wife Rosalie is also present and contributes to the interview  
THEY ARE LOOKING THROUGH ALBUMS OF PHOTOS AND LOOSE PHOTOS.

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DON I mean this wasn't the shell grinder, there was another big building there which is no longer there no more, and that whole thing, they used to grind oyster's with it, shells, I wasn't quite sure all they done with it. A lot of this stuff I remember, "This one here is Greenwich, I don't remember that, this one here was in Port Norris, and I do remember that. That was an old welding shop with a big black guy, he was there that welded, and made dredges and stuff

INTERVIEWER: Do you know where our building is? Our offices are?

DON No

INTERVIEWER: DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE SHIPPING SHEDS ARE?

DON (LOOKING AT PHOTO) right here. That's the old ones. I worked for

INTERVIEWER: These are the Maurice River shipping sheds

DON So I worked for

INTERVIEWER...SO WE ARE ACROSS FROM HERE. BUT I AM WONDERING WHERE THE BLACKSMITH'S SHOP IS, THE ONE THAT

1:03

DON: Well do you know where the marina is that's in town in Bivalve there  
...where Long Reach is where the blacksmith's shop used to be...LONG REACH? Yep. That's right  
where it was at. The property adjacent to it was Joe; I'm going to have to think on that. (LATER IN  
THE INTERVIEW DON RECALLS: Newcomb, Joe Newcomb

INTERVIEWER ASKS WHAT PUBLICATION THESE PICTURES ARE FROM.  
INTERVIEWER Do you know what publication it came out of?

DON No, No, I think that they are the only pages that are any good in and I threw the rest of it away.

INTERVIEWER WONDERS IF IT IS SHIRLEY BAILEY'S PUBLICATION

DON This is just a picture of my uncle (?) This is me in 1982. I had a boat called the Ocean View  
and I was up to the bay

INTERVIEWER THINKS IT LOOKS LIKE THE MEERWALD

THE INTERVIEW IS INTERRUPTED FOR PERMISSIONS TO RECORD  
2:17

DON: My name is Don McDaniel and I give permission to record

SALLY VANDERWATER: TODAY IS SEPTEMBER 12, 2006, AND WE ARE HERE AT YOUR  
HOME IN CAPE MAY, NJ. THIS IS DEB SLATING, AND I ALSO GIVE PERMISSION TO RECORD  
WE ARE HERE TO LOOK AT SOME IMAGES THAT MR MCDANIEL HAS OF THE OYSTER  
INDUSTRY AND ALSO TO HEAR ABOUT HIS FAMILY HISTORY IN THE INDUSTRY.

DON The history goes back to my great grandfather, Charles Riggin. He had the Amelia Riggin,  
The J. and E. Riggin, which won the race and he had another one, the C.M. Riggin, which is Charles  
Marshall

I don't know when he started. I think he was a Swede. He come from the Eastern Shore

ROSALIE ENTERS AND INTRODUCTIONS ARE MADE. THEN DON CONTINUES.

This picture here, at one time they used to ship tomatoes in Dividing Creek, that's Dividing Creek  
bridge, the old one, the swing (?)bridge, and all these pictures here are of the meadow adjacent to it,  
and these are the  
boats that they tied up there and a lot of them (PHOTOS) I have got names on the back, I had an  
older friend, Albert Pepper, lived in Port Norris, he's been dead quite a while, but he could look at the  
pictures and say, "Oh, that's such and such a boat by looking at the sails I don't remember..

ROSALIE; Unfortunately, it's a shame because years ago used to...

DON I was just young enough, I never sailed on one of them boats, so when I went on the A.J. Meerwald, that's the first time I ever went on one under sail.

Don IS 70, BORN DECEMBER 3, 1935

So on the back of some of these pictures are the names

ROSALIE Thirty years ago we should have checked, when some of them was alive and aware, but we didn't do that. Of course 30 years ago we didn't have them in our possession.

DON I got them when I was 20.

ROSALIE I mean when they were at your mother's house is what I'm talking about

INTERVIEWER HAS NEVER SEEN THESE PHOTOS OF BOATS BEFORE

INTERVIEWER ASKS HOW DON MCDANIELS CAME TO POSSESS PHOTOS.

DON: Years ago I had a friend, George Henson; his father was in the Oyster Business. He lived in Dividing Creek. Had a car accident and he was just sort of hanging in traction and he sorta done this for something to do did this (compiled photos/album) for something to do. And I was up there visiting him and he said would you like to have some of these pictures. I said, certainly, so he arranged for some of these pictures to be taken off the regular glass plates of the originals. The Bridgeton News took the original pictures, and I have no idea who it was. , and there are others. I looked at a lot of them and some of them just didn't want for whatever reason, if I'd known then what I know now. I threw out a lot. I have no idea who he contacted. He had a friend up there

the names I have on these were from Albert Pepper, a friend of mine, (NOT THE PHOTOGRAPHER) No, Albert Pepper was a friend of my Grandpop's and he used to come to my house, my mother's house, every week for dinner, him and his wife and I had these pictures so I started going over them, and he'd say, "Oh yeah, this is such and such a boat, and this is such and such .." so I have no idea, but I'm only going by what he said, but he could recognize a boat by the sails, by the look of it you know,

ROSALIE: It was such a tight, tight community

DON: These was all the (word?) and their families

ROSALIE Yes, there are very few, and there are not many left in it. The ones that are, they go way back, usually generations

INTERVIEWER ASKS IF THEY KEEP CONTACT

No, I talk to my brother Dick Riggin, He's got a brother, Chick Riggin, I never see him, I occasionally see Dick, he lives in Port Norris too,

ROSALIE that's the only relative

DON well no, there's Ned, he's still living, he's my age

ROSALIE We have a few (WORD?) that are involved in it: Wayne Robinson, what's that other boy that bought our property up there?

DON Todd Reeves

INTERVIEWER His mother was

ROSALIE Who's that he just called you the other day, Judson's son, Judson Moore, he's a young guy

INTERVIEWER He's at the Commercial Township Municipal Building

DON I was good friends with his father

ROSALIE and he called just a few weeks ago to see if he could check Don's grounds up there to see if there was any...

DON Well, they found some oysters in the area

But there wasn't nothing on my ground. I don't do anything with them anymore, you know

INTERVIEWER So you do have oyster grounds

DON I got about 800 acres, total, but it is just something, I don't - get rid of - I don't know why,

ROSALIE ASKS INTERVIEWER Are you doing research on the oyster business, is that why, you are trying to get it all together?

INTERVIEWER GIVES A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF BDP AND ITS OBJECTIVES

ROSALIE RESPONDS WITH PLEASURE ABOUT THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND MENTIONS THAT SHE HAS READ ABOUT BDP

LOOKING AT PHOTOS:

DON: That's my great grand pop, Charlie Riggin. That's Charlie Riggin

INTERVIEWER With a hoe or rake.. That's a great profile shot(TOGETHER WITH ROSALIE )

ROSALIE We (WORD) to donate them to a museum in his grandfather's name

DON That's my Grand pop (at (?) the bulkhead, the seam (?))

INTERVIEWER MENTIONS THAT THEY HAVE FEW PHOTOS OF SCHOONER INTERIORS

DON See, here, what he's got his hand on, We had a table that would go down, it was a folding table. It would come down and at one end would be a rope suspended by the ceiling and when you were ready to have dinner you'd open that table up. We took it, we folded it up, and put it away, and when we wanted to make dinner, we got it out. And this thing here had two pegs on it, sticking up, and you set that one end there on the peg, and the other one had a rope come down out this way and there was a board and it slid right up under the table so it didn't fold up on you.

THE ABOVE INTERIOR TABLE DESCRIPTION IS ON THE C.M.RIGGIN

DON and that's my Grandfather

INTERVIEWER: with his arm on the  
(CHECK DIALOGUE)

INTERVIEWER ASKS WHO MAN WITH BACK TO CAMERA IS

DON I tell you, I think it really is what we call Big Seven, I have no idea what his name is, but I had some pictures of him. I'm only about that tall and he's hanging around with me, he used to have to baby sit me and I really can't tell because I really can't see his face but I really think that is who he is because he worked for my grand pop on and on and on

INTERVIEWER ASKS, Do you know the year your grandfather was born and the year your grandfather died?

DON No, He was 62, he had emphysema, He was a four pack a day Camel Smoker. That took him, But he died at 62.

I was about 22.

INTERVIEWER So he died about 48 years ago

DON Something like that. His grave is in Haleyville. Right up there when you're going up the road towards Brewster's, there is a little building sets there where they used to put water and stuff in there and there, right near by it are my Mother and Dad, Major and Carolyn McDaniel's, and my Grand pop Jake, Jacob, and Abbie (sp) That's where they are buried at. Abbie, that's his wife.

THEY MOVE ON TO LOADS OF PICTURES OF SCHOONERS UNDER SAIL

DON Some of it's a little repetitious. This picture here is the Edna Berry. She is the only boat I think that had the steel mast. George Berry lived right there in town. Well, they all lived in Port Norris.

INTERVIEWER RECOGNIZES THE WATCH BOAT

DON That's the J. Hammond Lake (NAME?)

INTERVIEWER : THE WATCH BOAT, RIGHT?-----WHAT'S A WATCH BOAT?

DON, The policemen. At that time there were policemen, like, they patrolled the oyster grounds, and when they was up, up

INTERVIEWER And did they also patrol the sea beds?

DON They also went up there. And they would come on board and you had a tolerance of how many shells you were allowed in a bushel. In other words, you couldn't just go and shovel all the bottom and everything. You had to pick the oysters out. So if you had just shoveled and you was over that certain percent which I even forget what that was, they'd arrest you. And if you wanted to see an oyster ground down in the cove they would go out and show you, because they were real knowledgeable guys. Paul Hoffman was the later guy that I remember. He lived right in town.

THEY LOOK AT MORE PICTURES AND COME ACROSS A BUG EYE

INTERVIEWER: Is that Clyde Phillip's Bug Eye?

DON Lady Ray. There is a picture of it in here.

INTERVIEWER and she's got a sail that's some kind of a stay sail I think. I'm not even sure what they call it on a Bug Eye. Do you know why they are in this group?

DON They were on the seed beds. All these pictures were taken up on the seed beds. ...Well, a picture like this might have been taken in the Cove. This one here is the Ada C. Lore under sail. Did you look at these? That's the Ada C. Lore. I've got the big picture here and I know who it is.

INTERVIEWER In the album here is the Sheppard Campbell. I know we have her sails or a suit of her sails SHE NOTES DATE: '55.

DON She had to have it enlarged

INTERVIEWER 5 foot

DON That's right there by Rumble's Dock Orvil's (sp), where there used to be the sail loft where they packed oysters years ago by the railroad track when you get right down toward the end- Oh! Joe Newcomb is the other one I was trying to think of- that's where that welding shop was, it was down there where Joe Newcomb's is and that's where the Marina is. Long Reach.

INTERVIEWER So this was taken down near Long Reach? Yes, that's on Long Reach. There used to be a dock there where we'd get supplies. There was a place there where you could buy groceries.

INTERVIEWER SO THE ENLARGED PHOTOGRAPH WE HAVE IN THE MUSEUM THAT SHOWS A SCHOONER TIED UP, A SLOOP TIED UP, AND IN THE BACKGROUND A WHOLE BUNCH OF SCHOONERS HEADED OUT TOWARDS THE BAY

DON Yep

INTERVIEWER WAS TAKEN PROBABLY VERY NEAR OUR SITE

DON (It took place)(?) Right down from where the marine police are there used to be a building sit there, a big one, and they had a sail lift in the top and I can't remember that man's name

INTERVIEWER ED COX?

DON Cox or....Well. that's right where that's at. If you went right, let's say you were in the building where (Healy) (?) is, you'd walk right straight down like this and they had shed here where they had all the scales and they'd cull the oysters and this dock went out here, that's where this is at.

INTERVIEWER: AND THIS IS THE END OF THE SHIPPING SHEDS AND THERE ARE A COUPLE OF DOORS DOWN IN THAT SHIPPING SHED. YEAH, IT'S RIGHT AT OUR CORNER

DON That's right where that's at.

INTERVIEWER I THINK MEGHAN KNEW THAT. SHE'S BEEN SAYING THAT.....OH, the A & E BLACKMAN(sp) (leafing through), YEAH, A LOT OF THESE I RECOGNIZE, NOW THAT'S A DARK PAINTED HULL

DON Well, if you don't recognize it I can pull it out. It's got the (correct?) name on the back

INTERVIEWER Now are these all duplicates from the glass negatives?

DON Yes,

THEY ARE LEAFING THROUGH

DON Timothy Bateman

INTERVIEWER NOW WHEN DID YOU FIRST GET INVOLVED WITH OYSTERING?

DON Well, I was around it my whole life, but the first round of oysters I planted was 1958 which died with MSX. I got 4 or 5 weeks planting and I got 300 bushels off of them, -so it was all downhill. I stayed in it for 10 years. I couldn't make a living. I'd crab hard all summer long, get myself out of the

hole, and I'd go back in the hole every winter because there just wasn't nothing to do. They'd close the bay. Once in a while they'd open it. You'd go up and do pretty good, but I ( ) couldn't live that way so my mother's cousin, Bill Riggan, he was the manager of Groton's at that time, and he said, "I'll put the money up if you want to go clamming." So that's what I did. I left the bay and went to the ocean in 1966.

INTERVIEWER DID YOU CONVERT A BOAT YOU ALREADY HAD?  
(recording at 18:5

DON The C.M. Riggan

INTERVIEWER IS THE C.M. RIGGIN STILL AROUND?

DON No, she's up to Greenwich. I think they cut her up. I sold her to a fellow in Port Norris, who used her for a while, and then he went to a metal boat and he just pulled her out up there and I think that's where she stayed. I really didn't go to find out because it broke my heart. I couldn't afford to have two boats at the time so I went to a metal boat.

INTERVIEWER SO YOU SAY YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER WAS THE FIRST IN YOUR FAMILY, HE WAS SWEDISH YOU SAID.

DON Yes

INTERVIEWER DID HE COME HERE FROM SWEDEN?  
recording at 19:34

DON No, I don't think so. I'm not sure about that, but when they come here, they had an S on their names: Riggins. And they dropped the S.

INTERVIEWER SO THAT'S WHY YOU FIND SOME RIGGIN AND SOME RIGGINS.

DON And as far as the family tree goes I really don't know

INTERVIEWER BUT, NOW DID EVERY GENERATION AFTER YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER OYSTER?

DON Yes we did until the bay went south, -up until 1958 I had my cousin Ned, he oystered, him and I oystered together. I had a little boat, and we oystered up the bay and of course we'd tong oysters, and then we'd crab, then we'd work in the middle of the day if once it got too cold, and then make crab pots when we got ice...So we had trouble making enough money. He went to work in the sand plant and I took the boat and went clamming.

INTERVIEWER THIS PICTURE...

DON That's the C.M. Riggan.



INTERVIEWER DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THE PEOPLE ON BOARD THE BOAT?

DON One of them is my Uncle Ed, Not right off hand I can't. I mean, Pepp knew them all (Albert Pepper) but he never wrote them down, you know. See, this was the smaller of the two boats they had. The J & E was larger and they didn't have an engine in that one I don't think, and this one did. So they would harvest their oysters with this one and just tie up the J & E. They used to take them up to Mauricetown because years ago the meadows weren't as open as they are now, so we didn't have the salt water come in as bad. You get up to Mauricetown it was pretty brackish and that way you didn't get the worms and stuff, so everybody used to take their boats to Mauricetown or up into Dividing Creek and try to get up into the fresher water.

INTERVIEWER WERE YOU TOLD STORIES GROWING UP ABOUT THE SCHOONER RACE?

DON Not too much, yeah, some, but not too much. The conditions I think, for the race, there might have been some boats faster, but they didn't have heavy winds.- and the J. & E. Riggins really could feel a light breeze. And my great Grand Pop was pretty good at sailing. And he, every race, (DON GOES TO GET THE WINNING RACE CUP TO SHOW.)

DON There was three cups, I hate to say my grandmother sold one of them. Made me so mad...We just had this silvered. She up it upstairs and it tarnished. They had windows open, so she is going to take it back and fix it up and put whatever it takes and I've got the other one up there to be done. The other one has got a lid on it. The two of them didn't have lids, the one did, so I am going to, I'll probably have that back in two weeks

22:59

INTERVIEWER ADMIRES THE CUP

DON 1929 it says. I think they had classes too, that they raced, for the size of the boats.

INTERVIEWER ASKS IF THE STAND FOR THE CUP IS ORIGINAL

DON That's the original stand.

INTERVIEWER READS OFF THE INSCRIPTION: J & E RIGGIN, WINNER, MAURICE RIVER OYSTER ASSOCIATION RACE, 1929 PRESENTED BY HETTENGER ENGINE COMPANY, BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY SHE DESCRIBES AN ALMOST "PEN AND INK CARVING ON THE TROPHY" OF A SCHOONER, SAILING. (TROPHY-LOVING CUP) THERE IS NICE SCROLLWORK ALL AROUND THE EDGING

DON The other one has been dropped, too, and this part has got bent and the silver smith is going to try to take it out for me. It cost a thousand dollars just to re-silver this, and this where the eagle is burnt (bent?) off the top he is going to have to patch the legs on the eagle and stuff I wonder what it is going to cost!

INTERVIEWER: What was it like before he re-silvered it?

DON Just tarnished. All brown or black. I think the cups are pewter, and the silvering that was on them just didn't, the price of silver now is what has made all this cost this much. But I just thought the value of the thing. Nobody else would do it, I'm sure. So, my daughter, I give that one to her and I'd, going to get the other one for myself, and what I'm doing, I'm going to have a case made for these once I get them cleaned again, I'm going to have a case made the size of this glass and I might even put a little bulb in there to keep the dampness out but I want to use glass so as you can see in.

THEY SHIFT BACK TO PHOTOGRAPHS

ROSALIE There's the C.M.

DON Yeah, This is the C.M. This is the one I went clamming with

ROSALIE I was looking for the Ocean View

DON That's the one you see here, by the float. I put a clam rig on it.

THEY LOOK AT PHOTOS TO DECIDE NAMES

INTERVIEWER WHAT DO YOU DO TO A BOAT WHEN YOU PUT A CLAM RIG ON? DO YOU CHANGE THE ENGINE OR

DON The masts were off by the time I got the boat. You see, I didn't start, I got out of school in 54, and I had another boat,

ROSALIE WE'RE NOT GOING TO LOOK AT ALL OF THEM. SOME OF THEM ARE OF OUR SEA ROVER BUT

DON There's an old picture too, down here,

INTERVIEWER READS INSCRIPTION: "WINTER SCENE BIVALVE, YOUR COUSIN MABEL"

DON That's the C.M. See, after I got into it had a different pilot house on it.

INTERVIEWER WHO HAD THE C.M. BEFORE YOU DID?

DON My Grand Pop. The fellow who was in that bunk. And the guy standing there leaning on the thing, he had it built. They was both built in Dorchester. The Stowman Brothers.

INTERVIEWER DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR IT WAS BUILT?

DON 1922 I think.

INTERVIEWER ASKS ABOUT THE OCEAN VIEW

DON That's a Chesapeake boat.

INTERVIEWER THIS IS A CHESAPEAKE STEEL BOAT

26.46

DON No, that's a wooden boat. I bought. What happened, I bought this boat. I had that boat and I wanted to upgrade. I wanted to go bigger because the guys, because everybody was tearing me up, they was beating me bad and they all went to bigger boats so I bought that one

INTERVIEWER THE LUCY ROVER

DON, Yes, I bought that boat to compete, and then I got fired! Bill Riggan fired me after ten years, said I didn't owe him any money and there was enough boats that worked for him that did owe him money that could keep his production going so he just turned me loose

INTERVIEWER BILL RIGGIN IS A RELATIVE -

DON, Yes, He's my cousin. I wanted to kill him, even though he was my cousin I was ready! DON LAUGHS HEARTILY But anyway, I laid for nine weeks at the dock with that boat. I couldn't do nothing. I thought, I'm going to go out of business

ROSALIE We were scared to death

DON Not that I can't manage my business or anything, I just didn't have a market. You had to have a market. . So this OCEAN VIEW, I found out, was for sale, with a ten truck load market for the week with J.H. Miles in Virginia, Norfolk, so I said well, I may as well go under with two boats as well as one, so I bought it. And then he told me, I don't care what boat you catch the allocation with, or, you know, what he'd allow me, so I caught it with that boat, and as soon as I got that market, I got a market for the other boat. But they was waiting for me to fall on my face. And I didn't. And so that..

INTERVIEWER NOW THESE PICTURES ARE WHERE?

DON They are at Cohen's dock.

ROSALIE Across from Lunn's

DON Do you know where Lunn's Fisher (?) is on the Ocean Highway, where the toll bridge is if you're going from here in Wildwood. Well, just before you get to them there is Lunn's Fisheries, there is Axel Johnson (sp) Well, that same lagoon, I was on the other side, that was Joe Cohen started that place and that's where I was at.

ROSALIE NOW EXPLAINS THAT THEY HAVE PAPERS IN A FILING CABINET THAT THEY MEAN TO GO THROUGH NOW THAT THEY ARE RETIRED WHICH MAY HAVE SOME USEFUL DATES AND SUCH. SHE WILL BE GLAD TO LET THE INTERVIEWERS KNOW OF THINGS OF INTEREST.

DON When I first went clamming we bagged everything and then it wasn't healthy they said so we went to cages. They give us cages.

INTERVIEWER SO HOW LONG DID YOU CLAM?

DON 40 years 1966 to just the past December. I've been off the boat about 7 years. My son-in-law, I had a captain and then he retired and my son-in-law took the boat until

ROSALIE They had the same crew like, forever,

DON They worked for me 20 years or better

ROSALIE We were very fortunate to have a crew that, you know, stayed with us. He was a good employer and they were good employees.

INTERVIEWER NOW YOU ALSO OWNED THE AMELIA D. RIGGIN

DON Yes. What did we do with that picture. We were just looking at that picture the other day.

ROSALIE We have a blown up one (THEY HAVE ENLARGED SEVERAL OF THE OLD PHOTOS) AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.

INTERVIEWER ASKS ABOUT THE GERMAN SHORT HAired POINTER IN A PHOTO

DON Yes, We had two of them. That one was the first one and then I bred him and I got pick of the litter and he's called Doc(?) and the other one's called skipper. He thought he was a Cocker Spaniel! He was on the boat every day I had him for 16 years and I had to put them both down, he just got so bad

ROSALIE I had to put him down. Unfortunately you were out of town, both times.

INTERVIEWER SO YOU WERE ON THE BOAT EXCEPT FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS, SO YOU WERE CAPTAINING AND ALSO JUST RUNNING EVERYTHING SO.. HOW MANY CLAMS DID YOU BRING IN?

DON Yes. Well, It is all according to, I first started with 200 to 300 bushels. 300 bushels was a good day, real good. And up until a couple of years ago

ROSALIE 1975 the government stepped in with different laws and regulations

DON Yes, they made laws. When I catch 3 tractor trailers that's 1344 bushels and there for a while it would only take about 4 1/2 hours to catch them. I mean it would take you an hour or two to go and an hour or to go home

INTERVIEWER AND THAT WOULD BE YOUR QUOTA FOR THE YEAR, NO. FOR THE DAY

DON For the day

ROSALIE Now there's a quota for the year

DON When they come up with an allocation for the clams they took, say that boat there, they took the historical catch, 80% historical catch, 20 % cube and that formulated into 70,000 bushels and then they give it to us, and really made a mistake. And they didn't do it with anybody else but they was trying to find a way to manage the business without costing a bunch of money and that did, but it made a bunch of us dumb clammers millionaires instantly. You know! worked out great I thought! LAUGHS but they made a mistake. When they come to scallopers and fishermen and stuff they found another way to do it.

ROSALIE But in 1975 and 1976 they started changing all of the laws for the clamming industry. At first it was tough. At first they had to pick their days quarterly

DON Oh, yes. That's where we lost a lot of people because you might pick your time out 3 months ahead of time and then you might be blowing 30 miles an hour north east that day, so you either lost it, or you went to work. And then clams is heavy. You load them, we load them in the hold, and if anything happens, you get a small leak or anything, or gets a little too rough, breaks in on you, you can't get rid of the water and anything fast enough, and them big boats will sink.

ROSALIE Friends. Bad swells. The load shifts...

DON I've lost a lot of friends to drowning. A lot of friends.

INTERVIEWER NOW THIS IS, YOU GO OUT INTO THE OCEAN -THESE ARE OCEAN

DON These are clams Oysters are all in the bay. We never caught hard clams like you eat on the half shell. We don't catch any of them. There are two species in the ocean though. There is a Quahog but it also has a gut and you have to run it through a processing plant. It's a cheaper clam, but there was a great volume of them. When I was surf clamming and the market wasn't too good I happened to get a market with Miles to catch quahogs. It was great.

ROSALIE It was a great market, but now it is depleted down here. They all have to go up to the New England States.

DON They say that quahogs grow really, really slow. A surf clam grows about a half an inch a year, a half to an inch,

INTERVIEWER HOW CLOSE IN, WHERE DO YOU HARVEST THE SURF CLAMS

DON In New Jersey you can, clammers, we have a permit, or the older guys got permits to work from the beach line to three miles. Then from 3 miles on is federal waters so then you have to have a

permit for that too, now. Years ago it was just free enterprise and you, for in-shore you paid a \$50 dollar license and then they let you work a season for so many, say May first until, whenever, I forget what the seasons were, but

ROSALIE Again, it was in the 70's they changed the laws, because before they started making all these laws it was free range and the clam house wanted the market. You worked, you know, and got whatever, for the day, whatever you wanted you could bring in and go right back out

DON We began to lose all those people because, you know, you went when the weather was bad, and then when they come out with this, trying to make an allocation system they tried to let you pick your days out. Then they come out with saying well, if it's blowing your day you can go the next day. But usually when you get a Northeaster it's not one day. If it's blowing this hard the next day, if nothing else the sea's there

ROSALIE And a lot of the owners would unfortunately tell the captains you must go...or else they'd fire you and

DON or we'll put somebody else on the boat. I didn't have that problem because I owned my own boat. If I didn't feel it was fit, I didn't go. -and I overloaded one time. Those Quahogs weigh 3500 pound a cage, and ah, we found a spot one day, just every time I'd haul back I'd have three cages and I loaded my 42 and then I decided to put another truck load on..

INTERVIEWER SO NOW YOU'RE OVERLOADED?

DON She'd go over here and lay there like that. and come baaaaack, and lay there like that. (HE DEMONSTRATES WITH BODY AND THE CREAK OF THE BOAT IN HIS VOICE) I told my Mate, I says, "We get these babies home we'll never do this again." And we didn't! And I'm still here! A lot of my friends aren't.

INTERVIEWER SO ALL OF THE YEARS THAT YOU WORKED, YOU WORKED OUT OF NEW JERSEY?

DON. Yes. I started out in Point Pleasant when I first started clamming, and then I come to Cape May, and I went to Ocean City Maryland. Then I worked out of Botchacreek(?) Virginia, I worked out of Oyster, Virginia, and then I worked out of Cape Charles. And, you see, when you'd find an area of clams that was heavy you'd get down there, you'd catch them up. You don't catch them 100% but you catch them up and then you'd move somewheres else, another place that'd be more productive. You go back. I worked out of Atlantic City for quite a while too.

INTERVIEWER SO YOU'D SPEND MORE THAN ONE SEASON IN THESE COMMUNITIES -

DON Um hum. Yes, you might be in a spot a couple years, three years. I worked out of Atlantic City, gosh, I don't know how long. See, when we worked up along Atlantic City we'd go up towards Barnegat, or come south, you know. We'd range quite a ways. We didn't just work 30 foot of water. We'd work 60, 70, 100, 120, I didn't go much deeper than, well I won't say 120. 110. Seemed to me

once you got to 110 the Surf Clams - you started catching Quahogs. You didn't want the Quahogs when you're catching surf clams.

INTERVIEWER SO IT'S NOT HOW FAR OUT AWAY FROM THE BEACH, IT'S THE DEPTH OF WATER

DON The clams -the species changes, yes.

INTERVIEWER NOW HOW FAR WOULD YOU BE OUT WHEN YOU'D BE OUT ON THE BOAT? WOULD YOU BE OUT FOR A DAY OR WOULD YOU GO OUT FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS AND, LIKE ANCHOR OVER NIGHT.

DON No, a day at a time because they had to be in. We didn't have no refrigeration, no way to keep them cool. Wintertime it wasn't much of a problem, but when we was picking our days, we could pick a 12 hour day or a 24 hour day. They had so many hours they was going to give you so you'd be out that long and then if things got good, We'd just be a day at a time. You'd go out and catch her, whatever the clam house wanted, up to my three truck. I wouldn't catch more than three. I have gone out and catch a second three though. They'd call you up and say we could use three more truck loads. I'm going back out

INTERVIEWER AND THEN WHEN YOU'D COME INTO PORT AT NIGHT WOULD YOU STAY ON THE BOAT OR WOULD YOU GO BACK HOME OR WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

DON. Well, I worked out of Ocean City (MD) for 8 straight years and we'd leave here on a Saturday night on the 6:30 ferry. I'd come home on a Thursday night on the last ferry. I'd be home Friday, on Saturday I was gone again. She raised the dogs and the kids. I didn't do much of that. I just brought the paycheck home.

INTERVIEWER And where was Mrs. McDaniels

DON We lived on the (?) Pike. It was just across this meadow here probably a mile and a half as the crow flies. She stayed there, we had a house there

INTERVIEWER SO ALL THOSE YEARS YOU WERE DOWN TO POINT PLEASANT AND DOWN TO...

DON Not all of them DON EXPLAINS THAT ROSALIE IS HIS 2nd wife. Formerly he was married to the present Jane Broadway. I worked in Point Pleasant when I was with her, and then for ten years I wasn't with anybody. I just lived on the boat and with my Grand mom in Port Norris. Then I met (Rosalie) and I met and we got a house over in North Cape May (DESCRIBED ABOVE) and HAVE BEEN TOGETHER EVER SINCE

INTERVIEWER SO WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

DON Well, My Dad worked at DuPont for 40 years so I guess I lived at Port Norris till I was about 5 and then I went to Pennsville went through school, graduated from 12th grade and I stayed at Port Norris for the next ten and then of course I went through a divorce and then I stayed on the boat and then I got this house down here

INTERVIEWER Where did you live in Port Norris when you lived there?

DON Main Street and Cherry, I guess it is, there used to be a ball diamond down behind it.

INTERVIEWER Is that where the Oyster League played?

DON Yes, I played with them. I don't even remember what team

ROSALIE But he spent a lot of his life in Port Norris because that was where his grandparents came from

DON When I was little and I got out of school, I'd come back to my Grand Parents and I'd live with them in Port Norris until it was time to go back to school.

INTERVIEWER AND THEY LIVED ON MAIN

DON No Main

ROSALIE They lived on Main Street. The house is still there

DON Yes, I can't remember the house number -You know where Jeff Moore lives, on Main Street, coming down North Avenue. It is right, he's got a bait and tackle shop there, my parents lived the next one, that was my Uncle Harry and Aunt Tressa Aunt Tressa lived the other side, Harry Gates, lived there

INTERVIEWER CLARIFIES THAT WHEN HIS DAD GOT A JOB AT DUPONT THEY MOVED TO PENNSVILLE.

DON Pennsville had a grammar school, they didn't have a high school back then. So I had to go either to Penns Grove or Salem, and I chose Salem.

INTERVIEWER CLARIFIES THAT HE FINISHED SALEM HIGH SCHOOL IN 1954

DON Come back to Port Norris, got married, and lived there ten years and then got divorced and lived over two years, and have been here the rest of the time.

INTERVIEWER AND YOU HAVE CHILDREN?

DON Yes, I've got two girls and she's got three, so we kinda got a lot of girls.

INTERVIEWER ARE THEY INTERESTED IN THE INDUSTRY AT ALL ?



DON Well, Donna's the one that had that silvered and yes, my one daughter. My other daughter doesn't care nothing about it.

DONNA LIVES IN MEDFORD LAKE

42.47skip to 43.32

INTERVIEWER Did you sell your clam boat to your son-in-law?

DON, He captained it. See, they don't pay wages when clamming, they pay shares, and you pay a third of your gross to your men. And naturally the captain got the most and the deck hands- but he'd make about \$90,000 a year, and the deck hands would make \$55,000 or \$60,000

INTERVIEWER THAT WAS GOOD MONEY.

DON It was all right back then. It was like they were employed themselves, they paid their taxes and stuff. I didn't have to do that. The only bad part of that was that some of the guys wouldn't pay their taxes because they kinda thought they was tax exempt, and since computers come into the game, they was snagged.

INTERVIEWER AND DON LAUGH TOGETHER: They were snagged!

44:23

DON They all learned a lesson

INTERVIEWER WHAT'S THE CLAM SEASON?

44:30

DON We do it the year around. Just the month of August we're off usually for overhaul. It's the time of the year when the clams are spawning and they are poor, and they don't hold good, I mean if you don't keep them cool enough they get maggots in them right away and the will give the whole boat back to you. And we used to have to ice them in between trailers and then of course they all started using refers (refrigerators)-and they have to have them down to a certain temperature now before a clam house will accept them. You get that down there and the temperature is not right you got clams back.

INTERVIEWER SO WHEN YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT GETTING THREE TRUCK LOADS ARE THOSE TRUCKS REFRIGERATED.

DON. Um hum. Just cool, not frozen. Yes, they'd have the refers running and when they got there of course they had to open the doors and put everything in but they'd close the doors and pull everything (temperature) right down again.

INTERVIEWER WHO WOULD YOU BE SELLING YOUR LOADS TO?

DON J. H. Miles, in Virginia. Really it's Campbell's Soup. Campbell's Soup has two suppliers, J. H. Miles, and Bland...up in Rhode Island, and I sold to J. H. Miles. They would process them and I guess there were 5 different Campbell's Soup plants around the country and they would call the

order in to Miles and they'd be all frozen you know, and they'd ship them out to where ever they fund them. 45:56 I had no part in that. I did work for Campbell's Soup but it was just indirectly. My checks all come from Miles.

INTERVIEWER -AND NOW, THINKING ABOUT YOUR BUT FOUR WEEKS OF OYSTERING YOU SAID?

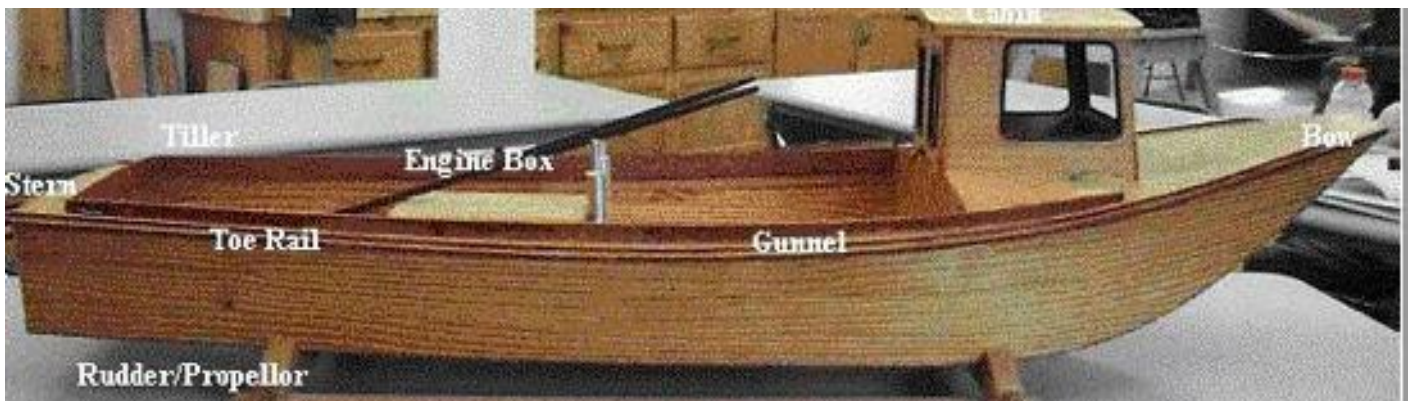
DON Four weeks! Yeah, it wasn't much. 46.25 (CHECK) A GLITCH IN TAPE MSX

INTERVIEWER NOW WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES OF OYSTERING BEFORE MSX IN TERMS OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE, WHETER WITH YOUR GRANDFATHER

DON I liked it. It was the business that I really enjoyed and the people in it used to make nice money back in the 30's, 40's. They made big money, I mean, and there was a lot of growth in the bay, natural set, and my grandparents were lucky enough to have those kinds of grounds, and I don't know, it was something I liked. When I was in school, we used to go out and try oysters and stuff. You know, when I got a taste of it, I liked it so I opted to do it when I got out of school.

INTERVIEWER WHAT ABOUT THE WORK APPEALED TO YOU?

DON I didn't mind hard work. It was all hard work, because, I mean, I'd tong oysters. I had tongs



anywhere from 22 down to 14 or 12s. 10s I was down to 10s. (WORD) heads and Iron heads. I give them all away this past year. Guy wanted to buy a pair. I said, well if you want to buy them I'll give them all to you. Got rid of them. I'll never be able to do it no more.

INTERVIEWER WHEN YOU TONG, DO YOU HAVE TO TONG OFF YOUR OWN BEDS?

DON No, you'd tong in public beds, Dividing Creek, Maurice River, right down here off the Drum Beds, right here in the Villas. There's an area there that we used to tong.

ROSALIE, INTERVIEWER AND DON LAUGH ABOUT TENNIS ELBOW. AN OYSTERMAN GETS TONGIN ELBOW!

INTERVIEWER HOW DEEP IS THE BAY WHEN YOU TONG?

DON Well it's all according to where I was working. The deepest I worked was a 22 foot tong, so that was 18-19 feet. And when we worked up on some of the flats you'd use 10 footers. That might be in 4 or 5 foot. You might just be catching seed to replant that Joe Newcomb used to buy. When I was really young I didn't do any planting. I didn't have that kind of money so I would catch bushels of seed and they'd give you so much a bushel for it. You might go out and catch 25 bushel. And I don't remember what we got. 50 cents -75 cents you know. We'd do it in a day. We'd do it in a tide. You'd go out and work a tide. Low tide coming in or high tide going out You'd work one tide. Usually you didn't work two. You'd do it every day if the weather lets you. You was your own boss and you could set your own - I know it was competitive. I'd take a gallon of water and some cookies. I didn't eat nothing else. I didn't want to stop. I didn't want my cousin to beat me. And he didn't want me to beat him either so we, I had 90 bushel in one day. I had a 26 foot Garvey (GARVEY PICTURED IS NOT DON'S BUT A SOUTH JERSEY TYPE GARVEY)

DON I had 90 bushel in it one day. That's a lot.

ROSALIE Even with the clam business, he didn't want anyone to get ahead of him, a friendly thing. See who could get into the dock the earliest, with the most.

INTERVIEWER MUSES ON HOW YOUNG FELLOWS WHO GOT INTO THE BUSINESS AS TEENS HAD CARS AND SUCH AND WERE MAKING THEIR OWN LIVING.

DON I was just the opposite of that. My Grand pop made so much money he gave me everything. He gave me my Garvey, he gave me a car when I turned 17, he gave me a Ford. Then I got out of school a couple of years later and he gave e a brand new Buick, and he done everything for me. He had the money, and I always wanted to please him too. He didn't want me to lay around.

ROSALIE He made him work. He did do that. ROSALIE TELLS A LITTLE STORY ABOUT SCHOOL AND THE BOYS IN THE OYSTER BUSINESS: Quite a few years ago people were making about \$3,000 a week on the scallop boats. These boys were playing hooky to work on the scallop boats. The teachers and the guidance counselors and everybody is giving them lectures about staying in school for your grade education so you can make money.

DON INTERJECTS Teachers weren't making nothing like the boys were doing.

ROSALIE 8th and 9th grade students are making that kind of money! (Those boys said) their rational was a little bit different than ours. So that was a big joke too at the school.

DON In Pennsville, the boys didn't have a chance, too, to make money like this. When you was a young boy down here you could go on some of the fish boats down here and do what they call mump. You would get down in the hole and you would shovel the ice out and the fish out. And the crew, they'd been out 3 or 4 days or 5 days they didn't do anything, but they would pay you cash to do that. And young boys, they get down there and make 40 or 50 bucks, 40 or 50 bucks in those days was a lot of money.

52.33 INTERVIEWER NOW WHEN YOUR GRANDFATHER WENT OUT DID HE GO OUT DAYS AT A TIME OYSTERING

DON Days at a time. Well, when they went up the bay they stayed on the boat for a week. When you seed oysters, I did that too, but that's the only time we stayed on there for the week. Later days, you got so you went in to Money Island or somewhere, tied up at the dock, got in the car and went home. But when I first started doing it, we didn't do that. I always can remember going up the bay and there wouldn't be any leaves on the trees. You'd come home the first week and the trees were out. That always seemed neat. 53:06

INTERVIEWER HOW MANY CHILDREN DID YOUR GRANDFATHER HAVE

DON Just one child and that was my mother, Carolyn Riggan McDaniel, and his brother--, and then Jake's, I always call him, when I was real little I called him "Dake" and they thought that was cute but that was really all I could say but I never changed it, they never stopped me from doing it. I called my Grand pop Jake from the day one! And his brother, Ed Riggan, he has two daughters and three sons. The oldest boy was Ned, who was my age, and Charles and Richard. Chick and Dick they call them. 54.18

INTERVIEWER AND THEN YOUR OTHER COUSIN, BILL

DON Bill Riggan. That's my mother's cousin. Because, I think he's even my mother's second cousin, because my Grand pop was a cousin to his father. So that would make her a second cousin, I guess, -but they all got related down there - the Riggans, the Robbins, and the Berries. Well, (KEEPING THEM STRAIGHT) you turn around and there are several Riggan(s)! And then their offsprings are different

INTERVIEWER AND THEN THERE ARE A COUPLE OF BILL RIGGINS TOO.

DON Yes, Well, Bill Riggan was the father, and then the Bill Riggan that I know, and then there is young Billy. He lives up in Mauricetown now, He lives along the river, along the meadow

INTERVIEWER -AND HE OYSTERS 55.11

DON I guess he does. I think they still have the Dale Riggan

INTERVIEWER AND THEN HE HAS A YOUNG CHILD DOESN'T HE

DON I don't know, I haven't seen him in a long time. When I was in the business he wasn't even... Young Bill, Bill and Polly, had two kids, a boy and a girl, and I forgot her name already

INTERVIEWER AND HE'S THE ONE THAT'S YOUR AGE - YOUNG BILL

DON No, he's quite a bit younger than me, quite a bit. He's probably 20 years younger than me. He worked up to, on Route 55 there, up to, there at Gortons for quite a while his dad retired and then

they had a sort of change of command there and I think he lost his job. Somebody bought them out and brought their own people in that happens. It was that he wasn't doing his job but they just brought their own people in  
56:15

INTERVIEWER O.K. SO THE ONE I'M THINKING OF THAT DOES OYSTER I THINK, THAT'S YOUNG BILL, MAYBE

DON Maybe his son? How old is he?

INTERVIEWER PROBABLY IN HIS 40's, THEN SO HIS FATHER IS THE ONE THAT MARRIED POLLY

DON and he's got to be about 86

INTERVIEWER YES, HE'S RETIRED

DON he's the one that set me up in the clamming  
56:39

INTERVIEWER SET YOU UP AND THEN FIRED YOU!

DON Yep. from clamming. Well, He had bosses, and that's what happened. I mean it wasn't his decision, He wouldn't have up and come and fired me if it hadn't been them telling him, " He's got to go". He's the bad guy because he's the one that up and come and told me too. And I got mad.  
57:06

INTERVIEWER AND THERE WERE JUST TOO MANY BOATS

DON Too many boats

INTERVIEWER AND SO THE OTHER BOATS OWED HIM MONEY

DON Owed him a lot of money. There were a lot of guys who rigged up and went to the bigger boats before I decided to. If I had done it probably at first, I would have never left, I'd have probably had my whole career right there. But as it was I sold progressively...I sold the docks, I sold the Snow...which only tripped now and then. You know you can't work that way  
57:44

INTERVIEWER HOW QUICKLY, WHEN MSX CAME HOW QUICKLY DID THINGS CHANGE

DON One year. If I planted in 1957, in 1958 they was dead.

INTERVIEWER WHAT WAS THE PERCENTAGE, WOULD YOU SAY, OF PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T DO IT

DON Well, anybody who was fairly young in the business. Old and established, you know, they had some money in the bank. People my age-there was a lot of people left. There was a lot of oystermen that wasn't that well off. And then some people don't spend their money right. Them kind of people had to leave too. You can't go out and buy trucks and do this and do that and do something else and not making any money, so that hurt a few, and there were a lot of them who died off too. My Grand pop died back then too. He died in 1958. That's when he did die. He never knew about the oysters dying. He died Thanksgiving day, 1958. That's when it was.  
59:00

INTERVIEWER NOW AT WHAT TIME OF YEAR DID YOU TRY AND HARVEST YOUR OYSTERS, AT WHAT TIME OF YEAR?

DON In the Fall. 1958, I got 300 bushels.

INTERVIEWER 300 BUSHELS AND THAT WAS IT AND THEN HE DIED. O.K.  
59:22

AT THIS POINT THEY RETURN TO PLANNING ABOUT THE POSSIBLE DONATION OR MAKING AVAILABLE FOR COPYING OF VARIOUS DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

DON I'd kinda like to keep them as long as I'm alive. After that you guys can have them

THEY SPECULATE ABOUT FAMILY INTEREST -PROBABLY DONNA

DON I said something about this yesterday and she said, o.k., so I don't think she'll really mind, but I mean, since she done this (HE IS REFERRING TO TROPHY RESTORATION) I'll let her keep it for a while.

DON AND ROSALIE SPEAK WITH PRIDE ABOUT DONNA, HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND SECURE ESTABLISHMENT IN LIFE AT THIS TIME.

INTERVIEWER IDENTIFIES TROPY BEING GIVEN TO DAUGHTER AND MAKES PLANS FOR DAUGHTER TO KNOW WHO TO CONTACT WHEN, MANY YEARS FROM NOW

1:00:35

DON Well, She's 46

DON AND ROSALIE DISCUSS HOW THEY'VE JUST BEGUN TO THINK ABOUT THIS, THEY HAVEN'T REALLY LOOKED THINGS OVER YET. THEY'VE THOUGHT THAT THEY'D LIKE TO DONATE SOME OF THIS IN GRAND DAD'S NAME

ROSALIE: We can sit down and over these. We haven't really thought about

DON Well I'd really like to keep some of these I've got in this album. The Dividing Creek pictures, they are nice. I don't have them out

1:00:57

DON SORTING THROUGH PICTURES I guess you can have those, and these, This stuff here. The stuff I've got in these two albums I guess I'll keep.-but the rest of it you can have

INTERVIEWER BUT YOU BE WILLING TO GIVE US THESE THAT ARE NOT IN THE ALBUM?

DON. Yes, I'll give them to you, and then you can just scan the others.

INTERVIEWER OH, THAT WOULD BE LOVELY.

1:01:27

DON I've got another picture I'll show you

1:01:31 ALL DISCUSSION HERE NOT TRANSCRIBED

ROSALIE (LOOKING THROUGH PHOTOS AND WRITING ON BACKS) I'd like to know who some of these old people are, Tom...Blackman, something Reed. Oh, that is one of the Reed family.

DON RETURNS WITH THE PICTURE HE HAD GONE LOOKING FOR.

DON That's me, sitting on the back ALL EXCLAIM IN DELIGHT of the Rebecca Barney (Brondy). Bondy (?) That's my Grand dad, my Dad's father's boat. And that was at Leesburg. The Rebecca Brondy (?)1:02:04 and I know I don't have it on the back,  
DON HELPS WITH SPELLING NOT ABLE TO TRANSCRIBE.

INTERVIEWER HOW OLD ARE YOU IN THAT PICTURE?

1:02:13

DON I don't know, I can't be over 8, 10, something like that,

INTERVIEWER 7 or 8 AND YOU HAVE A SPORT JACKET ON

DON Well, we used to do that all the time you know. They'd dress up to go down to the Boardwalk.

ROSALIE, AMID EXCLAMATIONS His grand dad was a stickler for proper.

DON They used to call me a little tow head. I had hair then! All the Rigging's were (BLOND) Chick and Dick all lost their hair in their 30's but they was all blond just like then until 30

1:02:48

INTERVIEWER YOU WERE A BIT OF A RED HEAD TOO,

DON When I was born I was a bright red head (THEY ARE LOOKING AT PHOTO and my beard was all red.

DON AS THEY LOOK AT PICTURES. I don't know where that picture is at but that is around here somewhere....That's Eli Reed...DON IS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY OTHER 3 M3N IN PHOTO bit Albert Pepper wrote those two names down because he knew them.

1:03:17

ROSALIE MENTIONS AN OLD FAX MACHINE, THEY CHAT,

1:03:59

INTERVIEWER DISCUSSES SCANNING AND WHAT BDP MAY KEEP

1:04:31

DON Just what we've got in these two albums AND THEY CONTINUE TO LOOK THROUGH, SEEING ONE OR ANOTHER THAT IS

ROSALIE, That's the only one we have of that, Don.

THEY CONTINUE TO LOOK THROUGH, DISCOVERING ONE AND ANOTHER THAT DON AND ROSALIE MAY WANT TO KEEP WHICH HAVE FAMILY MEANING. INTERVIEWER REMARKS OF BDP INTEREST IN THE BOATS

DON This one, The Ocean View, was built in was built in Faxis (?)Virginia, 1950, That was a Chesapeake style Boat

INTERVIEWER AND SHE WAS WOODEN

DON She was wooden. And the J.H. Miles had it built

INTERVIEWER AND WAS SHE BUILT AS A SAILING VESSEL?

DON. No, she was built as an oyster boat that had power. She had a big V-8 Cad(?) in her.

INTERVIEWER WHAT MAKES THE CHESAPEAKE STYLE?

DON Well, It's design. For the sailboats they had the Bug Eyes and the Skip Jacks. That Lady Ray is a Bug Eye that you've seen. A Skip Jack, they are smaller, and their planks, they've got a keel, and they're planked in like this, and the schooners are longitudinal, DEMONSTRATES this way. Skip Jacks are planked that way. And then the stern is sort of cut up different, and it's not a schooner stern. But they was, the Skip Jacks were made to sail also, I don't have any pictures of, Harold Pickens (NAME) had one and I can't quite remember. You know, I am out of tough enough that I forgot, and every once and a while, it's like that Joe Newcomb, I had a mental block on it, and all of a sudden - I thought about it.

ROSALIE, and not only that, we've lost contact over the years. There aw a lot of people too, that we don't keep in touch with.

DON My uncle too, his name was Major McDaniels, he had a boat that was called the Tubman. It is up there to Leesburg, up against the bank, next to the road, all deteriorated. There's a ton of boats



that are up on the riverbanks. When the oysters went bad, Dr. Sharp had a bunch of them. He just sunk them. The Katy Sharp is still around

INTERVIEWER LOOKING AT PICTURES, DO YOU KNOW WHO IS IN THOSE PICTURES?

DON Yes I do. -Nothing to do with Oyster business. This is the man used to own Riverview beach Park. This is the man owned the sweetshop..

DON Where are the pictures you just had out for me, of the Yankee and stuff, You just had them on the table,

1:08:00 THEY LOOK ABOUT FOR PHOTOS AND DISCUSS

1:08:37

INTERVIEWER I didn't realize, you have another ship model

ROSALIE, Oh yes, The men that worked for us on the Sea Rover, they had that model made for Don as a surprise (MAN WHO MADE IT) He was from Sea Isle

DON He come up and was taking pictures of the boat -I didn't know what this guy was doing.

ROSALIE This man, he did this by a picture, from a picture he did this boat.

THEY GET THE MODEL DOWN

ROSALIE I want her to see the insides

1:09:09

DON He's got batteries in here to turn lights and stuff on,

INTERVIEWER SO IS THE MAN WHO BUILT THIS STILL ALIVE?

ROSALIE Yes, but we don't know who he is,

THEY GET IT TO LIGHT UP SO THE RUNNING LIGHTS SHOW

ROSALIE Down here is the hose. I mean everything is actual, the goes to the ocean deck, the flooring, It scoops up the sand and the dredge goes down and scrapes the ocean floor, brings them up, puts them in the hopper

DON POINTS OUT THE HOPPER

ROSALIE, the hupper in turn puts them in cages.

DON Yes, the hopper feeds up into the separator machine and the clams fall down and

1:10:17

ROSALIE This guy did this from a picture. He went to the railway up in Dorchester. It was up there,

DON The only thing he messed up on, the boat didn't have square corners, these are rounded, and there are a few things you could find, if you know the boat, but, I'll tell you what, he really done a, when to me I cried. I couldn't control myself. My son-in-law had it done, and two guys off the boat.

INTERVIEWER WAS THAT WHEN YOU RETIRED

DON No, I wasn't on the boat, but I mean I was still working.

INTERVIEWER GATHERS ROSALIE AND DON AROUND THE MODEL FOR A PHOTO

ROSALIE I mean, we cried. It was so special to us, you know, We actually cried with this, to have someone do that for you,

1:11:39 DON Yes, I bought that boat when I lost my license. I had \$3,000 a month to pay, plus insurance and stuff, then I lost my market, couldn't pay nothing,

ROSALIE And that's the same year the government stepped in and we were like, what are we going to do, what are we going to do and we'd just bought a new house over there on the Shun(name?)Pike, you know, 30 years ago and more,

DON This is my Grand pop, sitting just like I did, yes, this is Jake,

INTERVIEWER TAKES A PHOTO OF DON

ROSALIE He's quite proud of his grand dad  
1:12:14

DON He's on the C.M. Riggan. This is the G M. right behind him.

ROSALIE Great old man. Nobody ever had anything bad to say about the old people

DON That's me in the pilot house. I've changed!

ROSALIE, We've all changed...  
1:12:43

INTERVIEWER THIS ISN'T THE PILOT HOUSE OF THIS BOAT?

DON Yes it is.

ROSALIE I mean it has even got the gears, they put the gears on and everything.  
THEY ARE LOOKING AT THE MODEL

DON All that is, there are two radars on here, and there is one behind me, compass,

ROSALIE All this little do dad stuff, he just did everything you know

INTERVIEWER AND THIS IS THE (word)

DON This is one of my boats, the H.M. R(iggin) That's the Sea Rover right there, This one here, I really like this, this is the one, I got caught (on camera), and there was a guy on this boat, that had a camera, He is passing me. there is a sequence, let me see if I've got it right. You're going in, coming over, and going back in again

THEY ARE LOOKING AT THE MODEL AND PHOTOS AT THE SAME TIME

ROSALIE REFERRING TO THE MODEL MAKER It was like a big top secret with the boys, not letting us know who he was, at the time. They said he came up to Port Norris, took the picture, or to Dorchester, while it was on dry dock, and went home and made it. I mean that to me is amazing

DON Took him about a year

ROSALIE It was about 4 years ago they presented it to us, again, we asked the name several times and they said, "Oh, it's just this guy from Sea Isle, so we'd have to get Pete, would be the one, because Pete's the one, it's his friend, Pete Pettaluga (sp) from Sea Isle, and we could get in touch with him

1:14:15

THEY BEGIN TO LOOK FOR PETE'S NUMBER WHICH IN FACT THEY CALL AND AS THE INTERVIEW CONTINUE HE CALLS BACK AND AS A RESULT OF THIS INTERVIEW THEY LEARN THE NAME OF THE MODEL MAKER

INTERVIEWER SEES ANOTHER MODEL AND ASKS WHO MADE IT

DON, I think Louise Mentz, you know her, her father, I think her father made it, because my dad got this one, and another one that I give away, to Sid Hess, He seen this model and he wanted it and I said, I'll give you this other one, and he had that restored, and we didn't know what boat it was, but when the guy restored it had trail boards, it was the old style, but it had the trail boards up under the deck and I didn't know it. So he's got it

INTERVIEWER SO WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE VESSEL?

DON I can't remember

ROSALIE I don't have his address, our bookkeeper might have all that (Pete Pettaluga)

ROSALIE DIALS THE CELL (?) for PETE PETTALUGA, leaves number, AND THEY CHAT

1:15:55

LEAVING THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS

DON Talk about rough seas. this is coming over one, this is going into the next one,

INTERVIEWER AND YOU'VE GOT YOUR BOOMS OUT

DON Yeah,

INTERVIEWER, AND YOU'RE TRYING TO HARVEST..

DON No, No, we're steaming, but we leave them out until we get to the inlet and then we take them in

INTERVIEWER AND THAT GIVES YOU STABILITY

DON Yeah, but it lets waves break over you, that's the bad part,

ROSALIE, That's the boat called the Yankee

INTERVIEWER THIS IS NOT YOUR BOAT?

DON Yeah, that's my boat. I sold it,

ROSALIE, but see, that's the new Sea Rover, and that's the Yankee and

DON When they came out with an allocation system I was allowed to take all my allocation and put it one boat if I wanted to, so rather than have railway bills and captains and crew and insurance I consolidated everything on that boat and there for a while I was running both boats when they to pick the days I'd run this boat one week and that boat the next.

THE PHONE RINGS AND IT IS PETE PETTALUGA WITH THE NAME OF THE MODEL MAKER!  
1:20:09

DON LOOKING AT PHOTOS This coming in, one's going over, It was rough, It was like 40 mph, 45 mph,

1:20:28 DON TALKS TO PETE AND LEARNS THAT THE NAME OF THE MODEL MAKER IS FRANK EDWARDI Tel. 609 263 2618 in Sea Isle

INTERVIEWER ANSWERS THAT SHE HAS A MODEL THAT NEEDS TO BE REPAIRED WHEN SHE IS ASKED WHY THE MODEL MAKER'S NAME IS NEEDED  
1:22:12

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THIS APPEARS TO BE THE END OF THIS INTERVIEW. THE RECORDING RUNS RIGHT ON AFTER A BLANK SPACE